

# INFORM

Official Magazine of U3A (UWA) Inc.  
Issue 113 March and April 2014

Patron: Emeritus Professor Alan Robson AM, CitWA

## THE GREAT ESCAPE

Paul Royle, a member of the U3A's Central Region, celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 16 January 2014. Paul is believed to be one of the last survivors of the daring breakout from Stalag Luft III in 1944. Paul continues to drive his car to attend meetings at Central Region. Read more on page 4.



## U3A(UWA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The U3A (UWA) Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 13 April 2014 at the State Library commencing at 1.45 pm. Details of the Agenda and Financial papers are shown on pages 9-12. Please remember to have the quorum of 10% of your members at the meeting. Following the formal proceedings, Geoff Smith will present a talk entitled "U.K. to W.A."

## CHANGES TO THE U3A(UWA) CONSTITUTION

The Notice of Motion concerning the changes to the U3A (UWA) Constitution proposed by Council is presented on page 3. This will be discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting.

## LESSONS IN LOVE AND LOSS ACCORDING TO JANE AUSTEN

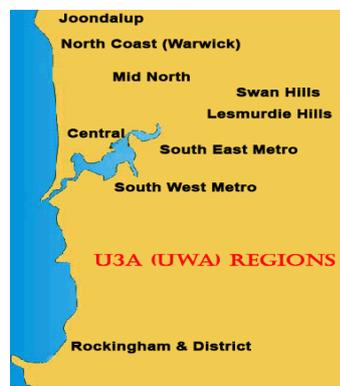
"A cup of tea, a good book and a good lie down" is how Dr Olivia Murphy described how many women felt about the books of Jane Austen when they felt the need for comfort or consolation. See the full story of the South East Metro Region meeting on page 2.



Contacts in your local U3A Region:

Central	9341 3634
Joondalup	9303 3370
Lesmurdie Hills	9453 1436
Mid North	9276 9670
North Coast	9447 5406
Rockingham	9593 9852
South East Metro	9350 5992
South West Metro	9364 5523
Swan Hills	9274 3224

See pages 13-16 for information on Regional Meetings and Study Groups.



## U3A COUNCIL

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## **A BIG THANK YOU**

A great vote of thanks is due to Sonia Kellett who has been Editor of the U3A (UWA) Magazine for the past eight years. Members have enjoyed reading her quarterly publication containing Council and Region news, interesting articles and puzzles. Sonia will, by popular request, continue to produce the Cryptic Crossword in the magazine.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I hope everyone had a safe, healthy and happy holiday season, and you are all champing at the bit ready for our 2014 activities.

City courses continue to be popular, but we do need some more lecturers to step up to deliver new programs. These courses are a valuable part of our activities to keep our brains active, and they need active people to both deliver and participate in them. If you have any interest or hobby, why not share it with your fellow members? Get in touch with Alan Mortimer if you think you can make a contribution.

This brings me to my second point, that is, participation. U3A will not survive if we do not have members prepared to serve on committees and become office holders. As a registered association, it is necessary for us to operate under the constitution, which requires a minimum number of office bearers and committee members. We have one or two regions which are having difficulty in recruiting these, and the constitution will not allow any Region to operate without a full quota of officers. In other words, the Region will cease to exist and its assets returned to council for redistribution. I sincerely hope this does not happen, but it is a possibility if we are not prepared to support our Region.

Thinking about support, the State Library has withdrawn from supporting our combined Lectures, so it will require a rethink about our use of that venue.

The Seminar 2014 is in the planning stage, and will take place in the State Library (ironically). We have chosen a very topical theme, and some eminent people to deliver what looks to be a great program. Keep your eyes open for our flyers which will be available soon.

Here is to a great year!

**John Macdonald.**

## **VALE MARGARET ARMSTRONG**

We are very sad to have to farewell our much loved member. Her very infectious smile and cheery welcome made everyone's day brighter. Margaret was a welcoming member, a larger than life person, who would do her best to help anyone in need. The world will be a lesser place because of her passing. Goodbye Margaret.

## **VALE MARY DAVIES, OAM**

Mary Davies was a dedicated and enthusiastic member of Rockingham & Districts Region (formerly Peel Region) for over 25 years. She was involved on the Committee, serving in many positions including that of Chairman. Mary was a long-term resident of the Rockingham-Baldivis region and generously shared her extensive knowledge of Western Australian history by forming a Study Group in 2000, continuing this program until the end of 2013. She will be greatly missed by members.

## **SOUTH EAST METRO MEETING**

The complexities of relationships and love are never more exploited in a personal and public fashion than in the stories of the 19<sup>th</sup> century author, Jane Austen (1775-1817). Dr Olivia Murphy was the Guest Speaker at a South East Metro meeting in 2013 and she explained that Austen's formula for a perfect match has become the archetypal "rich hero and handsome young woman", and "in her books, any eligible bachelor becomes fair game for any Mother with eligible daughters".

"Austen's books were not well received by the publishers or public in the 1800's but they have become icons of English literature and are more popular today than they were in her own lifetime" Olivia said. More than 200 years later highly acclaimed films have been made from her books, such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*.

Members shared tea and conversation with Olivia following her talk and they continued to discuss Jane Austen's life of periodic isolation and poverty which was reflected in some of her novels.

## **CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS**

For all you Cryptic Crossword lovers, there is a Website that you can access that contains weekly Cryptic Crosswords. This Website helps new and experienced solvers by providing clue help and worked solutions. For further information, contact the Website at [www.stickler.com.au](http://www.stickler.com.au).

