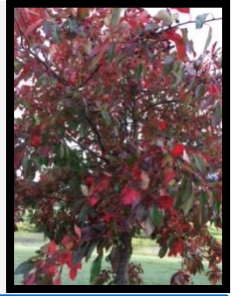




U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

September 2018



Volume 14 Number 8

August Contents:

Editorial	p1
Coming in September	p1
Down the Track	p2
August Reports	p2
September reminders	p4
Contact details	p5
Calendar	p6

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane and going the wrong way.



Newsletter deadline:

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

Editorial

Helen Miller

During August, John and I took a road trip, but we did not forget the U3A. While I read 'Prodigal Summer' for the book club, John was faithful to the walking group and visited this lookout on Mt Walker near Hughenden.



Coming in September

Guest Speaker

Christine Taylor, a librarian with Southern Downs Library Services, will be guest speaker at the General Meeting on 20th September.

Christine will talk to the group about the digital services and training the library provides.

My Health Record

By the end of 2018 every Australian will have a digital My Health Record, unless they actively choose not to. My Health Record is an online summary of your health information. You control what goes into your record, and who has access.

A FREE information session to learn about the benefits of My Health Record will be presented by the Darling Downs and West Moreton Primary Health Network on Monday 17th September at 10:30am in the Stanthorpe Civic Centre, Lock St.

Don't miss this opportunity to find out all you need to know about My Health Record.

Their Help Line is 1800 723 471.



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Down the Track

U3A Bus Trip: Expressions of Interest are called for a bus trip to Brisbane on Tuesday 16th October. See page 3 for details.

Christmas Lunch: Our Christmas get together will be lunch on Thursday 6th December at Golden Grove Winery.

The Book of Mormon: U3A are hoping to organise a bus trip to QPAC Brisbane to see the musical comedy 'The Book of Mormon'. See more in the President's report.

August Reports

President's Report

Julie Barnes

The Seniors Week Lifestyle and Leisure EXPO was a huge success if measured in terms of networking and information sharing. Several people asked questions about U3A and our role in the community and the benefits to members.

Christine Taylor, a librarian with Southern Downs Library Services, will talk at the September General Meeting about the digital services and training the library provides. Some of the digital services the library provides are free online access to language courses and access to magazines. Come to the meeting on 20th September to hear more!!

While we are speaking of the library, have you voted on your preferred option for the new library building?

'The Book of Mormon' is a musical comedy that follows two Mormon missionaries as they attempt to share their scriptures with the inhabitants of a remote Ugandan village. The earnest young men are challenged by the lack of interest of the locals, who are preoccupied with more pressing troubles such as AIDS, famine, and oppression from the local warlord.

U3A are hoping to organise a bus trip to QPAC Brisbane sometime after March 2019 – this is when the musical begins in Brisbane. Please contact Julie as soon as possible on 4683 2823 or barn.ju@icloud.com if you are interested in attending. Please also let me know if you would prefer an evening or matinee performance. If you have already given me your name, I have included these names on the list of interested members.

Have you ever wanted to learn to play bowls or just test your bowls skills? The Stanthorpe Bowls Club organises social bowls on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12:00pm. You don't need to be a member of the club to play. You will be able to play six times before you join the club. Interested?

Contact John Cooke 0447 016 732 if you are interested. If you live in town and need transport, John would be happy to organise transport for you.

Ukelele Group

Linda Hodson

This past month has seen us entertaining at several events, each different and raising awareness in the Community of their activities. The Ukulele Group loves to promote U3A and often get enquiries about the band and the Granite Belt U3A.

Seniors Day Expo at the Civic Centre was one occasion where it was highlighted that keeping active and engaged is good for health. All Graniteers started as a beginner so you could too. If you are interested in joining us then please contact our facilitator Angela McGrath at angelamcgrath60@gmail.com.

The next intake is Friday 12th October at Mountview Winery. In the meantime, come and join us at the Glen Aplin Spring Market on Saturday 1st September at 9:00am where we will have our ukulele case out for donations to assist the QCWA Public Rural Crisis fund to help those in need, from drought, fire, flood or other hardships.



One Liners to tickle your fancy...

Very funny, Scotty. Now beam down my clothes.

Treat each day as your last; one day you will be right.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how popular it remains?

Am I ambivalent? Well, yes and no.

Book Club

Fran Tobin

'In Sickness, and in Health, and in Jail' by Mel Jacobs. The subtitle reads 'What Happened when my Husband Unexpectedly went to Prison for Two Years'.

