

# U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

## November 2020 **U3A**



Volume 16 Number 10



Nature's beauty

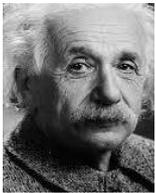
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### *Quotes by famous people*



"A Mirror is my best friend, because when I cry it never laughs"  
*Charlie Chaplin*



"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value"  
*Albert Einstein*



"I never lose, I either win or learn"  
*Nelson Mandela*

### Newsletter deadline:

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

[u3agbnews@gmail.com](mailto:u3agbnews@gmail.com)

### *Editorial*

Calvin Winks

One of Stanthorpe's special features is the magnificent parkland adjacent to the Quart Pot Creek. I am sure this appeals greatly to visitors and engenders a liking for the town and district.

Elaine and I regularly enjoy coffee at the Information Centre and like sitting outside to admire the parkland and the wild life (waterbirds and water dragons).

As I remember, the development of the Creek commenced in the late 1960s. It was an initiative of the Stanthorpe Shire Council, when Cr. Fred Rogers was mayor. Two other people were actively involved with the development, the shire clerk Rowley Edwards and the development officer Ted Fitzgerald. The engineer at the time was Bill Riley, so I imagine he had a significant role in planning and construction.

Thanks to the work of Rowley Edwards, the scheme was funded by two of the unemployment funds from the Australian Government. And this was back in a time when projects such as this had a seemingly easier passage through the bureaucracy.

Another special facility in the area is *The Stanthorpe Information Centre*, opened in 1998.

### *Coming in 2021*

#### Conference 2021

The U3A Network Conference will be held at the International Club in May next year.

The organising sub-committee has applied for support funding through various sources. We can only hope one of the sources will provide some of the initial funds, required to start the process.

Please consider the option of "billeting" one or two of the delegates to assist them to attend the conference. It would be a great opportunity to meet members of U3A from other areas of Queensland. Interested? Please contact Julie on 0417 074 520.

The photographers in U3As throughout Queensland can share their skills by entering the Coolest Photography Competition in the state. The theme is *Mother Nature* and the competition entry will be from end of January 2021 until 31st March 21. Entries will be limited to three per person and there could be an entry fee. More details will be available in the December Newsletter.

### *Coming Next Month*

To celebrate the end of the U3A GB year, it is planned to hold a get together on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Details will be advised via email with the important items of cost, start time and venue location, by mid November.

Cheerfulness is the best promoter of health and is as friendly to the mind as to the body.  
Friendship wraps itself around the heart like a warm blanket of care.

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**Reports**

**President’s Report**

John Smales

Greetings to you, one and all.

At our last General Meeting I spoke about our members or potential members with disabilities or impairments and how well we provide for them. As we move through our third age, issues with mobility and impairments, both physical and mental, become a fact of life for many people and we need to be prepared to make allowances for these members.

U3A has a policy on ‘Access for People with Impairments or Disabilities’ which is published on our webpage for those of you who wish to be up to date with the laws and procedures involved. The Anti-Discrimination Act aims to protect people from unfair discrimination both direct and indirect and provides a means to bring a complaint and have it resolved. The Act prohibits discrimination in areas which may apply to U3A such as education, goods and services and club membership and affairs.

The policy is intended to encourage understanding of the obligations of U3A personnel under the Act which requires the equal treatment of all potential members of U3A regardless of age, impairment or attributes such as sex, race, religion or individual circumstances.

U3A aims to provide an accepting, caring, friendly, inclusive, safe and comfortable environment for all members, in which every person will be treated without bias or prejudice and where every endeavor will be made to accommodate those with impairments or special needs.

These are some excerpts from the full policy that I recommend at least the Management Committee, Office holders, Tutors and Group Leaders read to familiarize themselves with their responsibilities under the policy and the Act. Please consider whether your activities and venues comply with these requirements and, if not, what you can do to make them compliant.

I also suggest all members take the time to read this U3A policy so everyone is on the same page.

By all reports, my first general meeting as President went well, however, I like to be open to new ideas so, if anyone has *constructive suggestions* please feel free to make them.

A date for a Christmas Party has been made and it is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020. Please put this date in your diary and more information will be forthcoming in November.

Remember that you will never be younger than you are today, so take care of yourselves and see you around the traps.

*John Smales*

**Garden Group Report**

Leon McCosker

For its October activity U3A Garden Group visited Annette Russell’s rose garden “Montview” at Killarney.

Annette left Charleville looking for a property halfway between Tenterfield and Brisbane and found this block in Killarney with a northerly aspect overlooking the picturesque Killarney valley.

Garden beds were formed and deep ripped by Seb Puglisi.

