

# INFORM

The Official Magazine of U3A (UWA) Inc.  
Issue 114 for May, June and July 2014

Patron: Emeritus Professor Alan Robson AM, CitWA

## U3A SEMINAR 2014

This year's U3A Seminar will be held on Thursday 17 July 2014 at the State Library and has an Indonesian theme. Here is a brief profile of two of the speakers. The third speaker will soon be finalised.



**Mr Ross Taylor, AM** is a former WA Government Regional Director to Indonesia and has held senior positions, including National Vice-President, of the Australia-Indonesia Business Council. Ross is one of Australia's leading commentators on Indonesia Australia relations, and was selected, in July 2013, by the Indonesian Government as Australia's "Presidential Friend of Indonesia - 2013."



**Professor David Hill** is Chair of Southeast Asian Studies, and Chair of the Board of Management of the Asia Research Centre at Murdoch University. He is the Founder and Director of the Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies (ACICIS), a consortium of more than 20 Australian and international universities which assists foreign students to study in Indonesian universities.

The change in the format of the proceedings of the Seminar from previous years should be welcomed by members See page 3 for further details regarding the Seminar.

## BURNS' NIGHT



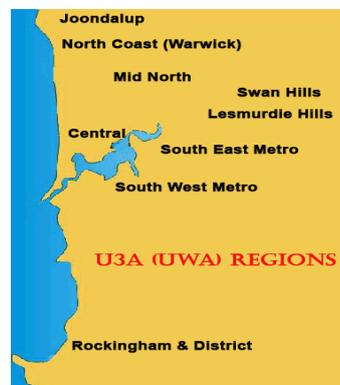
Catherine and Trevor Swan, members of the Joondalup Region, were amongst a number of our members who attended the Robbie Burns birthday celebrations on 26 January 2014. Read more on page 2.



Contacts in your local U3A Region:

Central	9341 3631
Joondalup	9305 3370
Lesmurdie Hills	9453 1436
Mid North	9276 9670
North Coast (Warwick)	9447 5406
Rockingham & Districts	9593 9852
South East Metro	9350 5992
South West Metro	9364 5523
Swan Hills	9274 3224

See pages 9-12 for information on Regional Meetings and Study Groups.



## U3A COUNCIL

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## U3A OFFICE

Please note that the U3A Office is open for business on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 12noon.

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**Website:** [www.u3auwa.org](http://www.u3auwa.org)

## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

In year 2013, our Council made the decision to award "Certificates of Appreciation" to members who have given outstanding service to U3A (UWA). The awardees are:

Linley Batterham, Mary Davies (posthumous), Peter Flannigan, Alison Harris, Norman Harrison, Mervyn Hill, Sonia Kellett, Margaret Kuhne and Margaret Petrovich.

These Certificates were awarded at the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 13 April 2014 at the State Library. Congratulations to all recipients.

From next year, a maximum of five certificates will be awarded each year to recognise outstanding service to U3A (UWA) in either Regions and/or Council. It is up to Regional Committees to nominate suitable members for consideration by Council. Serving Council members are not eligible for nomination.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations to our new Editor of Inform, David Phillips, on his first issue. Well done, David!

My year as President has been interesting (!), and I hope the changes we at Council have made so far meet with your approval. Some of the changes have been forced upon us (such as the State Library withdrawing support for lectures) other changes have, I hope, been for the better running of U3A (UWA) in the future. I know some of these changes have not always been popular, but have been necessary. If I am elected for a second year, I will continue to try and improve our services to you, our members. We must also change with the times to attract new members (my constant refrain) or we will wither of the vine.

In the meantime, keep active and try to learn something new every day - hoping to keep that dreaded ..... at bay. I leave you to fill in the blank space yourselves.

**John Macdonald.**

## BURNS' NIGHT

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January whilst most of Australia was celebrating Australia Day, there was a group of people, including members of U3A, who decided to join the Robbie Burns birthday celebrations.

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet and lyricist born on January 25, 1759. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide on his birthday. He startled the world with a little book of poems in 1786 which proclaimed him a true son of the muses. With the £500 that his book yielded him, he bought a farm, obtained an appointment with the Excise in 1789, and for the last five years of his life lived at Dumfries.

The celebrations began at St. George's Cathedral with the theme of Evensong being "Burns' Night, Australia Day" and the coming together of different cultures and their traditions. Following the service, whisky punch was served on the parvis. The company, led by the pipes and drums, then progressed through the streets to Tranby Hall in Wesley Square, much to the amusement of holiday makers and other revellers. There the evening continued with an excellent Burns' Supper. Of course the haggis was piped in to the hall. The meal concluded with delicious Australian pavlova. The entertainment was pipe music, song and verse, both of Scots and Australian origin, and had a thoroughly good evening.



## U3A NETWORK WA

Bunbury U3A will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday on 25 August this year. Details of the day's activities are yet to be announced, but I'm sure Bunbury would welcome members from other U3A groups to help them celebrate.

Members who are travelling to country areas are welcome to contact local U3A groups and join in activities where this is possible. This applies to groups elsewhere in Australia and even overseas. The last time Rosemary and I were in the United Kingdom we checked out what was happening and spent a very pleasant afternoon at a jazz group, run by the local U3A Group at Wolverhampton.

One of the aims of the WA Network is to encourage the formation of new U3A groups. If anyone is aware that there may be an interest in forming a new group please let us know. Our email address is [u3anetworkwa@gmail.com](mailto:u3anetworkwa@gmail.com).

Currently we are talking to the City of Wanneroo to gauge the interest in their locality. The City of Wanneroo extends as far as Quinns and Two Rocks and is, I believe, the fastest growing Local Government area in Australia.

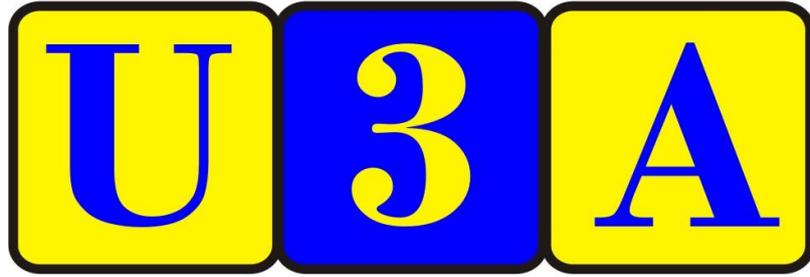
News from the Australian Alliance U3AAA is that the administration has now moved to Queensland and Rhonda Weston will be in the chair. To date it has been in NSW and Victoria. The policy is that it moves every two years. It is appropriate that it go to Queensland at a time when they are experiencing very rapid growth, both in total number of members and in the number of U3A groups. The outreach work they are doing is certainly paying off, which is in sharp contrast with the WA scene which has been quite static for some time.

