



# The U3A Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE  
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC

**Winter 2019**

## **EDITORIAL**

It seems as if one of the most common conversation openers, at the moment, is along the lines of 'Where has the time gone?' Surely it was only a few weeks ago, instead of three months, that we were preparing the Autumn Crier and here we are, working on the Winter one!

A number of you, including our Editor, Gwyn Cracknell, are close to setting off on journeys to warmer places. Enjoy your travels.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and it keeps you up to date with Naturaliste U3A's happenings. No wonder time is flying by - as you will see, we are so involved in 'engaging in life' that time gets away.

Note - I have avoided the 'busy' word!

Joan Parke, Co-editor.

## **FROM the CHAIR**

Semester 1 has seen a range of short and long courses, workshops, and Topical Talks; regular favourites and new. Semester 2 is often a little challenging in that with our nomads on the move members cannot always commit to, for example, a 6 week course.

That doesn't mean you won't find many courses offered, it does mean that you will find a broader choice of some shorter workshops and discussion sessions and courses that may be on a fortnightly or monthly basis. There are a number of interesting new offerings coming up.

Our volunteer leaders are doing a great job with not only the stimulating things they offer but also the fact that many are accepting the challenge of running a group even though they may not have had that type of experience previously! Doing something new, taking on something different at this stage of our lives, might not have been on our retirement 'bucket list' but it certainly is rewarding.

The Committee, as per usual, has been meeting monthly but in between times much communication is going on as allotted tasks are carried out. Our U3A group has been invited to host the 2020 State U3A Network conference in Busselton and we are exploring the possibility of doing this.

Joan Parke, President

## SYSTEM ADMIN REPORT

On a technical level, the UMAS software has been upgraded to version 5.46, thus fixing a few minor issues. Also, the underlying WordPress framework software has recently been upgraded to version 5.2, together with associated plugins.

Regarding membership and courses, there are currently over 250 active members registered on the system, and around 160 inactive members. We are currently contacting each member who has been inactive on the system for more than two years in order to determine their current intention re U3A Naturaliste membership. Some of these have asked to be removed for various reasons (they can always re-join later if they so wish).

At the moment the course descriptions for Semester Two are being formulated via input from the course leaders.

Don Wright

## GETTING to KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

Earlier this year Elaine Hogan was co-opted to the Committee as we have Dawn Atherton on leave and Gwyn Cracknell will be travelling for about 3 months. Elaine is a newcomer to Busselton and keen to become involved with Naturaliste U3A. Her profile follows.

### Committee Member Elaine Hogan



I originally came out from Scotland in 1988 with my sons. I had a career in the Australian Taxation Office for 23 years, in senior management, specialising in HR, training, recruitment and performance management. After retirement, I got the mad idea of returning to Scotland and lasted six years before realising it was not one of my better ideas! I returned late last year.

I have a son here in Busselton, who is a GP and he encouraged me to look to settle here. I rather suspect grandchildren – sitting was high on his agenda! I have three: a boy of 10 and twins of 8.

I started up a very successful Meet Up group in my Scottish home-town, for over 55's and loved seeing so many people come together, making friends and socialising. I quickly discovered there is no need for me to start another group here, there are so many avenues here for making friends, but being a bossy, organising sort, thought, well, get yourself on a committee, Elaine! Which leads me to U3A....

## **AROUND the COURSES**

### **BILL BUNBURY – THREE PRESENTATIONS**

**Leader: Gwyn Cracknell**

#### **1. They Said You'd Own Your Own Farm**

Bill's first presentation was based on the original Oral History ABC Radio feature, using excerpts from the broadcast, illustrating the typical problems faced everywhere in the South West by Group Settlers; adjusting to a new physical environment, working and housing conditions and the challenges posed by the task of clearing trees and making a living.

#### **2. Something Unique Something Majestic**

Again, using excerpts from the original ABC broadcast, Bill illustrated the life of forest workers and their families in timber towns like Pemberton and Shannon, the early days of forest logging, the role of the bush railways, the hard work and risks for foresters, but above all their deep respect and appreciation of the forest environment in which they worked and lived.

#### **3. Stony Broke and Walking.**

By popular demand Bill agreed to this third presentation. 'Memories of The Great Depression' featured the direct and often deeply felt personal experience of men and women who endured and survived Australia's worst economic slump. We heard from women who kept homes and jobs going where they could and from men who walked the back blocks of Australia to find work.

These stories are available in Bill's book 'Reading Labels on Jam Tins' 1993 published by Fremantle Arts Press.

Thanks to our regional U3A networking we were able to gain Bill's Presentations that brought us the voices from the South West's history. With over forty years as an ABC Broadcaster/Documentary producer Bill was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters for his services to Social History and Broadcasting by Murdoch University and is an Adjunct Professor of History and Communications.

Special THANKS to Jenny and Bill Bunbury from a grateful Naturaliste U3A.

### **TAP DANCING Leader: Penny Swingler**

When I was thirty, I had a clear vision of what life would be like when I retired. I was going to buy a nice big rocking chair and sit, read and maybe knit the odd jumper or two for the grandchildren. How wrong could I have been? This was brought home to me when I tried to organize an outing for my Super Troupers, regarding taking both classes for a photo for this article. The plan was for the morning group and the afternoon group to meet up and watch the movie "Poms" then I was going to take everyone's photo. The timing was perfect for the cross-over time between both lessons. Of course, only a few managed because most had other things to go to. Consequently, the photos featured involve only a few of my lovely ladies.