## **WORTH READING**

You might find of interest the following book, "*In Praise of Ageing*", by Patricia Edgar, Text Publishing, 2013. It was gleaned from the U3A NSW Newslink. It tells the stories of eight people who have lived well into their nineties and beyond. These people will inspire you, entertain you and motivate you to be connected, interested, risk-taking and inventive.

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE U3A(UWA) CONSTITUTION

**Notice of Motion:** The following are the changes to the U3A (UWA) Constitution that will be discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 13 April 2014.

CLAUSE	SUGGESTED AMENDMENT	COMMENT
2.1, 7.7.1-7.7.2, 11.1 - 11.3	Add “Honorary” to all references to the Council Treasurer	Differentiates the Council Treasurer from the Region Treasurers.
3.2.5	To foster cooperation with like minded community organisations by the individual Regions	This is a <b>new</b> Clause.
5.1	Delete the terms “will” and “us” and insert “shall” and “Association”	Clarifies the entity.
7.4	Add “d) the General Secretary and e) the Honorary Treasurer”	By adding the two Officer roles to the list of Council Members it ensures that they do not need to be Delegates to hold these positions
7.11.3	Add at the end of the sentence “with the exception of the General Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer who will have a single vote”	Ensures the two Officers have a vote on Council if they are co-opted.
8.1.2	Replace the term “Councillors” with “Delegates to Council”	Delegates do not become members of Council until the first meeting of Council following the Annual General Meeting.
9.2.1	Delete the section “between ... to ... 9.2.4” and insert “by 31 December in the same year”	To ensure that financial records are handed to the Honorary Treasurer by the end of the year for the annual audit.
9.4.2, 9.4.3 and 9.4.4	Delete all three Clauses	This will give Regional Committees more flexibility in appointing their Committees.
11.3	Delete Clause 11.3 and insert “The Honorary Treasurer shall close the annual accounts on 31 December each year and submit them for audit as soon as possible thereafter”.	This allows time for the Honorary Treasurer to compile a full financial report of all Regions.
18.2	Add “meeting” after the word “general”. Delete “Chairman” and insert “President”. Delete “call” and insert “called”	This corrects some of the wording in the Clause.

## **THE GREAT ESCAPE**

A World War II veteran believed to be one of the last survivors of the daring breakout from Stalag Luft III celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last month. Paul Royle, a member of the Central Region of U3A, was one of 76 Allied airmen who broke out of the infamous camp in 1944. The escape was fictionalised in Paul Brickhill's novel "The Great Escape" on which the Hollywood movie was based.

Paul was chosen to join the British Royal Air Force in 1938. In 1940, while covering the Allied retreat from the skies above France, his Bristol Blenheim Bomber was shot down by a German Luftwaffe fighter. He was captured and taken to Stalag Luft I, a camp near the shores of the Baltic Sea. He attempted to dig an escape tunnel but was caught and sent to Stalag Luft III near the Polish town of Zagan. There, under the leadership of British Squadron Leader Roger Bushell, 200 prisoners hatched a plan to escape by constructing three tunnels codenamed "Tom", "Dick" and "Harry". Paul was one of a team whose role was to dispose of more than 100,000 kg of dirt displaced from the tunnels. He did this by stuffing the soil into his underwear and then shaking it out during discreet walks around the compound. His team were nicknamed "The Penguins" as a consequence of their shuffling action. Even though tunnel "Tom" was discovered by the Germans, work continued on the other two. A ballot was held among the 200 would-be escapees to determine the order in which they would make their dash through the tunnel – Paul was number 57.

On a moonless night on March 24 1944, a breakout was staged through tunnel "Harry". Only 76 made it out. Paul teamed up with an English Officer named Edgar Humphreys to trek to freedom, but they were discovered by the German Home Guard two days later and were returned to Zagan. Only three of the escapees made it back to England and of those that were recaptured, 50 were shot at Hitler's orders. Paul has never been able to fathom out why he survived and so many were killed, including Edgar Humphreys. He and Edgar had been captured together and behaved in the same manner at all times. There was no rationality in the selection process for the execution of prisoners of war.

After the war, Paul studied at the Royal School of Mines in London, married an English lady and returned to Western Australia to complete his studies at the School of Mines in Kalgoorlie. Then began what was to be a long career in engineering. Paul is the only known Centagearian Graduate of the WA School of Mines. Paul epitomises the motto of the Royal Air Force "*Per*

*Ardua ad Astra*" or translated "*Through Adversity to the Stars*".

Paul has not only turned 100 but has also lived to see the Centenary of the beginning of the First World War in 1914. Thankfully for U3A Central Region, he survived to enable members to witness his active participation in all its activities, and also acknowledge his wonderful literary skills in poetry writing. He is also an active bridge player. Paul has lived a colourful life, and Central Region members have had the fun of sharing his love of coloured socks. Congratulations to Paul on reaching your milestone, and may you continue to enjoy the University of the Third Age.

## **SWAN HILLS REPORT**

Members of Swan Hills Region once again celebrated the start of the festive season at The Pines Restaurant at the Bentley Campus of Polytechnic West. The meal was excellent and the service impeccable. The company, of course, was most cordial and even the storms that had been forecast for the day, never eventuated.

The last three months of 2013 seemed to fly by, possibly because we seem to have had such a packed calendar of talks and social events. Some of the highlights were a quiz organized by Esther Flowerday in October, and an afternoon of "Music from the Shows" in November with music and refreshments provided by the members.

Liz Stockwell took us on another virtual tour of Norfolk with the third in her trilogy of talks on that beautiful and historic English county. John Ashton gave a talk on Operation Pluto, the pipeline under the sea. His father was one of the seamen who, during WWII, worked to lay a fuel line under the English Channel. The operation was carried out in secret as the supply of fuel was crucial for the allies in their efforts to end the war in Europe.

