



The U3A Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC

SUMMER 2019

EDITORIAL

Our wonderful Naturaliste U3A is ready to sail smoothly into 2020. Sir Don and Dame Deirdre have UMAS under complete control ready to roll over existing courses and enter a number of completely new courses. Dame Joan has worked tirelessly in gaining Naturaliste U3A the honour of holding the 2020 U3A Network West Australian U3A Conference in October. A great occasion we can all look forward to as well as the joys of our stimulating courses that develop our mindfulness and our friendships.

Sir Guinivere.

FROM the CHAIR

Another year has flown by: the Committee has been busy getting courses organised for 2020 and Information ready to soon be sent out, dates set for enrolments and other events, information updated into our website, the Summer Crier written up and Leaders are rounding off this year's courses! In all of this are reports of much laughter being heard, so perhaps the old adage of 'time going fast when you're having fun' is true!

Because of our busyness this year and with our commitment to hosting next year's U3A Network WA Conference, we have now co-opted Brenda Pirrit to the Committee. Brenda currently co-leads Book Club 1 with Maureen Ebbs and has been a member of Naturaliste U3A for a number of years. It is great to have Brenda on board and we will include a biography in the next Crier.

Naturaliste U3A, with its focus on courses, could not function as it does without people coming forward as Leaders. As has become custom, we show our appreciation of what they have done, and welcome new Leaders, at a 'Thank you and Welcome' Sundowner following on from the Enrolment Day on January 17th, 2020, from 4.30-5.30 pm at The People Place. Leaders will get invitations with details prior to the event. I am sure that we will be able to acknowledge their efforts on members behalf as well as the Committee's.

Best wishes for a happy Christmas and a New Year of learning and fun to follow.

Joan Parke, President

AROUND the COURSES

BIODIVERSITY in AUSTRALIA

Leader: Patrick Prevett



Dampiera - widespread across the South-west



Donkey Orchid – another favourite of this region

I find my students are aware of the unique nature of the flora of the southwest, but they are unclear as to why it is very different from the flora of other provinces. Students are aware that there is a wealth of orchids and a great diversity of species in our area, but they are limited in their understanding as to why this is so. We delve into the importance of fire in the life history of plants and the fungal associations that members of the Proteaceae have evolved for uptake of nutrients. By reference to the geological time scale we recognize different types of change through time, change in the position of continents, change in vegetation patterns and increasing risk of water shortage as the climate warms.

We move away from the comments which describe the flowers in the phrase 'isn't it pretty' to recognition that flower structure has coevolved with pollinators and the colours insects see and how important odour might be in pollination. Questions such as these are key to our understanding of the evolution of pollination mechanisms such as how cycads were once pollinated by insects well before flowering plants were insect pollinated 120 million years ago. This example should provide some idea of the depth of understanding we want to achieve in this course.

We spend time on management issues with reference to rising water tables, increasing salinity, and weediness on disturbed sites. Here in the southwest it is not uncommon for endangered plants, even endangered communities to be found only on private land. Many of my students have a background of living on the land and are acutely aware of land-based problems. Private land is an important component of land tenure in the district and we are cognizant of this. What would have happened to the flora and fauna, reputedly of global importance, if coal mining had its way at Lesueur near Eneabba a two-and-a-half-hour journey north of Perth. Lesueur is now recognized as possessing one of the richest floras in Australia, it would have been lost for all time had mining won the day. (Patrick)



This Semester's Biodiversity group's break up party!

The good news is that Patrick will be offering the second part of his 'Biodiversity in Australia' series in 2020!

LET'S TALK PHILOSOPHY Leader: Lorraine Watts

Each week we have considered a different philosopher. To date we have read and discussed Confucius (5th Century BCE), Baruch Spinoza (1632 – 1677), Soren Kierkegaard (1813 – 1855) and Michel Foucault (1926 – 1984). We will finish the Semester with Iris Murdoch and Nassim Nicholas Taleb. In each session we consider some of their major writings and wise quotes. For example:

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

Soren Kierkegaard

The highest activity a human being can attain is learning for understanding, because to understand is to be free.

