



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, GRANITE BELT INC.

U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

AGM in May

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting of U3A Granite Belt will be held on Thursday 19th May 2011 at 10am at the Learning Centre.** Business will be the election of officers for 2011/12, and the President's and Financial reports for the past year. There will be vacancies to fill, so please give some thought to offering to take on one of the positions.

History in Tenterfield

A bouquet is due for **Oriel Nielsen**, who was the originator, and prime organizer, of the History Group's outing to Tenterfield on Thursday 28th April. Oriel lined up a terrific speaker, John Sommerlad, on Tenterfield's history, and the bus trip around the town was educational, comprehensive, and the 'icing on the cake.' Twenty five members took advantage of this outing, to learn more about Tenterfield's interesting history.

Next month, Jenny Stoll has arranged for local historian (and icon) Jean Harslett to give a talk on development on the southern side of Stanthorpe. Jean was originally a Glen Aplin girl.

Poetry Group

This new group starts this month on the first Friday, 6th May, at 10am, at the Learning Centre.

Bring along your favourite poem, the words of a beautiful song, or any other poetic writing (your own original work if you have any) to read out and discuss.

Each contribution should be limited to no more than, say, five minutes in length, so that everyone gets a chance to present their poems.

Membership Requirements (by Carol)

Annual Subscription

A gentle reminder to any unfinancial members:

Any members unfinancial at the time of the Annual General Meeting this month (Thursday May 19th 2011) are not entitled to vote in our elections.

Neither are they automatically included in U3A's public liability/personal accident insurance scheme, if anything happens to them while attending U3A meetings or functions.

If you have overlooked paying your membership dues, please forward your cheque to the Treasurer, U3A Granite Belt, PO Box 250, Stanthorpe 4380 (a.s.a.p.)

Words Redefined

Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach

Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding some people that stops bright ideas from penetrating.

Circumvent (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.

Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Frisbeetarianism (n.), the belief that when you die, your soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

Ignoramus (n): a person who's both ignorant and an a!!!hole.

Inoculatte (v): To take coffee intravenously when running late.

Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.

Osteopornosis (n): A degenerate disease.

Sarchasm (n): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit, and the person who doesn't get it.

How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?

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Mid-Year Social - Any Ideas?

Ideas are needed for a mid-year Social. At the last general meeting, organisation of a Social was discussed, and a couple of ideas, i.e. a barbeque gathering at the Wine Pavilion or elsewhere, or a lunch at a restaurant, were suggested. A weekday was preferred.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for this event, please make it known to any member of the Committee, or come along to the next General Meeting (AGM).

Food Investigations in April

Spectacles Recycling

The JamworkS factory on the New England Highway at Glen Aplin was the destination, and our hosts, Peter and Sue Ingall, provided an impressive welcome, with a great Devonshire tea, samples of their jams, and very informative talk on the joys and pitfalls of the production process. Sue explained her methods of jam making, and Peter expanded on the technical side of the

business. They both said that the business had grown beyond their original expectations. The next Food Investigation is to the QCWT on Thur 12th May at 10.30am, followed by a gourmet sandwich lunch (\$15).



It was reported at the last General Meeting that, if you have old spectacles which you no longer require, you can donate them, through Bill Bonner, to be used again in poorer or Third World countries.

If you wish to take advantage of this scheme, please just take them in to Don Gaske at Bendigo Bank, Rogers St, who will pass them on to Bill Bonner.

Nothing is more annoying than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.

Quilts for Carramar - Received with Alacrity (by Mary)

Four years ago, the group of patchworkers from U3A Granite Belt decided they would like to put something back into their community by making and donating a number of quilts to the local aged care facility, Carramar.

With an initial target of ninety quilts, rotary cutters, sewing machines and needles were brought into a frantic hive of activity in order to complete the project before winter set in. Donations from local Rotary, Lions and Gardening group, and individuals, together with donations of fabric, resulted in them reaching

their target on time. The response from the residents was heartfelt and members undertook to provide another donation the following year.

Thanks to a grant from **Queensland**

Community Credit Union, we have just made our fourth delivery to the new facility 'Villa Carramar', which when completed will offer an extra thirty beds. This makes a total of between 180 and 200 quilts over the four years and by the response members received when the quilts were delivered, we may be making quilts and donating them, for some years to come.

The photo shows two residents of Carramar, Alan Cameron of QCCU, and several U3AGB members at the presentation.



Art Group News (by Laurie Astill)

Fourth month of the year, and finally an article for the newsletter. I am sure, like most others, the first month or so of this year was thrown into chaos, what with the nasty storms and flooding etc. The group has settled down to our comfortable routine on Wednesday mornings and with extra tables and two new members, our location is ideal. Welcome to Elaine and John who joined this year. We have wonderful morning tea breaks peppered with art discussion

ranging over many topics. A few of our members took out 1st and 2nd prizes as well as grand champion in the Art exhibit at the recent Stanthorpe Show on 28th and 29th January 2011. Judge Penelope Hillam [newly appointed director of our regional art gallery] said the art works displayed were as good as the Agricultural Show exhibits in Adelaide. Well done to our participating members. Included with this article is a photo of our group taken at our Christmas luncheon held at Anna's Restau-

rant and my home, Thulimba.



Newman's Garden at Watters Road (by Kerrie and Leon)

At April's Garden Club outing, a very interesting morning was had at Marc and Jan Newman's property, on Watters Road at Ballandean, where Marc gave a talk on native bees.

