

UNIVERSITY
OF THE
THIRD AGE,
GRANITE
BELT INC.

U3A Granite Belt Newsletter



VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

MAY 2010

A.G.M. - 20 May 2010 at 10am at Learning Centre

Laurels to Laugh At!

Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to visit the loo.

Law of Gravity - Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

Law of the Alibi - If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tyre, the very next morning you will have a flat tyre.

Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

Great Garden Group in April

18 members and guests enjoyed a lovely morning in the gardens of Cherry Lane nursery. Barry kindly showed us through their own garden explaining the vast number of trees and shrubs planted there.

We were shown the nursery where various cuttings have been propagated and are ready for sale. Barry explained how bare rooted trees come

from southern nurseries, are trenched and put into pots or bags for sale in their nursery.

Cherry Lane also conducts a drinking water purifying business where spring water is filtered and passed

through a reverse osmosis system, and bottled ready for distribution. The walk finished strolling through the many elms, ashes, maples, liquid ambers etc. in glorious autumn colour.



We thanked Barry for generously giving his time to talk to us. Next outing on Wednesday 19th May to be advised. (Submitted by Kerrie and Leon)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH

The May general meeting, to be held on Thursday 20th May 2010, is also U3A Granite Belt's **annual general meeting**, at which the executive positions for the forthcoming year are to be elected.

The executive positions in U3A Granite Belt are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Minute Secretary, and Treasurer, and also

there is a requirement to elect two ordinary members of the association.

This can happen in two ways - people can nominate in advance, or if nominations are not received in advance, the positions can be filled by nominations at the AGM.

The Secretary, Minute Secretary and Treasurer have indicated that they are pre-

pared to continue in their positions, but if anyone has a burning desire to do those jobs, they will be willing to step down.

U3A Granite Belt has been a very successful organization, and has largely retained its membership from last year - it must be meeting some needs. To keep it going, think about having your input.

Investment Club (by Carol Smallwood)

This is a report of the last Investment Club business.

MacMahon Holdings share price continues to rise, now up to 85c and it was agreed that we hang onto the stock in the hope it continues this trend.

UGL has almost doubled to \$14.86 from the purchase price of \$7.80 so it was decided to sell and take our profit.

Nanosonics hasn't been doing much in the last month at 58.5c so it was decided to take the profit of \$650 [approx] and sell. Together with the money in the

bank and the selling UGL and Nanosonics, we have approx \$5,500 to invest in new stock. Marion and Maurice had done their homework and the stocks under consideration were Atlas Steel at \$2.85, Bandanna Energy at 91.5c, Comet Ridge at 32.5c, Eastern Star at 97c, and Bow Energy \$1.48 a share. The last four companies are involved in coal and or coal seam gas and oil and gas exploration.

The final decision was 50% split between Atlas Steel and Comet Ridge.

UGL and Nanosonics were sold online at the meeting and Comet Ridge and Atlas Steel would be purchased by Nick on Monday when the money comes through from the stocks we sold.

JA Dvorack will take the minutes of the May meeting in Carol's absence. Nick and Carol Smithers will be sightseeing in Europe during May and we wish them a very enjoyable holiday.

Meeting closed at 11.15 am. NEXT MEETING will be held 14/5/2010 at LNQ at 10am.

Birdwatching

Showery, uncertain weather conditions kept attendance low, however a walk through Pete & Margy's "Banksia Flat" produced some discussion on the identification of yellow faced Honeyeaters and juvenile Eastern Spinebills. A Koala was spotted low down in a spreading Eucalypt.

A quick walk along Kerrie and Leon's driveway found Yellow Robin, Striated Thornbill and another Koala.

An interesting morning's walk followed by morning tea and general discussion on binoculars—magnification, adjustment and focusing.

Next venue:

Quart Pot Creek
Britannia and Lock Sts
8.30am on Wed. 26th
May.

Digital Photography - Mim's Lizzie is the Winner!

The digital photography group in April conducted their photographic competition, seeking the photo which represented Autumn. The winner, at right,

was taken by Mim Sheahan, and shows her pet blue tongue lizard which, after having come in to the house and having its fill from the cat's biscuit bowl, was heading outside to find

a place to curl up for the winter. Great photo Mim, and a great story as well.

Liz Drake has found a top resource for digital photog-

raphers - the Computers for Dummies book Digital Photography for Seniors. If you want to get more accomplished in the use of your

digital camera, come along and see what tips you can pick up from others.

(3rd Friday at 10am—Learning Centre.)



German Language Class?

U3A Granite Belt member Irene Grevis James has skills and knowledge of the German language, and has indicated that she is prepared to run a German language class, if there are any members interested.

Irene suggested that this course could be done for very little expense by members, as she felt it could be conducted in an external location, and the only cost to participants would be the payment of some photocopying.

If any members are interested in undertaking a German language course, please advise Irene, or Steve, at the earliest opportunity.

Food for Thought

To start off the Food For Thought Course, we are having a Traditional English Afternoon Tea. This will be held at the home of Steve and Mary Courtney, 633, Eukey Road, Storm King Dam, on Thursday 13th May starting at 2:30pm. To cover the cost of the catering, each participant is asked to donate a gold coin. In keeping with the spirit of the course, dress will be formal (chance to dress up ladies). A brief history of Afternoon Tea will be given prior to the taking of tea.

For catering purposes please advise if you will be attending on 46837103 or by emailing to maryc@halenet.com.au

Left Right and Centre - Left Hooks, Right Crosses but Centered Discussion!

Left Right and Centre - A Brief Guide to Political Philosophies.

It may seem like a dry topic, but this course, now nearing completion, has been the springboard for an amazing amount of discussion, passion and indeed learning.

