



The U3A Crier

NEWSLETTER OF NATURALISTE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC

WINTER - 2024

EDITORIAL:

At last, we have welcoming rain to save early germination and to revive the many dying plants and trees. After the most enjoyable Thank You Luncheon organised by Jill Ilott for our Volunteer Course Leaders we are looking forward to some stimulating new courses in Semester Two. Of course, at this time of the year we Grey Nomads are attracted to the warmth of the North or to summer in Europe, the UK, USA, Africa ... wherever, so safe travels for all those migrating. Those remaining will continue to enjoy the enthusiasm of our Course Leaders with stimulating presentations.

Sir Guinivere.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

**NATU3A LEADERS AND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER WEEK
LUNCHEON FRIDAY 24 MAY 2024**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a shame I can't be here with you to extend my personal thanks to each of you for your support for Nat U3A. We cannot exist in our current format without your generous contributions in time, skill, knowledge and leadership in running a range of courses. Our members are so fortunate to have you inspire them and enable them to have fun and learn. For many, your class may be one of their few opportunities to go out and socialise, at the very least.

This lunch was the inspiration of our Public Relations and reluctant 'Secretary', Jill Ilott, who applied for a grant to assist us to shout you lunch in Volunteers' Week. I know many of you volunteer in other ways as well. So, congratulations and thanks to our current Course Leaders and committee members for their ongoing support of U3A.

In addition, firstly, my thanks to our marvellous volunteer Committee Members who are here with you – Jill, Jan (our brilliant Treasurer), Gwyn (our Course Coordinator and *Crier* Editor), Wendy (our Catering Coordinator and another reluctant but official Secretary!) and Peter, our general support officer! As you can tell, the Secretarial role continues to be our *bête noire* and, for the

sake of sanity, the tasks will be divided between any folks we can attract to help us out! Secondly, my thanks to those NOT here today who have sent their apologies, Pauline (our Vice-President who had shoulder surgery yesterday), Don (our Systems Administrator who is in America visiting family) and me, your President. Fond wishes to you all from the Swiss Alps where I'll be scattering the rest of Richard's ashes as he wished!

Please enjoy yourselves. To help you do that I've insisted that Gwyn invites Wendy Beames from our Committee, a member of his *Into Drama* Group for many years and *Mah Jongg* Group Leader since 2011, to share with you a couple of her fellow Oxfordshire countrywoman's poems: Pam Ayres. Thanks so much Wendy for giving in and agreeing to amuse us! I hope someone is recording this for me to enjoy on my return.

Colleen Liston.

Our Course Leaders Luncheon



When Volunteering WA invited us to apply through them for a Grant from the Lotteries Commission to celebrate Volunteer Week in May 2024, we jumped at the chance.

It was explained the money was to be spent on a celebration honouring our volunteers, so what better way than inviting them to a Thank You Luncheon at The Deck Restaurant at the Marina. We ended up hosting 20 volunteers who could come and they ate their way through three courses and plenty of leftovers went home happily in 'doggie bags'.

Members were happy to match names to faces, some for the first time, and a strong community vibe carried through the entire luncheon. It was unanimously decided to repeat the procedure next year if it is offered again.

Our grateful thanks go out to Volunteering WA and the Lotteries Commission for making this possible.

Unfortunately, no one remembered to take a photo of the whole group when Gwyn was presenting President Colleen's address in her absence - (she was spreading her beloved Richard's ashes in the Swiss Alps) so better luck next year perhaps!

A BIG THANK YOU once again to all our Leaders, Committee and other Volunteers for making our U3A such a viable concern as we couldn't operate without you.

COMMITTEE PROFILES:

President: Colleen Liston



Colleen Liston (IAUA, GradDipPhys, GradDipHlthSc, MSc, AdvDipQM, CertIVBEE, PhD APAM) is currently Vice-Chair of the Busselton Oral History Group with a passion for local social history. In the past she was President of the Australian Physiotherapy Association and Chaired the Physiotherapists Registration Board for a number of years and held senior positions, including University Secretary and Director of International Planning and Quality at Curtin University.

