



The U3A Crier

**NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC**
Summer Edition 2015

EDITORIAL

With a full year behind us it is time to enjoy the festive season and opportunity to recharge our batteries for what is likely to be an equally busy 2016. There are lots of courses on offer and some interesting speakers already in the pipeline for our Topical Talks. We hope you have enjoyed your *Criers* this year. We have had pleasing support in contributions that make our task easier. Best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas and coming year. (Joan Parke and Christine McDonald, Co-editors)

FROM the CHAIR

As 2015 draws to a close I am sure you will all agree that we have had a most interesting and fulfilling year as members of Naturaliste U3A. Included in this Summer Crier reports from the President and Treasurer as well as minutes from the AGM are presented for your information. The 'Open Day' (yes, sorry, it wasn't really a day as we were just putting our toes in the water and figured an 'Open Hour' didn't have quite the same ring to it) preceding the meeting was most successful and on behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you for your feedback.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Naturaliste U3A AGM 23rd October, 2015: It has been a busy year for Naturaliste U3A with our membership growing to 196 (as of yesterday) of which 68 are new members. Our figures show 217 class enrolments but that is subject to everyone who enrolled actually attending the courses. Of course the most important thing is that we become a thriving group, not just a big group, and I am confident that is happening.

Many people are taking advantage of accessing our website and apart from getting information, are enrolling for courses and paying membership fees on-line. Little glitches are now rectified and those who are doing these things online should now be getting an automatic response. About 30 postals are sent out to coincide with the emails sent to members so those who are not on email are not disadvantaged.

A new Committee member, Jeanne Dawson joined us during the year, stepping in when Christina Marruffo needed to resign. Quite a few members will have been welcomed to Naturaliste U3A by Jeanne.

In terms of public relations, so far this year I have been invited to speak to the Busselton City Councillors and the St Mary's Friendship and Learning Group about Naturaliste U3A and in each case the audience showed a lot of interest in what we do. Brochures were left in both

places and the Busselton Library (that passes information on to Dunsborough I believe) and the Busselton Family Centre also display our information and our newsletter, *The Crier*. Christine McDonald and I, as co-editors, continue to get 4 seasonal newsletters out and have been well supported by leaders and members sending in contributions.

Networking has been a feature this year and we hosted a Think Tank day in May with representatives from some of the other U3A groups in the south-west. This was a great opportunity to see how other U3A's function. In July David and Christine McDonald and I went to Perth to a U3A Network seminar on The Power of Ageing and then stayed on to the Network's AGM. Christine has gone onto that committee.

Having Guest Speakers continues to provide a balance to our courses and this year our speakers have included Dr Michael Hunter who informed us about the progress of the valuable research that has been done through the Busselton Health Study, Lisa Shreeve, CEO of the Busselton Jetty who spoke passionately about plans for the jetty and foreshore and John Millar from COTA and Kathy Elliott from Centrelink who talked about ways of modifying our homes to enable us to stay in them longer, and upcoming changes in Centrelink.

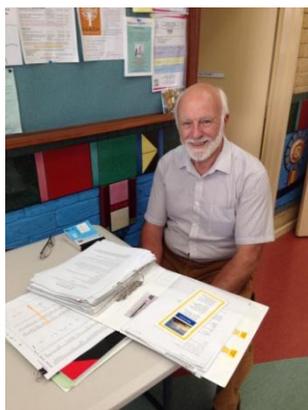
It is a feature of Naturaliste U3A that we run a wide variety of courses, in fact I believe we are the envy of many other groups in this regard. If we count the long-running courses as being one each semester (and we do have to enrol each semester) we have offered some 30 courses throughout this year, on average 15 or 16 a semester. Each year new courses emerge and others of long standing continue to be popular. There are some new courses in the pipe-line for 2016 and details of all courses will be available later this month. Hopefully many of you will have enjoyed our inaugural Open Day today and have found out new things about the various courses that have been running, as well as new ones planned. David McDonald, our Vice-president and Course Co-ordinator has worked tirelessly on getting courses collated.

However, courses can't happen without leaders and a huge vote of thanks must go to those volunteers who give so much of their time in providing such interesting courses for members to participate in. There is absolutely no room for boredom if you are a member of Nat U3A. Immediately following Enrolment Day in February this year, the Committee held a Thank You and Welcome function for group leaders. This has become somewhat of a tradition and will happen again in 2016.

