



Above: U3A Garden Club at Burnell's



September 2011

Future Courses for U3A

Inside this issue:

History Group	2
Poetry Group	2
Garden Club	2
Seniors Week Promotional Items	3
Investment Club	3
Mystery Phoro	3
Programme	4

The management committee of U3A Granite Belt met at the end of August, to consider what plans for courses we should have in place for the start of 2012, and whether we can improve on what we are currently doing.

The committee has been concerned that U3A is paying for the use of STEPS on Mondays, but not making effective use of the time we have at our disposal.

Facilitators Needed

It was identified that we need more tutors and facilitators to run or lead courses, so we are investigating whether there are

any training courses, preferably one day events, to help people to carry out this role. If we can access one, it will be conducted during 2011.

Courses

Courses identified as of interest to a number of members were:

- Genealogy
- Shaping of the Human Mind
- Continents on the Move
- Critical Thinking
- Shakespeare
- Brain Teasers
- Language
- Sudoku

- Cryptic Cross-words

Which of these topic should be offered first, will be discussed at our next general meeting in September. We intend to seek courses that are short term, and run them within our existing schedules i.e. on Mondays at STEPS, or otherwise within our current bookings of rooms.

Speakers

There was discussion of whether the speaker schedule should be changed, but it was agreed that speakers each 3 months is about right.

SENIORS WEEK

President Judy Ann Dvorak represented U3A Granite Belt at the Seniors Expo 'Live Laugh Learn', held at Granitenet in Hilton Street on Wednesday 24th August. J.A. was ably assisted by a number of other members, including Jean and Reg Keehn, Liz Drake, Molly Howard, and Mim Sheahan, who helped to illustrate some of the activities undertaken

at STEPS on Mondays. In thanking organisations for their participation, Gwen Jones of the South-

ern Downs Regional Council said that quite a good representation of the community had come through the doors of the expo, and witnessed the various displays, thus becoming aware of the activities available for seniors in our community. The photo shows J.A. and some of the U3A Granite Belt display.



German Language Lessons

Irene Grevis James is about to commence German language lessons again on Tuesday 13th September 2011 at 10.00am at STEPS

The lessons are suitable for beginners or ongoing students, and will continue fortnightly until Christmas

There is no charge for the tutoring, only a small levy to cover copying and other incidentals.

Contact Irene on 0437 373929 or 4638 1161 to arrange participation

**U3A Granite Belt's e-mail address has changed to: -
u3agb@granitenet.com.au**

Granite Belt Community Learning Centre

Stanthorpe RSL is offering free Computer Training courses for RSL members at the Learning Centre.

Covering Introduction to Computers, Introduction to Word Processing and Introduction to Internet/Email, the courses are each delivered over 2 days (3hrs per day) and are offered during morning or afternoon sessions

A \$10 booking fee is payable, with all other training costs covered by the RSL.

If you're an RSL member and interested in participating, book by contacting the Granite Belt Community Learning Centre on 4681 5854 . Starting 12th and 14th Sept

Puns

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

Some batteries are given out free of charge.

Police were called to a day care centre, where a three year old was resisting a rest.

History Group

In August, the History Group held a session entitled "Skeletons in the Closet". The theory was that every family has one, and relating stories of our own would be very entertaining and revealing.

And so it turned out to be.!

The classic Blue Beard story tells of his getting married to a beautiful

woman, and giving her the keys of his house. When he left for work, he told her she was never to open one room at the end of a long corridor, which she of course did, and it turned out to be a closet, which held the skeletons of all his previous wives.

Over time the expression has lost its macabre origins, and has assumed

the meaning of something hidden about one's past life.

Our own group had a number of fascinating stories - of pirates, Irish politicians, and sons who ran off with their step-mothers. Fascinating!

Next History Group will be Jenny Monro, giving further information about her aboriginal languages project.

POETRY GROUP

Census

I was filling out the census form:

It asked me what I did,
"Occupation" boldly printed:
 How it is I earn a quid.

'Housewife' doesn't cover it,
 'Mother's' not enough;
 To find my job description
 was a choice almighty tough.

Finally I found it;
 The answer was right there;
 I lifted up my pencil
 and I wrote it down with care:

Jus' cm'ere and hold this ladder,

Jus' cm'ere and switch this on,

*Jus' cm'ere and hold this up,
 Jus' cm'ere - now where's she gone?*

It's hard to find a title
 for my job and make it clear;
 So I'll stick to what's familiar:

Occupation: *Jus'cm'ere.*

Our most recent gathering of the Poetry Group took place just before the Census night,

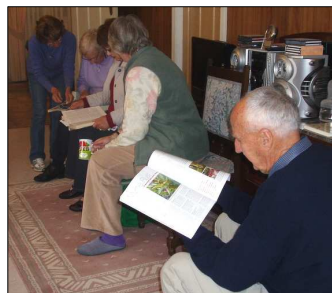
and one of our members brought along this topical poem, author unknown, which seemed to give a great impression of the female condition, the Census, and the Poetry Group's irreverent humour - all in one.

If you have an interest in poetry, and would like to share your favourite poems with like-minded enthusiasts, why not come along on the first Friday of the month and be entertained. You don't have to write it, just enjoy it! [10am at the Learning Centre.](#) See programme on page 4.

A Local Area Network in Australia could be described as a LAN downunder .

Garden Club - August

Garden Group members in August, met at Bob and Sue Johnson's, where we went for a garden walk around Sue's developing garden. As the day was cool, we had an enjoyable cuppa inside and perused the many garden books members brought along, which were varied from conifers to wildflowers and



well read complete garden books. Everyone gained some knowledge from the

mornings activity. Next outing will be to Neil and Yvonne Cavenett's property on Eukey Road at Storm King Dam, where Harley West of Stanthorpe Land-care will identify local **weeds** and their control. Bring along samples for identification, but please put them in a sealed plastic bag so they don't escape.