Dr Liston is a private consultant on tertiary education quality assurance, accreditation and standards. She has been involved in tertiary education since the late seventies (Health Sciences), and in quality management and international education issues since the late eighties. Her PhD in Education researched *The Structure of Educational Accreditation*. She has published widely on health science research and managing quality and standards; presented at workshops on self-review and quality auditing activities; briefed senior university staff and given invited keynote papers on these topics at major international conferences in Australia; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Edinburgh, United Kingdom; Chile; New Zealand and China.

Dr Liston qualified as an ISO Auditor, an Australian Business Excellence Framework Evaluator and a Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) [previously Australian Universities Quality Agency (**AUQA**)] Auditor. She was on the panel which undertook the inaugural AUQA audit, was involved in preparing for AUQA's first audit of Curtin University, chaired the first dual sector AUQA/AQTF audit of RMIT University and has chaired and been on a number of other university and non-self-accrediting institutions' audit panels in Australia and overseas. She was a member of the Editorial Board for AUQA's Occasional Publications.

Professor Liston was appointed by the Minister of Education in Western Australia to chair higher education accreditation committees (HEACs) and as the inaugural Chair of the HEAC Chairs' Forum. Colleen undertook a review of the procedures for accreditation of higher education courses for the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee and is an accreditation and quality assurance reviewer for the Hong Kong, New Zealand, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain Governments' Quality Management Agencies. She has conducted independent reviews for a number of Australian universities in relation to internationalisation, academic governance, standards and benchmarking. Colleen is a Hospice volunteer and member of U3A in Busselton.

Peter Lewis: Committee Member



My name is Peter Lewis and I am a committee member of your Naturalist U3A.

I was born in Busselton and educated at the local Primary and High school. At age sixteen I left school to pursue apprenticeship training in the Royal Australian Army spending time in Melbourne, Sydney, and Rockhampton in Queensland.

During my working career, I was involved in the offshore oil and gas industry, a small business, worked at several mines in the Northwest spent twelve years sailing around the world and have since written a book on my travels.

I am now living back in Busselton and have been a member of Naturalist U3A for approximately four years.

Committee Member & Systems Administrator: Don Wright

Don was born in Swansea, South Wales, UK just after the second world war. Stepping at an early age onto the relentless UK educational conveyor belt in 1951, 20 years later he fell off the end with a first class honours degree in pure mathematics from the University of Wales and a Ph.D. in pure mathematics from the University of Birmingham, England. Teaching and research positions followed at the University of Kansas, University of Texas at Austin, University of Wales, Aberystwyth and finally Monash University in Melbourne, the job which initially brought him to Australia in 1975. After 3 years there, he decided that he preferred to retain his health rather than battle with the stress of advanced mathematical research in a highly competitive field. The fact that he wasn't really equipped to compete with the world's best mathematicians might also have influenced that decision. He wandered into the technical IT space and worked for the ANZ Bank IT department in Melbourne in the mid-1980s. In 1987 he moved to Perth with his young family, working for the University of WA on a large IBM mainframe project for the Health Dept of WA which serviced most of WA's hospitals. A few years later he was working as an independent IT consultant in the technical space and subsequently contributed for almost 30 years to major projects in Perth for multiple clients. These included government departments such as WA Health, Dept of Transport, Dept of Planning, Insurance Commission of WA, GESB, Regional Development and Lands, Dept of Education, DOCEP, Dept of Finance and Treasury and corporate clients such as Alcoa, Bunnings, Bankwest, Rio Tinto, Computer Science Corporation, St John of God

Hospital, Fujitsu, Navitas, Curtin 2016 he moved down to his retirement. Don's main long walks up and down the at a time) and tinkering with a personal computers.



