



The *U3A* Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC

Winter 2017

EDITORIAL

It is hard to believe that Semester 1 is over, winter is here and we are up to enrolling in another round of courses already. News from around the groups, both those written up in this *Crier* and from conversations with members, indicate that Naturaliste U3A is thriving and members are making the most of the old adage that 'It is better to wear out than rust out!' We hope that you enjoy the *Winter Crier*, catching up with news of happenings within our U3A group.

(Joan Parke, Editor and Gwyn Cracknell, Co-Editor)

FROM the CHAIR

As mentioned in the *Autumn Crier*, the Committee has been working hard, as part of our Strategic Plan, to finalise research into the most suitable and cost effective way to upgrade our electronic communication with members and to develop a data base to manage our growing membership. We are close to making a final decision and implementing training for this.

Many of you will be members of other groups going through Government changes to the Constitution for Not for Profit organisations, holding meetings with the membership to ratify these before sending off to the Department of Commerce for acceptance. We are going to hold a Special Meeting to do this in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting and Showcase Day on the 27th October, so you are being given plenty of forward notice. We will need YOU in order to achieve a quorum at this meeting, so no leaving the country, no leaving the state, no leaving Busselton!!

Two events have happened in the past few weeks that have struck a chord with me, especially in terms of Naturaliste U3A. The first was Neighbourhood Week, the theme of which was related to the concepts of 'Belonging' and 'Community'. Wearing my hat as a Committee member of the Busselton Family Centre, of which our U3A is a member, I attended an event that demonstrated the importance of the Centre as a hub in the community. It provides a place where various groups can gather and operate and feel a sense of belonging. A number of groups were represented on the day and many of them were ones run by volunteers, as are ours.

Naturaliste U3A is a regular user of the BFC and enjoys the use of the facilities, not only for quite a few of our courses but also for all our main meetings.

This brings me to the second event; Volunteers' Week. Congratulations to Margaret Tickle who was named as Busselton's Senior Volunteer of the Year, a well-deserved award. Margaret has been a long-time member of Naturaliste U3A and was one of the members of the 'revived' group from 2009/2010.

Volunteering is an important component of all U3A's, not just ours, and contributes in a number of ways, both more formally as on the Committee, as Course Leaders and in other ways that may not be so obvious but are very much valued. An example of the latter is the volunteering by Rod Wheeler. It has been a rare occasion indeed when Rod hasn't come along and helped set up the rooms for meetings, Topical Talks, Enrolment days. Thanks Rod. And thanks also to those members who always finish up with hands in the sink or using a tea towel at the end of our meetings. It makes us feel part of a team and combines those elements of having a sense of belonging (so good for our well-being), being part of the community, and volunteering.

There has been some very positive feedback about the Courses attended this semester and many comments are to the effect that they wish they lasted longer! In particular, the words 'fun' and 'laughter' are commonly heard when members get together and chat about what courses they are doing. I am sure similar commendations will be heard next semester.

'The most wasted day of all is that on which we have not LAUGHED'

(Sebastian Chamfort)

Joan Parke (President)

30th Anniversary-U3A in Busselton: committed to life-long learning.

It recently came to Barbara Taylor's (our Secretary) attention that this month **30 years ago**, the first committee meeting of U3A in Busselton was held. We have the original, typewritten minutes of that meeting. A celebration was definitely in order, so a morning tea at Stilts restaurant was held on the 19th May. From the original Committee Paddy (Patricia) McSwain, the first President, and David Pilpel, who was an Advisor to the group in its setting up, were available to come along, as was Betty Clifton, one of the early Treasurers. This U3A Busselton group operated from 1987 until 2003 before going into recession.

The Committee decided to widen the 30th year celebration to one that included the revival of a U3A group here, when in late 2009 a Steering Committee established the U3A Busselton Dunsborough group. Peter Nash was a strong motivator in moving this along; he now lives in Melbourne. However, John Watt and Ian Benporath who were both in there from the start are still members of what is now called Naturaliste U3A. Also Marg Tickle, Maura McNamara, Lesley Watt, Rod Wheeler and Ted Witham – familiar names still, were able to come along. This group started running with a range of courses and some very forward thinking plans, with Tom Walmsley as President in 2010. 99 financial members were registered in Semester 1 that year!