Seniors Walk Promotional Items

The Wednesday Walk during Senior's Week was boosted by the participation of a number of extra walkers (see below) It's great exercise and company, so come along any Wednesday and join in.



U3A Granite Belt has acquired some promotional items, which are for sale to members at more-or-less cost. The U3A carry bags look outstanding, and are the same size and usefulness as the green bags you can get from Woolworths. They are available for \$3.00 each, which is fractionally less than their cost price, but as they are great for promoting U3A, that's fair enough. We have also acquired a stock of ball point pens, which are for sale at \$1.50

each. That is just above cost, but they are great value, and look good too. Both of these items are available from the Secretary Carol van Klaveren.



A piano falling down a mine shaft could result in A-flat miner.

Investment Group - Get In Quick!

The Investment Club is getting closer, but it's not there yet. It needs a few more \$500 investors to make the club a feasible proposition.

The Club will require a minimum investment of \$500 from each participant, and is planned to continue for 3 years, but

members will be able to withdraw, on good reason, with the club buying out the leaving member, or another member or new member buying that share. No individual member will be able to hold more than 4 units, and if proxies are granted for a member's

absence, no individual member can vote with more than 8 units. This prevents one person controlling the operations of the club.

If you're interested, get in quick, as we will probably be starting at the September meeting.

Mystery Photo

The mystery photo for August was a termite mound in the Northern Territory, and was very quickly identified by **Sue Johnson**, who is therefore the monthly winner of the self-funded round-the-world trip. Congratulations to Sue, who was a first

time winner of the Mystery Photo competition.



This month's photo, at-left, may be a little more difficult. Let's see who can work this one out. Steve's devious mind has tried to make it difficult. Guesses to Steve by mid month, and you could win your dream holiday, (paid for by you!)

Puns

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

A professor discovered that the theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

A dentist and manicurist married, but they fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway

Dromomaniacs

August's meeting saw a small but enthusiastic group wend their way to the top of Bald Rock from where the beautiful Spring day provided wonderful visibility to far away ranges. At morning tea and lunch we were joined by some very friendly kookaburras, currawongs and satin bowerbirds, the subject of many photos. What a delightful day!!

University of the Third Age, Granite Belt Inc.

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Contacts & Group Convenors:

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Jenny Stoll 46833141
Irene Grevis James 0437373929
Lynda Blackstock 46810120

Newsletter Editor: Steve Courtney

Granite Belt Dance Club

Annual FREE Seniors Concert

St Joseph's Hall
2p.m. Sat. 17th
Sept 2011

Everyone invited
Entertainment by Local Artists

Programme for September 2011

Weekly Activities

- Every Mon - MahJong, Cribbage, Sewing (mornings) - at STEPS from 9.30am to 12.30pm Contact: J A Dvorak
" " - Jonola (cards) - at RSL - 1.30pm - Contact: Liz Drake
" " - Art Group - Senior Citizens Room - 9.30am to 4pm - cost \$5 Contact: Laurie Astill
Every Wed - Heart Foundation (U3A) Walking Group - from Heritage Park - 8.30am Contact: JA Dvorak

Monthly / Fortnightly Activities

- 1st Thur (1st) - Discussion Group - 10am at Learning Centre - Icebreaker Topic: If Gaddafi arrives at Christmas Island... And any other topics as well. Contacts: Roy Werner/Steve Courtney
1st Fri (2nd) - Poetry Group - 10am at the Learning Centre - Topic: Poems from your Schooldays/Childhood - Contact: Lynda Blackstock
2nd Fri (9th) - Investment Group - Learning Centre - 10.00am - Forming the new group. Come along (with money) - Contact: JA Dvorak
2nd Tue (13th) - German Language Lessons - 10am at STEPS - small contribution to cover outgoings and incidentals, no charge for lessons. Contact: Irene Grevis James on 0437 373929
2nd Tue (13th) - Music for Pleasure - Venue: Carol Van Klaveren's at 7pm Theme: Music from the Musicals Contacts: Carol/Oriël
2nd Wed (14th) - Quilts for Carramar - at Summit Hall
3rd Thur (15th) - General Meeting - 10am - Learning Centre - Adult Learner's Celebration - Bring along some morning tea to share - Contact: J A Dvorak
3rd Fri (16th) - No Digital Photography Group this month, but.....see below
" " - Dromomaniacs - 10am at the Learning Centre - Topic: Members to research any engineering structure in the world, and bring along some information - Contact: Jan Martin
3rd Wed (21st) - Garden Group - 10am at Cavenett's, 569 Eukey Rd - Topic: Weed identification with Harley West - Contacts: Kerrie/Leon McCosker
4th Thur (22nd) - History Group - 10.00am - Learning Centre - Topic: Jenny Munro on aboriginal languages. Convenor: Jenny Stoll
4th Mon (26th) - Quilts for Carramar - at Summit Hall
4th Tues (27th) - German Language Lessons - 10am at STEPS Contact: Irene on 0437 373929
5th Thur (29nd) Book Club - at Courtney's, 633 Eukey Rd - 12noon (book and film) - Contact: Mary. Book for Sept: 'Love in the Time of Cholera' by G G Marquez - available now from Stanthorpe Library



Notes on the Programme

Investment Club: We need more members to get it started. If you know anyone interested, advise J A or any other member.

Dromomaniacs: Will be on the **3rd Friday** for this month only, because of school holidays.

Book Club: Will be at Courtney's this month only, and changed to the **5th Thursday**. This month will be the book, and film. Starting at 12noon, Mary will do a lunch.



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