



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, GRANITE BELT INC.

U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

Annual General Meeting 2010

The Annual General Meeting of U3A Granite Belt resulted in the election of **Judy Ann (J A) Dvorak** as President, **Jim Wilkinson** as Vice President, and the re-election of a number of last year's committee members to the committee for the 2010/11 year.

J A (pictured left) served as a committee member during 2009/10, and was instrumental in securing the STEPS meeting room for U3A when we were suddenly left with no craft, art



and cards space on the loss of Hilton Street.

Jim Wilkinson is the new member of the executive. Jim and his wife Jean have been residents of Stanthorpe for about a year, and have been regular partici-

-pants in various U3A activities.

Carol van Klaveren as Secretary, Oriel Nielsen (Minute Secretary) and Jeanie With (Treasurer) are reprising their roles from 2009/10, and the other committee members are Leon McCosker and Steve Courtney.

Trevor Cooper accepted re-appointment as Patron, and so with a mix of new ideas and experience, it looks like a good year coming up for U3A Granite Belt.

President's Report 2009/10 (by Steve Courtney)

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the activities of U3A Granite Belt Inc. for 2009/2010. This has undoubtedly been one of our more challenging years, because of several major changes for U3A Granite Belt. Firstly, early in the year, there was the loss of availability of access to the Hilton Street meeting room, which was our primary venue for Monday activities, the Art Club on Tuesdays, and occasional social functions. Thankfully, an alternative became available to us in the form of STEPS, which has worked out to be very satisfactory for Monday activities. Thanks to J A Dvorak and Nick Smithers for their assistance with this relocation. Whilst we started the Art Group at STEPS, the room was found to be not suitable due to light requirements, so we had to find more conducive conditions, and the change to the Senior Citizens room in the Civic Centre from the beginning of 2010 has worked out very well. Vo Hall,

and now Laurie Astill have ably guided this group during the year. It is very satisfying that membership has stayed at relatively high levels (at around the 100 mark) from 2009 to 2010.

Stanthorpe is a community of approximately 5000 people, and this is a relatively high percentage of U3A membership in the community when compared to other population centres with U3As. This indicates to me that our U3A must be meeting a need, and providing an interesting programme of activities which appeal to members in the Stanthorpe community.

Innovations in our programme this year include the commencement by Jan Martin of Dromomaniacs, our armchair travel group, which has taken us on journeys of the mind. Introduction of U3A Online courses has been a challenging and significant change, and later in the year, the return of Birdwatching, now convened by Peter and Margy Dawson, has been a welcome addition to our programme. Cryptic Crosswords also made its appearance during the year, led by Barbara Nicholls. Thanks are also due to our regular convenors, Kerrie and Leon McCosker (Garden Club), Liz Drake (Digital Photography and Jonola), Nick Smithers (Investment Club),

Carol van Klaveren and Oriel Nielsen (Music for Pleasure), J A Dvorak (Computer Club), Steve Courtney (Left Right and Centre, History, and the Newsletter) and

Mary Courtney and Mim Sheahan (Crafts and Activities, and Book Club). An extra special thank you is also extended to Graham Cockram, who organises the guest speakers for our regular meetings.



We have formally become part of U3A Network Qld, and we are about to enter into a joint insurance scheme which will save us significant funds each year. Congratulations to our former President Mary Courtney, who bravely offered to be on the U3A Network Qld committee, and now does the Network newsletter. Socially, the year has been an excellent one. Our social for September was overtaken by the need to celebrate Adult Learners Week, so we held a well-attended morning tea at the Learning Centre. Thanks to all who joined in the organising of this very successful day. We have also held a wonderful Christmas lunch at Giardino's, and a great picnic outing to Donnelly's Castle in March.

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Food Investigations.

Digital Photography

Thursday 13th May saw the first gathering for "Food Investigations. This took the form of an English Afternoon Tea at the Courtney's residence.



Everyone got into the spirit of the occasion and we learnt about the history of tea production and the origins and different kinds of Afternoon Tea, including what you use your 'pinkie' for! Our next gathering will be held on Thursday 17th June following the General Meeting and will be held at Suttons Juice Factory at Thulimba. Following lunch, David will give us a talk on their products.

Numbers are required for Sutton's staff, so please let Mary, Carol or JA know no later than 10th June.

So enthusiastic were the participants that we have managed to put together a wide ranging program for

the next six months, which when confirmed will be distributed, so watch this space.

