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It three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It moves on.

Robert Frost

Reminder:

The last day for contributions for the newsletter is 25th of the month.

Please keep your contributions to a maximum of **300 words**

EDITORIAL

The members of Granite Belt U3A extend their good wishes to newsletter editor, Calvin Winks, and hope to see him at home in the not too distant future. Thank-you, Calvin, for the informative and interesting newsletters you have created to keep members informed of the Groups activities. Every member of Granite Belt U3A send their thanks, Calvin.

Calvin had decided not to continue as newsletter editor following the AGM.

The role of the editor is time consuming BUT is most rewarding particularly if you have reasonable computer skills. Support is available for anyone who is thinking of taking up this role. Please contact a member of the Management Committee if you wish to take on the role. The contact details on are Page 5 of the Newsletter

Annual General Meeting

An organization can only continue to grow and thrive when members are willing to step up and decide to become part of the Management Committee. The AGM of Granite Belt U3A will be held on **Thursday 15th April at 10.00am for a 10.30am start at the RSL**. Have you considered becoming part of the team that guides Granite Belt U3A into the future? Please contact Lynda on 0419 093 157 for more information.

Conference Update

The registrations for the conference have reached 87. As illness impacted on two members of the group, the committee decided to seek help. Steve Courtney and Davvyd Westlake volunteered their time and have invigorated the committee with new ideas.

Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland

Free Tech Savvy sessions for seniors are available at the Stanthorpe Library during April. The topics covered are Smartphones, Email, Tablets, Social Media and Video Chat. Please contact the Library 4681 2141 to register. Registrations open 2 weeks prior to the session.

The numbers are limited to 4 for each session due to COVID restrictions.

See the calendar on Page 6 for dates and topics

Vale

Annette Joyce died peacefully having a cup of tea with her daughter very recently. Members of the mosaics and garden groups have lost a friend. Our thoughts are with her family and everyone who enjoyed her friendship.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has certainly been an interesting time in the lead up to this, my last report as President of the U3A Granite Belt Inc.

The year started out with Covid19 restrictions forcing the close down of all activities including the AGM. Some months later some of the Groups tried Zoom meetings in order to maintain some continuity of their activities. Social distancing rules made meeting in person impossible because of the lack of suitable venues around the town. In the meantime, besides walking, not much was able to be done.

I thank Julie Barnes who did a marvellous job to keep some semblance of order under trying conditions and keep information flowing to members.

In September we were able to conduct an AGM and a new committee was elected. There had been some relaxation of covid19 rules and the Management Committee were engaged in trying to get groups functioning again and in suitable venues. The problem was whether or not those rules would change again and over time they did, forcing more changes. I am proud of the efforts of this year's committee and wish to thank them. At the start we really had no idea of what the future held for our U3A and they have done a great job.

There are two people I wish to thank. Firstly, Calvin Winks, you have done a fabulous job with the Newsletter. It has been invaluable over the last year. I know you are not well at present but I am sure all members wish you a speedy recovery. Secondly, Secretary Lynda Blackstock, you have been a rock for me and saved me on many occasions with your calm advice, the U3A Granite Belt Inc is lucky to have you. My sincere thanks for all that you do.

I wish the new management committee every success and hope they can continue to increase and improve all aspects of the Granite Belt U3A.

Don't forget to support the Conference Committee if you are asked for help and make the effort to attend the conference. It's in your town.

For those of you who do not know, Helen and I are in the process of moving to Toowoomba so I take this opportunity to say farewell, not goodbye. It's been a pleasure to know you.

Last of all, the AGM is set for **Thursday 15 April 2021 at the Stanthorpe RSL Club at 10am for a 10.30am start**. You will need to RSVP to the Secretary to attend. It's your Group so think seriously about becoming more active in it's continued success as it can be a very satisfying experience for you.

John Smales

HISTORY HYPOTHETICALS

STEVE COURNEY

The March History hypothetical topic for discussion was the American Civil War and was entitled Gettysburg. The participants discussed the very comprehensive notes provided and, as usual, extended the discussion beyond the topic, Exploring the Gettysburg Address, to the role of media in modern society and the situation in Myanmar.

