



The U3A Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC Autumn Edition 2015

EDITORIAL

It seems that 2015 has arrived with a rush. Enrolment Day was extra busy, Leaders enjoyed their 'Thank you' function, some courses started early and many have gone into full swing in the last week or so. In this edition we will feature David McDonald, Richard Liston and Gwyn Cracknell as the first of our 'Getting to Know your Committee' segment. We hope you are looking forward to our activities for the year as much as we are. Joan and Christine (Co-editors)

FROM THE CHAIR

What an enthusiastic start to the year we have had! Apart from the large number of you who enrolled on-line, Enrolment Day at the Busselton Family Centre was buzzing with a mix of on-going members and quite an influx of new members. We currently have 151 members this year. We depend on the support of the former but as any successful organisation does, need to continue to attract new people. A warm welcome to both groups. Our Thank you to 2014 leaders and Welcome to new leaders' function went well with each leader giving an impromptu summary of their course. It is interesting, and important, for us to get the big picture of what is happening in our groups overall.

Topical Talks planning is well underway with the first of these, 'Busselton Healthy Ageing Study', happening on Friday 20th March, as you would have seen in flyers recently sent out. The next Talk, date to be advised but likely to be early June, will be presented by the new CEO of the jetty, Lisa Shreeve. In May the Committee is hosting a Thinkfest with committee representatives from other South-West U3A groups. We previously did this in 2013 and it was most informative to find out about the different ways other U3A groups operate and how we can get ideas from each other.

On the 8th April I have been invited to attend the Councillors' Lunchtime Briefing Session to discuss Naturaliste U3A's current and proposed services to the community. Best wishes for a stimulating and interesting year. Joan Parke (Chairperson)



Enjoying the Leaders' function: Gwyn Cracknell, Moira Dahlberg, Valerie Frearson-Lane, Don McDonald, David McDonald

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

It was suggested that people in Naturaliste U3A might like to know more about their committee members, so in this edition we will feature David McDonald and Richard Liston who are long-serving representatives, and Gwyn Cracknell. Next *Crier* will feature Joan Parke, Barbara Taylor and Christine McDonald.

DAVID McDONALD (Vice-Chair, Course Co-ordinator and Course Leader)

I migrated to Busselton from Sydney with my wife, Christine, and four kids in 1986.

I worked as a dental surgeon but I have been retired for over five years.

People come up to me all the time asking, "Do you miss work?"

I roll about laughing and, once I gain control of myself, I proudly tell them, "The only thing I miss is the daily *West Australian* cryptic crossword puzzle laid out on the staff room table awaiting group completion". What fun it was to have a later lunch than the rest and arrive at that table to find some unanswered clues awaiting me!

I still remember my last working day! It was a morning operating list at Margaret River Hospital. I had the pleasure of an early afternoon drive back to Busselton – and – zip! That was it. No more!

My first encounter with a Naturaliste U3A course was at the home of John and Eleanor Slee – *Music Appreciation*. My life has never been the same since. I also managed to get hooked by Moira Dahlberg's *Creative Writing* classes – tremendous fun.

I am certain that my involvement with Naturaliste U3A has helped keep my neurones firing.

I enjoy the many intellectual jousts that I regularly encounter with several other members – I won't mention their names lest a defamation action ensues.



David McDonald – his neurones firing????????????????

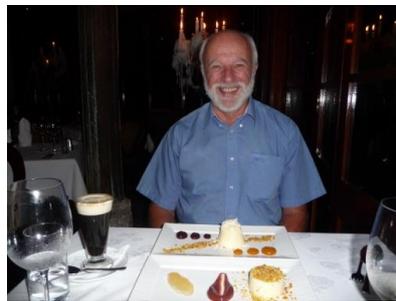
RICHARD LISTON (Treasurer, Enrolments and Website)

I was born in Adelaide years ago. I lost both my parents when I was very young so my sister (now in Queensland) and I were brought up by our step mother. We couldn't afford university fees so when I graduated from Adelaide Tech my uncles decided that I should do an apprenticeship because 'if you've got a trade behind you you're set for life'. I did five years with Philips Electronic Industries because those who achieved higher scores in the entrance test went into the radio and electronics stream rather than manual arts. I was awarded Apprentice of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce so, aged 20, experienced a first class ocean cruise to London (lots of stories to tell there!), had a year in the UK and Europe being hosted by locals, taking in the sights, gaining lots of experience in life, public speaking and socialising as well as a bit of experience working in the electronics industry. I never worked in this field on my return to Adelaide! I did a range of jobs then managed tyre stores for Firestone in South Australia. On a visit to Adelaide Ian Diffen asked me to help him continue setting up his tyre stores in Western Australia. We re-located to Perth in the early '70s. Over the years I managed a range of stores then moved to head office and became financial controller until I retired.

