



EDITORIAL

After a wet, cold, winter we are all looking forward to the warmth and regeneration of Spring. President Joan will fill you in on developments towards our revised Constitution, the AGM and changes to our hard working Committee. Many Courses have experienced diminished attendance due to the annual migration of Grey Nomads to warmer northern climates. Many visiting northern WA or NT, others to relatives in “Old Blighty” or seeing the sights of Europe, cruising rivers and oceans, even northern USA and Canada. We welcome you back re-invigorated.

Our sincere thanks to all contributors to The Crier. **EDITORS: Gwyn and Joan**

FROM THE CHAIR:

Constitution

The Committee has reviewed our current Constitution, as required, and unanimously decided to adopt the new Model Rules, amending information to be provided to the Commissioner with regards to our name, objectives, quorums and financial year only.

We are going to move a special resolution to adopt the new Model Rules as per the INC Guide, 2017, at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association, at the same time as our AGM on the 27th October. A copy of the page showing the amendments to be voted on is attached so all members will have that notice well in advance. **An on-line link to the full copy of the Model Rules will be uploaded to our website for your information (www.u3anaturaliste.com.au) as soon as possible** and for **postal members**, per favour of Libby Mettam’s office, we will have **hard copies available for you to read** at The People Place, the Busselton Library, at the Topical Talk on the 20th October, or by request to me on 0410667696.

At this meeting, as with the AGM, a quorum needs 25% of our members to be present, or their proxy vote received, with 75% of the voting being in favour of the resolution for it to

be accepted. This means, by our current membership numbers, a quorum of 66 members. Documents will then be lodged with the Commissioner for ratification. Proxy voting forms have been attached now in case members will be away during October and wish to vote. So, **please put the date in your diaries/phones/calendars and do your best to be there!**

Data Base

After much research, the Committee approved the purchase of the membership software, MASS. This is widely used, for example, by many U3A groups in Victoria. The Committee will have training sessions in September with a trainer from Victoria. We also plan to offer assistance to Course leaders and members with the new system before/at next year's Enrolment Day. No doubt there will be a glitch or two but I am sure these will be smoothed out quickly.

Many thanks must go to Tom Watts, husband of Committee member Lorraine, for his numerous hours of voluntary assistance preparing us for the use of this data system.

Committee Changes

As it happens, and for very valid reasons, four members of the Committee will not be standing for re-election next year – Richard Liston, David McDonald, Barbara Taylor and Cathy Oldman. The request for expression of interest in Richard's position of Treasurer, which really incorporates four roles, was responded to by two members. So Chris Masterman has been co-opted as Treasurer and Margaret Maloney to the Committee to shadow that role and between them they will manage Richard's other roles with membership and enrolments. Also co-opted to the Committee as Secretary to replace Barbara is Rose Vella and Malcolm Jennings will come on board with one of his roles being to shadow Gwyn Cracknell as Course Co-ordinator. Gwyn will take on David's roles as Vice President and Course Co-ordinator. PHEW!

Because of there being a lot of Committee work to do in the coming three months, and much of it prior to the AGM, those not standing for re-election will actually resign in September so that the Committee can fill those vacancies and give the necessary handover time. They have all offered to be available to give all the assistance required. Of course we are aware that all positions are open at the AGM but it is likely that all of the remaining and co-opted members will nominate for election. More about that will come to members in the first week of October along with the information for the Extraordinary General Meeting and AGM agenda.

I am sure that all of you would like to add your thanks to the outgoing Committee members. They have done a tremendous job over the years and have been a great support to me as I have learned the ropes about being President of Nat U3A.

(Joan Parke, President)

AROUND THE GROUPS

Write Your Autobiography

Leader: Jacqui Rawling

Thank you to the ladies in the Write Your Autobiography group for sharing your stories of strength and courage with me. I didn't know when I suggested this group how fortunate I would be to hear about growth, hardship and great happiness. All of our conversations are confidential and some of the subjects we have written about are: A piece of Clothing, Places I've Lived, and Discoveries. Our writing has covered moving to Australia from the UK as ten pound poms, growing up on country farms and education at university. We shared many laughs and some tears as we discussed living with very little, seeing our fathers return from war. Our group has shared so much and all I can say is THANK YOU, it's been a wonderful privilege.

I will be offering Write Your Autobiography in early 2018 to a group of men, minimum of eight. I know many of your experiences are so different to women's and so important to record. I also will offer this to a women only group in mid-2018.

Jacqui



Back: Barbara Sturcke, Jill Goddard, Jacqui Rawling, Cynthia Williamson, Joan Parke, Annie Bransby.

