

APRIL 2010

U3A GRANITE BELT NEWSLETTER



University of the Third Age, Granite Belt Inc.

"The Law of Theatre Seating

*-
At any perform-
ance, the peo-
ple whose seats
are furthest
from the aisle
will arrive last "*

*"Nothing is
foolproof - to a
sufficiently tal-
ented fool"*

HISTORY GROUP

Those who attended the March History Group were treated to a wonderful summary of the Murray Darling system's riverboat history, as well as a discussion about what we can do to maintain this system for future generations. Esme Hobba's intimate knowledge of the outback river system helped to fire discussion and passion about what has happened to these rivers, and what lies ahead. Congratulations Esme. The next History Group will be a video on the history of Pikedale, revised by Jack Stoll.

INSURANCE

Whilst we are looking forward to a more economical insurance arrangement for Public Liability cover from the U3A Network—Qld, it won't be ready until the middle of the year, so we are faced with continuing the cover with Aon Risk Services for another 3 months. A revised quote for the 3 months until the end of June has been obtained, costing \$332.46, and arrangements have therefore been made to extend our existing cover at that cost. (Pity, but the cost could have been worse.)

DROMOMANIA

The meeting in March was planned to be about the 10 natural or man-made wonders of the world that we have seen or want to see, but the enthusiasm was such that we only got to the natural wonders. So, next month will be about your 10 man-made wonders that you would like to see, or have seen. The range of wonders which have been brought up so far, makes the next session an enticing one. Come along and set your imagination free!

BELOW IS A COMPOSITE PICTURE, PRODUCED BY LIZ DRAKE, OF EVERYONE WHO WENT TO U3A'S SOCIAL/PICNIC AT DONNELLY'S CASTLE ON 11TH MARCH. IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT HOW SUCH PICTURES ARE PRODUCED, COME ALONG TO THE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP.





PICNIC AT DONNELLY'S CASTLE



Not as scary as Hanging Rock!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - DESIGN IN YOUR LIFE - FROM U3A ONLINE

Food for Thought is a six part course covering the history and culture of food and how it has affected modern day cuisine. I have just completed this course on line and see the potential for this to be a very interesting and hands on course which can be adapted to our own interests and needs. If you are interested in being a part of this, I propose that we hold an introductory meeting to discuss its potential and time-table, following the General Meeting on Thursday 15th April. If you are interested, but unable to attend on the 15th, please let me

know asap.

Subjects covered include historical facts, food time-lines, influence of migration, european and asian cuisine and bush foods. I would hope that food tasting would be an important element as well as visits to appropriate food producers and/or outlets.

Design in Your Life - As there are some people who have expressed an interest in this unit who are taking part in Left, Right, Centre, this course will be held over until the second part of this year.

Mary

***"The Law of Logical Argument -
Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about"***

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER - PETER WALTERS

Peter Walters has been a VIP (Volunteer in Policing) for some four years. He joined the QPS following a long association with it through the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Brisbane, where he was an Area Co-ordinator. Prior to his retirement from full-time employment, he had worked in Occupational Health & Safety for about 25 years, 15 of which he served as Training Manager of the National Safety Council of Australia(Qld Div'n). He and his wife Rae Baudouin moved to Stanthorpe in early 2008, and now wish they'd come here 10 years ago!! Peter's work with the police takes 2 half-days a week. He also drives for Blue Care, as needed, and in his copious spare time, "plays around with wood a bit!" Rae is a quilter of no mean ability, and in her copious spare time she also works with QCWA, and takes good care of Peter!!

THANKS FROM LIZ DRAKE

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you all for supporting the Share for a Cure fund raiser with your generous donations.

I am very proud to have been part of this fund raiser and have finally raised \$2,195.55c.

My goal was set at \$1000.00 and with all your support I have managed to reach the final amount.

Once again thank you for your support,

Liz Drake

(Note: You more than reached your goal, Liz, you exceeded it with flying colours - Congratulations! Editor)

GARDEN GROUP AT THE RED BRIDGE (BY KERRIE AND LEON)

Garden Group met at the Heritage Park with Parks and Gardens Officer Mike McAuliffe. Mike gave members handouts from the council outlining the development of Quart Pot Creek. Some of the highlights; "In 1973-4, at the advent of the R.E.D. Scheme, this Council endorsed a number of proposals for submission to the Whitlam Labour Government to provide this town and district with community facilities.

Submissions included major Community Development Projects:- Development of Quart Pot Creek through the town to provide parklands fronting permanent water provided by low level Weirs. The proposal further involved upgrading of low level creek crossings and grouted rock walls forming a defined channel in narrow

sections backed on to by residential lands located in the flood plain.

So began this long, often neglected and almost forgotten project which was finally brought to partial fruition in the Bicentennial Year, 1988.

The project has continued since 1988 and the residents of Stanthorpe now enjoy more than 6km of uninterrupted walks along a well developed permanent waterway brought about by a system of weirs ranging from 300mm to 1.5m in height"

We walked up to the grey "Red Bridge" and then down to Alice St. rest area where Mike showed a slide show of the creek development including various



major floods.

All 18 members enjoyed a memorable morning.

