

# U3A NETWORK NEWSLETTER

July 2017



## New Network President

At the recent AGM, Don McDonald stepped down after two years as Network President and Peter Alcock was elected in his place.

Peter Alcock, from U3A Perth has been an active U3A enthusiast for several years.

Peter, who succeeds hard-working President Don McDonald, grew up in country WA where his parents farmed near Narrogin. Peter studied Geology at UWA during the sixties and following seven years working in Eastern and Northern Australia, took off with a young family travelling for 18 months through Japan, Europe and North America before settling back into a farming life at Narrogin.

In 1995, Peter returned to the lure of exploration where he was a director of several small companies exploring for gold and other minerals in WA.

During a period of semi-retirement, he joined U3A in 2010 and became more involved following retirement in 2012. He held roles of chairman and programme coordinator at the North Coast region of U3A in Perth and in 2014 became President of the U3A (UWA) overseeing the 10 regional branches until the expiration of his term in April 2017 .



*Peter Alcock*

Peter's other interests include the Rottne Guides, the Fremantle Men's Shed and Fine Wood Workers association and, of course, his six grandchildren.

Peter lives with his wife Barbara in Marmion and between road trips in the motor home can be found at the beach most mornings.

# NATURALISTE GARDENING COURSE



The 'Love your Garden' course was well attended with 16 participants, so was a great success. We covered many topics from soil to trees and we exchanged cuttings and plants every week. Everyone picked up useful information on how to grow many plants. Below are a few comments received from the group members:

"As keen amateur gardeners we gained much information and other members were all like-minded and we felt that everyone benefited from the friendliness and commitment to garden health and growth".

"I enjoyed this course, it is one of the best group/courses I have had pleasure of attending."

"A good group of people and are still meeting after the course finished and enjoy more gardening "

"It was fun and interesting to see other gardens and see how they are structured all different but very effective"

*Gwen Braden (Course Leader)*

## U3A North Coast Plays Croquet

On Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> twenty members of the North Coast U3A (Hamersley) group met at the Floreat Croquet Club. A few of us had played before, but for most it was a new experience. Just handling the mallet for the first time and learning to hold it and adjust to its weight was a challenge, without having to consider where the little ball was to end up when it was struck. With perseverance and patient tuition most of us became adept and worthwhile games were played. Great fun was had by all.



After an hour or so we retired to the verandah of the clubhouse for welcome drinks and a beautiful buffet lunch. There was plenty of serious discussion of recent news as well as much laughter as subjects became light hearted. We were even treated to some magic tricks from Anton and Jim.



Many thanks to Jan Stevenson for organizing this most enjoyable outing.

*June Barns*

# **AGM, July 2017 – Extracts from President's Report**

## **Membership of the Network**

The members of the Network are the U3A groups who have joined the Network and have paid the annual Subscription – currently 50 cents per individual member per year

U3A Albany joined as the Network's tenth member group early in 2016-17, but they have recently indicated they may not continue. We wish to retain this long-established U3A group and intend to have further discussions with them on the advantages of membership.

In the early months of 2015-16, our Committee members visited Mandurah, Bunbury, Margaret River and Albany U3As; Naturaliste U3A representatives visited U3A Manjimup on our behalf, and we maintained telephone contact with other country members.

## **2016 Network Conference**

The major event for the year was the October 2016 Network Conference, attended by 8 of our 10 member U3As and 8 of the 10 Regions of U3A(UWA). This was the first conference conducted since the Network was formed in 2012. The Conference theme was "Growing and Working Together".

Attendance of about 60 delegates was within the planned target range and enabled an income/expenditure surplus of \$370.

Guest speakers Julie Porteous (President of U3A Network Queensland and U3A Redlands in Brisbane) and June van der Klashorst (Chairman of WA Minister for Seniors Advisory Council) gave informative and stimulating addresses, giving an excellent start to each day of the Conference

## **Financial Report**

The Network's bank balance increased from \$2,206.30 at 30 June 2016 to \$2,903.18 at 30 June 2017.



## **Interstate Contact**

Jean Duff attended the U3A NSW Conference, and provided an interesting report to our Committee on many aspects of U3A.

## **Committee Members**

I thank the Committee members for their good work and continuous support during the year, including preparing for and assisting at the Conference.

Don McDonald



*New Network executive: (From left) Don McDonald (V/Pres), Peter Alcock (Pres), Christine Oliver (Sec), Jean Duff (Treas). Other committee members: Christine Norman, Judy Marston, Peter Flanigan.*

## **What is U3A Online?**

It is similar to local U3As but is a “virtual” U3A where all courses are done online. It originated in Australia for seniors who were isolated, housebound or for any other reason cannot attend a “real” U3A. It offers over 50 courses on a great variety of subjects and requires only basic IT skills.

It is entirely volunteer-run and not-for-profit as are all U3As

**Who can join? – Individual Membership**

- Any senior can join individually and access any number of the courses for \$30 per annum

### **What are the courses?**

They include: Australian History; History of Castles; Religions of the World; The Romans; Antarctica; My Life Story; Genealogy Online; Henry Lawson's Life and Works; Writing Family History; Astronomy; Train Your Brain and many more.