This is a non-fiction book.

Mel's husband, Patrick, ran an online archery and camping store. He was arrested after he'd sold an unregistered rifle to an undercover policeman. He was sentenced to four years jail for this, and in the book Mel recounts how this affected everyone in the family. This included their two children, Nick and Lexie, who were 5 and 2½ at the time of the crime.

Patrick and Mel decided that they would be very honest with their children about Patrick's imprisonment. Such honesty led to some very funny scenes in the book, as the children often told strangers that their dad was in jail, e.g. Lexie told an unsuspecting woman who had come to their home for an interview with Mel for a housekeeping job.

When the children were 7 and 5 respectively, two years after Patrick's sentencing, the author recounts the scene driving home after a visit to Patrick. Nick comments that the family sitting next to them in the visitors' room used the F word a lot. Also, the C word and the S word. Mel agreed with him, then was put on the back foot when Nick quizzed her on the spelling of each of these words. Mel was torn...how should she react to this? (His spelling was excellent!)

Patrick was released on parole after two years' incarceration and, after managing as a single mum for two years, Mel found it difficult to adjust to Patrick's return to the home. Likewise, Patrick found it difficult to become part of the family again, after his two years in prison. The author was very honest describing their problems over this time.

There were many points of discussion which arose for us. In the book there were many disclosures which were new to each of us, e.g. the holding cells, for those coming before the magistrate, were filthy, and over-crowded, and when prisoners are moved to a different jail, they are shackled in the back of a prison van, and the move is a milk run, with stops at whichever prison is designated for each prisoner. One time, when Patrick was being moved, it took days, with overnight stops at other prisons, and spending the night in cells with some violent men. We were appalled at the way the corrective services are run.

We all agreed that Mel was a very honest and sincere author. She was also very brave, as she recounted her own sessions with a psychologist to help cope with Patrick's shame and imprisonment.



We also discussed the Jacobs' experience with the lawyers and the courts, with such experiences being totally unlike anything seen in films or on TV programmes. 'Like watching paint dry' commented Mel, on the lawyers' behaviour.

While in jail Patrick was accused of being a plant for the police, simply because he did not have any tattoos! He also found that many of the inmates were illiterate, or almost so. He would often read their mail to fellow prisoners. He was seen as being very clever simply because he knew how many hours there were in a day and could use that knowledge to calculate how many hours would elapse before their cell doors were opened. We enjoyed the humour and the honesty presented by the author. We were surprised and appalled about the machinations of Corrective Services. We would recommend this book to everyone because there is much to learn as well as much to enjoy.

September's book is 'Prodigal Summer' by Barbara Kingsolver. October's book is 'The Penelopiad' by Margaret Atwood.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Tuesday 16 October

U3A Day trip – Members and Guests

MT COOTHA BOTANIC GARDENS

MT COOTHA LOOKOUT

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

- 7:30am depart Roger St Carpark Stanthorpe
- 9:00am comfort stop at Aratula
- 10:45am Arrive at Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens
- 11:00am Guided Tour of Gardens - FOC
- 12:30pm Mt Cootha Lookout & Lunch at Kuta Café
(At own expense)
- 2:00pm Guided Tour of Government House - FOC
- 3:30pm afternoon tea at Government House - FOC
- 4:00pm depart Brisbane
- 7:00pm approx arrival in Stanthorpe

Please call Kathy Williams 4683 2959
Price to be advised once numbers are known

Garden Group

Leon McCosker

Garden Group met at Kay and Barry Creed's new home to observe how they have settled into their present surroundings.

They have had the block on Sugarloaf Road for two years to downsize from the 60 acre property on Vallah Road. Barry was the owner/builder and carefully sited the house between rocks and facing North to obtain maximum sunlight in Winter and least in Summer.

Kay has left as many natural wildflowers (leucopogon, hardenbergias, hibbertia) and planted taller natives at the back with lower shrubs to the front of the gardens. She is creating a favourable environment to bring in small birds and Barry has put up nesting boxes for parrots.

They have done a tremendous amount of work using rocks and logs to form the gardens and pathways which enhance the house and sheds.

U3A members thanked Kay and Barry for showing them how they have incorporated a bush block into town living.

The next U3A Garden Group outing will be a Wild Flower Walk with Denise and Alec Harslett on their property in Amiens on Wednesday 19th September, car pool at 9:30am near Weeroona Park. More information will be forwarded later.



