



The U3A Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC
AUTUMN -2024

EDITORIAL: A bit of history for all who enjoyed a smooth enrolment for 2024.

A long, long time ago during the Re-Formation years of Naturaliste U3A the tribal elders conceded they had to catch up with the world of modern communication technology. This was so long ago it was before the advent of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! Knights, Sir Don, Sir Richard and Sir David searched the outer cosmos for signs of inspiration. A new ISP QClick and a classical oxymoron of "Round Cube" materialised from the World

Wide Web. And so it came to pass that because Sir Richard was good at sums he was "volunteered" to do battle with the contradictions of the "Round Cube". After each enrolment day Sir Richard groped his way through a maze of data base via "Firefox" and the "Joomla" Login Box. After consultations with fellow Knights and Merlin the Magician the magic wand was waved along with utterances such as "Kazoom", lo and behold class lists would appear for the Knights of The Round Cube who delightedly promulgated these to the eagerly awaiting Course Leaders.

Dame Barbara, a newly appointed secretarial Dame, witnessed the sufferings of Sir Richard and, being a cosmos savvy dame, cast her net into the "Cloud". After many casts into the mysterious East she discovered a Victorian data base system known as Soft Syst MASS (Membership Administration and Software Solution). The Highest Dames: Joan, Barbara, Cathy and Lorraine charmed a Prophet from the East to spread the good tidings of MASS to the Infidels of the West. After Sir Peter's enlightenment and a few months of trial and error it came to pass that you lot (i.e. all of us) were able to enrol in February using what we now know as UMAS. So be thankful to the Knights and Dames of the Round Cube for your enjoyment as an enrolled U3A member.

Here endeth the lesson in modern communications.

Sir Guinivere.

YOUR COMMITTED 2024 COMMITTEE



Wendy, Don, Peter, Pauline, Gwyn, Jan, Jill, Colleen.

Did you know this about our Committee members?

Hard-working and indispensable all –most of you have already read the following information on our Home Page! We start with Pauline, Jan, Wendy and Jill, then next edition of the *Crier* we'll feature Don, Gwyn, Peter and me, your President, Colleen.

Vice President: Pauline Rockley



Pauline was born in NSW and lived in Balmain and Glebe most of her childhood. She married young and had three children. Pauline continued her education as a mature aged student and, when graduating, obtained a position with The Department of Community Services where she remained for twenty-five years. During that period of employment she worked in a number of Community Centres as a District Officer, Community Project Officer, Child Protection Specialist and the last 12 years as District Manager Community Services at Campbelltown and Wollongong/Illawarra. During her time as a Child Protection Specialist she provided training to hundreds of teachers on the mandatory reporting of child sexual assault. She also provided training to numerous groups of new foster carers and assisted in the assessments of their suitability.

Pauline moved to Perth in 2002 where she was contracted to the Disability Services Commission for nine years monitoring the Disability Services Standards. Pauline also became a Civil Marriage Celebrant only retiring from this around five years ago. Pauline has been on a number of committees during her years in NSW, including domestic violence, youth services, multicultural services and services to families. She was President of the Homebush Boys High School P&C for five years and, over a two-year period, visited vulnerable inmates at the Silverwater Adult Detention Centre, providing social interaction and support.

She moved to Busselton nine years ago and has continued her commitment to being involved in the community through committees and volunteering. She has been a member of the Vasse Primary school P&C for the past five years, is a member of the Naturaliste U3A committee and a volunteer at the Art Geo complex. Pauline's entire professional and retiring life has been involved in the area of humanities.

Pauline likes to travel and has been to a number of third world countries where her passion is immersing herself in different cultures and always looking and learning. Her hobbies also include writing her autobiography and memoir writing, mosaics, gym and walking her dog on the beach.

Treasurer: Jan Van Den Bosch



We are so grateful to Jan for taking on Richard's duties!

[Jan also volunteers as a transcriber for the Busselton Oral History Group (Inc). She is a wonderful member of the Busselton community.]

Jan was born in Holland and came to WA in 1950 when her family immigrated to Australia. She lived in Palmyra where she had her primary education and then attended John Curtin High School doing the commercial course. Jan's first job was in a small office of the Dunlop Rubber Factory in O'Connor then, when the family moved to Queens Park, she was employed at a Ford Motor dealership in Victoria Park. In the ten years she worked there Jan was trained on the job in various office procedures, bookkeeping and data processing.

