

U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

July 2020 **U3A**



a new dawn



Volume 16 Number 6

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Famous Quotes from Sir Winston Churchill

- I never 'worry' about action, but only about inaction.
- The true guide of life is to do what is right.

Newsletter deadline:

The last date to send in newsletter contributions is the 25th of each month.
u3agbnews@gmail.com

The Learning Centre

Members choosing to attend general meetings, science or discussion groups at the Learning Centre **MUST** contact the group leader **PRIOR** to the activity.

Those who have not registered will be told they are not able to be included.

Editorial

Calvin Winks

At last some good news. My belief, now, is that we can embrace the positives and decide which groups can proceed within the current restrictions so we can progress to a more normal function.

The response from the High School, regarding the use of the Learning Centre, is very positive and I am sure our groups can operate within their requirements and restricting the sessions to one hour.

Groups that usually operate outdoors like the garden and walking groups should be able to proceed as near to normal within the restrictions. Similarly, groups that operate from private homes, like the Genealogy and Ukulele groups, should proceed as usual, maintaining social distancing.

The Wednesday Book group that meets at the RSL will, obviously, need to comply with their requirements.

The science group is set to meet in the Learning Centre on Thursday the 24th of July.

The newsletter is a vehicle to advise across the membership. So, please tell me if there is something you would like to see included.

And another thing.

I was quite disappointed in the poor response to the picture quiz. Committee members went to some trouble to find photos but only a couple of members responded.

The way forward for our U3A

With the easing of restrictions, we can now look forward to the future.

This will depend on continuing good results in Queensland.

Thus, **we must observe the rules** of social distancing, four square metres per person, group number limits and the use of hand sanitiser. **We must also comply with the requirements of the venue.**

There shouldn't be any problem meeting the number limits except for general meetings and particularly the **AGM. For these events it will be a requirement to book in advance** either by email u3agb@granitenet.com or phone.0491 093 157

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, hopefully, in August.

Details of the venue and menu options will be provided in the August Newsletter.

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 I sit writing this report for the newsletter on a chilly Stanthorpe afternoon, I am thinking of what it is like to juggle three balls at the same time and not let any of them fall. The three balls are people. The people in one group think that the Covid-19 restrictions don't really apply to them as they are very healthy and the virus is a minor flu like virus. This group wants to return to all activities as soon as possible. The second group are those who are slightly concerned that the Covid-19 virus is serious but doesn't really impact the Granite Belt as there have not been any known cases on the Granite Belt. The third group are those who have complied with all restrictions, hand washing guidelines and have stayed home as much as possible and are being quite cautious when considering a return to a "normal" way of life.

I can understand the viewpoint of all groups but I lean more to the cautious group as I am aware that the cohort that is U3A are in the most vulnerable group in society and the consequences of not complying with all restrictions and guidelines could be drastic for some members. Therefore, there are some concerns relating to the safety of members that MUST be considered before we can resume activities.

ALL activities must consider the space requirements relating to maintaining physical distancing, that is 1.5 metres between people, allowing a minimum of four-square metres per person indoors and limiting the length of groups to one hour and complying with each venue's requirements. That would include using hand sanitizer on entry to the venue. **ALL** U3A activities are included. Members who attend outdoor activities e.g. Walking Group and Garden Group are also required to maintain the physical distancing recommendations.

Activities held at the Learning Centre

As there can be no more than 20 people in the Learning Centre, members who are intending to attend science, general meetings or discussion groups at the Learning Centre will have to contact the group leader **PRIOR** to the activity. If there are 20 people in the room, those who have not responded to the RSVP will be told they are not able to be in the activity, this will include the general meeting. If you would like to have morning tea prior to the general meeting, please bring your own. This includes cups etc.

Members will be asked to sign into the attendance book as usual and include their phone number.

I understand that there are risks for everyone when we return to activities but if everyone follows the guidelines, then members will remain safe and healthy

Julie Barnes

Garden Group

Leon McCosker

There has not been a Garden Group outing since March due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, with relaxed rules we welcome members back on Wednesday 15th July. Meeting at McCosker's, 335 Amosfield Rd at 10.00 am.

Morwenna Harslett will talk about the plants that survive drought conditions in our area.

If the weather conditions are unsuitable for outdoors the event will be cancelled. Please contact Kerrie on 4681 1737 or 0488 732 638, Elaine – 0410 016 620 or Denise – 4683 3168 if you have any queries.

