

U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

May 2020 **U3A**



Colours of autumn



Volume 16 Number 4

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From the brilliant mind of Stephen Hawking

****ON HIS CELEBRITY**

“The downside of my celebrity is that I cannot go anywhere in the world without being recognised. It is not enough for me to wear dark sunglasses and a wig. The wheelchair gives me away.”

From an interview with Israeli TV, 2006



An exceptional brain.

Newsletter deadline:

The last date to send in newsletter contributions is the 25th of each month.

u3agbnews@gmail.com

Editorial

Calvin Winks

One of the benefits of not being able to meet physically as a group, has been the trial of video conferencing and exchange by emails to effect an activity. Video conferencing software like Zoom allows many members of a group to participate and each to contribute to the topic. The Wednesday Book Group report a very successful use of Zoom for their recent book review.

I have been asking others who have used Zoom of their experience and they all say how effective it is. One of my contacts says their National meetings have been conducted by Zoom with the benefits the delegates can do so from home, with the added bonus of a large benefit to their budget. One body has decided to limit their face-to-face meeting to once a year.

Similarly, the Tuesday Book Group trialled the use of participation by email and again, the group reported a very successful exchange.

And the PM has reported the ability to consult major groups like the leaders of the big four banks, simply and quickly without the need for anyone to travel.



U3A GB Activities in May

As advised previously by our Secretary, Lynda, all U3A GB group activities remain **CANCELLED** with the exception of the walking group in pairs with “walk cards”.

The management committee will review these decisions after restrictions are eased.

Let’s hope we have a clearer picture before the birthday celebration in June!

Reports provided by the various groups have been included in this newsletter, including some times and dates for possible future activities.

Coming this Year

This year, U3A Granite Belt celebrates its **15th Birthday**. This occasion, to acknowledge 15 years since U3A GB became an incorporated body (7/7/2005), will take the form of a luncheon at the Granite Belt Brewery on the **12th June**. (if the current situation is resolved).

Details and menu options will be provided closer to the event.

Coming in 2021

On the 12th and 13th May 2021, U3A Granite Belt will host the U3A Network Conference. This is a two-day conference with the preceding day a ‘meet and greet’ to highlight all that is special about the Granite Belt.

The Conference sub-committee has commenced planning for the Event.

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Reports

Presidents Report

Julie Barnes

As the physical isolation continues, there are some members who are becoming a little more confident using Zoom and other forms of virtual communication. The phone, never something I like using, is becoming a life blood to members of my family and friends living far away.

I look at video clips on You tube or Facebook of New York and parts of Spain and think how lucky we are here to have space around us so that we can see the sky and feel the joy of sun on our backs (well protected from the harmful rays of the sun, of course!!).

I appreciated Calvin’s enthusiasm to continue to write a newsletter albeit in a different form. I know some members have been asking if there would be a May Newsletter and I assured them that a newsletter would be written this month. The newsletter is an integral part of the group and, hopefully, we will continue to provide a newsletter every month until the quarantine guidelines are completely lifted.

The walking group have “walk cards” so that pairs of members can continue to walk for about an hour around the town. Please contact Ria if you would like to become part of the walking group.

The lunch to celebrate the 15th birthday celebration of the group becoming an incorporated body will be cancelled unless **all** physical distancing restrictions are lifted. Usual U3A activities will **NOT** resume until the quarantine is lifted for our age group.

If you have an idea for a discussion group, please let me know. Just remember, it will be a virtual discussion group until the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.

The Management will be meeting soon to discuss the AGM and our legal requirements for having the AGM.

Keep well and take care of yourselves both physically and mentally.

Julie Barnes

Sports Quiz

Julie Barnes

There are 36 sports hidden in the text below. Find them, **underline them**, and **list them** in the table underneath the text. They maybe generic names or more specific (e.g. could be generic skiing or specific “cross-country skiing” or “mogul” or “slalom”).

