



# The *U3A* Crier

**NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE  
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC  
WINTER EDITION 2015**

## **EDITORIAL**

Thanks to those members who are so obliging when asked to contribute items for 'The Crier'; it certainly makes our job easier! It seems that we have had a number of members and Course leaders 'under the weather' lately so best wishes for a speedy recovery to those people. It is also time for the annual exodus from Busselton and much juggling of dates is happening to fit in courses with travel. We hope you enjoy this newsletter which features the ladies on the committee, Joan, Barbara and Christine! (Chris and Joan)

## **FROM THE CHAIR**

It is hard to believe that already we are looking at Semester 2 courses and enrolments! It is pleasing to see that new membership is creeping up as the year goes along and some new courses are on offer this coming semester.

The committee has been busy and have organised two very successful Topical Talks so far this year, courses have been collated and general business has been continued, in spite of some members having other commitments and distractions—overseas trips and welcoming new grandchildren! Teamwork is the name of the game. The committee also held a 'Think-fest' gathering in May with members of other groups from the U3A Network. Representatives came from Margaret River, Armadale and Mandurah. We shared information about the different ways each group functions, for example we are a more Course oriented group than some others where the main focus is on having regular guest speakers.

Sadly, the representative Paul Thiessen, from the U3A Network (WA), was killed in a traffic accident on his way to Busselton for our gathering. Condolences were sent to both his wife and to the U3A Network where Paul was a very committed member.

During our lunch break we were entertained by the Busselton Ukulele Group (BUG) which started last year as one of our U3A groups. Their performance was enjoyed by us all; what tremendous progress they have made.



The happy faces of the performers and audience say it all!

**Thanks** are in order to the Busselton City Council which approved a grant for us to purchase card tables for the Mah - Jongg group, in the first instance, but any of our groups requiring the use of these tables will also have access to them. Copies of 'The Crier' are printed courtesy of our local MLA, Libby Mettam's, office so they can be posted out. And many of us enjoy the facilities of the Busselton Family Centre for our courses. We are aware of, and appreciate, the number of little extra things that the staff there do for us. Joan Parke (Chairperson)

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

### JOAN PARKE (Chairperson)

*Life transitions? There've been a few!*



I have lived in Busselton for the past four and a half years and although that by no means makes me a local, I have been coming here for more than 60 years! I grew up on our family orchard in Donnybrook and the beaches between DOUNGUP PARK at Capel and Yallingup were frequent destinations for family holidays and fishing. And yes, the jetty was a favourite place to spend time.

My working background has been, in the main, teaching and I have taught in Primary and Secondary schools in both the State and Private systems. About 20 years ago – hard to believe it was that long – I left the security of the four walls of a classroom and set up my own business as an Educational Consultant and Tutor. One of my passions has been working with students with learning and/or behavioural difficulties and I got great satisfaction from this change as it meant spending time with students on a one to one basis. Concurrently I branched into new challenges as a Reflexologist, Reiki practitioner and also started

facilitating Weekend Retreats for women. In the beginning these were for the mums of children with learning difficulties, giving them respite, pampering and the support of others in the same boat. Gradually other retreats evolved that focused on art and creative writing. One of the most recent was called 'Port and Poetry'; needless to say we had a great weekend and really did manage to write some pleasing poetry.

Within that time, I just happened, in 2005, to complete a Masters degree in Art Therapy. Just as that new career was becoming established, in 2008 I grabbed an opportunity to take a teaching position in the Pilbara. I was lucky enough to be appointed to Yandeyarra Remote Community School, 140kms south of Port Hedland. What a wonderful adventure the three years there was. Of course it was not without challenges but I gained a great deal from the experience. I was warmly welcomed by the community, experienced such events as Traditional Law and early one morning was called out to the birth of a baby on the 42km dirt track that led to the North-West Highway!

It was tempting to stay another year, however it was time to retire and being unable to face living in the city anymore, I came to Busselton to where my son and his family live. I also have a daughter who, with her husband, lives in Perth. After a few months of 'recovery time', I joined Naturaliste U3A - I couldn't have made a better decision!  
(Joan)

### **BARBARA TAYLOR (Secretary)**

*Our 'Lady BUG' loves getting gigs – is she perhaps a budding busker??*



I have lived in Busselton for almost four years now but have had many holidays here with my family since 1984.

I was born in Sydney but have lived almost half my life in Australia and the UK, which sort of explains my English accent but my husband tells me it changes depending with whom I am speaking. I am a teacher by profession, having taught at both secondary and primary levels in the UK and in Perth, but worked in 2010/12 in the Pilbara for an indigenous training college as organisational development manager.

My most recent expertise in the workforce other than that is in the higher education sector, leadership and management program development for academics and professional staff with a particular interest in women's leadership program development which is how I met Colleen Liston (and my entree into U3A).

