



The U3A Crier

**NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC**
Winter Edition 2016

EDITORIAL

Firstly, a big thank you to the Course Leaders who have sent us news about their courses from this semester. It seems like lots of challenges and laughter have been happening – all good for our well-being.

In our last edition we mentioned following up on long-standing members but due to having lots of news from Course Leaders this time, we will do that in later editions.

We hope you enjoy this edition of The Crier.
(Christine and Joan)

FROM the CHAIR

It is hard to believe that winter is upon us and the year almost half-way over! After what has been a very successful semester of courses with lots of positive feedback, enrolments for next semester will be arriving in either your email boxes or letter boxes very soon.

This coming semester has traditionally been somewhat of a juggling act with the exodus of members to warmer climes. In chats with a number of you there has been discussion about wanting to be enrolled in a course yet being away for some of the time. A number of leaders have put their courses back a few weeks to try to accommodate this!

The Committee has been busy with the usual organisation of all the things that go on, often behind the scenes, to keep Naturaliste U3A the stimulating group that it is. As time goes on we will be addressing changes to the Constitution in order to ensure we are in line with new Government guidelines scheduled to be introduced soon for incorporated, not-for-profit organisations such as ours.

Thanks go to Christine McDonald who makes regular trips to Perth to represent our group on the committee of the U3A Network, WA

Best wishes for safe and interesting travels to those of you who are heading off on holidays and there are a number of members on the 'not well' list, so sending wishes for a speedy recovery to you as well.

Joan Parke (President)

AROUND the COURSES

CREATIVE WRITING Leader: **Moira Dahlberg**

Thanks Moira for the following selection of writing - various short pieces written by group participants in response to set tasks.



Walter Graham, Laurie Collett, Judy Wills, Shane Venema, Robyn Gregson

Diamonds *Maureen (Exactly 100 words)*

Diamonds are forever it is said. Mysterious rocks pulled from miles underground by the sweat and blood of men forced to work and live apart from family to satisfy a society that knows nothing of their lives, just as the miners can know nothing of the lives of the eventual owners.

Jewellers in back streets strive to wrest glimmering gems from rough rock, knowing that a misplaced blow could shatter the rock and render it worthless.

Sparkling and shimmering on the hands and necks of wealthy women they epitomise money and prestige. Is the cost of this vanity justified?

Lipstick *Maureen*

A bright, greasy crayon of colour. Carefully applied or quickly drawn across the lips by giggling girls, teenagers or young women putting a brave face to the working world.

During WW2 Winston Churchill was asked by a Navy chief to ban the importation of lipstick into Britain for the duration of the war because of the room taken in the holds of ships. He refused. He said, paraphrasing Nathaniel Hawthorne, it was a symbol of defiance: a woman's red badge of courage. If it boosted a feeling of self-worth and determination it was well worth the few cubic feet of space.

Limericks for Footy Fans *Maureen*

A magnificent bird is the Eagle
In blue and gold splendidly regal.
Quite unlike the turkey
From Eastern States murky
Whose tactics are not always legal.

Arise, Arise – once mighty Dockers
Stop your sulking in the lockers.
Purple blood is running free
Down from Freo to the sea.
Arise, I say, and quell the mockers.

Newspaper*Laurie**(100 word story - or maybe a little less)*

I don't buy the newspaper any more. There is only news of tragedy, mayhem, disasters or mud - slinging by politicians.

If that is not enough there are adverts for jobs I do not want or need.

Adverts for items I do not want to buy.

Holidays I cannot afford at places where terrorism is rife, or public notices which advise of babies born to people I've never heard of, and the demise of people in other parts of the state.

So I don't buy a newspaper. I buy a coffee instead and watch the passing parade.

Acrostic *Peg*

Creative writing has started

Ready one and all

Eagerly awaiting

A few words from the boss

To initiate our lesson

Informative and flowing

Very soon we read our work

Ever ready to complete the task.

Working all together

Reading others' contributions

Into the heights of intellect

To prove we all can do it

Into verse and humour

No one can miss out

Good friends, one by one, passing out of class.

Jaguar *Betty*

When the jaguar went to town

In his spotted dressing gown,

He drove his car at half past five.

It's a wonder he's alive.

In and out through rush hour traffic,

His driving became so erratic,

He drove through a safety bank

Into the river and immediately sank.

The car I fear was never found

And people thought the cat had drowned,

But he escaped to swim ashore,

But lost the gown he always wore.



David McDonald, Peg Smith, Gloria Kesby, Maureen McEwan

Road Map Judy (One hundred words excluding the title, which was given).

