



The U3A Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC

SUMMER 2020

FROM the EDITOR

In spite of it being a very disrupted year, we have still been able to produce our seasonal newsletters, The Crier, so action within our U3A has not completely stopped! Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition as well as Course Leaders and participants who have persevered to stay connected as much as possible throughout the year. As you will see, although courses that have been able to run are now winding down, the Committee and next year's Course Leaders are in fact coming into a busy planning time. Joan Parke

FROM the CHAIR

I would like to start by acknowledging the fact that we have a number of Course Leaders who have been running courses every year since 2009/10 at the commencement of Naturaliste U3A. On this occasion special thanks must go to John Slee and Ted Witham who are now 'retiring' from running courses. Their commitment is appreciated. It is inevitable that as some of our long-time members and Leaders face changing needs that they will, mostly reluctantly it seems, step down from that role. We are always keen to hear from those prepared to 'have a go' at presenting a course. We have some new Leaders and courses in the pipeline for Semester 1 next year, but expressions of interest are always welcome.

In the 'Meet a Member' section we will 'meet' Ted, and we note that he is moving nearer to family in Perth. Another long-time member also featured is Pat Holyoake, and then a new member, Ian Watson provides a balance.

As we prepare for a new year, the Committee has started reviewing aspects of our Governance requirements. Our specific focus is on Occupational Health and Safety and Risk Management areas. Don Wright, our Systems Administrator, on checking our membership list, has identified that a number of members have either not given emergency contact details or that some are incomplete or are potentially out of date. This information is required only in case of an incident happening to a member during a course and the contact person doesn't necessarily have to be next of kin, it could be a friend, neighbour or office manager at the retirement village where you live (check with them first). **We are asking for members to check that they have given correct and current information prior to commencing courses next year. Please go to UPDATE YOUR DETAILS on page 8 to see how you can do this.**

In what has become a tradition, we will be showing our thanks to current Course Leaders and welcoming new ones at a Sundowner in January. On behalf of the Committee, best wishes to all members for a happy festive season and we look forward to a 'back to normal' year to come.

Joan Parke, President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Committee members for the coming year



Ruth Gardner, Lorraine Watts, Joan Parke, Janet Mannolini, Cathy Oldman, Brenda Pirrit, Deirdre Chell, Don Wright.

Another successful Annual General Meeting was held in October and we have a full Committee. During the year Janet Mannolini joined us as Treasurer replacing Chris Masterman who retired due to poor health. We welcome Ruth Gardner to the general Committee, increasing our full Committee to 8 members.

Prior to the AGM, there was a smaller Showcase of courses than usual, due to the COVID impact on courses running during the year. However, Pat Holyoake and Don Wright, (from Music Appreciation) again entertained us on keyboard and guitar and encouraged us to sing along, which we did. This has been a great start to our AGM's for a few years now! In consideration of COVID protocols our usual afternoon tea became Chocolates and Cheese and Bickies. Very nice.

Thankyou to members who were able to come to the AGM or sent proxies. Your support is important.



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER: Ruth Gardner



My childhood was spent in South Perth, and on finishing school I went into nursing, but later trained as a teacher at Kindergarten Teachers College.

With marrying David, a newly graduated Civil Engineer, my teaching experience moved from suburban Perth, to Darwin, London (in the East End and Regents Park – almost two different countries), to Carnarvon WA with Kindergarten of the Air to station children and the Minoo Malgoo Aboriginal Preschool.

In the late 70's we returned to Perth and I had the chance to continue my own graduate studies, while teaching child development to Mothercraft and Child Health nursing students at Ngala then tutoring at Murdoch University and ECU before taking up a fulltime lectureship at Curtin University in the Faculty of Education.

Early in the 2000's David and I took early retirement from our full-time positions and moved to our tree farm in Balingup. Here I was involved with the committee for the Balingup Small Farm Field Day and the Balingup Progress Association. We both thoroughly enjoyed the vibrant and caring community of Balingup. We moved to Busselton in 2018 and once again we are enjoying making our way in an active and caring community, of which U3A Naturaliste is a significant part.

AROUND the COURSES

TAP DANCING Leader: Penny Swingler

Coming home from Perth in January, I heard “That Happy Feeling” by Bert Kaempfert on the radio. What a great piece of music for my tap ladies I thought. So, I choreographed a dance that had everyone starting off with their hands on each other's shoulders and they eventually were to link arms and perform a wheel.

Then Covid struck. After weekly emails of YouTube suggestions, we came back to black crosses marked on the studio floor. I had to forget about “That Happy Feeling” and choreograph a dance that was done on the spot. So we called it “Hey Covid Baby” and danced to DJ Otzi “Hey Baby”. This was done with both groups so they could interchange if they wanted to on those cold mornings.