There are over 2000 known species of native bees, they don't sting and some are social living in a hive and some are solitary living in small holes in the ground. The smallest are only 3mm long and some quite large like the *Blue banded bee* which is a "buzz pollinator" meaning they hover or buzz amongst the flower scattering the pollen.

Marc has identified 60 species in their garden. Eucalypts are the main food source for native bees.

We then walked among gardens planted under the tall *blakelyi* eucalypts looking

for native bees and Marc showed us a couple of active hives he has built which are heated to a constant temperature and bees were busy coming and going.

All 16 members enjoyed another informative outing in a lovely setting, thanks to Marc and Jan.

Next Garden Group outing in May will be at the Community Garden at the Stanthorpe Railway Station where Sarah Hamlyn-Harris will talk about composting.



Above: Members observing a native bee hive.

*Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray?
I don't want to have to restart my music collection...again!*

Dromomaniacs - the love of travel. (by Jan Martin)

A good roll up of would-be and have-been travellers enjoyed a trip to Alaska courtesy of Alan and Marilyn Rickard, who visited us from Runaway Bay.

Their presentation on their 7 week sojourn which included coastal ferries, small ship wilderness cruise with kayaking side trips to explore glaciers, bush-wacking in the muskeg, interaction with both marine and land based wildlife, rail over Chilcoat Pass, motorhome exploring and VERY scenic flights had us all

digging for our passports. Even the presenters enjoyed the reminiscence so much they are keen to return to Alaska.

Next month's meeting on 27th May will have as its topic "Travel flukes - you-can-be-lucky/unlucky-sometimes". Share your experiences of being in the right (or wrong) place at the right (or wrong) time.

We look forward to sharing your travel experiences. This could be hilarious!

U3A Network AGM

The AGM of U3A Network Queensland Inc. will take place on Saturday 25th June at 9:00 am at the RSL Events Centre, Memorial Drive, Maroochydore, and members are invited to attend. Nomination forms for executive positions on the Network Committee have been distributed and are available from your U3A.

During the day, a number of computer workshops will be conducted on Power Point, Digital Photography, Group Mail and U3A Online site licences

What Is This?

This month, it's not so much a mystery photo, as a mystery plant (far right). This is probably much trickier than the photos we normally publish.

One of our members, Kay Cockram, has this growing in a pot, and says; 'Originally we thought it was a sunflower plant as it came up in the garden, then we thought maybe a vegetable of some kind, but then it started heading skywards and I transplanted

it to the pot it now stands in. Talk about Topsy, this thing seems to grow a foot a week. We did wonder if it was a Chinese Powton (not sure of spelling) Tree?'

If anyone can identify this tree from the photo, please let Kay know what it is. Kay will no doubt be happy to provide the usual prize i.e. a self-funded world trip, for the first correct submission.





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Newsletter Editor: Steve Courtney

Highlights:

1st Friday - Poetry
Group (new)

3rd Thurs - Annual Gen-
eral Meeting - election
of officers

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Programme for May 2011

Weekly Activities - May

- Every Mon - at STEPS - MahJong, Cribbage (mornings from 9.30am). Sewing and handcrafts (9.30am to 12.30pm) - Contact: 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 \$5
Contact: Laurie Astill

Fortnightly/ Monthly Activities - May

- 1st Mon (2nd) - Myths and Legends - 1.00 pm at STEPS - Topic: Nordic Myths
Convenor: Steve
1st Thur (5th) - Discussion Group - 10am at Learning Centre - Discussion of
topics in the news. Contacts: Roy Werner, Steve Courtney
1st Fri (6th) - **(New) Poetry Group** - 10am at Learning Centre - bring your
favourite poems, words of songs etc.
2nd Tue (10th) - Music for Pleasure - Venue: Jan and Graham's, Fletcher Rd
- 7.00pm Theme: Patriotic Music Contacts: Carol/ Oriël
2nd Thurs (12th) Food Investigations - College of Wine Tourism at 10.30am
followed by lunch (gourmet sandwiches, fruit, juice) Cost \$15
Please advise attendance to Carol by 6th May
2nd Fri (13th) - Investment Group - Learning Centre - 10.00am - Review
the investments Contact: JA Dvorak
3rd Mon (16th) - Myths and Legends - 1.00 pm at STEPS - Topic: The
Dreamtime (last topic of this course) Convenor: Steve
3rd Wed (18th) - Garden Group - 10am - Venue: Community garden, Stanthorpe
Railway Station - Contact: Kerrie/Leon
3rd Thur (19th) - **Annual General Meeting** - 10am - Learning Centre - election
of officers for 2011/2012 Contact: J A Dvorak
3rd Fri (20th) - Digital Photography Group - 7.00am at Courtney's, 633 Eukey
Rd - Early morning photos, spider webs etc - to be followed by
a BYO BBQ breakfast/brunch Contact: Liz Drake
4th Thur (26th) - History Group - 10am at Learning Centre - Jean Harslett will
speak on development on the southern side of Stanthorpe -
Convenor: Jenny Stoll
4th Thur (26th) Book Club - Lorenza's Coffee Lounge - 2pm - Contact: Mary
Book for May: "Perfume: The Story of a Murderer" by
Patrick Suskind
4th Fri (27th) - Dromomaniacs - 10am at the Learning Centre - 'Travel Flukes -
You can be lucky/unlucky sometimes' - Contact: Jan Martin



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