

## Vol 13 No: 8, August 2019

### President's message



It's hard to believe the year has gone so fast, and our Annual General Meeting is coming up again in October. There

will be six Committee positions up for election (Vice-President, Secretary, Training Coordinator, and three general Committee positions). I encourage everyone (not just our hard-working volunteers) to consider nominating one of these positions. Our Club - and our members - will benefit from your new ideas and new perspectives.

Positions are for a two-year term and we meet once a month, usually on a Friday afternoon. The formal call for nominations will go out in the next few weeks with the agenda and annual report. If you are interested, come and chat to someone on the

Committee at the next monthly meeting.

Thank you to everyone who renewed your membership for 2019-2020. We're delighted that you are continuing to get value from belonging to Parra Pals. We want to offer courses and activities that will keep our long-term members engaged, and welcome any suggestions for courses, Special Interest Groups, User Groups, or social activities.



John Lee and Jon Bayley renewing memberships

Keep learning (it's good for your brain!)

*Deborah*

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## Monthly meeting in August

August's meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday rather than the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday due to request by the university.

The guest speaker will be Dr Mark Antoniou who holds a PhD in Psychology and is an expert in bilingualism and language learning. Mark is researching the potential benefits of foreign language training in older adults to promote healthy brain function, counteract age-related cognitive decline, and halt the progression of neuro-degenerative disease such as dementia.

He will be talking about his research, and asking for volunteers to participate.



The meeting will be held as usual at the UNE premises on Level 1, 232 Church Street, Parramatta on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** between 9:30-11:30 am.

Bring \$5 with you to cover the room hire and morning tea.

Join many members for lunch afterwards. Visitors are most welcome.

## Fresh ideas for activities

The Committee and volunteer trainers are always looking out for new activities. One idea was activities that keep our brain active, such as learning a new language. Participants could enrol in an online language course individually and then meet as a group each week to practise what they have learnt, with the assistance of a volunteer who speaks that language. What do you think?

On the same theme, members of the Creative Writing SIG have worked our way through the *Creative Writing Coursebook*, and are about to embark on an online course called *The Foundations of Fiction* offered by Udemy ([www.udemy.com](http://www.udemy.com)). We will watch some lectures each week, and then do the exercises as homework and discuss the results at our next meeting.

And Deborah has just enrolled herself in an EdX course on *Natural History Illustration* ([www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org)). Her challenge is to find out whether she can do the course using the Procreate drawing app on her iPad. While our Club can't cater for everyone's individual interests, there are more and more online courses available at a reasonable cost that are worth exploring.

Your editor has also begun a free **Future Learn** course called *Peterloo to the Pankhursts: Radicalism and Reform in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*.

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### **News on new library and community centre**



The new building at 5 Parramatta Square is expected to be completed in April 2022. Whether it will look at all like the photo above is in the lap of the gods. It will be positioned behind the historic Town Hall.

Have you noticed that the building site is much more viewable now? The high fencing near Darcy Street and Centenary Square has been removed, and many passers-by are stopping for a look

More information can be found at <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/council/parramatta-square>

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### **Genealogy: Getting Started**

Have you been thinking about researching your family history, but you're not sure where to start?

This short two-hour course introduces you to some useful websites, and takes you through a step by step process to gather a wide range of information about your ancestors.

The course will be run by Deborah Martin, assisted by Margaret Moxon on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 9:30am.

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### **New Members in July**

Please welcome the following new members:

- Hadar Bensaul (Ms)
- Helen Kirkland
- Aye Aye Mar (Mrs)
- Ohn Maung (Mr)
- Radhika Richardson

At the end of July, the club had **163 members** who have renewed or joined for the current financial year.

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**Term 3 courses** may be viewed as a pdf document on the website at:

<https://parramattacps.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/T3-Timetable-2019-PCPS-Courses.pdf>

You can also pick up a paper timetable at the monthly meeting or from the Office reception.

## Suggestion box



There was only one suggestion from members in July.

**Suggestion 1:** Can the club purchase a phone headset for receptionists?

Committee decision: Yes, but need to dial on phone since phone numbers are not set up to use on the computer.

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## Social outing

Dawne has organised another social lunch for members at the Commercial Hotel near Parramatta Station, **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**. The cost is \$17 for a great meal, payable on the day. Put your name down with the club reception or at the monthly meeting.



Prashanthi, Deb and Hazel enjoying a meal at the Commercial Hotel.

## Photobooks course



## ParraPals Committee

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