We were able to locate and invite 10 members from the list of 'Potential Members' 2010 who continue to be members, to join us at the morning tea. Thus some 20 of us gathered at Stilts Restaurant for the celebration, much chatter and reminiscing took place.

PS Richard Liston wrote an interesting article on the history of Naturaliste U3A in last year's *Winter Crier*.



Joan Parke (current President), Paddy (Patricia) McSwain, first President, and David Pilpel (Advisor to the first group) sharing happy memories.



Betty Clifton (former Treasurer), Joan, Paddy



A lovely moment with Marg Tickle and Betty



Lots to talk about so no silence in the room!

MEMBERSHIP and COURSES - Semester 2

A reminder to all members that your annual membership fee, paid on joining, covers you for the whole year so you don't need to re-do your membership. With enrolments HOWEVER, even if you are in an on-going course you need to renew that, just like enrolling in any other course on offer. We get some new members at this time of the year and they will need to do a membership form prior to enrolling

At times courses are oversubscribed but if your name is on a waiting list you can be contacted if a vacancy occurs. Every effort is made to get members into courses they select – negotiations, emails, phone-calls and if need be, ballots, are often part of a new semester!

Enrolments, and if necessary any new membership, can be done **online** by going to our website www.u3anaturaliste.com.au, by **mail** and posted to Naturaliste U3A, PO Box 1792, Busselton, WA 6280 to arrive by June 23rd, or by coming along to our Enrolment Day **in person** to the Busselton Family Centre, 2-4 pm on Friday 23rd June.

It is anticipated that courses, and the *Winter Crier*, will be uploaded to our website within the first week of June so enrolling online can start then.

Our current membership stands at around 235. This coming Semester will see on-going courses from Semester 1 and a number of brand new courses as well as familiar ones that we look forward to each year. It looks like there will be 25 courses on offer. Many of you will be pleased to see the popular Ukulele courses back on offer. Facilitated by Richard O'Donoghue, the ones held a couple of years ago have formed the nucleus of the Busselton Ukelele group. (They have a regular gig on the first Friday of the month at The Esplanade Hotel that is well worth going to!).

Many thanks to all those who have volunteered to be Course Leaders.

AROUND the COURSES

Formation of Book Club 2

Leader: Alison Liebenberg

Semester One enrolment for Book Club was considerably oversubscribed, however thanks to Joan Parke, those who risked missing out were not disappointed. After numerous phone calls and emails, Joan arranged for interested parties to meet for coffee at Chapel Cafe, where we were provided with sufficient information for us to agree on getting started. We then visited the Busselton Library, where we sourced our first book. No dithering about with this bunch!

We are a mixed gender group of avid readers from diverse backgrounds and with a range of interests. The first part of our meetings are semi-formal and include discussion and review of the book for the month just read. For fun, we have introduced a 1-5 Star rating system for books read, which has highlighted the difference in our reading tastes and adds interest to our meeting.

We also share items of relevant interest and enjoy some social time. We started with eight members and this number quickly grew to ten, which the group agrees is the ideal maximum number for a book club.

Alison Liebenberg



Rear: Michael Lewis, Alison Cassanet, Helen Hall, Elli Cross, Beryl Yuill. Front: Jan Coe, Vicki Austin, Georgie Eichenberger. Absent; Gaye Woodward, Leader: Alison Liebenberg (on camera duty)

Love Your Garden

Leader: Gwen Braden

The 'Love your Garden' course was well attended with 16 participants, so was a great success. We covered many topics from soil to trees and we exchanged cuttings and plants every week. Everyone picked up useful information on how to grow many plants. Below are few comments received from the group members:

"As keen amateur gardeners we gained much information and other members were all like-minded and we felt that everyone benefited from the friendliness and commitment to garden health and growth".

" I enjoyed this course, it is one of the best group/courses I have had pleasure of attending."

"A good group of people and are still meeting after the course finished and enjoy more gardening "

"it was fun and interesting to see other gardens and see how they are structured all different but very effective"

Gwen Braden



Happy gardeners indeed.

Crochet for Beginners

Leader: Annie Bransby

What a great lot of girls for the Crochet Beginners class. They made lots of progress and achieved skills in their crochet and in reading patterns. Great friendships have been formed. I hope to do another Beginners term next year.
Annie Bransby



Annie and Liz Barrow (at rear) visited Maureen Ebbs in hospital after her hip operation and took some their finished items to get a photo to show their progress. Well done.