Baruch Spinoza (Lorraine)

FILM CLUB Leader: Joan Parke

We have enjoyed, in the main, the movies we have seen this year with 'Downton Abbey' and 'Ride Like a Girl' probably our favourites!

We meet at the Orana Cinema for the Seniors' Session on the first Wednesday of the month. A delicious morning tea is provided before the film begins. Three films are shown simultaneously and about a week before, once I know, I let the group members know which one we will be watching. After the film we gather in the foyer for a short discussion. It is interesting when different responses to a film are given and these often reinforce or challenge our own perspective.

A few times during the year those who can make it have gathered at Stilts restaurant and had a chat about different aspects of films, for example what makes a 'good' film, memorable film stars, best/worst film we have seen and why, and so on! (Joan)

CREATIVE WRITING

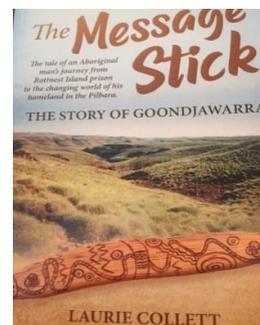
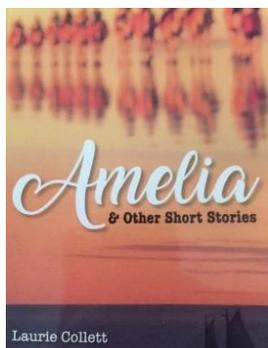
Leader: Moira Dahlberg

The number of regular attendees has remained steady throughout the year with about a dozen turning up regularly. Our congratulations to Laurie Collett who has recently published his two books, 'The Message Stick' and 'Amelia'. The latter is a collection of short stories, some of which were commenced at Writing Group.

For September and October the group met at the Bowling Club under the direction of Alan Briggs, as Moira's husband Kevin had surgery in Perth before returning to Busselton. We are pleased to say he has now fully recovered and we are back at our usual venue. Our thanks to Alan and also to the Bowling Club.

We are producing (as usual) a collection of our pieces written during the semester, based on various prompts including beginning sentences, titles, words and characters to be included as well as a letter to a famous person and a memory of an event in the past.

And as always, we have had fun and made a lot of noise. Writing group recommences in February 2020 and more information can be found in the Course booklet and online.



TOPICAL TALKS

We have enjoyed four Topical Talks this year with local speakers presenting a range of subjects. It is good to see a growing core of members turning up to each Talk, not only for the information but also to give support to our speakers. Our gold coin donations to local organisations has been appreciated by them. Our last two Topical Talks were:

1) 'Keeping Girls in School', the Sipa Days for Girls Program, Uganda'

This well attended Topical Talk was presented by Christine Willmott, who lives locally and travels to Uganda for part of her work. What an eye-opener it was to firstly hear about the need for such a program and to become aware of how other cultures in various parts of the world have issues that don't often enter our minds! Then to hear of the success of this particular program in a village in Uganda where school girls are provided with information about reproductive health, sexual rights and provided with reusable menstrual kits, really gave the audience an opportunity to reflect on things we generally take for granted that make a huge difference to others in the world.

We do have in Busselton a group of volunteers who meet monthly to do similar work in a program called 'Days for Girls'. For further information you can call Anne Gobby, 0409 993 649 or Clare Parry on 0407 477 461



Glenda Fuller, Christine Willmott, Jeni Winslow, Clare Parry

2) 'Busselton Hospice Care Inc'

We were treated to a most interesting and informative talk by Rosie Brown, incoming CEO of Busselton Hospice Care. Rosie spoke with compassion and enthusiasm about the services currently provided, as well as a new program of an outreach type that is soon to be rolled out. With its focus on positive end of life care, the Hospice has much to offer both those who need this care as well as those who are the carers. Volunteers play an essential role in providing various services and training sessions are given to ensure a high standard is maintained.

