



U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

University of the Third Age, Granite Belt Inc.

August 2009

Volume 5, Issue 7

Monday and Tuesday Activities now at STEPS

U3A Granite Belt's activities on Mondays, and the Art Club every Tuesday, have shifted.

The mah jong, cards and craft groups which meet on Mondays, and the U3A Art Club which meets on Tuesdays, will now both meet at the **STEPS Centre in Connor St, cnr Short St**, on their respective days. The building is next door to the Little Theatre, and is well appointed for our use, boasting in particular a newly installed reverse cycle heat pump air conditioner, which provides very efficient warmth.

The change has come about because of the ongoing costs of use of the Hilton St building, which was now costing at least \$160 per month, for a 4 hour session on Mondays and a 4 hour session on Tuesdays. Whilst that was a special and very competitive rate, it would mount up to over \$1900 on a yearly basis, which is beyond U3A Granite Belt's means at the present time.

The offer from STEPS is too good to refuse. STEPS have offered us the Monday and Tuesday sessions (4 hours each, be-

tween 9am and 1pm) for a yearly fee of \$1000, which is what we were paying the High School for Hilton St. STEPS requirements are that we (U3A Granite Belt) join the STEPS association at a cost of \$50 per annum, and we pay a key deposit (refundable) of \$50.

After considering this at the General meeting, and consulting with members at both the Monday and Tuesday sessions, U3A Granite Belt has taken up the STEPS offer and will relocate its Monday and Tuesday activities **from the beginning of August.**

U3A Network - Qld Formed (and U3A Granite Belt are part of it!)

The inaugural U3A Network - Queensland conference held at the University of the Sunshine Coast resulted in a decision to form a Queensland body, as follows:

The name of the organisation would be U3A Network - Queensland;

The constitution which was adopted would affirm that each U3A member would maintain their autonomy;

Following approval by the office of Fair Trading Qld, we would proceed with legal Incorporation of the new organisation;

The Network would be financed by each member U3A paying a subscription based on the number of financial members in their organisation as at November 30 each year and in future would be paid on or before the end of March;

For 2009, the subscription would be set at twenty

(20) cents per financial member based on November 2008 membership data;

Those organisations who had already contributed a donation of \$50 towards the setting up of the network would be credited with this amount so that their subscription of 20 cents per member for 2009 will be reduced by that donation;

The management committee elected at the conference were:-

President: Jim Hales - U3A Sunshine Coast

Vice-President: Rick Swindell - U3A Brisbane

Secretary: Dianne Delchau - U3A Sunshine Coast & U3A Online

Treasurer: Shirley Page U3A Noosa

Committee: Joyce Barlow U3A Moncrieff (N. Gold Coast), Mary Courtney U3A Granite Belt, and Alan Williams U3A Townsville

Spring Social

*Morning Tea at the Learning Centre
Adult Learner's Week*

As a contribution by U3A Granite Belt to Adult Learner's Week, we have decided to hold a public Morning Tea at the Learning Centre on Monday 7th September at 10am, to serve both as our Spring Social, as well as to publicise what U3A does. Please come along and support your U3A.

Senior's Bumper Sticker.

*"We married for better or worse,
He couldn't do any better,
She couldn't do any worse!"*

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Profile - Judy Ann (JA) Dvorak (Member of the Management Committee)

I was born in Scotland, and came to Australia in 1970. I worked as a public servant in Brisbane until 1990, when I came to Stanthorpe, and worked with the long term unemployed in Skillshare until I retired a few years ago. I am enjoying retirement, and do voluntary work at STEPS and the Information Centre

I joined U3A to - continue learning and associate with like-minded people, and specifically to learn Mah-Jong

To relax, I - read.

The thing I love about Stanthorpe is - the climate, we have four definite seasons

The best thing to do for free in Stanthorpe - is walking. I enjoy walking along Quart Pot Creek and occasionally in the Girraween National Park.

I'm Currently Reading - "Girl with a Pearl Earring" by Tracy Chevalier. It has been made into a film.

The thing I do best is - Meditate.

My favourite saying is - What you give out is what you get back.

I find inspiration in - New Age Philosophy.

The best advice I ever had given to me - was from my mother. I had three children under five and before I got cross with them she said ask yourself does it really matter.

The first thing I notice when I meet a person is - Their smile or lack of it.

If money was no object I'd - Make sure that everyone all over the world had food in their belly, a roof over their head, and a job.

Paradise is - being retired.



If I was granted one wish I would be
WORLD PEACE.