The AGM for the Network will be held after the Seminar on 17 July. There will be elections for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as the General Committee. Anyone attending the Seminar will be welcome to stay for the meeting. We will be seeking two representatives from U3A (UWA).  
**Peter Flanigan, President.**

## YOUR INFORM MAGAZINE

*Inform* is your magazine and, as its Editor, I want you to derive as much satisfaction as possible when reading it. I would appreciate any constructive comment regarding its content. Please forward your ideas to David Phillips at [dph87111@hotmail.com](mailto:dph87111@hotmail.com)

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



PERTH - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# SEMINAR 2014

*Beyond Bali: Indonesia - our  
nearest neighbour*

*Thursday 17th July*

*10.00 am*

State Library Lecture Theatre

COST \$25 (Includes morning tea/brunch)

Enquiries to: John Macdonald

9527 9534

U3A (UWA) Inc

## **SCIENCE CORNER**

### **TREASURE IN THE JUNKYARD: JUMPING GENES STIMULATE EVOLUTION**

The author of this article is Keith Oliver, a member of North Coast (Warwick) and, in collaboration with Associate Professor Wayne Greene and Emeritus Professor Jen McComb of Murdoch University, has proposed and published a formal hypothesis, the 'TE-Thrust Hypothesis', regarding the activities and affects of jumping genes in adaptation and evolution.

The initial sequencing of the DNA of the human genome in 2001 and the subsequent sequencing of many other species brought many new, exciting, and controversial, insights to evolutionary biologists. In humans, instead of the expected 100 to 120 thousand functional genes, only 25,000 were found and these occupied less than 2% of our genome. Surprisingly, about 45% of our genome was found to be made up of active or inactive 'mobile DNA' or 'jumping genes'. Most of these are extremely ancient, but a few are of recent origin. Jumping genes can jump (transpose) from one position to another in our genome. Extraordinarily, about 18% of human jumping genes are of viral origin. Jumping genes were initially thought to be parasitic 'junk' by most biologists, but many now recognise that this jumping activity stimulates evolution, and that species without them usually adapt and evolve very slowly indeed. In short, if jumping genes are 'junk' then there is treasure in the junkyard.

Jumping genes are often only active in the germ cells (sperm and ova) where their affects can be inherited. Although evidence is mounting that they contribute to the diversity of brain cells, for example. Jumping genes can duplicate, activate, modify, regulate, deactivate, or even disrupt functional genes. In addition jumping genes can sometimes become modified and domesticated, and serve as functional genes themselves.

#### **Domestication of Jumping Genes**

A good example of jumping genes becoming domesticated is found in the human placenta, were two genes of viral origin *Syncitin 1* and *Syncitin 2* are active. Remarkably, similar domesticated virus genes *Syncitin a* and *Syncitin b* are active in the placenta of the mouse, and equivalent genes are known in other mammalian species. The placenta is a vital organ in mammals, as among many other things it protects the developing embryo, which derives one half of its genes from the father, from attack by the mother's adaptive immune system. This adaptive immune system was itself derived, in part, from domesticated jumping genes.

#### **Micro-evolution**

The duplication of genes by jumping genes can stimulate evolution. An example is seen in the trichromatic colour vision of primates (monkeys, apes and humans). This evolved via the duplication of an opsin gene, followed by a small change to the duplicated gene. This gene duplication occurred after

the separation of Africa and South America so South American monkeys, like most mammals, only have dichromatic colour vision. Interestingly this duplicate gene is on the X chromosome, and as women have two X chromosomes and men have one X and one Y chromosome, men are more likely to be 'colour blind' due to a faulty opsin gene than are women.

The adaptive evolution of resistance to insecticides in fruit fly has been shown to be due to the activities of jumping genes as have many other instances of adaptive evolution.

#### **Macro-evolution and Punctuated Equilibrium**

Jumping genes tend to have intermittent bursts of activity for various reasons and this can result in bursts of punctuated equilibrium type evolution, as opposed to the traditional concept of gradualistic evolution. The study of fossils indicates that most major evolutionary events are of the punctuated type, and bursts of jumping gene activity offer an explanation for this.

Examples supporting the stimulation of major evolutionary change by jumping genes come from members of the order Rodentia (rats, mice, etc.) which generally have many highly active jumping genes. This order has about 2,000 species, or about 40% of all extant mammalian species. In contrast to this the two extant species of the ancient 'living fossil', the coelacanth, have far fewer jumping genes and these have been mostly inactive for at least ten million years. This suggests that jumping gene activity stimulates macro-evolution and the multiplication of species and that when jumping gene activity ceases, evolution tends to stall. Another example, this time from reptiles, is the *Anolis* group of lizards with about 400 species and which has many diverse, young and highly active jumping genes. This is in sharp contrast with the two species of another 'living fossil', the tuatara of New Zealand, which has very few jumping genes and these do not appear to be capable of being active. Many similar examples relating jumping gene presence and activity to rapid evolution are known.

Human jumping genes have been very active in the distant past, and this appears to have been vital to our evolution, A small amount of activity continues to the present. On the debit side jumping genes sometimes do cause genetic diseases in individuals, and also cause some cancers, especially in older people. As always, it seems, there is 'no free lunch', and the benefits of rapid adaptation and fast evolution do come at a cost to some individuals within evolving lineages.

Time will tell whether or not this hypothesis, or something similar, will eventually become incorporated into mainstream evolutionary theory.

#### **PAYMENT OF U3A (UWA) FEES**

When paying fees using Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), please ensure that you include your name in the transaction. Please note that payments using PayPal will no longer be accepted.

## VISIT TO COOPERATIVE BULK HANDLING, KWINANNA



A group of members from the Rockingham & Districts Region made a visit to the Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) facility at Kwinana on 29 November 2013 and what a fascinating visit it proved to be.

Prior to 1977 the majority of Western Australia's grain was shipped through the North Fremantle Grain Terminal. However there was a need to relocate the terminal to deeper waters due to the introduction of larger carriers and the limited draught of the Fremantle harbour. At the time of construction, the terminal was the largest in the world. On 5 July 1977, the first ship, the "Mexican Gulf", was loaded with 44,985 tonnes of grain at the new Kwinana Grain Terminal. The largest ever shipment was 78,507 tonnes on the "M.V. Bjorholm" on 22 November 1979.

The CBH terminal at Kwinana is now Western Australia's primary shipping port for grain, accounting for over half the annual grain production. It covers the so-called Fremantle zone. The other facilities are in Geraldton, Albany and Esperance. The Kwinana facility is one with both vertical and horizontal storages equipped with high technology control systems, and is capable of storing 1,032,700 tonnes of grain efficiently and hygienically.

The grain is delivered by direct rail from the country receival points in the Fremantle zone. Specially designed "bottom discharge" wagons empty the grain into two 55 metre long rail grids, from where the grain is transferred to any of the storage locations within the terminal at a rate of up to 4,000 tonnes per hour.

The grain passes along conveyers into the horizontal storages, or through the overhead transfer gallery, into the main working house where it is distributed via over-cell conveyers to the cell storages. The major feature of the working house is its 10 elevators, each with a capacity of 1,250 tonnes per hour, where the grain is raised to the top of the working house and directed by means of radial distributors to a pre-determined grain path and into storage.