I’m happy to end work now for Christmas, finishing the drab admin tonight. It’s a tiring season, so with my flu getting worse, I’m going to skip a delightful last couple of days. That’s got to be better than hurling myself into the rush-hour traffic in my pool car, down Raj Ave, lined with buses from A to B all broken down or driving at a speed way below the limit, to arrive at work for a discussion with colleagues who have zero understanding of the written NI subsidies that they’re balloting for, and who think a decision sounds like “Yes, no, ok, er, um, maybe?” and leave me then to tell a cross executive director why (a) we’re running out of ideas that don’t end up in the waste basket, (b) all our work keeps hitting hurdles, and (c) my health is ailing as a result of stress. Oft ballsier than me, nevertheless my colleagues adhere to a policy of avoidance of any confrontation with a senior manager or two.

Then tomorrow I’ll balloon out from eating too much chocolate and chicken stew, rest lingering as I turn on the tv to watch Andre Rieu’s latest concert, as I don’t waste my time on Facebook (or “FB”) – all such a cult. I’m a terrible snob and, compared to FB junk, art galleries or a good sonnet, ballad or play at the theatre has quashed my interest in social media. I’d rather risk a bad display of Bach and ballet then web surf in general especially FB with its classic URL ingloriously filling my screen with undesired images of Uncle Bob’s lei – ghastly model for a flower wreath – and if I’ve seen photos of his intricate Mongol furniture once, I’ve seen it all – from the basic rickety stuff to the best carving.

A day after, I’m off to watch a friend’s choir singing SATB (div) in gardens nearby, they’re a mixed bunch with an ad-hoc keyboard accompaniment, but melodic, and art seldom requires more than a good story or a rousing tune.

So, I am off to the laptop now and going to catch a late-night film as my evening’s artistic drug -bye bye!

DEUTSCH/GERMAN

Irene Grevis-James

GUTEN TAG—WILLKOMMEN!

No classes as you know, BUT plenty of DIY work

posted out in April. - I hope 🙌 you enjoyed the German Easter customs! Please RSVP if you found the sheets worthwhile. Does anyone else want some easy homework?

Does anyone have my “A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush” by Eric Newby? A great read with plenty of English humour.

ALLES GUTE bis ein WIEDERSEHEN.

Irene DE



Tuesday Book Club

Fran Tobin

April: *Dark Emu* by Bruce Pascoe

Our April book discussion was held using emails during this COVID-19 era. Each of us emailed our thoughts about the book, and then a general discussion was held - again by email.

This book generated a lot of discussion among academics and other readers. Some have criticized the contents saying that many of Pascoe’s references have been misquoted. Others criticized the author on the grounds that he claimed he had aboriginal ancestry. This was questioned by other Aborigines, and now Pascoe has admitted that his ancestry is pure Celtic.

In this book Pascoe covered Aboriginal life and culture in the time of the first white settlers. He discussed their agriculture, aquaculture, housing, storage, and fire. He claims that the Australian Aborigines were far more sophisticated than we have been told. They built houses; they farmed, and this produced surplus of grain; they had many and varied fish traps. Their use of fire was relevant after our horror season of bushfires. Pascoe said that the Aboriginal methods depended on five principles: - fire was used in a rotating mosaic form which allowed animals and plants to survive; the time of the year; the weather; neighbouring clans; and the growing season of essential plants. Pascoe uses such examples to support his hypothesis of a cultured and sophisticated Aboriginal society.

We all agreed that the book was interesting, but we also agreed that we’d like to see more accurate quotes and references. We also agreed that the book was not particularly well written. One member compared it to the level of a Master’s thesis. The style contributed to it being a “stop and start” read. By this I mean that we’d read a part of the book when we felt like it, and then by choosing to read a section which sounded interesting. So, read in stops and starts. Unsatisfactory.

We all agreed that we learnt a lot from the book, which contained material that was never covered in our school days. Aboriginal life in the time of Cook *et al* deserves more research and more widespread dissemination. Australians need to know an accurate story of our Indigenous people.

Our future reads are: -

May: *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra* by Vaseem Khan

June: *The Birdman’s Wife* by Melissa Ashley

Next activity a **Zoom meeting Tuesday 5th May**

Ponderisms

- Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?
- Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

Wednesday Book Group

Julie Barnes

Book for discussion *Gathering Storm* by Rosie Dub

The Group held a virtual book group with the members sitting in the comfort of their homes. The session was planned as a practice use of Zoom but we were offered an extension of time so used the opportunity to discuss the book.

