

U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

September 2020 **U3A**



The beauty of spring!



Volume 16 Number 8

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Famous Quotes from Sir Winston Churchill

- To improve is to change, so to be perfect is to have changed often.
- You must look at facts, because they look at you.

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 advised they are not able to be included.

Editorial

Calvin Winks

A new day, a new season, a new management committee and new hope.

Unfortunately, the pandemic still dominates the headlines but, thankfully, no cases have been recorded in our region.

For our group, emphasis must remain on meeting all the restrictions so we can continue to function in a safe way.

We now have a new group activity the Hypothetical Discussion Group which adds another dimension to our activities.

We are fortunate that members continue to offer to lead new groups. And in that hope, we must not forget the many excellent courses available to us at minimal cost from U3A Online.

We have accessed these courses before and found them very relevant, particularly to the Science Group. They are mostly written by renown authors and the top authorities in the field. It is possible to view the courses on offer by using our user name and password.

www.u3aonline.org.au/courses
As I have said before, I like the challenge of learning new skills and the newsletter has been very rewarding in that respect. I have indicated that I am prepared to continue until the 2021 AGM. So, time to consider taking over after the February edition.

Coming in 2021

U3A Network Conference.

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.

We all need to get behind this special event for our U3A to make sure it is a success and something of which we can all be proud.

The Conference sub-committee has commenced planning for the event. Let's hope it is able to proceed!

New course in September

Hypothetical Discussion Group.

Thursday 3rd September

The idea of a hypothetical question is to discuss the possibility that history could have turned out differently if "counterfactuals" are considered.

The topic for discussion in September is: *What if Paul's journey on the road to Damascus had passed without incident? Would Christianity have become a global faith*

See details on page 4

Contact Steve or Julie to obtain the notes.

September snippet

September 14, 1741 - Composer George Frederick Handel finished *Messiah* after working on it nonstop for 23 days.

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Reports

**U3A Network Conference 21 Report
The Coolest Conference in the State.**

The aims of the conference are to nurture the minds, bodies and souls of delegates.

Our U3A GB Conference planning committee has been meeting to organise a venue, suggest a program and brainstorm ideas for funding. The dreaded COVID19 has caused some forward thinking and the group are trying to answer questions that, at this point in time are, in all honesty, are impossible to answer.

The conference will begin on Tuesday 11th May with a bus tour of the Granite Belt that has been designed to provide delegates a taste of the Granite Belt. Visits to the Cheese Factory, Suttons, wineries and, if, there is time, the brewery.

The two-day conference will begin on Wednesday 12th May at 9.00am and will feature a variety of talks and opportunities to meet with members of U3A groups from around the state. A conference dinner is planned for the Wednesday night. The Thursday will begin with a walk through the parkland along Quart Pot Creek for some delegates and for others, the opportunity to listen to a group of speakers discuss a variety of topics. Other speakers will follow – their names are yet to be finalised.

The committee has decided to organise the conference as if the physical distancing rules apply. This limits our choice of venues.

The committee will be asking for help from members closer to the time of the conference.

Julie Barnes

Why?
If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?
Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

Anagrams

- DORMITORY: Dirty room
- THE MORSE CODE: Here come dots
- THE EYES: They see
- DESPERATION: A rope ends it
- ASTRONOMER: Moon Starer
- THE EARTHQUAKES: That queer shake
- A DECIMAL POINT: I'm a dot in place
- SNOOZE ALARMS: Alas! No more Z's
- ELECTION RESULTS: Lies – let's recount
- SLOT MACHINES: Cash lost in me

Garden Group Report

Leon McCosker

U3A Garden Group met at the Stanthorpe Whistle Stop Garden to learn how to propagate cuttings from various shrubs.

Carol Parkinson showed us how to make the potting medium using equal parts of a cheap potting mix (there are no fertilizers in the mix), coco peat and vermiculite. This is thoroughly mixed together and put into the small propagating pots.

Liz Look demonstrated how to take the small cuttings by removing the required branch from the plant, trimming the end and making a small hole in the moist potting mix, placing the cutting in and firming around. Some varieties perform better by dipping in a hormone rooting powder before putting in the pot.

Liz talked about how she had mixed a small amount of honey in water and placed rose cutting in the solution for a week and then planted them out with success.

Members then practiced potting up cuttings they had brought along, under the supervision of Carol and Liz. We all learned valuable tips on how to propagate cuttings on our own.

Next U3A Garden Group outing on Wednesday 16th September will be a visit to Esme and Adrian Hobba's property, 10 Banksia Lane Greenlands, to see how they have implemented their *Hazard Reduction Program*. Jayne Hobba will conduct a wildflower walk for those wishing to come along.