University and ECU Joondalup. In Busselton, happily coinciding with hobbies these days are going on coast, playing his nine guitars (one diverse collection of ancient

Gwyn Cracknell: Committee member and Course Coordinator



GWYN (white cap)

A city boy from Rivervale bred to be a jockey! Frustrated from a career in science due to a lack of chemistry. Forced to choose teaching over surveying as bonded teachers had their Uni fees paid. Harvey first posting as a residential housemaster at the Agricultural wing. Taught Animal Husbandry, Crop production, Farm Bookkeeping, Irrigation as well as Science, Maths, English and Social Studies, usually one page ahead of students! Met wonderful Wendy, married 67, three children, Sonia, Kim, Carolyn; five grandchildren. To Belmont SHS chasing promotion then Mt Lawley SHS and City Beach SHS as Senior Master of English. One year teacher exchange to England and one year Research Branch in Silver City, implementing “Beazley Report” Literacy recommendations. Deputy Principal Denmark DHS, Deputy Busselton SHS (86) , met the amazing McDonalds who contributed so much to Busselton SHS; Acting Principal for two years. Past President of Rotary Club of Geographe Bay, Past Commodore of Geographe Bay Yacht Club, Past President of Geographe Over 50 Cycle club, Vice President 7 yrs, Course Co-ordinator, Editor Crier U3A, unaware of the looming GFC of 2008 retired at 60.

A lover of learning, still teaching sailing, disability sailing and for U3A “Into Drama” and Senior Sailing.

COURSES SEMESTER ONE:

WILDFLOWERS IN OUR MIDST: Patrick Prevett

A group of 15 wildflower enthusiasts gathered to hear Patrick describe his wildflower wanderings in the Great Southern Region of WA and visits to Granite outcrops in the Wheat Belt. He enthused the group with a promise to take us all bush as soon as it rained. Now it has rained, and we need some warmth to push the flowers through. The group, with some missing for the photo due to support for the medical fraternity and other important events are hoping the field trip is not far away. It is likely the visits will be local to the Whicher Range or Ambergate Reserve. For those with limited walking capacity it may be Alan Street to see the shell orchids. Wherever we go it will be well covered with photography showing the favoured action photos rather than sitting in rows. Watch this space. Patrick.



WRITING and PUBLISHING: Arthur Paternoster



Over the last 12 months, I have held 14 different classes for writing and publishing. There are several students who have reached the pre-publishing stage. If you have considered the prospect of writing and publishing a book, this is your opportunity. The course will take you from deciding to write a book to publishing the book. The 32-module course material is on the website <https://writemybook.cloud> Attending classes will give you a grasp of the course. Besides the classes, participants are

benefiting from one-on-one coffee catchup mentoring. We have also planned a group get-together over the next few months. Arthur Paternoster 0438 623 200 arthur.paternoster@gmail.com

INTO DRAMA: Gwyn Cracknell.

Another successful Semester of enthusiastic dramatic presentations!

Starting with Noel Coward's **Nude With a Violin** and Arthur Miller's **All My Sons**, already reported we moved on to Simon Neil's graphic comic **The Prisoner of 2nd Avenue**, a clever portrayal of life in a New York apartment. Due to State Library delays we endured another reading of **Steel Magnolias** by Robert Harling, still very enjoyable with its humour and pathos.

Samuel Taylor's **Sabrina Fair** involved a delightful romantic comedy of a 'Finished' young lady returning to New York from Paris. An insight into how the wealthy lived in North Shore Long Island, New York. This was followed by Anthony Marriott's **No Sex Please – We're British**, which turned out to be a typical English farce with half naked women attempting to seduce the wrong men!

JM Barrie, of Peter Pan fame, entertained us with his **What Every Woman Knows** an enlightened expose of Scottish men's expectations of their women. In this case a daughter/sister who turns out to be the driving force behind her successful MP husband. In June we will return to Thornton Wilder's **Our Town** and hopefully John Patrick's **Teahouse of the August Moon**



Us being DRAMATIC!