Finally, I must thank the work of the Committee. Each member has taken up the challenge of their various roles and also of covering for others who have been away dealing with family business or travelling. During the year the Committee decided to use the title, 'President', for the Chairperson of Nat U3A. This brings us more in line with other U3A's and avoids adapting different titles for different gender.

This year has been a full and rewarding one for me and has also given me much to learn. Thank you, Joan Parke, President, Naturaliste U3A

TREASURER'S REPORT



Richard greeting members and visitors to the AGM/Open Day – luckily he had his receipt book ready as some new members signed up!

The financial year ended 30th June 2015 has been another satisfactory period for Naturaliste U3A Inc.

The organisation made an operating profit of \$1,354.78, a slightly larger profit than the previous year. The attached summary shows that on the income side membership subscriptions increased by \$930. Financial members as at 30th June numbered 182. Major increases in expenditure related to meeting expenses, advertising and insurance (see explanatory notes in summary).

Total funds on hand at 30th June 2014 were \$8,804.27. Because of increased membership the financial prospects of the organisation are very sound.

Naturaliste U3A is very grateful to the Honorary Auditor, Mr Alan Wells, for auditing the accounts for the year ended 30th June 2015. He issued a qualified report, acknowledging that the bank balance was correct but noting that a payment of \$200 did not have supporting documentation. This payment was the Honorarium paid to Professor David Thorne, Guest Speaker on 29.08.14. The Honorarium was approved in Minute 9 of the Executive Committee meeting held on 15th August 2014.

Summary of financial activity for the period 01.07.14 – 30.06.15.

Opening bank balance **\$7,449.49**

INCOME.

Membership fees	\$4,880.00
Grants/donations	\$ 452.00 (a)
French classes surplus	\$ 23.67 (b)
Bank interest	<u>\$ 132.75</u>

Total income \$5,488.42

EXPENDITURE.

(a) Equipment	\$ 582.00
(b) Meeting expenses	\$ 959.10
(c) Website costs	\$ 373.34
(d) Advertising	\$ 538.00
(e) Stationery and postage	\$ 273.74
(f) Meeting venue hire	\$ 465.00
(g) P/L Insurance	\$ 432.00
(h) PO Box rental	\$ 115.00
(i) Affiliation fees	\$ 246.80
(j) U3A Online course fee	\$ 20.00
(k) APRA Licence	\$ 84.01
(l) Sundry expense	\$ 38.90
(m) Bank fees	<u>\$ 5.75</u>
Total expenditure	\$4,133.64

Closing bank balance

\$8,804.27

Notes to financial summary.

- (a) Grant of \$450 from City of Busselton for folding tables.
- (b) This surplus refunded to French class after 30.06.15.
- (c) Includes \$450 cost of tables [see (a)].
- (d) Increase over last year due to fully catered Leaders' "thank you" meeting.
- (e) Cost of 1000 marketing brochures.
- (f) Two years' premiums (2013-14 and 2014-15).
- (g) We purchased a course from U3A online (Italian Renaissance).
- (h) To cover the playing of music in several classes.
- (i) Text book for Spanish course.

Richard Liston, Honorary Treasurer, Naturaliste U3A Inc, 23 August 2015.

Reminder from Richard re subs: All is set now for membership, and enrolments, to be done for **2016** online, so no need to wait until the actual Enrolment Day in February to do this.

Minutes and Actions: Naturaliste U3A AGM 23/11/15

Agenda Item	Actions
1. Welcome & Apologies	Meeting commenced 2:01 pm. Apols: Barbara Taylor and as per list
2. Minutes of previous AGM October 2014	Accepted Colleen/Peg
3. Business arising	nil
4. President's Report	Accepted Joan/Don Keynes
5. Treasurer's Report	Accepted Richard/Heather Murray
6. Election of Committee 2016	Elected unopposed: Joan Parke, David McDonald, Barbara Taylor, Richard Liston, Gwyn Cracknell, Jeanne Dawson, Christine McDonald
7. Appointment of Auditor	Alan Wells. Accepted Richard/Tom Moore
8 Confirmation of Annual Membership Fee for 2016	\$25 Richard/Jeanne
9. Any other business	Nil
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AGM closed at: 2:24 pm

INAUGURAL 'OPEN DAY' Prior to the AGM a number of groups had displays and many leaders, current and new for next year, had the chance to discuss and show off their courses. The Mah-jongg group had some very interested spectators as they were determined to play Mah-jongg, not just talk about it! The Circle Dancers demonstrated their skills and the pleasure they have dancing under Jacqui's guidance. There was creative writing to read, art to view and new courses to find out about. Well done to all those who gave their time, leaders and volunteers, to make this such an enjoyable afternoon. Thanks also to the speakers who followed up the formal part of the meeting: current Course Leaders – Wendy Beames (Mah -Jongg), Valerie Frearson-Lane (Dru Yoga), Gwyn Cracknell (Into Poetry) and David McDonald (Music Appreciation). And, of course, the delicious afternoon tea that many contributed to was a fitting conclusion to the day.



