

# INFORM

The Official Magazine of U3A (UWA) Inc.  
Issue 115, August to October 2014

Patron: Emeritus Professor Alan Robson AM, CitWA

## CITY LECTURE SERIES

Please note that there has been a change to the City Lecture Series. The Guest Speaker for the next City Lecture to be held on Sunday 3 August 2014 will now be David Hawkes, whose topic will be “**Surviving on Air**”. The Lecture will be held at the State Library Theatre commencing at 2.00 pm.



David Hawkes is one of Australia's most experienced and versatile broadcasters. David was seen as a television newsreader, interviewer, co-host of the popular cooking program “Two for the Pot”, front man for the game show “Fair Go”, and a variety of other roles. David will describe his many experiences interviewing famous and infamous celebrities over the years, and will include some short video clips. David has very kindly stepped in for this lecture as Commodore Bob Trotter is unavailable in August.

Commodore Bob Trotter will now present his “**Finding the Wreck of HMAS Sydney**” at the State Library Theatre on Sunday 2 November 2014 commencing at 2.00 pm.



You will recall Bob speaking to us last November about the search for *HMAS Sydney*, and this will be a continuation of that subject.



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 7-11 for information on City Courses, Regional Meetings and Study Groups.



## U3A COUNCIL

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[nuthatch77@inet.net.au](mailto:nuthatch77@inet.net.au)

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**Membership Secretary:** Contact Office (6488 1857) [info@u3auwa.org](mailto:info@u3auwa.org)

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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.

**Location:** Building 7, University of Western Australia, Princess Road, Claremont, WA 6010.

**Post to:** U3A (UWA) Inc, University of Western Australia M432, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009.

**Phone:** 6488 1857.

**Email:** [info@u3auwa.org](mailto:info@u3auwa.org)

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

## OUR NEW PRESIDENT, PETER ALCOCK

Peter Alcock, from the North Coast (Warwick) Region has been an active U3A enthusiast for several years. Peter, who succeeds hard-working President John Macdonald, grew up in country WA where his parents farmed near Narrogin.

Peter says he is happy to take on the role at a time of renewed interest in U3A. "We have a new Region in the process of starting up at Wanneroo, and with more people taking early retirement and a growing number of retirees resettling here from the U.K., we can look forward to steady expansion of our organisation."



Peter studied Geology at the University of Western Australia during the sixties and, following seven years working in Eastern and Northern Australia, took off with a young family travelling for 18 months through Japan, Europe and North America, before settling back into a farming life at Narrogin.

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following seven years working in Eastern and Northern Australia, took off with a young family travelling for 18 months through Japan, Europe and North America, before settling back into a farming life at Narrogin.

In 1995, Peter returned to the lure of exploration where he was a Director of a number of small companies exploring for gold and other minerals in WA.

During a period of semi-retirement he joined the North Coast (Warwick) Region of U3A in 2010 and became more involved following retirement in 2012. He was Chairman of the Region in 2012- 2013, and is currently Program Coordinator and is involved with both the U3A Film Group and Choir.

Peter's other interests include the Rottnest Guides, the Fremantle Men's Shed and Fine Wood Workers Association, as well as spending time with his six grandchildren. Peter lives with his wife Barbara in Marmion and can be found at the beach most mornings.

## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

The U3A Council has decided to continue the awarding of Certificates of Appreciation in year 2014. There will be a maximum of five certificates awarded 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. The following are the criteria for the Award:

- To qualify for the Award, the recipient must be a member in good standing.
- To qualify for the Award, the recipient should have performed some outstanding service over a number of years, over and above holding a specific office.
- All members of Council considering the application are to be ineligible for the Award in that year.
- Other than the initial tranche of Awards in year 2013, the number of Awards each year is not to exceed five.

- Applications may be submitted by the Committee of a Region or by Council. No personal applications will be considered. Applications are to be sent to the General Secretary. Application forms are available from the General Secretary.
- Applications are to be submitted to Council for consideration by **November** of each year, for conferral at the next AGM.
- Certificates are to be conferred at each AGM. Applications must include a statement in support of the candidate and be signed by the Chairman and Secretary.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to yet another edition of *Inform*, the U3A (UWA) Newsletter sent to some 950 members as well as State U3A's, interstate networks and the State Library. *Inform* is very ably assembled and edited by David Phillips but the articles and content are yours. It informs us of what is happening, has happened or is about to happen within our group, and provides a vehicle for expression of the thoughts and ideas of members. It also provides a snapshot in time to represent the organization to prospective members and a historical record for the future.

*Inform* is the instrument of our group by which we tell our story and looking back over past issues. Many stories have been told but, amongst our membership, there are clearly many more to be told. So I encourage you to participate in this aspect by contributing articles whether as poetry, prose or artwork. It may be that the Editor will have so much material to deal with that some will be held over for future issues!

If writing an article for *Inform* is not your cup of tea, there are other opportunities to contribute, like working a few hours a month in the Office, or becoming involved in some of the many tasks in your own Region or Council. I desperately need a General Secretary for a start! We also need more people to assist in WA Network activities. Peter Flanigan has been carrying the load since its inception and is in need of a Deputy to share the load and spread the word to new areas. Wanneroo appears as being the next U3A (UWA) Region following a successful meeting involving over 50 people expressing an interest in U3A.

With regard to the Office management, it has been suggested that we employ someone for this task but, being a voluntary organization, that is a step I am reluctant to pursue. The small band of dedicated Office volunteers do a wonderful job, but need more support. Surely there are some newer, recently retired members who are willing to share the load. Some computer skills are preferable but not essential.

The annual U3A (UWA) Seminar held recently is a great way to showcase our organization to a wider audience and to involve ourselves in topical conversations with knowledgeable people. This year the Seminar was open to the public which I believe to be a positive move.

Meanwhile I look forward to meeting many more of you from all the Regions.

