



# U3A Granite Belt Newsletter



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 2009

## Christmas Visit

A Scotsman calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough." 'Dad, what are you talking about?' the son screams. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer" the father says. "We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her."

Frantically, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like hell they're getting divorced!" she shouts, "I'll take care of this!"

She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Sorted! They're coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way!'

## Christmas Party/Summer Social at Giardino's



**U3A Granite Belt's Summer Social / Christmas Party** at Giardino's Restaurant was definitely one of our best attended social events for some time, with 35 members and guests enjoying a fine Christmas themed lunch in beautiful surroundings, with plenty of convivial company. The restaurant idea was very favourably accepted.

After a year in which we have experienced major disruptions to our venues and programs, this event was a cele-

bration of reaching the end of the 2009 programme with U3A still functioning effectively. We have rolled with the punches this year.



Peter Walters proposed a vote of thanks to the lunch organisers - Carol, Jeannie and Steve - and Steve responded by thanking all convenors and members for their commitment in 2009.

## Guest Speaker for November - Julia Hartmann

**Death and Taxes, Tricks Traps and FAQs** was the topic, and we could not have got a more enthusiastic and informed speaker on this topic than Julia Hartmann, who came to us through the auspices of Tax and Accounting Solutions, to explain the ins and outs of Capital Gains Tax, methods of minimizing tax in certain

circumstances, and probate costs. Julia has written a number of books on her topic

and showed an amazing breadth of knowledge on the tax implications of various



scenarios. It was a valuable informative talk.

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## Member Profile: Maia Balsillie



I was born in Moree NSW during the Depression years when work was hard to come by. My parents moved about for a time, but we finally settled in Brisbane where my schooling began. I trained to be a ballet dancer and in my late teens joined the National Theatre Ballet Co. in Victoria, as well as dancing in Brisbane. I met Andy on a blind date and we later married. We had a grazing property but later had to move to Stanthorpe for health reasons. I have been in the district 44 years.

**I joined U3A:** to meet and learn.

**To relax, I:** read, knit, do cross-words.

**The thing I love about Stanthorpe is:** it's a unique and interesting area suitable to a diversity of production.

**The best thing to do for free in Stanthorpe is:** our lovely creek walks, the free concerts at the Gallery, and watching the world go by.

**I'm currently - Reading:** The Riders by Tim Winton  
**Watching:** Packed to the Rafters.

**Working on:** garments for aids babies in Africa.

**The thing I do best is:** keeping in touch with family and friends.

**My favourite saying is:** whatever will be, will be.

**I find inspiration in:** people and nature.



**The first thing I notice when I meet a person is:** eye to eye contact and a pleasant smile.

**If money was no object, I'd:** help my family members more, give to the needy, and spend some time in the Tropics.

**Paradise is:** Stanthorpe in Autumn when the leaves turn to gold, and Spring when the buds blossom out and the air is crisp.

**If I was granted one wish, it would be:** to live in good health.

U3A Members are invited to attend the following:

Don't forget! Thur 10 December at 2pm at the Railway Station!  
RSVP by 2 Dec to 46812466

## Bits and Pieces: Group Reports

**Investment Club:** The Investment Club is becoming a much more pleasant experience lately, with the revival in the value of shares seeing the Club's original value of investments restored, and now even some profit being made. The Club will finish the year with a visit to the Wine College Restaurant, after its last meeting on Friday 11th Dec.

**Dromomaniacs:** The November Dromomaniacs meeting concentrated on Festivals and Events, particularly overseas events, and was a virtual

Cook's tour of the world's big events, with members giving accounts of diverse happenings from around the world. The next meeting, in February, will focus on Australian festivals.

**History Group:** November's History Group was enthralling again, with Kim McChlery giving a talk on Knights and Crusaders, and once again, covering quite a bit of the ancient history of the world in a brilliant summary of civilization's journey through the ages.



Kim's talks have been a major factor in keeping the History Group relevant this year. Many thanks Kim.  
**Garden Club:** The November meeting was for a morning tea at Granite Gardens. A good representation of members attended, and the surroundings were superb. The Garden Club will resume again in January (Wednesday 20th) with details of where and what to be forwarded closer to the date.

## Music for Pleasure (November) at Oriel's

Sleep seemed such an easy theme for our evening but it appeared to be difficult to find music in keeping with it. However an interesting and varied selection was enjoyed by all seven of us. It ranged from pop to classical. Artists were - Elvis-If You Talk In Your Sleep; The Platters - A Sleepy Lagoon; Pavarotti -Nessum Dorma; Rolf Harris- Carbararra-wirracanna Lullaby; Susie Quatro - Wake Up Little Susie; Wiegenlied (Brahms); Louis Armstrong-When It's Sleepy Time Down South;

Ever Softer Grows My Slumber (Brahms); Waltz from Sleeping Beauty (Tchaikovsky); Kenneth McKellar -the sentimental Berceuse de Jocelyn (Godard); Sleepy Time Gal and more. We even had Steve's lovely voice to listen to! It was a most enjoyable evening for us all. That's all from me Oriel



## Schedule Changes for 2010

A newsletter will be prepared for late January 2010, to contain the schedule of times and locations which will be finalized by then, so please keep an eye out for that newsletter, to confirm any changes to the times of activities you are interested in.

