



The U3A Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC

AUTUMN 2021

FROM the EDITOR

We will all have our fingers crossed that this year continues to return to a sense of order and normality as our courses and Talks get back into full swing. Judging by the number of courses being offered, members have plenty of opportunities to get involved in learning and socialising again.

Many thanks to those who have contributed articles, photos and information for the Autumn 2021 Crier. Also, thanks to Ruth Gardner and Lorraine Watts for their proof reading and assistance with technical hitches that at times occur!!

Joan Parke

FROM the CHAIR

Committee Happenings!

After a number of years on the Naturaliste U3A Committee, Lorraine Watts will be retiring in the coming month. Lorraine was instrumental in setting up the UMAS data base that has been an asset in managing membership and course enrolments. Apart from the Systems Administrator's role, now done by Don Wright, she has also had time as our Secretary; Deirdre Chell will take on that role. The experience Lorraine brought to a number of areas of management has been invaluable.

Lorraine has always been generous with her assistance (especially with technology!) and also has run a number of courses, Philosophy being one that was very popular! Hopefully she will be running courses in Semester 2. A very big thankyou goes to Lorraine and her very valuable contribution all round to our U3A.

Other changes regarding roles of Committee members are in process and you will be informed of these when finalised.

A considerable amount of work goes on 'behind the scenes' in running an organisation like ours with a wide range of activities so, as you will see below, we are asking members who would be interested in giving us a hand, to let us know.

Your Committee Needs Assistance

Help your Committee to continue to deliver the best service it can to our members by becoming a Committee Volunteer. Assist us at Enrolment Days for example by 'Meeting and Greeting' our members and directing them to the appropriate area for their needs or assist our Hospitality Co-ordinator to deliver delicious refreshments. Assistance is required at our various functions including Topical Talks, Course Leader 'Thank you' events and, of course, the Annual General Meeting.

For those who prefer a more 'back room' approach, we could certainly do with help with our printing and mailing requirements as well as other requirements that may arise from time to time. Instruction, guidelines etc. will be provided to whomever assists. Also, Volunteers will be able to attend appropriate committee meetings as observers where planning for events is being discussed. If you can offer your help, please indicate Expression of Interest to:

Joan Parke 0410 667696 or Deirdre Chell at secretary@u3anaturaliste.com.au.

Emergency contacts/ update details

Thank you to those who have already updated their emergency contact details. For some members the information given earlier may no longer be appropriate, phone numbers may have changed etc. Course Leaders will have their class lists with the details we have for you, so if you have not been able to edit your own online, please let your Course Leader know of changes and these can be forwarded to Don at admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au.

AROUND the COURSES

MAHJONGG **Leader:** Wendy Beames **Co-Leader:** Richard Liston

The Mah Jongg group resumed on January 7th with much enthusiasm, after a very long nine-month break in 2020. Almost all of our members returned, although two players had moved away from Busselton during the break. We were sorry to see them leave but “needs must” etc. However, we have since welcomed back another previous member, who had also moved away, but has now returned.

2021 sees us commencing the start of our 11th year. We are keeping our fingers crossed that no more minor hiccups occur to interrupt our playing, like the brief lockdown in February, so that we can look forward to a full year of playing our favourite game!

It is so good to be back at our regular venue, following all the rules, so all should be well.
Wendy.



Oh, the concentration!



No idle chatter here!

BOOK CLUB 2 **Leader: Karen Gregory**

Book Club 2 – fun, friendly and informal

Google “the benefits of book clubs” and you’ll likely get more than 115 million results in 0.60 seconds. It’s also likely that the benefits of joining a book club for seniors will be at the very top of the hit list. For many, having time to read is one of the great joys of retirement. Book clubs bring a bonus of being able to share views with others, see things from a different perspective and above all, make valuable new friends.

When Naturaliste U3A started its first book club, demand was so overwhelming that it was clear a second club was needed. Book Club 2 has now been operating alongside Book Club 1 for several years. Both clubs are fun, friendly and informal.

Meetings for Book Club 2 are generally held on the first Tuesday of every month. Our first meeting this year was delayed a week due to lockdown. Everything crossed it will be back to normal from here on.