Esme and Adrian are offering to make *Pizzas* for lunch if members would bring along their own toppings. Esme would like to know the number of members who will stay for lunch, contact Kerrie, Elaine or Denise.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.30 am to travel out together.



Garden group enjoying the session at the Whistle Stop garden

Tuesday **Book Group** August Fran Tobin

The Diamond Hunter by Fiona McIntosh.

This story was written in three parts, and was about the life of Clementine Knight.

Part one was based in South Africa, where six-year-old Clementine’s parents were searching for diamonds. Clem’s mother died from TB, and her father turned to drink. His fellow diamond hunter was a Zulu man, known as Joseph One-Shoe. He became a friend and mentor to the young Clementine. When her father died in mysterious circumstances her Uncle Reggie took Clementine back to England.

In Part two we follow the young woman Clementine in her life as an adult in England. She is independently rich, and certainly outspoken on many issues of the times. She also meets a young man who is in love with her. Although she intimidates many of her contemporaries, Will Axford does challenge her on important issues.

In Part three we return to South Africa, and the mining town of her childhood. Clementine has to face some unpleasant truths about her Uncle Reggie’s dishonesty. She meets Joseph One-Shoe, Zenzele in Zulu, and together they untangle the problems in Clem’s life. It seems to be a “happy ever after” ending.

The group enjoyed the book, some members more than others. We agreed that Clementine was mainly a likeable character, but also agreed that she had some unlovely characteristics. Uncle Reggie was the least likeable of the main characters, with Zenzele the favorite for us.

We also agreed that Part one was the most interesting part of the book, because it rang so true. This, we discovered in the Appendix, was because the author grew up in a mining camp in Africa, and had African friends. The family had hired a 22-year-old African man, Adongo, to help run the family as her father was busy in the mines. In the novel the relationship between Clementine and Zenzele was based on the warm relationship the author had with Adongo.

Our group agreed that it was an easy read, and an enjoyable one.

Future titles:

September: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

October: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

November: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

Wednesday **Book Group** Julie Barnes

The Nowhere Child by Christian White

This is a book of intrigue that takes the reader from present day Coburg to Kentucky in the 1990’s and back and forth from the main character’s childhood to the present time.

Kimberly Leamy is a photography teacher in Melbourne, Australia. Twenty-six years earlier, Sammy Went, a two-year old girl vanished from her home in Manson, Kentucky. An American accountant who contacts Kim is convinced she was that child, kidnapped just after her second birthday. Kim cannot believe the woman who raised her, a loving social worker, who died of cancer four years ago, crossed international lines to steal a toddler.

To begin, it's a rainy Melbourne evening, as Kim drives her Subaru through Coburg. Soon enough, her quest takes her to Kentucky, where she sees the life that Sammy Went was born into, and a family that makes Kim's Australian family seem uncomplicated. Sammy's mother belongs to the Church of the Light Within, an evangelical church where rattle snakes play a vital role in the service.

To solve the mystery of her abduction, Kim is taken on a journey or a mystery that will take her deep into the dark heart of religious fanaticism, where she must fight for her life against those determined to save her soul but sacrifice her life.

The book lead to some interesting discussions and disclosures from members about their family relationships in their respective families and the secrets that many people take to their grave were shared - some of these secrets are assumptions based on inconclusive evidence!!

The next book group is **Wednesday 2nd September at 10.00am** at Julie’s.

If you would like to join us, please contact Julie on 0417 074 520

The book for discussion is *Totto-chan The Little Girl at the Window* by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi

Deutsch/German Irene Grevis-James

DE DEUTSCH-GERMAN. AU

We’ve had a good start to our lessons since early August- some happy and, I hope, worthwhile sessions!

There are currently two groups, each meeting fortnightly: (1) Mixed ability, with Reading, Writing, Conversation & Songs. (2) Conversation only, hoping this will continue. If YOU know of any reasonably fluent German speakers, please let me have their details.

So, at present, we meet every TUESDAY, 10.00am, but please let me know if you would like to join us.

Alles Gute and Grüße, Irene.

Art Gallery Update

Esme Hobba



Silk & Steel by artists Maria Mastro & Gabriele Trabucco continues until mid-September. An exciting exhibition which brings together the juxtaposed mediums of silk and steel: The beauty and exquisite gowns opposed with the harshness and creativity of metal sculpture. These works provoke and inform the viewer of their own life experiences, personal beliefs and values.

Maria Mastro, on 4 September 2020, from 4:30 – 6:00 pm, will talk about her creative endeavours, finishing with a demonstration of bobbin lace-making. Please RSVP admin@srag.org.au or 4681 1874

History Hypothetical Discussion Group.