I am also a member of the Yallingup Steiner School Council and taught there in 2013. My friends say I am having a 'gap' year and can't believe I have retired yet.

I have joined the Busselton Ukulele Group (BUG) which started as a U3A group and am enjoying the singing and playing; it is such fun in this group especially now we are getting 'gigs'.

My husband, Russell, works in the construction industry so I am also a FIFO wife and all that goes with it. It is one of the reasons I like to keep busy when he is away from home.

Russ and I love travelling, camping and being outdoors. I also love anything to do with ships, boats and trains but not planes.

**CHRISTINE McDONALD (Committee member)** *Could anyone be busier?*

I moved to Busselton with David and our four children ages 3, 6, 8 and 11 almost 30 years ago. My parents had moved to the west just after we were married and strangely enough we were about the same ages as my parents were when we moved westwards, though our family was much younger. We left Sydney for our children to have a freer lifestyle and we all adapted to the much slower pace of country living.

We soon had many friends through school, teachers and parents of our children's friends. A revelation came to my ears when our eldest son exclaimed "We are with normal people now." What did he mean by this insightful exclamation? It certainly gave me food for thought.

Early on I joined Parents and Friends Committees, primary and high school, and through a Silver Chain nurse found myself on the Silver Chain Committee for several years, with older women mentors which I found encouraging to go on to more

volunteering such as visiting a blind man and taking him shopping and to the bank and to read his mail. At schools I have been involved in the School Volunteer Programme over 20 years, and attended many workshops in that time.

Since David's retirement life has brought a number of wonderful opportunities for me to explore my potential attending the many classes offered by U3A and I love meeting people and continuing to make some very special friends to have a coffee or meal or just to keep in touch with a phone call.

Hobbies are gardening, bushwalking, cycling, sewing, knitting and dabbling in art. Once I would have said travel but now with our beautiful grandchildren we mostly stay 'round the southwest. We had 3 years of living in London and many trips to Europe, Ireland and Scandinavia and the east block countries of Europe before our children were born. In recent times we have had holidays in

France and also visited the USA on a Gospel Singing Tour. That was an amazing experience and this leads me to my love of choral singing. I have joined and belonged to a variety of singing groups and at the present time I am with Cape Harmony and Busselton Choral Society weekly, and also with the less formal group

**When we built our present home 15 years ago, the architect said, “Fill it with music,” and we do.**

“Cleanskins” which meets to sing in our homes fortnightly, on a rotational roster and perform in the community, at Nannup Flower Festival and the Dunsborough Songfest. I made my stage debut at the Weld Theatre last year in the local production of “Aspects of War”. Another fun experience!



Christine with grandson Millar

## AROUND THE GROUPS

### LATIN: Course Leader Ted Witham

Latin lives! Eight doughty U3A members are bending their brains to bring Latin back to life. In actual fact, it's nine members, as Ted, the leader of the class, is also finding that teaching Latin is a superb way of revising his knowledge of the language.

We meet, *fideliter et ordinatim* (faithfully and regularly) on Monday mornings in the Novacare Dining Room. The text book is based on the real life household of Pompeian Caecilius the businessman. His imperious wife, his bored teenaged son, and his slightly down-market slaves are bonded as a slightly eccentric *domesticus*. We count five members of the *domus* — *unus, duo, tres, quattuor, quinque*, and stop, of course, at *sex!*

Learning Latin is both fun and hard work. The class has elected to continue into Semester 2. *Viva lingua Latina!*

### INTO POETRY: Course Leader Gwyn Cracknell

#### INTO POETRY – Progris riport!

Six intrepid souls signed up to dive deep “Into Poetry”:

The Magnificent Macs – David and Christine; The Mighty Murrays – Colin and Heather; Val the Fearsome Freason and Beaming Wendy Beames. Val's overly

popular Dru Yoga meant a sad early withdrawal leaving just the Fab Five to continue to dive deep.

A collegial approach and consensus gave our group direction. First into topical Issues such as: an article on Clive James led to discovering his position as a contemporary poet; Easter led to Bruce Dawe and “A Good Friday was had by All”; start of football continued with Bruce Dawe’s “Life Cycle” and Anzac Day led to Wilfred Owen WW 1 and Kenneth Slessor WW11.

Colin became the Bush Balladist with his entertaining recitations while Wendy introduced us to Les Murray’s “Killing the Black Dog”. David launched Longfellow’s “The Building of the Ship” and a delightful Haiku:

Sleeze read my Haiku

He writes with critical prose

Don’t quote me on that.

Christine entertained us with nonsense from Lewis Carroll and T.S. Eliot while Heather gave some moving reliable readings from Judith Wright and Robert Frost. During Blake’s “And did those feet in Ancient Time”, Wendy and Christine couldn’t help but burst into song, another delightful experience of diving deep “Into Poetry”.