What to read? Where to get the books from?

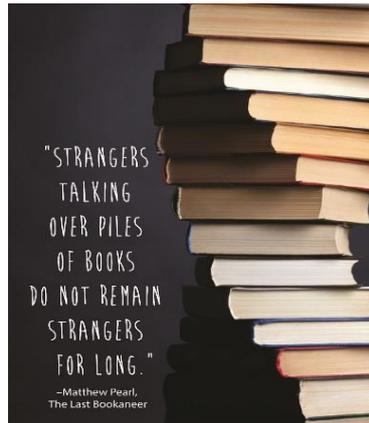
Anyone in Book Club 2 can say what they’d like to read, suggest a source for the books (library, op shops, their own or friends’ bookshelves, bookstores) and consensus is sought. Last year, most books were sourced through the Library Book Club collection, with an occasional buy. Stand-out book for the year was Minette Walters “The Last Hours” which dealt with the Black Death spreading across Europe in the 1300s, naturally due to its correlation with the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 – it even included a two-week quarantine requirement for returning travellers....

Loving or hating?

Feedback is a fun time at Book Club 2. We discuss, at liberty, anything and everything about the book, how we can or can’t relate to it according to our own life experiences, what confused us, what plots were unbelievable, what ruined the story, what made us weep, laugh, or snort with derision.

What's in store?

Over the Xmas break we set ourselves the task of finding and reading any book written by P. D. James. This laid the foundation for our first discussion of the year. A favoured author for some, she was too descriptive and wordy for others. Out of this, we've committed to bringing and sharing more of our own loved books and authors, inviting comment and differing perspective. And if it comes down to it - when we can't find a book we all want to read, we shall put our ideas into a hat, pick one out and just go with it. Sorted!



So true!

MEET a MEMBER

Moira Dahlberg Creative Writing Course Leader



I started doing the group as part of the U3A in 2011 but had been running it first at the Senior Citizens' Centre and then later from my home since about 2007.

I was trained as a primary school teacher but have also worked as local correspondent for the BM Times in Nannup while we lived there, an Avon Lady, a Census Collector (three times) and a strawberry picker. (I wasn't very good at that!) My husband and I also worked for many years as school traffic wardens in Busselton.

As a child I lived first in Shenton Park and then in Claremont, where my father ran his upholstery business until he retired.

When teaching, I lived in Kulin and then Nannup where I met and married Kevin, who at that time was employed by the Forestry Dept. After several years of marriage, we moved to Busselton. We have two sons, two grand-daughters, a grandson and a great grand-daughter.

All my life I've enjoyed reading and writing and am now enjoying sharing these interests with the Writing group members, many of whom have been attending for years. I do not have formal qualifications to teach Creative Writing and my emphasis is and always has been, on exercising our ageing minds and having fun while we're doing so. In the mid-1990s I had two teaching aids published; one for creative writing and the other for grammar, specifically homophones.

We meet (usually) every fortnight and at the end of each semester we produce a collection of our writings during the semester. Sometimes we have extra collections – Round Robins, Long Short Stories and some done with specific guidelines.

I am also currently the Co-ordinator at the Busselton Friendship and Learning Group and the accompanying photo was taken at our Christmas luncheon several years ago.

David Gardner A brief summary of David's work history



I grew up in Perth and graduated in civil engineering from UWA in 1968. After 11 years of working in engineering construction, design and then road building, I joined the Department of Resource Development (DRD) in 1980. This was a small government department which provided an interface between mining companies and the main government departments such as power, roads and environment. The State Agreements with the individual mining companies was also managed through DRD.

My areas of responsibility covered mineral sands, salt, bauxite, timber and diamonds. As a result of this range of projects I have visited most parts of Western Australia, as well as overseas travel associated with the international centres for diamonds and reviewing paper pulp production and application.

I also chaired a committee for the environmental rehabilitation of mining sites with the representatives from the relevant mining companies and government departments. From this involvement I was invited onto the board of Greening Australia and my whole family became engaged in helping to plant 'Ribbons of Green' around the countryside.

