

October 2009



# U3A Granite Belt Newsletter

University of the Third Age, Granite Belt Inc.  
Volume 5, Issue 9

## Adult Learner's Open Day

Remember yesterday

Dream about tomorrow

But Live for today



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The Adult Learner's Week U3A open day at the Community Learning Centre saw a gathering of almost 40 U3A members, all doing their individual group's activities and showing what U3A is all about.

Of course, it should be explained that we threw

the party but not many people came.

In explanation, the idea was that members of the public would see what U3A had to offer, and whilst we have gained a new member out of the exercise, there were only one or two members of the public who attended.

Never mind, we had a great

day, and the day served the purpose of our spring social, with the biggest gathering of U3A members in one place at one time for quite a period. Thanks to all who made the day a success, and who put in a lot of work on displays, and also of course the wonderful food.

Welcome to new members: Lynda Blackstock and Sandra MacIntosh

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### Summer Lunch

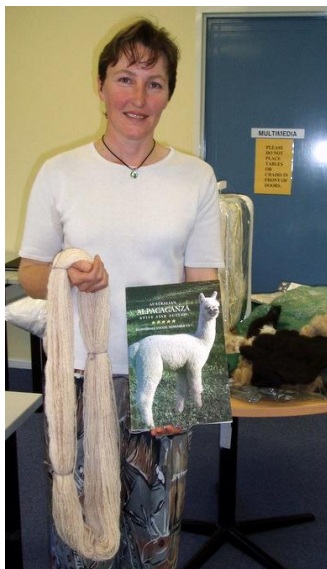
Keep the 19th November free for lunch at

Giardino's

After the General meeting, we will head out for lunch, car pooling if you need a lift—lunch about \$30/head

Early Christmas Celebration.

General Meeting 15th Oct. - Guest Speaker Cr. Peter Blundell, Deputy Mayor



Julie Hockings, on Alpacas

## Guest Speaker in September - Julie Hockings

Julie gave a passionate talk on her love of the Alpacas, first explaining the difference between the alpaca and llama. The llama is much larger and is used as a pack animal in South America and both are related to the camel.

Alpacas first came to Australia in the late 1800's but died out. They were re introduced in 1989, so they have only been here for 20 years, mainly in Victoria, New South Wales and Southern Queensland.

They are very gentle animals needing the company

of each other and very protective of the herd, driving predators away. They are sometimes run with sheep or goats to protect the herd from foxes and small dogs etc.

Julie brought along samples of coloured fleece, balls of wool, scarves, jumpers and doonas to show the beautiful texture of the alpaca fibre.

The U3A members present learned a lot about alpacas from Julie's enthusiastic presentation.

(Article prepared by Leon McCosker - Thanks Leon)

### Recipe of Joy APPLE MARMALADE

3kg apples  
6 lemons  
3.75 litres water,  
4.75kg sugar.

Method: Slice lemons thinly, soak overnight in water. In morning, peel, core & slice apples and place in pan with lemons & water. Boil 1 hour then add sugar and boil again for further hour or til jam sets when tested on cold saucer. Bottle & seal.  
(Large batch - makes 21 jars - Recipe supplied by Joy Walker of Storm King Dam)

### October

#### Notable Dates

**October 1<sup>st</sup> 1604. The first Railway.** Despite popular belief that the first Railways came into being in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the first railway, called the Wollaton Wagonway, with two miles of track, was built in Nottinghamshire, England in 1604!

**October 9<sup>th</sup>. 1855. Isaac Singer patented the Sewing machine.** In its 'small' way what an impact that had all over the world...

**October 11<sup>th</sup>. 1899. - The Boer War began.** (Remember the film "Breaker Morant"?)

Back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century!

**October 12<sup>th</sup>. 1187. Richard the Lionheart left England** for the Crusades. He spent only 6 weeks of his 10 year reign in England. Although revered for his bravery he hated England, impoverished the country, and was a merciless adversary, slaughtering 2,700 prisoners at Acre.

(Acknowledgement - this article was compiled by Shiela for the Cairns U3A Newsletter)

## Sept. Garden Group - at Jean Harslett's

(by Leon and Kerrie)

**Garden Group** met at Jean Harslett's residence, Amiens where Jean had set up tables and chairs in a lovely setting in her garden under a spreading American Swamp Cypress for our morning cuppa .

We then went inside to view some of her extensive collection of insects. Jean showed insects from the smallest beetle to the largest and moths and butterflies

displaying brilliant colours and varied shapes.

Jean has a vast knowledge of the insects collected over her lifetime and it was a privilege to be shown such a collection as they are too delicate to be moved elsewhere to be viewed.

