EDITORIAL:

With a wonderful Summer and Spring behind us we can all look forward to Winter’s warm fires or the warmth of the North, be it in Australia, Europe, Britain, North America or Asia. The “Grey Nomads” will always find their sunshine.

Big Nomads, Small Nomads, Brawny Nomads, Lean Nomads, some Friskers, some Plodders, Grans and Grandads fleeing their filial responsibilities:

“OH the Places we will GO"

Sir Richard of the Round Cube and Dame Colleen seeking the Northern Lights of Norway; Queen of Drama Joy off to swim with the Whale Sharks and Manta Rays off Exmouth!

During Semester One our 245 members of Naturaliste U3A have enjoyed 30 courses thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of all our Course Leaders. We have all extended our knowledge, sharpened our skills and developed new friendships while strengthening the old.

Gwyn & Joan

FROM the CHAIR

As always, it seems like no time at all since Enrolment Day, the start of courses, the last Crier, our first Topical Talk! The Committee meets on the third Friday of each month for about two hours to deal with the everyday maintenance of our Naturaliste U3A group, but considerable work also goes on behind the scene, so to speak, with planning and organising the things that make us an interesting group to be members of. The Committee welcomes Dawn Atherton who has joined us as Margaret Maloney takes on the position of Secretary.

Our transition to using the U-MAS Database system has gone quite smoothly and Lorraine Watts, our Systems Administrator, will tell you more about that. She has put many hours of work into making this happen and has been assisted by Committee member Deidre Chell.

It is pleasing to hear many comments about how members are enjoying the courses that have been on offer this Semester. Some have mentioned to me how much they appreciate...
the work that Leaders put into their courses. As Leaders are all volunteers we value their commitment as well. You will soon be getting information about Semester 2’s courses. It is always a bit difficult planning this coming Semester’s courses because of the ‘Grey Nomad’ exodus during the winter months but Leaders are doing their best to work around this with their course dates. Also on offer, there will be some more one-day workshops to give an option that doesn’t require a longer commitment. I am sure we will enjoy both familiar and new courses in the pipeline for the second half of the year.

Joan Parke, President

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE:

JOAN PARKE – PRESIDENT.

I retired to Busselton in 2011 and right from the start felt at home here. I grew up in Donnybrook and we spent numerous holidays at the beaches in this area. I never cease to be amazed at how many people I meet here that also come from Donnybrook! However, I lived much of my life Perth, knowing that at some time I really wanted to move away from there and get back to the country. I am lucky to have a son, daughter-in-law and two lovely grand-daughters living here, and my daughter and her husband live in Byford.

I feel very passionate about the concept of ‘life-long learning’, having spent much of my working life teaching in one way or another – a class teacher in both primary and secondary schools, state and private, working for myself as an Education Consultant and Tutor focusing on students with special needs. I am also an Art Therapist. The last 3 years before retiring I went back into the Education Department to take a teaching position at the Yandeyarra Remote Community School in the Pilbara. What a great experience!

I joined Naturaliste U3A in 2012 and enjoy running courses and being on the Committee. The latter, especially being President, has been quite a learning curve for me and I appreciate the support given by the other Committee members. How nice it is to go into town and always get friendly smiles from other Nat U3A-ers who visit the same coffee shops!

GWYN CRACKNELL: VICE PRESIDENT and Course Co-Ordinator

A city boy from Rivervale bred to be a jockey! Frustrated from a career in science due to a lack of chemistry. Forced to choose teaching over surveying as bonded teachers had their Uni fees paid. Harvey first posting as a residential housemaster at Agricultural wing. Taught Animal
Husbandry, Crop production, Farm Bookkeeping, Irrigation as well as Science, Maths, English and Social Studies, usually one page ahead of students! Met wonderful Wendy, married in ’67, three children, Sonia, Kim, Carolyn; five grandchildren. To Belmont SHS chasing promotion then Mt Lawley SHS and City Beach SHS as Senior Master of English. One year teacher exchange to England and one year Research Branch in Silver City, implementing “Beazley Report” Literacy recommendations. Deputy Principal Denmark DHS, Deputy Busselton SHS (86), met the amazing McDonalds who contributed sooo much to Busselton SHS; Acting Principal for two years. Past President of Rotary Club of Geographe Bay, Past Commodore of Geographe Bay Yacht Club, Past President Geographe Over 50 Cycle club, unaware of the looming GFC of 2008 retired at 60.