A desire to do more with her life, Jan's Christian faith led her to apply to the Baptist Mission. This followed many fulfilled years of serving God as a support worker, leaving her colleagues free for the Gospel work of preaching and teaching. Jan served in Papua New Guinea for two years and then in Zambia for 20 years. In PNG Jan was clerical assistant to the Treasurer, living at Baiyer River in the Western Highlands, and in Zambia she was Field Treasurer stationed at Fiwale Hill near Ndola in the Copperbelt, with the final few years living at Malambanyama in the Central Province. As well as looking after the finances of the Mission, Jan trained Zambian staff in their job of Treasurer for Church, Bible College and Rural Health Centre. Jan became fluent in the local Lamba tribal language and joined the Literature Committee which produced teaching material for church leaders.

After Jan's retirement from the Mission in 1997, she returned to WA and found a job with Baptist Care, where she was employed until her retirement, then moved to Busselton in 2005. During the time she lived in Perth Jan was Treasurer of a Baptist Church and, when she moved to Busselton, her desire to continue to serve God saw Jan again become a Board member and Treasurer of the church in Busselton.

Now some of her responsibilities have been passed on to others. In her spare time Jan enjoys knitting, crocheting, gardening, reading, going to the movies and meeting for coffee or a meal with friends.

Secretary/ Hospitality Coordinator: Wendy Beames



[Wendy tells her own story – well a VERY small part of it! Modest to the core.]

After eight years in Sydney, we (Wendy and husband Martin who died too young leaving Wendy to bring up their two sons) became very disillusioned with the pace of life there so decided to try the more laid-back lifestyle in WA. In 1975 we drove across the country in two vehicles (a much bigger adventure than flying from Heathrow to Sydney on a Boeing 707 taking 36 hours to do so – with two small boys! But that is another story!).

I moved to Busselton almost twenty years ago to look for a quieter and less hectic life. I was really impressed by the great sense of community I found here and joined just about everything I could – to get to know people.

[Wendy doesn't mention her long stint singing in a choir!]

As time went on, I dropped a few of the groups I was less interested in, and then I found Naturaliste U3A. From the beginning all of the courses were so interesting to me that I tried one after the other – painting, writing, drama etc all the while meeting lots of likeminded people and making many new friends.

Then along came Mah Jongg which had me well and truly hooked! I had played Mah Jongg for 20 or so years before joining our U3A course and have been leading that for 13 years. Now that I have become a Committee Member, I hope I will be able to contribute to the organisation side of things.

[Wendy is still an avid member of the *Into Drama* Group and continues to try other courses as they come along – especially those run by Patrick about the wonders of science and our environment!]

Co-Secretary/ PR Officer: Jill Ilott:



At 14 I started asking questions regarding the Universe – how did it work and how did we fit into it? Surely, we must be here for more than finding a job, getting married, having children, cleaning up messes and dying? So I began researching all aspects of mind/body/spirit/emotion in earnest at 25, and my training and employment seemed to happen around these 4 aspects.

I discovered the esoteric sciences; psychology at uni and working with a Fremantle guru; natural health and healing modalities which led to lecturing at a naturopathic college and then overseas to allopathic and natural medicine practitioners. I created and published the *Directory of Natural Therapists & Services WA*; wrote training manuals for reps/shops; facilitated the Australis Self Made Girl Program and worked as a consultant for the AIDS Information Service during the Grim Reaper Campaign. I also ran the WA branch of Metrin scientific skin care, a Canadian company with a revolutionary way of cleansing that worked miracles.

I was administrator at a spiritual community centre that offered many workshops and talks in mind/body/spirit for 'seekers' which then launched me out into public talks on subjects ranging from health, to ghost busting, and life after death!

After quitting the overseas job because of Epstein Barr virus depleting my batteries, I moved into health consulting in Perth and then moved to Abbey 5 years ago. I joined Naturaliste U3A and presented courses in using flower essences for emotional wellbeing, *Men's Cooking* and *How to Exit the Matrix*. When Covid hit I spent the last few years researching it and keeping up with natural products and protocols plus venturing into the Common Law arena.

I read non-fiction, host a weekly spiritual discussion group, love my garden, attend the Leisure Centre for pool and sauna, and am a novice member of the Busselton and Districts Orchid Society. I have a son and daughter in Golden Bay and Cowaramup respectively and have 3 grandsons.