**Peter Alcock.**

## **SHEEPDOG DREAMING**

by Tony Harding, Swan Hills Region

*Preamble: Ellie is a Border Collie, two years old and she enjoys life in Exmouth with a lively young family. They live close to an endless empty beach bordered by bush-covered sand-dunes. On walks Ellie covers three times the distance running ahead and chasing anything that moves. With her sharp intelligence and sheepdog instincts she would make a wonderful working dog but as the family pet without a handy flock of sheep or herd of cattle, she makes do with what she's got. She has a wonderful life!*

Ellie the Border Collie, sheepdog through and through, black and white as collies are and full of endless energy too. She has all the sheepdog instincts in-bred as a pup, so two or more creatures in her view and Ellie rounds them up!

Ellie's beach is all her own, at your peril trespass there, but that bunch of squawking sea gulls are totally unaware. The dog crawls closer on her belly then explodes in flat-out run, a clatter of wings and the gulls are airborne – the chase has now begun!

The collie twists and turns and leaps the rocks she gives the gulls no quarter, then races on across the sand as the birds head for the water, and spray flies as she tries her best to follow, but then, all but submerged, she swaps the chase for a well-earned, cooling wallow.

Satisfied, the beach is clear she's queen of her domain, but wait! They've landed further up, so off she goes again!

Back home and the free range ducks lack discipline of any kind, foraging for snails and bugs they waddle around to find, but Ellie needs the muscovies to be moving in formation so there she is in working mode busy getting them on station.

So she whiles away the morning keeping them in a bunch, then well satisfied with her performance has a break for lunch.

.....  
No matter what the creatures are Ellie demands they toe the line, but sometimes things go wrong, she's not successful every time.

Father emu, with three fine chicks was feeding quietly as they do, until during Ellie's morning exercise they came into Ellie's view, the Collie genes kicked in – "these four creatures need some order" and spurning the emu's evil stare, the dog proceeded forward.

The bird, all protective, was ready to attack, he puffed up in all directions and the dog wasn't used to that!

The emu started forward, the dog was crouching low, thinking – "this thing's too big to handle I think I'd better go!", and turning tail the collie ran, at first the emu had more speed, but the dog used all its cunning and weaved around the trees.

The bird gave up the chase and the dog regained its puff, she'd bitten off far more than she could chew and she'd had quite enough!

.....  
Full of beans just half an hour before, Now Ellie lies in peaceful slumber stretched out on the floor, totally oblivious to the world, a glorious reverie, as in her mind she roams the plains, alone, in charge and free.

Sitting at her master's feet, ears pricked, eyes fixed and steady, she concentrates on his every move, she's alert, she's fit and she's ready.

A thousand sheep need yarding a tricky taxing task, but Ellie will go and get them – all he needs to do is ask!

"Go Ellie" - that's the signal! She races up the hill and out of sight, she skirts around the flock watching those who might take flight and disappear - but sure enough the flock holds tight, they're moving well so that's alright .... the homestead lies just down the slope and the farmer watches Ellie cope with skill and flair - they're nearly there!

They cascade down the hillside, and straight into the pens - the gate clangs shut, the job is done, Ellie's triumphed once again!

She trots over to the farmer, he gives her ears a tickle then gently strokes her head, "Well done Ellie, you're the World's Best Working Dog" he said.

She slumbers on, eyes flicker, legs and whiskers twitch, a muted bark, a peaceful scene, as the "World's Best Working Dog" re-plays her favourite sheepdog dream!

## **NEW AUDIO EQUIPMENT**

Time is running out for Regions to organise necessary upgrades of audio equipment. Because of broadcasting band changes, some wireless audio devices such as PA systems and wireless microphones will no longer be able to operate on their current radio frequencies beyond 1 January 2015. Some units can be retuned but others need to be replaced.

You can visit the Australian Government Website ([www.communications.gov.au/radio/radiofrequency\\_spectrum/wireless\\_audio\\_devices](http://www.communications.gov.au/radio/radiofrequency_spectrum/wireless_audio_devices)) which provides all the relevant information. Perth Audio Suppliers can also assess your equipment to see whether it meets the new requirements.

Terry Harvey, Treasurer of the North Coast (Warwick) Region, has been assessing alternate PA systems for his Region and, based on their audience numbers and venue size, has recommended a Mipro 705. This unit is good quality, provides adequate power for current and future needs, and is portable and reliable. Various accessories can be added but a lapel microphone and a hand held wireless microphone will serve most purposes.

Terry can be contacted at [ter.jac@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ter.jac@optusnet.com.au)

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## MY LIFE AS A CAT HAVEN VOLUNTEER

*by Carol Hudson, Mid-North Region*

I was inspired to join the ranks of Cat Haven volunteers back in 1985 when I responded to a call for street appeal collectors, and my support went on from there.

Early on I came to the conclusion that it was time to tackle the problem at source, rather than continuing to blame cats for decimating wildlife throughout Australia, and decided to support Cat Haven's policy of euthanasia of homeless cats and kittens. Euthanasia is a much gentler and more humane way to die than through starvation and neglect.

Cat Haven is the shelter run by the Cat Welfare Society, and its origin dates back to the 1950's and '60s when Mrs Hilda Cochram of Maylands was instrumental in gathering a group of animal lovers together to raise funds and build a shelter for the kind treatment of the homeless cats and kittens roaming Perth.

In summary, my role as a volunteer included street appeals, as a kennel cleaner, on the committee, as treasurer of the Cat Welfare Society, in the office to support the General Secretary, as a stall-holder on fete days, on information tables in shopping centres, as a pick-up representative, to visit schools and educate children about responsible cat care, as Editor of the member magazine "Cat Chat" and, most recently, as a fund-raising gift wrapper at Karrinyup shopping centre in the pre-Christmas promotion.

From time to time I also agitate with friends and acquaintances to donate old sheets and towels which are used as bedding. These become short during the peak kitten season from around November through to March/April each year.

Over all the years since its incorporation, the Cat Welfare Society committee and friends have been agitating for some sort of government control over the indiscriminate breeding of kittens throughout Western Australia. Happily, through the kind intervention of Premier Colin Barnett and his wife who visited Cat Haven in 2009, we now have laws requiring all kittens to be sterilised, micro-chipped and vaccinated by the age of six months. Whilst it may not be universally popular, we are looking to the day when our euthanasia rate is down to nil.