In 1992 we purchased an old dairy farm in Balingup - and planted our own trees. I subsequently chaired the Australian Tree-growers (WA) Association and was the State representative on the national board providing me with an overview of the national timber industry. I retired from DRD in 2001 and Balingup became our main residence, and I was able to undertake a range of consultancies. In 2008 I was appointed as Chairman of the South West Catchment Council (SWCC) holding the position until 2016. Once again, this led to representation at a national level and I gained an extended understanding of the land care issues and activities Australia wide.

In 2018 my wife Ruth and I became residents of Busselton and as well as the coastal town lifestyle, I am enjoying involvement in the cycling club, the gym at the Recreation Centre, the Geographe Naturalist Club and a variety of U3A courses.

ENROLMENT DAY and SUNDOWNER

For a number of years now we have followed up our Enrolment Day for semester 1 of the next year with a Sundowner to thank leaders for their commitment during the year and to welcome leaders coming on board for the next year. It is an opportunity for leaders, especially those offering a course for the first time, to get to know each other. It is also an opportunity to thank the committee members for their work throughout the year.

Enrolment Day was busy as usual with new members and those getting assistance with enrolling online. We hope to streamline the queues next year to help get through a little more quickly. As usual, leaders offering a brand new course were given a chance to promote it – at our Showcase at the AGM a lot more leaders are able to do this.



Lorelie Smit, Eco Printing on Paper



Patrick Prevett and Clare Parry



Deirdre ready to sign up members



Don entertains us at the Sundowner

TOPICAL TALK

Our last Topical Talk for 2020, 'Wood Turning as an Art Form', was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Not only did master wood turners Charles Broadbent and Barbara Jennings have interesting information to share they also had a wonderful display of their wood turned pieces. At the end of their presentation Charles gave us all a beautiful, miniature handcrafted white cypress pine goblet. It is hard to imagine being able to make such tiny delicate pieces in wood.

We raffled a lovely wooden Pepper Grinder, donated by David Porter, and the proceeds from that and our gold coin donations, meant that we were able to donate \$165 to the Busselton Hospice. It was very much appreciated.



Charles with one of his beautiful hand-crafted goblets.



Barbara and the display of wood turned pieces.