Next month, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October Garden Group will meet at 10.00am at McCosker's 335 Amosfield Road where John Bowyer will demonstrate the techniques of grafting vari-

ous fruit trees and liquid ambers. We hope to have material available to practice the skills of grafting.



## Blue Care needs Volunteers

**Stanthorpe Blue Care** operates a Community Transport Service, transporting people in need, particularly those with a disability or who are frail and elderly, to medical appointments. It is an extremely busy service, very often transporting more than one client in a Blue Care vehicle, primarily to Toowoomba or Brisbane each weekday. The service functions by using volunteer drivers, who are covered through Blue Care insurance when they are volunteering for the service. We have a pool of wonderful volunteer drivers, but as the service is so busy, we would certainly appreciate more. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver, or would like more information, please contact Hazel on 46812666.

## INVESTMENT GROUP

The U3A Investment Club started at a very bad time - on the cusp of the global financial crisis. We invested \$13000 and saw its value fall to less than \$10000 at the depth of the crisis. But the financial sector is fighting back, and we are now seeing the turnaround, with the overall value now back up to \$12600 and rising. Our next meeting is going to be an interesting one, with members asked to bring suggestions of new stock purchases, with a view to selling our less-well-performing investments. Our founding President Nev Winter has relinquished his post, in the interests of wider education and experience for others, and the position has been ably filled by Nick Smithers.

## Music in September

Once again a happy group of members enjoyed an evening of music and fun. The mission for the night was to illustrate our choice of music in some manner with a picture or some such, so it took some searching to find something suitable for the usual wide choices of music played. Some quite novel illustrations were displayed! We heard everything from "Land of Mine", a Russian song "Old Linden Tree", "On the Road Again", gospel songs with Elvis Presley, "Silk Pajamas" by Billy Connolly, and artists Willy Nelson, Andre Rieu, John Charles Thomas, Dame Joan Sutherland and more. The evening finished with interesting discussions and supper.

(Submitted by Carol van Klaveren Thanks Carol)



The Dromomaniacs group meeting for September fell in the school holidays, preventing the use of the meeting room at the Community Learning Centre, so the group decided that, in recognition of their name, they would go out and about, meeting at Girraween National Park for an early barbecue breakfast, followed by a ramble/scramble among the wildflowers along

the Junction pathway. The photo shows the group being watched by a hungry butcher bird, currawong and magpie, awaiting any leftovers. A great outing for the eager travellers group.



## Dromomaniacs Out and About

## Mystery Photo - It continues to baffle

The Mystery Photo column continues to grow in popularity, judging by feedback - maybe it's because of the magnificent prizes on offer. A self funded trip around the world is not to be sniffed at! Last month, the photo was obviously a hard one to work out, as not a lot of guesses were submitted. But it didn't deter Mary Clarke, who immediately replied with the correct answer - it was the roof over the walkway at the entrance to the Council Library / Art Gallery. Mary has now been the winner

two months in a row - I hope you have plenty of money for these round the world trips. Congratulations again Mary. This month's photo, **at right**, is going to be easier, I feel. It's a common sight in Stanthorpe, so have a go. Guesses to Steve by e-mail or phone, by the middle of October - and the first correct guess will be acknowledged in the newsletter.



Photo by Liz Drake

## Profile - Jeanie With (U3A Granite Belt 2009 Treasurer) - Arranged by JA Dvorak

I was born in Sydney (wartime issue), eldest of 3 daughters, my father was a racehorse trainer (no Melbourne Cups unfortunately), and left school at 15 with my Intermediate Certificate from Dover Heights Home Science High School. First job was a junior clerk typist at Sunbeam Corporation for the princely sum of 4 pounds 17/6 per week. After several years secretarial/admin positions, I entered the travel industry in the late 60s mainly servicing large commercial accounts. I met and married my husband Peter in 1977 and after accepting a company transfer with Dow Chemicals we moved to Brisbane in 1979. I worked again in travel for several years before another career change into the personnel industry which I left in 1989 after we moved to Beerwah in the Glasshouse Mountains. We established a coffee shop there in 1990 which I managed for 5 years and after we sold that, I became bookkeeper/ secretary for Peter's home based landscape business and later a commercial/ industrial chemical business.

**I joined U3A** to become involved in a different area of the community and to share my interest in various crafts.

**To relax** I enjoy sharing a meal and a glass of wine with Peter (he's



the cook!) and friends and family.

**The thing I love about Stanthorpe** is that we have 4 seasons a year, and also the opportunity for both of us to become more involved in our hobbies within the art and quilting worlds.