I very much enjoy my contact with the wonderful staff and volunteers of Cat Haven, and always have in mind the inspiration generated by Hilda Cochram who nightly, between 2.00 and 5.30am, toured the streets of Northbridge to feed the myriad of stray cats and kittens struggling for existence.

## A VISIT TO GOZO

by Bill Hawthorn, Joondalup Region

Have you ever been to GOZO? Probably not, so where is it? GOZO is a small island off the coast of Malta. It has an ancient history and contains the oldest known still standing temple built by humans. The temple is constructed from huge limestone rocks moved into a series of semicircular chambers. It was thought that no ordinary humans could have shifted these gigantic boulders so there must have been a race of giants capable of doing this so the site is called Ggantija meaning giants. This megalithic free standing temple is believed to have been constructed almost 4000 BC.

My wife Julie and I stayed in the village of Zebbug which was located a convenient 9 minutes by bus from the capital city Victoria/Rabat and we were able to walk along meandering farm tracks to the coast and various coastal resorts.

The island is largely composed of various forms of limestone and is virtually totally terraced for farming purposes. At one time GOZO had a flourishing cotton producing industry employing 80% of the population, but American production ultimately made it uneconomic.

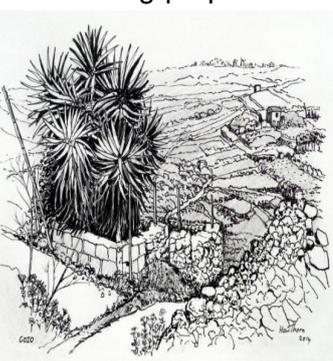
Because of a very strong Arab influence all the architecture exhibits a flat roof of either stone or concrete. Most of the trees were cut down during Roman occupation so there is very little timber,



meaning everything is built of dense limestone blocks. To form the stone roof arches had to be used and then large stone blocks spanned across each arch. Vast areas of the rocky coastline were developed by the

Romans for salt production and even today sea salt is still produced in the gouged out salt pans used by the Romans.

The terraced landscape the borders of cactus and the Moslem architecture made it most interesting for drawing purposes so we were able to daily find



an interesting site to record interpretations of what we saw.

If you are looking for an out of the way place to visit, why not try going to GOZO?

## U3A JOONDALUP WRITER'S GROUP

Not long after the formation of the U3A Joondalup Region at the end of 2008, members were all invited to begin a new Group of their choice. A Writer's Group was subsequently formed and we had as many as 12 members at each gathering. We wrote about our family history, limericks, childhoods, holidays, family festivities and many other topics. We became a very close knit Group, regularly contacting each other by telephone and email, and often had lunch out together.

However, after several years, we began to run out of ideas to write, the Group disbanded and quite a few of its members ceased coming to U3A. It is pleasing to note that the Group is about to re-form, much to everyone's joy.

The following is a sample of the items that have been written by the Group, with more to follow in future issues:

### *I'VE BECOME ADDICTED TO E-BAY*

When I first glanced at the eBay site  
It was for reasons true  
For I need to buy more Enyo  
So what else could I do?  
But over the following weeks  
When Enyo was all done  
I turned my sight to other sites  
And began to have some fun.  
I've won Limoges small and tiny  
From places far and wide  
Royal Doulton, Clarice Cliff -  
I could not be satisfied.  
I've bought gems from Thailand  
Swarovski from the States  
Some earrings from Hong Kong  
That have yet to grace my face  
It's fine when you are lonely  
To see what people want to sell  
I know my friendly postman  
Every time he rings the bell.  
So be careful what you wish for  
If bidding is your game  
I've now no room in cabinets  
And e-Bay is to blame!

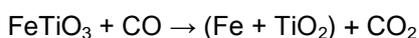
*Patricia Lysons.*

### YOUR INFORM

The structure of your Inform has been slightly modified to take advantage of the use of colour on pages 15 and 16. The Cryptic Crossword has been moved to page 15 to accommodate these changes.

## SCIENCE CORNER

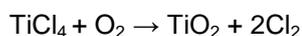
Western Australia has a wide range of rich mineral deposits and many of these are processed here. Approximately 50% of the known world deposits of mineral sands are found in the southwest of Western Australia. These deposits contain a range of minerals all of which can be successfully separated based on their magnetic and electrostatic properties. The most important constituent is ilmenite ( $\text{FeTiO}_3$ ) but it is rutile ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ) that has economic importance. The ilmenite is upgraded at Iluka's plant at Capel to approximately 94%  $\text{TiO}_2$ , called synthetic rutile, by the *Becher Process*. **Bob Becher developed and patented this process at the Industrial Chemistry Division of the old Government Chemical Laboratories in Bentley in 1965.** The process involves the reduction of the ilmenite by charcoal in a rotary kiln at  $1100^\circ\text{C}$  where the iron content of the ilmenite is reduced to metallic iron embedded in  $\text{TiO}_2$ :



The metallic iron is literally "rusted" out of the synthetic rutile in the form of magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) which is magnetically separated leaving the synthetic rutile product. This product is sent to the Cristal Global Company at Kemerton, just north of Australind, to be further upgraded to a 99.9%  $\text{TiO}_2$  product. This is known as the chloride process where the  $\text{TiO}_2$  is converted into titanium tetrachloride:



The  $\text{TiCl}_4$  is separated from other impurity chlorides by a distillation process. The  $\text{TiO}_2$  is then recovered by oxidation:



Chlorine is an expensive chemical, so its regeneration makes the process economical.

This very pure rutile is an important feedstock for the pigment industry. It is a white, highly refractive and UV light absorbing product and is commonly used in the paints, plastic, paper, textile and ink industries. Since it is non-toxic and biologically inert, it can safely be used in foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Rutile is further processed to titanium metal in the USA in what is a very expensive process. Titanium is a light and strong metal and is used in advanced engineering applications, as a coating material in the aerospace industry. It is a very un-reactive metal and thus can be used in corrosive environments in chemical industries and is one of the few materials that can be used in the human body for hip replacements and heart pacemakers.