CBH maintains a very high standard of grain hygiene throughout the facility to meet market demands for high quality pesticide free grain. Most of the permanent storages at Kwinana are sealed, thereby enabling the application of fumigants or an inert atmosphere to control insect pests. To ensure high quality control samples of grain are taken at various stages from the flow path of the grain within the

terminal. These samples are analysed at the terminal's laboratory. All grain is monitored for quality and insect pests during ship-loading under the supervision of the Department of Primary Industries.

For the shipping stage, the working house elevators raise the grain into an upper garner bin for weighing. Four scales each with a capacity to weigh 1,250 tonnes per hour weigh the grain and release it to a lower bin. The grain is then transferred a distance of 840 metres to the ship along four conveyers with a combined transfer rate of 5,000 tonnes per hour. The entire process of receiving, storage and shipping is computer controlled from the control room in the Administration block.

The Kwinana Grain Jetty is 291 metres in length and, with a depth of 17 metres of water, can accommodate ships in excess of 100,000 tonnes.

There is a museum on site called "The Granary" which is an informative and interesting historical display of equipment and methods used in the storage and shipment of grain.



Amongst the fascinating memorabilia is a 1926 Chevrolet truck which was used to transport the grain, a far cry from modern methods of transportation. Other exhibits include a collection of a range of grains and their uses in various products. There is a bush camp laid out where the wheat lumpers would dwell, and a 180 lb wheat sack that you can attempt to carry as did the lumpers in years gone by. Well worth a visit!

### HAIKU

Traditionally in Japan, Haiku were written in 17 *onji*, meaning sound syllables. Because of the difference in languages, the use of 17 syllables in English forms a longer Haiku than it would in Japanese. In keeping with one of the most important rules of Haiku – brevity, approximately 12 syllables in English is preferable, that is as few syllables as possible to convey a phrase and a fragment juxtaposed in one two or three line poems. In other words, don't count the syllables, make the syllables count. Here are four examples:

- Road sign, aged crossing - we stop for two ducks
- A trail of ants bumper to bumper - rush hour
- Under ragged paperbark tree - dishevelled tramp
- Heat wave - she stirs another jelly set in her ways

**Meryl Manoy, North Coast (Warwick)**

## GET REAL – HAVE A TOMATO SANDWICH

by David Bindley

You won't believe it. Roger wants to take me to Lhasa in Tibet, away from all this boring urban sprawl. But I said to him 'darling you know I don't like flying in helicopters and in any case being high up in those mountains really isn't my idea of relaxation'. I do admit though that the rarefied air might bring back that youthful glow I lost when I divorced my second husband. We'll be sleeping in a mountain hut, sort of returning to nature, with locally made rugs to keep us warm. Roger warned me that they may be a little smelly, but inhaling these primitive ions and atoms or whatever they're called could rebalance my inner self.

The other day I said to Roger 'what specially personalised present are you planning for Mother's Day?' He said, 'I thought I'd buy a new wheelchair'. I said, 'No not your mother. Me.'

'But, you're not my mother'. 'I know' I said, 'but I am the mother of Cynthia and Markus'. After all this discussion about whose Mother's Day it was I said, 'I'd like to experience the essence of a true life of leisure and luxury'.

'What's that?' Roger asked. 'Well possibly an Italian cook.' And to my surprise he said 'Yes we can get one provided she doesn't cook pasta all the time'.

'What do you mean she, I'm not having a frisky young Italian in the kitchen with you hot on her tail. What we need is an Italian chef who can present exquisitely expensive dishes.'

For my birthday my sister gave me the Perfect Coffee Machine – it was so complicated to operate that we had to get the man from the shop to come and explain how it works – all we have to do now is say latte or cappuccino and there it is. Mind you we use a secret password to stop just anybody strolling in and saying coffee. This password business is easy for some people but for me this invigorating new growth in individual practices is so alien. The machine makes absolutely perfect coffee but you have to be careful not to use an angry voice because it will refuse to make coffee and just give you hot water.

Last month I went to a Knowledge Sharing Workshop and the speaker talked about a hand built, custom designed, all terrain vehicle. He explained that people who were going somewhere needed a car of the present, which I thought was reasonable especially as the car's tinted windscreen would prevent you going snow blind if you were driving in Alaska or Iceland or somewhere like that. When I got home I told Roger about the car and he said 'we need one' and telephoned the factory.

There is no doubt in my mind that to be an upwardly mobile woman you need a limited edition handbag of distinction designed by Fredric De Mure. A bag like this would make me stand out in a crowd at important events like Markus's School Brass Band Concert or

Cynthia's Creative Drawing Demonstration. For me it's important my bag is seen as a symbol of my deep concern for my children's artistic development. Of course I'll also need a fine writing instrument that speaks for me - like the one Mr Chamberlain used to write his world famous theory about no war in our time or Mr Churchill's clear instruction to fight them on the beaches and if you don't succeed try and try again. As a guide to my perfect pen I looked at the 2012 international pen of the year that had a unique design ensuring you couldn't commence writing until the cap was removed. I understand the driving force for this revolutionary feature was the embarrassing situation when the United Nations President attempted to sign the International Agreement on Education and Development with the cap of his pen still in place.

Last week Angela and George gave a dinner party. It was so interesting hearing George explain the gloriously complex elegance of a single malt blended with a pot stillled grain whisky. A deeply evocative experience he said and a sign of a life well lived. But when I turn back to Angela to tell her how lucky she was to be married to such a cultivated knowledgeable man she'd vanished. Her chair was still there but she'd gone. I was really concerned for her safety with all these criminal gangs kidnapping people who are never seen again. Luckily before I raised the alarm I noticed Angela sitting under the table holding a Queen Victoria Jubilee hand engraved crystal decanter. I said to her 'what are you doing down there?' She looked quite dazed and said, 'I don't know'. I could see the situation could get rather tricky so I thought if I moved my chair to one side I could help her crawl out but before I did I asked her 'would you like a little gin and tonic?' and she said, 'Yes please.' To be completely honest I wasn't seeing things too clearly myself and was a trifle unsteady on my feet when I stood up and asked for help. To my surprise nobody appeared over concerned and it seemed that there were several people under the table sort of having their own party and telling each other uproariously funny jokes.

Yesterday Mary told me how well her husband's company was doing and how he had taken the precaution of putting sixty percent of the company shares in her name and the annual consolidated earnings in a bank account in the Cayman Islands. I asked Mary 'Where are these islands?', and she said, 'I don't know but by all accounts they're very nice with palm trees and warm sandy beaches'. I said, 'Maybe we could go there for a couple of days while the boys are at the office'. A few days later I asked Mary 'how's the holiday plan going' and she said, 'Hubert didn't like the idea as it would be inappropriate with all the local gigolos chasing us around'.

'And what did you say?' 'I told him I thought it would be rather exciting being chased by all these young men. But I could see by the look on his face he didn't agree.'

Why not share some of your writings with us in *Inform*? They will be most welcomed at [dph87111@hotmail.com](mailto:dph87111@hotmail.com).