The picture at right, which I'm sure you will realise was staged, shows some of the fun participants have had in reading and talking about Liberalism, Conservatism, Democratic Socialism, Fascism, Nazism and all the other "isms" which form the structure of political movements around the world.

It hasn't really come to blows, but we have certainly had some lively con-

versations, and the course, which started off with 14 participants, still has 11 relatively regular attenders, which indicates the interest which the course has maintained for its participants.



This course, conducted over 8 sessions, was one of the many on offer through U3A Online. This particular course was one able to be done without a course leader, so we have been downloading and photocopying it - there are many others

with which you have the benefit of a course leader.

The participants in Left Right and Centre have taken it in turns to lead the discussion, and the course will have cost less than \$20 to each participant member by the time it is finished - mainly photocopying costs of the notes.

Keep you eye on the newsletter for more courses offered from this source, Mary is starting one on 'Food for Thought' this month.

History Group on Pikedale - and to visit Stanthorpe Museum

April's History Group meeting was treated to a very interesting DVD presentation on the history of Pikedale Station, in particular during the residence of the Rogerson family, from 1907 to 1957.

Prepared and presented by Jack Stoll, with additional comments by Jenny Stoll, this was a fascinating glimpse into the past, showing the way of life of a section of society, which seems now to have faded

away. The original film material had been screened by Channel 10 Brisbane in 1986, and as an additional little treat, the commercials had also been saved by Jack, and were shown at the end, giving an idea of prices and products in Qld at the time.

In May, arrangements have been made for a 10am visit to Stanthorpe's Museum, where we will be treated to a morning tea, a tour of the Museum, and a talk on the Soldier Settlement

scheme which operated to help ex-servicemen to start a life on the land after returning from war. Museum curator Lorene Long will talk about and answer questions on this subject, and will show us the museum collection. We will meet at the museum.

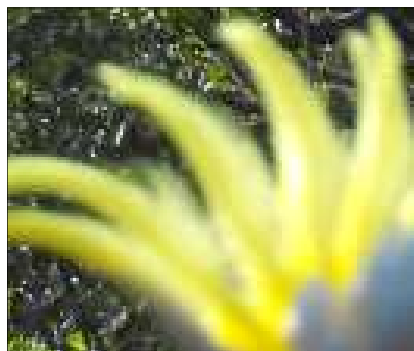
The cost will be \$5.00 for morning tea and \$5.00 entry, but if you are a museum member, no entry fee is payable. Please advise Steve, for catering purposes, if you are attending.

An Old Favourite - 'Mystery Photo' is back!

It's been missing for a while, but the old favourite "Mystery Photo" makes a comeback to the newsletter this month.

The last one, way back in December 2009, was Steve playing the mandolin, and the first correct guess was from Liz Drake.

This month's photo, although a little



out of focus, should provide a bit of a challenge. Guesses to Steve by mid month, and the first correct guess will have the honour of being noted in the newsletter.

If you have any photos which would serve as a good mystery photo, send them to Steve for use in the newsletter.

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Newsletter Editor: Steve Courtney

More Laws to Laugh At!

The Starbucks Law - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

Murphy's Law of Lockers - If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Law of Physical Surfaces - The chances of an open-faced Vegemite sandwich landing face down on a carpet or rug are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.

Programme for May 2010

Weekly Activities - May

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

Fortnightly/ Monthly Activities - May

- 1st Mon(3rd) - Cryptic Crosswords - Oriël Nielsen's at 1.00pm - 7/19 Harris St
Contact: Oriël
1st Thur (6th)- Yarn Group - 10am at Learning Centre - discussing topics in the news - Contact: Steve Courtney or Roy Werner
1st Fri (7th) - Computer Club - 10am at Learning Centre - ask questions, raise topics of interest Contacts: Steve or JA Dvorak
" " Left Right and Centre - Learning Centre 1.00pm - Contact: Steve
2nd Tue (11th) - Music for Pleasure - Venue: Courtney's residence, 633 Eukey Rd 7.00pm - Theme: Male First Names - 50+ years old music
Contact: Carol or Oriël
2nd Thurs.(13th)- Food For Thought - Courtney residence - 2.30pm - please advise Mary if attending on 46837103 or to maryc@halenet.com.au
2nd Fri (14th) - Investment Group - Learning Centre - 10.00am - Contact: Nick Smithers
3rd Mon (17th) - Cryptic Crosswords - STEPS at 1.00pm Contact: Barbara Nicholls
3rd Wed (19th) - Garden Group - at 10am Venue: to be advised
Contact: Kerrie and Leon McCosker
3rd Thur (20th) - **Annual General Meeting** - 10am - Learning Centre - AGM to be chaired by our Patron, Trevor Cooper Contact: Steve
3rd Fri (21st) - Digital Photography Group - 10am at Learning Centre- Theme: Digital Photos for Dummies Contact: Liz Drake
" " Left Right and Centre - Learning Centre 1.00pm Contact: Steve
4th Wed (26th) - Birdwatching - 8.30am - at Quart Pot Ck, Britannia and Lock Sts
Contact: Peter Dawson
4th Thur (27th) - History Group - Visit to Stanthorpe Museum - incl. morning tea - 10am - Cost \$10 (\$5 if a Museum member) Contact: Steve.
" " - Book Club - Lorenza's Coffee Lounge - 2pm - Contact: Mary
Book for May: "The Time Travellers Wife" by Audrey Niffenegger Available from Council Library, due back 13th May (Book Club set)
4th Fri (28th) - Dromomaniacs - Learning Centre at 10.00am - Topic: to be advised - Contact: Jan Martin



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