Annette has since planted over 300 roses including David Austin roses, floribundas, hybrid teas and old English and French roses dating back to the 1800s. Most of the roses are named with the year of origin. Amongst the roses, Annette has planted salvias, penstemons, statices, calibrachos to give a vibrant show of colour.

After visiting Montview we enjoyed lunch in Canning Park in Killarney.

Next Garden Group outing will be a visit to Joe and Josie Spina’s garden, 36 Mandelkow Road The Summit, on Wednesday 18th November. (To be confirmed)



left  
Annette in her garden  
“Mountview” at Killarney

below  
A snapshot of her garden  
both looking over the  
Killarney valley.



**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.

Tuesday **Book Group**

Fran Tobin

October's book was "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

This novel was enjoyed by all members of our Tuesday group.

It is a novel based in the marshlands of Carolina, USA. It has three main strands. One is an appreciation of marshlands and their life. The second is a life story of a young girl, Kya, also known as the "Marsh Girl". The third is a murder mystery. These strands are interwoven throughout the book, and they all converge and reach a satisfactory conclusion.

The author is a wildlife scientist, and her love of the natural world shines through the novel. The reader was introduced to the wonders of the marsh.

The opening sentences set the scene for our appreciation of the marsh.

*Marsh is not swamp. Marsh is a space of light, where grass grows in water and water flows into the sky. Slow-moving creeks wander, carrying the orb of the sun with them to the sea, and the long-legged birds lift with unexpected grace—as though not built to fly—against the roar of a thousand snow geese.*

Kya Clark is the Marsh Girl. Because of her dysfunctional family she was left alone at the tender age of 10 to cope. The family had lived in the marsh, and that is where she stayed. She managed to survive with the help of an old African American couple, Jumpin and his wife, who ran the local *Gas and Bait*. Kya was shunned by the white townspeople, who regarded her as "white trash", but her love and understanding of the marsh and its life gave her the will to carry on.

As she grew, she yearned for company from other people. Two young men of the town were intrigued with her mystery and her wild beauty. One, Tate, was as keen a naturalist as Kya was. He taught her to read, and together they would identify many of the marsh creatures. The other, Chase, was the town's football hero, and also the town's Lothario. When Chase was found dead Kya became the main suspect.

This novel has received many positive reviews, and we at the book club could see why.

Our November book is "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles.

Wednesday **Book Group**

Julie Barnes

Wednesday Book Group will meet at Laura's home on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am. The discussion topic is any book written by Jodie Piccolt. For more information contact Julie on 0417 074 520 or [barn.ju@icloud.com](mailto:barn.ju@icloud.com).

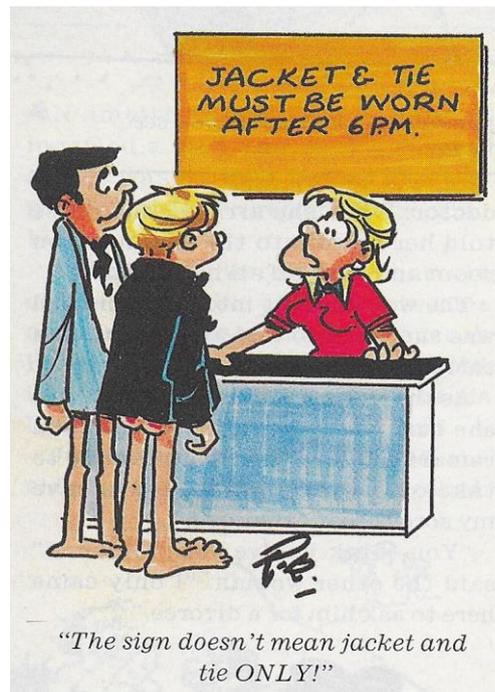
**It's Your Newsletter**

As much as I enjoy assembling the newsletter, with the opportunity to include humour and other interesting pieces (at least to me), remember, it is your newsletter and can only reflect the interest of members and the various groups if you contribute reports, planned activities and group needs.

To me this is the best way to inform the wider membership who might not be involved in these groups. A good example is the History Hypotheticals which seems to be attracting more members in response to reports in the newsletter

More contribution may result in a packed edition but a good challenge to have

*Calvin.*



**Deutsch/German**

Irene Grevis-James

DEUTSCH. DE & AU

Willkommen zurück in die Deutschklasse! Hast DU etwas in diesen Monaten gelernt? Wir wollen immer alles üben(=practise): Hören, Sprechen, Schreiben, Lesen. In diesen Wochen haben wir auch meistens(= mostly) ein Lied. Hoffentlich ist das eine Freude für Euch alle?