Steve Courtney

Thursday 3rd September

The idea of a hypothetical question is to discuss the possibility that history could have turned out differently if “counterfactuals” are considered.

A small but lively group met to discuss Cleopatra and her life and the Egyptian influence on Roman art and architecture and other topics that may not have been related to the topic actually on discussion!! As usual, the discussion took members down some interesting paths with twists and turns that meandered in all directions.

The Discussion Group could not decide whether the length of Cleopatra’s nose had influenced history in any way. The group did conclude that Cleopatra was an amazing woman of intrigue and a force to be reckoned with!!

The topic for discussion in September is:

What if Paul’s journey on the road to Damascus had passed without incident? Would Christianity have become a global faith without St Paul? How crucial was his experience on the road to Damascus to his future impact on religion and world events?

During this discussion. The group will need to consider the question from a human point of view.

Contact Steve at thecourtneys@activ8.net.au or 0410 094 506

or Julie at barn.ju@icloud.com or 0417 074 520 to obtain the notes.

Science 2020

Blood

Fran Tobin

At one of our recent sessions we discussed the heart and circulation. So, at the following session we examined a pig’s heart.

The heart was donated by Raymond Palmer, who is Kathy Williams’s son-in-law. Julie acted as go-between, taking delivery of the heart and keeping it refrigerated until we used it.

We examined it prior to dissection. Everyone was able to tell the front of the heart from the back, and also feel the difference in musculature between the right (“soft”) and left (“firm”) ventricle.

Everyone also had the opportunity to feel the difference in musculature between an artery (the aorta) and a vein (vena cava).

Then the heart was cut open and we examined the valves and the *chordae tendineae*. (These are tendon-like fibres which are attached to the heart muscle, and to each of the mitral and tricuspid valves.)

We enjoyed this session, and it’s with thanks to Raymond, Kathy and Julie.

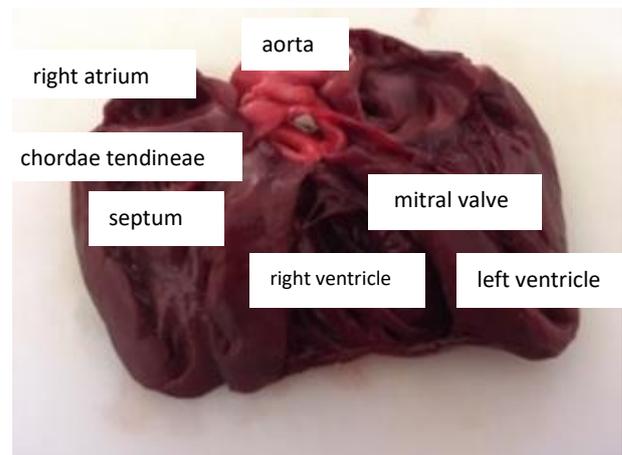
Ukulele Group

Heather Kent

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 0448 800 491



The pig’s heart dissected by Fran

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:	John Smales	0414 505 448
Vice-President:	Steve Courtney	4683 7103
Secretary:	Lynda Blackstock	0421 327 377
Treasurer:	Marg Thomson	4685 2928
Minutes Sec:	Julie Barnes	4683 2823 or 0417 074 520
Committee Members:		
	Esme Hobba	4683 3324
	Leon McCosker	4681 1737
	Lesley Kirmsse	0488 787 905
	Elaine Winks	0410 016 620
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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		Mary-Jane's residence	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
			John	0414 505 448
German		contact Irene	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		on hold	Margy	4681 0102
Movies		Advised each outing	Ria	4681 2618
Ukulele		Heather Kent's home	Heather	0448 800 491
Walking Group		Commonwealth Bank, 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 .
History Hypotheticals		Learning Centre, McGlew St	Steve Courtney	4683 7103 or
			Julie	4683 2823

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		7 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	14 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	21 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	28 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold
Tuesday	1 Book Group 10:00am German Contact Irene 10:00am	8 German Contact Irene 10:00am	15 German Contact Irene 10:00am	22 German Contact Irene 10:00am	29 German Contact Irene 10:00am
Wednesday	2 Walking Group 7:30am Book Group 10:00am French 10:00am	9 Walking Group 7:30am	16 Walking Group 7:30am Garden Group* 10:00am French 10:00am	23 Walking Group 7:30am	30 Walking Group 7:30am
Thursday	3 History Hypotheticals Group 10:00am Genealogy 2:00pm	10 Science 10:30am	17	24 Science 10:30am	
Friday	4 Walking Group 7:30am	11 Walking Group 7:30am	18 Walking Group 7:30am	25 Walking Group 7:30am	



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