Pictured above are Mary, Jenny and Esme, and at right, Kerrie, Mim and Maia at the afternoon tea.



Members efforts on creating a photographic chain were creditable, and we decided to pursue this idea at future Digital Photography meetings.

However, for next meeting, we are going to look at topics in the Digital Photography for Seniors book, intending to go into how photos are stored on the digital card, how to order them in your computer, and other means of storing your photos so they don't clutter up your digital card.

"Just do your best. Remember, half the people you know are below average."

History Group at Stanthorpe Museum

Dromomaniacs

The History Group undertook one of its occasional outings when it met on Thursday 27th May - with a visit to the Stanthorpe Museum, an inspection of mainly the Ardmore House collection, and a talk by Museum curator Lorene Long on the Soldier Settlement Scheme.

The photograph at right shows how well the Museum caters for visitors such as our group, with a very pleasant morning



tea being provided, while Lorene read an essay written by George MacBeth about the trials of a soldier settler during the 1920s and 1930s in the Amiens area. It was a moving and very touching account of life in the early times of the Amiens area.

The next History group will be an exploration of the origins and reasons for

Aboriginal place names in Australia. We will have reference material available, so bring along your questions.

The happy band of armchair travellers had an interesting morning at their May meeting deciding the three most important things, without which they would never leave home.

As you can imagine, the usual suspects like passports, money, undies were discussed, as were cameras, pen knives, torches, first aid kits - but the prize must go to **Carol van Klaveren**, who listed hers as "patience, tolerance, and an open mind". Now there's a lateral thinker.

The next Dromomaniacs will be at the Learning Centre on Friday 25th June, last day of school before the holidays, and the topic will be Caves and Caving.

Come and join in, if you dare!

President's Report 2009/10 (Continued)

Personally, I believe the commencement of use of U3A Online courses will change us from a club doing our own thing to a more challenging and professional educating organisation, and will open possibilities for so much more. We do however need to identify tutors who will add to what we of-

fer, and take us even further in the mind expanding role we need to concentrate on.

I take this opportunity to thank the principal office bearers, Jeanie With (Treasurer), Carol van Klaveren (Secretary) and Oriel Nielsen (Minute Secretary) for their reli-

able and capable performance of their duties, and each and every member for your continued membership, and hope you have gained knowledge and satisfaction from your participation in U3A Granite Belt.

Steve Courtney
President 2009/10

Garden Club Goes Interstate.

May's Garden Club meeting was a great experience - firstly, a 1 3/4 hour drive to Clunie's Mountain just outside Woodenbong - and secondly, a wander around a beautiful native garden, developed and lovingly cared for by Fran and Jim Standing, and containing myriad callistemons and other flowering native plants, a brilliant variety of birdlife, and a very satisfying morning tea.

Thirteen members of U3A Granite Belt made the trip in four cars, and Fran made us very welcome when we arrived at about 10.15am. After morning tea, we wandered through the 'rain forest' garden and their main garden, which stands on a ridge just below Mt Clunie. The property also boasts some visitor cabins which can easily accom-

modate six people each.

The garden's extensive variety of callistemons, eremophilas, banksias and hakeas, has been developed over a period of about 20 years by Fran and Jim, who also proudly led us to, and



showed us their vegetable patch, with the healthiest array of veggies to be seen at this time of year. (Makes one envious of their climate - but we in Stanthorpe have other advantages.) Fran suggested that callistemons may not be ideal for our climate, but eremophilas would be.

After a leisurely picnic lunch and an inspection of the visitor cabins, the Stanthorpe contingent started to head back via different directions to take in new sights. Peter and Margy Dawson, with Steve and Mary Courtney, took a detour via Condamine Gorge and Killarney, making the excursion into an interesting round trip.

This visit was initiated by Oriel Nielsen, so thanks to Oriel for the inspiration, and to Kerrie and Leon for their commitment to the success of the Garden Club.

"A clear conscience is quite often the sign of a bad memory."

Art Group (report by Laurie Astill, convenor)

Now that winter is almost upon us, our little band of artists is most grateful for the lovely sunny aspect and heated flooring of our new premises in the Senior Citizens rooms at the Civic Centre. Mind you, in summer to be able to slide open the two large doors and enjoy cool fresh air as you paint is also wonderful. We love our Wednesday morning get-togethers, sharing ideas, techniques, materials, mediums etc, and of course enjoyable morning teas with naughty nibbles and iced buns. I do detect a change in the air, with members contemplating a swing from watercol-

ours to acrylics. It's good we all support each other in our endeavours.

