



# U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

## March 2021 **U3A**



Volume 17 Number 2

Kerri's magnificent *Alstroemeria*

### Contents:

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

### Maybe they were wrong

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"The horse is here to stay but the automobile is only a novelty – a fad."

The President of the Michigan Savings Bank advising Henry Ford's lawyer not to invest in the Ford Motor Co. 1903

Television won't last because people will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night."

Darryl Zanuck, movie producer, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, 1946

### *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

Unlike 2020, the 2021 AGM is able to proceed and is set for the 15 April. This event provides the opportunity for renewal and change of not only the Executive Committee membership but also the direction of the group activities in the year ahead.

As a number of our current executive team members are stepping down, it provides a great opportunity to seek nomination and be involved in the management and setting the direction of the group.

As with so many clubs and associations, it usually falls to a few dedicated people, to manage the affairs of their club.

There is also a need for new group activities and several have been listed in recent newsletters.

Leading a new group is not difficult as courses are available from U3A Online and usually consist of eight sets of notes to guide you through. And in most cases the input from group members is enthusiastic and adds to the enjoyment of the group.

Now is the time to seek nomination and bring new ideas and energy to U3A GB activities.

Our U3A secretary will be forwarding the AGM notice and nomination papers to all U3A Granite Belt members shortly.

### *Coming this Year*

#### Conference 2021

The U3A Network Conference will be held at the International Club in May this year. See page two for details provided by conference organiser Julie Barnes.

#### History Group – Texas Bound



Riverside Freezing Works

The History Group is visiting the *Texas Rabbit Works Visitor Information Centre* Mingoola Rd, Texas on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

The Riverside Freezing Works was established in 1928 and processed 6000 rabbits daily to control the rabbit plague. They ceased operation in 1992. We will be given a guided tour through the museum which will take 1½ to 2 hours.

Texas is 103 km from Stanthorpe and is a 1½ hour drive. We will meet at The Texas Rabbit Works at 9.45 am. Members requiring transport? Please advise Kerrie on telephone 4681 1737.

Cost is \$10 entry and \$7.50 for morning tea; advise of any dietary requirements. BYO lunch to enjoy afterwards in the park.

Continued on page 3

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**Reports**

**President's Report**

John Smales

The first general meeting for the year was well attended and went smoothly with the business discussed promising an interesting year ahead.

Arrangements for the Conference are well in hand and the registrations are coming in, which is a good sign of success. *Are you going?* If so, now is a good time to get your registration in so you don't miss out.

The AGM is set down for 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 so please put that date in your diary. Further information will be advised when details are finalized. All positions on the Management Committee will be vacant, so start to think about how *you can make a difference* to the U3A Granite Belt Inc by taking up a position on the Committee.

All the current Groups are continuing and reporting good support. The short courses are underway with another on Espionage to start later in the year. A Video group is scheduled to commence soon once the timetable for use of the Learning Centre is sorted.

Group Leaders, please ensure your venue is accessible, including private homes. Current and possible future members with a disability are to be considered and given the opportunity to participate.

Thank you all for your continued participation in the U3A experience.

*John Smales*

**Ukulele Group**

Steve Courtney

U3A Granite Belt can once again claim its own ukulele group, but this time with far more on learning and developing playing and personal skills with the instrument, and far less on performing.

The existing group known as the Dam Pluckers, based at members' homes around Storm King Dam, are now all members of U3A. The beginners group started and coached by Heather Kent at her home, has improved to the point that it occasionally performs. Heather emphasises that the role for this group is learning and skill development. These two groups are now combining.

Heather says that learning an instrument is recognised as one of the most effective methods of 'keeping the brain alive' as one ages, which fits in perfectly with the U3A purpose. Beginners can be given one-on-one tuition, and the ukulele is a very friendly instrument to learn.

New members are always welcome to attend.

[heatherkent91@gmail.com](mailto:heatherkent91@gmail.com)

**Network Queensland Conference**

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

**Don't Forget to Register**

As I am writing this on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, there are 53 people registered for the conference, 21 for the Taste of the Granite Belt Tour and 40 for the Welcome Function.

This is an amazing response from members of 16 U3As - mostly in southern Queensland. It is great that six members of Granite Belt U3A have registered.

Granite Belt members of U3A are very welcome to attend the dinner at the International Club on the Wednesday – there will be definite Italian feel at the dinner. You can book for the dinner through the [www.u3aqldconference](http://www.u3aqldconference) website

There have been 30 entries in the Photography competition.

