



# U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

## February 2021



Volume 17 Number 1



Nature's beauty

### Contents:

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

Albert Einstein quotes



*"Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions."*

*Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."*



*Enjoy your read*

### 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

When I started to write this editorial, I decided to check what I had written for the 2020 February newsletter which started with "2020 brings a new year and a new decade; and, at last, some decent rainfall across the entire district".

So much the same can be said for this edition with rain and the ever-present challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Total rainfall for Stanthorpe, recorded at the Weather Bureau site near the Information Centre in Leslie Parade, for the last three years are well below the stated annual average of 762mm.

For U3A GB members, a new year provides the opportunity to explore new courses and group activities.

The Management Committee is currently exploring new course options and the response to the call for preferences from members as requested in the December newsletter.

Members with new ideas are encouraged to bring them forward at the general meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Why?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

### Coming this Year

#### Conference 2021

The U3A Network Conference will be held at the International Club on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> – only a few months to go!

A detailed report is presented on page two.

#### Less Than the Price of a Cuppa!

It's that time of year when our annual U3A Granite Belt membership is up for renewal. Invoice reminders were sent to all members in mid-January. And isn't it one of the best deals in town? Where else can you obtain such great value for the grand sum of \$2.50 per month for ten full months of enjoyable activities?

Misplaced your renewal invoice? Bank account details are listed on page 5. Deadline for renewal is 31 March.

### Membership badges

Wear your U3A Granite Belt membership badge with pride – it's a good conversation starter outside of our U3A activity groups. And, perhaps, it's a very subtle public relations opportunity to encourage others to consider joining.

Some members may not be wearing their badges these days because the magnetic backing has been lost. Not to worry – that can be easily remedied. We do have several spare magnetic backings available. To arrange for your new badge backing replacement, please contact the U3A secretary via email at:

[u3agb@granitenet.com.au](mailto:u3agb@granitenet.com.au)

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## Reports

### President's Report *John Smales*

#### Welcome Back

I trust you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with all the joy the festive season brings and are looking forward to an exciting year of personal learning and growth.

While we hoped that the end of 2020 would see the end of the Covid blues, we have not been that lucky, and some restrictions are still in place. Our current circumstances, while manageable, have a tendency to change without any warning, so we need to be prepared for things to change from their original plan. The start of 2021 is a good example.

Thank you to the members who took the time to reply to the suggestions and requests for ideas for new activities and courses for this year. The list was in the last newsletter, if you would like to check again and maybe contribute to the discussion. There have been some great suggestions. However, we will need members to run the activities. Challenge yourself!

Group leaders are reminded that when choosing their venues, they are to be accessible to members with disability issues and ensure there is adequate space for social distancing.

The U3A State Conference, hosted by U3A Granite Belt Inc, is on in May and I would like all our members to support this event. Julie and her committee have been working hard in some very trying circumstances to make it all happen, so I am sure they would appreciate your help when they ask for it.

Our first general meeting for the year is set down for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at the Learning Centre at the High School. Social distancing rules will require you to advise the Secretary of your intention to attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

*John Smales*

### History Hypotheticals

#### The Spanish Armada

Steve Courtney

*WHAT IF King Philip II had not compromised Santa Cruz's plans for the Armada's invasion of England? When the Armada was launched the Spanish had every right to expect that their mission to remove Elizabeth I from her throne would succeed. Why did it fail?*

The new year of History Hypotheticals starts on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021, in the Learning Centre at 10am.

### Network Queensland Conference

**May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Exciting times ahead**

As the date of the conference looms closer it is full steam ahead for the conference committee. The conference website is up and running - the address is <http://www.u3agqldconference.org>. Many thanks to Greg Taylor a member of Brisbane U3A who has developed the website for the conference.

Registrations will open on 1<sup>st</sup> February. The total cost of registration is \$145 that includes the Conference Dinner on Wednesday night.

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, Granite Belt U3A will become tour guides for a day and share this beautiful part of the world with members of U3A from throughout Queensland. Perhaps this is an example of passion tourism???

The welcome function or cocktail hour is at the High Street Motor Inn from 4.30pm until 6pm – the cost is \$16 that includes finger food.

The guest speaker on Wednesday is Mike Hayes. Mike is the winemaker from Sirromet Wines and has an interesting story to share with everyone.

If you listen to the Conversation hour on ABC Radio, you may have heard the very enthralling and interesting conversation with Sarah Kanowski.

The program will be added to the website when all the speakers have been confirmed.

#### Photography Competition

The competition is open to all members of U3A in Queensland. The theme is **Mother Nature**.

The competition has an entry fee of \$5 per photo and there is a limit of two photos per person. The entry form will be available on the conference website at the beginning of February.



Let's see if one of the talented Granite Belt photographers can win this competition

### Tuesday Book Group

Mary Courtney

The first meeting of the Tuesday book group for 2021 will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February at the Courtney's residence starting at 10:00 am.