This is Wendy Beames (our resident poet) with her thoughts on “Oceans”.

**Ocean** by Wendy Beames

*The ocean seethes and sucks at the shore.*

*Drawn by the moon, the motion is perpetual.*

*The rushing tide tumbles a multitude of tiny shells,  
over and over, across the sand.*

*The receding tide retreats,  
exposing a ragged line of texture and colour.*

*Sometimes I imagine myself  
inside one of these tiny empty vessels.*

*Swirling, rolling across the ocean bed.*

*Above, green, frothy waves foam onto the shore.*

*Muted sunlight filters through.*

*A myriad of tiny fish flash by like quicksilver.*

*The ocean overflows with life.  
For ever and ever, since the beginning of time,  
the ocean has pounded the shores.  
But how long is forever? How much time is left?  
How soon before the ocean rises up,  
swollen with melted ice  
sucking, seething, swamping and crushing all before?*

### **CLAY PLAY: Course Leader Joan Parke**

Lots of fun was had, along with a few challenges, and an array of creative pottery was produced during the Clay Play course. The clay used was Keane's Paper Clay and it doesn't have to be fired so when the pieces were completely dry they were sealed (with diluted PVA glue), painted and then given a final spray with varnish. There is something very satisfying about working with smooth, white clay and creating objects far beyond expectation!



Helen Gahler and Jan Van den Bosch were obviously enjoying themselves.

### **TOPICAL TALK**

#### **THE JETTY: CEO Lisa Shreeve**

The audience of just fewer than 40 members and visitors was left in no doubt that the Jetty is in the hands of a CEO who is passionate about her job. Lisa Shreeve gave a most interesting talk about Busselton's iconic jetty with some historical

background before moving on to plans for the present and future. Questions were taken from the floor and were answered thoughtfully by Lisa. The time flew by before Lisa had to hurry off to deal with some exciting business that had just arisen – we must keep an eye on the local papers! Conversation was buzzing as we enjoyed refreshments after the talk. Of course it is not just the Topical Talks themselves that are of interest. It is also an opportunity for members to meet up with others and get to know people from our different groups or renew acquaintances met on previous courses.



**Pauline Gummer and Jacqui Rawling enjoy a cuppa after Lisa's talk.**

## **TECHNICAL TIPS from Barbara (Secretary)**

\* **EMAIL ETIQUETTE** using: To, From, CC, BCC, Subject:

*(NB: CC = carbon copy (although we don't use the 'carbon' any more)! BCC = blind carbon copy (for those recipients' whose addresses are hidden for privacy). FYI = for your information)*

1. Only use Cc: when it is important for those you Cc: to know about the contents of the email. Overuse can cause your emails to be ignored.
2. Include addresses in the To: field for those who you would like a response from.
3. Include addresses in the Cc: field for those who you are just FYI'ing.
4. Make sure your name is displayed properly in the From: field.
5. Remove addresses from the To: Cc; and Bcc: field that don't need to see your reply.
6. Always include a brief Subject. Having no subject can get your email flagged as spam.
7. Think about your motives when adding addresses to To:, Cc:, Bcc. Use your discretion.
8. Never expose your friend's or contact's email address to strangers by listing them all in the To: field. Use Bcc:!

9. Make sure when using Bcc: that your intentions are proper. To send Bcc: copies to others as a way of talking behind someone's back is inconsiderate.
10. Get into the habit of "reply to all" if you are emailing a group of friends or colleagues, that way, no-one misses out on the thread of the conversations.

A good piece of advice about emailing anyone: ***Type unto others as you would have them type unto you!***

(Copied with minor adaptations from <http://www.101emailtippetips.com> )

**\*Subject: Cyber Seniors Documentary** -This looks very interesting, I just had time for a quick peep but will take the time to watch it. (Joan)

<http://cyberseniorsdocumentary.com/>

## **PAT ON THE BACK**

'Loved the newsletter full of info and what a great idea to give us a bit of background on "our leaders". Regards Val Hill'

*Thanks Val, glad to get your feedback on the Autumn 'Crier'.*

## **CALENDAR of EVENTS**

**FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE: ENROLMENT DAY SEMESTER 2** at the Busselton Family Centre, Kent St, Busselton, 2 – 4 pm. NB Online enrolment is now available for those wishing to enrol that way.

**TOPICAL TALK:** arrangements for our next Topical Talk are underway, and it will likely to be towards the end of August.

## **FEEDBACK**

Your feedback regarding the newsletter, courses, events, is welcome, as are contributions.

### **Contact details:**

**Post to:** The Editors, *The Crier*, PO Box 1792, Busselton, WA 6280

**Email:** [admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au](mailto:admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au)

**Phone:** Joan Parke 9752 4769 Christine McDonald 9752 3013

[The hard copy version of this newsletter has been printed courtesy of the office of MLA Libby Mettam.](#)