As a mature-age student I did an Arts degree at UWA over several years majoring in History and English (more stories there!) and accounting and auditing courses at Curtin University.

When Ian died in 2003 the company was sold and soon after my wife Colleen and I retired to Busselton where we had frequented our holiday home and fished in the bay most weekends for many years. Colleen became involved with the Busselton Oral History Group (BOHG) and when they decided their next big project would involve four hundred plus hours of oral history interviews that were currently on cassette tape being digitized and brought up to date technologically she said 'oh my husband Richard would probably enjoy getting involved with that' and there went the next six years of my life (stories galore there!).

I was approached to join a committee setting up a U3A group in Busselton because I was Treasurer of the BOHG (even got a story to tell about that!). I have been treasurer since the inception of Naturaliste U3A. Discovering Mah Jongg changed my life! One of only two men in the large group I assist the course leader and play avidly. I've taken a couple of other courses and enjoy the friendship, camaraderie and mental stimulation. The course leaders are the backbone of U3A and have my greatest admiration.



Someone has to do it – Richard researching food quality in Broome!

GWYN CRACKNELL (Committee member, Course Leader)

A city boy from Rivervale bred to be a jockey! Frustrated from a career in science due to a lack of chemistry. Chose teaching over surveying as bonded teachers had their Uni fees paid. Harvey first posting as a residential housemaster at Agricultural wing. Taught Animal Husbandry, Crop production, Farm Bookkeeping, Irrigation as well as Science, Maths, English and Social Studies, usually one page ahead of students! Met wonderful Wendy, married in '67, three children. To Belmont SHS chasing promotion then Mt Lawley SHS and City Beach SHS as Senior Master of English and one year Research Branch in Silver City. Deputy Principal Denmark DHS, Deputy Busselton SHS, met the amazing McDonalds who contributed so much to Busselton SHS. Acting Principal for two years. Unaware of the looming GFC of 2008 retired at 60.

A lover of learning, still teaching sailing, disability sailing and of course 'Into Poetry'!



Gwyn doing what he loves – sailing. Skipper of Tornado *Esoteric*.

AROUND the GROUPS

From our 151 members we have 212 class enrolments in the 15 courses offered; obviously many are doing more than one course! Rumour has it that one very keen Committee member has enrolled in six different classes, so she will be very busy! Another member we know of is doing four. A big thank you to the Leaders for this Semester – a number of you have been very accommodating with adding extra classes and modifying venues to suit the group numbers.

Book Club

Book Club is bursting at the seams with 15 members this year. It appears that most of us kept up reading during much of the break and keen discussion about what we could recommend took place at our first gathering for the year.

At this stage it is safe to say that one of the books we have read through Book Club that has been a real favourite was Marcus Zusak's novel 'The Book Thief'. Another of his novels, 'The Messenger' is a very good read too. However, this year a new favourite may emerge as we are currently reading 'The Rosie Project' which came highly recommended by Penny Swingler, and she has written a review of it for us. Thanks Penny.

Every now and then a novel comes along that has that right touch of quiriness, enough intrigue to keep us wanting to find out what happens and of course a happy ending. Complement this with a touch of romance with a slight twist at the end and you have the perfect novel as far as I am concerned. The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion has all these qualities. The unlikely romantic hero is Don Tillman, a man who has Asperger's Syndrome. Don decides it's about time to find a wife. A list is compiled of the qualities he wants in a wife and he sets out to find her. Amidst his quest comes Rosie who has none of the qualities he's looking for. She's looking for her biological father and asks Don, who is a genetics professor, to help her. I found this a delight from beginning to end. Enjoy.

