

U3A NETWORK WA NEWSLETTER

OCT/NOV.

2018

U3A STATE CONFERENCE ISSUE



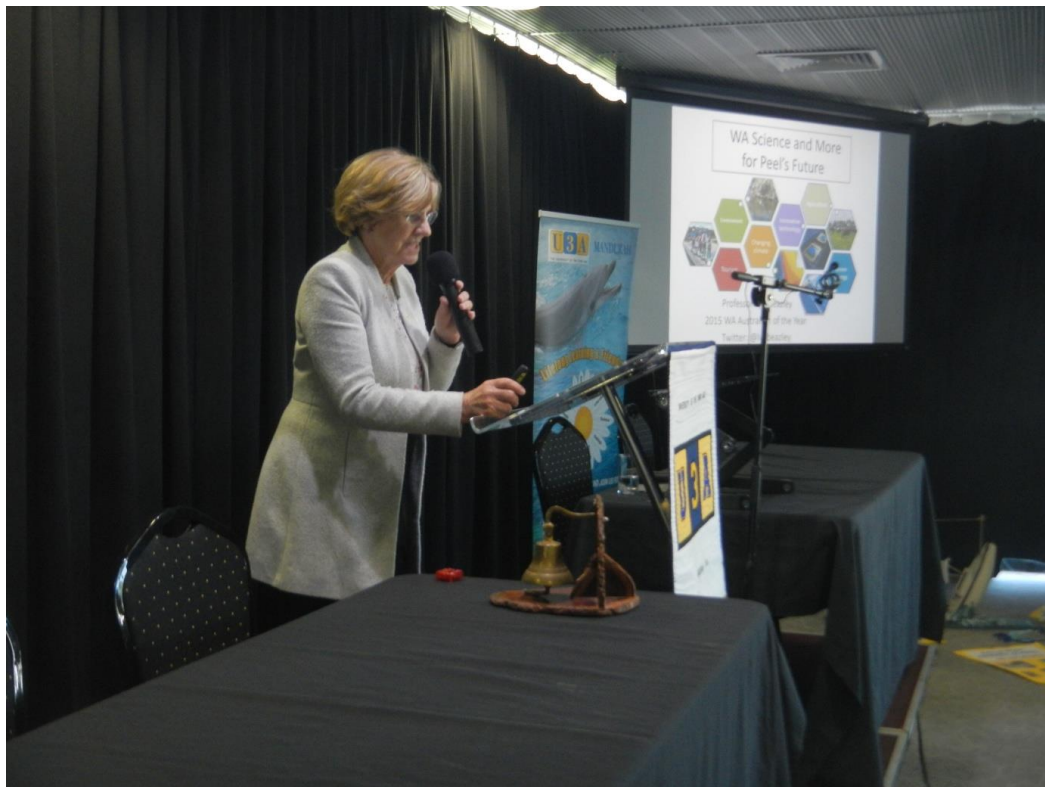
Brain Games session run by Ainslie Lamb, NSW U3A

U3A Network WA together with Mandurah U3A turned on a superb two day conference for almost one hundred delegates and other members on 17 and 18 October. Everything, from the conference venue to the boat cruise on the second afternoon, was very well organised, even the weather! (Apart from a shower as we scrambled aboard the boat). Held in the spacious rooms of a league football club (Peel Thunder) there was adequate space for all activities, the speakers were all excellent and the catering was top class.

After a welcome by Peter Alcock, WA Network and Alliance President, and the official opening by local MLA, David Templeman, the main program began with local U3A member, David Smeeton's fascinating presentation on Mandurah and the Peel District whose history goes back to the very early days of the Swan River Colony. This was followed by Professor Lyn Beazley, former WA Chief Scientist, who covered a range of topics from research into the local dolphin population (over 100 live in the Peel estuary), migratory birds (again the Mandurah area is a hotspot for these), smarter agriculture, Coderdojo (all about coding) and one of her favourite projects, microscopes in primary schools.