The other important component of these mineral sands is zircon ( $\text{ZrSiO}_4$ ). This mineral emerges from the initial separation process in a pure condition and needs no further processing. Zircon is widely used in the ceramics industry in the production of opacifiers used in surface glazes and pigments. Due to its high melting point ( $2200^\circ\text{C}$ ) it is used as foundry sand in moulds where the quality of the surface of the casting is important. Zircon is also upgraded to zirconium metal (Zr), zirconia ( $\text{ZrO}_2$ )

and other zirconium chemicals in separate industrial processes.

In another part of the world, ilmenite has the potential to bring about the resurrection of the fortunes of the island of Madagascar. Madagascar used to be a highly forested and beautiful island, but massive amounts of tree felling to cater for agriculture has almost denuded the island. Madagascar is home to the lemur, the vast majority of which are now only found in a nature reserve. A few years ago, Rio Tinto began mining ilmenite in Madagascar which will be of direct economic benefit to the island, especially in terms of employment. However, it is the horticultural work behind the scenes that has the potential to re-forest the island over the next few decades. The company has developed a consortium of partner organizations including the Kew Royal Botanical Gardens, Birdlife International, Missouri Botanical Gardens and the University of Madagascar. Vast numbers of seedlings both indigenous to Madagascar and of the exotic variety are currently being produced. The hope is that the re-forestation will see lemurs back in the wild in the decades ahead – but, as usual, there are sceptics!

### U3A FILM GROUP

We all tell stories! 85% of them we tell to ourselves inside our heads. 15% we actually tell to other people.

The U3A Film Group wants members like you to join with us and learn how to tell stories on digital video. Enthusiasm is essential, some knowledge helps with camera work, scripting, editing, lighting, sound and film production. You can work with us and learn to do it using our equipment. Our task is not just to make movies for U3A but also for the general community. Your opportunity is here.

We meet at the U3A Office in Princess Road, Claremont.

For more information please contact Steve Thompson at [stevet\\_1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:stevet_1@optusnet.com.au) or phone 9457 0771.

We can all tell stories!

### COUNCIL NEWS

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

- The amended U3A (UWA) Constitution has been submitted to and approved by the Department of Commerce.
- We are still seeking a General Secretary. This is not an onerous position and is mainly involved with correspondence and acting as a conduit between the Office and Council. Please consider nominating for the position.
- Valerie Buckley of the Rockingham & Districts Region has been appointed Hon. Treasurer.

## CITY COURSES – SECOND 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>VENUE</u></b>
<b>ART APPRECIATION</b>		
2nd Wednesday, Aug 13th, Sept 10th (continuance of the Semester 1 course)	1.30 – 2.30pm	Central TAFE, Lecture Theatre 1, Building 2, 30 Aberdeen Street, Northbridge
<b>AMERICAN FILM AND BROADWAY MUSICAL COMPOSERS OF THE EARLY 1900'S</b>		
2nd and 4th Thursday Aug 14th, Sept 11th, Oct 9th Aug 28th Sept 25th, Oct 23rd, Nov 13th, Nov 27th	11.30am – 1pm	State Library North West Room 2.9 Geographe Room Great Southern Room
<b>EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE</b>		
Sept 2nd, Sept 16th	11.15am – 12.45pm	Citiplace
<b>FILM DISCUSSION GROUP</b>		
1st Tuesday Aug 5th, Sept 2nd, Oct 7th, Nov 4th	9.30 – 11am	State Library Room G3
<b>FRENCH LANGUAGE</b>		
1st and 3rd Tuesday Aug 5th, Aug 19th, Sept 2nd, Sept 16th	11.15am – 12.45pm	State Library Room G3
<b>IPAD WORKSHOP</b>		
Aug 5th, Aug 19th	9.30am – 1pm	Citiplace
<b>U3A CHOIR</b>		
2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays (Aug - Nov)	10am – 12.00 noon	Lutheran Church, Aberdeen Street, Perth (directly behind the State Library)
<b>LECTURE SERIES - A SERIES OF 'ONE OFF' SESSIONS ON NINE VARIOUS SUBJECTS</b>		
1st and 3rd Tuesday (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov) Tuesday Sept 16th	1.30 – 3pm 11am – 12.30pm	Citiplace State Library North West Room 2.9
<b>LITERATURE - ONE NOVEL EACH MONTH BY FOUR RECENT PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS</b>		
1st Tuesday Aug 5th, Sept 2nd, Oct 7th 1st Tuesday Nov 4th	11.30am – 1pm 11.30am – 1pm	State Library North West Room 2.9 State Library Great Southern Room
<b>MAHJONG</b>		
2nd and 4th Thursday (Aug – Nov)	1 – 2.30pm	Citiplace
<b>OVERPOPULATION</b>		
Oct 7th, Oct 21st	11.15am – 12.45pm	Citiplace
<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>		
2nd and 4th Thursday (Aug, Sept, Oct) 2nd and 4th Thursday (Nov)	9.30 – 11am 9.30 – 11am	State Library Room G3 State Library Geographe Room
<b>SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY - DISCUSSION GROUP</b>		
2nd Thursday (Aug, Sept, Oct) 2nd Thursday (Nov)	11.15am – 12.45pm 11.15am – 12.45pm	State Library Room G3 State Library Geographe Room
<b>TRANSITION TO A LOW ENERGY FUTURE</b>		
Tuesday Oct 7th, Oct 21st, Nov 4th, Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am – 12.45pm	State Library Room G3
<b>WEST AUSTRALIAN HERO</b>		
A portrait of Perth Teacher, Lt Colonel Ralph Honner, Commander of the 39 <sup>th</sup> Battalion of Militiamen, which bore the brunt of the first Japanese assault on the Kokoda Track.		
Tuesday Aug 19th	10.30am – 12.30pm	State Library North West Room 2.9

Please note that the First Semester in 2015 will run from March until to June.