On Wednesday 12th May, we downed brushes and were enlightened about framing finished art works. Some members brought their finished works, and the framer, Ian Walker from Tenterfield, along with fellow artists, had a ton of fun (or frustration) sorting out which coloured mount goes with which coloured frame.

The majority of our group are retirees, and from time to time, attendance has been down due to holidays or artist retreats. Everyone always seems so much

more invigorated on their return and offers a wonderful positive feeling to share with the group. This in turn enhances the creative process, as we look forward to seeing each other again.



Mystery Photo

The winner of May's mystery photo competition was **Keith Barnett**, who correctly identified the photograph as being of a sulphur-crested cockatoo's crest. Keith wins this month's prize, and will possibly head off one day on his self-funded round-the-world trip.

This month's mystery photo (pictured right) is likely to be easier, but you never know. Images



which seem completely obvious when I put them in the newsletter often have readers stumped, whereas some which are quite obscure are guessed straight away.

Answers to Steve by email or phone, by mid June - if you're correct and you're the first, you will win the trip, if you want to pay for it!

Mid-Year Social

The Food Investigations group has arranged to go to Suttons Juice Factory and Cidery on Thursday 17th June, on completion of the General Meeting, so this gives us the opportunity to make this the mid-year Social.

If you wish to attend (Cost about \$15/25), please let Mary, JA or Carol know before 10th June, so we can arrange with Suttons for catering.

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***“When every-
thing is com-
ing your way,
you’re proba-
bly in the
wrong lane.”***

***“Change is the
one constant in
the world - ex-
cept from vend-
ing machines.”***

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orship arrangement with U3A
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Programme for June 2010

Weekly Activities - June

- Every Mon - at STEPS - MahJong, Cribbage (mornings from 9.30am). Sewing and handcrafts (9.30am to 1pm) - Contacts: Mary Courtney, JA Dvorak
Every Mon - Jonola (cards) - at RSL - 1.30pm - Contact: Liz Drake
Every Wed - Art Group - at Senior Citizens Room - 9.30am to 1pm - cost \$2 - Contact: Laurie Astill

Fortnightly/ Monthly Activities - June

- 1st Thur (3rd) - Yarn Group - 10am at Learning Centre - discussing topics in the news - Contact: Steve Courtney or Roy Werner
1st Fri (4th) - Computer Club - 10am at Learning Centre - ask questions, raise topics of interest, solve problems. Contacts: Steve or J A Dvorak
“ “ - Left Right and Centre - Learning Centre - 1.00pm - **Final session**
Contact: Steve
1st Mon(7th) - Cryptic Crosswords - STEPS at 1.00pm - Contact: Barbara Nicholls
2nd Tue (8th) - Music for Pleasure - Venue: Jan and Graham Martin's 7.00pm - Theme: to be advised - 50+ year old music Contact: Carol or Oriël
2nd Fri (11th) - Investment Group - Learning Centre - 10.00am - buy? sell? Who knows? Contact: Nick Smithers
3rd Wed (16th) - Garden Group - at 10am - Venue: Kerrie and Leon's - Steve Tancred on Granite Belt soils Contact: Kerrie and Leon McCosker
3rd Thur (17th) - **General Meeting** - 10am - Learning Centre - Speaker: Peter Nimmo, from DPI Contact: J A Dvorak
“ “ - Food Investigations - **after General Meeting** - 12.30pm - Suttons Juice Factory - cost approx \$15 to \$25 - **This will also serve as our mid-year Social** Advise Mary, JA or Carol if attending, by 10 June.
3rd Fri (18th) - Digital Photography Group - 10am at Learning Centre- Theme: Digital Photography for Seniors Contact: Liz Drake
3rd Mon (21st) - Cryptic Crosswords - STEPS at 1.00pm Contact: Barbara Nicholls
4th Wed (23rd) - Birdwatching - **cancelled for this month** - resumes in July Contact: Peter Dawson
4th Thur (24th) - History Group - Origins of Aboriginal place names throughout Australia - Learning Centre - 10am - Contact: Steve.
“ “ - Book Club - Lorenza's Coffee Lounge - 2pm - Contact: Mary
Book for June: 'The Rouseabout' by Rachael Treasure Check Library for availability (expected by about 9th June)
4th Fri (25th) - Dromomaniacs - Learning Centre at 10.00am - travel discussions
Topic for June: Caves and Caving - Contact: Jan Martin



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