

University of the Third Age



U3A Network WA Inc.

Network News

June 2015

Newsletter 9

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Online Newsletters

How do they Work?

Congratulations! You have reached the 9th issue of the Online Newsletter of U3A Network WA Inc.

You have also reached a new editor of the newsletter. As you will be aware Norma has had to resign from her role as the Webmaster and Newsletter Editor for health reasons and it goes without saying that we wish her well and a speedy recovery. Norma has played a tremendous part in setting up this Website and Newsletter on behalf of all the members of U3A Network WA and I trust that with your help that I can continue to maintain both the Website and the Newsletter for the benefit of all.

Items of interest will be uploaded to this space over the next few months as they arrive on the Editor's desk. At the end of the next publication cycle, in June 2015, the content will be printed off for distribution to people who either do not have access to a computer, or who simply prefer to hold paper in their hands, then a new issue begins. The time will come when the paper copy will be discontinued. Online Newsletters are intended for reading now, as the news happens. Please make a contribution. Tell us what is going on in your U3A, even better, tell us what you think.

Please check back regularly to watch this issue grow over the next few months. Previous quarterly issues are available for reading or printing from the .pdf link at the top of this webpage.

We represent approximately 1,500 individual members in eight areas across the State of W.A. Everyone has a story. All individual members are encouraged to submit articles of interest to the Editor. These might include good news stories, visits from interesting Guest Speakers, most popular courses, successful excursions, or ideas that have worked for your group.

One idea is to describe what is happening in a photo. Even better, when the picture says it all.

As Norma would say **Go the smartphones!!!!**

Posted 15/03/2015

Paul Thiessen.

Obituary - Paul Thiessen

Paul Thiessen became active in U3A in 2009. He was an engineer by profession and was still being called back to work from time to time to fix things others could not fix. Nevertheless he took on the job of treasurer of U3A(UWA) Perth, no small task with over 900 members. He held this position for 5 years while at the same time making himself indispensable in a range of areas. One of his strengths was in computing and he was frequently called on to help in this capacity.

At the same time he was a member of the SW Metro group, was a regular presenter and active in outreach PR activities. Paul was also involved in City Courses, both as organiser and presenter.

In 2014 he left the Treasurer's job and he and his wife, Connie, went on a four months overseas trip. On his return he accepted a role on the U3A Network Committee. Shortly afterwards, when Norma Vaughan was forced to resign through illness, he took over the Network website. He was still active with the SW Region, a representative on the Council, and, earlier this year, took on the task of organizing the annual seminar in July.

When the fatal accident occurred on Friday 8th May, he and his wife Connie were on their way to Busselton to take part in a U3A Network meeting. He had also enrolled in the Brisbane U3A Conference and would have represented us there.

Always cheerful and obliging, always ready to offer his services where they were needed, Paul was a wonderful man to work with. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our heartfelt sympathies go to Connie and the extended family.

Peter Flanigan

11/5/15



U3A Alliance Australia

U3A Alliance Australia recently held a meeting in Melbourne with the Policy advisor to Senator M. Fifield, the Assistant Minister for Social Services

Present:

Elsie Mutton, President U3A Network Victoria,
Lindsay Glen, Victorian U3AA Delegate- U3A Network Victoria
Ms.Pat Sparrow Advisor Federal Department of Social Services

The aim of the meeting was to provide a profile of U3A in Australia, its aims, objectives and operational structure in order to define our connection with the seniors sector, and if possible establish a relevant contact within the Department for ongoing dialogue.

The full report on this discussion can be found on the documents page or by following this link [U3AAA Dept of social Services Interview.](#)

Some Highlights of the Discussion:

Outlined U3As national presence, its regional and Network organisational structure and how it delivers our contribution to the health and wellbeing of seniors.

Despite a membership of approximately 90,000 we currently reach less than 3% of the aged sector. The positive nature of our programmes and the growth potential for the movement.

Only two State Governments currently extend funding support to their State U3A Networks (Vic. and Sth. Australia). A table we submitted outlined membership distribution and funding status of Alliance members (Appendix B of the report).

The purpose of our interview was not “plead” a need for funding but to highlight the opportunity existing for Government to utilise our movement to deliver selected components of their health and well being policy initiatives to the Senior Sector.

Outcomes:

Promotional: to expand our promotional efforts by seeking to establish website linkages within organisations linked to Aged Care and Health

Funding: A further suggestion was made that applications for funding support could be made to a number of charitable foundations, offering project based funding

Conclusion:

The interview did not totally satisfy the aim of establishing a sympathetic connection with this level of government. We should continue to seek a more relevant contact within the Healthy Ageing area of the Department.

Given the current unstable electoral climate we should also ensure that we collectively maintain regular contact with our local Federal representatives and the opposition party candidates in order to remind them of our community presence.

Following this interview U3A Nunawading were invited to attend a Community Forum held on Friday 20th March by Anna Burke, Federal Labor member for Chisolm and discussed this endeavor to nationalise U3A recognition via the Alliance.

