

U3A founder bids 'au revoir'

ONE of Ulladulla U3A's founders and long-time French tutor Marcia Higgs has called it a day.

Since 1988 when Milton Ulladulla U3A first offered a small number of courses, including French, Marcia has been a tutor.

Earlier this month some of her students and friends gathered at the U3A Harry Higgs Room in Milton to celebrate a contribution to the U3A program that has given so much pleasure to so many people.

U3A president Jan Lyall made a presentation and was pleased to learn that Marcia's retirement as a tutor did not mean she would retire from being a student.

"I need to keep my mind active," Marcia said.

"And there are a great many more things that I would like to learn about."

The gathering took place in U3A's Harry Higgs Room.

Some may have recalled the earlier days when classes were in private homes and a small but enthusiastic U3A was being established by a group led by Marcia's late husband Harry whose drive was recognised in the naming of the room.

When Nowra U3A began in 1987, Harry and Marcia joined but quickly saw the opportunity for a U3A in the Southern Shoalhaven and before 1989 they had set up a committee and were offering three classes: French, Calligraphy and Bridge.

No prizes for guessing who took the French class!

Milton Ulladulla U3A became autonomous in 1990.

Over the years U3A has grown considerably from those original three classes.



Marcia Higgs (left) with U3A member Keith Van Putten at a recent gathering to celebrate Marcia's contribution to the program over the last 18 years.

With a membership approaching 400, a dedicated classroom, and more than 20 courses on offer this term, the organisation demonstrates the demand for an interesting and educational program for retired people in the district.

There will still be French classes on offer with two classes - Brush Up Your School French with Val Barnes and Elementary French with Lyn Merrin.

U3A and related organisations are found around the world. They are locally autonomous and provide a range of courses of intellectual and cultural interest for retired people.

If you are interested in finding out about Milton-Ulladulla U3A you can obtain a brochure from the library, go on line at www.shoal.net.au/~miltul-lu3a or contact secretary Enid Everingham on 4454 2430.

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