Shortly after the terrible cyclone that devastated the Philippines, Tony Donovan gave a presentation on the way cyclones form and move. At the end of November, Janice Brooks told us everything we could wish to know about Quinoa. Following the presentation we were provided with recipes and samples to taste, and a risotto and a salad with Quinoa as the main ingredient. Delicious!

Judging by the plans in the pipeline, year 2014 should be as busy and varied as year 2013.

## **JOONDALUP LIBRARY**

The City of Joondalup libraries offer free WiFi, when you take along your own tablet, laptop or smart phone. You don't have to be a ratepayer or have their library cards to access the service. Members of other Regions should inquire of their City libraries as to a corresponding service.

## SCIENCE CORNER

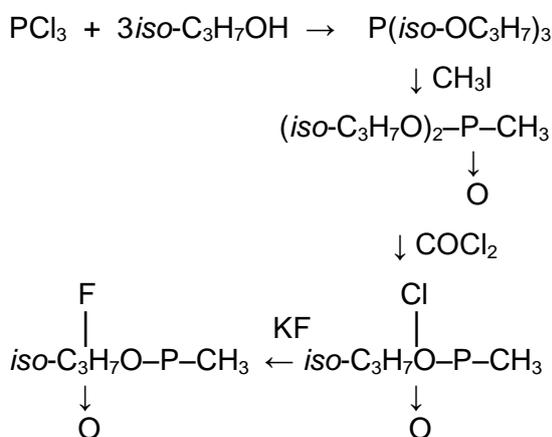
Your **Inform** Editor has an Industrial Chemistry background and is introducing a "Science Segment" into the publication. For those of you who studied Chemistry at high school, it should bring back wonderful memories. Of primary interest will be articles of current interest and/or those pertinent to issues affecting our own State of Western Australia. David has written the first article but would appreciate other members with a science background contributing to this column.

The topic covered in this issue is that of "*Chemical Weapons*" which were in the news in the Syria conflict late last year. Chemical weapons have been used in some form or another since the wars of ancient India in about 2000 BC when they were fought with smoke screens, incendiary devices and toxic fumes. In the Greek world, sulfur dioxide was used during the siege of Plataea in 429 BC during the Peloponnesian War. There, the Spartans saturated wood with pitch and sulfur, which they lit under the city wall. However a sudden rain storm put out the fire! Chemical weapons have acquired a terrifying notoriety since their horrifying use in the form of chlorine, phosgene and mustard gas in World War I. Their effectiveness was considerable where they killed or injured more than a million soldiers or civilians.

The present accepted meaning of chemical weapons still relates to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which prohibits "the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and all analogous liquids, materials or devices". These are the weapons where the chemicals react directly with the body. War gases have subsequently been classified according to their action on the body. From this division, it is the so-called "*Nerve Gases*" which are viewed with most fear and, rightly so. Nerve gases are organo-phosphorus compounds and are extremely toxic. They are anti-cholinesterase agents that interfere with the victim's nervous system and cause rapid death. The concern about these agents is that the lethal dose for a human is in the region of as little as 1 milligram.

The first nerve gas "*Tabun*" was synthesized in Germany by Gerhard Schrader and patented by Bayer in 1937. About 12,000 tonnes were produced just prior to World War II. A close chemical relation of *Tabun* is "*Sarin*" which is the best known of the nerve gases. It was reputedly used by Iraq in the Iran-Iraq war of 1981-1988. It appears highly likely that Sarin was used in the recent Syrian conflict but there still remains some controversy.

Undoubtedly, the most frightening aspect of nerve gases is their ease of preparation. The following shows the synthesis of *Sarin*. The reagents used, in order, are phosphorus trichloride, isopropyl alcohol, methyl iodide, phosgene and potassium fluoride:



This is NOT a difficult series of chemical reactions to reproduce. The only significant difference between many of these nerve gases is the nature of the groups attached to the central P atom, details of which do not need to be discussed here. However, it is ironical that the dangerous phosgene ( $\text{COCl}_2$ ) is one of the compounds used in this synthesis.

There are but a few antidotes for an attack on the human body, they being a compound called HI-6 (an oxime) and atropine. They would need to be administered to a patient immediately after ingestion of the nerve gas.

These are quite frightening compounds and, placed in the wrong hands, their widespread use would result in mass killings the like of which we have never seen in our history. We can only hope that there will be no further use of these "chemical weapons" in the future.

If you have a contribution, please forward it to David at [dph87111@hotmail.com](mailto:dph87111@hotmail.com).

## **HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR U3A?**

A recent survey conducted by U3A North Coast (Warwick) has given a resounding tick of approval for the Region's program of presentations, discussions and social activities. The survey conducted among North Coast's 100-plus members shows a satisfaction level of almost 100 per cent.

Said Chairman Pete Alcock, "We distributed questionnaires to see if we were fulfilling the needs of local seniors in the Stirling and Joondalup regions and we received some highly useful feedback. It was reassuring to be given the thumbs up and I strongly recommend other U3A Regions to invite member feedback via the questionnaire." North Coasters were asked to state their priorities for maintaining a fulfilling lifestyle in their retirement years and overwhelmingly listed social interaction and knowledge sharing with like-minded people."

More than 75% of respondents demanded a continuation of talks and presentations on a variety of topics, and welcomed the opportunity for personal research and knowledge sharing. Favourite topics included world history and travel, current events, quizzes, literature and music appreciation. More than 50% said they had initially been attracted to U3A because it provided an opportunity for social interaction and a chance to meet new people.