The benefit of the Zoom meeting is that we could see people’s faces and hear their voices. For some members of the group who have chosen to self-isolate because of health issues, their contact with people outside their immediate family has been very limited. The opportunity to see and hear other people’s voices was a welcome change to their routine.

Only three members of the group had read the book and the responses were mixed as usual. Storm, the main character, was born in England and had grown up thinking that her mother had died when she was born. Storm begins a journey of self-discovery that takes her from the rolling hills of England to the red heart of Australia. Most of the group loved the description of her journey through the Australian landscape.

The book touched on the history of the Romany peoples of Eastern Europe and their extermination during World War 2. Storm learns of her Romany ancestry and how her grandparents survived the war. Her grandmother had married a non-Romany man and was exiled from the group and her grandparents fled to England prior to the war.

The book is also about how society treats people who are different. Analogies were made to the treatment of Aborigines in Australia.

The general consensus was that the first part of the book was not very enjoyable as the focus was on Storm who was very self-absorbed but that the rest of the book was interesting and kept the reader enthralled.

One of the members discovered some mistakes in the editing of the book and was checking for similar errors throughout the book. This somewhat clouded her opinion of the book!!

Next Book Group will be on Wednesday 6th May at 10.00am. The Zoom Meeting has been scheduled for that time.

Book for discussion is *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Ablom.

Be an Optimist

The measure of a truly great person is the courtesy with which they treat lesser people.

Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily.

Science 2020 Blood Fran Tobin

We had our first session on Thursday 27th February, with interesting questions which led to further discussion.

Our next session was planned for the 2nd Thursday of April, to look at circulation. This covers the heart, the arteries and veins, and capillaries.

Now Cancelled and

waiting for the end of the restrictions.

Science Discussion Group Julie Barnes

A discussion group using Zoom will be held on both Thursday the 14th and 28th. Details of the topics will be provided closer to the day.

Intending participants must contact Julie by phone 0417 074 520 or email barn.ju@icloud.com **to arrange the link**

Contributed by Mignon

Extract **From "Lost for Words" by Hugh Lunn**

Headline News 1950s

The hottest news in the 1950s was COMMUNISM. Most stories from overseas in the newspapers had 'REDS' in the headline.

Everyone was extremely worried about RED AGGRESSION and falling under the IRON HEEL of communism. People were always talking about COMMUNIST FRONTS and 'SELF CONFESSED COMMUNISTS'. It was said that there was NO PLACE TO HIDE from COMMUNISM. But anyone who became alarmed rather than just alert, was said to be looking for REDS UNDER THE BEDS.

This was after World War II (75 years ago) in which we fought with England against Germany and with the USA against Japan.

Editor's note: - Back then, the fear was communism. Now it's the dreaded COVID-19, a virus which, if not contained could be the end of many, regardless of nationality, ethnic origin or political persuasion.

May Snippets

May 1st - Observed as May Day, a holiday and spring festival since ancient times, also observed in socialist countries as a workers' holiday or Labor Day.

May 4, 1494 - During his second journey of exploration in the New World, Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica.

May 10, 1994 - Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as president of South Africa. Mandela had won the first free election in South Africa

Beethoven - His Life and Music

To celebrate 250 years since Beethoven's birth, Barbara Bowyer will guide lovers of the great composer's music through a series of talks/lectures. Beethoven was a crucial figure in the transition between the classical and romantic eras of classical music and is considered one of the greatest composers of all time.

The course will be held at the Learning Centre on Monday afternoons **Time: 1.30pm until 2.45pm**

New course dates will be advised once current restrictions are lifted.

Interested? Contact Barbara on 0468 879 081 for more information.



Freaky phrases (using the same set of letters)

Dormitory	Dirty room
Presbyterian	Best in prayer
Slot machines	Cash lost in me
Animosity	Is no amity
Desperation	A rope ends it

Just for laughs

Two old men are chatting. "My wife tried putting on a mudpack to make herself attractive." "Did it work?" asked his friend. "It did for a bit," says the old man. "Then it fell off."

At the seaside there are two old men on their annual holidays standing in the sea with their trousers rolled up, smoking their pipes and watching the boats go by. One of them glances down at the other one's feet and says, "Blimey mate, look at the state of your feet, they're absolutely filthy!" The other looks down and agrees, "Yeah, I know," he says. "We didn't manage to get here last year."

