



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019

ARMADALE U3A SUCCESSES



Armadale members holding the cheque for \$1000 they won through a competition to guess the number of bottle tops in a jar, run by the local Country Club.

Armadale have also had a notable success in obtaining a new system that assists those with hearing problems. President Sheila Shenton reports:

We heard in the middle of our Christmas lunch at the Byford Country Club, that we had been successful in obtaining a grant from Lotteries West towards the purchase of a Wi-fi hearing augmentation. This will make a huge difference to our members and visitors who are hard of hearing. My thanks go to Paul Fahie and Judy Marston for their hard work in writing submissions to Lotteries West and for liaising with U3A NSW over the correct hearing augmentation we should purchase. We are still waiting to hear from Bendigo Bank as to whether we have been successful in obtaining the balance to purchase the hearing augmentation, but rest assured the Committee will make it happen one way or another!

The Hearing Augmentation System

Our current PA system provides us with the capability to broadcast speech so that a speaker can be heard throughout the room. While this benefits people with normal or minor hearing loss it is not that effective in helping people with more serious hearing difficulties.

Hearing Aids and Hearing Implants amplify all sound in the room, resulting in the wearer not being able to distinguish the speaker's words from the background noise. It is this problem that we can resolve through the use of Hearing Augmentation Equipment.

Most modern hearing aids and implants have a mode that allows them to pick up radio signals if transmitted to them in the correct way. When switched to this mode the hearing aid or implant will only receive the radio signal and not pick up background noises.

Hearing Augmentation equipment uses this feature of a hearing aid or hearing implant to provide a clear signal, free of background noise to the hearing aid or hearing implant, resulting in the wearer hearing what the speaker is saying.

The equipment comprises a base station transmitter that takes a speech signal from our PA system, and transmits it as a radio signal to small receivers worn by members of the audience.

The individual receiver re-transmits the signal via a transmitter worn around the neck and tuned to the hearing aid or hearing implant radio feature or via a set of stereo headphones directly to the wearer. In the case of mild hearing loss headphones are a good solution but the receiver/transmitting lanyard is best used for more profound hearing problems.

Keith Durrans

Thank you all who contributed to this newsletter. The next edition will be in July. Please keep up the flow of articles and pictures.

Peter Flanigan, Editor.

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Harmony Day 21 March 2019

We, at U3A in Margaret River, are privileged to have as one of our members, Ginn Fourie. With disarming humility this inspirational lady recently told a small group at one of our regular Special Events, a story that left some of us in tears and all of us jolted out of our comfort zone.

Born in South Africa, Ginn was married there and had two children. In 1993 her daughter, Lyndi, just six months from finishing a civil engineering degree, died in a terrorist attack in a multi-racial tavern in Cape Town. The attack was in revenge for a massacre of five black school children by the South African Defence Force. Three men carried out the attack which resulted in the death of Lyndi Fourie and three others. It was master-minded by the Director of Operations - Letlapa Mphahlele, educated, fanatical and trained as a Freedom Fighter, he quickly became the leader of the High Command of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA).

As nations who have mistreated their indigenous people Ginn spoke of the shared history of Australia, Canada and South Africa. In 1948, perhaps unknown to many, Australia was consulted as to what methods were used for dealing with our original inhabitants. Then, returning to South Africa 'separate development' became enshrined in the law - which led to Apartheid. Ginn's courage and self-effacement shone through as she told her story. In her



words, there was a need to forgive her daughter's killers. Her first impression on meeting with Letlapa was of the humanity that flowed from him and his desire for personal growth. A strong bond was forged between the two and this has resulted in the formation of the Lyndi Fourie Foundation.

Ginn and Letlapa travel the world, together or independently, to attend conferences in the spirit of Forgiveness and Conciliation, which brings thoughtfulness and hope to many. Ginn, with her husband, moved to Margaret River in June 2015 and hopes to publish her autobiography - 'The Lyndi Tree' - later this year.