NB: Täglich, auf TV/SBS „Deutsche Welle“; früh um 5.30am, und 10.30am

Viel Spaß & Grüße, Irene GJ

Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.

Mosaics Group Report

Julie Barnes



The Mosaics Group will begin to operate officially again in November. Some members of the group have been meeting regularly to complete the coasters that have been made as a memento of the 2021 U3A Network Conference. The group will meet on the **10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November** from 9.00am Queensland time.

The Group would like to send a huge thank-you to Southern Downs Regional Council for the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grant that has enabled the group to develop their skills in the art of mosaics. The weekend workshop would not have been possible without the support of the Council.

When the group begins to operate officially, the numbers at will be limited to eight so the COVID19 physical distancing requirements can be maintained.

As the group numbers for Mosaics will be limited indefinitely, all U3A members who wish to enjoy the art of mosaics please contact Margy on 0459 513 852 **prior to the day. This includes all current members of the Mosaics Group.**

The last day the group will meet for 2020 is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. The group will re-convene on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

**November snippets**

**November 4, 1890** - The first electrified underground railway system was officially opened in London.

**November 14, 1840** - French painter Claude Monet (1840-1926) was born in Paris.

**November 17, 1869** - The Suez Canal was formally opened after more than 10 years of construction.

**Art Gallery Update**

Esme Hobba



A treat is in store for visitors to the Art Gallery this month. Rob Allen and Adrian Ashman bring us **“Imagined Boundaries”** – paintings and photographs of our very own region within a 50 km radius of Stanthorpe.

See if you can recognise these lovely places!

And a reminder to visit artists on the Art Trail 30 October to 1 November, where our community displays its unique, wonderful abundance of creative talent.

**SCIENCE: BLOOD**

Fran Tobin

October saw us studying our last two units in our study of blood. We had our first unit in February, and then COVID struck, so we didn't meet again until late July. Consequently, our eight-unit course spread over most of 2020.

We covered the structure and functions of blood way back in February, and that was all. When we were together again, we learnt about the structure and functions of the circulatory system; blood diseases; blood groups, including the Rh factor; blood transfusions; code red; use of leeches; rituals associated with blood; and we dissected a pig's heart.

Our group was always involved with each unit, with plenty of comments and questions, which contribute to interesting discussions. So, thank you to the participants.

**History Hypotheticals**

Steve Courtney

After the postponement of the October activity, the focus on history hypotheticals for the November session is Alfred the Great, arguably the first King of all England. Come along and add your comments.

Our **Mahjong activity group** came to an abrupt halt with the state government's social distancing restrictions. Please note that this activity will recommence once the 1.5 metre guidelines are reversed.

To keep the mahjong brain in gear, don't forget the many online versions available free of charge. You may like to try out the website: [www.mahjong-game.com](http://www.mahjong-game.com)

Their mahjong offerings are varied, advertisement free and easily played online. For those suffering mahjong impatience, why not give it a try?

## 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
Newsletter Ed.	Calvin Winks	0429 056 797 or
:		<a href="mailto:u3agbnews@gmail.com">u3agbnews@gmail.com</a>
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### Bank Account

Heritage Bank  
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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
3495Mosaics		see new requirements	Margy	4681 0102
Movies		Advised each outing	Ria	4681 2618
Ukulele		Heather Kent's home	Heather	0448 800 491
Walking Group		National Bank, Maryland St	Ria	4681 2618 or 0427 349 977

### Courses

History Hypotheticals	Learning Centre, McGlew St	Steve Courtney 4683 7103 or
		Julie 4683 2823

**All activities subject to current Covid-19 conditions and restrictions**

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.  
 If you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain.  
 All those who believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.

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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>2</b> Walking Group 6:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm	<b>9</b> Walking Group 6:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm	<b>16</b> Walking Group 6:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm	<b>23</b> Walking Group 6:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm	<b>30</b> Walking Group 6:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3</b> Book Group 10:00am German Contact Irene 10:00am	<b>10</b> Mosaics 9:00am	<b>17</b> German Contact Irene 10:00am	<b>24</b> Mosaics 9:00am	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>4</b> Walking Group 6:30am Book Group 10:00am French 10:00am	<b>11</b> Walking Group 6:30am	<b>18</b> Walking Group 6:30am Garden Group* 10:00am	<b>25</b> Walking Group 6:30am	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5</b> History Hypotheticals Group 10:00am Genealogy 2:00pm	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b> General Meeting 10:00am	<b>26</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6</b> Walking Group 6:30am	<b>13</b> Walking Group 6:30am	<b>20</b> Walking Group 6:30am	<b>27</b> Walking Group 6:30am	



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