Answers for the 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 two 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

2	1x2
3	8-5
6	3+3
9	36÷4
32	44 - 12

Genealogy

Roxane Scott

Our first meeting was at the beginning of June.

While it was a cool day it was a warm welcome to all as we had a chance to catchup on our family story and the finds of the past few months.

A couple of members had been rewarded with answers to significant family mysteries which was just great! Many of the group spent some of the isolation time searching for information and their family history.

We will be meeting again Thursday the 6th of July at The Summit at 2:00pm.

If you are interested please contact me and come along. New members with new mysteries!!

Tuesday Book Group

Fran Tobin

For the first time in months we met face to face, but we maintained social distancing. The first 30 or so minutes was taken up with catching up, and only after that, did we discuss our book.

Our book for June was *The Birdman's Wife* by Melissa Ashley, which told the story of Elizabeth (Eliza) Gould, wife of John Gould, from 1828 to 1841.

When the author was researching for this book, all she had were a few of Elizabeth's letters and an eight-page diary which contained Elizabeth's impressions of her time in Sydney, Newcastle and Maitland. This treasure was filed under her husband's name, John Gould. Her fame and ability were little known and appreciated.

The majority of the group enjoyed this book. Although much of what was written was fictional, we learnt quite a lot. Elizabeth accompanied her husband on a two-year trip to Australia. Elizabeth was the artist, painting the birds her husband wanted for his books of birds. Looking at examples of her work we were impressed at how talented she was.

During her married life she met some other interesting people. Edward Lear, a talented painter and naturalist and Lady Franklin, wife of the Governor of Tasmania, Sir John Franklin.

Charles Darwin was also known to them, and Elizabeth drew the famous finches of the Galapagos for him. (These were an important feature in the development of Darwin's Theory of Evolution.)

It appears that Eliza was a talented painter of birds, and, without her inputs John would not have enjoyed the level of success that he did. However, she was not credited for it. Some thought that her husband manipulated her. Certainly, in the published *Birds of Australia* she was responsible for most of the paintings which bore his initials, and of the few acknowledged as Elizabeth's work, his initial always came first. From a 21st Century perspective we all felt for Eliza, and her lack of acknowledgement.

She died at the young age of 38, in childbirth from puerperal fever.

Our titles for the next 2 months are: -

- July. *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*
by Rachel Jacobs,
- August. *The Diamond Hunter*
by Fiona McIntosh.

Ponderisms

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Wednesday Book Group

Lynette Haselgrove

Book for discussion *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* by Holly Ringland

We again held a virtual book group meeting via Zoom and again needed an extension of the time allotted to thoroughly discuss the book.

This book follows the life of an Australian girl from the age of nine, when tragedy changes her life forever. She is sent to live on a native flower farm with the grandmother she has never known. Alice finds that the language of the flowers helps when emotions are too difficult to express in words. For example, "*The Sturt's desert peas mean "have courage, take heart"; the desert heath-myrtle is "flame, I burn"; the Cootamundra wattle means "wound I heal", honey grevillea is "foresight" and bat's wing coral tree is a "cure for heartache".*"

The story takes Alice from the coast to the inland to the Red Centre and back, with discoveries about herself and her family all along the way. Alice and her family experience hidden secrets, betrayal and abuse through generations and we wait to see if Alice can break from this unhappy tradition and make her own life story.

Each chapter begins with the meaning and description of an Australian native flower and learning about the native flowers became an important part of Alice's healing. Some of us enjoyed that touch while others were not so enamoured.

We appreciated the descriptions of the red heart of Australia and the importance of the Sturt's desert pea to aboriginal women. The ignorance of tourists was also a theme. We felt this book was very well written and that the author's skilful choice of words enabled us to picture the characters and places easily although they were many and varied. Some in our group felt there was a bit too much symbolism.

Next Book Group will be on Wednesday 1st July at 10.00am.

Book for discussion is *The Chinese Maze Murders* by Robert van Gulik

Deutsch/German

Irene Grevis-James

Ian and I will be away camping in the WARMER North until early September.

Guten Tag alle in der Deutschgruppe. Still no classes, but again plenty of DIY work to do if you want it! Do let me know how you manage(enjoy?) it over the coming months. An SMS is always welcome.

Alles Gute & Grüße,

Irene

Mobile phones can bring you close to those who are far away but it can also take you away from those sitting near you.

Art Gallery Update

Esme Hobba



One of Lorraine Moll's "Cloudland" paintings

With not much fanfare but a lot of in-service required by the SDRC re cleaning, distancing and self-responsibility, volunteers have returned to the Art Gallery and people are visiting and saying how pleased they are that things are returning to normal.