Into Drama – Semester 1

Leader: Gwyn Cracknell

'Into Drama' commenced with an entertaining comedy by Perth dramatist Peter Flanigan **"There's a War On You Know,"** set in a girls' boarding school during the Second World War and involving the local volunteer group of Dad's Army. An historical tragedy followed – **"The Royal Hunt of The Sun"** by Peter Shaffer. Our own Joy Poustie had seen the original production in Chichester, apparently it was a stunning visual and auditory experience.

In this play, Shaffer gives the conquest of the Inca Empire by Francisco Pizarro, an interesting slant. Despite the mindless slaughter of Incas and robbing them of their gold and silver, there is an interesting development as Pizarro's disillusionment with the Catholic church finds him being attracted to Atahualpa as the son of the Sun God.

More of Peter Flanigan's comedy followed with the satire "HappyTours" and melodramas "The Rout of Randolph Rockheart" and "Black Revenge", much booing, hissing and cheering in the best of music hall tradition. At present our group is completing Tennessee Williams "A Streetcar Named Desire" set in New Orleans with its clash of old southern aristocracy and the "animalism" of life in New Orleans leading to its tragic outcome. Janet Dickinson has actually played the part of Blanche in a Perth production. To end the semester we are bravely tackling Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra".

Gwyn Cracknell

TOPICAL TALKS

Both Topical Talks so far this year have been based around the theme of getting to know our City and our Region, and to hear that information from those directly involved.

1. **Presenter:** Grant Henley (Mayor of Busselton)

Topic: Looking Ahead for Busselton

Grant was invited to give us some background about himself and to inform us about plans in the pipeline for our city.

It was a most interesting talk and apart from us getting to know more about Grant himself and the experiences he brings to his role as Mayor, it was great to hear about some of the exciting plans for Busselton. There was a Q&A session at the end of the talk with some interesting, and provocative, questions being asked and answered.



Mayor Grant Henley with Joan Parke, plans for the city.

2. Presenter: Matt Norton (Tourism Services Manager, Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association).

Topic: Happenings in Our Region

Matt, who stepped in for Pip Close, former CEO, at the last minute, gave a very interesting presentation. In it he explained, and showed an excellent video on, the background to the 'branding' of the Association and the range of quality attractions and the beauty of our region. His answers to questions left those in the audience who may have been concerned about the order of naming in the Association with a better understanding of the issue.

Matt has sent the link below for those who would like to see the video.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4wyls4hz99o3c56/Presentation%20-%20Busselton%20Group%20-%20Matt%20Norton.pptx?dl=0>



Matt kept the audience of about 40 members keen to hear more!

EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST

Treasurer: At the AGM in October our long-standing Treasurer, Richard Liston, will be retiring from the Committee. As many of you may know, Richard's 'portfolio' of roles has grown since he became Treasurer in 2010 (more about this in our *Spring Crier*). However, the Committee is asking for expressions of interest **specifically in the Treasurer's role**. If you have an interest in finding out more about that role, please contact Richard by either phoning him on 97554417 or email him at listorc@westnet.com.au

Volunteering: From time to time tasks come up when it would be very helpful to the Committee if someone could step in and assist. Examples of this could range from helping out with some needed computing tasks, suggesting speakers for our Topical Talks, making phone calls, through to managing refreshments at our Topical Talks and meetings. If you would like to volunteer some time and/or skills please contact Joan Parke on 0410 667696 or 9752 4769

CALENDAR – time to mark in your diaries.

Friday 23rd June Enrolment Day: 2 - 4 pm at the Busselton Family Centre, Kent St, Busselton. Come along in person to enrol. Some of the Course Leaders will be on hand to answer questions. Online enrolments can be done via our online facility prior to the 23rd. Postal enrolments can be sent in using the enrolment form included in the Courses for Semester 2 posted to you.

Friday 28th July Topical Talk: 1.30 – 3.30 at the Busselton Family Centre, Kent St, Busselton. Speaker Kerrie Bailey, Busselton's Citizen of the Year, 2017 (to be confirmed).

SNIPPETS – the 30th celebration continues....

Plenty to talk about before morning tea arrives, and even that didn't stem the flow!



John and Lesley Watt, Creena Holly and Maura McNamara.



Coffee on its way.

PS Richard Liston wrote an interesting 'potted history' of Nat U3A for the *Spring Crier* last year.

FEEDBACK

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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HARD COPIES

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