The beginners' group is such a small group we also worked on “Peter Gunn” by Henri Mancini where we imagine we are gangsters and even have our hats tilted to a jaunty angle as we dance. However, the advanced group being a larger group, we still had to stick to 1.5 distancing so I thought why not make up a fun one. I chose ‘Gimme a Man After Midnight’ by Abba. I was howled down as they couldn't have imagined anything worse! This dance tells a story as we dance and I must say it turned out far better than I expected. One of my friends came to watch the other day and she couldn't get over how amazing they were.

I look forward to the end of the year when both classes are to dance together and as I look in the studio mirror to see how they are all going I am often struck by how lucky I am to be dancing and laughing with them – go Super Troupers!

** Penny is asking for **expressions of interest** in a NEW Beginners/Seniors class she is planning for next year. Details will be in the Course Booklet due out soon. So, if you have always wanted to have a go at Tap Dancing, this is your chance. Penny's number is 0427 117 884

What fun Penny's Super Troupers have had and a great example of adaptations that have been made for COVID by a Leader and participants.

BRAIN GAMES Leader: Joan Parke

Being a monthly course, we were lucky to be able to meet for about 6 sessions during the year. Each session started with a few minutes of Brain Gym then we had a variety of fairly short activities that required different types of thinking and challenges. One that was popular was looking at optical illusions, another was the challenge of looking at a diagram and determining, for example, how many squares could be found – very tricky and there were many more than we first thought! There were other word and number puzzles and fun activities to challenge our brains, for example how many towns we could think of ending in 'up' and reminiscing about particular topics. When closer contact was allowed we included some jigsaw puzzles.

We also enjoyed watching various funny clips on YouTube. On the whole, the regular activities that many do at home like crossword puzzles and Sudoku weren't focused on as the emphasis was more on doing different things than those usually done alone. Overall, there were many opportunities to laugh and enjoy the social benefits of participating with others while we had fun doing Brain Games.



Helen, Val, Joy

Barbara, Christin, Lynda

Vi, Leila, Shirley

Gail, David

A WORD FROM PATRICK PREVETT: THE BUSH IN NOVEMBER

It's November in Busselton. The orchid season has climaxed with wonderful surprises for those of us caring to look.

But wait. Have you paid your annual visit to Ruabon? Is the remarkable Slipper Orchid on



schedule for its seasonal display? The Slipper Orchid is a colony forming orchid with large broad, dark green leaves, protruding from the ground. The flowering stems of plants at Ruabon reach a metre in height with slipper shaped or tongue shaped flowers arranged up the stem

Slipper orchid, *Cryptostylis ovata*

Only visit the site if you are content to weave your way through a network of spider webs assiduously constructed by dozens of Christmas Spiders in their gaily coloured outfits dressed more for Halloween than Christmas.

Check this spider out on the web. Can you find one with red legs?



Spiny orb-weaver *Gasteracantha cancriformis*

MEET a MEMBER

IAN WATSON



I am a new member of Naturaliste U3A having joined the Singing for Pleasure group in early 2020. I retired from a technical role in the local mineral sands industry where I worked for about 30 years. Prior to arriving in Australia, I was a civil servant in the UK Meteorological Office. I also worked at the Royal Mint in London and in a radiation protection role in the Atomic Energy Authority. Before working in the mineral sands industry here in WA, I was a TAFE teacher in NSW.

Since retiring, I have taken on a number of volunteer roles

including recently as a mentor for the government sponsored "Be Connected" program. This is a program aimed at helping people become confident and competent in the use of computers and similar devices such as mobile phones.

It is a fact that many of our more senior citizens didn't grow up with computers or the Internet and they are naturally apprehensive about having to use them today. I am hoping encourage people to try "Be Connected" and allay their concerns about pressing the wrong buttons!

Ian Watson

PAT HOLYOAKE



Some of my earliest memories centre around the passion I have for painting, music and floristry. As a young child I would sit for hours with my colouring in books and I always had a secret desire of one day becoming an artist. I was very fortunate that my parents had a piano in the house and I learned to play from an early age.

25 years ago my husband Ken and I moved from Perth to Busselton where I taught many art classes in my Studio while completing my studies in art. Prior to our move to Busselton I had served as a church organist for a period of 20 years and enjoyed playing at weddings, taverns and other community events. In 2010 I presented my first U3a course of Painting for Pleasure. Together with The Enneagram and Singing for Pleasure I have had the opportunity of meeting so many marvellous and interesting people with whom to share my favourite hobbies. Pat Holyoake

TED WITHAM



When my wife Rae and I moved to Busselton 13 years ago, one of my conditions was that Busselton had reception for ABC Classic FM, but as a new retiree, I was looking for something else to stretch my mind. So, it was good news when I heard a group of Busselton people were going to set up a branch of U3A. I thought I could offer to teach French and find some interesting courses to attend for myself. I didn't know that that I would be leading U3A Naturaliste courses for 12 years straight!

I started with a one-year course on 'How English Works', exploring the worlds of grammar and semantics. The next year someone suggested I run a course on World Religions. The research for that course was quite extensive, even though I had taught World Religions to secondary students in my past.

