



The U3A Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Volume 1, Number 1, February 2013

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, A NEW NEWSLETTER

Hello and welcome to this the first edition of our Naturaliste U3A newsletter which is yet another innovation designed by your committee. The newsletter has been created to provide a number of functions but primarily it is to keep you, the members, well informed as to the happenings within our organisation. It will also provide other advantages in that it can be used to welcome new members, promotion and of course, share our life with other U3A groups.

This is your newsletter and its success is bound in its content, some of which will emanate from your committee, but most will come from you the members. There are many sections of the newsletter where you can contribute and those contributions will be most welcome.

Thought for the Issue

There are no strangers in U3A,
only friends we haven't yet met.

STORIES TO THE EDITOR

Like to share a funny U3A short story or interesting event
with the members? E-mail the Editor in 50 words or less.

What is University of the Third Age? The University of the Third Age is an international organisation whose aims are the education and stimulation of retired members of the community - those in the third 'age' of life. It is commonly referred to as U3A. U3A is a voluntary learning cooperative of older people that encourages members to share educational, creative and leisure activities. Membership is open to anyone in the 'third age' (retirement) and activities are organised by members by drawing on the skills of each other. Each U3A's program is specific to the group and is developed from the interests of its members and the resources of its community.

U3A started in France at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Toulouse in 1973. It was started

by Prof. Pierre Vellas. In France the Third Age University is mostly associated with a local university. This academic model is used in many other countries, in particular in continental Europe. By the early 1980s, the scheme reached the United Kingdom where its nature was radically changed to be more a self-help organisation. This model is also used in Australia, Cyprus, Dominica, New Zealand and South Africa. Typical courses include, educationally, Art, Classical Studies, Conversation, Computers, Crafts, Debate, Drama, History, Languages, Literature, Music, Sciences, Social Sciences, Philosophy, etc. Some study groups do not have a prepared syllabus, but draw on reports of current affairs in their topic subject to prompt conversation and research.

Our Book Reading Group



YOUR 2013 COMMITTEE

Chairman Don McDonald
Vice Chairman David McDonald

Treasurer Richard Liston
Secretary Creena Holly
Committee Joan Parke
Gwyn Cracknell

Ken Jack
Christine McDonald



A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

2013 Chairman Don McDonald

As Naturaliste U3A prepares to enter its fourth operating year, I am delighted that John Wilkins has volunteered to edit and produce this newsletter for us, and I look forward to it growing into a regular publication that our members will value and enjoy. It will of course depend on a good flow of contributions – not only from the editor, committee members and course leaders, but from many of our members.

All U3A groups operate independently. But various networks have been established to help U3As to share information and experiences. For example, our U3A belongs to the recently formed U3A Network WA: some news from this network and others will be included in future newsletters.

Everything U3A does is entirely dependent on the efforts of volunteers: course leadership, administration, organising and catering for our general meetings and social functions, and other essential jobs. We have been well served by our volunteers over the last three years or so, and as result our U3A has been very successful: our U3A's membership is the largest in WA outside of Perth. From time to time we will be appealing through the newsletter for more volunteers – to perform new tasks, to accommodate growth, and to allow some of our present volunteers to have a break. If you are not already helping us either regularly or occasionally, we'd like to hear from you when a need arises in U3A.

A happy New U3A Year to you all!

Don McDonald

Election of Committee for 2012-13

At Naturaliste U3A's AGM on 30th October 2012, Ian Benporath retired from the Committee and three new members were elected: Joan Parke, Gwyn Cracknell and Ken Jack.

After the meeting it was brought to our attention that Ken Jack's nomination did not comply with standard procedure in that it was not received in writing prior to the meeting. As this may have invalidated Ken's election, the Committee at its December meeting resolved the matter by confirming two resolutions:

- That the election of Ken Jack to the Naturaliste U3A Committee at the AGM on 30th October 2012 be deemed invalid due to non-compliance with Clause 10.1 of the Constitution.

IN THE PIPELINE

Our own web site and e-mail address

U3A name badges for all members

U3A On-Line – considering on-line courses

- That the Committee, using its powers under Clause 9.5 of the Constitution to fill any vacant position on the Committee, appoints Ken Jack.

Ken Jack abstained from voting on these resolutions, which will be referred to the next AGM, late in 2013. The Committee, using its powers under Clause 9.2, also co-opted Christine McDonald to the Committee.