Front: Dawn Atherton, Valerie Rabuse

LET'S TALK Discussion group – TED Talks **Leader: Joan Parke**

Following on from Term 1's Let's Talk- History, for the first time we have used TED Talks as the basis for our discussions. These talks are presented world-wide and present BIG ideas on dozens of topics. Utilising these was very effective at providing a stimulus for discussion and the course was most enjoyable. Participants made interesting contributions after viewing. The general outline for each session was to watch two or three talks on various topics with

the last one usually having a light-hearted/ humorous view. One that was popular in the latter category was that featuring James Veitch and his adventures at trying to unsubscribe from spam mail. He has a number of these snippets and they are very clever! TED Talks can be found by Googling TED.com



Back Row: Ann Fink, Joan Parke, Diane Grimes, Luba Sanderson.
Front: Barbara Saunders, Pat Holyoake, Valerie Rabuse, Michael Whittall.

Games Group Leader: Jacinta Lee

Did you know that Pi is a Greek letter that is acceptable in Scrabble? Or that " loupe" is a small magnifying glass?

Our Games Group started this semester and while we're small, we devour words and other games each Wednesday afternoon. Scrabble is very popular and usually involves some interesting discussions but not too many challenges! Don't worry if you are not a Scrabble buff as we've played Bananagram, Rammikub and Upwords too! And we're open to other suggestions ...

We'd love to have a few more players next term so mark Wednesday afternoons 2pm-4pm in your diaries. See you then!

Please contact me on 0421 823 888 Jacinta



Richard Liston, Colleen Liston, June Grey, Carole Collins, Maureen McEwan

TOPICAL TALK



Kerry Bayley, Busselton's Citizen of the Year 2017, gave a most interesting talk and it is obvious that she is a very worthy recipient of her award. Kerry has done hours of voluntary community work in our city. Of special interest was the information about what goes on behind the scene at Cliff's Kitchen. Hours of sourcing food, preparing meals, organising rosters of volunteers who assist with preparing and serving meals, the Christmas Lunch – the list could go on.

Kerry is not only at work in the kitchen at St Mary's; for example, at home she makes jams and freezes excess fruit that has been donated either through Coles or other community members. She tells of her full freezers!

During the question time at the end of her talk, Kerry was asked by a member of the audience about ways people could help. The upshot of that is that the audience was asked if they would like the committee to have a collection hamper available at the AGM so that appropriate food donations could be made towards the Christmas lunch. The idea was very well supported so further information about that will be forwarded with later notices about the meeting.

Thanks Kerry and members who attended for making this Topical Talk informative and interactive.

CALENDAR:

Diaries, wall calendars, mobile phones, notes on the fridge - however you keep track of your 'to do' list - please mark in the following dates. You will note that these events are on consecutive weeks.

1.TOPICAL TALK: October 20th

PRESENTER: CAROLINA MASTERS TOPIC: 'Citizen Science'

The focus of Carolina's talk will be on the important role the general public can play in scientific research, in particular that which relates to the natural world. This will be a most interesting talk and a number of you will know Carolina from the Busselton Naturalists' Club and speak highly of her knowledge of many aspects of our environment.

Further information will be sent out early in October, but make sure you mark this date!

2.EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING and AGM OCTOBER 27th

12.30: The day will start with a **Showcase** highlighting activities of the various groups. This has become an enjoyable and informative session.

2.15: **Extraordinary General Meeting** of the Association to ratify the Naturalists U3A's Constitution in line with the Government's New Model Rules for Associations.

2.30: **Annual General Meeting:** Agenda will be forwarded early October.

Refreshments to follow the meeting.

NOTE DETAILS in 'From the Chair'. This is a VERY important meeting and it is essential that we have as many members as possible to attend or to send their proxy votes.

EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST: Courses and Leaders

It is hard to believe it is THAT time of the year when the call is put out for course leaders for Semester 1, 2018. Many of our current courses will be running again, and some that have run previously. However, it is important for a course-based group such as ours, that we have new courses coming on board regularly. Apart from members being keen to experience new things, with the membership numbers we now have, we also need to keep up the number of courses we have on offer.

So, if you think you have an interest, experience or skill that you would be happy to share with others, how about giving it a go? As you will see from our courses this year, there is a wide range of topics that are being explored. Is anyone up to running a photography course (this question has been asked a few times with the request for it being for pleasure and learning skills but not at competition level). Also there has been a request for someone to lead a Men's Cooking Group!

For more information please contact Gwyn Cracknell on 97541703 or email him on gwynwendy@bigpond.com

Course timelines for leaders will soon be developed and Courses on offer will go out to members and uploaded to our website in November.

FEEDBACK

It is always good to hear feedback about your experiences with our courses and events, and contributions for *The Crier* are welcome.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Email: admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au

Phone: Gwyn Cracknell on 97541703 or Joan Parke on 0410 667696

HARD COPIES

Thank you to Tony Robinson, at 'Jack in the Box', for sponsoring coloured copies of *The Crier* for postal members.

Other hard copy versions of this newsletter have been printed courtesy of the office of Libby Mettam, MLA, as will be the hard copies of the New Model Rules for the Constitution.