## REGIONAL PROGRAMS – AUGUST TO OCTOBER 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.

4 Aug	1pm	<b>Our Family History According to Mother</b>	<b>Sally Gair</b>
	2.30pm	<b>The Abrolhos Islands</b>	<b>Eric McCrum</b>
18 Aug	1pm	<b>Sea Level Change at Rottneest</b>	<b>Peter Alcock</b>
	2.30pm	<b>Prisoners of Japan: Australia's POW'S and the Blind Spots of History</b>	
1 Sept	1pm	<b>FORUM: Should Retirement Age be Lifted?</b>	<b>Assoc Prof. Deborah Gare</b>
	2.30pm	<b>Magna Carta: The 800th Anniversary</b>	<b>Members</b>
15 Sept	1pm	<b>Sri Lanka: Nature &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Richard Savage</b>
	2.30pm	<b>The Evolution of the Passenger Ship</b>	<b>Gabor Bedo</b>
29 Sept		<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY – NO MEETING</b>	<b>Chris Frame</b>
6 Oct		<b>Coach Trip to Lake Navarino Forest Resort</b>	
13 Oct	1pm	<b>C.S.Lewis - Scholar, Writer &amp; Christian Apologist</b>	<b>Father Geoff Beyer</b>
	2.30pm	<b>Geological Highlights of Western Australia</b>	<b>Jenny Bevan</b>
27 Oct	1pm	<b>The Life of Agatha Christie</b>	<b>Margaret Putt</b>
	2.30pm	<b>The History of Lighting through the Ages: What did We do before LED's?</b>	<b>Frank Dymond</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).

11 Aug	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster</b>
	11.30am	<b>Writers Group</b>	<b>Patricia Lysons</b>
	11.45am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Brenda Hugo</b>
	12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	<b>Terry Westmorland</b>
	2pm	<b>Geology of the States' Capitals</b>	<b>Jenny Bevan</b>
25 Aug	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster</b>
	11.45am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Patricia Lysons</b>
	12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	<b>Terry Westmorland</b>
	2pm	<b>Genealogy</b>	<b>Malcolm Holmes</b>
8 Sept	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster</b>
	11.30am	<b>Writers Group</b>	<b>Patricia Lysons</b>
	11.45am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Brenda Hugo</b>
	12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	<b>Terry Westmorland</b>
	2pm	<b>Geology Highlights of W.A.</b>	<b>Jenny Bevan</b>
22 Sept	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster</b>
	11.45am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Patricia Lysons</b>
	12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	<b>Terry Westmorland</b>
	2pm	<b>Making of a Nation</b>	<b>June Dunstan</b>
13 Oct	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster</b>
	11.30am	<b>Writers Group</b>	<b>Patricia Lysons</b>
	11.45am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Brenda Hugo</b>
	12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	<b>Terry Westmorland</b>
	2pm	<b>Social History of 18<sup>th</sup> Century London</b>	<b>Elton Brown</b>
27 Oct	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Clive Paternoster</b>
	11.45am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Patricia Lysons</b>
	12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	<b>Terry Westmorland</b>
	2pm	<b>Role of the Theatre Critic</b>	<b>Sonia Kellett</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.

5 Aug	<b>Aged Care in Crisis</b>	<b>Candy</b>
19 Aug	<b>Roman Adaptation of Greek Inventions</b>	<b>Bob Larwood</b>
26 Aug	<b>Coffee Club</b>	
2 Sept	<b>Ice Cores Record Climate Change</b>	<b>Dr Ross Edwards</b>
16 Sept	<b>Dolphin Ecology</b>	<b>Sarah Marley</b>
23 Sept	<b>Coffee Club</b>	
30 Sept	<b>Excursion to Abingdon Miniature Village Mandurah</b>	
7 Oct	<b>Scams and Shams Beware!</b>	<b>Luke Eaton</b>
21 Oct	<b>Periodic Table not for Occasional Dining</b>	<b>Prof. Leslie Glasser</b>
28 Oct	<b>Coffee Club</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)

4 Aug	11.45am	<b>The Crime Repeat Offenders Act 1992 - Twelve Years On</b>	<b>Ginie Bristowe</b>
	2pm	<b>Post Card Collectors' Society</b>	<b>Don Smith</b>
18 Aug	11.45am	<b>Snippets of My Life</b>	<b>Amy Hardy, Margaret Summers</b>
	2pm	<b>"Australia's Secret War"</b>	<b>Lorna Hatcher, David Twohig</b>
1 Sept	11.45am	<b>My Inside Cover</b>	<b>Hal Colebatch (Author)</b>
	2pm	<b>Antarctic Sea Ice</b>	<b>Brenda Stubbs</b>
15 Sept	11.45am	<b>A History of Coffee</b>	<b>Peter Alcock</b>
	2pm	<b>The Ancients</b>	<b>Margaret Lloyd</b>
29 Sept	11.45am	<b>Short Readings (Poetry/Philosophy/Whatever)</b>	<b>Peter Flanigan</b>
(Public Hol)	2pm	<b>Group Discussions</b>	<b>Members</b>
13 Oct	11.45am	<b>Neighbourhood Watch – Short Talk</b>	<b>Members</b>
		<b>Amusing Moments</b>	<b>Guest: Jenny O'Brien</b>
	2pm	<b>Council of the Ageing (COTA)</b>	<b>Members</b>
27 Oct	11.45am	<b>In Judgement of My Great Grandfather</b>	<b>Di Marks</b>
	2pm	<b>Homelessness in Western Australia</b>	<b>Marolyn Hamilton</b>
			<b>Mitch Hanson</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.

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.

1 Aug	Noon	<b>Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Nadia Watson</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Five Minute Soap Box</b>	<b>Members</b>
8 Aug	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>
15 Aug	Noon	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Brain Training</b>	<b>Dr Daniel Lane</b>
22 Aug	Noon	<b>Poetry Group</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>SS Koombana</b>	<b>Terry Harvey</b>
29 Aug		<b>Fifth Friday Outing and Lunch</b>	<b>Nina</b>
5 Sept	Noon	<b>Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Five Minute Soap Box</b>	<b>Members</b>

12 Sept	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>
19 Sept	Noon	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Sudan</b>	<b>Pamela Devenish</b>
26 Sept	Noon	<b>Poetry Group</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Genealogy</b>	<b>Pauline Yarwood</b>
3 Oct	Noon	<b>Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Five Minute Soap Box</b>	<b>Members</b>
10 Oct	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>
17 Oct	Noon	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Putin Explained</b>	<b>Arthur Tonkin</b>
24 Oct	Noon	<b>Poetry Group</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Australiana Theme</b>	<b>Members</b>
31 Oct		<b>Fifth Friday Outing</b>	<b>Nina</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.)

