



The *U3A* Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC

Autumn 2017

EDITORIAL

Here is your first newsletter for 2017, the *Autumn Crier*, full of news and information about Naturaliste U3A and the activities offered to all participants. It promises to be an exciting year, especially with our new courses and increased number of members. Gwyn Cracknell is replacing Christine McDonald after her great job in the role and has now become the Co-editor. Gwyn is keen to contribute to our efforts to communicate with all members of the group and is warmly welcomed.

We trust you will be stimulated this coming year, resuming previous courses and enjoying the new ones.

(Joan Parke, Editor and Gwyn Cracknell, Co-editor)

FROM the CHAIR

Welcome to 2017; a big year for us as we have already, as you will see in Richard's report, had a surge in new members as well as the highest number of courses on offer since re-forming in 2009. Since Enrolment Day committee members have been working hard behind the scenes with phones running hot and emails flying, not only finalising and sorting out groups but working on a variety of things that are involved in ensuring a smooth start to the year. It is especially important that we help new members to get to know more about Naturaliste (Nat) U3A. Apart from courses starting, our newsletter, *The Crier*, will be emailed or posted to you in the first week of March (the first of four that are sent out seasonally) as will a flyer for our first Topical Talk, 'Meet the Mayor' that is on Friday the 17th March.

In December the Committee held a Planning Day that was very productive, although we are looking quite laid back in the photo! As Nat U3A grows so too are the steps required to both promote and sustain growth and we have developed a number of strategies to do this.

Strategic Objectives

Four Strategic Objectives have been identified to guide Naturaliste U3A over the next three years.

1. Provision of Quality Courses and Activities
2. Communicate Effectively with Members and Potential Members
3. Engagement with Other Stakeholders, Internal and External
4. Governance and Management: Provide an Effective Operating Committee

Members will be able to find full details of the Strategic Plan on our website (www.u3anaturaliste.com.au). Postal members can get a hard copy by contacting Barbara Taylor, Secretary, on 0433 441 655.



Cathy Oldman, Gwyn Cracknell, Lorraine Watts, David McDonald, Richard Liston, Barbara Taylor, Joan Parke hard at work on strategic plans.

During January Barbara Taylor (Secretary) and I had an impromptu meeting with Peter Alcock, President of U3A UWA, who was passing through Busselton with his wife. Barbara and Peter have been having some discussions about how University of the Third Age groups in various parts of WA, and other states, manage the communication with members, enrolments etc. We had previously been introduced to him at the Network Conference in Perth. He is very interested in Nat U3A and the way we function.



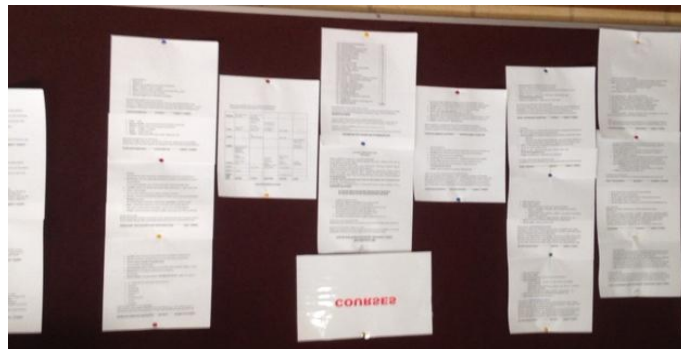
Barbara Taylor, Peter Alcock, Joan Parke

I hope that you all enjoy participating in our activities this year and find the courses and Topical Talks to be both stimulating and fun. **Joan Parke (President)**

ENROLMENT DAY

Oh what a day it was! The Busselton Family Centre was buzzing with far more people than were anticipated. With the majority of members now doing their membership and course enrolling on-line, we didn't imagine so many would attend on the day. Of course a few years ago, before we had online enrolment available, we were more used to a big turn-out. Not only were there many newcomers but there were also many renewing members.

A number of them commented on just liking to come along on the day to catch up with others. All were very welcome although we need to be a bit more streamlined next time! It is always a lot more work at the Semester 1 Enrolment Day because of doing membership as well as course enrolment. It was great to see that our members are using the grapevine form of communicating so effectively.



What a dilemma - 25 courses to choose from! (now 28)



Join the queue



French looks good!



Membership subs paid, what next?

