



The U3A Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC

Winter Edition 2014

Welcome to this winter edition of *The Crier* – the season when many members are on the move; hitching on caravans and heading to warmer climes, embarking on cruises, or lining up at the airport clutching tickets to Italy, France and other exciting destinations. We hope all our travellers enjoy their journeys.
(Chris McDonald and Joan Parke, Co-editors)

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings, Naturaliste U3A Members:

Several First Semester courses are still running, but preparations for Second Semester are well advanced, with 17 courses offered. Details are on our website already, and will be circulated to all as usual; Enrolment Day is Friday 13th June. We are indebted, as always, to the leaders who have come forward, and particularly to those who are offering their first course in our U3A, in this case Jacqui Rawling, and those who are offering more than one course this time: Pat Holyoake and Christina Marruffo (2 courses each) and Joan Parke (3 courses).

Trish Robinson, who was elected as our Secretary last October, has unfortunately had to resign because of rapid growth in her small business: she will continue as a member of U3A, and we wish her well in her business venture. You will all be aware that we made a general appeal for help with secretarial work: we are very pleased that Gail Priest is undertaking an important part of this role as minute-secretary, starting immediately. However, we still need others to help until we find a person willing to do the whole task. Please contact me or any of the committee members if you think you may be able to help. *And please note*, this appeal is meant for male members, too - no discrimination here!

Your committee has decided that we should broaden the base of Naturaliste U3A's activities. We have been remarkably successful in the area of courses – ever since our inaugural committee offered courses in 2010. The number of courses offered is still high, but there are signs of a decline in our membership numbers. Perhaps this is due to some members leaving because they are no longer finding courses that appeal to them; we're not sure of the reasons, and the inflow of membership renewals each year is quite unpredictable, making comparisons difficult. However, as well as keeping our courses as a high priority we intend to offer some other activities that should appeal to many members. As a first step - in addition to our General Meetings held about three times a year, with a guest speaker and provision for conducting formal business when necessary - we will be arranging more frequent "Topical Talks" on a wide variety of subjects; the first of these being Jeremy Higgins' presentation on 16th May describing the new Busselton Health Campus. We may also arrange an occasional "Topical Excursion".

Thank you to the many members who have assisted in various ways in recent months to keep our U3A running well. **Don McDonald (Chairman)**

NEWS FROM COURSE LEADERS

UKULELE

Ukulele for Beginners is a new course I am running because I wanted to join a ukulele group but realized there was nothing in Busselton, unlike many other country towns.

The class size was to be limited to six, but 14 applications were received resulting in two groups being run. The aim is to introduce people to the instrument and have the group playing enjoyable songs, while also ensuring that participants develop good technique to set them up for future progress.

The first group has already completed several sessions and will soon have a dozen songs in their repertoire. In addition each week one or two members perform a solo or duet which is a great incentive to practice. The second group has recently started and shows great promise. I am impressed with the enthusiasm and talent being shown by group members.

Richard O'Donohue (Course Leader)

Group 1: John Hazzard, Richard O'Donoghue, John Slee, Geoff Palmer, David Mc Donald
Joan McDonald, Barbara Taylor, Rita Warren, Robyn Taylor



Second group: Veronica Bre, Karen Wilkinson, Valerie Frearson-Lane, Walter Graham, Tracie Whiteside,
Graham Stainton



FRANÇAIS - LEVEL 3



The entire class is shown, starting from the bottom left Bill Hoorn; Marie Ginbey; Rosemary Ryan; Top of the table (L to R) Dellas MacDougall; John Homes; Right: Glenys Field; Dorothy Sellheim; Graham Fisher.

This specific French class is now in its 5th year with NAT U3A, and it is indeed very pleasing to advise that there are still original members of our first class which came together in 2010. Other class members came after that date.

As a language training class we do need to handle new vocabulary and different verb structures, but every lesson is not a boring, mindless session of just repeating lists of words.

No way: there is a lot of humour and laughter in every class, all conducted in the French language which is a really excellent way of getting to learn and understand the language. Everyone around the table has a French input and we find ourselves jumping around to a wide variety of subject matters, therefore it is very pleasing to see the excellent progress made by all class members with the spoken language.

Every one benefits from this teaching style.

On many occasions a 2 hour lesson can seem very short!

Ian Benporath (Class Leader)



Ian Benporath with his group of keen participants.

***** NEW COURSE*****

Many of you have participated in Evan and Rachel's writing courses and will be pleased to see they are offering this new course Semester 2.

LISTENING: Tuesdays 10:00am – Noon

This workshop will give you an opportunity to appreciate the significance of listening sensitively when interacting with others. Feedback exercises will enrich awareness for both speaker and listener.

Leaders: Evan and Rachel Macpherson, 9751 5058

Dates 2014: Tuesdays 5, 12, 19 and 26 August, 10 a.m. to noon.