Some of our Book Club members at an end of year (2014) afternoon tea at the Cape Lavender tearooms.



Marie Hanson, Penny Swingler, Jacqui Rawling, Barbara Taylor, Mary Caporn, Joan Parke, Suzanne Beggs

IT'S TIME for those of you who may be thinking of offering a course for Semester 2 to put up your hand, have a go! There are a couple of new courses in the pipeline and hopefully a couple more will find their way to us. Note the U3A Melbourne City's 'Let's do Lunch' (see below), sounds interesting, and a Perth group has a photography course – possibilities???

U3A ONLINE – ANYONE READY TO GIVE IT A GO??!!

As members of Naturaliste U3A, we can sign up for Independent Study courses through U3A Online. These cover a wide range (see their website for other subjects) and I am interested in studying the course entitled Renaissance Italy. As you can see from the unit outline below, it is quite a comprehensive study covering many subjects (Giovanni Pico's Oration is a new one for me!).

- Unit 1 - The Idea of "the Renaissance"
- Unit 2 - Florentine Art in the Early Fifteenth Century
- Unit 3 - The Humanists and Their Writings.
- Unit 4 - Individual and Family
- Unit 5 - The Medici Regime in Fifteenth-century Florence.
- Unit 6 - Giovanni Pico's Oration
- Unit 7 - Savonarola's Bonfires of the Vanities
- Unit 8 - Machiavelli
- Unit 9 - The High Renaissance and its Aftermath

If anyone would like to join me in studying this unit, please contact me at cmarruffo6@gmail.com or on 0450 294 301 (after 25 April 2015). Christine Marruffo

TECHNICAL TIPS from Barbara (Secretary)

Using a memory stick often called a USB or Flash drive

These handy little storage units are just that, temporary storage for transfer of data between different machines or people. They are not suitable for permanent or back up storage. They are inserted into the small USB connection port of the side or front of your computer. There is only one way to insert so don't force it and check you have the right port. Once it is plugged in, you click the START icon at the bottom left hand side of your screen or from the FINDER icon on a MAC. You will see an additional drive listed 'Devices with removable storage'. You can then save files (word documents, photos etc) in the same way as on your main computer. Make sure you are saving the item on the USB.

Important: If you unplug the device whilst it is still transferring information, you could lose data already on it. Make sure you unplug the device after the small flashing light has stopped. Wait a few seconds and check for the 'Safely remove hardware and eject media' icon (usually bottom far right of the screen)

Remember to:

- 1 Label your memory stick
2. Keep a back up copy of anything on the memory stick, mostly likely this will be on your main computer.

For further information please refer to this very useful article

<http://digitalunite.com/guides/computer-basics/using-a-computer/how-use-memory-stick>

Thanks Barbara

PAT ON THE BACK

A great pat on the back for U3A in general was on the Radio National's *Life Matters* programme on 12th March. Specifically it featured U3A Melbourne City's 30th Anniversary celebration. It interviewed two members, one of whom, in appreciation for what being a member of that group has done for her, organised a fashion parade as part of the Melbourne Fashion Festival. All the models are members of U3A Melbourne City and range in age from 55-86, and include one in a wheelchair. It has been a great learning experience for everyone involved and demonstrates the broad reach of activities that take place within the various U3A groups. Mention was also made of one of their courses, 'Let's do Lunch', that has been running for four years.

The segment of the programme is 'Don't stop me now; breaking the age barrier on the runway' and you can hear it by logging on to ABC Radio National and finding the *Life Matters* episodes. Well worth listening to.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

***FRIDAY 20th MARCH TOPICAL TALK:** 'Busselton Healthy Ageing Study', Dr Michael Hunter, Busselton Family Centre, Kent St, 2.00pm

*** Date to be confirmed, likely to be early June,** CEO Lisa Shreeve will give a talk about the Busselton Jetty – keep an eye out for the flyer to arrive for more details. Busselton Family Centre, Kent St, 2.00pm

*** Date to be confirmed, likely to be Friday June 12th,** for Semester 2 Courses Enrolment Day, Busselton Family Centre, Kent St, 2.00pm

FEEDBACK

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

Contact details:

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