Link: [Dept of social Services Interview.](#)

*Posted 3/4/2015
Paul Thiessen*



CIRCULAR TO ALL MEMBER GROUPS

RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY

Norma Vaughan, our foundation secretary and webmaster, has been forced to resign from the Network Committee for health reasons.

This is a sad day. Norma has done an amazing amount of work in helping to set up the Network and she will be greatly missed. On behalf of the committee and all our member groups I would like to extend our best wishes to her for what will be an extended period of treatment.

Paul Thiessen has volunteered to take over the webmaster position while Don McDonald has offered to take over some secretarial duties in addition to his job as treasurer.

Remembering that I am only Acting President and so we have no vice-president, this leaves the committee pretty thin on the ground. I am therefore appealing to all groups to ask around to see if there is any members who are prepared to volunteer their services.

The AGM is on 22 July (in conjunction with the U3A (UWA) Perth seminar) we will certainly need some new people to come forward at that time but it could be very useful to have an infusion before then.

There is a Network Committee meeting on Saturday April at 1 pm at the State Library Coffee Shop. Members are welcome to attend this if they would like to.

If there is anyone interested please contact me.

OTHER NEWS

U3A Online is now an official member group of the Network and the Network is a member of U3A Online. Apparently there are 76 members of U3A Online in WA.

The Queensland U3A Network is hosting the U3A Asia-Pacific Alliance Conference in Brisbane in May. Registrations are now open to all U3A members. (Google Queensland U3A Network for details)

The current newsletter for the WA Network – your newsletter! – is now available on the website. Contributions to this, which appears 3 times a year, can be received at any time.

Best wishes

Peter Flanigan (Acting President) 9447 4195

Naturaliste U₃A

Think-fest invitation

WHEN: Friday 8th May, 2015

TIME: 10.00 for a 10.30 start - refreshments on arrival Finish 2.00pm

VENUE: Busselton Family Centre, Kent St (turn right into West St, at lights on Bussell Hwy corner where the Ship Inn is situated, past the Shopping Centre (IGA) on the right, then left into Kent St at first roundabout. The Centre is almost immediately on your right. If you need further directions please call Joan Parke on 0410 667696.

LUNCH will be provided and then the Busselton Ukulele Group (BUG) will provide a musical interlude. BUG started as a U3A course in 2014.

RSVP with names of representatives attending would be appreciated by **MAY 1st** for catering purposes to Joan Parke, jadele.45@bigpond.com

[Download Poster](#)



Naturaliste U3A Autumn Newsletter

[\(Click here to Read\)](#)



U3A Online - April 2015 Newsletter

[\(Click here to Read \)](#)

Letter from U3A Online 4th May 2015

[\(Click here to Read \)](#)



U3AAA Newsletter No. 13

Please follow the above link to read the latest U3A Australian Alliance newsletter.



Seminar 2015 The Power of Ageing

Wednesday 22nd July
9.45am – 3.00pm

Tickets \$30.00 for U3A Members and their Guests will
be available from 15th April

Please contact Paul Thiessen at thiessenster@gmail.com or
phone 9457 7566 for details & Tickets. Please note that
bookings must close by Mon 13th July in order to confirm the
venue and catering arrangements

Seminar Timetable

10.00 am

Opening Address
U3A (UWA) Patron

Emeritus Professor
Alan Robson AO CitWA



10.15am

The Power of Ageing Can we make seniors voices heard?

Ken Marston CEO COTA WA

Ken's career includes management
consultancy and teaching at Curtin
University's Centre for Aboriginal Studies.
He has a long standing interest in seniors
housing, and consumer affairs, the not for
profit sector and lifelong learning.



Australia's seniors are growing in numbers, even now making up
50%+ of voters in many electorates, and seniors also own much
of Australia's private wealth, but are they a powerful interest
group and should they be?

11.15am - 12. 30pm

Morning Tea / Brunch.

MENU

Sandwiches
Mini savouries
Mini croissants
Fruit platter
Petite cookies
Danish Pastries
Tea & Coffee

12.30 pm

**Powers of Attorney & Guardianship
Sword or Shield?**

Greg Mahney
CEO Advocare Inc.



Advocare's work includes support for those receiving aged care services in their home or in residential facilities. It also includes advocacy and raising awareness in the area of Elder Abuse.

Do EPAs and EPGs actually reduce the likelihood of elder abuse? and Can they be manipulated to actually facilitate and support the abuser? Greg Mahney will dispel some myths about each of these methods and offer participants some 'food for thought' in future planning.

1.35 – 1.45 10min Break

1.45pm

Care in an Ageing Australia

Professor
Christopher Etherton-Beer



University of Western Australia clinical academic in Geriatric Medicine and Geriatrician /Clinical Pharmacologist at the Royal Perth Hospital.

In addition to clinical work in geriatric medicine and stroke he serves as Chair of the RACP Specialist advisory Committee in Geriatric Medicine and a member of the Board of Juniper (Uniting Church Homes).

Professor Etherton-Beer has research interests in ageing and aged care, stroke, medical education and pharmaco-geriatrics.

2.45 - 3.00pm Seminar Close.

U3A Network WA Annual General Meeting

Will be held immediately after the Seminar