



The *U3A* Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC

WINTER EDITION 2020

EDITORIAL

As you will read in 'Around The Courses' we had an encouraging response from our Leaders in Hibernation (called Self Isolation by the Govt). Some have Zoomed successfully, some with mixed results. Some Skyping and some emailing and even a few did it with 'Social Distancing'. Quite a few of us just ground to a halt. However, with the relaxation of social distancing by July 19th, the start of Second Semester, many of our courses may be able to resume. We will emerge from social isolation to re-new our course stimulation and friendships with extra vigour. May the U3A Force be with you, but stay safe!

Sir Guinevere.

FROM the CHAIR

What a Semester 1 we have had!! It seems that we now must take a big breath and have a fresh start as we step forward. It is quite amazing how what started as a virus that began its 'explosion' so far away, has had such an impact on our lives and the lives of people all over the world.

You will all have your COVID 19 stories and a range of reactions. Some of you will have reassessed your life and discovered that you quite enjoy a bit slower pace, while others are champing at the bit to get back into our courses and the important social connections that are involved. And, of course, we have family and travel and other activities we are wanting to get back to! Hopefully, our nomads who are itching to get their caravans hitched up and head north will be able to get away even if for a shorter time than planned.

As you will read further on, Course Leaders have attempted, wherever feasible, to make some contact with their groups and many thanks to them and to your understanding as we have endeavoured to comply with all the COVID prevention protocols.

It is with regret that we acknowledge and accept the resignation of Chris Masterman who has been our Treasurer for almost 3 years. Chris is unable to continue because of ill-health. Our thanks, best wishes and support go out to him at this challenging time. We have an

article from Chris in our new section, 'Meet a Member'. We also congratulate Chris on the publication of his EIGHTH novel, *The Old Boys Club*, that is now available at Barefoot Books.

Joan Parke, President

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

At our May meeting, Janet Mannolini was co-opted onto the Committee to take on the role, as from the first of July, of Treasurer to replace Chris Masterman as he has resigned because of ill-health. As you will see, Janet has valuable experience to bring to our Committee and we are pleased to welcome her.

JANET MANNOLINI



Janet was born of migrant parents and grew up in Fremantle. She and her husband Gary owned a restaurant during the heady days of the America's Cup in Fremantle. After selling the restaurant, and with two young daughters, Janet and her husband moved to the South West about 30 years ago.

Looking for a change of career she started working as a bookkeeper while pursuing an accounting degree from Edith Cowan University in Bunbury. She has been a CPA qualified accountant for over twenty-five years and has had a diverse working background. Janet has worked as an accountant in tax before moving onto working in more challenging accounting and management roles in Not-for-Profit organisations.

As Janet has had a lifelong love of learning she started lecturing in bookkeeping and accounting at both TAFE and university before progressing into senior management and project management roles at Edith Cowan University. Janet has been a treasurer and voluntary auditor of a number of community groups, both small and large.

She enjoys the beautiful natural environment of the South West region and spends time pursuing nature related activities of bush walking, bird watching, camping and enjoying the spectacular wildflowers on offer.

MEET A MEMBER

This is a new section in our seasonal newsletter and each time we hope to feature 2 or 3 members. Our first members to meet are Chris Masterman and Gwen and Geoff Braden.

CHRIS MASTERMAN

It is with great regret that chronic ill-health has forced me to resign as Treasurer to the U3A Naturaliste after 3 years in the position; I have very much enjoyed working with the other members of the organisation's Committee and am pleased that the our financial position is strong.

I thought I would add a few words about how my life eventually brought me to the very pleasant place of Busselton. My father was a British RAF pilot and in 1946, when 4 years old, I lived in Japan as part of the occupation forces. Back to England for two years, then to Singapore until the age of ten, and back to England again. At 14 I was living, during holidays from boarding school, behind the Iron Curtain in Prague, Czechoslovakia where my father was British Air Attaché.