Don McDonald

Chairman

BRAIN TEASERS



Three volumes of a books are standing on the bookshelf in order side by side and each of the books is 2" thick. A 'bookworm' eats its way from the front cover of Book 1 to the back cover of Book 3. How far does it travel?

Answer Page 5

Two of U3A's objectives are to firstly educate and secondly stimulate. Each edition of 'The U3A Crier' there will be included a challenging Brain Teaser.

SOMETHING TO PONDER

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
Do you attend your meetings, and mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home and criticise and knock?
When you pay your fees do you say "This makes me sick"?
And leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?
Don't be just another member, but take an active part,
Go to your meetings often and help with hand and heart.
Think this over folks; you know the right from wrong;
Are you an active member or do you just belong?

Anon

2013 Semester 1 Courses

This year sees Naturaliste U3A presenting more courses in semester 1 than have ever been presented previously and we are indebted to the commitment and dedication of those presenters for all the time they give in the preparation and presentation of their chosen subjects. They are as follows:

- Armchair Theatre – Terry Thompson - Challenging the artist within.
- Australian Native Plants – Richard Clark – An introduction to identifying local native plants. (cancelled)
- Australian Social Issues – John Wilkins – Challenging social issues which confront all Australians.(cancelled)
- Book Club – Margaret Brook & Joan Parke – The joys of reading selected books.
- Climate Change – Don McDonald – Form an opinion regarding climate change and its implications.
- Creative Writing – Moira Dahlberg – Creative writing for fun and mental stimulation.
- Cryptic Crosswords –Christina Marruffo – Crossword enthusiasts can enjoy the mystique of cryptic crosswords.
- Darwin's Legacy – John Watt – Considering evolutionary theory and its influences.
- French Conversational – Rosemary Ryan - Designed to provide the learning of basic French.
- French Culture and Language Appreciation – Dawn Taylor – French and Australian cultural differences.
- French (intermediate) Level 1 – Ted Witham - A continuation of the 2012 course.
- French (intermediate) Level 3 – Ian Benporath - A continuation of the 2012 course.
- Mah Jong – Wendy Beames – A continuing course but will include new players.
- Mandalas and Meditation – Joan Parke – Make mandalas and enjoy meditation.
- Music Appreciation – John Slee & David McDonald – Enjoy the wonder of all types of music.
- Music – The European tradition – Cornelius de Munck – Enjoy classical music and learn to read a score.
- Painting for Pleasure – Pat Holyoake – Experience the freedom of unleashing your creativity.
- Psychology – Veronica Bre' – 1. Psychology in the significance of dreams. 2. Evolvement of psychology
- Remembering Your Life – Rachel & Evan Macpherson – Reflecting your life with guided autobiography.
- Spanish Conversation - Christina Marruffo - A continuation of the 2012 course (cancelled)
- Water – An Undervalued Resource?- Malcolm Jennings – There's more to water than turning on the tap.
- Your Soul's Journey – Gwen & Geoff Braden – Find out about spirituality with fun, laughter and discussion.

From the Editors Desk

Newsletters are a very powerful resource and have the ability to change peoples thinking and opinion. For that reason it must be written very wisely and caringly and as the Editor, I will always maintain these standards when deciding what should or shouldn't be included in each issue. Freedom of the press which allows every member to contribute their thoughts is essential yet a balance of what is open and honest opinion and what is perhaps untrue or hurtful must be considered and to that end U3A has a safe guard in that the Chairman does view the draft newsletter prior to its publication.

This newsletter belongs to you the members and any contribution on any subject focused on U3A is warmly welcomed. I look forward to many of you the members' contributions through 2013.

John Wilkins



Letters to the Editor

This section is made available to the members so that they can express their views on any area of U3A which they consider would interest the other members.

Your contribution should be 50 words or less and unless considered vital to the context of the letter, excess wording will be edited.



This n' That

U3A should be a family of members and as such we should be able to celebrate special occasions each of us has with others. If you know of someone having a birthday, wedding anniversary, going on a holiday or just doing something special, let the editor know and we'll let all our members know. Be sure however that you don't embarrass anyone.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Members who may have interesting items that they feel members of U3A may desire are able to place a classified advertisement in this column. The items must be aligned to U3A learning or development so it could be books, tapes, CDs, videos, DVDs, notes, handicrafts etc.