At present I am sharing the NatU3A secretarial duties doing the computer side of things. It is rewarding working in a team and learning new 'tricks' – keeps the old brain ticking over and the interaction is good for the soul – so think about what you could contribute – U3A needs you!!!!

COURSES ROUND UP SO FAR:

CREATIVE WRITING:

Creative Writing has begun and will continue every Monday fortnight throughout 2024. Moira Dahlberg, as the previous leader for so long, is indeed a hard act to follow. So that the group could continue on, Alan Briggs and Shane Venema have taken over facilitating and doing some of the leading. However, the group as a whole has agreed to take two turns each at leading throughout the year. This way we can cover the 20 fortnights and each use our creative ability to come up with something different each time.

We usually have two writing exercises given out in the class. One to be done there in a specific time frame and one to be taken home to do more leisurely as homework, if we wish. Most of us always come back with something ready to read out at the next class with a maximum of 500 words or as few words as we like. We are free to write in our preferred style, whether that be in poetry or story form.

So far we have had to write about our earliest memories, then we had to describe a particular person or favourite scene in only 150 words (quite a challenge to keep it to that limit). The latest two challenges have been to write about our favourite pet and also our very first job. It is Shane's turn to lead over the next two fortnights and I think she has something quite different in mind! All stimulating for the brain and so interesting to see what each person does with the same subject. The group breaks halfway for a cuppa and a chat making for confidence building and friendship. Shane Venema.

INTO DRAMA:

We commenced with 12 devotees from 2023 and one new one who pulled out when she realised she wasn't about to become a performer! All were intrigued with our first reading – Noel Coward's *Nude With a Violin* – first staged in 1956 and directed by John Gielgud.

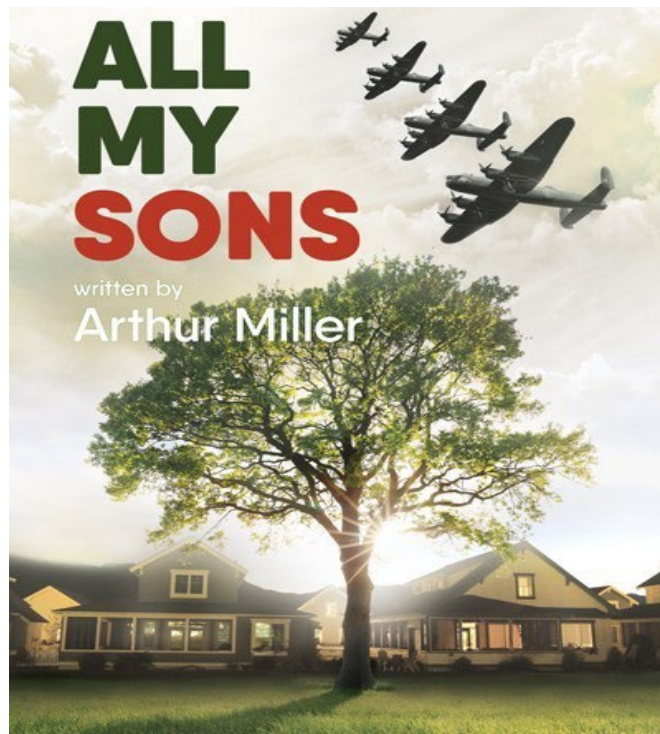


John Gielgud as Sebastien and Joyce Carey as Isobel

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nude_with_Violin#/media/File:Nude-with-violin-gielgud-carey-1956.jpg

We had to face the challenge of 5 languages (best handled by Elizabeth Horne). A delightful exposé of dilemmas of Modern Art and clever Art Dealers.

This was followed by Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*", a post WWII drama exposing the tragic outcomes of manufacturers profiting from faulty parts for aircraft, superbly dramatised by all our participants.