I joined the RAF as an aircraft engineer for 16 years and earned a master's in aerospace engineering. At the age of 38 when serving my final military posting in Germany, I was asked by the Austrians to head up their fledgling space industry and lived in that country for 3 years; after that I was headhunted to a similar position in Canada where I emigrated with my family. That should have been the end of my travels, but no – my company sent me back to Europe: firstly to Northern Ireland and then to Southern England – my now grown up daughters staying on in Canada. In 2002 I retired and moved to Vancouver, and then Vancouver Island to follow my passion of trout and salmon fishing. And in 2005 I married my old childhood friend Elizabeth and emigrated to Australia.



Chris and his wife Elizabeth

GWEN and GEOFF BRADEN (and their amazing garden!)

We never wanted a formal garden – nature isn't formal! Going from one area of a garden to another that is different again, makes it much more interesting. We don't go in for straight lines and neat borders and we use nature as our guideline. The other thing we do is to recycle everything, for example grass clippings, uncooked waste and all clippings and pruning goes back into the garden, be it for worm farm or general composting and mulching.

It has taken 18 years since we built our home and garden, and to see things grow is always satisfying. However, if a plant doesn't work the first time it is planted, we remove or move it to a new spot. Working in our garden keeps us fit and healthy and is our sanctuary away from the busyness of life, to watch the birds bathe and feed is a constant pleasure. Folk who visit enjoy a stroll around and enjoy the energy of our garden. We also share and exchange cuttings and seeds with our friends.

We daily walk in our garden to observe the plants to ensure they are happy – it is our passion!



After the storm!



A splash of colour

AROUND THE COURSES:

WANDERINGS OF A ZOOLOGIST IN WILDFLOWER COUNTRY – Patrick Prevett

'Letters from the Bush' Linking the bush with the community and especially Naturaliste U3A Busselton at a time of COVID crisis.

In 1940 by government decree the people living in Croydon, South London were advised to leave their homes to escape to safer venues ('Evacuation' was the cry). My family found a home in north Devon at a place called Coomb Martin, (not far from Doc Martins place). Not a bad idea since our house was shortly afterwards pulverised by a doodlebug which landed 100m from our house.

In March 2020 Jennifer and I were sent by our GP in Busso to our place up in Green Head near Jurien Bay.

This move was not to escape anything quite as sinister as war-time threats but nevertheless a biological agent of significance was afoot and needed to be taken very seriously.

Disappointed by having my lecture series truncated by one third I vowed to keep my students informed about topics biological.

There have been 6 Letters from the Bush sent to the students and others by the end of May and covering a range of topics relating to Green Head and environs, (circulation so far is 30 people) The Letters from the Bush have been emailed in the first instance to my enrolled students who have access to computers. Each letter was about 3-4 pages of A4 and included text and photographs covering topics including flora, survey methods, Lesueur NP, insect life and commonly encountered animals including reptiles and birds. It is obvious to me that this material could easily form the basis of an exciting new lecture series, but wait, we must finish the Wanderings Series first!!

Let me conclude by saying we are now coming to the end of May 2020 and today we have hit 27 degrees and still no rain and yes, the flowers are doing what they do best, flowering.

Let us hope that before long the 'braver' souls amongst you will set course in a northerly direction to enjoy the delights of these northern climes!! Can you id the photos below. Easy!!



We featured Patrick's 'Wanderings of a Zoologist' to acknowledge his outstanding effort to maintain his class while being advised to isolate from our infected world.

In our 'May Communications' you read of: Ted Witham's **French** class using Zoom and emailed worksheets; Moira Dahlberg's **Creative Writing** emailed with some success; Joan suggested YouTube for **Ted Talks** and sent ideas for **Brain Games**; Gwen Braden's **Walk & Talk** managed with social distancing. Valerie Frearson-Lane's **Dru Yoga** had some success with 'Zoomin Yogis' and Dru Online. They are now venturing back to the People Place for distanced, sanitised Yoga, their motto has become 'Perseverance and Patience'.

Lynne Thompson's **Drawing** class used email but missed their close contact for detailed instructions. Recently Elizabeth Horne's **French Conversation** group met at Stilts with a photo to prove they maintained social distancing. Her **Book Club 2** hopes to resume in July.