Pen



Portraits

We often see pictures of people who we do not know and away goes our imagination and perception steps in. Our perceptions of that person is usually very wrong when we perhaps get to know them. There are so many people in U3A that each of us does not know and there will be many new ones. As a way to getting to know some of our members, this section, Pen Portraits, will provide all of us a little about someone each edition.

Margaret Brook

Margaret and husband Ken came to Busselton 5 years ago although they have been long term visitors with their eldest son, his wife and 3 adult grandsons living in the area for many years. Having done the obligatory touring around for 7 years and many shorter trips in Australia and Europe, full time retirement loomed and where better than 'Busso'. Margaret with three years of U3A Book Club coming up, current treasurer of Busselton Spinners and Weavers and key member of WA Rovers Club (car not hiking) its easy to see life is still busy, busy.

Margaret leads the Brook Club and it is that course which is the flavour of this edition of 'The U3A Crier'.

U3A Australia – 'U3A NETWORK WA' News

By Peter Flanigan - President

Since the last Bulletin in July we have made considerable progress with our new State Network. We now have a website, a bank account and a constitution. We even have a Face Book presence! The constitution lacks final

approval as yet but should clear this hurdle in a couple of weeks which means that we can then apply for incorporation.

Over the past month we have met with two branches of Government – Royalties for Regions and the Ministry for Seniors, where we had an audience with The Hon Robyn McSweeney. The meetings were very cordial and gave us some valuable pointers in the way they both work. Unfortunately, there is no money available as the State Government has put a freeze on new funding. Our best chance lies with Lotteries West but we have to be incorporated first. One step at a time!

WHAT'S IN A NAME

'The U3A Crier' was a name originated by the Editor as it fulfilled the requirements of a newsletter title. It is catchy, incorporates our name and reflects its purpose. Members using these guidelines may have better titles and if you do, please submit them for consideration. How about the following:

The AGED Newsletter, The Voice of U3A, The Bugle, The Chronicle, The U3A Newsletter, Naturaliste U3A



CHALLENGES FOR U3A MEMBERS

Your mind is like a parachute, it must be open to function.

The human mind, once stretched by a new idea,
never returns to its original state.

If you have knowledge, let others light their candle with it.

NEWS FLASH

Our U3A fees for 2013 remain frozen at \$25

For Your Information

Contributions to the Newsletter

Contributions to '**The U3A Crier**' must be provided in writing – mail, facsimile or e-mail on or before the closing date advertised in each preceding newsletter. It is the author's responsibility to ensure the contribution reaches the Editor. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of providing a contribution or make any suggestion as to how to improve '**The U3A Crier**', please call the 'Editor' John Wilkins on 0447 237 695.

Mail; The Editor, 182 Kalgup Road, KALGUP 6280
Facsimile; (08) 9753 1273
e-mail; swpc1@bigpond.com.au

Complaints

Any complaint that members wish to make regarding any aspect of '**The U3A Crier**' must be made in writing and signed to Creena Holly, Secretary, Naturaliste U3A, PO Box 1792, BUSSELTON 6280.

Your Opinions

The Naturaliste U3A is a growing organisation and as it grows it will require more and more professional and business approaches to the way it functions – not the courses but the administration.

The following aspects of our professional organisation could be considered by the committee in the future and as members thoughts are essential for our future direction, your opinions are sought.

- A **Strategic Plan** for the future which will guide us in a logical way the direction that will benefit the members and U3A

- A **Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedure** policy that defines the standard of behaviour expected of all members of our organisation. It would also put in place a procedure for dealing with complaints about any aspect of U3A operations or breaches of policy.
- **Training for presenters** which supports their personal growth and the quality of courses

DATES TO REMEMBER

Enrolments were due 11 Jan 13
 1st course starts 6 Feb
 General Meeting 15 March
 2nd semester enrolment – 14 June

BRAIN TEASERS

The bookworm travels 2”

WORTH A THOUGHT

It takes less muscles to smile
 than it does to frown.

THE NEXT EDITION OF

‘The U3A Crier’

The next edition is on 1 May.
 Contributions by 19 April.

Readers of **‘The U3A Crier’** need to be aware that advertised dates in this edition may, due to circumstances beyond the scope of the newsletter, change so attention should be given to future e-mails or correspondence.

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