Next meeting – Wednesday 21st April at 10am to Cherry Lane gardens where Autumn colour and camellia hedges should be at their peak, Barry or Yvette will be our guide. Please bring along a thermos and chair for a cuppa.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRD OBSERVING —24TH MARCH- BY PETER DAWSON

By 7.30am, 6 people were ready for an informal discussion on birds of the Granite Belt area. Over a cup of tea or coffee, bird books and field guides were examined and comparisons made. Peter distinguished between books for reading and field guides for easy identification. A brief session on binoculars (weight, size, magnification and general usefulness) was held before embarking on a short walk, after noting the differences between

male and female common bronzewings. With a blue sky and no wind, conditions were perfect but bird numbers were down and the only highlight was a collared sparrowhawk soaring overhead before making a half-hearted attack on a mixed group of thornbills and honeyeaters. After another coffee break and more discussion it was decided to hold a bird meeting once a month. Next month, a walk in Kerrie & Leon's lower bushland..


CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

Barbara Nicholls has experienced a small but keen and enthusiastic group of cryptic crossword participants in the first month.

April will be interrupted by the first Monday being Easter Monday, so Cryptic Crosswords is not on on Easter Monday, but the following fortnight (Monday 19th) it will resume. Come along and find out the tricks of fathoming this arcane skill.

{ *"People have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger!"* }

**THE U3A NETWORK - QLD IS HOLDING ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM
IN TOWNSVILLE IN AUGUST. SEE ADVERT BELOW:**



U3A Network – Queensland Inc
State Conference and AGM

U3A on the Move

**16th and 17th
August 2010**

**Venue:
Holiday Inn
Townsville
334 FLINDERS MALL
Townsville**

For details and Registration Form please go to the U3A Network Inc. website at sites.google.com/site/u3anetworkqld/ or ask your Committee.

University of the Third Age, Granite Belt Inc.

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Postal Address:
U3A Granite Belt Inc.
PO Box 250
Stanthorpe Qld 4380

Phone: 07 46837103
Fax: 07 46837103
Email: u3agb@halenet.com.au
or u3agb@granitenet.com.au
Web: www.granitenet.com.au
(click on **community groups**,
scroll down to find U3A)

Contacts & Group Convenors:
Steve Courtney (Pres) 46837103
Leon McCosker (VP) 46811737
Carol Van Klaveren (Sec)
46813495
Jeanie With (Treas) 46813360
Oriël Nielsen (Min Sec) 46813648
Liz Drake 46811718
Mary Courtney 46837103
Kerrie McCosker 46811737
Nick Smithers 46813553
Mim Sheahan 46811136
Laurie Astill 0431174244
Roy Werner 46812652
J A Dvorak 46812301
Jan Martin 46841264
Barbara Nicholls 46810282
Peter Dawson 46810102

Newsletter Editor:
Steve Courtney

***"The Law of Vehicular
Variation -
If you change lanes
whilst driving, the
lane you were in will
always move faster
than the lane you
have changed to."***

***"The Law of Lost Ob-
jects -
No matter how thor-
oughly or how long you
look for something you
have lost, you will al-
ways find it in the last
place you look"***

Programme for April 2010

Weekly Activities

- Every Mon - MahJong, Cribbage, Sewing (mornings) Various activities in
afternoons - at STEPS - from 9.30am to 4.00pm Contacts:
Mim Sheahan, Mary Courtney
" " - Art Group - Senior Citizens Room - 9.30am to 4pm - cost \$2
Contact: Laurie Astill
" " - Jonola (cards) - at RSL - 1.30pm - Contact: Liz Drake

Fortnightly / Monthly Activities - April

- 1st Thur (1st) - Yarn Group - 10am at Learning Centre - Discussion of
topics in the news. Contacts: Roy Werner, Steve Courtney
1st Fri (2nd) - **No Computer Club** (Good Friday) - Contact: Steve or J A Dvorak
" " - **No Left Right & Centre** - A Brief Guide to Political Ideologies -
resumes in a fortnight - Contact: Steve
1st Mon (5th) - **No Cryptic Crosswords** (Easter Monday) - resumes in a fortnight -
Contact: Barbara Nicholls
2nd Fri (9th) - Investment Group - Learning Centre - 10.00am - Review
the investments Contact: Nick Smithers
2nd Tue (13th) - Music for Pleasure - Venue: John and Chiyoko's, Texas Rd at
7.00pm - Theme - Vaudeville music (50+) Contacts: Carol/ Oriël
3rd Thur (15th) - General Meeting - 10am - Learning Centre - guest speaker:
Peter Walters, on Police volunteering Contact: Steve
3rd Fri (16th) - Digital Photography Group - 10am at the Learning Centre -
Photo Comp: Best Autumn picture Contact: Liz Drake
" " Left Right & Centre - A Brief Guide to Political Ideologies -
1.00pm at the Learning Centre - Contact: Steve
3rd Mon (19th) - Cryptic Crosswords - STEPS at 1pm - solving the unsolvable.
Contact: Barbara Nicholls
3rd Wed (21st) - Garden Group - 10am - Venue: Cherry Lane Nursery gardens,
Sugarloaf Rd Contact: Kerrie and Leon
4th Thur (22nd) Book Club - Lorenza's Coffee Lounge - 2pm - Contact:
Mary. Book for April: "The Book Thief" by Marcus Zusak (now
available at Library)
4th Fri (23rd) - Dromomaniacs - 10am at the Learning Centre - Topic: Your top
10 man-made wonders of the world. Contact: Jan Martin
4th Wed (28th) - Birdwatching - at Peter and Margy Dawson's, 329 Amosfield Rd at
7.00am - walk in Kerrie and Leon's - Contact: Peter Dawson
5th Thur (29th) - History Group - 10.30am - Learning Centre - Topic: History
of Pikedale - Video prepared/revised by Jack Stoll

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