

MARIEA HIGAS

16 Lockhart Avenue
Mollymook
4 February 2005

Dear Jim, As requested, here are some notes on the early days of U3A.

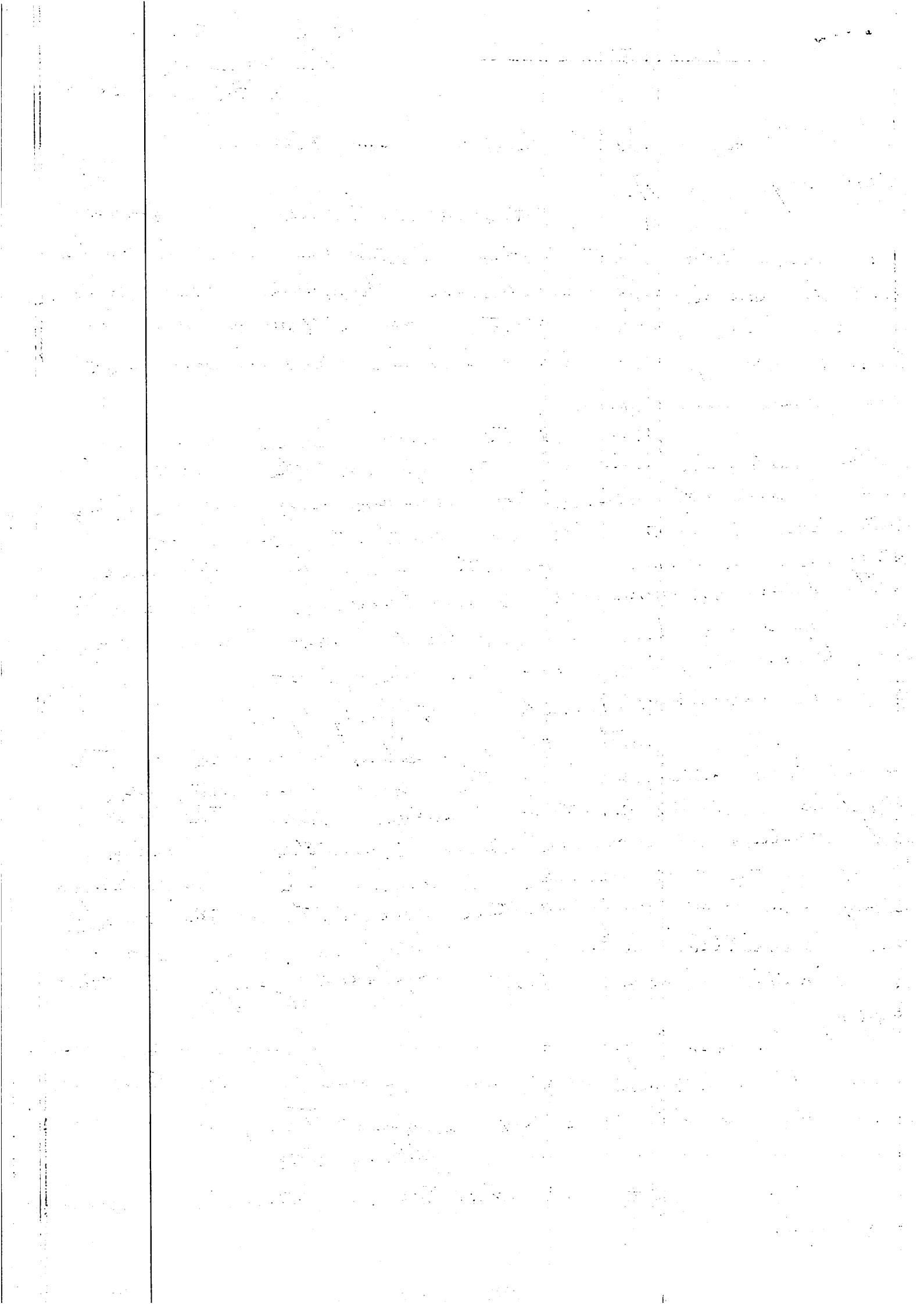
The movement started in France and spread from there. The first U3A in Australia was in Melbourne and the second in Shoalhaven. Paul Bland had picked up the idea from documents from Melbourne received by Council. He pushed the idea and Shoalhaven U3A was formed in Nowra.

Soon afterwards, the Nowra people held a Public Meeting in Ulladulla to spread the word. Mary and I did not attend as we were away on holiday but Ian Wright told us about it when we returned. A small committee had been formed with Joan Wonnacott as Secretary. I responded to an appeal by Joan in our local paper - "Please, if you can teach anything, come and help us". And I began to teach Beginners French on 12 July 1988.

On 9 August 1988 a meeting was held in the Burrill Hall, attended by the Nowra President, Ian Hopkins and the Secretary Jocelyn Ward. They called for volunteers to form a local committee. I nudged Mary in the ribs because I knew he'd push things along. He was duly elected President of the local sub-committee, with George Moothouse as courses co-ordinator. (Soon after I replaced George in the office)

Margaret Gordon was in my French class and when I mentioned that we needed a "Registrar" she said she would ask her husband Ted, as he was so far not involved in anything else.

You might be interested in the two documents enclosed.



2.

Mary and I attended monthly meetings in Nowra, and of course any fees we collected went straight to Nowra.

We had no premises here. Classes were held in tutors' own homes, and where this was not feasible, here at 16 Lockhart Avenue. A very popular course was Calligraphy, given by Pauline Kates. The Mollymook Bowling Club came to the rescue here, as a lot of space was required.

I hope the above is of help

Sincerely,

Marcia