### **Organisation Membership**

- Organisations can become an organisational member for \$15, purchase a site licence for \$20 per annum, and run the courses as a group activity, either by downloading and printing course material or making the courses to members online.
- This will allow the U3A/Organisation to enrol in the course/s they have the licence for and download the course notes. These can then be printed and as many copies made as are needed for the face to face class. More than one class can be run with the same notes throughout the membership period.
- As an alternative to the notes being printed for everyone the U3A/Organisation can allow its members to have access to the course via the U3A/Organisation log in information but this will only apply to the courses that the U3A/Organisation Has a site licence to. This effectively means that for the small cost of \$20AUS the course can be shared among as many of your U3A/Organisation Members as you wish, as a course within the U3A/Organisation.

### **Want to know more?**

- Go to our website at [www.u3aonline.com](http://www.u3aonline.com)

*Jean Duff*

## **GERALDTON U3A**

PROGRAMME for August/September, 2017.

1<sup>st</sup> August: Horses' birthday. Members to bring anything of interest to do with horses.

8<sup>th</sup> August: Book Club at 19 Verticordia Drive.

15<sup>th</sup> August: Visit to Bluff Point Lighthouse Museum at 1.45 pm.

22<sup>nd</sup> August: Study Group at Birdwood House.

29<sup>th</sup> August: Afternoon tea at Skeetas at 2pm. Paid for by the club.

Geraldton Waterfront and  
sculpture of Waiting Woman at  
the HMAS Sydney Memorial



5<sup>th</sup> September: Brain Games at Birdwood House.

12<sup>th</sup> September: Book Club.

19<sup>th</sup> September: Guest speaker: Peter Flanigan: "Madagascar".

Committee meeting to follow afternoon tea.

26<sup>th</sup> September: Study Group.

*Supplied by Delys Weller, Secretary*

**Thank you to all those who sent in  
contributions. We can always use more,  
especially photos. Deadline for next  
issue, October 15, 2017. Please send  
contributions to the editor  
[u3apeteraa@bigpond.com](mailto:u3apeteraa@bigpond.com)**

**Peter Flanigan (Editor)**

# U3A Armadale

## Positive Ageing Morning Tea

On Friday 5th May members from U3A Armadale were invited by the Armadale Council to attend a Positive Ageing morning tea at the Armadale Hall in Jull Street. Four members went along to represent our group and we were not disappointed.



The morning tea was provided by The Manse restaurant and was something special; with tablecloths on the tables and cotton napkins; sandwiches and cakes presented on china tiered cake stands and coffee/tea served in bone china cups! Students from Kelmscott High school were in attendance and waited on the tables. A raffle was held in support of the Intensive Care Foundation.

The Intensive Care Foundation is dedicated to raising funds for essential and ongoing clinical research which aims at improving the quality and care of people who are critically ill with serious injuries such as severe heart attacks, pneumonia, stroke, road accidents, burns, trauma, organ transplants and complicated surgery; as well as education health professionals who are responsible for intensive care.

After our morning tea, we were invited to view the art show at the back of the hall and vote on our own personal preference.

It was an enjoyable morning and hope that next year if the morning tea is laid on again by the Armadale Council, more of our members will attend. We met some interesting new people and were able to promote our Chapter.

*Sheila Shenton*



# ALL ABOUT THE FLAMENCO!



*Dr Irene Martyn-Styles( above left) and assistant, Jessie.*

An unusual and most entertaining afternoon was held for North Coast (Hamersley) U3A members earlier this month. There is a lot more to the Flamenco than meets the eye. There are many different styles of the dance and costumes to go with it. The history of the dance was told in words, pictures and demonstrations with audience members joining in clapping the infectious rhythms. We were also told how to show our appreciation with cries of Ole! And Vamos! echoing around the room.

## COURSES FOR WESTERN SUBURBS REGION

Spurred on by comments from Don McDonald (immediate past president of U3A Network) that small groups of like interest within a region are beneficial for that region, Western Suburbs region is steaming ahead in forming new groups amongst its members.

Already we have completed an eight-week course called “Brain Games” which was an overwhelming success both for our brains and for the camaraderie engendered, and the participants intend to continue on with another course. To follow up, we are hoping that

other members will enrol in “Brain Games 2” which will be a repeat of the first Brain Games but tailored to suit the actual participants.

We have also formed a Cinema Group which hopes to attend a local cinema monthly and is shortly to have its second outing followed by a light lunch at a nearby café.

Another group is called MOTO (standing for Members On Their Own). This group will meet on every public holiday for at least coffee and chit-chat and also for other events which may appeal to its members.

All groups are open to any of our over one hundred members. Meanwhile, Western Suburbs region continues with its traditional two well qualified speakers per session every fortnight. We are pleased that this year that there are between thirty and forty new members who attend pretty regularly.

So it’s onwards and upwards we hope!

*Joy Hill*

*And finally.....*

### **ONE OF OUR WONDERFUL WA WILDFLOWERS**



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