



U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

August 2020 **U3A**



Volume 16 Number 7



Reflections in Quart Pot Creek

Contents:

Editorial	p1
Interest items	p1
Reports	p2-4
Contact details	p5
Calendar	p6



Famous Quotes from Sir Winston Churchill

Nourish your hopes, but do not overlook realities.

Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

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

After being able to report some good news in the July newsletter, yet again the COVID-19 pandemic is the main topic on news items and discussions in the community. The relaxation of the restrictions has lead to further outbreaks in the community especially in Victoria and New South Wales.

Although most people continue to work within the restrictions, some are choosing to be less than responsible to the wider community. We are fortunate to live in an area where there have been very few cases and continue to be faced with a very low risk. But this could change and it is up to our activity groups to continue to abide by the restrictions and the rules.

It is, however, pleasing that more groups are meeting and reporting successful activities.

The other topic and a cause for concern is the continuing task of supplying Stanthorpe with water. As someone recently stated, we are depending on water from a nearly dry dam to an empty dam. The last time I checked the SRDC dam levels, Storm King Dam was at 17 percent, well short of the target of 40 percent where the carting will cease.

At least we can look forward to the U3A GB AGM and birthday celebrations on Friday the 21st August.

AGM and Lunch

The AGM will be on **Friday 21st August at 11.00am sharp** at Granite Belt Brewery and will be followed by lunch at the Brewery.

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),

Lunch will be served at 11.45am as there is a tour group booked in for the lunch second session at the Brewery on that day. The numbers will be limited to 35 to allow for social distancing during the AGM and lunch.

You can choose to come to the AGM only or the AGM and the Lunch. Your choice of meal will be chosen prior to the day. The menu detailing the cost (\$35 per head) and RSVP will be sent separately.



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. Let's hope it is able to proceed!

SAY HELLO TO THE WORLD

Check out great airfares, cruises, hotels, holiday packages and much more!

Come and see us instore today

helloworld
TRAVEL
THE TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS
STANTHORPE

1 Maryland St, Stanthorpe, QLD 4380
 +61 (07) 4681 2144

Reports

Presidents Report

Julie Barnes

It was a relief to be sitting in the Learning Centre with a feeling of hope that U3A Activities might be able to return to a new form of normal. That is, respecting the physical distancing rules and accepting the need to respond to Lynda so that you can be included in the number of attendees.

The Newsletter has become a very important form of communication during the pandemic and really at all times. It requires a dedicated member of U3A to produce a monthly newsletter and when a very small response is received to articles in the newsletter, it is disappointing for the newsletter editor.

If the second wave of the pandemic affects classes again, the Management Committee will investigate purchasing a Zoom account so that discussion groups can continue. The Wednesday Book Group had some very successful on-line discussions.

One of the suggestions for a discussion group was to access one of the thousands music videos on YouTube and discuss the video. This could happen any time of the day or night.

Please stay healthy and happy.

Julie Barnes

History Hypothetical Discussion Group.

Are you interested in wanting to know how history could have been changed if John Curtin had given in to Churchill's demands that Australian troops be diverted to Burma? What if Captain Cook had sailed into Botany Bay in the middle of a dry summer? What if Professor Henslow's wife had not talked him out of taking up the invitation to sail on the *HMS Beagle*, leading him to recommend Charles Darwin in his place? Interested?

This is a call for history buffs to come and join in these discussions.

The notes for each of the hypotheticals will be sent out prior to the discussion group and you can then further research the topic using your favourite search engine.

Set aside the first Thursday of the month for the hypothetical discussion.

The History Hypothetical Discussion Group will begin on Thursday 6th August at 10.00am at the Learning Centre.

Topic for discussion: *What if Cleopatra's nose had been shorter?*

Contact Steve Courtney at thecourtneys@active8net.au or 4683 7103 or Julie Barnes at barn.ju@icloud.com or 0417 074 520 to obtain the notes.

Garden Group July 2020

Leon McCosker

U3A Garden Group met at McCosker's where **Morwenna Harslett**, owner of *Cherry Lane Nursery*, discussed which plants in our gardens coped better in the current drought.

Plants with silver foliage cope better with moisture loss, deciduous trees survive the cold and dry. Small leaves have less transpiration as in the *leucaphyta*, *leucadrendrons* of the protea family have fine hairs on their leaves which protect from the heat and dry. *Hellabores* have bulbous roots and they grow well.

Conifers like the *blue spruce* and *Leighton green* suffered badly whereas the *book leaf pine* and *junipers* fared much better.