**Ed.**

## SWAN HILLS REPORT

Following the Christmas break, our members returned, refreshed and eager for another year of U3A. At our first meeting we shared our holiday experiences. It proved to be a good way to ease us back into standing up and speaking to an audience.

The following week we held our AGM. This ran smoothly, with Brian Loader elected as our President. Once again our Secretary, Janice Brooks, and our Program Coordinator, Corry Donovan agreed to carry on with their excellent work. We have some new members and they are very welcome. We hope our program will keep them entertained and educated. After the AGM, Derek Mayall addressed us on his trip to Adelaide to see the "Tour Down Under" cycle race. We all had a laugh when he told us that, when they went for a cup of coffee, the younger riders offered the chairs with arms to the older riders.

We were treated to a fascinating presentation by Marilyn and Brian Loader in which they described the research and work involved in Marilyn's hobby of making dolls' houses and everything connected to them. Everything is to scale with accurate architectural styles, colour schemes, furniture and clothing. Marilyn makes all the clothes herself (mostly with very fine knitting) even dyeing the thread and making her own knitting needles. Her work is exquisite and she is so talented.

Esther Flowerday took us on a virtual trip along the rivers of Europe. She started her tour in Helsinki, a city her travel agent had told her held nothing for tourists. However, Esther enjoyed her brief stay there and the pictures and description of her cruise, through the various countries and the side trips to fascinating towns and cathedrals, were captivating.

Our Genealogy/Computer Group has recommenced on a monthly basis. Although a small group, those attending enjoy a relaxing morning, sharing information and learning tips for gathering information from the Internet.

With the very interesting Seminar to look forward to in July, it seems that we are destined to enjoy another eventful year in U3A.

## NORTH COAST (WARWICK)

Geologist and author, Jenny Bevan, a popular and regular speaker at U3A North Coast (Warwick), delighted her listeners yet again recently when she presented a well-illustrated tour of Western Australia from the south coast to

the north, visiting some of the oldest environments on our planet.

Armed with a dazzling sequence of images, Jenny, who is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at the UWA School of Earth and Environment, explained that geology went far beyond rocks to entire environments.



"And some of WA's environments are billions of years old – the oldest on earth," said Jenny, who until her recent retirement, was Senior Curator at the University's Earth Science Museum.

***"Not just rocks", Guest speaker, geologist and academic, Jenny Bevan with fellow geologist Pete Alcock, U3A (UWA) Vice President.***

## COUNCIL NEWS

Here are a few items from the March meeting of U3A (UWA) Council that you might find interesting:

- Total membership was 887 which is an increase on the same period in year 2013
- A new computer has been installed in the Claremont Office. The Office now looks very professional, a far cry from a year or so ago
- There was a successful briefing of thirteen volunteers at the Office on 28 February 2014 in the presence of the Treasurer, Membership Secretary and General Secretary. A volunteer with good Excel and data entry skills is being sought for one morning per week
- The concept of a paid part-time worker at the Office has been raised
- A Grant is being sought from either Bankwest or the National Library Board to cover the cost of the purchase folders and boxes to correctly archive our historical records according to State Library procedures
- Norm Butterworth from the South East Metro Region was in attendance to propose the establishment of a Guest Speaker list of external speakers. The Probus organisation has been doing this for many years, so there appears no reason why U3A (UWA) should not follow such a practice. Norm was given permission to proceed with the project. Meanwhile, Peter Alcock of the North Coast (Warwick) Region is in the process of compiling an internal (member) list.

## **CITY COURSES – FIRST SEMESTER**

Courses are run at locations in the Perth CBD, mainly in rooms at the State Library or Citiplace Community Centre. Inquiries to Alan Mortimer, Course Coordinator on 9450 2398 or 0401784777

<b><u>COURSE/DATE(S)</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENTER/VENUE</u></b>
<b>ART APPRECIATION</b> 2nd Wednesday	1.30 – 2.30pm	<b>Rosemary Grigg</b> Central TAFE, Northbridge
<b>DIGITAL CAMERA WORKSHOP</b> April 1st and 15th	9.30 – 11am	<b>Roger Watson</b> Citiplace
<b>DIGITAL CAMERA WORKSHOP – REPEAT</b> May 6th and 20th	9.30 – 11am	<b>Roger Watson</b> Citiplace
<b>FILM DISCUSSION GROUP</b> 1st Tuesday	9.30 – 11am	<b>Nicky Dair</b> State Library room G3
<b>FRENCH LANGUAGE</b> 1st Tuesday	11.15am – 12.45pm	<b>Vincent Liegard</b> State Library room G3
<b>HISTORIC GUILDFORD</b> April 1st and 15th, May 6th and 20th.	11.30am – 1pm	<b>Celia Miller</b> Citiplace
<b>HISTORY OF THE HIGHLANDS</b> Tuesday 18 March Thursday 24 April Tuesday 20 May Tuesday 17 June	11.15am – 12.45pm 9.30 – 11am 11.15am – 12.45pm 11.15am – 12.45pm	<b>John Macdonald</b> State Library Great Southern Room North West Room 2.9 Geographe Room Kimberley Room G3
<b>IPAD</b> March 4th and 18th	9.30am – 1pm	<b>Roger Watson</b> Citiplace
<b>LEADERSHIP</b> 1st and 3rd Tuesday	9.30 - 11am	<b>Arthur Tonkin</b> State Library room 2.9
<b>LECTURE SERIES – A SERIES OF "ONE OFF" SESSIONS</b> 1st and 3rd Tuesday	1.30 – 3pm	<b>June Dunstan</b> Citiplace
<b>LITERATURE</b> 1st Tuesday	11.30am – 1pm	<b>Helen Baker</b> State Library room 2.9
<b>MAHJONG</b> 2nd and 4th Thursday	1 – 2.30pm	<b>Maureen Thompson</b> Citiplace
<b>O'CONNOR'S PIPELINE</b> April 24th, May 8th, May 22nd	11.30am – 1pm	<b>Bill Cutler</b> State Library room 2.9
<b>PHILOSOPHY</b> 2nd and 4th Thursday	9.30 – 11am	<b>Hans Hoette</b> State Library room G3
<b>PIANO - A SOCIAL HISTORY</b> 2nd and 4th Thursday	11.15am – 12.45pm	<b>Keith White</b> State Library room G3
<b>RUSSIAN FOR TRAVELLERS</b> 2nd and 4th Thursday	2.45 – 4.15pm	<b>Larissa Downey</b> Citiplace
<b>U3A CHOIR</b> 2nd and 4th Tuesday	2 – 4pm	<b>Wendy Harris</b> Rod Evans Centre

## REGIONAL PROGRAMS – MAY, JUNE AND JULY 2014

### CENTRAL REGION

Meets on alternate Mondays from 1-4pm at the Community Room of the Grove Library, corner of Stirling Highway and Leake Street, Cottesloe.