Sue Juniper

U3A Margaret River Inc.

PICS FROM THE PICNIC



U3A Perth holds an annual picnic in Kings Park in February each year. The weather was kind and those who attended from the many regions had an enjoyable day. More next year, please. This is a great chance to meet people from other regions in an informal setting.

(Photos by Peter Alcock)

NATURALISTE

With a membership approaching 300, Naturaliste has many well attended courses. Some of these have been running ever since the group was reformed ten years ago. One of the really notable ones is Music Appreciation, another is the Mah Jongg group

MUSIC APPRECIATION - Leader: John Slee

Ten years ago, I started my U3A Music Appreciation classes at my house and they are still going strong. Some of you have stayed the course since year one.

It was the first year of Naturaliste University of the Third Age, and no-one really knew how it would go. There were all sorts of courses on offer, but this is the one I wanted to offer.

Ever since 1955 I had been hooked on music, especially western classical, and I had always had a wild yearning to hear a Beethoven symphony or a Bach choir in full stereo. When I installed a whacko surround sound system at home a few years ago "my cup runneth over."

Members of my class listen to all sorts of music on the big surround sound system in our large lounge with a high cathedral-like ceiling. The music comes at them from both sides and from back and front. I always start the class with "welcome to the Dunsborough Concert Hall." It is indeed a bit like sitting in the Perth Concert Hall, but the parking is easier, and free.

We have had some pretty special people in the class, including concert pianist Fred Stone who sadly died last year, well into his 90s. Fred had macular degeneration and was almost blind but would be driven to classes in his wheelchair inside a special vehicle. He had played Mozart and other concertos for the ABC but WW11 put an end to that.



John Slee preparing for one of his Music Appreciation sessions

We have lots of fun. One session I announced would be an all-Beethoven day. Half way through it I said we were going to hear a new Beethoven piano piece that had just been discovered gathering dust in a Vienna museum and had recently been recorded. I put it on and the frowns from the class were a delight to see, because it was the American jazz pianist Fats Waller playing one of his many jazz pieces.

We play everything from Bach to the Beatles, and lots in between. I try to vary the diet so we might have six or even eight pieces in the one session, broken by a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit at half time.

Several years ago we had a dog next door named Jake. He was a nice friendly dog who loved everyone. During one of our sessions Jake suddenly took a rowdy dislike to a Mozart violin concerto and barked for half an hour. Therapy later convinced him that it was really Brahms he objected to.

This year I am changing the format slightly. Instead of numerous small pieces or movements from larger pieces, I am going to go the whole hog and play holus-bolus some of the magnificent compositions that have stood the test of time.

Beethoven's mighty ninth symphony (67 minutes of bliss, depending on your taste) will start the year, plus a smaller piece to go with it. I am not sure yet what to do about Bach's superb mass in B minor, because it takes a little over two hours. Perhaps I could advise people to bring their knitting with them.

As long as people go home with a smile in their hearts, I'm happy

John Slee

MAH JONGG - Leader: Wendy Beames



Mah Jongg 'Twittering Birds' with dedicated enthusiasm.

These days the 'Twittering of the Birds' (Mah Jongg for shuffling) can be heard resounding joyfully at the Salvation Army Hall on Thursday afternoons. A vast difference from our earlier beginnings in 2010, when a tentative idea began with only eight curious members.

A few other Mah Jongg groups were known to be playing the Western Version in the local community, but none, the Chinese game. Over the years our membership has grown in leaps and bounds; we now have thirty enrolments for 2019, with four of the original eight still coming along.

GERALDTON U3A



Geraldton U3A visits the Ancient Rome exhibition at the Geraldton Museum

(From Delys Weller)

MANJIMUP U3A

A meeting of Manjimup U3A was held on Thursday, 14th February 2019 at the RSL Hall, Brockman Street, Manjimup. The guest speaker that day was Ms Sandra Hill of Balingup WA, a Yorga (woman) artist and elder of South West WA country's Noongar Tribe.