September Reminders

Movie Group

The movie group will go to Tenterfield Cinema on Sunday 9th September to see 'The Wife'. We will meet at Ria's at 1 Burton Street at 10:00am (or at Ballandean). Contact Ria on 4681 2618 if you would like to join the group to see the movie.

Music for Pleasure

Music for Pleasure will be held at John's and Chiyoko's place in September. The topic will be a musical.

Singing Group

Julie Barnes

The Singing Group has met twice in the Art Gallery on Monday afternoons. The group was singing Amazing Grace when a man stood at the door and listened to what he described as beautiful music!! We were not so sure as this was only the second or third song we had sung!

The group needs a leader, a person who is willing to download any lyrics of songs that we might need, ensure that everyone in the group has the opportunity to choose some of the songs we sing and ensure that we have the music for the songs.

Are you that person? Please contact Julie 4683 2823, 0417 074 520 or email barn.ju@icloud.com if you are willing to be that person.

I would like to thank Denise Harslett who has played the piano for us during August. Denise has been incredibly patient with the group as we find our feet. Come along on the second and fourth Monday of the month.

Critiquing the Bowl

Esme Hobba

Alexis Tacey, Lecturer in Ceramics at USQ and a past Director of the Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, enthralled a gathering, on 10th August, by inviting them to ask of a work of art, such as a bowl, 'What is the work saying to us?'

Using examples from the gallery collection (e.g. Ian McKay, Gwynn Hansson-Piggott) and her own precious items (one from the Sung Dynasty that is over 1000 years old) the group was led to explore the clay body, the colour and integrity of the glaze, and its 'honourable scars', which all say something about the maker and the bowl itself.

Alexis spent four years in Japan, expanding her understanding of the way ceramics are made. She amused the group with sayings: 'Don't neglect your bottoms' (meaning that a potter ought to be careful about the base of a bowl), and 'If it doesn't get me in the solar plexus, forget it', in a way explaining why one can walk right past a bowl, while another will stop one in one's tracks.

Franco Arciodiacono is to be congratulated for organising such an informative and entertaining morning.

More one Liners to fill in space...

Bureaucrats cut red tape, lengthwise.

Help stamp out, eliminate and abolish redundancy!

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

If at first you don't succeed, redefine success.

Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

U3A Granite Belt Inc.

AIMS

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.

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BSB: 638070
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Groups

Book Club	RSL Club, Marsh St
Discussion	Learning Centre, McGlew St
Garden Group	Advised each month

General Mtg Learning Centre, McGlew St

German CWA Rooms, Victoria St
History Group Advised each meeting

Jonola RSL Club, Marsh St
Mahjong Learning Centre, McGlew St
Mosaics Pete's shed at Margy's Place
Movies meet at 1 Burton St
Music for Pleasure John's and Chiyoko's Place

Sewing & Crafts CWA Rooms, Victoria St
Singing Art Gallery, Lock St
Ukelele Group Mountview Wines, Mt Stirling Rd
Walking Group Zest, Maryland Street

Courses

Train Your Brain Learning Centre, McGlew St



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U3A Granite Belt Calendar

September 2018

Sunday	2 Father's Day all day	9 Movies 12:00pm	16	23	30
Monday	3 Walking Group 7.30am Mahjong 9.30am Sewing & Crafts 10.00am Jonola 1.30pm	10 Singing 2:00pm Walking Group Mahjong Sewing & Crafts Jonola (usual times)	17 My Health Record Session 10:30am Walking Group Mahjong Sewing & Crafts Jonola (usual times)	24 Singing 2:00pm Walking Group Mahjong Sewing & Crafts Jonola (usual times)	
Tuesday	4 Book Club 10.00am German** 10.00am	11 Mosaics* 9:00am Music* 7.00pm German** 10.00am	18 German** 10.00am	25 German** 10.00am	
Wednesday	5 Walking Group 7.30am	12 Walking Group 7.30am	19 Walking Group 7.30am Garden Group* 10:00am	26 Walking Group 7.30am	Find contact and venue details on page 5. Other information about events is included in the news articles on page 1 or the group reports. * Please bring a plate to share
Thursday	6	13 Train Your Brain 10.30am	20 General Meeting* 10.00am	27 Train Your Brain 10.30am	** German is held on occasional Tuesdays. Contact Irene for dates.
Friday	7 Walking Group 7.30am Ukelele Group 12.30pm	14 Walking Group 7.30am Ukelele Group 12.30pm	21 Walking Group 7.30am Ukelele Group 12.30pm	28 Walking Group 7.30am Ukelele Group 12.30pm	
Saturday	8	15	22	29	