CREATIVE WRITING: Shane Venema and Alan Briggs

Here is a photo taken today of our Creative Writing Group ... we often have 11 but only 8 today (I am taking the photo) ... you have asked for "active" - it is "active" in that we were all busily occupied dreaming up and writing today's set writing activities. We usually have 2 activities - 1 to be completed in class and 1 to be finished as homework ready for the following fortnight. Sometimes we have an extra activity in class if we have spare time!

Below is a summary of what we have written so far this year. I am the facilitator along with Alan Briggs but most of the group are sharing the leading and coming up with different subjects to write. It is working well.

12 Feb To write about our earliest memories. To capture either a face or a place with as many descriptive words as we could - to make that person/place come alive with the power of words. 200-word limit.

19 Feb Our favourite pet. Our first job

26 Feb: Out of a table full of varying pictures & photos, we selected 5 to combine to make a story. I chose a picture of different hats and researched and wrote the history of hats. Acrostic with the word "TYPEWRITERS" - we had to make up a poem or story about the Typewriter. eg. T = "Typical old invention", Y = Yesterday's technology, P = "Past history" etc We listened to the music called "The Typewriter" by Leroy Anderson whilst we wrote. Stimulated more brain cells hopefully!

11 March Everyone selected 2 different objects from a box which was passed around. Created a story on the spot from the 21 objects. Several photos of emotions conveyed in faces printed from the computer were selected by everyone. We had to write on the emotion we thought was on the face. eg. Fear, joy, disgust, surprise, sadness, relief, anxiety, grief etc. We had a discussion on the difference between "Gratitude" and "Thankfulness."

25 March Subject - Where we like to walk or drive. Fiction or fact. Special conditions had to be included. Lizards - either made up fiction, horror, fantasy, fact. Had to have some rhyming words in it.

15 April Digital surprises concerning devices, computers or life in general and how it affects us as older people. Subject - We get to the bank. It is closed. What do we do? It involves "Bots," "Robots," and what could happen in the future with a cashless society.

29 April Selection from bundle of story headings and endings. Special conditions - had to contain a doctor and a concert. Subject - Cost of living. Can be viewed from any angle - either practically, how it effects us or people we know or the economy etc.

13 May A selection was made from 3 packs of cards. Character, Special condition and End. I selected "Hairdresser as character," "Had to make us laugh" as condition and End was "He went out and shut the door. "We go on a long walk through the forest. We see an old shack. What happens next?"

27 May Imagine we are transported back in time ... by what means? How does it actually happen? Which era are we transported into? Special conditions - write as a diary. Start & end with a question. Write about living in Busselton or the town in which you currently live.

10 June FOR NEXT TIME - Write about a favourite holiday place, a country you would like to visit, or a holiday destination you would like to visit. Or, choose a picture from a table selection. Include special conditions - mention musical instruments, a feast, include a cat and a dog in the story. Or, include a knapsack, a newspaper, the moon or a telescope.



MAH JONGG: Wendy Beames:

The Mah Jongg Group at Naturaliste U3A began its 14th year of continuous operation this year! Still going strong with 29 players on our list, most of who attend regularly, although this chilly weather will soon be calling a few to a warmer climate “up north”. It continues to grow from strength to strength and has few vacancies each year apart from when participants move away from the area or become too infirm. Two of our valued members died in the last year – our assistant Leader, Richard Liston, and Peg Bamford (at 97!). They are sadly missed. Of course, one of our biggest challenges now is getting used to not having Richard anymore. He put such a lot of effort into making our group the success it still is after all these years. We all miss him so much, his enthusiasm and joy of playing, as well as his sense of humour.