(Thanks, JA, for your contributions to U3A, your enthusiasm for, and willing participation in U3A activities (such as the Computer Club), and for your help with the relocation process to STEPS)

Mary Takes Role in U3A Network Qld

U3A Granite Belt's foundation President, Mary Courtney, has taken up the challenge of helping to get the fledgling U3A Network Qld up and running, by being elected to the Management Committee of the new group, which was formed at the recent Queensland conference held at the University of the Sunshine Coast. The Management Committee positions



were largely filled by the members of the interim steering committee, who had worked for the past 9 or 10 months in preparation for this inaugural conference, with Mary being the only new face on that committee.

The role she has taken is on the Regional Liaison

Group, encouraging U3As which have not yet joined the state group to consider joining, as well as encouraging the for-

mation of new U3As within Queensland.

The new Network is working towards a universal public liability insurance arrangement, which is likely to achieve substantial savings for member U3As. It is also developing a Qld website, with a view to sharing knowledge and resources throughout the state.

As the cost of participating has been kept remarkably low, it is anticipated other U3As will now see the benefit of becoming involved.

Garden Group in July (by Kerrie and Leon)

Yvonne Cavenett introduced our guest Penny Hegarty who originally came from Victoria, coming to Queensland working in the garden section at the Farmers Co-op in Bowen. From there, Penny and Pat moved to a wholesale nursery in the Sunshine Coast where she did the propagating of garden plants and natives.

Penny passed on some of the propagating tips to our group eg. when striking cuttings they can be either heel cut or node cut and put into 50/50 mix of sand and peat moss making sure not to bury any of the foliage in the sand.

When planting native seeds put in water

first, discard any seeds that float and place in hot water and soak overnight. Plant seeds only the depth of the seed. Calistomen seeds sprinkle over the top and tamp down.

Penny has now retired but still assists nurseries in advising customers in garden design, what to plant and where to plant. She is the Ambassador of Gardens in Qld which takes her all over visiting Clubs. Penny has her own garden club and is also an accredited Flower Judge. We were lucky to have such a talented speaker visit us and Penny was presented with a Stanthorpe U3A pen, followed by acclamation.

Next meeting will be held at McCosker's



Penny Hegarty addressing the Group

335 Amosfield Rd on the third Wednesday, 19th August 10.00am.

Reg Keehn will discuss what to do in preparation for Spring. (To be Confirmed)

Music for Pleasure.

(by Judy Lock)

Music for "Strings" was the focus this month (July).

Again, the evening was small in attendance numbers, but "big" in pleasure and camaraderie. Maybe in warmer weather, many more members will fill their lives with joy, begun at a Music for Pleasure evening.

Sharing music with friends on these evenings, is like dropping a pebble into a pool - pleasure eddys out into the rest of our lives.

The next Music for Pleasure evening will be at Jan and Graham Martin's residence, at Fletcher, and the theme will be World Indigenous Music. See programme for details.

Art Appreciation

What's Happened?

Those with a keen eye will have noticed that Art Appreciation, ie. our monthly visit to the Regional Art Gallery for a Director's guided tour of the current exhibition, has been dropped from the programme.

Sadly, this activity no longer fits in with the Gallery's schedule, and therefore has had to be dropped from U3A's programme, after five and a half years of regular interesting and educational visits.

The Gallery Director still does educational talks, but not on the regular and scheduled basis of before, so if you still wish to attend the talks, you will have to contact the Gallery to find out when they are on. 'Que sera sera!'

Your Newsletter

Help Make It Great.

This newsletter is produced monthly, keeping you informed about what's going on, or coming up, in U3A Granite Belt.

Contributions are always welcome, and anyone who wants to have a hand in production of the newsletter is very welcome to find out how it's done, or contribute.

The next Computer Club will be a session on how to use Publisher. We have access to the data projector in the Learning Centre, so you will be able to see a new newsletter started. (If you have a secret desire to be the Rupert Murdoch of Stanthorpe, this is your chance to make a start). Seriously, it would be great to have a group of "reporters" helping to produce the newsletter each month. Come along and offer your services.

Quilt As You Go - Sharing Session

Another great session with Jeannie Williams was held at Hilton Street on Wednesday 29th July. Fourteen participants, oooh'd and aaaah'd over Jeannie's work, which sent many brains into overdrive.

This is the second session we have held with Jeannie, and the fact that half those in attendance were there at her first 'session', is testament to what a great 'sharer' Jeannie is. For first timers, their curiosity was only eclipsed by their industry in trying to absorb the information and put it into practice.