The book for review is: -  
"In Falling Snow" by Mary-Rose MacColl.

## Science 2020

Fran Tobin

This unit will begin on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February at the Learning Centre, and will start at **10:30** a.m.

If you are interested please advise Fran Tobin ([ftobin1941@gmail.com](mailto:ftobin1941@gmail.com)) or Calvin Winks on [u3agbnews@gmail.com](mailto:u3agbnews@gmail.com)

The science unit for this year is ***BOTANY: The Study of plants for Enjoyment.***

The unit has been developed by Betsy Jakes, and is available online to U3A members.

It has eight units, which are:

- Plants: What is a plant, how do they develop?
- Structure and function of plants.
- Secondary growth in stems; Leaves and their functions.
- Plants and People.
- Taxonomy: Classification, nomenclature.
- Nomenclature: Names and Rules.
- Plant adaptations and other trivia.
- Ecology and Conservation.

We will be studying this on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month (except the 11<sup>th</sup> Feb) starting at **10:30** at the Learning Centre.

If you intend to participate, please provide your email address so that each subunit outline can be emailed to you. Alternatively, obtain the user name and password from Fran or Calvin to access the U3A online site.

## Ukulele Group

Heather Kent

U3A Ukers have resumed for 2021. We are looking for more players to join us each Monday at 2pm at 2/91 Rich Street. Contact Heather to arrange individual beginner tuition. You can borrow one of the U3A ukuleles for a few weeks while you see if ukeing is for you. Playing the ukulele and singing along is a wonderful stress reliever and such fun.

Come along and give it a try.

Please contact Heather on

0448 800 491 or email [heatherkent91@gmail.com](mailto:heatherkent91@gmail.com)

## Deutsch/German

Irene Grevis-James

Willkommen zu Deutsch für dieses Jahr. Hoffentlich ein gutes & gesundes Jahr für alle Personen in der Welt!

Welcome back, old and new students. Our planned days for 2021 are Tuesdays. The dates this month are February 2nd and 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the RSL. The dates for March are also the same. We will resume for Term two after Easter on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Please let me know if you are coming.

Liebe Grüße, Irene

## French

Mary-Jane Hesse

“Bonjour à tous!

Le groupe français reprendra en février. Cette année, nous continuerons d'explorer la langue française à travers des histoires courtes, des blagues, des films et généralement en nous amusant avec la langue.

The French group will recommence in February. This year, we will continue to explore the French language through short stories, jokes, movies and generally having fun with the language.

Dates for Term 1 are:

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup>, February

and Wednesdays, 3<sup>rd</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March

We will meet at Mary-Jane's residence, at 10am”

## Mosaics Group

Julie Barnes

The members of the group are itching to try their new tile cutters that we bought at the end of last year. The group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month when Margy is at home. For February, that is, the **9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February**. As COVID restrictions still apply, the numbers will be limited to eight. Members of the group need to contact Margy on 0459 513 852 to let her know if you are coming.

Some of the members of the group, decided to support the Show Society by entering mosaics for the Arts and Craft section of the show. The masterpieces were created at member's homes as the group didn't meet during January. The themes were birds and flowers for beginners.

New members interested in joining mosaics must advise activity leader Margy Dawson. She will then add your name to the waiting list.

BELOW: photos of work-in-progress mosaic creations for entry in the Stanthorpe Show.



## Walking Group

Julie Barnes

Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, members of the walking group leap out of bed and put on their boots made for walking and set off

*Please contact Ria on 4681 2618 or 0427 349 977 if you would like to join the group.*



## Wednesday Book Group

Julie Barnes

The group will continue to meet in member's homes until April at the earliest. The group met in December to discuss Bill Bryson's book *Mother Tongue* and to create a reading list for 2021.

We welcomed the first male member, Calvin, to the group. Thank-you Calvin for joining us and expressing your enjoyment in reading the book.

Calvin came to Book Group to share his passion for Bill Bryson's writing.

A list of books has been developed for most of the year.

The full list can be obtained from Julie or Calvin. The reading (or listening) books for the next two months are:

- February 3<sup>rd</sup> *How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> *ABC Murders* or any Agatha Christie mystery

The list is not set in concrete and can be changed. If you have read a book and would like to discuss it in a group, please feel free to join us at any time. It would be great if you could ring Julie on 0417 074 520 prior to Book Group.

The February Book Group will meet at Julie's at 10.00am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

Contact Julie 0417 074 520.

## Garden Group Report

Leon McCosker

U3A Garden Group enjoyed their Christmas breakup in Sam and Grace Costanzo's shady garden, at Golden Grove Winery, Ballandean.

Their home was built by Sam's parents in 1955: they have since made many improvements. The present garden was originally a vegetable patch.

In last year's severe drought many established trees died and were cut down but some like the *port wine magnolias* survived. The *poplars* on the Western side of the driveway died but the *oleanders* on the Eastern side survived and looked magnificent. Some of the large oleanders were planted 55 years ago – it's a reminder of the connection to Sicily.