A lover of learning, still teaching sailing, disability sailing and for U3A, “Into Poetry” and “Into Drama”.

DAWN ATHERTON: COMMITTEE

I am a wife, mother of five and Granny to 10 children. We have lived and worked in various towns in the South-west, including Williams, Donnybrook, Harvey and Walpole.

I have always had a love of gardening and one of my favourite jobs was when we were living in Harvey and I was the Shire’s Horticulturalist.

We retired to Busselton about 10 years ago and during that time I have been a volunteer in a number of places. Three years ago, I found and joined Naturaliste U3A. WOW, what a joy! The courses available were truly amazing. Creative, informative, fun and friendly. Being a member has given me a sense of belonging and community, not only from the U3A members but also the staff and members of The People Place, where many of our courses are held. I am looking forward to being part of the Naturaliste U3A Committee.

SYSTEM ADMIN REPORT

At the time of writing we have 248 financial members. There will be another boost to our membership with Semester 2 coming up soon with the main Enrolment Day on 22 June. Members are reminded there is a link on our website https://u3anaturaliste.com.au that will take you through to UMAS where you can view courses, update your details and enrol in new courses. Online enrolment opens in early June. If you have forgotten your password or member number you can click on the links below the login for assistance. If you have any questions please email Lorraine at admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au
SECOND SEMESTER COURSES:

At present Nat U3A will be offering a number of new courses for Semester Two. The Enneagram has returned with Pat Holyoake while President Joan is experimenting with half day workshops for ‘Mandalas as Meditation’, and a half day workshop for ‘Clay Play’. A new venture is Joan’s ‘Film Club’ using Orana’s Seniors Session first Wednesday of each month. Jill illott is offering ‘Cooking for Men’, observing, not hands on. Lynne Thompson will present a new ‘Basic Drawing’ class and Patrick Prevett will repeat his very successful “Biodiversity in Australia” later in Semester Two. Lorraine Watts will present ‘Let’s Talk Philosophy’ and also, later in the Semester, Lee Buurman will hold a half day workshop for her ‘Busselton Jetty – Above and Below’.

AROUND the COURSES:

LET’S TALK – LOCAL HISTORY: Leader Joan Parke

The ‘Let’s Talk- Local History’ group has just completed its fourth course and what a great one it was. We started with a talk by author Bernice Barry who wrote about Georgiana Molloy’s life and botanical contribution to this region. Her book is titled ‘The Mind That Shines’. It was a very interesting and informative talk about how research was gathered to write Georgiana’s story. This was followed by sessions on Shipwrecks, Whaling, the Deadwater at Wonnerup, Health issues in the early days, various snippets of interest, then was concluded with a talk by Colleen Liston from the Busselton Oral History Group about the momentum for, and publication of their book, ‘Busselton Life in Snips and Snaps’.

I must again thank the ladies from the BOHG for their contribution and enthusiasm; it was only because of their input, and that of other participants in the groups, that we enjoyed these courses so much. At this stage I plan a break from the ‘Let’s Talk - Local History’ courses but who knows what the future will bring.
BIODIVERSITY in AUSTRALIA: Leader Patrick Prevett

A welcome addition to our U3A courses in First Semester was Patrick Prevett’s ‘Biodiversity in Australia’. Patrick took twenty enthusiastic U3A members on a wonderful journey from Gondwana Land times to the present outlining the evolution of plant life from mosses and ferns to cycads, conifers and flowering plants. With complete separation of Australia came the specific evolution of Australian flora.

The ‘Kwongan’ sandplains of Western Australia have developed a huge diversity of plant life. Patrick identified three hotspots in our National Parks: Leseur, Fitzgerald and Stirling Ranges. Patrick’s photographs in his handbook are outstanding. From Flora to Fauna, Patrick is a specialist on BATS; so much so, he convinced us how ‘cute and cuddly’ they were and what amazing creatures they are. His survey of Australian Mammals took us into the lives of koalas, honey possums, ringtail possums, woylies, potoroos, native rodents, sugar gliders, Tassie devils, kangaroos, platypus and echidnas. A final session took us into the biodiversity of our invertebrates (namely arthropods) with particular emphasis on their soil environments.

The six lectures with PowerPoint presentations allowed for plenty of knowledgeable interaction often followed up with detailed notes the next lecture. Patrick ended with a delightful ‘Ode to Planet Earth’ and its wealth of Biota based on Dorothy Mackellar’s ‘My Country’. Gwyn.