The next topic is Curtin and Churchill, examining Australia's role in World War Two. As we will be unable to meet at the Learning Centre in April, this topic will be discussed at the May Hypothetical Group on **Thursday 6th May**.

FAREWELL LUNCHEON

A farewell luncheon for John Smales and Helen Miller at the 'Country Club' will be held on Friday the **9th April at 12pm**. RSVP by Tuesday 6th of April to:-

Ria on 0427 349 977 or email ria.lome48@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

LYNDA BLACKSTOCK

The reading for March was any book by Agatha Christie and there were over 60 plus titles to choose from. Members shared their observations on five crime fiction novels: *The A.B.C. Murders*; *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*; *The Curtain*; *Murder in Retrospect* and *Murder on the Orient Express*.

Our discussions centred around the intricate plots, her ability to bring the characters to life, the plethora of red herrings and the sheer brilliance of the author. It was also noted that there tended to be a certain pattern to many of the plots. Of course Christie's description of the actual murder scenes were always 'very civilised' rather than today's standard of gruesome details.

Christie's tidy weapon of choice in 30 of her novels was some type of poison. "Give me a decent bottle of poison", she is supposed to have said, "and I'll construct the perfect crime."

The unique aspect of a book reading group is that books nominated for the reading list are not necessarily ones an individual would normally purchase or consider reading. This month's opportunity to read an Agatha Christie novel was no different. One member has not ever read one of her novels; in contrast, another member has read all 66 of her novels – some many times over.

The Wednesday book group are now looking forward to reading Bill Bryson's book *Notes from a Small Island*. Our next meeting is **Wednesday 5th May** at the RSL at 10.00am. New members are always welcome to join any time.

TUESDAY BOOK GROUP

JUNE HORN

"The Henna Artist" by Alka Joshi.

Whilst all enjoyed the book, opinions ranged from, "an enjoyable read" to "I loved it". It is an interesting book and one to be recommended, but a book that falls short of becoming a classic.

Set in India in the 1950's, the novel tells the story of 17 year old Lakshmi who, after escaping from an arranged and abusive marriage makes her way to Jaipur. Here she becomes an accomplished and skilled henna artist. In this role, she is sought after by the wealthy and upper class women and quickly becomes their confidante. However, she must tread carefully to avoid gossip and betrayal of secrets which could destroy not only her livelihood but also her reputation.

It is a novel about freedom and independence and highlights the vast chasm that existed between the cast system in India and also the role between male and female. Though some of the characters are likeable, others like Hari, Lakshmi's husband, whose past and current lives are incongruent, are less believable

Quite beautifully written at times, the story is told with passion and is quite vivid in its description of the culture in 1950's Jaipur and India. At times the picture the author paints of this time and country is both rich and fascinating and then quite stark and cruel.

One member of the book group had holidayed in India and another had lived there for a few years. Their contribution to the discussion was informative and interesting, and added authenticity and clarification to some of the issues raised in the book.

Next Meeting is Tuesday 6th April the book for discussion, is Geraldine Brook's "*The Year of Wonders*".

Deutsch/German

Deutsch ist bis Juni in der Warteschleife. Irene wird sich mit Mitgliedern der Gruppe in Verbindung setzen, wenn sie nach Stanthorpe zurückkehrt. For those of us who do not speak German. German is on hold until June. Irene will contact members of the group on her return to Stanthorpe. Many thanks to Google translator for providing the translation so easily!!

Irene

SCIENCE



Esme examining plant ovaries and ovules through the microscope.

This month we spent one of our sessions involved in practical work. We dissected a flower to see its structure, with attention to the ovary and ovules. The hibiscus flower showed it clearly, but other flowers, such as a magnolia, were more complex.

We used hand lenses to look at germinating wheat seeds, and then removed one of the root hairs which we looked at under the microscope. We also examined some onion cells microscopically and saw the typical shape of plant cells. The third slide we examined microscopically was of pollen.

Our second session discussed the theory behind the plant structure.

We finished both sections with footage from the excellent BBC series "How to Grow a Planet"

GALLERY UPDATE

ESME HOBBA

IN CONVERSATION WITH DR LEAH BULLEN – 2021 STANTHORPE ART PRIZE WINNER.