Among the suggestions listed to make U3A even better were:

- More social interaction with other Regions
- Inter-change of speakers from other Regions
- More quizzes
- Sharing members' personal stories

"It is good to see that, far from putting their feet up after quitting careers and lifelong employment, local retirees still wish to explore new horizons", added Pete.

He said a warm welcome awaits members from other Regions at North Coast (Warwick), which meets each Friday at Ellersdale Community Clubrooms, Warwick. Any Regions wishing to conduct their own surveys (edited as required) may obtain e-mailed copies of the questionnaire from Pete Alcock at [petara@inet.net.au](mailto:petara@inet.net.au) or Pauline Yarwood at [jpyarwood@bigpond.com](mailto:jpyarwood@bigpond.com).

## **U3A FILM GROUP**

The U3A Film Group meets on Tuesdays from 12.30–3.30pm in the U3A office at the University of Western Australia Claremont Campus and occasionally at other locations. The focus of the group is film making and welcomes those with an interest (preferably with some previous experience) in cinematography,

sound, lighting, script writing or editing. Fees are \$24 per year. For further information contact Lucille Rodgers on 9447 5670.

**Pete Alcock.**

## **U3A CHOIR 2014**

Our fledgling U3A Choir produced a wonderful experience for their "full house" audience at a concert held at Citiplace on a cold, wet afternoon in November. The audience joined in the singing of "Downtown", and "The Carnival is Over", while the Choir gave a heartfelt rendition of "Why We Sing". The program also included humorous poems, monologues, arias and pop songs performed by U3A members from various Regions. Other successful performances have taken place at Kingia Nursing Home, Bentley and at the Christmas gathering of the South East Metro Region. The Choir had their own Christmas Lunch at Anzac House and were warmly applauded as they exited singing "Zip-A-Dee Do-Dah"!

Attendance by Choir members at performances is an excellent 85 to 95%, bearing in mind that this is voluntary. Your enthusiastic Choir consists of some 20-25 members (male and female). Varied programs have been produced to suit everyone's preferences. Schedules have been prepared for performances in 2014, fund-raising is being pursued, and a more central venue is being explored.

All Choir members make the effort to welcome newcomers. Should you be thinking "I can't sing" or "I want to maintain my current ability", then the U3A Choir is the place for you. Your individual level of ability will be encouraged by our professionally trained Choir Master, Brian Dawson. Why not "try before you buy" by coming along to a session to experience the friendship and enjoyment?

We are still in need of a piano accompanist, so anyone who enjoys playing piano and would like to help us will be most welcomed.

Here is a collage of photographs taken at some of the performances of the Choir during year 2013.



**Joan Allnutt**

## **THE EDUCATION OF A COUNTRY GIRL**

Vera Harris, Rockingham & Districts Region

Education is one of the greatest assets in the lives of all individuals of all ages, throughout all ages. The depression years as a small child meant nothing to me. I do not ever remember going hungry, or not having a roof over my head, or wanting for anything. My parents probably did though, for my earliest school days were around that time. We had moved from Sussex Mill near Nannup to Deanmill (called the No.1 State Mill) about three miles from Manjimup.

I attended St. Joseph's Convent School where I completed my education. There were three classrooms for first and second grades, third and fourth grades, and fifth, sixth and seventh grades respectively. On the upper level were two dormitories, one for boys and one for girls, they being separated by a church. The school leaving age was 14 years and very few country children pursued their education in those days. Few parents could afford to send their children to the nearest High School in Bunbury or to Boarding Schools in Perth. Those fortunate enough to pursue their education were boys. Why would you send girls away when they would get married, live at home, carry out housework and raise a family? My father was a humble timber feller and he struggled to even pay our way at the Convent School. However, all I had ever wanted to do, from my early childhood, was to become a teacher. High hopes eh?

By the time I reached the upper grade at school, I did not have a specific teacher who could prepare me for the Junior and Leaving Certificates. A need was seen for a Nun to fill such a position, and Sister Colman was transferred to Manjimup. Even though I would be a late starter, she encouraged me to study for the examination, stressing that it would require much hard work on my part. I accepted the challenge and succeeded in proving her correct by achieving the Leaving Certificate. I then applied to the Education Department to become a teacher. I was placed in my old school at Deanmill, where I assisted two teachers Miss Mollie Brennan and Mr William Gibbney when required, and also observed their teaching methods. I also had to prepare and take lessons, all of which was considered in the assessment of my efforts.

In 1943, I pursued further education at Teachers College. Still a teenager and very naive, I expected to be with others of the same

age. What a shock - some were 26 years of age! The intake of 96 students comprised of only 4 men as it was war time, and two of those joined the forces before year's end. For my studies I chose the Rural Schools option to gain experience in all teaching grades. Fortunately, I managed to achieve my Teaching Certificate and, after a long anxious wait, I received an appointment at a school in Doodarding, a one-teacher school in the Central Wheatbelt.

The only means of accommodation in those days was with a farming family prepared to share their home with you. My contact was the Whitsed family whose postal address was Ejanding. I couldn't locate Doodarding on the map and was told to alight the train at Dowerin when I arrived. What a puzzle that was to me!

So on a hot Australia Day in 1944, I set off on my new adventure. I was full of enthusiasm and equipped with a trunk full of books and a bicycle to get me to and from school. It was a day's travel from Manjimup to Perth on the train, departing at 7am and arriving at 6pm. Following an overnight stay in Perth, it was a somewhat shorter train ride to Dowerin. I was duly met by my hosts who pointed out that there were yet 20 miles to travel across a dry salt lake!