NEWS FLASH: Patrick will be repeating this interesting course later in Semester 2 AND is planning to offer stage 2 next year!

RETIRED: Now What? Leader: Lorraine Watts

Cristin-Marie Prosek, Jan Lumsdaine

Over a period of eight weeks we discussed a wide range of topics such as life transitions, well-being, myths about ageing and much more! We put our use of time under the microscope and also did a skills analysis. We also discussed what we missed about the workforce – mostly the comraderie from being part of a team. We also recognised what a great bonus it is to be part of U3A and meeting new people in courses such as this. The main feedback was ‘It was so good to know that other people felt the same as me in this transition into this new phase of life!’
JAPANESE MESH WEAVING: Clare Parry

What fun we have had! After a few hiccups finding the correct tools and coping with changes, we settled down to creativity. Everyone finished a piece, all so different and just gorgeous. We have bags, mats and a wall hanging. I think I learned as much as my students. We have some very creative people. Thank you for your persistence. Great results!

Proud Penny Swingler.

TOPICAL TALK:

SHENAE NORRIS: Early Detection of Cancer

On Friday 20th April our first Topical Talk of the year was held with an audience of about 35 members meeting to hear Shenae Norris, Regional Education Officer, South-West Cancer Council, WA, speak on the topic of Early Detection of Cancer. This was a very interesting talk and the message came through loud and clear about how the early detection of cancer gives a much greater chance of successful treatment.

At the conclusion of Shenae’s talk, members were given the opportunity to give a gold coin donation (as well, some nicely coloured pieces of paper that were found in the donation box) and this resulted in $90 being raised. This was passed on to the Cancer Council WA via a local Relay for Life team and was much appreciated.

The enthralled audience – Margaret spotted the camera!
CALENDAR of EVENTS

PLEASE mark on your calendars, in your diaries, on your phones!

Further notice will be given closer to the dates but please note the following:

1. **TOPICAL TALK: FRIDAY JUNE 8 from 1pm - 4pm ‘Are You Good to Go?’**

   By now you will have received a flyer about this three-hour interactive workshop, to be presented by Palliative Care, WA. There seems to be an increasing number of legal considerations we need to be aware of and this will be an ideal opportunity for us to get both knowledge and understanding of these. There is a limit of 50 participants so please make sure you RSVP according to contacts given on the flyer.

2. **TOPICAL TALK: FRIDAY AUGUST 10 – Rotary’s ‘Sail into Life’**

   Two ex-Rotarians, Peter Ryall and Gwyn Cracknell will outline their Rotary Centenary Project for 2005/6 involving the Rotary Clubs of Busselton and Margaret River. The “Sail into Life” program has been operating for twelve years from the Port Geographe Marina. A great introduction to the pleasures of sailing.

3. **SEMESTER 2 ENROLMENTS**

   **FRIDAY June 22,** Official Enrolment Day at The People Place, 19-21 Kent St, 1pm to 4pm.

   Further assistance with enrolments for postal members and others requiring help will be also be available on:

   **Tuesday, June 19** at Novacare (for residents from there and Ray Village) 10am to 12pm.

   **Wednesday June 20** at The People Place, 19-21 Kent St, 1pm to 3pm.

   *Online enrolments at [https://u3anaturaliste.com.au](https://u3anaturaliste.com.au) as from the 8 June.*

**CONDOLENCES**

Our condolences to Christine Benporath and family on the passing away of Ian. Ian was involved with the resurgence of Naturaliste U3A nine years ago and has taught French to numerous groups over the years. He was passionate about his teaching and many members will have benefited from his expertise.

**SNIPPETS**

We were pleased to get some emails with very positive feedback re the Autumn Crier, our first newsletter of 2018. These include:
Thank you for Autumn Crier - job well done and good to identify faces with names! Ciao, Jill Ilott.

Thank you to all the committee members for their hard work and thank you for a very informative and amusing newsletter. Cheers Valerie Hill, Member

Thanks so much for all your work, and in particular regarding your publishing of the Crier. The most recent one left me in very good spirits at the humour of the Editorial. Thanks for lifting my spirits. Regards, Vicki Austin.

FEEDBACK

Feedback, contributions and suggestions are welcome and can be emailed to the Editors at admin@u3anaturaliste.com.au or posted to us at P.O. Box 1792, Busselton, WA 6280.

Gwyn Cracknell (Editor, Joan Parke (Co-Editor)