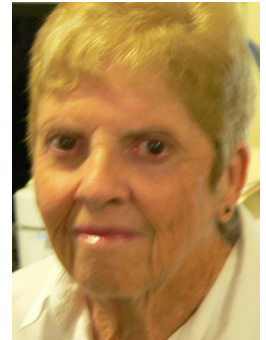




NEWSLETTER

No: 237
1st December 2025

From the Desk of the President — Sue Cameron



Another year gone in a flash, and what a successful one it was with a membership well over 500. 2026 promises to be even better. Already both returning and new enrolments have passed the 260 mark, and a couple of our exercise classes have waiting lists, as they are now full. My thanks go to all our Course Leaders, Committee members and Office Staff. Without you generously volunteering your time and skills, our organisation would cease to exist. Thank you to our members who generously added a donation to their 2026 membership fee. Sincere and special thanks, from all of us, must go to Penny, our Office Coordinator, and Doug, officially our Treasurer, but all round “Mr Fix It” in practice. I would also like to extend our thanks to Jill Turner who retires after leading our very popular French course in 2024 and 2025 - Jill will now have the time to enjoy being a participant in various U3AA activities. Last but not least, thank you to our leaders who provide their home as a course/activity venue.

Due to the efforts of Phil Sharpe we have a new format for our popular “Tuesday Talks”. Renamed “Community Chats” it will be lead by Bruce Woolley and his support team of Phil Sharpe, Margaret Bain, Colin Sholl, Professor Gabriel Donleavy, Penny Nicholson and Doug Barber. A great result.

Please note, Wednesday 10th December will be our last office day for 2025. We will reopen on Monday 12th January 2026 at 9.30am, however, all our information and enrolments are available at any time on our website www.u3aa.org.au.

Our AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 10th February 2026. Formal notice will be sent closer to this date. I am aware of at least one vacancy, as Lynette McLean has resigned. Thank you Lynette for your participation and input.

In closing, I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas with your family and friends, and look forward to seeing you in 2026.

Sue Cameron
U3AA President

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
1st February 2026
 Please email contributions to
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For further information sponsors' websites can be accessed from the U3AA website www.u3aa.org.au

Kay Love

I was born in Uralla and apart from three years overseas I have lived in Armidale all my life. I attended preschool at the Miss Cooper's home (it wasn't called a preschool in those days) then the Armidale Demonstration School, the Armidale High School and finally the Armidale Technical College (in a building now demolished behind Dan Murphys) before the current TAFE buildings were erected.

My first 4 years employment was as a legal secretary then I sailed to England via South Africa as the Suez Canal was closed in 1968. Over the next 3 years I worked as a casual secretary in between sightseeing around Britain and Eastern Europe which also included a summer season in Oban and a year in Spain.

I sailed home via the Panama Canal in 1971 and saw some amazing places over that six weeks' voyage. The travel bug has never left me and I have been able to travel to many parts of the world over the past 50 years while I was still employed at the University of New England and since I took early retirement in 1998.

Since retiring from paid work and also during my employment I have been involved in numerous voluntary positions including guiding and gardening at Saumarez, working at the hospital kiosk, delivering Meals on Wheels, leading Armidale Amblers walking group and for the past 27 years I have been an instructor for U3AA's Aquarobics class.

I enjoy gardening, walking my dog every day, my exercise classes and have participated in numerous U3AA courses since joining this wonderful organisation in 1999.