The school was located at the corner of a block of land that a farmer had donated. Children came to school by bicycle, on horseback or in a horse and sulky. There was a great emphasis on the three "R"'s in the curriculum in those days. Children had three books for their writing skills of copy, dictation and transcription. Mathematical tables, spelling and poetry were learned by rote, with the other subjects being history, geography, English grammar, singing, folk dancing and sewing for the girls and manual arts for the boys. Nearly all of these programs could be complemented with selections from the ABC School Broadcasts.

Organisation of the school concert and sporting events was challenging due to the range of age group, size and capability of the students. The District Inspector visited the school once each year, not only to assess the progress of the students, but also to decide whether the teacher was fulfilling her duties in the proper education of the children in her charge. There had been as many as nine of these one-teacher schools in the Dowerin Board District but, with the introduction of school buses after the war, there was a rapid decline in their number.

How amazingly different are the schools of today with the broadened curriculum and all the advantages that modern technology offers them. So very different from that of this country girl educated in the 1930's!

## 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

<u>COURSE/DATE(S)</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PRESENTER/VENUE</u>
<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



***UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
(THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA) INC.***

**TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**To be held on Sunday 13 April 2014 at the State Library Theatrette, Perth  
commencing at 1.45 pm**

**AGENDA**

- 1. OPEN AND WELCOME**
- 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**
- 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 7 APRIL 2013**  
**Moved ..... Seconded .....**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
- 5. ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**Moved ..... Seconded .....**
- 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
- 7. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**
- 8. INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATES FOR 2014 COUNCIL**
- 9. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES**
- 10. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE U3A (UWA) CONSTITUTION**
- 11. GENERAL BUSINESS**
- 12. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

Following the official business, Geoff Smith will present a talk entitled "*U.K. to W.A.*", so please stay and enjoy the talk and fellowship at the conclusion of the meeting.



***UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
(THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA) INC.***

**TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**To be held on Sunday 13 April 2014 at the State Library Theatrette, Perth  
commencing at 1.45 pm**

Notice is hereby given to all members of the University of the Third Age (The University of Western Australia) Inc. that the twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 13 April 2014 at the State Library Theatrette commencing at 1.45 pm. Please note that only financial members are able to vote, so please update your membership prior to attending.

Registration will commence at 1.15 pm. Please arrive early. Every member attending the A.G.M. must sign their Regional Register as this will become part of the record of the A.G.M. A quorum of 10% of the membership is the minimum requirement, so we urge you to be one of the 100 members to attend.

Members unable to attend the A.G.M. in person may assign to another financial member the authority to vote as a Proxy on the assignor's behalf. Please note that "*no member shall appoint more than one Proxy simultaneously. No member may act as a Proxy for more than one assignor at any meeting*". (Standing Orders 9.1.2.).

Authority to act as a Proxy must be in writing on the form provided by the Association. The Proxy Voting Form may be requested from the General Secretary prior to 12 noon on Monday 7 April 2014.

All Proxies must be presented to the General Secretary at the A.G.M. before the commencement of the meeting.

Nominations for the election of President of U3A (UWA) Inc. may be lodged with the General Secretary prior to 12 noon on Monday 7 April 2014. Nominations for President can be taken from the floor on the day at the meeting.

The Officers of the Association will be appointed at the first meeting of Council following the A.G.M. The Regional Delegates will be introduced to the membership at the A.G.M. and assume their role as Councillors at the first meeting of the Council following the A.G.M.

John Macdonald.  
President.

**U3A (UWA) Inc**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
**for Year ending 31 December 2013**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>
	\$	\$	\$
Subscriptions 2013	28050.00	29010.00	(960.00)
City Courses	11737.10	12004.00	(266.90)
Single Course/Grant	17093.00	-	-
Seminar	3 960.00	4260.00	(300.00)
Bankwest Interest	1411.93	3304.81	(1892.88)
Grants/Sponsorship	-	3247.25	(3247.25)
Events	-	395.00	(395.00)
Sundry	475.00	-	-
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$62727.03</u></b>	<b><u>\$52221.06</u></b>	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>			
Council Payments to Regions	11220.00	11711.25	491.25
Volunteer/Delegate Allowance	2599.00	2319.00	(280.00)
Affiliate Memberships	691.00	670.00	(21.00)
Executive Allowance	221.00	-	(221.00)
Newsletter	9117.10	6313.99	(2803.14)
City Courses	16025.75	16880.91	855.16
Single Courses	16013.90	-	(16013.90)
State Library Lecture	1890.98	1835.39	(55.59)
Seminar	658.21	4963.72	4305.51
Bank Fees	97.64	77.60	(20.04)
Insurance	1239.75	960.00	(279.75)
Copyright/Licences	325.76	126.60	(199.16)
Publicity/Webpage	3703.35	12085.25	8381.90
Photocopying	-	108.00	108.00
Postage	903.00	660.00	(243.00)
Printing/Stationery	2417.57	1960.52	(457.05)
Telephone/Internet	394.85	351.53	(43.32)
Planning and Development	-	177.30	177.30
U3A (UWA) Office Refurbishment	7909.52	135.67	(7773.85)
Maintenance	332.80	-	(332.80)
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$75761.18</u></b>	<b><u>\$61336.70</u></b>	

<b><u>Surplus or (Deficit)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$13034.15)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$9115.64)</u></b>
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**U3A (UWA) Inc**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
**as at 31 December 2013**