I have pulled to the side of the road. I plead, "Please give me the map."
It lands on my lap with a plop and a few angry words. I realise I shouldn't have been driving.
My partner is totally hopeless at reading a map. I glance at the sign and the map. We then realise we are one hundred kilometres off course.
I glance back at the map. The only way we are to reach our destination on time is for me to drive and navigate or we will never get to Yoongarillup. My partner sighs, stifling bad words.

Musical Happiness Gloria

Viv was busy making last minute preparations for the evening. Stealing five minutes, she sat drinking her tea, while thoughts of the past year flooded her mind. Her employer and friend, Muriel, has passed away exactly a year ago. She had left her mansion to her nephew, Tennessee (named after Tennessee Williams due to his parents' enthusiasm for the writer) whom she had not seen for sixteen years as he had taken up a position as a music teacher in a private boys' school in Vienna.

When Viv had met Tene at the funeral, it had been for the first time and her impression of him was favourable.

After the funeral when everyone had gone, he told Viv his plans. He would retire, return to Norton-on-Stow and live in the mansion. To generate income for repairs to the old building, he would hold supper recitals twice a week in the ballroom, relying of course on Viv's culinary skills.

Her mind returned to the present moment and she breathed a sigh of satisfaction. She took great pleasure in preparing the suppers and listening to Tene play Mozart and Vivaldi. Yes, the last six months had been a delightful time and she hoped there would be many more.
(Trigger for writing: characters of a music teacher and a cook and the setting was a funeral.)

THE ENNEAGRAM Leader: Pat Holyoake

The Enneagram studies nine personality types and offers valuable insights into the human condition. It is being used daily around the world *because it works*. It is the clearest, most accurate method available for understanding ourselves and those who are important to us. Many businesses and organisations are using the Enneagram in management to increase their employees' productivity and to hire the best possible person for a particular job.

This course continues to attract those interested in gaining more self-knowledge as they explore one of life's big questions, Who Am I? This is the 7th year the Enneagram has been presented and for me one of the most rewarding parts of leading this course is the enthusiasm exhibited by the members who take it. Pat.



Back row: Margaret Maloney, Lynne Thompson, Gail Priest, Karen Seton
Front row: Dawn Atherton, Ruth Waller, Jill Goddard, Marie Palmer

SUPER TROUPERS (Tap for Seniors) Leader: Penny Swingler

This year we have been tapping to the Abba number “Super Trouper” and I can’t think of a more aptly named title. This year’s group of ten ladies really are super troupers. We have discovered the Americans give our steps funny names like Paradiddle and flap step. We have been learning new steps and combinations. The “Time Step” being our latest and now we can truly call ourselves tap dancers. There is much pulling of faces when a new step is introduced, followed by much laughter and then of course the smug smile when it all comes together. The combination of such enthusiasm, laughter and cleverness make them a joy to teach and get to know. Go Super Troupers! Penny Swingler



Back row: Judy Stainton, Di Loudon, Anne Sargent, Jan Clarke Cynthia Noonan
Front row: Evelyn Jennings, Christine McDonald

INTO DRAMA – (First Semester) Leader: Gwyn Cracknell

Into Drama commenced in March with 18 enrolments, which included past and present, Thespians. Numbers have now settled to 15 averaging 9/10 attendees.

Marg Winchcombe and Vivienne Page were currently performing in the “Wild Capers” production of “The Newspaper of Claremont Street” based on Elizabeth Jolly’s novel.

David Williamson’s “The Removalists”, our first reading, presented a powerful comment on Australia’s male chauvinism and police violence while Louis Nowra’s delightful “Cosi” asked the big questions about who is sane or insane with his play centred on a mental institution’s production of Mozart’s “Cosi Fan Tutte”. On to the entertaining Shakespearean comedy “The Taming of the Shrew” where traditional (400 years ago) views of arranged marriages were seriously questioned and laughed over.

From comedy to tragedy with Arthur Miller’s famed “The Crucible” based on the infamous Witch Trials of Salem in Massachusetts; Miller’s powerful warning on the McCarthyism of the anti-communist movement in the USA.

All participants are enthusiastically projecting themselves into the lives of their dramatic characters as we bring these great plays to life, that is, we are having fun while being intellectually stimulated by great dramatists. Gwyn Cracknell.

TOPICAL TALK

Our first Topical Talk for the year on 29th April was very well received by members who attended. Steve Andrews from the Black Dog Ride gave a most interesting presentation and the audience was often moved by the video and personal stories of those who have been involved in the Black Dog motor bike rides. These are used to raise awareness of mental health issues and suicide in the community and Steve’s passion for setting up this organisation has had wide reaching impact.

