



U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

October 2020



Volume 16 Number 9



Beautiful Phalaenopsis

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Famous Quotes from Sir Winston Churchill

- I like things to happen, and if they don't happen, I like to make them happen.
- I have in my life concentrated more on self-expression than self-denial.
- Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.

Newsletter deadline:

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

u3agbnews@gmail.com

Editorial

Calvin Winks

We live in everchanging times. With the on again, off again requirements of the Covid-19 restrictions many of our group activities have had to be cancelled or rescheduled. With the latest easing let's hope the situation continues to improve and there are no outbreaks that might cause further pain.

As the indicative number has been set at 30, with the need to maintain social distancing, most of our group activities will be clear to proceed, depending on the requirements of the venue.

One area all members need to give thought to now is new group activities and an individual prepared to lead the activity.

Many courses are available on the U3A Network website and several appeal to me. Going by the ones we have accessed in the past they are eight-session courses prepared by top university authorities and have links to internet information to enhance the course.

Some of the interesting titles are: -

- Australian Flora
- Saving the Soil
- Introduction to IT skills
- Left Right or Centre: A very brief introduction to Political Ideologies

Coming in 2021

Conference 2021 Report

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

Les, Marg and myself had a guided tour of the facilities and decided that it would make a great venue for the conference.

The organising group are now in the process of applying for funding through various sources, including Southern Downs Regional Council. We can only keep our fingers crossed that one of the sources will be willing to provide us with some of the initial funds that will be required to pay deposits and have printing completed.

The possibility of asking members to "billet" one or two of the delegates has been discussed? Would you be able to provide accommodation for a conference delegate in May next year? 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 group are investigating the possibility of obtaining shirts as a way of identifying the organisers during the conference or rather the people who might be able to answer any questions may have. Could wearing shirts be a way of advertising U3A in the community following the conference?

Julie Barnes

Why do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

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Reports

President's Report

John Smales

I would like to thank Julie and her Management Committee for keeping our U3A Granite Belt functioning during the last 18 months especially the last six months, it has not been an easy task with all the COVID restrictions.

Thank you to all the Members who attended the AGM and 15th Birthday luncheon at Happy Valley on 21st August 2020. My thanks go to the people who thought I would make a reasonable President in the light of no other nominees. However, I believe I have a great Management Committee now in place and I look forward to working with them until March 2021. The Committee members names and contacts are listed in this Newsletter.

Speaking of the Newsletter, a huge thank you to Calvin Winks for continuing to produce it, a vital cog in our U3A Group.

This last week has been confusing with restrictions being lifted after events had been cancelled and regular meeting places being unavailable for groups to use but we seem to have survived. Please remember to contact your group leaders if the situation changes. They will have the relevant updates.

The next general meeting is scheduled for Thursday 15th October at 10am at the Learning Centre. At this point it is still restricted to 20 people and you will be required to book in if you want to attend. More information will be available closer to the date.

It is difficult to forward plan with this *new normal* but we are a persistent lot.

John Smales

Garden Group Report

Leon McCosker

U3A Garden Group met at Adrian and Esme Hobba's property "**Dragonweyr**". Esme gave a talk on the management of their property as a Nature Refuge and using the advice from Rangers from the Githabul community in northern New South Wales.

Viktor Stephen, a Githabul Ranger from Kyogle, visited the area and advised how to thin out the black Cyprus pine leaving the larger eucalypts and undertake cultural fire burns to reduce fuel load. We went for a walk to see the results of this work.

Esme's daughter Jane took the group for a wildflower walk on tracks made to see some of the highlights of their property, walking over expanses of rock pavement where the *Heath Myrtle* was flowering profusely. There were large areas of *Granite Wattle* and Jane showed us a specimen of the rare *Granite Baronia*.

We ended back at the shed where Adrian had the *Pizza Oven* nice and hot to cook our pizza lunch.

We thanked Esme, Adrian and Jane for a lovely day exploring Dragonweyr.

Next U3A Garden Group outing on Wednesday 21st October will be a visit to Annette Russell's rose garden at "Montview" Killarney, more information to follow.



The meeting circle created by Esme

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.

- "It always seems impossible until it is done."
Nelson Mandela
- "It makes a big difference in your life when you stay positive."
Ellen DeGeneres

QLD ROAD RULES YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT!