	<u>Council</u>	<u>Regions</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2012</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Membership Funds:</b>				
Balance as at 1 January 2013	37782.96	46288.79	84071.75	86699.91
Variance: Surplus or (Deficit)	(13034.15)	(361.03)	(13395.18)	(2828.22)
Balance as at 31 December 2013	<u>24748.81</u>	<u>45927.76</u>	<u>70676.57</u>	<u>83871.69</u>
 <b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash at Bank	26213.20	36493.91	62707.11	48860.92
Receipts not Banked	-	489.00	489.00	-
Term Deposit	20000.00	11252.91	31252.91	52954.15
Cash on Hand/Paypal Account	567.36	762.67	1330.03	586.15
	<u>46780.56</u>	<u>48998.49</u>	<u>95779.05</u>	<u>102401.22</u>
 <b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Subscriptions in Advance	19440.00	-	19440.00	15600.00
Unpresented Cheques	2591.75	3070.73	5662.48	2929.53
	<u>22031.75</u>	<u>3070.73</u>	<u>25102.48</u>	<u>18529.53</u>
 Net Assets	 <u>24748.81</u>	 <u>45927.76</u>	 <u>70676.57</u>	 <u>83871.69</u>

The President  
Council of the University of the Third Age (UWA) Inc  
University Extension University of Western Australia M432  
35 Stirling Highway  
Crawley Western Australia

**Annual Audit 2013**

I have reviewed the accounting records of the Council of the University of the Third Age (University of Western Australia) Inc and am satisfied that

- The statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 accurately reports the financial activities of the Council for the period; and
- The statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 is an accurate statement of the financial position of the Council at that date.

Although not part of the Council Audit, the combined finances of the nine U3A regions are included in the statements to provide a wider financial view.

Jeremy White  
Honorary Auditor.

## REGIONAL PROGRAMS – MARCH AND APRIL 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.

3 March		<b>No Meeting – Public Holiday</b>	
17 March	1pm	<b>Gliding Half Way to Heaven</b>	<b>John Chesbrough</b>
	2.30 pm	<b>The Story of St. Patrick</b>	<b>Elton Brown</b>
31 March	1pm	<b>Australia's Indian Ocean Territories: Christmas Islands &amp; Cocos(Keeling) Islands</b>	<b>Gabor Bedo</b>
	2.30pm	<b>Nakura Hope Project: Kenya</b>	<b>Susan Saleeba and Valery Gandossini</b>
14 April	1pm	<b>Treasured Letters</b>	<b>Members</b>
	2.30pm	<b>The Wind Beneath My Wings: Running Away to Sea in the 20th Century</b>	<b>Fran Taylor</b>
28 April	1pm	<b>Food Moments in Fiction: Prose &amp; Poetry</b>	<b>Members</b>
	2.30pm	<b>A City &amp; its Tramway: Part 2 – The Government Years</b>	<b>David Brown</b>

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

- 1 - 2pm **Current Affairs Discussion**
- 2 - 3pm **Literature and Music Group**

### 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. 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. 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. The facilitator is Patricia Lysons (9309 1607). The Gardening Group meets by arrangement with members. The facilitator is Norman Harrison (9304 0942). The Discussion Group facilitator is as yet unknown. The Digital Camera Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month. The facilitators are Trevor and Catherine Swan (9404 7412). The Games Group meets when there are sufficient members present. There is a Public Speaking Group called "Chatterbox" with the facilitator being Gaele O'Sullivan (0433 003 611). Social Events are posted on the noticeboard and read out in notices. The Region now 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)

10 March	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Members</b>
	11.45am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Brenda Hugo</b>
	12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	
	2pm	<b>Role as Director of Muslim States &amp; Societies</b>	<b>Samina Yasmeen</b>
24 March	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Members</b>
	11.45am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Patricia Lysons</b>
	12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	
	2pm	<b>Schools in Africa Project</b>	<b>Vicki Desil</b>
14 April	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Members</b>
	11.45am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Brenda Hugo</b>
	12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	
	2pm	<b>Aboriginal Place Names</b>	<b>Eric McCrum</b>
28 April	11.30am	<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	<b>Members</b>

11.45am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Book Club</b>	<b>Patricia Lysons</b>
12.30pm	<b>Current Affairs Discussion Group</b>	
2pm	<b>My Life in the Theatre</b>	<b>John Thornton</b>

### LESMURDIE HILLS REGION

Meets at 10am (1) Falls Farm, (2) Cagney Way, Lesmurdie on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Inquiries to Polyanne Hill on 9291 6652.

4 March	10am	<b>Palm Oil</b>	<b>Roger Gillbanks</b>
18 March	10am	<b>Plans for the Kalamunda Shire</b>	<b>Rhonda Hardy</b>
1 April	10am	<b>Moon Asteroids</b>	<b>Dr Fred Jourdan</b>
15 April	10am	<b>What is U3A?</b>	<b>Ann Kennish</b>
29 April		<b>Excursion to No.1 Pump Station Mundaring</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)

3 March	11.45am	<b>Board and Card Games</b>	<b>Members</b>
(Labor Day)	2pm	<b>Memories of School Days</b>	<b>Members</b>
17 March	11.45am	<b>Oscar Wilde</b>	<b>Joy Ackland</b>
	2pm	<b>Use of Ochre at Aboriginal Sites</b>	<b>Vicky Winton</b>
31 March	11.45am	<b>My Life</b>	<b>Carol Hudson, Margaret Triffitt, Ethel Muller</b>
	2pm	<b>Richard Tauber</b>	<b>Ken Gasmier</b>
14 April	11.45am	<b>The Emerald Isle</b>	<b>Christine Smith</b>
	2pm	<b>King Richard III Re-Discovered</b>	<b>Elton Brown</b>
28 April	11.45am	<b>Our Trip to Europe in 2013</b>	<b>Gary Triffitt</b>
	2pm	<b>Lions Hearing Foundation</b>	<b>Chris Smelt</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, Centro Dianella. 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. 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.