Ms Hill delivered an emotional narrative about her early life as a member of the 'Stolen Generations', which she later depicted in her works of art.



Sandra Hill at work

Sandra Hill, now a mother of three, was taken from her parents at just seven years of age – the third generation of her family to be removed and sent to an institution, a highly traumatic experience where she reportedly suffered very negative treatment. She stated that an image of an angel was the inspiration for her career in art, and she found that she was able to express her unhappiness, homesickness and grief in prolific paintings, sculpture and public art.

Sandra Hill does not paint in dots or cross hatch lines, as these traditional Aboriginal designs are highly region-specific and exclusive. Instead, her 'homemaker' series of paintings in her own unique style depicts Aboriginal women, often wearing traditional dress, in the midst of brightly-coloured Western domestic scenes from the 1950s and 1960s.

Former High Court judge and human rights campaigner, the late Sir Ronald Wilson, opened Sandra's first exhibition of her art work depicting the 'Stolen Generations'. Sandra became very emotional as she described the eventual reunion with her mother and other family members.

Judith Westwood

CITY COURSES

U3A (UWA), otherwise known as Perth U3A, has ten subgroups which are called Regions. The various Regions arrange their own programs but, in addition, there are U3A run courses in the City. These are held in very central locations including the State Library, City Place (on

the main railway station), at Perth Central TAFE and in the Uniting Church buildings in William Street.

They have been going for thirty years now and have proved very popular. Enduring courses include Art Appreciation, Literature, Film Discussion, History and Philosophy. The U3A Choir and Science and Technology are more recent additions that have gained considerable interest.



Nicky Dair (Film Discussion leader), Ken Mullin (Science and Technology leader) and Alan Mortimer (City Courses Coordinator) at the WA Library

A meeting held at City Place recently discussed a range of topics connected to these courses. There had been some issues with the costs of the venues (notably the Library seminar rooms) and the decline in the number of course leaders prepared to volunteer their time and energy.

It was generally agreed that the courses performed a valuable part of the overall U3A programs with courses running that would be unlikely to be offered in the Regions. They also cater for a significant number of members who do not go to Regional meetings. It was also thought that the coordinator, Alan Mortimer, was in need of some assistance as he has been doing everything himself. A working party was set up to look at all aspects of the City Courses. It will report back to the U3A (UWA) Council later in the year.

Peter Flanigan

NORTH COAST EXCURSION

On fifth Fridays in the month members of North Coast (Hamersley) U3A get out and about on excursions. The most recent one, at the end of March, was to Parliament House and Elizabeth Quay.

Quite a few people had been to Parliament House but none, it seemed, had done the guided tour. We were allowed to sit in the plush seats of the Legislative Assembly and also the fancy swivel chairs in the Council while our guide pointed out various features of the "Halls of Power". Questions were answered: we discovered, for instance, the origins of the decorations around the walls and on the floor and even the use of the mace by the Sergeant at Arms. (It was originally a weapon).



The first Legislative Council in WA c1832

Security was tight and we weren't allowed to linger in the corridors. which was a pity because there are numerous works of art - paintings, sculptures etc which would have been interesting to spend more time with. (I did note some paintings by artist Sandra Hill on one wall – see Manjimup contribution).

The morning tea was very welcome – sausage rolls, scones, jam and cream – followed by an illustrated talk depicting the history of Parliament in WA. It was an all male affair until the first woman, Edith Cowan, was elected in 1921. Edith, in fact, was the first female MP in the whole of Australia. It was a well worthwhile visit.



North Coast members at Elizabeth Quay

Following Parliament House we were driven to Elizabeth Quay where lunch could be procured. It was interesting to see the development going on – the whole area has changed beyond recognition in the past three years.



All tripped out – a busload of North Coasters on the way home

NETWORK AGM

**The 2019 AGM will follow the U3A (UWA) Seminar on July 13th 2019
at the Wesley Centre: Level 1/97 William Street Perth.**