MEMBERSHIP and COURSE REPORT

The new year has got off to a flying start with 223 financial members registered and 336 enrolled in the 28 courses on offer.

'AHA!' some bright person will say, 'You only had 25 courses listed in the info that was sent out'. The reality is that Joan Parke's *Let's Talk* is really two separate courses. The first is a continuation of her popular *Let's Talk History* and that is followed by a new approach called *TED Talks*.

The 27th course arose when people clamouring to get into the perennial favourite *Book Club* looked like being disappointed until Joan took the bull (or is that book!) by the horns and sponsored the creation of a second *Book Club*. All thanks to Joan for making it happen and new member of Nat U3A Alison Liebenberg for coordinating the group.

Annie Bransby has also kindly set up a second Crochet group to take place on Monday afternoons after her on-going Beginner's group in the morning. So, make that 28 groups now!

All but a handful of members have been able to enrol in their preferred course(s). Gwen Braden's new *Love Your Garden* attracted a large intake. When she could not fit them all in she very generously offered to repeat the course in Second Semester to cater for them. **(Richard Liston, Treasurer and Membership)**

LEADERS' FUNCTION

After a very successful Enrolment Day that kept Richard, Cathy and Barbara flat out all afternoon, President Joan entertained past leaders from 2016 and new leaders for 2017 with THANK YOU and WELCOME to all Leaders. With 28 courses on offer for 2017, the Committee was thrilled that most Leaders were able to attend.

Very special thanks go Mana Kai Café for the superb catering supplemented by tea/coffee, red and white wine and to Margaret Maloney who assisted with keeping things running smoothly.

Joan gave an inspiring "Mission Statement" address which summed up why we are all so devoted to Nat U3A. All present Leaders were then asked to introduce themselves and give a summary of the what, where, when and how of their courses. We were all enlightened as to just how extensive our U3A's scope has become. As well as the intellectual, cultural and creative abilities of our members we are definitely making advances into the physical and emotional aspects of our well being. Our "Life long Learning" message is strong and being well received by the Geographe/Naturaliste community. **(Gwyn Cracknell, committee)**

(Pat Holyoake, who is one of Nat U3A's long-time course leaders, gave some valuable feedback when she said that this year's was the best 'Thankyou Function' she had been to! Thanks Pat)

AROUND the COURSES

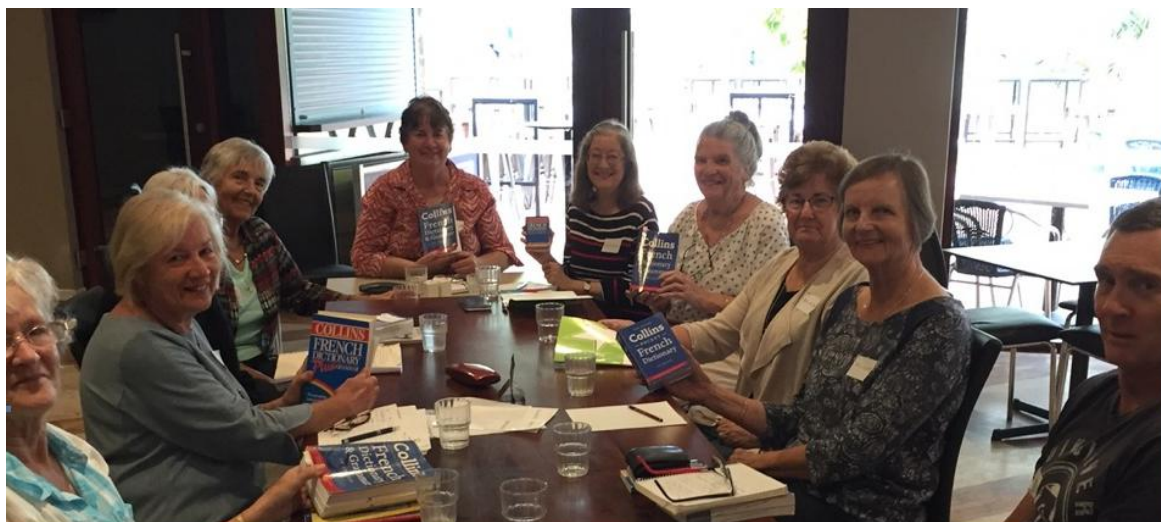
COFFEE AND FRENCH CONVERSATION: Leader Elizabeth Horne