If you have enquiries about any aspect of the Hospice's services, or would like to know more about volunteer roles, please call Josie on 9751 1642. Information sessions will be advertised in the local papers early next year so keep an eye out for those.



Helen Leach, Rosie Brown, Dina Smith

ENROLMENT PROCEDURES for SEMESTER 1, 2020

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO MEMBERS AND COURSE LEADERS

The 2020 Academic Year will run from **3rd February to 11th December 2020** inclusive.

It is important to note that in order for members to be covered by U3A's Public Liability Insurance whilst attending a course they **must** be financial members of U3A Naturaliste.

This means that whether the course runs continually or during the Academic Year only, members must have paid their Membership Subscription **before** they start attending a course following enrolment.

DEFERRED ENROLMENT PROCESS

In order to provide a smoother and streamlined course enrolment process for members, a small number of courses will be subject to a new procedure called 'deferred enrolment'.

Courses in this 'deferred enrolment' category will have the 'Maximum Enrolments' attribute set to 0. This means that everyone who enrolls in the course will immediately be placed on the waitlist.

Most courses affected will be in the 'year-long and ongoing' category but a few others including some new courses MAY also fall under the new arrangement at the request of the course leader and after discussion with the system administrator.

The purpose of this 'deferred enrolment' technique is to accommodate course requirements involving continuity (e.g. Dru Yoga) and/or maturity/skill levels (e.g. Mah Jongg) as required by the course leader.

In summary, if you enrol in a course and are immediately placed on a waitlist please do not be concerned, because the UMAS system is working as it should - just allow time for the finalisation and confirmation of enrolments.

(Don Wright, Systems Administrator)

CALENDAR of IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

CRIER/WEBSITE

(IMPORTANT DATES)

SEMESTER 1 - 2020 ENROLMENTS

Courses available for viewing only in UMAS	Monday 6th January 2020	
Online Enrolment in UMAS Opens	Saturday 11th January 2020	
Assisted Enrolment - Nova Village	Wednesday 15th January 2020	10am - 12pm
Enrolment Day - People Place	Friday 17th January 2020	2pm - 4 pm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Getting in early with these forthcoming Topical Talk dates for your diary:

Friday 13th March 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Friday 12th June 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Friday 11th September 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Friday 13th November 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Topics and Presenters to be advised nearer the date.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SHOWCASE

It has become a good afternoon outing coming to this event – surely not many other groups have such entertaining Annual General Meetings! Pat Holyoake and Don Wright (Singing for Pleasure Group) provided the music, as usual, and had quite a vocal audience singing along and enjoying themselves. The ‘Walk and Talk’ group had almost the whole group there!

During the Showcase part of the meeting, apart from the music, new Leaders had an opportunity to talk about their courses and a number of on-going Leaders were also there to promote theirs. It has become an opportunity for Leaders to connect with each other as well as to newcomers.

Our following General Meeting was quite quickly over – Quorum achieved, nominated Committee accepted, annual subscription kept at \$25, President and Treasurers’ reports read out, Conference information given and then we enjoyed a cuppa and refreshments! So, it’s easy to come to our AGM’s!



Elaine Hogan and Cathy Oldman



Chris Masterman and Elizabeth Horne



Penny Carrier demonstrating her Modern Board Games to Richard Liston

SNIPPETS

* A number of our members are Volunteers at the Busselton Hospice. After our excellent Topical Talk by Rosie Brown, if you would like to find out more about volunteering for this organisation, or would like to hear about their information days for the public, Rosie can be contacted on 9751 1642

* Did you know that many of the coloured plastic lids on bottles, eg milk and drink bottles, are NOT recyclable? Our Leader of the Drawing Made Easy class, Lynne Thompson, has come across an organisation in Margaret River that can recycle some of these lids that have particular codes. If you would like to know more about this innovative recycling project, Lynne would welcome your call on 0422 244 306.

***LEADERS: keep your eye out for your invitations to the SUNDOWNER 4.30-5.30 Jan 17th !!**

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

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