1 Aug	1.30pm	<b>Nelson's Navy</b>	<b>John Macdonald</b>
15 Aug	1.30pm	<b>The Perth Narrative</b>	<b>Richard Offen</b>
5 Sept	1.30pm	<b>Returning to North Queensland</b>	<b>Diana Morgan</b>
19 Sept	1.30pm	<b>The Riddle of Robert Menzies</b>	<b>Arthur Tonkin</b>
3 Oct	1.30pm	<b>The Zoo to You</b>	<b>Gordon Johnston</b>
17 Oct	1.30pm	<b>Women in Politics</b>	<b>Professor David Black</b>

#### Group Studies Meetings

3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	Aug, Sept, Oct	2pm	<b>Poetry/Play Reading (ML)</b>	<b>Diana</b>	9593 2313
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Aug, Sept, Oct	2pm	<b>Music ONE</b>	<b>Iris</b>	9592 2483
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	Aug, Sept, Oct	times vary	<b>Cinema Visit</b>	<b>Liz</b>	9527 9471
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Aug, Oct	2pm	<b>Book Club 1</b>	<b>Gary</b>	9550 4920
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	Sept	2pm	<b>Book Club 2</b>	<b>Liz</b>	9527 9471
1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Aug, Sept, Oct	2pm	<b>Music TWO</b>	<b>Shirley</b>	9527 1520
Every Thur	Aug, Sept, Oct	2pm	<b>Cryptic Crosswords</b>	<b>Anne</b>	9592 4298
1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Aug, Sept, Oct	10am	<b>Open Learning</b>	<b>Liz</b>	9527 9471
2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	Aug, Sept, Oct	10am	<b>Coffee Group</b>	<b>Wendy</b>	9527 1560
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Aug, Sept, Oct	1.30pm	<b>Scrabble 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 Aug	2pm	<b>Heart Foundation: General Heart Health</b>	<b>Bob Mathews</b>
7 Aug	11am	<b>Perth Concert Hall – Asher Fisch Conducts WASO: Schumann (Symphony #3) and Schubert (Unfinished)</b>	<b>Margaret 9457 3480</b>
(Thur)			
15 Aug	2pm	<b>Men of The Trees: Richard St. Barbe Baker's Legacy in WA</b>	<b>Barry Oldfield OAM</b>
5 Sept	2pm	<b>Ageing Well: An Update on Aspects of Independent Living</b>	<b>Len Rathman</b>
19 Sept	2pm	<b>Cameleering in the Northern Territory and Queensland</b>	<b>Celia English</b>
3 Oct	2pm	<b>Traditional Chinese Culture and Dance (Shen Yun)</b>	<b>Group Presentation</b>
9 Oct	11am	<b>Perth Concert Hall – Michael Stern Conducts WASO: Mozart (Clarinet Concerto) and Rachmaninov (Symphonic Dances) (Bookings by 5 Sept Meeting)</b>	<b>Margaret 9457 3480</b>
(Thur)			
17 Oct	2pm	<b>Eileen Joyce – West Australian International Pianist</b>	<b>Emeritus Prof. David Tunley</b>

The following Group will meet at East Victoria Family and Community Centre every Friday from 11.30am - 12.30pm 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 (9472 5072)

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
4 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2pm	<b>Book Club</b>	<b>Maureen</b>	9350 5992

The following Group meets at a members' home

It is announced with regret that Val is no longer able to provide Art Classes, as she has done so successfully over a number of years, and has contributed so richly to our Christmas Meetings with her students' art work displays. Many of our Members have been delighted to develop enviable artistic skills under Val's tuition. We all at South East Metro thank Val sincerely for her contribution to U3A and wish her many years of enjoyable retirement in her new Residential Care environment."

### 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.

- 16 August** Peter Flanigan, "The Fourth Crusade (1202-1204)".  
**20 September** Dr Anne Brake, "The Goldfields Water Supply Pipeline and the Development of the Golden Pipeline Project by the National Trust".  
**18 October** Dr Anil Subramanya, "Inca Civilisation within Peru – A Photographic Journey".

### 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".

1 Aug	<b>Three Cheers for the Workers</b>	<b>Brenda Stubbs</b>
8 Aug	<b>Macular Degeneration Disease</b>	<b>Georgina Ryan</b>
15 Aug	<b>Douglas Mawson Part 2</b>	<b>Mary Merifield</b>
	<b>Short talk</b>	<b>Phil Dale-Jones</b>
22 Aug	<b>Spineless Wonders, Hidden Lives, Sex and Deception</b>	<b>Geoff Byrne</b>
29 Aug	<b>David Suzuki Interview</b>	<b>Derek Mayall</b>
5 Sept	<b>Economic, Social and Political Consequences of the W.A. Convict Era</b>	<b>William Edgar</b>
12 Sept	<b>Country Towns, Mundaring and Northam</b>	<b>John and Maxine Mack,</b> <b>Denise Beer</b>
19 Sept	<b>Living Cells</b>	<b>Stuart Gibb</b>
26 Sept	<b>Computer Crime and the Police</b>	<b>David Cook</b>
3 Oct	<b>Old Darwin, Northern Territory</b>	<b>Madeline Honeyford</b>
10 Oct	<b>Country Towns, Meckering and Kellerberrin</b>	<b>Janice Brooks, Tony Donovan</b>
17 Oct	<b>Outing to View Wildflowers at El Caballo Blanco</b>	
24 Oct	<b>Country Towns, Merredin and Southern Cross</b>	<b>Liz Stockwell, Brian and Marilyn Loader</b>
29 Oct (Wed)	<b>Social Lunch – Venue to be arranged</b>	
31 Oct	<b>Solomon Wiseman</b>	<b>Pam Stockwell</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)

## MY LIFE

by Ethel Muller, Mid-North Region

I was brought up on a farm in Pingrup, 100 km east of Kattaning, the youngest of five children. My mother taught us all by correspondence as we lived too far away from the nearest school. My only formal education was a year and a half at Albany High School. My father died when I was eighteen and, soon after, I came to Perth to work at the Police Traffic Office for three and a half years.

