

U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

June 2020 **U3A**



Modern driving hazard



Volume 16 Number 5

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Famous quotes from Sir Winston Churchill

- We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.
- A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.



Newsletter deadline:

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

u3agbnews@gmail.com

Editorial

Calvin Winks

When I sit to key in the editorial, I often wonder what I might write about.

It's difficult not to cover the current issues affecting our U3A group and the wider community.

Restrictions, in place as a consequence of the pandemic, have affected all of us and we are now benefiting from a gradual easing.

We certainly have benefited from the cautious approach taken by our Government and the reduced transmission of other common illnesses. The incidence of the usual flu events has been very low this year with recorded cases in single digits and well below previous flu seasons.

Although we have all seen cases where it doesn't happen, the majority of people have observed social distancing and are generally polite when moving in places like supermarkets.

Pressure from the other states to open our border is a challenging issue, and especially in its effect on tourism. Let's hope this can be resolved soon without risk of increased Covid-19 events.

Just for a laugh

Did you know on the Canary Islands there is not one canary?

And on the Virgin Islands? The same thing – not one canary there either!

U3A GB Activities in June

As advised previously by our Secretary, Lynda, most U3A GB group activities remain **CANCELLED**. The walking group is still walking, now limited to groups of no more than 10, maintaining social distancing. The two book groups have continued quite successfully using Zoom.

The management committee will further review the situation as restrictions are eased.

Let's hope we have a clearer picture before the birthday celebration, now planned for September and possibly combined with the AGM.

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, now planned for **Thursday the 17th of September** (if the restrictions are eased).

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 world begins to open its doors again, U3A Granite Belt needs to consider how we can begin to offer classes and groups to members. My understanding is that all groups should be able to function as normal (whatever that means in this very unsettling circumstance from which we are emerging at the moment) in July.

With this in mind, the July calendar should reflect the courses and activities that have been put on hold can resume. The Management Committee will consider any risks to members and in particular, members whose immune systems are impacted by health conditions prior to making any final decision.

It has been suggested to me that September should be an ideal month to have the AGM and our celebratory lunch. Why September? It is warmer and the threat of flu should have eased. With this in mind, **Thursday September 17th** will be the date of the **AGM**. This is our usual third Thursday meeting date. Perhaps, the meeting and the 15th birthday lunch could be held on the same day? Watch this space for more details.

Julie Barnes

Ponderisms

- Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavouring, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?
- Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Number Riddle

Make the five target numbers in the grid on the right, using the nine grid numbers in the grid on the left.

Rules are:

For each target number, use exactly 2 grid numbers and exactly one of these maths symbols:

+ - ÷ x

Use each grid number only once, except the middle one – use that twice. Use each symbol once, except use one twice.

Target numbers

2	12	5		2
1	3	8		3
44	4	36		6
				9
				32

Sports Quiz

Julie Barnes

Sports – Answers to the challenge in the May newsletter. The sports hidden in the text below are highlighted in red.

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 in 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 than 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!

Genealogy Group

Roxane Scott

Hi everyone. Hope your family searching has been going well. I am proposing we resume genealogy on **Thursday 4th June** at my place at 2:00pm. If you don't feel comfortable easing back in at this date that's fine. We will see you in July.

Take care everyone and I look forward to hearing your stories.
Cheers. Roxane

Tuesday **Book Club**

Fran Tobin

Our May book club read and discussed the book

The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra by Vaseem Khan. The author is British, but spent 10 years working in India. On his first day in India, driving from the airport, he saw the mass of humanity which is India, and an elephant lumbering down the road. He said that he fell in love with elephants immediately, and years later, when writing this book, had to include an elephant. And so, this story evolved.

The story is set in Mumbai and is a detective story with a difference. Inspector Chopra is about to retire, and his unexpected inheritance is a baby elephant, Ganesh. Ganesh amazingly figures as Chopra's sidekick, and to accept that this clever elephant helped Chopra solve the murder, and stay alive. The reader is expected to surrender critical thought and go along with what is a fairy tale! As one reviewer said the book is "utterly charming."

Most of us enjoyed the book. It was an easy read, especially after our first two books of the year, *The Yellow Notebook* and *Dark Emu*, which were challenging to say the least.