One participant, new to the mysteries of QAYG, almost went into melt-down the night before, but was prevailed upon to attend anyway—went home with a finished table topper, justifiably proud of herself.

This is learning at its best, knowledge shared over laughter and a wonderful shared lunch.

When things have settled down, we will be looking at further workshops/sharing sessions, so watch this space !!

U3A Online is a great resource containing information on lots of courses you can subscribe to undertake, or that U3A Granite Belt might take advantage of, in the near future.

Check it out at <http://www.u3aonline.org.au>

U3A Granite Belt also receives a newsletter called Oznews Signposts from U3A Online. If anyone wants a copy by e-mail, let me know - I will send it to you

Cheers, Steve

Mystery Photo - Where is it?

(Photo by Liz Drake)

Last month's Mystery Photo turned out to be a real puzzler - no correct guesses were received, in fact, no guesses at all were received. Of course, that's not the intention (i.e. photos which no one can identify) so this month's photo will definitely be easier. The photo last month, taken by Liz, was of one of the tiles in the beautification work outside the Stanthorpe Post Office.

This month's photo (right) will no doubt be recognizable to everyone. Let's see!

Guesses to Steve by mid August.



Digital Photography

It's never too early to start preparing entries for the local show, so that is what we may consider at the next Digital Photo session at the Learning Centre.

We also have a professional photographer, Stuart Perrett, lined up for October, to pass on some tips on composition and photography generally.

If you have a digital camera and want to find out how to use it to best advantage, come along and join in.

**University of
the Third
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Contacts & Convenors:

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Kerrie/Leon McCosker 46811737
Judy Lock 46813733
Nev Winter 46813929
Mim Sheahan 46811136
Vo Hall 46814579
Norm Clayton 0421026299
Roy Werner 46812652
J A Dvorak 46812301
Jan Martin 46841264

JONOLA

*Due to change from Hilton
St, Liz Drake had made ar-
rangements for the
monthly JONOLA sessions to
be held at the RSL*

*on the 1st Monday of the
month at 1.30pm, commenc-
ing from next Monday*

3rd August 2009

Weekly Activities - August

- Every Mon - at **STEPS** - MahJong, Cribbage (mornings from 9.30am). Sewing and handcrafts (9.30am to 1pm). Also Scrabble - Contacts: Mim Sheahan, Mary Courtney
- Every Tue - Art Group - at **STEPS** - 9.30am to 1pm - cost \$2 - Contact: Vo Hall
- “ “ - Italian for Travellers - 6.30 to 8.30pm - Commenced 14th July - 10 week course Contact: Franco Arcidiacono 46812136
- Every Thur - Hilton St - Yoga - morning and evening sessions - Contact: B Benham 46814737

Monthly Activities - August

- 1st Mon (3rd)- Jonola - at RSL - 1.30pm - Contact: Liz Drake
- 1st Thur (6th)- Yarn Group - 10am at Learning Centre - discussing topics in the news - Contact: Steve or Roy
- 1st Fri (7th) - Computer Club - 10am at Learning Centre - Session on producing the newsletter Contact: Steve
- 2nd Tue (11th) - Music for Pleasure - Venue: Jan and Graham Martin's residence, at Fletcher Road, Fletcher, at 7.00pm - Theme: World Indigenous Music Contact: Judy Lock
- 2nd Wed (12th) - Garden Group - 10am - Venue: McCoskers, 335 Amosfield Rd - Reg Keehn, on preparations for Spring Contact: Kerrie and Leon McCosker
- 2nd Fri (14th) - Investment Group - Learning Centre - 10.00am - Contact: Nev Winter
- 3rd Thur (20th) - General Meeting - 10am - Learning Centre - Guest speaker: Kris Carnell, of Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Contact: Steve Courtney
- 3rd Fri (21st) - Digital Photography Group - 10am at Learning Centre - Theme: Planning for local show Contact: Liz Drake
- 4th Thur (27th) - History Group - 10.30am - Learning Centre - Pirates and Shipwrecks - presented by Kim McChlery Contact: Steve.
- “ “ - Book Club - Lorenza's Coffee Lounge - 2pm - Contact: Mary Courtney - Book for August: " An Equal Music" by Vikram Seth.
- “ “ - Storytellers , after Book Club - at Lorenza's (approx. 3.30pm)
- 4th Fri (28th) - Dromomaniacs - talking about travel - 10am at Learning Centre Topic: Jack and Jenny Stoll, on Alaska Contact: Jan Martin

Senior's Bumper Sticker

*" Sometimes I wake up grumpy,
But sometimes I let him sleep!"*

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