I married a German, Rudi Muller who had come to Perth in 1954. He was a carpenter and studied for his builder's licence. He had purchased an acre block of land in Morley and he subsequently built our two bedroom-one bathroom house on the property.

We worked in the country designing and building farm houses while we lived in a caravan. I had to cook for the tradesmen and we occasionally needed three sittings to feed them all. I had previously never been a great fan of cooking and had hoped that I would marry a rich man who could afford a cook! We work very hard, sometimes 10 hours a day for seven days a week.

We returned to Perth some years later to build houses, flats and one Dental Surgery. My role was running errands and cleaning the completed properties. After three and a half years we had a daughter, and two years later we had a son.

When my daughter was five years old, we purchased a larger caravan and travelled around Australia for eight months. Our journey took us across the Nullarbor Plain, up the east coast to Cooktown, across to Mt. Isa and Darwin, and then down the west coast back to Perth.

Rudi joined a Skindiving Club and I subsequently joined him when my children grew older. I initially found diving quite difficult as I had never learnt to swim in my younger days in the country. We would go to the Beatty Park pool once a week where I learnt to dive to the bottom and hold my breath. I took up the challenge of Underwater Hockey, a game played across the bottom of the racing pool, where you wear flippers, mask, snorkel and gloves while flicking a lead puck with a 40 cm long wooden Y-shaped stick. You hold your breath and take turns at the bottom in a team effort involving 5 contestants. I won a gold medal at one competition.

I also had success in fishing, winning many trophies including the Mermaid's Trophy for the biggest fish caught, unaided, by a female in Australia. The biggest fish I ever caught was a Samson fish weighing 64 lb. My daughter and son also took up diving and we all dive to this day.

After about 20 years we purchased a yacht and won several trophies at regattas. I learnt to skipper the yacht and, on one occasion in Rudi's absence, I skippered a three man crew to victory. The sound

of the gun for crossing the finishing line first was so exciting with Rudi and other members watching from the club balcony. They shouted me a glass of beer to recognise my success!

Rudi and I have also been keen walkers. We have walked the 85 km trek from Cradle Mountain to Lake St. Clair in 6 days whilst carrying our sleeping bags and all our food. We have also walked the 960 km Bibbulmun track from Perth to Albany in a similar manner, staying overnight in huts. That is my life!

## SWAN HILLS REPORT

Last August, following a visit to Geraldton, our Secretary Janice Brooks gave us a presentation on the *HMAS Sydney II* Memorial. On 30 May this year we were thrilled to host Charles Smith and his wife Joan Walsh-Smith, the designers and sculptors of this magnificent and moving memorial.

Starting with a little information on their work in general, they took us through the complexities of designing a large scale memorial and the work involved in casting bronze sculptures. Their Powerpoint presentation illustrated the way in which the various elements of the memorial were conceived and the logistics involved in bringing the sculptures to the site and installing them in the exact position.

Those familiar with this memorial will know that it consists of five symbolic elements, the largest of which is a silver "Dome of Souls" depicting a flock of 645 gulls, one gull for each of the seamen who died when *HMAS Sydney II* was sunk. Under the dome, the eternal flame is represented by red and green, port and starboard lights. A ship's propeller forms the altar and the dome sits on seven pillars representing the "seven seas" and the seven States and Territories of Australia.

On the South West side of the site is a curved "Wall of Remembrance". Made of Western Australian black granite, it is embedded with flecks of gold, and bears the names of those lost, and photos of *HMAS Sydney II*. To the north stands a bronze sculpture of "The Waiting Woman" gazing out to sea, waiting for news of the lost ship. Joan Walsh-Smith told how she drew inspiration for this figure from her mother who lost a brother in World War II.

A stele, representing the prow of *HMAS Sydney II*, stands as a symbolic grave marker and the fifth element is a pool, "Closing the Circle". An interpretive centre incorporating a "Sanctuary of the Deep" is proposed and this concept, along with pictures and detailed descriptions, can be found on the Smith Sculptors Website.

It was a privilege to have met Charles Smith and his wife Joan and gain insight into the work and planning involved in the *HMAS Sydney II* memorial.

## U3A CHOIR

Another magical afternoon was experienced by our Choir members at the St. Ives Retirement Complex in Melville. The Choir received an invitation to sing a selection of numbers from their repertoire which included:

**Chorus of Hebrew Slaves**      **The Honey Wind Blows**  
**Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo**        **Music, Music, Music!**  
**Ode to Joy**            **Hot Diggitty Dog**            **High Hopes**  
**Why We Sing**            **The Way We Were**

The songs chosen were aimed at pleasing all tastes with light popular songs, particularly from the era the audience would remember. Many were able to sing along with the Choir members and it was obvious they were thoroughly enjoying the concert. Traditional numbers were also included for those who may have had a more classical musical experience during their life. Again, audience appreciation of these numbers was strong and encouraging to Choir members who had not previously presented more formal songs in public. Encores were called for, and the Choir sang "A World of Our Own" and "Take Me Home Country Road". Both numbers received a rousing response from the residents. But, time had run out and our concert had to finish.

During the performance, several Choir members spoke on various aspects of being a U3A Choir member. Maxine Talbot from North Coast (Warwick) welcomed the audience, and thanked them for inviting us. Brenda Skender from Central Region detailed the health and other benefits of music. Peter Alcock, North Coast (Warwick) member and U3A President, spoke about U3A. Wendy Harris from North Coast (Warwick) explained that everyone can sing!

Additionally, two Choir members presented solo items much to everyone's enjoyment. Pat Spillman, accompanied by Colin Gribble, gave a beautiful rendition of "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" from the Andrew Lloyd Weber hit musical "Evita". Elspeth Langford from North Coast (Warwick) sang "Ain't She Sweet?" while playing the ukulele, and the audience joined in with much gusto!

Afternoon tea was provided by St. Ives, giving Choir members and residents the opportunity to converse in a convivial atmosphere and setting. The interlude added to the enjoyment of residents and Choir members on this special afternoon.