Wednesday 14 April 2021

10:30 – 12md

Free Entry but please advise Gallery Ph: 4681 1874



SILK ROAD SCARF CREATE YOUR OWN SILK SCARF WITH SUE JURD

Saturday 17th April 2021

Have a fun 3 hours at the Stanthorpe Gallery, learning how to dye silk scarves. Take home a silk scarf you have dyed yourself. \$70. Booking Essential. Please RSVP to admin@srag.org.au or 07 4681 1874.

GARDEN GROUP

KERRIE MCCOSKER

Unfortunately, our March Garden Group activity to visit the DPI had to be cancelled.

The April outing on Wednesday 21st at 10.00 am with **Liz Bourne**, will be to the property of **Ursula and John Gardner** at **48 McLeod Court**, Happy Valley Stanthorpe.

Their property was severely impacted by the September 2019 bushfire but fortunately their house survived because it was built to a good fire protection standard.

The garden and surrounding bush was, however, completely scorched with all the groundcover and shrub layer burnt and many of the trees severely impacted. Fortunately, there has been remarkable recovery of the native vegetation and John and Ursula have been restoring their garden and modifying some aspects of this to better protect their house from future fires.

One of the encouraging things to come out of the fire has been the remarkable recovery of the endangered *Boronia Repanda* plants on their property. These plants were burnt to a crisp in the bushfire but managed to sprout last year with some even producing flowers. Truly an amazing effort!

The Gardners have constructed a number of paths through their property so we will be able to have a look at the vegetation recovery as well as enjoy some beautiful views from the slabs below their house. Wear sturdy footwear to enjoy this excursion.

Bring a chair and morning tea to share.

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

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 Vice-President: Steve Courtney 4683 7103
 Secretary: Lynda Blackstock 0421 327 377
 Treasurer: Marg Thomson 4685 2928
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 BSB 638070
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 (S21) Heritage Members only

Groups

Book Group: Tues
 Book Group: Wed

French
 Garden Group

Genealogy
 General Mtg

German
 Local History Group

Mosaics
 Ukulele
 Walking Group

Courses

Science

History Hypotheticals

Venue

Courtney's residence
 RSL

Mary-Jane's residence
 Advised each month

156 Church Road, The Summit
 Learning Centre, McGlew St

RSL
 Advised each meeting

Pete's shed
 Heather Kent's home
 National Bank, Maryland St

Learning Centre, McGlew St

Learning Centre, McGlew St

Contact/s

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 Kerrie & Leon 4681 1737 or
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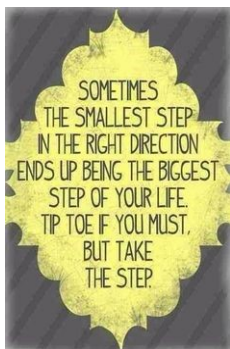
Steve Courtney 4683 7103

All activities subject to Covid-19 conditions and restrictions

U3A Granite Belt Calendar April 2021

The group contact details are listed on page 5. * Please bring your morning tea. Other information about events is included in articles on page 1 or the group reports.

Monday	<p>5</p> <p>Walking Group 7am</p> <p>Ukulele 2pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Walking Group 7am</p> <p>Ukulele 2pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Walking Group 7am</p> <p>Ukulele 2pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Walking Group 7am</p> <p>Ukulele 2pm</p>	
Tuesday	<p>6</p> <p>Book Group 10.00am</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Mosaics * 9am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Mosaics * 9am</p>	
Wednesday	<p>7</p> <p>Walking Group 7am</p> <p>Smartphone Workshops 9.30am & 1.00pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Walking Group 7am</p> <p>Gallery Talk 10.30am</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Walking Group 7am</p> <p>Garden Group * 10.00am</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Walking Group 7am</p> <p>Tablets Workshop 9.30am Social Media and video Chat 1.00pm</p>	
Thursday	<p>1</p> <p>Genealogy 2:00pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>School Holidays</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Annual General Meeting 10:00am</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Science 10:30am</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Science 10:30am</p>
Friday	<p>2</p> <p>Walking Group 7:00am</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Walking Group 7:00am</p> <p>Luncheon Country Club Hotel 12 noon</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Walking Group 7:00am</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Walking Group 7:00am</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Walking Group 7.00am</p>





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