Granite Belt U3A members, it is time to look for some photos of Mother Nature and enter them in the competition. The entry form is available on [www.u3aqldconference](http://www.u3aqldconference) website and you can pay entry money (and conference registration) at the Heritage Bank

Some of the participants are bringing partners with them and the committee are in the process of organising some activities for them. Would you be interested in taking a group on a bike ride or a walk through Girraween or maybe Boonoo Boonoo? I have no idea of numbers as yet but I don't think there will be more than six.

**Please include your name and specifically nominate all events/options as your REFERENCE when paying at the Heritage Bank.**

**This will save our treasurer a lot of time.**

**March Snippets**

**6 March 6, 1475 - Renaissance genius Michelangelo (1475-1564) was born in Caprese, Italy.**

**Deutsch/German**

Irene Grevis-James

Hello für März, April & Mai 2021. Es ist immer gut, Euch in der Klasse zu sehen! Ian & ich wollen in diesen Monaten eine Camping-Reise durch Qld & NSW machen.

So, my apologies that our dates will be erratic for the next few months.

Our last lessons before Easter will be Tuesdays: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March at our usual time of 10am at RSL.

Then I'll be back to challenge you after June!! Do SMS me if you have any questions.

Alles Gute, & Tschüß , Irene.

**Tuesday Book Group** Clare Bonner

“In Falling Snow” by Mary-Rose MacColl

This month’s book tells a very interesting story with twists and turns about Royaumont Abbey in France which was one of a group of hospitals run by a number of mostly Scottish women during World War 1. With the exception of the main surgeon, Frances Ivens, the characters were fictional.

All of our group enjoyed the story, with the exception of one reader, who could not get “into it.” We were all impressed with the research the author had done. The characters were well-drawn and their responses to the horrors of the War were very real.

None of us expected the twist at the end of the book although some hints appeared during the story. Some of these were misleading, which made the ending all the more interesting. It ended in tragedy for one of the characters which quite horrified us all but did actually happen to some of the soldiers in WW 1.

Comments were made by some of us about the story being a little confusing because it jumped between characters, sometimes even in the same chapter. Also, a couple of our members did not get a clear picture of the inside of the Abbey from the description given by the author.

In spite of these things, we agreed it was a good read.

**Wednesday Book Group** Julie Barnes

The first meeting of the group for the year heralded a need for a chat to catch up with each other’s news and other items of interest. The book for Discussion was *How Green Was My Valley* written by Richard Llewellyn. The book, a novel, told the story of the members of the Morgan family through the eyes and ears of Huw – the youngest son of the family. The family lived and worked in a Welsh coal mining village during the last years of the reign of Queen Victoria.

As Kathy’s husband was born and grew up in Wales, we were treated to stories about her husband’s family and Welsh Cakes for morning tea. A recording of a Welsh choir was playing, very quietly, in the background. The group liked to imagine Kathy’s family being descendants of the Morgan family!

All the group loved the book and were moved by the descriptions of going over the mountain, the cruelty of the education system and the pervading and continual coal dust that was in the atmosphere all the time. The spine tingled with the description of the choir singing while they went “over the mountain”.

In the background was the story of the first village pastor and the influence the church deacons had on the families in the village.

Wednesday Book group will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10.00am at Julie’s residence. Phone 0417 074 520 if you would like to come. New members welcome.

The reading for March is any book written by Agatha Christie.

**Science Botany** Fran Tobin

The last Thursday of February was the first day for our 2021 science topic: Botany: *The Study of Plants for Enjoyment*.

We discussed the differences between plant and animal cells, and the many functions of plants. Our discussion on plant products as drugs and as poisons was stimulating. We also looked at the important role of plants in food chains and food webs.

Our next two sessions in March are based on the structure of plants and their parts. A flower will be dissected, and we’ll also look at pollen under the microscope.

**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

Now starting at the later time of **7:00am**

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

**March Snippets**

**March 14,1879** - Albert Einstein (1879-1955) was born in Ulm, Germany.

**March 19,1813** - Explorer and medical missionary David Livingstone (1813-1873) was born in Blantyre, Scotland.

**History Group** continued from page 1

**Registration and Payment deadline**

Names of all attendees are required prior to 17<sup>th</sup> March. Please email Kerrie McCosker to advise on: [kerrileo@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kerrileo@optusnet.com.au)

Payment of \$17.50 must be deposited into the U3A Heritage account before 17<sup>th</sup> March. Pay in person or bank transfer to the U3A Heritage bank account. All banking details are listed on page 5. Ensure to include both your surname and the word **TEXAS** as your reference.