Margaret Sims



U3AA Photography
Theme: Landscape
French Alps
Lynne Hosking



Jill Turner



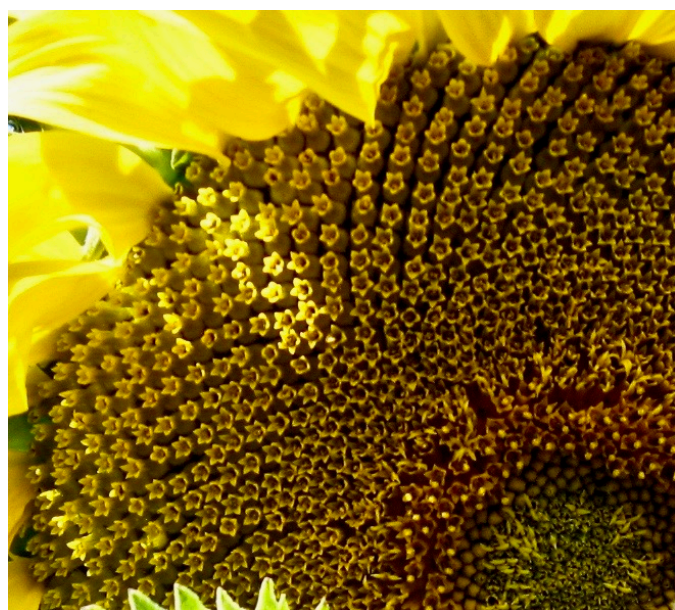
Jill took early advantage of the opportunities to travel offered by living in England. A summer in Italy at Urbino University fuelled her penchant for languages so she completed a bilingual secretarial course at Oxford Polytech. Such skills put her in high demand so, after a year working in England, she headed off to Holland to work for the European Space Research Institute where being bilingual was essential. She moved around several roles, including working for a South African lawyer and then moved to Toulouse where she worked with French National Space Agency. Her boss was Italian so her skills in the Italian language were a necessary part of the job. She enjoyed the work and would have loved to remain until the satellite launch but various other opportunities arose including work in a cassoulet restaurant and a position on Lipari island she thought too good to miss. She eventually returned to England where she worked at the Novotel with mainly French staff. Later she moved to Hong Kong for 9 months where she worked in a European Bank whilst straying with her aunt and uncle, the latter being the ex- Financial Secretary of Hong Kong. She was encouraged to go back to university and upgrade her qualifications to a degree so chose to do a degree in language and linguistics at York University. She specialised in the history of the English language with a major in Romance languages as well. She married and came to Australia in 1980 where she worked for Collins Publishers.

For some time, she lived on a large property at the foot of the Blue Mountains and raised her family there. At one point she worked with Penrith Council where she looked after visiting guests from China and Japan. She then retired to Tasmania and got involved in the local U3A there. Given her son lived in Sydney and daughter in Armidale, she eventually decided she needed to move closer so chose to come to Armidale where she joined our branch of U3A. She started running French classes for us in semester 2 last year with members who ranged from complete beginners to those who had taken French in school and were trying to remember what they once knew.

Jill feels very lucky to have had such a rich range of experiences across her lifetime. She feels fortunate to have had opportunities to work in many different countries and to have friends all around the world.

We are lucky you have decided to join us in Armidale, Jill: welcome to our town and our U3A and we hope we have the pleasure of your company for many years to come.

Margaret Sims



U3AA Photography
Theme: Abstract
Sunflower
Lynne Hosking

U3AA Crochet & Knitting

These interesting characters were recently gifted to Armidale Hospital's Kids Ward and the Emergency Department. Known as Izzy dolls, or Dude dolls, they are gifted to children in need of a little comfort. The U3AA Crochet & Knitting group (plus an enthusiastic neighbour) knitted around 65 dolls and in the process practised various techniques, learned some new ones, and got a giggle out of seeing each one finished.

Cheers, Tracy Everett



Some of the U3AA created Izzy dolls

U3AA member Margaret Bain—publication of her book *A Portrait of Howard Hinton*

Excerpt from **NERAM** media release 5 November 2025

Most men might be a tad jealous if their wives spent five years learning everything about another man. But for devoted NERAM volunteer and now author Margaret Bain, her husband's only response was encouragement.

The "other man" in Margaret's life has been Howard Hinton, the generous art benefactor whose extraordinary donations in the 1930s and 40s laid the foundations for the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM).

Now, after years of dedicated research, her new book *A Portrait of Howard Hinton* is set to reveal the real Howard Hinton - not just the philanthropist behind a magnificent art collection, but the complex, kind-hearted man who quietly shaped Australia's cultural history.

"We all knew Hinton's name from the collection," she said, "but so little about his life - where his money came from, how he lived, his friendships, his character, and what drove his generosity. I wanted to paint a portrait of him that showed who he truly was."

The inspiration for the book came with the rediscovery of Hinton's long-lost diary (1904-1928), missing for more than a generation and found again in 2018.

"That diary was the key," said Margaret. "From there, I built the story using archival records, memoirs by contemporaries like Norman Lindsay, and even the memorial volume published after Hinton's death."

Beyond art, Hinton's quiet generosity touched every aspect of life, according to Margaret.

"He gave to the war effort, to individuals in need, to education and charities - always discreetly, never seeking recognition," said Margaret.

In that spirit, all proceeds from the book will go to NERAM's Adopt-an-Artwork program, which preserves the collection Hinton began.