CALENDAR

REMINDER: TOPICAL TALK Friday, March 11th

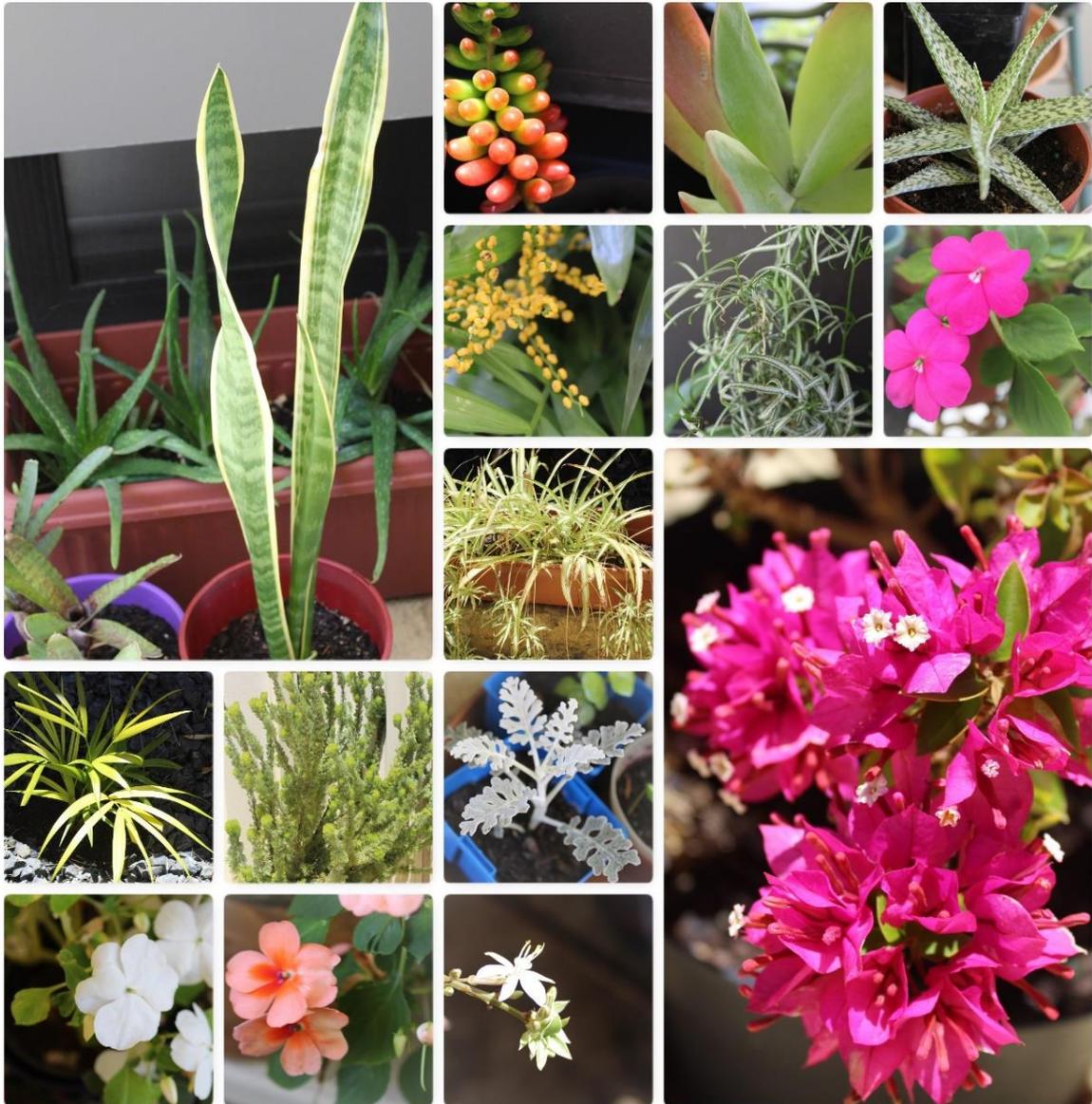
You will all have received your flyer about this Topical Talk where Peter Lewis tells of how his dream of sailing solo around the world became a reality; it promises to be very interesting so please RSVP if you are coming.

A SPECIAL GARDEN

Many of our members are keen gardeners and a hard thing to face when looking at downsizing is how to leave your garden. Deirdre Chell has found a way to start fresh with a new garden!

Deirdre's Hidden Garden

Deirdre has a garden that she calls 'My Hidden Garden'. Little would you guess when you walk up to Deirdre's front door that behind a white picket fence at the entrance to a pergola is a hidden world of a variety of potted plants that are quite stunning! A lovely, relaxing, small garden filled with her favourite plants.



Deirdre, like many garden loving members, must have enjoyed having extra time to spend potting up plants in her 'Hidden Garden' during Covid restrictions.

(Photo collage by Lorraine Watts)

SNIPPETS

*Some interesting news of a Fee Free service for Pet Lovers

Pets of Older Persons (**POOPS**) is a FREE volunteer service now operating in Busselton that provides a care service for older persons, or those with a disability, who need assistance with caring for their pets. This includes, for example, taking them for walks, grooming etc.

If you would like to know more about this service, OR would be interested in becoming a volunteer yourself, please contact Cathy Gibson, POOPS Busselton Co-ordinator, on 0417 935 434 or email busselton@poopswa.org.au Web poopswa.org.au

FEEDBACK

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

IN CONCLUSION:

There's a little space to fill so here are some examples of the fun exercises we do in [Brain Games](#). Joan

I am sure you can read this one easily!!!

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53Rv35 7O PROV3
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1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG
17 WA5 H4RD BU7NOW ON 7H15 L1N3
YOUR M1ND 15
R34D1NG 4U7OM471C4LLY
W17H OUT 3V3N
7H1NK1NG 4BOU7 17,
B3 PROUD! ONLY
C3R741N P3OPI3 C4N
R34D 7H15.

AND

* How many towns/places can you think of in the south west region that end in 'up'?
(in Noongar language this means 'place of')

*What is the biggest word you can make from each set of letters?

- 1) SNELITOMU
- 2) RABATECOW
- 3) RARETESYF