12 May	1pm 2.30pm	<b>Concert Piano Beginnings: The History of WA from Early Times to the 1<sup>st</sup> Gold Rush</b>	<b>Eileen Joyce</b>
26 May	1pm 2.30pm	<b>Centenary of the Mowanjum Community Persian Architectural Treasure</b>	<b>Richard Offen, Heritage Perth Dr Peter Graham Saleh Kafami</b>
9 June	1pm 2.30pm	<b>Stolen Generation - A Personal Connection Seascapes: Water of Life</b>	<b>Judy Nicholls Genevieve Montgomerie</b>
23 June	1pm 2.30pm	<b>Wartime Life at Home Western Australia's First Clergyman</b>	<b>Members Dr Steve Errington</b>
7 July	1pm 2.30pm	<b>Australian Poets Life after "Jim": Drama in Education</b>	<b>June Dunstan Sandra Gorringe</b>
21 July	1pm 2.30pm	<b>It went Wrong on the Night The Bibbulmun Track</b>	<b>Keith White Charmaine Harris</b>

Meets on alternate Mondays at Mount Claremont Community Centre, 105 Montgomery Avenue, Mt. Claremont

1- 2pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion</b>
2- 3pm	<b>Literature and Music Group</b>

### JOONDALUP REGION

Meetings take place at the Guy Daniels Clubroom, Sail Terrace, off Poseidon Road, east of the junction of Ocean Reef Road and Marmion Avenue, Heathridge. Meetings are held from 11am to 3pm on the second, third and fourth Mondays, with a social BYO lunch and refreshment break between 1pm and 1.30pm. This is followed by a Guest Speaker. There are no meetings on Public Holidays.

The Special Interest Group facilitator is Clive Paternoster (9305 7231). The Mah-jong Group meets every Monday at 11am, except on Public Holidays, and the facilitator is Trish Lau-Veach (0422 318 304). The 1<sup>st</sup> Book Club meets at 11.45am on the second Monday of the month, and the facilitator is Brenda Hugo (0418 859 955). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Book Club meets at 11.45am on the fourth Monday of the month, and the facilitator is Patricia Lysons (9309 1607). The Gardening Group facilitator is Norman Harrison (9304 0942) and the Group meets by arrangement with members. The Discussion Group facilitator is Terry Westmorland (9304 8426). The Digital Camera Group facilitators are Trevor and Catherine Swan (9404 7412) and the Group meets by arrangement with members. The Journaling Group facilitator is Catherine Fraser (9447 9184). The Games Group meets when there are sufficient members present. The Gardening/Digital/Chatterbox Group meets by arrangement with members. Social Events are posted on the noticeboard and read out in notices. The Region has an e-mail address [u3ajoondalupregion@outlook.com](mailto:u3ajoondalupregion@outlook.com) for member queries, and the Region contact person is Janis Davis (9305 3370)

12 May	11.30am 11.30am 11.45am 12.30pm 2pm	<b>Special Interest Groups Journaling 1<sup>st</sup> Book Club Current Affairs Discussion Group Cambodian Children's Fund</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster Catherine Fraser Brenda Hugo Terry Westmorland Scott Neeson</b>
26 May	11.30am 11.30am 11.45am 12.30pm 2pm	<b>Special Interest Groups Journaling 2<sup>nd</sup> Book Club Current Affairs Discussion Group Experience as a Foreign Correspondent</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster Catherine Fraser Patricia Lysons Terry Westmorland June Dunstan</b>
9 June	11.30am 11.30am 11.45am 12.30pm 2pm	<b>Special Interest Groups Journaling 1<sup>st</sup> Book Club Current Affairs Discussion Group Humorous Poetry</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster Catherine Fraser Brenda Hugo Terry Westmorland Yvonne Mettam</b>
23 June	11.30am 11.30am 11.45am 12.30pm 2pm	<b>Special Interest Groups Journaling 2<sup>nd</sup> Book Club Current Affairs Discussion Group HMAS Sydney</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster Catherine Fraser Patricia Lysons Terry Westmorland Ted Graham</b>
14 July	11.30am 11.30am 11.45am 12.30pm 2pm	<b>Special Interest Groups Journaling 1<sup>st</sup> Book Club Current Affairs Discussion Group Interplast - Medical Program in Asia Pacific Region</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster Catherine Fraser Brenda Hugo Terry Westmorland Shannon Kasturi</b>
28 July	11.30am 11.30am 11.45am 12.30pm 2pm	<b>Special Interest Groups Journaling 2<sup>nd</sup> Book Club Current Affairs Discussion Group The Tragic Story of Mary Antoinette</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster Catherine Fraser Patricia Lysons Terry Westmorland Elton Brown</b>

## LESMURDIE HILLS REGION

Meets on first and third Tuesdays from 10am-12noon at Falls Farm, Cagney Way, Lesmurdie. Inquiries to Pollyanne Hill on 9291 6652.

6 May	<b>Memories of a Past Atmosphere</b>	<b>Dr Ross Edwards</b>
20 May	<b>My War Years in London</b> <b>Also a "Big Morning Tea" for Cancer Research</b>	<b>Rita Glover</b>
27 May	<b>Coffee Club</b>	
3 June	<b>My Grandfather's Diary</b>	<b>Ginie Bristowe</b>
17 June	<b>Medical Practices</b>	<b>Dr Leo Laden</b>
24 June	<b>Coffee Club</b>	
1 July	<b>Geothermal Energy in Australia</b>	<b>John Libby</b>
15 July	<b>The Boab Tree</b>	<b>Jeremy Thomas, Arborist</b> <b>Kings Park Botanic Board</b>
22 July	<b>Coffee Club</b>	
29 July	<b>Excursion to the Museum of Natural History, Guildford</b>	

## MID-NORTH REGION

Mid-North members meet on alternate Mondays at the Church of Christ Community Hall, 68 Waverley Street, Dianella (opposite Centro Dianella)

12 May	11.45am 2pm	<b>Robert Capa – International Photographer</b> <b>Men's Sheds</b>	<b>Syd Kaye</b> <b>David Hutton</b>
26 May	11.45am 2pm	<b>My Experiences in South Sudan 2009 / 14</b> <b>Quiz</b>	<b>Pam Devenish</b> <b>Ann Magtengaard</b>
9 June	11.45am 2pm	<b>A History of Coffee</b> <b>Perth Zoo</b>	<b>Margaret Lloyd</b> <b>Peter Mawson</b>
23 June	11.45am 2pm	<b>Life in the Main</b> <b>Donate Life</b>	<b>Merv Hill</b> <b>Sue Scrutton</b>
7 July	11.45am 2pm	<b>Climate Change: As you see it</b> <b>Australian National Flag Association</b>	<b>Members' talks</b> <b>Phil Reynolds</b>
21 July	11.45am 2pm	<b>The Role of the Theatre Critic</b> <b>Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience</b>	<b>Sonia Kellett</b> <b>Fiona Stuart</b>

### Music Group

Meets fortnightly on Tuesdays from 1.15 – 3.15pm at Dianella Community meeting rooms, 18 Kerry Street, Dianella (alternate week to Mid-North meetings). Contact Ann (9444 7782)

### Film Club

Meets on alternate Monday mornings to view a recently-released film – coffee afterwards. Contact Ginie (9271 7263)

### Discussion Group

Meets monthly on a Tuesday for coffee/chat at 10am, upstairs at Myer Morley in the coffee shop. Contact Margaret (9276 3081)

### Excursions

Will be discussed at meetings or contact Ginie on 9271 7263 for further details.