We agreed most of us over watered our gardens and they seem to survive on much less water during the drought and if plants are hardened off with less water they do better.

Next Garden Group outing will be on Wednesday 19th August, 10.00 am at the Community Railway Gardens where Carol Parkinson will show us how to propagate plants. Bring along your favourite cuttings to propagate. Also bring along plants to share.



The relaxed setting for the talk at McCoskers' garden

French

Mary-Jane Hese

We have started meeting again fortnightly at my home. We are able to do this as we are a small group and I have a large table we can call sit around it and still maintain social distancing.

This arrangement will continue in the short-term, given the closure of the CWA rooms. Our next two activities will be on Wednesday the 5th and 19th August.



Tuesday Book Group

Fran Tobin

Once again, we met face-to-face, which was wonderful. After the rules of the Covid-19 pandemic, we all appreciated being able to meet again, in small groups.

Our July read was *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce.

The book tells the story of a retired Englishman who set out to post a letter to an old friend and work colleague, in reply to the one he'd received from her. As he walked to the letter box, he decided that he'd rather see her than simply post a letter. His friend was Queenie Hennessey, and she had written to say goodbye because she had terminal cancer, and was in a hospice in Berwick. Harold walked from his home in Kingsbridge, in the south-west of England, to Berwick, in the north-east, on the border of England and Scotland. The distance travelled was just over 1000 km. There didn't seem to be any logic in his choice of a walk, and he was ill prepared for such a trek.

He'd left his home, and his wife of decades, in his ordinary clothes (including a tie!) and wearing yachting shoes. His walk was unplanned and spontaneous. When he'd reached the letter box, he decided then to keep on walking. His wife, Maureen, was expecting him back from his letter-posting walk, but of course he never arrived.

Their marriage had become impersonal and their conversations polite but trivial. The death of their only child, a son who'd won a place at Oxford, also contributed to Harold and Maureen's almost loveless marriage.

Harold's walk, his journey, while taking him closer to Queenie, gave him time to think and question his life. Maureen also had a journey. In her unexpected solitude she began to analyse her life and particularly their marriage. Though apart, Harold and Maureen grew closer, as each acknowledged their own shortcomings.

His walk took him almost three months, and he met quite a few characters along the way. Some were genuine, such as a female doctor who treated his blisters, and gave him a compass. Some were using Harold for their own ends, such as the man who wanted to hog the TV coverage of the walk.

Each of us enjoyed this book, with, as usual, each of us seeing different things in the book. That's the joy of book club - hearing another's point of view.

Our next two novels are: -

August: *The Diamond Hunter* by Fiona McIntosh
 September: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

Wednesday Book Group

Laura Maywald

Our Wednesday Book Group talked about *The Chinese Maze Murders*. The main character of this book (and the many books that followed) is Judge Dee, who was based on a real statesman and detective living during China's Tang Dynasty (AD 600-900).

The author, Robert Van Gulik (1910-1967), spent his life in various Asian countries working in the Dutch diplomatic service. During World War II he was evacuated from a post in Japan to spend the rest of the war years in China, where he married the daughter of a Chinese mandarin. He was multi-talented, fluent in Chinese, an artist, musician, writer and orientalist.

The Judge Dee series was inspired by early Chinese detective fiction. Van Gulik's intention in writing these novels was "to show modern Chinese and Japanese writers that their own ancient crime-literature has plenty of source material for detective and mystery-stories." After they were originally presented in Chinese and Japanese versions, English versions followed and were well received.

Most of our group said they enjoyed the historical feeling of the book, and especially the postscript in which Van Gulik discusses the old Chinese themes and literary devices he has "borrowed" for the story. For example, there are three separate mystery cases running concurrently. We noted that there was not much characterisation in this style of writing, but that there was some subtle humour. Some members felt that it took them a little while to "get into" the story.

The violence in the book was rather gruesome but judged to be not nearly as confronting as that in some modern literature. Several of our group members mentioned that they liked Van Gulik's original illustrations. Also, there were interesting points for discussion that arose from the book. For example, the historical relationship between Chinese and the Uighur "barbarians" is particularly topical these days, as the Uighurs are being persecuted in China. The role of women in the Chinese tradition was another interesting side topic.

Next month's book will be *The Nowhere Child* by Christian White. Our meeting will be held at Lyn Haselgrove's on 5 August.

Genealogy

Roxane Scott

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

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

Art Gallery Update

Esme Hobba

Catch the last days of Lorraine Moll’s popular exhibition, “Cloudland”, if you can. (ends Sunday 2nd August) The Gallery has seen many visitors from all over Queensland, who have expressed delight in her work. This has been a wonderful experience for a local artist.