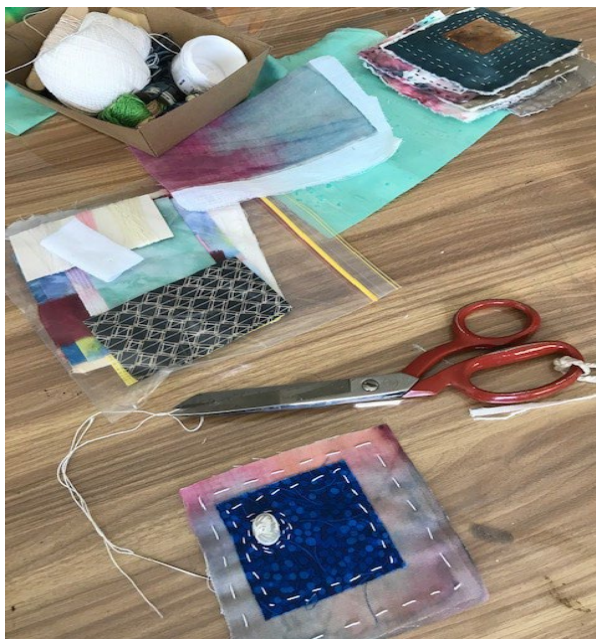
<https://www.cedarville.edu/academic-schools-and-departments/art-design-theatre/theatre/productions>

We continue to enjoy Ruth & David's hospitality.

Gwyn Cracknell.

STITCHES MEDITATION:

On February 28, Lorelie Smit helped participants enjoy a couple of hours exploring the concept of Stitching Meditation. This technique can be used to help calm the mind and create stitched art every day.



FIRST TOPICAL TALK 23rd February 2024

DES DONNELLY – TIMELESS TUARTS TRANSFORMED



A packed room greeted Des for his Topical Talk on his beloved Tuart. With his vast knowledge as a Forester, Des outlined the history of the Ludlow Tuart Forest and how the Ludlow Restoration Group was formed. From 1959 to 1972 Des worked as a forester in the south West and moved to Ludlow as District Manager in 1972.

Ludlow was originally established in the 1830s when the first settlers arrived in Western Australia. The Moriarty family originally farmed vegetables and cattle on the site to provide food for the colony. The property was bought by the government in 1906 to reforest it. Charles Lane-Poole, a partly educated-in-France Englishman, was charged with setting up a 'forest centre' there, where he also wrote the first Forest Act and Regulations around it, which was passed in 1918.

Ludlow was chosen due to surrounding rail and sea infrastructure and the Tuart trees; tuart being one of the best timbers known for its strength, density and workability.

Around 1923 faster growing softwoods, such as pine, were trialed in the area, later with Des at the forefront of this. *Pinus pinaster* from Spain was found to perform the best. The existing 60m² Ludlow office (parts of which date back to Lane-Poole's days), and saw mill, are currently under restoration and management. The wood from which these structures are built is still in very good condition. Once restored, the houses will be used for short term holiday accommodation to attract people to the location.

Des outlined the replanting program and the efforts being made to eliminate invasive species such as Arum Lilies and Peppermints. He emphasised how important "thinning" is for regrowth trees. This enables Tuarts to grow tall and form a canopy. Finally, he expertly handled many questions from a very interested audience.

President Colleen thanked Des on behalf of U3A and made a presentation.

Feedback welcome: secretary@u3anaturaliste.com.au **Thanks to Pauline Rockley (Website and Socials manager) for printing and sending to postals.**

NATURALISTE U3A TOPICAL TALK

Friday 19 April 2024 2pm The People Place

John Slee: My Dad and his Battle with Goering



John Slee is an inquisitive man of many talents. If someone had told his father when he enlisted in World War I as a soldier that he would become a fighter pilot (14 years after the Wright brothers flew the first flying machine) he would have laughed. And if someone had told him that he would have an air battle with Herman Goering he would have said, "Herman Goering – who is he?" But John's dad actually had a dog fight with Goering, which is recorded in both English and German documents as well as in several books about Goering who became the head of Hitler's air force, the Luftwaffe, during WWII and was Hitler's number two.

What would have happened to world history if John's father had brought Goering down? His father never talked about all this but, luckily, the family persuaded him to write a memoir of his war experiences, however he stipulated that the memoir was to stay in the family. For 30 years the Slee family honoured this.

Thirty years after his dad's death John asked his mother what she thought about him not actually SHOWING his father's memoir to other people, but writing a story based on it and quoting selectively from it. She agreed, as did John's brothers.

So, John has been on the trail for 20 years looking for evidence of the happenings reported in the memoir. ***Fifteen years ago John found Goering's hand written flight report of his fight with John's father***

Find out the intriguing details in John's Topical Talk for Naturaliste U3A on April 19th. For those of you attending Professor Bill Bunbury's short course, *The History of Aviation in Australia* in the three weeks prior, this talk will be a fitting closure!

RSVP by 15th April for catering to JILL, secretary@natu3a.com.au or 0402 920 557