**Garden Group Report** Leon McCosker

Our Group visited the unique garden of *Trevor and Mary Stratford* in Melaleuca Crescent. They bought the 1.25 ha property 15 years ago with views to the West of suburbia (Golden Arches of McDonalds) and the tranquillity of the bushland reserve across Four Mile creek to the East with an abundance of birds and wildlife. Trevor, with his engineering background, has created many sculptures and attractions throughout the garden including a water feature with a water wheel and windmill and an impressive children’s playground in the back yard. Mary designed the garden after several attempts of changing garden beds and had many plants dying from frost and drought. They now have a good supply of water after several attempts of sinking bores, and finally finding a water diviner and driller from South Australia who found good water at 49 metres.

Trevor and Mary have erected thousands of lights throughout the garden to create a fairy land at Christmas. We thanked Trevor and Mary for allowing us to visit their wonderful garden. Next U3A Garden Group outing on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** will be a visit to the Applethorpe Research Station. Allan McWatters, Station Manager, will give a talk and a walk-through of the research station. The Department’s *Covid Plan* requires a record of the attendance numbers and contact details for members taking part in the activity. Please contact and advise Kerrie by **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March** if you are coming. We will meet at the Research Station at 10:00am. Bring a chair and morning tea to share.



Trevor Stratford with Danny and little dog Millie

**March Snippets**

**March 3, 1847** - Telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) was born in Edinburgh Scotland.

**History Hypotheticals** Steve Courtney

The History Hypotheticals topic for February 2021 was the Spanish Armada, and everyone who attended agreed that, whilst they had heard of it, they didn’t really know much about it. So, we all learned about the English sea captains who had been plundering the Spanish galleons, bringing back food and goods from the new world (the Americas). This greatly annoyed the Spanish king, Phillip the Second, who considered himself entitled to the crown of England, rather than the upstart Elizabeth the First, who had rejected his hand in marriage. Having decided to unseat Elizabeth and take the crown, he thought it would be a simple conquest to put together an armada to invade and conquer England. Elizabeth had ‘the body of a weak and feeble woman, but the heart of a King’ and with Sir Francis Drake, sent his armada packing. The topic for the coming month is Gettysburg, examining whether Robert E Lee would have changed America’s history if he had won the Battle of Gettysburg. It will be on the first Thursday in March, in the learning Centre at the High School.

**March Snippets**

**March 11, 1918** - The 'Spanish' influenza first reached America

**Art Gallery Update** Esme Hobba



**What’s On**

- Stanthorpe Art Prize Exhibition 20 Feb - 18 April
- Sip and Paint with Susie - 6 March
- Wearable Art Fashion Show - 12 March - co-hosted with Zonta
- In Conversation with Rob Allen: Shooting for Beauty? The multiplicity of motivations for making - 19 March
- In Conversation with Nicola Holly – Past Director of SRAG - 9 April
- Silk Road Scarf: Create Your Own Silk Scarf with Sue Jurd - 17 April

## 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> |

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### 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 Group:   | Tue | Courtney's residence         |
| Book Group:   | 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 <a href="mailto:ftobin1941@gmail.com">ftobin1941@gmail.com</a> or |
| Calvin         | 0429 056 797 or <a href="mailto:u3agbnews@gmail.com">u3agbnews@gmail.com</a>     |
| Steve Courtney | 4683 7103  |

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

|                  |   |  |   |   |                                      |
|------------------|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>1</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am<br>Ukulele Group<br>2:00pm                    | <b>8</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am<br>Ukulele Group<br>2:00pm | <b>15</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am<br>Ukulele Group<br>2:00pm                       | <b>22</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am<br>Ukulele Group<br>2:00pm | <b>29</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>2</b><br>Book Group<br>10:00am<br>German<br>10:00am                            | <b>9</b><br>Mosaics*<br>9:00am                                 | <b>16</b>   | <b>23</b><br>Mosaics*<br>9:00 am                                | <b>30</b><br>German<br>10:00am       |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>3</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am<br>Book Group<br>10:00am<br>French<br>10:00am | <b>10</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am                           | <b>17</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am<br>Garden Group*<br>10:00am<br>French<br>10:00am | <b>24</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am                            | <b>31</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>4</b><br>Genealogy<br>2:00pm<br>History Hypotheticals<br>10:00am               | <b>11</b><br>Science<br>10:30am                                | <b>18</b><br>General Mtg<br>10:00am   | <b>25</b><br>Science<br>10:30am                                 |                                      |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>5</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am   | <b>12</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am                           | <b>19</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am  | <b>26</b><br>Walking Group<br>7:00am<br>History Group<br>8:00am |                                      |



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