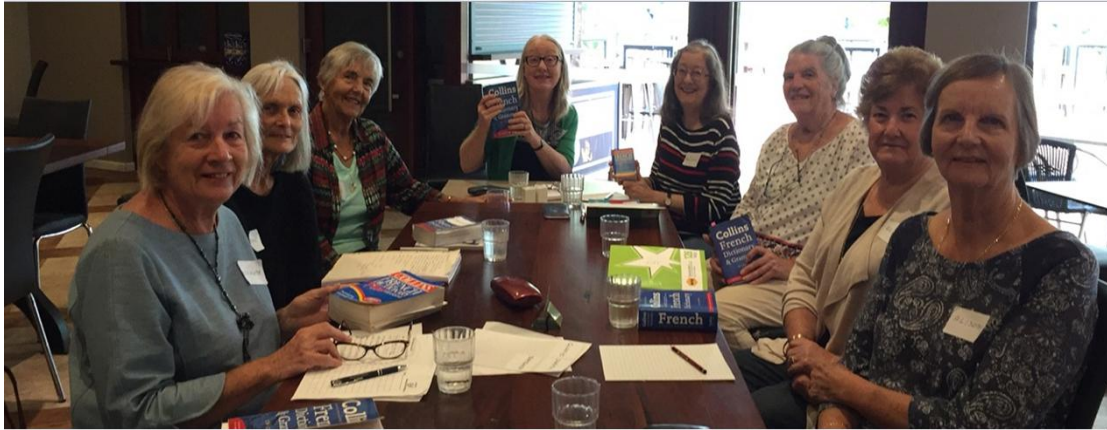
On Wednesday, 8th February, the first group of Busselton Francophones met for coffee at Stilts Restaurant in Broadwater, (they don't serve croissants but we were all far too busy chatting away to eat).

This is a lively, friendly group all of whom have a wish to practice their French in a relaxed, comfortable setting. Some of the participants are more fluent than others, but everyone is ready to have a go and a laugh! No need to be embarrassed or shy. If you can't remember the word in French someone else will help you. The second week back they all came clutching their French Dictionaries and willingly shared with the group an experience they had had during the week in the French language. Fascinating what some of them got up to, we are certainly an interesting bunch. It was pleasing to note at the end of a session that certain members who said they could hardly remember anything from their schooldays were reaching back into the past and coming up with words or phrases they thought they had forgotten.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm, hopefully you will continue to come along throughout the year and we will all be able to parler francais. **(Elizabeth Horne)**

As these photos show, the group certainly appears to be having fun.





CALENDAR

TOPICAL TALK: 'MEET THE MAYOR' Friday 17th March, 1.30 – 3.30 at the Busselton Family Centre, Kent St Busselton. Mayor of Busselton, Grant Henley, will be our first speaker for the year. Please check your flyer for RSVP information.

EARLY Notice that Semester 2 Enrolment Day will be on June 23rd, you will get plenty of information about that prior to the date.

SNIPPETS

- During the year you can expect to receive, by email or post, four newsletters to arrive in approximately the first week of March (Autumn), June (Winter), September (Spring) and December (Summer). There will also be four flyers with information about our Topical Talks. These will not be at such a specific time but expect one each term, starting with the upcoming one in March. In June and November information will arrive about courses for the next semester and Enrolment Days. There may be occasional other postings but we **do not** pass on unsolicited emails from outside organisations or individuals.
- Other than the above, your Course leader may at times email you with things related to your course. On occasion something of interest may be passed on to members via this 'Snippets' section.

- There seems to have been some bicycle falls to members lately. Hopefully those who have hurt more than their pride recover soon!
- Fred Stone, our oldest member, had his 96th birthday last week. Happy birthday Fred, keep enjoying Music Appreciation.
- Just a reminder that if anyone is interested in running a course and would like to have more information, the committee is always keen to hear from you.

FEEDBACK

Feedback regarding *The Crier*, letters, a pat on the back for courses, or any queries you have are welcome and can be sent to the Editors via email :

admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au or by post to Naturaliste U3A, PO Box 1792, Busselton WA 6280

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Email: admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au

Phone: Joan Parke 9752 4769

The hard copy version of this newsletter has been printed courtesy of the office of Libby Mettam, MLA