If you weren’t able to attend, and see that Steve is speaking at another venue, it would be worth going to.



Steve has the audience focused on his presentation.

SEMESTER 2 COURSES

Enrolments for second semester courses are due by Friday 24th June.

There will be about twenty courses running and most will begin in the week commencing Monday 18th July.

Details of courses on offer will soon be available on the Naturaliste U3A Website: www.u3anaturaliste.com.au and members will be emailed a copy. Those without email will be posted their copy.

Enrolments can be done online, by post or in person in the following ways:

Through the Naturaliste U3A Website **or** by completing the enrolment form sent with the courses list and posting it to Naturaliste U3A, PO Box 1792, Busselton 6280 to arrive before Friday 24th June 2016, **or**

By coming to the Busselton Family Centre 19-21 Kent Street between 2:00pm and 4:00pm on Enrolment Day, Friday 24th June 2016 and enrolling in person.

Committee members and some Course Leaders will be at the Family Centre and will be happy to meet members and answer any queries, so please feel free to come along and chat to us.

NB new members are welcome to join now and can complete membership forms and pay membership fee as above. Members, your membership fee has been paid for the whole year. Payments for course costs are made to Course Leaders on the first day of the course.

We are always on the lookout for new Course Leaders and welcome enquiries in that regard.

For queries about courses: David McDonald, 9752 3013

For queries about membership: Richard Liston, 9755 4417

CALENDAR

Friday 17th June, 2-4pm TOPICAL TALK at the Busselton Family Centre

Our next Topical Talk will be presented by Kathy Murray, Senior Audiologist at 'Advanced Hearing WA'. Kathy will talk on the ways that hearing loss can impact on our lives and a list of the points she will cover is on the flyer forwarded to you. It is certainly a topic that will be very interesting and hopefully members (and visitors) will take advantage of this opportunity to get up to date information from Kathy.

Friday 24th June, 2-4pm ENROLMENT DAY for Semester 2 at the Busselton Family Centre

Because our courses are based on semesters, even ongoing members of those courses (eg Book Club, Music Appreciation, Mah Jongg etc) are required to re-enrol in their course. Some ongoing courses that are full, like Book Club, might have a waiting list for those who would like to put their names down, so if you are interested in doing this please check with Course Leader.

Please feel free to call in during that time either to enrol or just have a chat with Committee members or Course Leaders

SNIPPETS

Congratulations to Naturaliste U3A writers who have had books published this year. Well done to:

John Watt, whose new novel, ***Crooked Vows***, will be launched at 6pm, Sunday June 5, at Barefoot Books, FigTree Lane, Busselton *A young man in 1950's WA is moved, by traumatic experiences, out of his narrow religious world towards a different salvation. His journey takes us through the culture surrounding the recently exposed scandal of clerical child abuse.*

(Drinks and nibbles provided.) RSVP to Barefoot Books on 97513905 to ensure a place. Queries to John on 9754 1572.

Sue and Bernie Siddall whose book is called ***An Unlikely Oasis, Leinster – the first ten years***. It is the story of a bold social experiment to introduce a 'people plan' designed to normalise life in a mining camp/town. It is full of stories about the people who went there, and the efforts to introduce women to previously male-only jobs. Full of tales of carving out the golf and race courses, the CWA formation and the first baby born there, it belies the fact that it is on the edge of the Gibson Desert in one of the most inhospitable regions of WA. For further information, please contact Sue on 0419 926 847.

FEEDBACK

In response to Jeanne Dawson's 'Welcome to Nat U3A' letter, Clara wrote:

I was first introduced to the U3A via a friend of mine who saw the article in the paper a few months ago. When I got on the website and found out more about the courses on offer, they really appealed to me. There are much more stimulating and varied topics available than anywhere else I have seen. I think too that it is such a great idea to utilize volunteer teachers and speakers as it seems such a waste of talent and resources for these people once they retire. Why not impart and share this wealth of great knowledge in a casual relaxed atmosphere where not only the people delivering the talks benefit by keeping their minds stimulated, but the listeners can gain so much information they may not have had the opportunity to learn before!

I decided to enrol into a couple of courses as I have recently retired from 30 years of nursing at Busselton Hospital and feel I would like to keep active and stimulated after such a full and busy working career.

I found the website very easy to follow and the only small problem I encountered was misinterpreting the payment of the Membership fee which I thought could be paid on the day of enrolment. That was easily sorted after making contact with one of your members.

Clara Rankin.

Thanks Clara, this feedback is appreciated.

As always, your feedback regarding the newsletter, courses or events is welcome, as are contributions.

Contact details:

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