## NORTH COAST (WARWICK) REGION

Meetings are held every Friday in the Ellersdale Park Football Clubrooms on Ellersdale Avenue in Warwick. Contact Judith on 9302 2510.

The Walking Group departs from the clubrooms at 1.00pm on Fridays and other times by arrangement. Contact Nina (9309 5560) or [verena.bronkhorst5@bigpond.com](mailto:verena.bronkhorst5@bigpond.com).

Check the Website [www.u3auwa.org](http://www.u3auwa.org) for changes or additions. Fifth Friday outings are organised and announced at the regular meetings.

2 May	Noon 1pm 2pm	<b>Music Appreciation</b> <b>Walking Group</b> <b>Perth Heritage</b>	<b>Pauline Yarwood</b> <b>Nina</b> <b>Richard Offen</b>
9 May	Noon 1pm 2pm	<b>Book Club</b> <b>Walking Group</b> <b>Indian Ocean Theme</b>	<b>Members</b> <b>Nina</b> <b>Members</b>
16 May	Noon 1pm 2pm	<b>Committee Meeting</b> <b>Walking Group</b> <b>Astronomy</b>	<b>Nina</b> <b>Eric McCrum</b>
23 May	Noon 1pm 2pm	<b>Poetry Group</b> <b>Walking Group</b> <b>War and a Diamond Mystery in Broome</b>	<b>Members</b> <b>Nina</b> <b>Terry Harvey</b>
30 May	Noon	<b>Fifth Friday Outing and Lunch</b>	<b>Nina</b>
6 June	Noon 1pm	<b>Music Appreciation</b> <b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Members</b> <b>Nina</b>

13 June	2pm	<b>Cameleering</b>	<b>Celia English</b>
	Noon	<b>Book Club</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Sailing the Indian Ocean</b>	<b>Nigel Ridgway</b>
20 June	Noon	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Java Following World War II</b>	<b>Mike Coppin</b>
27 June	Noon	<b>Poetry Group</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Water</b>	<b>Peter Flanigan</b>
4 July	Noon	<b>Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Ken Carney</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>To be announced</b>	
11 July	Noon	<b>Book Club</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Indian Ocean Theme</b>	<b>Members</b>
18 July	Noon	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>To be announced</b>	
25 July	Noon	<b>Poetry Group</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Australiana Theme</b>	<b>Members</b>

### ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS REGION

Main meetings are held at Masonic Hall, Wanliss Street, Rockingham, first and third Fridays commencing at 1.30pm. For Group Studies meetings contact the Group leaders as listed below. (ML indicates Murdoch Library is the venue.)

2 May	1.30pm	<b>Travels in Mongolia</b>	<b>Beverly Lawson</b>
16 May	1.30pm	<b>Adult Literacy</b>	<b>Will Karmelita</b>
6 June	1.30pm	<b>Show and Tell</b>	<b>All Members</b>
20 June	1.30pm	<b>Art</b>	<b>Carl Altman</b>
4 July	1.30pm	<b>My Mother's Story</b>	<b>Felicja Rodkiewicz</b>
20 July	1.30pm	<b>Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki</b>	<b>Arthur Tonkin</b>

#### Group Studies Meetings

3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon May, June, July	2pm	<b>Poetry/Play Reading (ML)</b>	<b>Diana</b>	9593 2313
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon May, June, July	2pm	<b>Music ONE</b>	<b>Iris</b>	9592 2483
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues May, June, July	times vary	<b>Cinema Visit</b>	<b>Liz</b>	9527 9471
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues June	2pm	<b>Book Club 1</b>	<b>Gary</b>	9550 4920
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues May, July	2pm	<b>Book Club 2</b>	<b>Liz</b>	9527 9471
1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed May, June, July	2pm	<b>Music TWO</b>	<b>Shirley</b>	9527 1520
Every Thur May, June, July	2pm	<b>Cryptic Crosswords</b>	<b>Anne</b>	9592 4298
1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed May, June, July	10am	<b>Open Learning</b>	<b>Liz</b>	9527 9471
2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri May, June, July	10am	<b>Coffee Group</b>	<b>Wendy</b>	9527 1560

### SOUTH EAST METRO REGION

Meetings are on the first and third Fridays at the East Victoria Park Family and Community Centre. Inquiries to Norman on 9367 5904.

1 May (Thur)	11am	<b>Perth Concert Hall – Alexander Lazarev Conducts: “Romantic Rachmaninov” (Fully Booked Out)</b>	<b>Margaret 9457 3480</b>
2 May	2pm	<b>Mary Rolinson / Bea Rees: “Crazy Quiz”: Members in groups compete for General Knowledge Honours</b>	<b>Norman</b>
16 May	2pm	<b>Isambard Kingdom Brunel: The Great British Engineer</b>	<b>Terry Harvey</b>
6 June	2pm	<b>Walter Padbury: One of WA's Greatest Pioneers and Benefactors</b>	<b>John Whitton</b>
13 June		<b>Lunch at Pines Restaurant. 11.30am for 12noon, Booking essential by 6 June</b>	<b>Mary 9457 9334</b>
20 June	2pm	<b>The Building of The Statue of Liberty</b>	<b>Peter Flanigan</b>
26 June (Thur)	11am	<b>Perth Concert Hall – Vladimir Verbitsky Conducts: Bizet Suite #1: “L’Arlesienne” and Berlioz “Harold In Italy”</b>	<b>Mary 9457 9334</b>
4 July	2pm	<b>Nutrition: Red Hot Health</b>	<b>Helen Frost</b>
18 July	2pm	<b>Engineering For Perth's Prestigious Buildings</b>	<b>Peter Airey</b>

The following Group will meet at East Victoria Family and Community Centre every Friday from 12.00noon to 1pm unless otherwise notified

**Qigong: An easy-to-follow sequence of gentle movements to increase body/mind energy-flow**

to enhance well-being. This is suitable for all and the Tutor is Doreen Boss.

The following Groups meet at members' homes

2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	9.30am	<b>Art 1</b>	<b>Val</b>	9277 6153
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	9.30am	<b>Art 2</b>	<b>Val</b>	9277 6153
4 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2pm	<b>Book Club</b>	<b>Maureen</b>	9350 5992

The following Groups meet at McDougall House, Clydesdale Street, Como

1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	1.30pm	<b>Current Affairs</b>	<b>Maureen</b>	9350 5992
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	2pm	<b>Philosophy</b>	<b>Julia</b>	9472 3015
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	2pm	<b>Play Reading</b>	<b>Alan</b>	9450 2398

### SOUTH WEST METRO REGION

Most regular meetings are held at the Miller Bakehouse Museum, 7 Baal Street, Myaree. History, Mahjong, World Happenings and Games are held at Kadidjiny Park Hall, 72 Kitchener Road, Melville. Some meetings are held in members' homes. Please contact the appropriate person below for meeting and venue information.