7 March	Noon	<b>Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Peter</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>The Mystery of the X-5</b>	<b>Stuart Usher</b>
14 March	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>
21 March	Noon	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	

	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Geological Highlights of W.A.</b>	<b>Jenny Bevan</b>
28 March	Noon	<b>Poetry Group</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Australiana and World Events</b>	<b>Members</b>
4 April	Noon	<b>Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Members</b>
	1pm	<b>Walking Group</b>	<b>Nina</b>
	2pm	<b>Home Sustainability</b>	<b>Alan Benn</b>
11 April	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 April		<b>Good Friday – No Meetings</b>	
25 April		<b>Anzac Day – No Meetings</b>	

### ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS REGION

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

7 March	1.30pm	<b>Women in Politics – The Book</b>	<b>Professor David Black</b>
21 March	1.30pm	<b>Teaching Jazz to Life Long Learners</b>	<b>Professor Brian Copping</b>
4 April	1.30pm	<b>U3A Choir</b>	
18 April	1.30pm	<b>Good Friday – No Meeting</b>	

#### Group Studies Meetings

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

### SOUTH EAST METRO REGION

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

7 March	2pm	<b>A Brief History of Magna Carta: 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015</b>	<b>Richard Savage</b>
13 March (Thur)	11am	<b>Perth Concert Hall – Ascher Fisch Conducts Tchaikovsky</b>	<b>Margaret 9457 3480</b>
21 March	2pm	<b>An Update on Benefits and Concessions of the WA Seniors Card</b>	<b>Len Rathman</b>
4 April	2pm	<b>Establishment of WA-Based and Global Non-Profit Community Organisations</b>	<b>Carol Hanlon</b>
18 April	2pm	<b>No Meeting – Good Friday</b>	

These 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

These 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

## 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	1.00pm	<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>Ross</b>	0411 581 340
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	10.00am	<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>Norma</b>	9312 3696
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	9.30am	<b>Your Gene's History</b>	<b>Norm</b>	9417 4546
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	9.30am	<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	2.00pm	<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 is served.

15 February **"That Untravelled World"**, a novel based on Melville and set in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, presenter Adjunct Professor Ian Read, Department of English and Cultural Studies, University of Western Australia.

15 March **"Mapping Earth Microbes"**, presenter Professor Andrew Whiteley, Eminent United Kingdom Earth Scientist, WA Fellowship holder at the University of Western Australia.

There will be no lecture in April as it is Easter Saturday.

## SWAN HILLS REGION

Meets 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".

7 March	<b>My Trip</b>	<b>Esther Flowerday</b>
14 March	<b>Discussion on Customer Service</b>	<b>Members</b>
21 March	<b>Isaac Newton</b>	<b>Pamela Stockwell</b>
28 March	<b>Darwin, Northern Territory</b>	<b>Madeline Honeyford</b>
4 April	<b>Five-Minute Talks on "Happenings"</b>	<b>Members' Writings</b>
11 April	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Janice Brooks</b>
18 April	<b>Good Friday – No Meeting</b>	
25 April	<b>Anzac Day – No Meeting</b>	
30 April (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)

## MY WAR (part two)

### Childhood reminiscences of Alan Mortimer

After the doodlebug damaged our house, Dad got



Grandma Mort to come in the car from Hove to take Mum, Carol and me away to stay there near the South Coast. It was always good to stay at Hove. Grandpa Mort had a Morris 10 number which he used for work. He was a telephone engineer in charge of a long stretch of south coast. He could get petrol to drive around. I used to go with him to lots of secret telephone exchanges and equipment shelters.

So much barbed wire all on the beaches. No-one was allowed on the beaches, and there were concrete and metal things sticking up out of the pebbles. You could only get into Hove along one road. The Home Guard blocked the other roads. One day, Grandpa and I watched a V1 doodlebug fall into the sea just short of the beach. What excitement. I didn't wonder what may have happened had it gone a bit further.

Grandpa Mort (Mort was short for Mortimer) was our favourite of the grandpas and grandmas. He used to say yes to everything, and whistled all the time – *'In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree'*. He had all sorts of sayings which we grandchildren picked up quickly. If things went wrong, it was a *'washout'*. If he lost noughts and crosses to us (he always did) *'What a washout'*. The Morris 10 was maroon and he started it down the hill from their house by letting in the clutch when it got going. Its paint went chalky through standing outside on the sea-shore so much. So the day Grandma came to pick us up in Surrey, Grandpa must have gone touring his south coast exchanges for the day.

I had to carry on my schooling in Hove. It was very hard. I had been going to Bandon Hill near our house for six months then had to start again in Hove. I liked harmony, continuity, things planned with me in control. Even if things are chaotic, I like to be in control. And I felt I had lost control, thrust into a strange school by Mum and Grandma. Then after six months, it was back to Wallington and Bandon Hill.

I sought solace in makes of cars and car registrations. Boys between the ages of six and 11 have a vivacious appetite for information. So it was with me. Grandpa Mort bought me a book *'Where's that Car From?'* This book listed all the registration letters of the British Isles. These were geographically-based and it was fun to tell where

cars were registered. Brighton had two marks - CD and UF. Grandpa Mort's car – GWL 805, had been registered in Oxford. And so I filled my head with car registrations. As always, I coasted at school, soaking up all the lessons without a scrap of effort. I was told this some years later when next time I lost control of my school. Rationing of food lasted a long time after the war finished. My Mum's pantry in the narrow green kitchen was full of things like dried egg and Oster-milk 1 and 2.