French had been running for 2 years by then, and a new beginners' group was needed, so I offered to lead that group. French is one of my passions, and since starting my working life as a French teacher in 1970, I have been intrigued to learn as much as possible about the skills needed for teaching and learning languages.

At the end of three years, I told the students that either they were on their own – they would be able to make themselves understood if they travelled to France or Mauritius or la Nouvelle Calédonie – or else they needed someone else to take them to the next step.

So I pivoted to teaching Latin for three years. That was a refresher course for me as well as introductory lessons for the U3A members who enrolled. Then it was back to French for the past three years.

It has been genuine fun leading these groups, stimulating for me, and I have made some strong friendships on the way.

Rae and I are now moving closer to the city to be nearer family and all-important medical specialists. I wish U3A Naturaliste good speed and take with me happy memories of my time as a member. Ted Witham

LEADERS' WORKSHOP

This was the second time we have held a workshop for current and potential Leaders, and it was a very worthwhile session. Participants had an opportunity to talk about their courses and pass on their experiences and advice about things that go well and those that are sometimes challenges. It was an opportunity for those who are thinking of facilitating a course to ask questions and to run their ideas past the group.

One idea discussed was the value of having Co-leaders or for a Leader to ask for volunteers from their group to assist with a particular task, for example to collect class fee on the first day, or to help with setting up. The benefits of a Leaders' workshop in providing support to each other, indicates that it will become an annual event. Thanks to all concerned.

KEY DATES and INFORMATION FOR YOUR CALENDAR Semester 1 2021

* Members can start paying subs for 2021 (Bank transfer only)	1 st December
* TOPICAL TALK: Wood Turning as an Art (see last page)	11th December
*Course Booklets mailed to Postals	4 th January
*Course information available online	11 th January
*Course Booklet emailed out	11 th January
* Course Booklet on Website	11 th January
*ONLINE enrolments open	18 th January
*Enrolment Day at Nova Village 10am to 12midday	20 th January
* Enrolment day at The People Place 1.00-3.00pm	22 nd January
* THANKYOU and WELCOME SUNDOWNER for LEADERS 4pm-6pm	22nd January

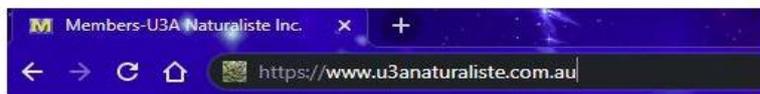
UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

In order to check and edit your own details and emergency contact information you can:

1. Go online to www.u3anaturaliste.com.au members/
2. Click on login and provide your member number and password
3. Click on Edit member details
4. Make your changes if needed
5. Save
6. Log out

OR go to our **website** and follow these directions (1,2,3)

1. Go to Naturaliste U3A Website



2. Click on the line: "Log in using your Member number..." where it says **HERE**

Download [Membership Application Form](#) **HERE**

[Join Online](#) **HERE**

[Log in using your Member number and Password to Update edit/update your Member details](#) **HERE**

If you are an existing Member you do not need to fill out this form or complete your online details again.

[To view our courses online through our UMAS database](#) **CLICK HERE**

An [Enrolment Form](#) for postal application can be downloaded **HERE**

3. Insert your updated details and **SAVE**

A screenshot of the 'Edit Member Details' form on the U3A website. The form is titled 'Edit Member Details' and is part of 'THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE' website. On the left, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, View Member Details, Edit Member Details, Pay Membership, and View Courses. The main form area contains the following fields:

Membership #	First Name	Surname	Gender	Member Type
18	<input type="text" value="Lorraine"/>	<input type="text" value="Watts"/>	<input type="text" value="Female"/>	<input type="text" value="Member"/>

OR you can: Send requests directly by emailing/phoning Don Wright admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au 0412 689 252, Lorraine secretary@u3anaturaliste.com.au or 0408 127 674 or Deirdre deidrechell@westnet.com.au or 0419 916 287. Assistance can also be given at the enrolment days at Nova Village and The People Place.



TOPICAL TALK

You are invited to our final Topical Talk for this year. As with previous Talks, this promises to be very interesting.

TOPIC: WOOD TURNING AS AN ART FORM



A presentation by Busselton's highly regarded master wood turners Charles Broadbent and Barbara Jennings. Charles was recently awarded life membership to the West Australian Wood Turners Association for his contribution to the craft and Barbara has won a significant number of advanced awards and most popular pieces.

Their presentation will give an insight into the history of wood turning and how it is an **art form in its own right**. Some of their pieces will be on display.

DATE: Friday 11th December

TIME: 1.30-3.00pm

VENUE: The People Place, 19-21 Kent St, Busselton

RSVP: Audience limit of 30 so please rsvp to the Secretary on secretary@u3anaturaliste.com.au or Joan Parke 0410 667 696 if you are coming.

Also, thanks to David Porter for a Pepper Grinder, pictured, made and donated by him that will be raffled, on the day at \$2 for 1 ticket, \$5 for 3. Proceeds to the Hospice.



A gold coin donation that will also go to the Busselton Hospice will be appreciated.