3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	10.30am	<b>Women's Coffee Club</b>	<b>Judy</b>	0427 409 791
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	9.50am	<b>Looking at Books</b>	<b>Ann</b>	9457 1879
Every Tues	1pm	<b>Mahjong</b>	<b>Kaye</b>	9457 7144
1 <sup>st</sup> Tues (time varies)		<b>Going to the Movies</b>	<b>James</b>	9272 4929
1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	9.30am	<b>Writing Life Stories</b>	<b>Gaye</b>	9330 3544
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	10am	<b>Reading 21<sup>st</sup> Century Writing</b>	<b>Ann</b>	9457 1879
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	1.30pm	<b>Poetry</b>	<b>Daphne</b>	9364 3583
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	10.30am	<b>Men's Coffee Club</b>	<b>Dennis</b>	9317 7919
1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	2pm	<b>Book Group No. 2</b>	<b>Non</b>	9364 8885
1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	9.30am	<b>Current Affairs Forum</b>	<b>Dawn</b>	9317 7687
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	9.30am	<b>Your Gene's History</b>	<b>Norm</b>	9417 4546
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	9.30am	<b>History</b>	<b>Phyl</b>	9364 3604
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	9.30am	<b>World Happenings</b>	<b>Pat</b>	9332 3190
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	9.30am	<b>Music</b>	<b>Louise</b>	9330 2630
4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Wed	9.30am	<b>Writing for Pleasure</b>	<b>Beryl</b>	9339 2858
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	9.30am	<b>Games Group</b>	<b>Alice</b>	9364 9511
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	9.15am	<b>Opera Short Course</b>	<b>Pat</b>	9364 5523
Every Friday	9.30am	<b>Mahjong</b>	<b>Kaye</b>	9457 7144
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	2pm	<b>Melville Lecture</b>	<b>James</b>	9272 4929

The Melville Lecture is held in the Apollo Room, Melville Recreation Centre, corner Stock Road and Canning Highway, commencing at 2pm. Entry is free and afternoon tea is served.

17 May Dr George O'Neil

21 June Jenny Gregory, Winthrop Professor of History, University of Western Australia

19 July To be announced. Please see the U3A (UWA) Website nearer the time.

### SWAN HILLS REGION

Meets at 1.30pm on Fridays at Polytechnic West, Lloyd Street, Midland (formerly Swan College of TAFE) in Lecture Theatre, Block "D", behind the Administration Block "A".

2 May	<b>The Telescope Part I</b>	<b>Brian Loader</b>
9 May	<b>Video</b>	<b>Mary Merrifield</b>
16 May	<b>Sculpture - HMAS Sydney Memorial</b>	<b>Charlie and Joan Smith</b>
23 May	<b>The Telescope Part II</b>	<b>Tony Donovan</b>
30 May	<b>Gold Rush Towns, Victoria</b>	<b>Denise Beer</b>
6 June	<b>RAC - Your Driving Future</b>	<b>Paula Miller</b>
13 June	<b>Campervanning in the UK</b>	<b>Tony and Sally Harding</b>
20 June	<b>Quiz</b>	<b>Brian Loader</b>
27 June	<b>Stop the Cane Toads</b>	<b>Gary Pike</b>
4 July	<b>Christmas in July</b>	<b>Members</b>
11 July	<b>Independent Living</b>	<b>Jenny Billing</b>
18 July	<b>Show and Tell</b>	<b>Members</b>
25 July	<b>To be announced</b>	<b>Liz Stockwell</b>
30 July (Wed)	<b>Social lunch - venue to be arranged</b>	



### **CONVERSATION**

Meets at 10am on the first and third Thursday of the month at Drabble House, Nedlands.  
Contact Jean on 9284 1731 or at [jeanr64@bigpond.com](mailto:jeanr64@bigpond.com)

## HOW WELL DO YOU THINK YOU CAN LIP READ?

If you are being told that “you should have your hearing checked” or “why aren’t you wearing your hearing aid?”, chances are you have become quite good at LIP READING. But just how good are you? Better Hearing Australia runs an annual National Lip Reading Competition, and the average score achieved is relatively low.

The U3A Film Group has been asked to produce this year’s 20 minute lip reading competition DVD. There are five questions in five different situations, where the last 5 words are left blank (no sound) and entrants are asked to fill in the blanks.

The film is being produced by Peter Alcock, with writer/director John Bath, steering it towards the 30 May 2014 completion deadline.

As the National Conference of Better Hearing Australia is being hosted by Western Australia in 2015, creative scriptwriter John Bath is doubling this film as a tourist’s guide around areas of interest in Fremantle. This will benefit not only the City of Fremantle, but also the competition entrants and interstate visitors.

The film follows two young cyclists Isaac and Katelyn, on a tour of Fremantle, then, after a sojourn at the cappuccino strip, riding to Cottesloe Beach during the sea sculpture exhibition (already filmed of course).

You may not realize just how much extraneous information you absorb as you lip read. Not only do you take your cue from the “setting”, but you also notice movements of the neck and throat. It is for this reason that during all 25 questions, the actors are filmed as close portrait shots, from both the front and a side view.

Upwards of 1000 entrants nationwide take part in this competition each year, and the filmic parameters are, by necessity, exacting. This project is undoubtedly one of the most challenging yet for our small band of U3A film warriors. There are many hours involved in the creation of such a film and it is mostly fun. But ask any member of the film crew why they do it, and they will tell you the greatest satisfaction comes from the interaction of community helping community.

A film produced by Peter Alcock is one such example. Called “*Modern Men’s Shed*” it is a documented expose’ on the community benefit of the Fremantle Men’s Shed. His film sensitively shows how the fellowship is directly beneficial to men’s mental health, especially for single parent fathers. The interview with one young father and his son is a poignant universal message. You can watch this film on the U3A (UWA) Website. It is also being entered, by the men of the shed, into the Fremantle Community Arts Festival later this year.

One short film recently completed was that of the U3A choir performing at the South West Region Christmas concert last December – you won’t need Lip Reading skills for this one!

Another short film has been completed in conjunction with the Fremantle Men’s Shed of Mike Pauly as he takes off on his “*Stroll Around Australia*”. Mike’s walk is to raise funds for arthritis research and Men’s health, and is expected to take 18 months. Mike, who suffers from arthritis, has previously walked from Perth to Melbourne and back again! He is doing the journey alone, and is being followed only by radio media when he reaches a town. You can follow Mike’s blog of his walk at [ozsoulwalk.com](http://ozsoulwalk.com) and you can see links to all these films on our website at [u3auwa.org](http://u3auwa.org). The U3A film group is an initiative of U3A (UWA) and members interested in joining

can contact Lucille Rodgers on 9447 5670 for further information.