David Smeeton opens the conference proper with his talk on the history of the Peel District and (right) some of the models made by local school children of significant buildings.



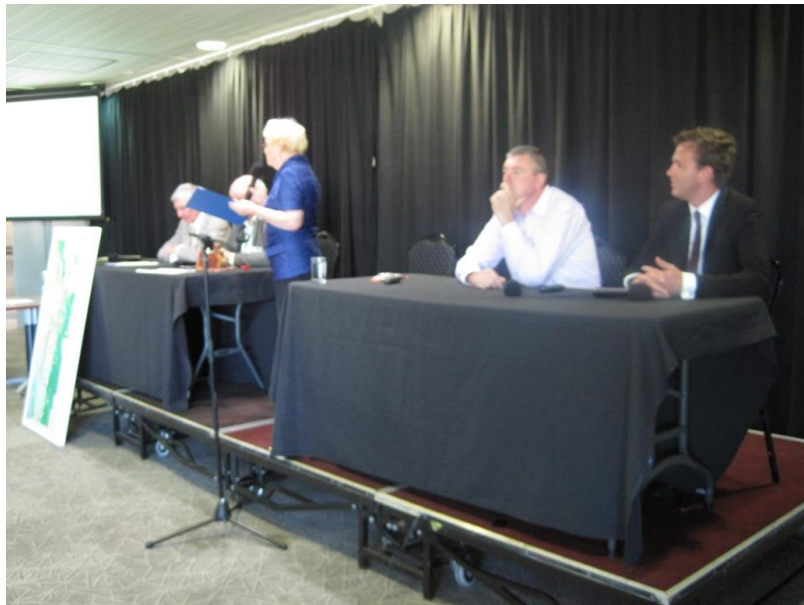
Former WA Chief Scientist, Professor Lyn Beazley.

Following a delicious buffet lunch, Ainslie Lamb (NSW) staved off all signs of postprandial drowsiness with her session on keeping our minds active using non-competitive puzzles, memory tests and the like. This was followed by WA Museum Director, Alex Coles, who opened all our minds to what a modern museum is all about – not just collections on display but education and research. With the new WA Museum now well under construction, he promised exciting times ahead for all West Australians and visitors to the state.



Alec Coles, Director of the WA Museum, with a picture of what the new museum in Perth will look like. It's going to be a very busy place.

The final session on Day One was a Q and A – *Australian Lifestyles of the Future* - with some high-powered panellists moderated by local member Sheila Twine. We heard from Eric Lumsden (former Chair WA Planning Commission, David Hynes (Public Transport Authority), Karl O'Callaghan (Retired Police Commissioner and Rhys Williams (Mandurah Mayor). This was a lively session with many questions from the floor.



Sheila Twine (centre) with the panel

The day concluded with a Canapés and Drinks' hour giving everyone a further chance to socialise and meet people from groups other than their own.

From the President



During a very successful and well attended State Conference hosted by U3A Mandurah, the U3A Network WA Held its AGM. Office bearers for the coming year are:

President: Peter Alcock

Vice President: Christine Norman

Secretary: Christine Oliver

Treasurer: Jean Duff

Committee: Judy Marsden, Val Jarrett-Crowe, Peter Flanigan.



At the Network AGM: (Left) Christine Norman (Mandurah), Peter Alcock (Perth), Greg Woodward (Albany), (Right) Judy Marston (Armadale), Daisy Harries (Bunbury), Joan Parke (Naturaliste) and Val Jarrett-Croft (Armadale),

Resolutions passed were:

1. That the revised Rules of Association of the organization previously circulated and adopted by circular resolution be confirmed.
2. That the Network enter into a licensing agreement with the UK Third Age trust to use and protect the U3A logo

The protection of the U3A logo and acronym has become a national issue and the process of formalizing an agreement with the UK Third Age Trust, the original owner of the brand, is supported by a majority of U3A groups in WA. A formal agreement however comes with the responsibility to

protect the brand from improper use. This will require a provision for a period of discretion when it comes to fledgling groups getting started. The intention is to protect the brand from commercial exploitation, not to discourage genuine new U3A groups from getting up and running.