This year the advanced group have been learning an Irish themed dance and we've learned about the Irish style. The ladies were thrilled to bits because Irish dancers have to stand ramrod straight with their hands by their side and don't smile. So, they didn't have to think about arm movements and smile as well. This term we are learning the Shim Sham and adding a "break" to the Time

Step. The beginners' group are going from strength to strength. It always amazes me how after a few weeks their co-ordination kicks in and off they dance.

Both groups have also made advances with their technology use as they like to video the lesson afterwards. It's quite a sight to see everyone learning from each other what icon to press and everyone holding their phones up to record the latest step. Who would have thought we'd be doing such things years ago? The photos featured show some of the advanced group at their lesson and some of the beginner group at afternoon coffee because we usually go for a coffee after the lesson and continue our laughter from the lesson.

As for that chair and the knitting: no time!



Advanced Group



## **CONTINUING FRENCH    Leader: Ted Witham**

*Bonjour, membres de l'Université du Troisième Age.*

Ten members continue to pursue their aim of speaking French, having fun and making friends while doing it. It's a continuing class, and members vary from near-beginners to quite adept French-speakers.

Class typically starts with listening to a French song. Some are traditional, like *As I was going through Lorraine* about Joan of Arc, or the thumping drinking song *Merry Children of Burgundy!* Others are by Edith Piaf, Charles Trenet or more modern singers.

Research shows that the most powerful way of learning a language is by attempting to speak it, so leader Ted Witham's aim is that every class member must speak at least once in French every lesson. Some of us find it scary, but well worth risking a disaster!

We meet at Novacare Lifestyle Village on Mondays at 10 am and appreciate our access to a meeting room. There are two vacancies for any members who have been learning French for at least a year. *Adressez-vous à Ted Witham 0438 99 1114 ou [tedwitham1@gmail.com](mailto:tedwitham1@gmail.com).*

*Vive la France ! Vive le français !*



## MANDALAS as MEDITATION Workshop    Leader: Joan Parke

In our recent Mandalas as Meditation workshop each person made a Mandala using a range of collage materials. Focusing on making designs within a circle meant that at times you could have heard a pin drop in the room! Active meditation happening as we were being creative. To coin a popular phrase, we were 'in the moment'!



Delma McKenzie, Athenia Henderson, Georgie Eichenberger



Georgie Eichenberger, Gail Priest, Jeni Winslow



Dara Haddow

## DRAWING MADE EASY    Leader: Lynne Thompson

Well another term has passed so quickly with some amazing leaps and bounds. This small group of people have bonded and become friends while pursuing a subject they have never tackled before. Each had different expectations of what the course would give them and have been surprised by their achievements. The subject matter has encouraged conversations relating to all manners of life and surrounds. But most of all it has allowed the mind to create wonderful images in a peaceful, calm atmosphere. Each person learns at their own pace with individual tutoring along the way. They have learnt the basics of drawing and have advanced so quickly that their drawings contain both light and shade (which every artist seeks) and the perspective which is so important in works of art. Next term we hope to take a trip to an exciting spot where they can tackle plein air. I look forward to another term of teaching and friendship.

## **COFFEE MEET UP GROUP**    **Leader: Elaine Hogan**

This week saw the first Coffee Meet Up at Stilts Restaurant and it was a very successful morning with lots of connections being made between members who did not know others, even though some had been Nat U3A members for some time. There is one more session this Semester, June 24th. As it is classed as a course, not just a drop-in situation, members do need to be enrolled to attend.

In second semester the Coffee Meet-up will start again in August. Enrolments for Semester 2 will be open as from 21<sup>st</sup> June and the course details will be available for viewing online. Members on our Postal list will get a course outline mailed out (see page 7).

Elaine 0410539 361



## **TOPICAL TALK: THE WEATHER**    **Presenter Max Collins**

Max Collins, retired pilot, gave us a great start to the year with his Topical Talk on 'The Weather'. His enthusiasm and presentation of interesting information held our attention – who would have thought that the topic about weather could be so interesting? Question and answer time at the end of the talk was keenly participated in and the science 'buffs' in the audience were happy! Max would be very willing to present another talk - he has a number of topics to choose from, so we will be keeping in touch with him!



Max has his audience listening intently!



Presenter Max Collins

## CALENDAR of EVENTS: Please mark in your diaries, write on your calendar, put alert on your phone!

- Friday June 7<sup>th</sup> REMINDER: **TOPICAL TALK**, '*Discovering Diamonds*', David Gardner
- Friday June 21<sup>st</sup>: Enrolments for Semester 2 open on the website
- Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-12.00: Enrolments at Nova Village for face-to-face enrolments or those wanting assistance
- Friday June 28<sup>th</sup> 1.00-4-00pm: Enrolments at The People Place, Kent St, Busselton for face-to-face enrolments or those wanting assistance.

Anyone wishing to become a new member ready for Semester 2, can do so at the enrolment sessions or online by going to our website [www.u3anaturaliste.com.au](http://www.u3anaturaliste.com.au)

## SNIPPETS

### From the Secretary

Hi to all Naturaliste U3A Members

Our President, Joan Parke has been **Highly Commended** in the City of Busselton Volunteers of the Year Awards at a ceremony on Monday evening at the City of Busselton. Deirdre Chell nominated Joan in her role as U3A President, People Place Committee Member and numerous other volunteering activities that Joan quietly undertakes for the community. Well-deserved Joan – we appreciate the time, effort and commitment you bring to your role as President. Thanks to Deirdre for taking the initiative on all our behalf.



Nominator Deirdre and Nominee Joan

## FEEDBACK

Feedback, contributions and suggestions are welcome and can be emailed to the editors at [secretary@u3anaturaliste.com.au](mailto:secretary@u3anaturaliste.com.au) or posted to us at PO Box 1792, Busselton WA 6280.

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