Flashing your lights to warn other cars of speed camera
\$133, 1 point

Incorrect use of fog lights
\$52, 1 point

Eating or doing makeup
Court fine, 3 points

Waving & honking goodbye
Up to \$337, 3 points

Touching or using your mobile phone
\$1000, 4 points

Tuesday Book Group

Fran Tobin

Our September book was “Pachinko” by Min Jin Lee.

It is a family saga covering 100 years and three generations of Koreans. It covers love, and oppression, and sacrifice, and loyalty. It highlights the oppression of the Koreans. It introduced us to history which we didn’t know. Japan colonized Korea in the late 1800s, and treated the Koreans as lesser people. It also told of the difficulties and discrimination faced by Koreans who lived in Japan.

The first generation (1910-1933) is a poor fisherman and his wife who take in boarders for extra income. They have 3 sons but the only one who survives is Hoonie, who had a club foot and a cleft palate. A marriage is arranged between 28-year-old Hoonie and 15-year-old Yangjin. Their 4th child, a girl, Sunja, was their only surviving child. Hoonie died when Sunja was 13, so she and her mother ran a boarding house to survive.

Sunja met an older man who paid attention to her, and later impregnated her. He was already married, and a member of the Japanese *yakuza*, and could not marry her. Sunja and her mother were now disgraced, until one of their boarders, a minister, Isak, offered to marry her and raise the child as his own. Isak and Sunja moved to Japan, where Isak worked as a minister in his brother’s church. Sunja gave birth to Hansu’s son, and later had another son to Isak. Isak was imprisoned and tortured for his religious beliefs, and died from his treatment.

The novel then followed the lives of the two brothers, Sunja’s two sons. It is interwoven with the history of Koreans in Japan.

The name of the novel is also the name of a pinball game played in both Korea and Japan. It is a metaphor for the lives of those in the novel.

We enjoyed the novel. We enjoyed the drama of each of the generations, and also enjoyed learning about the culture and the history of Korea and Koreans.

October: - *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

November: - *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

Walking Group

The walking Group currently starts at 7:00am from outside the National Bank. They walk three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Come along and join the group. Contact Ria on 0427 349 977 for more information.

Wednesday Book Group

Julie Barnes

Totto-chan The Little Girl in the Window by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi

This deceptively simple book of childhood memories is set in wartime Japan and evoked a discussion of the individual perceptions of Japan and in one case, actual experience of the Japanese education system.

The childhood memories of Tetsuko Kuroyanagi formed the basis of the story - she was expelled from school when she was in Grade one as she was very disruptive in class. Her parents feared that she wouldn’t be accepted at any school until they heard of *Tomoe* – a school that was very accepting of individual differences in the children and whose principal had studied in France and whose ideas were outside the rigidity that forms the basis of the Japanese Education system.

The word pictures were easy to comprehend and at times humorous. Can you imagine removing the lid of a cesspool and then emptying the contents of said cesspool to find a precious possession? Or can you imagine a teacher giving just one instruction to 50 pupils who were about to embark on an excursion by train and boat – that instruction was - Don’t get lost!! These are just some of the memories Tetsuko Kuroyanagi shared with the readers of her book. There were many humorous moments throughout the book and at time the reader was transposed to Japan during the war.

The October book Group will be on Wednesday 7th at 10.00am at 17 Teale Road The Summit. The book for discussion *Flight Lines* by Andrew Darby.

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

Deutsch/German

Irene Grevis-James

Hopefully all students have gained something from the classes? Your “teacher” has learnt as much from you as she could possibly have taught you!

Dates for Oct.to Dec. are as follows:

20/10/20; 3/11, 17/11, 1/12, and 15/12/20. Please bring all songs that we’ve done since April ‘20, i.e. six of them.

Please contact me by SMS if you have any questions.

Grüße und Alles Gute von Irene

Remember to use the microphone and speaker

Our U3A owns a microphone and speaker set which is available for all group activities indoor or outdoor. There have been activities recently where members had difficulty hearing.

Leon advises the need to hold the microphone close to your mouth for best results which means it must be cleaned before a new user.

The set is currently in the care of Julie Barnes. Contact: 0417 074 520.

From Bill Bryson's book *The Body*

The BRAIN

The great paradox of the brain is that everything you know about the world is provided to you by an organ that has itself never seen the world. The brain exists in silence and darkness, like a dungeoned prisoner. It has no pain receptors. Literally no feelings. It has never felt warm sunshine or a soft breeze. To your brain the world is just a stream of electrical pulses, like taps of a Morse code. And out of this bare and neutral information it creates for you – quite literally creates – a vibrant, three-dimensional, sensually engaging universe. Your brain is you. Everything else is just plumbing and scaffolding.