A group in Toodyay under the leadership of Sally Craddock is meeting regularly. They are using the U3A Online course guidelines starting a writers' group. In time this could become the next U3A group in WA if a committee can be formed.

Referring to the recent State Conference, I was pleased to welcome representatives from Geraldton to Albany in WA as well as our Eastern States colleagues from Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

I thank the hard-working committee and particularly the many volunteers from the Mandurah U3A who made the State Conference possible. The conference included an excellent range of presenters included David Smeeton (local U3A member), Professor Lyn Beazley (former WA chief Scientist), Professor Ainslie Lamb (Brain Games author and NSW U3A member), Alec Coles (CEO of WA Museum), Richard Offen (Perth Beginnings) and the highlight for me was Glen Mitchell's presentation which ranged over a mesmerizing range of so many magic moments in sport.

The feed-back we have received has been very positive, particularly for the quality of the presentations and the overall organization. However as always there are areas for improvement which have been noted from the good response to the feedback forms. Some of these suggestions will be taken on board for the next event which I propose we conduct in 2020 at a venue to be decided.

Peter Alcock



Christine Norman draws a raffle prize. (Left of group) Ron Browne from NSW who was instrumental in forming the U3A Australia Alliance (U3AAA) in 2011.



Glenn Mitchell (former ABC Sports reporter talks about drugs in sport on Day 2 of the conference



Richard Offen –our resident expert - speaks on Perth's Heritage

THE BOAT CRUISE



Interstate visitors (with some local U3A members)



Another group from North Coast U3A and Mandurah U3A



The Mandurah U3A volunteers who worked so hard to make things run smoothly.

FROM THE EDITOR

There was a decided lack of contributions from U3A groups for this edition. Just as well there were a lot of photos from the conference. Remember, this is your newsletter and it will only work if we get stories and photos from all the member groups.

Photos in this edition taken by Peter Alcock, Peter Flanigan and Rory O'Brien.

That's your (bloomin') lot for 2018. First edition for 2019 will be published in April. Reminders will be sent out.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Peter Flanigan

U3A ARMADALE

Converted U3A Online Courses Very Popular

Mentioned in the previous issue, the first U3A Armadale Online course was Antarctica. Run by ex-president Paul Fahie, and ably supported by Diane Flegg, our Education Officer, the online course was converted into a PowerPoint presentation by Paul. We utilized a small room, that can accommodate up to 30 people, at our home base, Evelyn Gribble Community Centre, Armadale.

With roughly 15 people at any one session, each weekly meeting was well received. Being the first of many of these courses, a lot was learned for any future ones.

Part of the 'learning' was a recognition that we required a few course leaders, and that these future leaders required training and knowledge to enter the centre, deactivate alarms, get the technology organized, set up the room, project and present the images to the members and create an open atmosphere for friendly repartee.

A 2-hour training session took place, with 11 participants. Some pairings eventuated to work together on future courses.

The current course is Astronomy, led by Terry Edmett and supported by Ray Webb. Following is a short introductory article that featured in a special U3A Armadale News:

Introduction to the new Astronomy course

By Terry Edmett



This 'Third Rock from the Sun' we call home is one of the eight planets that make up our Solar System now that Pluto has been 'demoted'.

But then our Sun is a star just like the other four hundred billion stars that make up the Milky Way galaxy and which itself is one of the billions of galaxies that occupy our Universe.

Recent research shows that almost all stars have the potential to have planets and now one exoplanet of the several thousand that have been discovered, has just been found to have a moon although that still needs confirmation.

Science requires that everything has to be checked and checked again if new facts are found. And here we are right in the middle of it all! Fascinating!

So come and join our U3A Astronomy course and find out more about this interesting universe we are lucky enough to inhabit and to be able to enjoy.

U3A Armadale members are very excited about the current activity within our group.

Keith Durrans

And on a floral note.....



Hakea multilineata – a small midwinter flowering WA tree in the Editor's garden