**The best thing to do for free in Stanthorpe** is to walk the pathways along Quart Pot Creek and other areas.

**I'm currently reading** Shutter Island by Dennis Lehane. I enjoy **watching** Boston Legal and am **working** on a quilt for my niece's 40th birthday.

**I find I gain a lot of inspiration** from seeing the work of other quilters and crafts people at various exhibitions.

**The best advice I've ever had** was to be true to yourself.

**The first thing I usually notice when I meet someone** is their smile (if there is one).

**If money was no object**, I'd travel first class around the world, and **if granted one wish**, it would be to be a size 12 again.

*(Thanks Jeanie for your responses, and for the fine job you're doing as Treasurer. Editor Steve)*

## October Notable Dates

**October 21<sup>st</sup> 1805. The Battle of Trafalgar.** Commemorating the famous naval battle between the British Royal Navy and the combined Spanish and French fleets, in which twenty-seven British ships led by Admiral Lord Nelson (aboard the HMS Victory) defeated thirty-three French and Spanish ships just west of Cape Trafalgar. The Franco-Spanish fleet lost twenty-two ships, without a single British vessel being lost. Britain's naval supremacy was thereby established. Nelson, who received fatal wounds during the battle, was proclaimed a national hero. (The British dead from the battle were buried in Gibraltar where their graves can still be visited in the historic cemetery there.)

## Keep your mind active - Participate in U3A!

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### Contacts & Group Convenors:

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Leon McCosker (VP) 46811737  
Carol VanKlaveren (Sec) 46813495  
Jeanie With (Treas) 46813360  
Oriël Neilsen (Min Sec) 46813648  
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Nick Smithers 46813553  
Mim Sheahan 46811136  
Vo Hall 46814579  
Norm Clayton 0421026299  
Roy Werner 46812652  
J A Dvorak 46812301  
Jan Martin 46841264

### October

#### Notable Dates

October 25<sup>th</sup> 1854. The Charge of the Light Brigade.  
A fiasco of muddled leadership that led to terrible slaughter at Balaclava, but famous for the bravery of the English troops, and celebrated by Alfred, Lord Tennyson in his epic poem of the same name. (The French General at the time said it was: "magnificent, but was not war – it was madness" )

Again back in years! October 30<sup>th</sup> 1580. Francis Drake completes the first circumnavigation of the globe (the voyage took three years).

October 31<sup>st</sup> 1941. Official end to the **Battle of Britain.**

### Programme for October 2009

#### Weekly Activities - October

- 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 - October

- 1st Thur (1st)- **No Yarn Group - School Holidays** -  
Contacts: Steve Courtney or Roy Werner
- 1st Fri (2nd) - **No Computer Club - School Holidays**  
Contacts: Steve Courtney or JA Dvorak
- 1st Mon (5th)- Jonola (cards) - at RSL - 1.30pm - Contact: Liz Drake
- 2nd Fri (9th) - Investment Group - Learning Centre - 10.00am - Changes to Investment portfolio Contact: Nick Smithers
- 2nd Tue (13th) - Music for Pleasure - Venue: Carol Van Klaveren's residence , 11A Aplin St - 7.00pm - Theme: Dance Contact: Judy Lock
- 3rd Thur (15th) - General Meeting - 10am - Learning Centre - Guest speaker: Peter Blundell, Deputy Mayor, Southern Downs Regional Council  
Contact: Steve Courtney
- 3rd Fri (16th) - Digital Photography Group - 10am at Learning Centre- Guest Speaker— Stuart Perrett , on photo composition Contact: Liz Drake
- 3rd Mon (19th) Jonola (cards) - at RSL - 1.30pm - Contact: Liz Drake
- 3rd Wed (21st) - Garden Group - meet 9.30am at Weeroona Park (car pool) - Venue: McCosker's garden, Amosfield Rd - John Bowyer demonstrating grafting  
Contact: Kerrie and Leon McCosker
- 4th Thur (22nd) - History Group - Learning Centre at 10.30am Topic: Franco and Morwenna Arcidiacono, on the Italian history on the Granite Belt  
Contact: Steve.
- " " - Book Club - Lorenza's Coffee Lounge - 2pm - Contact: Mary Courtney - Book for Oct: "The Winter Vault" by Anne Michaels: will be available soon from Council Library (Book Club set)
- " " - Storytellers, after Book Club - at Lorenza's (approx. 3.00pm)  
Contact: Norm Clayton
- 4th Fri (23rd) - Dromomaniacs - 10am at the Learning Centre - Topic: Peru, presentations by Mary Clarke and Jenny and Jack Stoll  
Contact: Jan Martin

**Don't forget - Lunch at Giardino's - 19th November**