**Vicki Norman.**

## U3A CHOIR CONCERT AT ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS REGION

Life is full of wonderful experiences. The U3A Choir and members of the U3A Rockingham & Districts Region had one such moment on Friday 4 April 2014. Choir members travelled from Perth to Rockingham by train to share their pleasure and enjoyment by performing for the Region. The hospitality given to Choir members included been picked up at the Rockingham train station and taken to the Masonic Hall in members’ cars.

Conductor Brian Dawson had the audience on their feet, including them in the warm-up exercises before singing commenced. The Choir sang their extensive repertoire to a highly receptive audience. A number of the Choir members spoke of the pleasure they receive from being in the Choir.

Following the concert, a very tasty afternoon tea was shared by all with much laughter and shared experiences as both groups happily mingled.

A raffle was held consisting of items donated by a number of prominent Perth retailers. The winning ticket was drawn by U3A (UWA) President John Macdonald with the lucky winner being Rockingham’s Jennie Cox.

With reluctance that the joyful experience had to come to an end, Choir members were ferried back to the train station.

This was a wonderful collaborative effort by U3A members, and all the Choir members express their sincere appreciation and thanks to the genuine welcome and hospitality extended to them during their visit.

**Joan Allnutt.**



***U3A Choir members with conductor Brian Dawson***

Any member considering ‘trying out’ in the U3A Choir can take encouragement from quotes expressed by current members including:

**Peter D.**...”Joining the Choir and singing along with both my male and female choir members has given me a very pleasant challenge. Happily I have achieved my goal even though I am a Senior!”

**Brenda S.**...”*My confidence and self-esteem grows as singing stimulates my mind and memory when I learn new melodies and lyrics.*”

**Maxine T.**...”I found a voice I thought I’d lost and found super new friends when I joined the choir in March 2012.”

**Irene S.**...”*I participate in many interesting U3A activities. However, I must say I really look forward, anticipating the pleasure I have found while singing with the U3A Choir.*”

**Muriel H.**...”I have always found music to be very emotional, and sang back in the UK. Finding the U3A group and being able to join them now I am older has been a great delight, and a real pleasure. There is something so uplifting about being able to raise our voices together in harmony, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.”

If you are interested, contact Marg Petrovich at [margpet@bentleypark.com.au](mailto:margpet@bentleypark.com.au) or phone 6250 0576.

## LOST IN SEBASTOPOL

by Alan Mortimer

Now, in March 2014, Sebastopol is in the news because the Russian Army having moved into Crimea “to protect Russian speakers”. I looked back into my trip diary again to remind myself of a visit there in August 2001.

I was travelling with an organised trip visiting the tram and trolleybus systems in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea. We had arrived by coach in Sebastopol. During the Crimean War, this city was a focus for a 349 day siege in 1854-55 by the British, French and Turks. Again, in World War II in 1942, the city was laid siege by the Germans for 250 days. Our trolleybus interest seemed somewhat trivial against this background, but it did enable me to see much of the city, away from tourist spots, more than I had expected.

We had arrived at the main trolleybus depot by a special trolleybus to inspect the facilities and any vehicles there. Our driver was what I would describe as “toey”, fast acceleration and heavy breaking, as though he was wanting to get finished and go home, especially not wanting to drive a bunch of “wealthy” Europeans around. And so after 20 minutes, we left the depot at high speed, dropping off an employee en route. This chap spoke English and I had a chat as we sped along.

We paused in the suburbs for just a couple of minutes for a photo opportunity of the trolley approaching. In the event, something got in the way at the last minute, the shot was lost and everyone got back on, except me. I had jumped off at the back to photograph the vehicle coming up behind us. As I turned to get back on, I saw the back of our bus disappearing in the distance. This would not have been much of a problem had we been staying in Sebastopol that night. But no, we were travelling by night train that day to Mikalyiv, to depart in less than 2 hours.

The driver of the trolley I had photographed witnessed this and allowed me on to his bus through the “hallowed” driver’s door. But his was a bus in service, making stops and in no way able to keep up with the speedy Gonzales hurtling along in the special. I said the only word I knew in Ukrainian, “vozhall”, for station. And so we ran for 20 minutes to a terminus, paused and set off along another route. Did he and his conductor understand my predicament? Perhaps some of it. They couldn’t know about the pending departure of the train though. After about 30 minutes of wondering what was going to happen and as time became really pressing, the driver got out at one of the stops along the route to make a telephone call. By this time it was less than an hour away from train departure time. The bus now seemed to be going away from the station and I was having visions of staying the night in Sebastopol and not knowing whether others in the party had rescued my luggage on our tour coach and my small backpack which had been left on the rear

seat of the special trolleybus. For all this, the trolleybus driver kept waving me to sit down and wait.

Two young ladies boarded after several more stops. They appeared to be employees of the trolleybus undertaking and I was escorted off at the next stop by one of them. She took me on another trolleybus to a terminus, changing there to another as far as a works depot. At the terminus the same employee from the depot boarded, recognised me as we alighted and was able to tell the young lady of the background.

As we walked up to the works depot office past a statue of Lenin, a van came behind with its horn blaring. Sign language beckoned us to board it and we were driven away at very high speed through the city streets to the station. It was a radio-controlled vehicle, obviously belonging to the trolleybus undertaking. They knew all about my getting left behind. It was the call from the first trolleybus driver, confirmed by the chance meeting of that employee who had used our special bus for a lift earlier. Just as the group was offloading the cases from the tour coach and they were going to take my luggage with them on to the train, I arrived in the van. Our group leader came up and said in his very enigmatic German way that “he was pleased I caught up”. I recounted the whole drama for him later when we were on our train en route to Mikalyiv. The group had assumed that I had somehow been left behind at the last photo stop at the Russian Sailors Cultural Mission. They discovered later that I had in fact been left behind at a previous photo stop, some 10 kilometres from the station.

I was with Transperth at the time and reflected on how all stops would have been pulled out for a “lost” tourist had this happened to someone in Perth. The people who helped me in Sebastopol could not speak to me, neither could I to them, but they obviously did everything possible to enable me to rejoin the party. I left the young lady with a suitable reward intended for her and the first trolleybus driver.

I have found that in all my travels to many countries, most people are decent and helpful, especially in poorer countries. Ukraine was one.

## SENIOR MOMENTS

I have a little problem that seems to be progressing  
Some lapses of my memory I’m finding quite distressing  
I call them “senior moments”, my thoughts swirl in a haze  
Sometimes my mind wanders and it won’t come back for days  
For instance, only yesterday, I lost my glasses case  
I hunted for it everywhere in every likely place  
Eventually I gave up, I couldn’t keep on looking  
I poured myself a glass of wine and got on with my cooking  
But reaching for a carving knife, I opened the drawer  
And there I found my glasses case, so now I’m really sure  
That finally I’ve lost it, there really is no hope  
My brain is getting addled, I’m becoming a real dope  
But I may just have the answer, for though it’s quite a drag  
I’m going to take up sewing and make a little bag  
I’ll make it quite a strong one and secure it with a pin  
I won’t lose *all* my marbles, I’ll have a bag to keep ‘em in!

Lesley Adams, Irreverent Verses.