We thought that the author portrayed Mumbai very well. We could see, smell, and hear the city and its people. One of our group lived in India for a time, and agreed that the portrayal of India by Vaseem Khan is realistic.

There were a couple of criticisms. One was that the book was too full of characters, and was almost like a Bollywood production. Another was that parts of the book were poorly written and poorly edited. But the overall feeling was one of enjoyment.

Although we all miss meeting together, technology has enabled us to submit our thoughts about the book, and then to discuss it. Like everyone else we are hoping that we can meet face-to-face again in the not too distant future.

Our future books are: -

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

July: *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce

Wednesday **Book Group**

Lynda Blackstock

The book discussed this month was *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by author Mitch Albom. The author is also well known for his very popular novel *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

Eddie wakes up in heaven, where a succession of five people is waiting to show him the true meaning and value of his life. One by one, these mostly very unexpected characters, remind him of a number of intertwining events that took place throughout his life.

U3A Wednesday book club members presented some lively and thoughtful observations and comments while discussing the book in depth. The general consensus was that it was an easy read and likened to a fable. And, a few will read it again a second or maybe even a third time to revisit and appreciate the words, the phrases and the lessons even more.

Interesting phrases from the book include:

No story sits by itself. Sometimes stories meet at the corners and sometimes they cover one another completely, like stones beneath a river.

... and that is what heaven is for. For understanding your life on earth.

... sacrifice is part of life. Not something to regret but something to aspire to.

... all parents damage their children. It cannot be helped. Youth, like pristine glass, absorbs the prints of its handlers. Some parents smudge, others crack, a few shatter childhoods completely into jagged little pieces beyond repair.

So, who were these five people that Eddie met and what were the lessons that they all provided along the way? I'm happy to lend you the book for an easy read and you'll find the answers!

The Wednesday book group are now looking forward to reading the nominated book for June: *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*. Group meetings are easily conducted online via the ZOOM video conferencing platform. New members are always welcome to join any time.



participants in the Wednesday book group Zoom meeting

Competition details: (see page 6)

- Identify the committee member against the number below the photo.
- Send your answers to the newsletter website u3agbnews@gmail.com no later than the 21st June.
- A prize will be awarded to the first correct entry received.

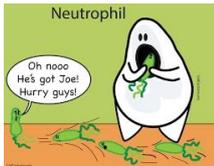
Science 2020

Blood

Fran Tobin

Our first session was held on Thursday 27th February, with interesting questions which led to further discussion.

This session, now rescheduled to July, will cover the heart, the arteries and veins, capillaries and blood groups. Now planned for July.



Hopefully we will be together again soon; awaiting the end of the restrictions.

June Snippets

June 1, 1926 Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962) was born in Los Angeles (as Norma Jean Mortensen).

June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France.

June 7, 1948 French painter Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) was born in Paris.

June 11, 1864 German composer Georg Richard Strauss (1864-1949) was born in Munich.

June 24, 2010 - Labor Party deputy PM Julia Gillard became Australia's first female Prime Minister.

Walking Group

Ria Lome

For the winter months, the walking group has decided to start at **7.30am**, instead of 7.00am. Current restrictions are: no more than 10 people in a group, maintaining social distancing. New walkers are always welcome. If you would like to join the group, contact Ria on 4681 2618 or 0427 348 977

Beethoven - His Life and Music

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

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

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



Art Gallery Update



Despite current events the Stanthorpe Art Prize has steamed ahead.

All entries have been received and the judges have made their selections.

Hundreds of hours of work have been happening behind the closed doors of the Art Gallery.

It is hoped that the building will be open to the public in June and that planned programmes will continue albeit with some restrictions. Watch this space!

A NEW INTREPEATION OF BEING REALLY POOR
How wonderful! I love it



Bought vs Homemade (it doesn't get much cuter than this – note the expression in the picture).

Six-year-old Annie returns home from school and says she had her first family planning session at school.

Her mother, very interested, asks "Oh How did it go?"

"I nearly died of shame!" she answers. "Sam from down the street says the stork brings babies. Sally next door said you can buy babies at the orphanage. Pete in my class says you can buy babies at the hospital!"

Her mother answers laughingly, "But that's no reason to be ashamed."

"No but I can't tell them that we were so poor that you and daddy had to make me yourselves!"

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
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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

Who's who in the zoo? Can you identify the nine committee members when they were five or younger?



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



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