Just sitting quietly, doing nothing at all, your brain churns through more information in thirty seconds than the Hubble Space Telescope has processed in thirty years. A morsel of cortex –one cubic millimetre in size = about the size of a grain of sand - could hold 2,000 terabytes of information, enough to store all the movies ever made, trailers included, or about 1.2 billion copies of this book. Altogether the human brain is estimated to hold something in the order of 200 exabytes of information, roughly equal to 'the entire digital content of today's world, according to *Nature Neuroscience*. If that is not a most extraordinary thing in the universe, then we certainly have wonders yet to find.

October snippets

October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

October 2, 1968 - California's Redwood National Park was established. Redwoods are the tallest of all trees, growing up to 400 feet (120 meters) during a lifetime that can span 2,000 years.

October 13, 1884 - Greenwich was established as the universal time from which standard times throughout the world are calculated.

Ukulele Group

Heather Kent

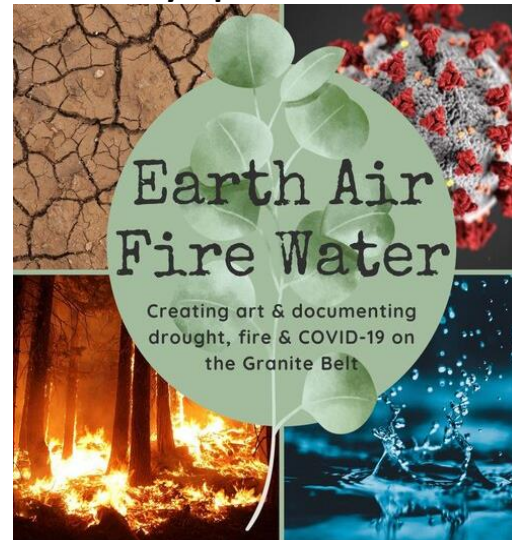
U3A Ukulele group meets on Mondays at 2pm at 2/91 Rich Street.

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

Heather Kent 0448 800 491

Art Gallery Update

Esme Hobba



There's a treat in store for you at the Art Gallery from 24th September to 18th October. Usually one of the most colourful events of the Art Gallery calendar, and sponsored by the well-known Crisp family, the youth of our community document their response to this historical time of drought, fires and Covid 19.

"Earth, Air, Fire, Water" will move your heart strings.

Notes on History Hypotheticals Steve Courtney

St Paul on the road to Damascus

The hypothetical posed for September was to consider Saint Paul's effect on religion and the expansion of the Christian faith, if he had not had his awakening or epiphany on the road to Damascus in the early years after Christ's crucifixion (A.D.30).

The topic engendered extensive debate which easily filled the discussion time available, and helped those present to expand their knowledge of the establishment and early years of Christianity.

St Paul, possibly the greatest Christian missionary ever, played an enormous role in Christianity's growth, which has resulted in about two billion adherents worldwide. The writings of Paul have played a key role in movements of spiritual renewal over Christianity's lifetime.

The discussion ranged over the vast number of branches of Christianity, and sent participants home with their minds full of thoughts on what the world could have been like without that influence.

The topic for October will be Alfred the Great, arguably the first King of all England, who reigned in the ninth century i.e. between the departure of the Romans from Britain, and the Norman invasion. This was the time of the Viking incursions, and was a turbulent period of English history. Come along and add your comments.

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
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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
			Roxane	0411 433 474
Genealogy		156 Church Road, The Summit		
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		National 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 current 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		5 Walking Group 7:00am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	12 Walking Group 7:00am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	19 Walking Group 7:00am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold	26 Walking Group 7:00am Ukulele Group 2:00pm Jonola on hold
Tuesday		6 Book Group 10:00am	13	20 German Contact Irene 10:00am	27
Wednesday		7 Walking Group 7:00am Book Group 10:00am French 10:00am	14 Walking Group 7:00am	21 Walking Group 7:00am Garden Group* 10:00am	28 Walking Group 7:00am
Thursday	1 History Hypotheticals Group 10:00am Genealogy 2:00pm	8 Science 10:30am	15 General Meeting 10:00am	22 Science 10:30am	29
Friday	2 Walking Group 7:00am	9 Walking Group 7:00am	16 Walking Group 7:00am	23 Walking Group 7:00am	30



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