Venue: The small meeting room at Novacare Lifestyle Village

Fees: to be determined (small fee for hire of the room)

Group size: 8 participants.

**** Note from David McDonald -** If you haven't sent your application in yet this new course is now on the Web Site form. If you can't access the Web Site and only have the form without this course, or if you have already sent you Course Application Form in but would like to do this Course too, just let me know by sending email to:

admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au or ring me on 9752 3013

GENERAL MEETING

The guest speaker at this meeting was Christina Marruffo and we were treated to an entertaining afternoon hearing about 'Mexico – a land of enchantment' and admiring some of the artefacts that Christina had to show us. It certainly gave us a view of another country well worth visiting. Thanks, too, Christina for offering a Beginners' Spanish Speaking course this coming semester.



Christina Marruffo, Kay Muir, Jill Goddard



Gail Priest, Ken and Joan Jack, Leslie Watt

TOPICAL TALK

The first of our Topical Talks: an '**Update on the Busselton Health Campus**', was given by Jeremy Higgins on Friday 16th May at the Busselton Family Centre. Some 50 members and a number of visitors attended what was an enthusiastic, interesting and informative session. Jeremy answered a number of questions after his talk and gave time to answering some of the more specific ones during cuppa time.

SNIPPETS

*** On Mothers' Day members of Naturaliste U3A were well represented in the audience at a Mothers' Day Concert, '**Classics in the Chapel**,' at 'Swallow's Welcome', Margaret River. Entertaining us were members of the Southwest Baroque Ensemble as well as those of the Wind Quartet from the Southwest Philharmonic Orchestra. The music was delightful and was complimented at times by the beautiful voice of soprano Janet Depiazzi. Judging by the popularity of our Music Appreciation course, music is enjoyed by many of our members, so keep your eye out for other events at this venue (Hosts Tim and Pat Negus).

*** **Gwyn Cracknell**, one of our committee members, has been seen on the big screen lately, and all in a good cause! He was ably presenting information on behalf of the project 'Sail into Life', in an advert at the movies. This project is sponsored by Rotary International and offers people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of sailing. Participants report feeling exhilarated by their experiences when sailing that gives them a feeling of freedom and self-reliance they are unable to enjoy on land. *Well done Gwyn, and it's nice to know we have on our U3A committee a media-savvy presenter who may be able to handle our television appearances if our fame ever rises (Don)*. In a similar vein Gwyn also featured in an enormous advertisement Poster opposite the Post Office at Coles. *Well done to Gwyn! (David)*

*** Community recognition has been given in the past couple of years to two well-known members of Naturaliste U3A. **Marg Tickle** was awarded an OAM for her contribution to the community including her work with the Busselton Oral History Group - the 'Let's Talk' group enjoyed a talk from her recently on the topic of the Group Settlements in this region. **Richard Liston**, our very hard working Treasurer, was recognised on Australia Day this year with the Premier's Active Citizenship Award for his work with the Busselton Oral History Group and with the University of the Third Age (U3A). Congratulations to you both.

PATS ON THE BACK FOR U3A

*** A visually impaired member who attends 3 courses said the following, "I don't know what I would do without U3A".

*** "Joining U3A has been a wonderful way for me to meet people since I moved here – everyone has been so friendly," is a comment frequently heard by Course Leaders.

*** Re the Climate Change Course – "It was a terrific course and I would do it again."
(Cynthia)

*** At Music Appreciation on its first day for 2014, a quirky statement came from a class member to the Leader of the Group, that his badge had incorrect spelling, saying John's badge should read as "Coarse Leader"! Then again it was suggested it could say ' Coarse Course Leader". John's love of music and his knowledge are generously shared with class members along with his very engaging wit. Many thanks John for your varied and delightful mornings of music in the Dunsborough Concert Hall. (Chris McDonald)

APOLOGY

Sorry about the group email sent on 23/5/14 with the subject, "Test".

It was all a horrible mistake!

Whilst Treasurer Richard is cruising the Danube and, as we now have no permanent Secretary, I have to maintain the enrolments. I was showing Chairman Don the Roundcube email program on the Secretary's Computer. Somehow I mistakenly managed to send what you received.

I assure all members that the policy is BCC only for group emails. (David McDonald)

IMPORTANT DATES SEMESTER 2:

Enrolment Day: Friday 13th June 2.00 - 4.00 pm Busselton Family Centre, Kent St

Topical Talk (2): Friday 25th July 2.00 - 4.00pm to be confirmed

General Meeting: Friday 29th August with guest speaker, Professor David Thorne, who will talk to us about **Advanced Care Directives** 2.00 - 4.00pm Busselton Family Centre, Kent St. Further information closer to the time.

FEEDBACK/LETTERS

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