From 25th June 2020 you will be able to see Lorraine Moll's "Cloudland" Exhibition, along with complementary paintings and sculptures from the SRAG collection. The Opening Night will be 6:00pm Saturday 11th July. Lorraine will give an Artist's Talk on 12th July from 10:30 -11:30 am.

School holiday workshops for children are on offer and a professional development lecture on How to Hang an Exhibition will be on 13th July. Be sure to book ahead.

Ukulele Group

Heather Kent

Why should you learn to play a ukulele?

- This unpretentious and un-intimidating little instrument has only four strings and you don't need to be able to read sheet music.
- It's impossible to be sad while strumming the ukulele—the sound is so sunny and joyful that you will find yourself smiling after the first few strums.
- It's a great way for many people who have never had the opportunity to play a musical instrument or sing to get involved in creating music.
- The value is not only for those who are playing and singing but in leading others to enjoy making music together as they sing along too.
- Empower your brain. The power of music in people's lives is only just being discovered, and it is likely that there will be many more values yet to be known. One thing known is that it is the last part of the brain to die. That is why people with dementia, trauma, emotional problems, etc. respond to music when all else fails.

Learn to play a uke - you'll brighten your day. Ukes are fun and there's not enough of that in the world.

U3A Ukulele group meets on Mondays at 2pm at 2/91 Rich Street.

U3A has two ukuleles available for beginners to borrow and beginner individual support is available by arrangement.

Heather Kent 0448800491

Science 2020

Blood

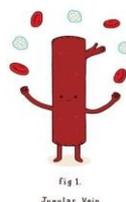
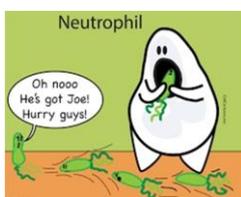
Fran Tobin

It will be wonderful to be together again when we meet on the 23rd June at the Learning Centre where we will discuss unit two of our topic "Blood".

We will look at the circulation of blood, and of lymph. This topic includes the structure of the heart and blood vessels.

The notes will be sent to you before the session. Stay well, and see you soon.

Fran.



U3A GB AGM

The management committee is keen to conduct the overdue AGM. The Office of Fair Trading has allowed a six months delay.

A suitable venue is being explored with planning for late August.

Details should be available in the August newsletter.

July Snippets

July 4, 1826 - Song writer Stephen Foster (1826-1864) was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania.

July 6, 1885 - Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog.

July 12, 1730 - British pottery designer Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795) was born in Burslem, Staffordshire, England.

July 18, 1918 - Nelson Mandela was born the son of a Tembu tribal chieftain at Qunu, near Umtata, in South Africa

July 30, 1863 Automotive pioneer Henry Ford (1863-1947) was born in Dearborn Township, Michigan.

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
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Heritage Bank
 BSB 638070
 Account Number: 13712268
 (S21) Heritage Members only

Groups

Venue

Contact/s

Book Group:	Tue	Courtney's residence	Mary	4683 7103
Book Group:	Wed	Julie Barnes' residence	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		on hold	Irene	0437 373 929
History Group		Advised each meeting	Kerrie	4681 1737
			Mary	4683 7103
			Lynette	4683 7255
Jonola		on hold	Dot	4681 1334
Mahjong		on hold	Carol	4681 3495
Mosaics		Pete's shed at Margy's Place	Margy	4681 0102
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	Learning Centre, McGlew St	Julie	4683 2823 or 0417 074 520 or Fran	4684 1253 or ftobin1941@gmail.com .
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All activities subject to Covid-19 conditions and restrictions

Find contact details on page 5.

*Please bring a plate to share

Other information about events is included in articles on page 1 or the group reports

Monday		6 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	13 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	20 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	27 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold
Tuesday		7 Book Group 10:00am	14 German on hold	21 German on hold	28 German on hold
Wednesday	1 Walking Group 7:30am Book Group 10:00am	8 Walking Group 7:30am French On hold	15 Walking Group 7:30am Garden Group* 10:00am	22 Walking Group 7:30am	29 Walking Group 7:30am
Thursday	2 Genealogy 2:00pm	9 Science cancelled	16 General meting 10:00am RSVP by the 14th July to 0491 093 157 or u3agb@granitenet.com.au	23 Science 10:30am	30
Friday	3 Walking Group 7:30am	10 Walking Group 7:30am	17 Walking Group 7:30am	24 Walking Group 7:30am	31 Walking Group 7:30am



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