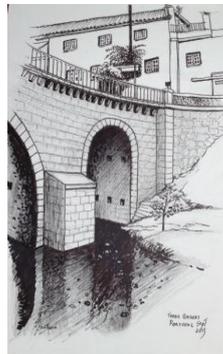
My brother was born in May 1945. He had to have Ostermilk after he was too old for Mum's milk. Thus, I had a sister and brother. My sister was a tyrant. At three she wore leg iron on her left leg. At the same time she climbed over our side fence to go off down the road, many, times. Mum's wrath was all used up on my sister and I could be the *'too goody-two-shoes'*, big brother, who never did anything wrong. Well, not much. My brother was the best behaved baby in the world.

Compared to many others, we had a good life during those war years. My parents had been given our now battered and patched up house as a wedding present in 1937. No mortgage to pay. I knew nothing of mortgages until I had to buy my own house. Our house was detached, too. I didn't think we were rich but I suppose in some people's eyes we were.

## LIVING IN A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

### Bill Hawthorn, Joondalup Region

In 2013, my wife Julie and I were lucky enough to find two weeks accommodation in a small mountain village called Avo in the interior of Northern Portugal. It was not a place for tourists as it was essentially a farming community nestled in a steep ravine at the junction of two rivers, thus it had a number of bridges central to the town.



Most buildings were of stone with the obligatory Roman style terracotta roof tiles. The surrounding hills were all terraced with great stone walls many covered with grape vines loaded with unpicked grapes, as much of the farming activity seemed to have been abandoned. There were also a number of old farm houses that appeared deserted.

There were only two small shops in the town to supply basic needs and no one could speak English, so sign language and our limited Portuguese had to suffice when purchases were made. Most people with some land grew their

own vegetables. The surrounding hills were largely covered in planted pines and Tasmanian Blue Gums. Recent bush fires had destroyed many of the pines, but the Blue Gums were showing signs of recovery. The lower slopes were covered with dense thickets of silver wattles which had become a very invasive problem.

Confronted with this, we drew views over the roof tops of the village to the terraced hills with their farm houses, olive groves and rows of vines. Fortunately our accommodation provided us with excellent views from our dining room over the



ruins of an old castle and the crowded village roofs, the narrow buildings and the cobble stoned alley ways. By living in and observing closely a foreign landscape and culture, we found it a rewarding experience as

one chooses what one wants to observe rather than what you are told to see in guided tours.

Some memorable experiences included seeing a shepherd standing all day in the rain to tend to 6 goats, boys leaping from tall rocky ledges into the inky dark waters of the river, goats peering down at us from their advantage point on the top of huge stone walls, and a farmer stripping the leaves from his grape vines to increase the amount of sunshine on his bunches of grapes.

There were no tourists here, just the rhythm of the seasons and ancient life styles set to a slow shared existence. Julie wrote a poem on Avo which is published below.

### AVO

#### **Julie Hawthorn, Joondalup Region**

Like sentinels, square white houses  
 Salute the veiled light of morn.  
 Azure blue skies, long languid days,  
 A mountain village in a valley green old Avo.  
 Boys plunge precariously from rocky crag,  
 Embracing black blue waters cool and deep,  
 Old River Alva, princess of Avo.  
 Near water's edge where reeds bend low,  
 Two people wander slowly.  
 Cool breezes softly brush their skin,  
 Faintly, faintly goat bells ring.  
 A shepherd sits amongst his herd his watchful  
 eye alert,  
 He hits his crook upon the ground a loud crack  
 can be heard.  
 The goats jump high, restrained in a fenceless  
 paddock.  
 Chrome yellow corn stripped from their cob,  
 Left to dry in the fading heat of the summer sun.  
 Apple trees old and weary lift craggy arms aloft,  
 They spread a carpet 'neath their skirt, red,  
 yellow, green and brown.

Swollen juicy grapes await their fate; servants  
 of Bacchus.  
 Clouds quietly gather sneaking in to cast a  
 shadow,  
 Noiselessly they bring gentle rain to lightly wet  
 the scene.  
 Peaceful, pastoral, ancient Avo.

### THE WORLD OF I

I live my life, I don't know why  
 And as I live, the time goes by.  
 I hear the birds sing in the trees  
 And watch the buzzing, busy bees.  
 I smell the flowers while I recline  
 In wonder of this world of mine.

I wonder if, when dead and gone  
 The things I love will linger on.  
 And if the ones who come behind  
 Will show displeasure when they find  
 My valued relics in the trunk,  
 To be a lot of useless junk.

I wonder if my photographs  
 Will be ignored with shallow laughs.  
 And will my writings interest folk  
 Or will they just make fire and smoke.  
 I wonder as the end draws nigh  
 What happens to the world of I.

*L. A. Ainsworth*

### JOONDALUP MAHJONG GROUP

The Joondalup Mahjong Group has grown from strength to strength since its inception when U3A Joondalup was formed. It has developed into a friendly and cohesive group of Seniors who have all learnt and enjoy the challenge of the traditional game of Mahjong, taught by Trish-Lau Veach. The photograph below is a happy snap of the group celebrating Keith's 80th birthday in January 2014.



**Back row l→r:** Helene Faint, Maggie Thatcher, Jennie Van Driel, Marilyn Carter, Pat Caddy, Steve Thatcher, Trish Lau-Veach.

**Middle row l→r:** Sally Green, Jill Williams, Margaret Coates, Sheila Boyce, Marion Power, Olwen Leitch

**Front row l→r:** Roy Bradley, Keith Van Driel

**The Crosswords are not issued on the Website**