An old man tells his wife their dog is ageing badly. "I think Rover is getting a bit old," he says, "he seems to be going deaf." "Absolute nonsense," says his wife. "Just watch this! Rover, sit!" "Oh, maybe you're right. Fetch the shovel and clean that up!"

An old man goes for a thorough examination at the doctors. After it's over, the old man asks, "Well doctor, how do I stand?" "To be honest," says the doctor, "that's what's puzzling me."

AIMS of U3A Granite Belt Inc.

To provide members with affordable education and learning activities covering a wide range of different subjects.

To provide members with the opportunity to study and learn in a relaxed environment.

To nurture the minds, bodies, and souls of members.

Committee

President:	Julie Barnes	4683 2823 or 0417 074 520
Vice-President:	John Smales	0414 505 448
Secretary:	Lynda Blackstock	0421 327 377
Treasurer:	Marg Thomson	4685 2928
Minutes Sec:	Esme Hobba	4683 3324
Committee Members:		
	Kathy Williams	0429 361 705
	Calvin Winks	0429 056 797
	Morwenna Arcidiacono	0490 241 356
	Roxane Scott	0411 433 474
Newsletter Ed.	Calvin Winks	0429 056 797 or u3agbnews@gmail.com
:		
Webmaster:	Lynda Blackstock	0421 327 377 or u3agb@granitenet.com.au

Postal Address

PO BOX 250
Stanthorpe Qld 4380

Phone

0419 093 157

Email

u3agb@granitenet.com.au

Website

<http://mysd.com.au/u3a/>

Bank Account

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Groups

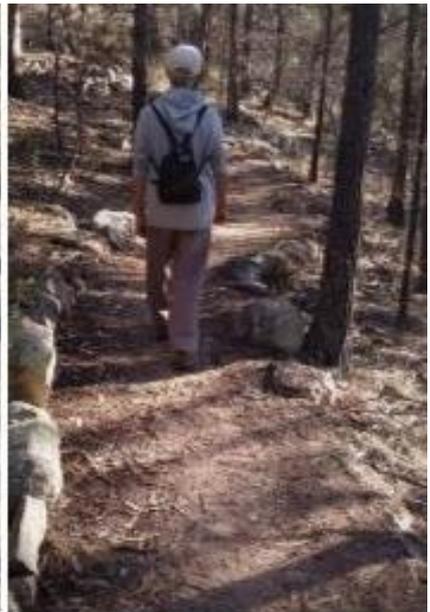
Venue

Contact/s

Book Club:	Tue	RSL Club, Marsh St	Mary	4683 7103
Book Club:	Wed	RSL Club, Marsh St	Julie	4683 2823 or 0417 074 520
French		to be advised	Mary-Jane	0417 766 430
Garden Group		Advised each month	Kerrie & Leon	4681 1737 or 0488 732 638
			Elaine	0410 016 620
			Denise	4683 3168
Genealogy		156 Church Road, The Summit	Roxane	0411 433 474
General Mtg		Learning Centre, McGlew St	Lynda	0421 327 377
			Julie	4683 2823 or 0417 074 520
German		CWA Rooms, Victoria St	Irene	0437 373 929
History Group		Advised each meeting	Kerrie	4681 1737
			Mary	4683 7103
			Lynette	4683 7255
Jonola		RSL Club, Marsh St	Dot	4681 1334
Mahjong		Learning Centre, McGlew St	Carol	4681 3495
Mosaics		Pete's shed at Margy's Place	Margy	4681 0102
Psychology		Learning Centre McGlew St	Lesley	0488 787 905
Movies		Advised each outing	Ria	4681 2618
Ukulele		Heather Kent's home	Heather	0448 800 491
Walking Group		Zest, Maryland St	Ria	4681 2618 or 0427 349 977

Courses

Science discussion	Learning Centre, McGlew St	Julie	4683 2823 or 0417 074 520
Science	Learning Centre, McGlew St	Julie	4683 2823 or 0417 074 520 or Fran 4684 1253 or ftobin1941@gmail.com .
Beethoven	Learning Centre, McGlew St	Barbara	0468 879 081



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