Penny Swingler attempted **Tap Dancing** on Zoom without success so resorted to YouTube with some success. Any class not mentioned found it impossible to continue under social distancing regulations and postponed to hopefully recommence in Second Semester.



French Conversation Social Distancing at Stilts.



Dru Yoga Social Distancing – at The People Place.

COVID UPDATE

The Committee has now completed our COVID Safety Plan to ensure that all our course groups understand Government protocols as well as those that some venues may require according to their particular situation. An example of this is the requirement of The People Place for groups using that venue to have Course Leaders sign an agreement to follow the Centre's safety plan and to have their own in place. Our Course leaders will have our plan and further details about this forwarded to them. Another requirement is, like the cafes around town, participants must sign-in, in order to attend. Most leaders already maintain their attendance list so this is not new!

The **latest news** regarding Government protocols is that an increased number of people at various functions will be allowed from June 6th. This will mean that most of our groups will be able to resume, providing of course that all other protocols are observed.

No matter what venue, including private homes, Course participants are asked to please ensure that they, according basic guidelines in our COVID 19 Safety Plan-

- Follow guidelines from the particular venue where the course is being held.
- Sign an attendance form that will be forwarded to Leaders and kept by them.
- Maintain social distancing that may currently be in place.
- Maintain hygiene by having hand sanitiser available and
- Stay home if unwell.

CALENDAR

TOPICAL TALK: 12th June

HOW AN AIRCRAFT FLIES: presented by Max Collins

Friday 12th June, 1.30-3.00pm The People Place

Because of current restrictions, numbers **were** limited for this Talk, as previously advised on the flyer. If you would like to come to the Talk but it has already reached its limit, you could leave your contact number with the Secretary to go on a wait list and if the allowed number of participants is increased you can be contacted.

******NEWS FLASH with the further lifting of restrictions on numbers, THERE IS NO LONGER A LIMIT on this Talk so more of you can come and as per usual, visitors are welcome.**

RSVP secretary@u3anaturaliste.com.au or ring Joan on 0410 667696

ENROLMENT DAY SEMESTER 2, FRIDAY 3rd JULY

Venue: The People Place, Kent St, Busselton

Time: 2.00-4.00pm

******* Please note.** Because of the uncertainty of being able to use Nova Village for assistance with enrolling, we have not booked a time there this time.

Many of you will have enrolled in our Year-long courses so you do not need to re-enrol, so we do not expect as many people needing assistance as we do for Semester 1.

COURSE information will be ready for mailing **June 17th**

ONLINE: Semester 2 Courses will be available **to view on our website** as from **June 20th**

ON-LINE Enrolments will be open as from **June 29th**

SNIPPETS

Following up on the Braden's Garden, members of Gwen's Garden group have some snippets of gardening advice for us! It does appear that our members who are keen gardeners, or who have started gardening during this COVID shutdown, are very much enjoying the extra time outside pottering in their garden.

**When starting a new or revamped garden, it is a good idea to plant more than you will need and remove the surplus. This way your garden will develop more quickly. (Jackie)*

**I always go with survival of the fittest. Also check the soil and put some goodies in it. You can always do a lot of your own cuttings, e.g. with hardwoods I dip them in honey. (Corol)*

**Preparation of the soil is the most important part of gardening. Plant what is suitable in your area.*

**Put all your cuttings and mulching back into the garden (better and cheaper than Bunnings. (Geoff)*

**Always keep your soil full of nutrients. Blood and bone should be used in conjunction with manures. Also apply soil conditioners to build up living organisms. (Lorraine)*

** Go out every day and check your plants for insects etc. Also look to see if they need feeding or watering. This way you keep on top of problems. (Gwen)*

**If a particular plant/shrub isn't doing well, select another placement for it. Water it well before moving. Prepare the hole to put it in before making the move, water it in. (Tarot)*

** Gather winter leaf fall, put in plastic bag with cow manure, blood and bone. Pierce holes in bag and put away for the winter, in spring or early summer use as a great compost. (Raelie)*

FEEDBACK:

Suggestions and contributions are welcome and can be emailed to the Editors at admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au or posted to Box 1792, Busselton, WA. 6280.

Gwyn & Joan.