**Gloria Kesby with Moira Dahlburg
'Creative Writing'**



**Joan Parke with Dennis Gee at the combined
Mandalas, Life Transitions and Book Club display.**



Dennis Gee at his most interesting display



Jacqui Rawling and her Circle Dancers

'Geological Perspectives' for 2016 Course.

AROUND the GROUPS

Introductory Tap Dance

Nine intrepid ladies fronted for the Introductory Tapping Class. New tap steps were introduced and we used these to make up a routine to "Ain't She Sweet". At times great concentration had to go into making the left foot do as the brain wanted it too. At the last class, the nine intrepid ladies had turned into nine amazing tap dancers and they sure were sweet! Next year we have been offered a proper dance studio and this means we can start our lessons earlier because there is air conditioning. I can't wait! **Penny Swingler (leader)**

Mandalas and Meditations



Apart from the deeper meanings found in mandalas, once you have started noticing these geometric and free-form designs and circular patterns, you see them everywhere! During this 6 week course participants enjoyed looking at mandalas from various cultures and in particular finding hundreds of them in nature. While making their own mandalas, the time just flew by and the meditation aspect of doing this became very apparent. Everyone 'had a go' at what was, to some, a very new experience. **Joan Parke (leader)**

Into Poetry



Sandra Rains, Jill Goddard, Jeanne Dawson, Gwyn Cracknell, David McDonald, Wendy Beames, Colin and Heather Murray.

I have thoroughly enjoyed fortnightly Poetry sessions on a Tuesday morning at Gwyn and Wendy's home. Gwyn has opened my eyes to many great poets and one of these was West Australian author and poet, Randolph Stow. We looked at his poem, 'Strange Fruit', which was a fine example of his use of imagery.

From looking at Stow's poetry, I have been encouraged to read his novel, 'Merry Go Round in the Sea,' which my daughter studied in Year 12. Her book has many interesting notes in the margins!

Many thanks Gwyn for running this Course. **Christine McDonald**

COURSE INFORMATION from David McDonald (Course Co-ordinator)

Course and Enrolment details for **Semester 1, 2016** are now available on our Website. It has also been emailed or posted to all members. Copies should be available at the Busselton and Dunsborough libraries. If for some reason you have not received the document please contact our Secretary, Barbara Taylor by writing to PO Box 1792 or by email to admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au

Note: An error in the document: the covering letter from President Joan Parke, on the first page has our postal address incorrect (due to a missing number), but it is correct on the Course Application Form so don't be confused.

Semester I looks exciting because there are 22 courses on offer.

The preferred way to enrol is through the Website as this makes processing really easy. However postal enrolments are of course acceptable and personal enrolments may be made on Enrolment Day, at the Busselton Family Centre - Friday 5th February, 2016.

David McDonald

CALENDER

Please mark in your diary!

*** **ENROLMENT DAY February 5th 2016**. For those not registering for courses or paying membership online, please come along to the Busselton Family Centre, Kent St, between 2.00 and 4.00pm to do this. Of course anyone is welcome to come along during that time to chat to Committee members and leaders who are able to be there.

*** **Leaders' Thankyou and Welcome function February 5th 2016**, 4.30 – 5.30 pm at the above venue (following Enrolments). Partners are welcome. Invitations will be sent in January.

SNIPPETS

*A number of our members are on the 'recuperating' list at the moment so best wishes for their speedy recovery.

*At times the Committee has requests to forward emails to Naturaliste U3A membership. These have been declined as it has been considered to be 'unsolicited mail' and the decision has been made that bulk emailing/postals will only be directly related to Naturaliste U3A matters. At times, however, there may be requests to pass on information that could be of interest to members that can be mentioned in this section of *The Crier*. On this note, it has been general policy to maintain names on the membership list for a year after becoming non-financial. If you receive emails, or postal information, that you no longer wish to get, please let the Committee know via the admin address.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Anyone who is looking for information regarding playing Bridge in Busselton is welcome to contact Margaret Nixon from the Busselton Bridge Club, phone 97522635.

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

Phone: Joan Parke 9752 4769 Christine McDonald 9752 3013

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