We went for a walk around the garden to see new roses blooming and their *bougainvillea* flowering, Sam's vegetable garden was still producing vegetables and the *olive trees* had a great crop showing.

We thanked Sam and Grace for giving up their time and showing the Garden Group their garden.



Above: Grace providing a history of their property.

## Genealogy

Roxane Scott

What better choice for the genealogy group than a trip to Glengallan Homestead. If you are like me, I have been saying for years 'I must go in there one day'. Well, delay no more.

We had a lovely walk around the grounds and house which easily filled in over an hour reading info, reminiscing and dreaming of a time long past. The house is a tribute to the volunteers who brought it back from the brink and to those who have worked the property over the years.

The Leslie brothers originally claimed the run in 1841-42. They sold it to brothers, Colin and John Campbell who named it Glengallan Run. The famous merino flocks were established by Charles Marshall and John Deauchar who also grew commercial lucerne.

There were grand plans for a homestead drawn up by Deauchar but financial difficulties and bad seasons forced the sale of the unfinished homestead and property to William Ball Slade. Slade was a great cricketer and the homestead was a centre for Downs social life and cricket.

The homestead was gifted to the Anglican Church in 1949 who leased the land and allowed the homestead to be used as shelter for goats and birds. Many of the fittings were removed or stolen.

Since 1983, UQ Department of Architecture has worked with National Trust Grants at restoring, conserving and documenting the homestead.

The Glengallan Trust was established in 1993 and is maintained by many dedicated volunteers.

We also enjoyed a tasty light lunch in the cafe. Highly recommended!



## Garden Group Contd.

In January, the U3A Garden Group met at McCoskers' property to plan activities for 2021.

Next outing will be a visit to Trevor and Mary Stratford's garden, 46 Melaleuca Cres Applethorpe on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Meet at 10.00 am at Weeroona park.

Bring a chair and morning tea.

## 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>
Webmaster:	Lynda Blackstock	0421 327 377 or <a href="mailto:u3agb@granitenet.com.au">u3agb@granitenet.com.au</a>

### Postal Address

PO BOX 250  
Stanthorpe Qld 4380

### Phone

0419 093 157

### Email

[u3agb@granitenet.com.au](mailto:u3agb@granitenet.com.au)

### Website

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

### Bank Account

Heritage Bank  
BSB 638070  
Account Number: 13712268  
(S21) Heritage Members only

### U3A Network Conference

#### Groups

#### Venue

Book Club:	Tue	Courtney's residence
Book Club:	Wed	Julie's residence
French		Mary-Jane's residence
Garden Group		Advised each month
Genealogy		156 Church Road, The Summit
General Mtg		Learning Centre, McGlew St
German		contact Irene
History Group		Advised each meeting
Mosaics		Pete's shed at Margy's Place
Movies		Advised each outing
Ukulele		Heather Kent's home
Walking Group		National Bank, Maryland St

#### Courses

Science	Learning Centre, McGlew St
History Hypotheticals	Learning Centre, McGlew St

### Contact

Julie 4683 2823 or 0417 074 520

#### Contact/s

Mary	4683 7103
Julie	4683 2823 or 0417 074 520
Mary-Jane	0417 766 430
Kerrie & Leon	4681 1737 or 0488 732 638
Elaine	0410 016 620
Denise	0428 833 168
Roxane	0411 433 474
Lynda	0421 327 377
John	0414 505 448
Irene	0437 373 929
Kerrie	4681 1737
Mary	4683 7103
Lynette	4683 7255
Margy	4681 0102
Ria	4681 2618
Heather	0448 800 491
Ria	4681 2618 or 0427 349 977

Fran – 4684 1253 or [ftobin1941@gmail.com](mailto:ftobin1941@gmail.com) or  
Calvin 0429 056 797 or [u3agbnews@gmail.com](mailto:u3agbnews@gmail.com)  
Steve Courtney 4683 7103

All activities subject to Covid-19 conditions and restrictions

## U3A Granite Belt Calendar

February 2021

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>1</b> Walking Group 6:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm	<b>8</b> Walking Group 6:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm	<b>15</b> Walking Group 6:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm	<b>22</b> Walking Group 6:30am Ukulele Group 2:00pm	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2</b> Book Group 10.00am German 10:00am	<b>9</b> Mosaics* 9.00am	<b>16</b> German 10:00am	<b>23</b> Mosaics* 9.00am	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3</b> Walking Group 6:30am Book Group 10.00am	<b>10</b> Walking Group 6:30am	<b>17</b> Walking Group 6:30am Garden Group* 10.00am French 10:am	<b>24</b> Walking Group 6:30am	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>4</b> History Hypotheticals 10:00 am Genealogy 2:00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b> General meeting 10:00am	<b>25</b> Science 10:30am	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>5</b> Walking Group 6:30am	<b>12</b> Walking Group 6:30am	<b>19</b> Walking Group 6:30am	<b>26</b> Walking Group 6:30am	



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