The main changes will be:

**Art Club** will transfer to Mondays at the Senior Citizen's Rooms - all day, starting at 10am

**Computer Club and Digital Photography** will merge, and be at the Hilton St internet café, probably on the first Friday of the month - 10am (depending on room availability)

**Left Right and Centre - A brief guide to Political Ideologies** will

begin on Fridays (1st and 3rd Fridays) in Feb at the Learning Centre at 1.00pm to 2.30pm (subject to room availability) facilitated by Steve. Please advise Steve if you want to participate.

**Investment Club** may change from the Learning Centre to Hilton St, to take advantage of internet access - 3rd Friday 10am. All other activities will remain at the same times as they have been, in the same locations.

During next year, plans are underway to run a course from U3A Online called 'Design in your Life' facilitated by Mary Courtney, most likely at the Learning

Centre.

**Other courses** from U3A Online are being considered, as well as a cryptic crossword group, a genealogy course and a literature course (maybe William Shakespeare) subject to convenors being available. We will endeavour to implement some of Jim Wilkinson's suggestions as well. Most activities will commence again when school starts, but Monday activities will commence when arranged by the respective groups. The **Book Club** will meet at 2:00pm at Lorenza's on January 28th. Cold Mountain will be available at the Library in the next ten days. The only constant in life is change, so U3A Granite Belt is changing.

## Liz's (Special) Recipe - 'Topsy' Cake - (Do not bake and drive!)

### Ingredients.

1 cup of water, 1 tsp baking soda  
1 cup of sugar, 1 tsp salt, 1 cup of brown sugar, 4 large eggs, 1 cup nuts, 2 cups of dried fruit, 1 bottle Jose Cuervo Tequila.

### How to make it.

Sample the Cuervo to check quality.

Take a large bowl, check the Cuervo again, to be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink.

Turn on the electric mixer. Beat



one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one peastoon of sugar. Beat again. At this point it's best to make sure the Cuervo is still ok, try another cup just in case.

Turn off the mixerer thingy.

Break 2 leggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.

Pick up the frigging fruit off the floor. Mix on the turner.

If the fried druit gets stuck in the beaters just pry it loose with a drewscraver. Sample the Cuervo to check for tonsistency.

Next, sift two cups of salt, or something. Check the Jose Cuervo. Now

shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table.

Add a spoon of sugar, or something else. Whatever you can find.

Greash the oven.

Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over.

Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Finally, throw the bowl through the window, finish the Cose Juervo and make sure to put the stove in the wishdasher.

**Cherry Mistmas !**



## Mystery Photo

Last month's photo was the Landcare logo, the shape of Australia made by two hands, and I presume that because everyone knew it, nobody bothered to reply, so the self funded world trip went begging.

This month's photo, at right, will probably be just as obvious, but have a go at guessing it anyway.

Your cleverness will be reported in the next newsletter,

and of course you could win a self funded round the world trip.

**Ho, Ho, Ho!** Replies to Steve by mid January.



## Paddy and Murphy

Paddy said to Murphy 'Why is it that scuba divers always fall off the boat backwards?'

Murphy said to Paddy 'You silly fool - If they fell forwards, they'd still be on the boat!'

**University of the Third  
Age, Granite Belt Inc.**

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## *Programme for December 2009*

### **Weekly Activities - December**

- Every Mon - at STEPS , cnr Connor / Short Sts - MahJong, Cribbage (mornings from 9.30am). Sewing and handcrafts (9.30am to 1pm). - Contacts: Mim Sheahan, Mary Courtney, JA Dvorak
- Every Tue - Art Group - at STEPS - 9.30am to 1pm - cost \$2 - Contact: Vo Hall
- Every Thur - Yoga - Hilton St - morning and evening sessions - Contact: B Benham 46814737

### **Monthly Activities - December**

- 1st Thur (3rd)- Yarn Group - 10am at Learning Centre - discussing the news  
Contacts: Steve Courtney or Roy Werner
- 1st Fri (4th) - Computer Club - 10am at Learning Centre - solving computer problems  
Contacts: Steve Courtney or JA Dvorak
- 1st Mon (7th)- Jonola (cards) - at RSL - 1.30pm - Contact: Liz Drake
- 2nd Tue (8th) - Music for Pleasure - Venue: Jan and Graham Martin's, Fletcher Rd, 7.00pm - Theme: Christmas (what else?) Contact: Carol or Oriël
- 2nd Fri (11th) - Investment Group - Learning Centre - 10.00am - Discuss Investments, then lunch  
Contact: Nick Smithers

**This is the end of U3A Granite Belt's 2009 programme.  
(Weekly activities are likely to continue after 11th Dec 2009  
- contact group convenors for further details)**

*Have a safe and happy Christmas  
and New Year break.*

**The 2010 Programme will start in late January 2010**

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