From the 6th August to the 20th September, local artists, Maria Mastro and Gabrielle Trabucco will present “Silk and Steel”. This is a combination of Maria’s delicate silk, lace and brocade wearable art and Gabriele’s flowing steel forms. It will be beautiful and unusual.



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 0448800491

Answers for the July photo competition

Who’s who in zoo? – the nine committee members

- 1 is the newsletter Editor
- 2 is a committee member
- 3 is the President
- 4 is the Secretary
- 5 is the Vice-President
- 6 is the Minutes Secretary
- 7 is the Treasurer
- 8 is a committee member
- 9 is a committee member

How many did you get right? Names next newsletter.

Science 2020

Blood

Fran Tobin

We had our first session on blood on Thursday, February 27th. On Thursday July 23rd we had our second session, a hiatus of five months. It was excellent to be together again at the Learning Centre and, of course, following all the Covid-19 directives.

The second unit was about the heart, arteries and veins, and lymph: - basically about circulation. And, as is usual in the group, there were many other anecdotes and questions. From one comment, we researched, and all learnt about, *calcium channel blockers*. Very interesting.

We also read a few relevant articles which had appeared recently. One discussed how Queensland researchers are making an “encyclopedia “of the heart. There are about 8500 genes controlling heart muscle cells. The research hopes to catalogue how each gene controls the biology and function of the heart muscles. One researcher said that although heart disease kills more Australians than cancer, the number of drugs being developed for heart disease is about one seventh of those developed for cancer. Fascinating.

Our next meetings are scheduled for Thursday the 13th and 27th of August commencing 10:30am. We will cover diseases of the circulatory system in our next session.

Deutsch/German

Irene Grevis-James

Ian and I will be away until early September.

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

Liebe Studenten/Studentinnen, Please read July’s information for the beginning of August, i.e. hopefully there’s enough DIY material there!

Wir haben wunderbares Wetter- Wärme, GRÜNES



Gras & ☺ in NQ! und planen ~Anfang August wieder in Stanthorpe zu sein.

Grüße, Irene Alles Gute & Grüße, Irene

August Snippets

August 1, 1838 - Slavery was abolished in Jamaica. It had been introduced by Spanish settlers 300 years earlier in 1509.

August 2, 1939 - Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons.

August 6, 1881 - Penicillin discoverer Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) was born in Lochfield, Scotland.

August 19, 1871 - Aviation pioneer Orville Wright (1871-1948) was born in Dayton, Ohio.

August 10, 1943 – A special lady in my life was born in Gympie. Queensland.

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
Committee Members:		
	Kathy Williams	0429 361 705
	Calvin Winks	0429 056 797
	Morwenna Arcidiacono	0490 241 356
	Roxane Scott	0411 433 474
Newsletter Ed.	Calvin Winks	0429 056 797 or u3agbnews@gmail.com
:		
Webmaster:	Lynda Blackstock	0421 327 377 or u3agb@granitenet.com.au

Postal Address

PO BOX 250
Stanthorpe Qld 4380

Phone

0419 093 157

Email

u3agb@granitenet.com.au

Website

<http://mysd.com.au/u3a/>

Bank Account

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		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
			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		on hold	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 .
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	3 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	10 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	17 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	24 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	31 Walking Group 7:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold
Tuesday	4 Book Group 10:00am	11 German on hold	18 German on hold	25 German on hold	
Wednesday	5 Walking Group 7:30am Book Group 10:00am French 10am	12 Walking Group 7:30am	19 Walking Group 7:30am Garden Group* 10:00am French 10am	27 Walking Group 7:30am	
Thursday	6 History Group 10:00am Genealogy 2:00pm	13 Science 10:30am	20	27 Science 10:30am	
Friday	7 Walking Group 7:30am	14 Walking Group 7:30am	21 Walking Group 7:30am U3A GB AGM and birthday celebrations 11:00 sharp	28 Walking Group 7:30am	



**a betterway
to Print™**

97b Folkestone Street, Stanthorpe
Phone: (07) 4681 0400
www.betterwaytoprint.com

• BROCHURES • BOOKLETS • BUSINESS CARDS
 • BUDGET PRINTING • POSTERS • DOCKET BOOKS • LABELS
 • FLYERS • DIGITAL & COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Proudly Supporting Local Community

Be an Optimist

➤ Never bend your head, always hold it high. Look the world in the face.

➤ Laughter is a property in man essential to his reason.