The U3A Choir members believe their performances are reaching out to many sections of the Public, providing enjoyment, and promoting the role of U3A to a wider community with the aim of recruiting members to join our organisation.

If, having seen the songs outlined above and remembering them from years gone by, why not come along and 'try' the wonderful experience of belonging to a Choir? The U3A Choir is a very friendly and welcoming group of people, both male and female, where you will find a happy experience and genuine friendship.

**Joan Allnutt**

## U3A NETWORK WA

The June Network Newsletter is now available thanks to Norma Vaughan from Mandurah U3A who has produced another excellent production. Norma places all contributions on the Website as they are received, so any visitor to the site can view the Newsletter in progress. Visit [www.U3ANetworkWA](http://www.U3ANetworkWA). There is quite a bit of news from member clubs which is great to see.

I visited Armadale U3A a few weeks ago and it is good to see that group is doing very well with an active Committee and quite a lot of new members. They have a Website of their own which is well maintained and can be found at [www.U3AArmadale](http://www.U3AArmadale).

A Strategic Plan which has been under discussion for some time was passed at a recent Committee meeting. This now give us a solid basis for future activities. One of the aims is to have a U3A State Conference either in year 2015 or 2016, perhaps in conjunction with one of the member groups.

By the time you read this issue of *Inform*, the Annual General Meeting for 2014 will have been held and the new Committee elected. There will be a report on all these matters in the next issue of *Inform* magazine.

**Peter Flanigan, President**

## SHARP NOTE ON SCHUBERT

An Internet discussion group for classical music aficionados may come as a surprise to many but one exists with some interesting ideas. Here is an example of a typical offering:

A company chairman received a ticket to a performance of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony. Since he was unable to go, he passed the invitation to the company's quality assurance manager. The next morning, the chairman asked him how he enjoyed it, and was handed the following memo:

- For a considerable period, the oboe players had nothing to do. Their number should be reduced and their work spread over the whole orchestra, thus avoiding peaks of inactivity.
- All twelve violins were playing identical notes. This seems unnecessary duplication, and the staff of this section should be drastically cut. If a large volume of sound is really required, this could be obtained through the use of an amplifier.
- Much effort was involved in playing the demi-semiquavers. This seems an excessive refinement and it is recommended that all notes should be rounded up to the nearest semiquaver. If this were done it would be possible to use trainees instead of craftsmen.
- No useful purpose is served by repeating with horns the passage that has already been handled by the strings. If all such redundant passages were eliminated, the concert could be reduced from two hours to 20 minutes.
- In light of the above, one can only conclude that had Schubert given attention to these matters, he probably would have finished his symphony.

## LESMURDIE HILLS REPORT

The U3A Lesmurdie Hills Region hosted a Big Morning Tea for the Cancer Council on Tuesday 20 May 2014 at the historic Falls Farm in Lesmurdie. Funds were raised by donations from members including a stunning quilted rug, a hand embroidered cushion cover and luxurious coat hangers, all of which helped to increase the amount raised. While the success was due to all participants, special thanks go to the organisers Bev and Elaine, and to our Secretary Kay who for several years has donated exquisite rugs for the occasion. The photograph below shows part of the gathering, with Elaine and Bev to the front left hand side. Further back to the right, Morley can

be seen about to cut a cake to celebrate his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday which coincided with our meeting day. Everyone had a very enjoyable morning.



## VISIT TO WOODMAN POINT QUARANTINE STATION

Twenty members of the Rockingham & Districts Region, picture below, visited the Quarantine Station on Friday 30 May 2014.



Woodman Point was named after Thomas Woodman, the purser aboard the vessel "*Success*" when Captain Stirling first explored the area around Perth in 1827.

Records show Woodman Point being used for quarantine purposes as early as 1852, when 226 passengers and crew from the ship "*Anna Robertson*" with cases of whooping cough aboard were sent first to Carnac Island and later transferred to the mainland at Woodman Point. However permanent buildings were not established there until 1886. These buildings were designed by the Principal Architect for Western Australia, George Thomas Temple Poole. These were soon put to good use when, on 29 December 1886, the ship "*Elderslie*" arrived at Fremantle with 2 cases of scarlet fever among the 127 passengers.

The Quarantine Station operated for nearly one hundred years. There were cases of scarlet fever, plague, smallpox, measles and venereal disease. The facilities were really put to the test during the Spanish Flu epidemic in 1918-1919. During that time the disease took the lives of 29 Army personnel and four of the nurses.

The first building visited was the Isolation Hospital. This contains graphic displays, including an isolation ward complete with a dummy patient covered in lurid red spots indicating smallpox. There are collections

of photographs and memorabilia relating to many of the people who have worked at the Quarantine Station.

It was then on to the shoreline where formerly a 98 metre jetty extended into Cockburn Sound with a tramway to bring people and goods up to the shower and fumigation area. It had originally extended to the hospital.

The shower block is still in need of repair and restoration, but it could be seen where people had to strip off on one side, proceed to immerse themselves fully in bath or shower, before going to the far side to collect clean clothes. Their own clothes and other possessions would be fumigated or perhaps burnt. It was easy to imagine how horrifying this experience would have been for the people caught up in this circumstance.

The equipment in the fumigation building was still being used up to 1979, mainly for goods seized by customs authorities at the sea or air ports. The final building visited was the crematorium. Constructed in 1903, this was the first crematorium built in Australia, a truly historic building even if a sad reminder of our mortality. The last person cremated there on 11 April 1943 was a smallpox victim.

On a brighter note it is good to record that since 1979, the area has been used by the Department of Sport and Recreation. Buildings in the main accommodation blocks have been renovated and are used as dormitories for the many young people from schools and youth groups who use the facilities while enjoying various sporting and adventure activities. However, these premises are still available for quarantine purposes, should the need arise.

Other buildings including the Isolation Hospital have been restored or are awaiting restoration and have heritage listing. The Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp (Inc) assist in maintaining and promoting this historic precinct. Extensive research by Earle Seubert and others ensure that visitors are well informed and quite fascinated by one aspect of our history seldom given much thought.