In January four new players joined, two of whom had been playing the ‘Western’ style whereas our group plays the traditional ‘Eastern’ or Chinese style. The other two learned the Chinese rules from scratch and all of the four are already gaining high scores and amazing many of the stalwarts with their dedication and skill.

Our seasoned regulars (some of whom were there at the beginning in 2011!!) still continue to turn up regularly on Thursday afternoons at the Salvation Army Hall in Kent Street and take turns volunteering to set up tables and take charge of afternoon tea. We regularly have around 25 folks there and have an overall limit of 30.

Sadly I, in particular, miss Richard’s book-keeping and technical prowess, leading and teaching skills and his enthusiasm for the game.



Happy times at Mah Jongg



John Slee: My Dad and his Battle with Goering

John Slee is an inquisitive man of many talents. If someone had told his father when he enlisted in World War I as a soldier that he would become a fighter pilot (14 years after the Wright brothers flew the first flying machine) he would have laughed.

And if someone had told him that he would have an air battle with Herman Goering he would have said, "Herman Goering – who is he?" But John's dad actually had a dog fight with Goering, which is recorded in both English and German documents as well as in several books about Goering who became the head of Hitler's air force, the Luftwaffe, during WWII and was Hitler's number two.

What would have happened to world history if John's father had brought Goering down? His father never talked about all this but, luckily, the family persuaded him to write a memoir of his war experiences, however he stipulated that the memoir was to stay in the family. For 30 years the Slee family honoured this.

Thirty years after his dad's death John asked his mother what she thought about him not actually SHOWING his father's memoir to other people, but writing a story based on it and quoting selectively from it. She agreed, as did John's brothers.

So, John has been on the trail for 20 years looking for evidence of the happenings reported in the memoir. ***Fifteen years ago John found Goering's handwritten flight report of his fight with John's father***

A large audience thoroughly enjoyed John's witty presentation from powerpoint Frid 18th April at The People Place.



An attentive audience at John Slee's talk.



SCRABBLE: Diana Hannamann

The Scrabblers are a great group, enjoying words old and newly discovered. We meet weekly, sharing hosting duties between the members; a plan that works very well as we are only 12 members. We play both "Proper" rules as well as more informal games. Playing rules are decided upon by the group of players for each round. We all enjoy our mental challenges each week.

QI GONG: Lu Jin

Qi Gong started well enough but Lu, our wonderfully talented teacher had to return to Sydney after our first block of 6 sessions. But all was not lost as Julie from The People Place kindly came to our rescue with her computer from home so we then could experience learning from the big screen. The stalwarts have noticed gradual improvements in body movements even though the exercises seem so simple and easy, you don't think much is happening at the time. We do 1/2 hour of movement and then 1/2 hour of meditation, followed by a few more exercises to make sure we don't crash the car on the way home! The next block of 6 sessions starts on 28th June and runs in that format until the end of the year.



ENHANCE YOUR CREATIVITY: Lorraine Watts



For those of us that thought we had limited creativity Lorraine presented us with some really fascinating exercises that proved that wasn't the case. Using "The 30 Day Creativity Challenge" Lorraine teamed that with stimulating videos and podcasts. We were fortunate also that our course co-incided with Virginia Trioli's TV series "Creative Types". We also had Sally Mills as a guest speaker who certainly stimulated our creativity. Exercises from the 30-Day Creativity Challenge were enlightening and very enjoyable. Thanks so much Lorraine.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tues 25th June Online enrolments open
- Enrolment Day Frid 28th June – People Place
- AGM Frid 18th October

POLITICS:

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy.

Politics – the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

A Politician is an animal that can sit on a fence and keep both ears to the ground.

Feedback is welcome to: secretary@u3anaturaliste.com.au

Don't forget to check our Facebook page. [Naturaliste U3A.](#)

Facebook posts are placed on our page regularly. If there is something you would like to see posted, please get in touch with Pauline Rockley.

Thanks to Pauline Rockley for printing and sending postals.