

# Live and Learn

Number 7, June 2013

photography rocks!



Atherton Happy Snapper Bev Massasso puts fellow snapper Peter Jones in the picture at Granite Gorge.

sharing our knowledge

From your president, Jane Duncanson



Dear Fellow Members

June marks my first year as president, and the second year of U3A Atherton Tablelands. It has been such a privilege to work with our very enthusiastic committee.

During the semester I attended Ethics is for Everyone classes with David Turnbull. These were wonderful and enjoyable discussions and, being a person with no tertiary education, I have learnt a tremendous amount.

tremendous amount.

We discussed, among many other topics, our place in the universe and why we are here. One member had the right answer: "We are here to learn; what other reason could there possibly be?"

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“Live and Learn” is our appropriate motto and the beneficiary is the community at large.

### **Presenters keep the U3AAT going**

Are you willing to share your knowledge? You probably don't realise the skills you have acquired! Contact me and we can ease you through the process.

Programs for Semester 2 are beginning to take shape. The first talk, on July 30, will be presented by Ian Parker and is aptly named African Connections.

Ian's earliest known forebear arrived in Kenya in 1671, and Ian's coming to Australia has broken three centuries of continuous family presence in Africa. He will have a wonderful and interesting story to tell. Hope to see you at one of the talks in Semester 2.

In conclusion, I'd like to welcome our latest members, Dinah Peshorn, Jill Schuler and Lesley Jenkins.

## agm

The annual general meeting was held in Room 6 at 42 Mabel Street, Atherton on June 6.

In her report, president Jane Duncanson outlined the achievements of U3AAT in the past year, including the presentation of more than 45 courses, and the development of the website.

Jane thanked the committee, including the three retiring members, John Pollock, Maralyn Keller and Averil Douglas, for their work and support.

Treasurer John Pollock reported a balance at June 1, 2013 of \$2286.99.

It was resolved that membership fees remain at \$25 a year and \$12.50 for new members joining in the second half of the year.

Jane mentioned some of the courses proposed for next semester and the formation of two new clubs within U3AAT – a Book Club and a Kulture Klub — and the possibility of a cooking club.

The election of officers saw some new blood join the committee:

Carmel Samuelson replaces John Pollock as treasurer; Maureen Slocum replaces Maralyn Keller as membership secretary; Carmel Pacey will take on the role of publicity officer, and David Jones and Janet Mensinga were elected as general committee members.

## meet your committee



### **Secretary Barbara Whybird**

I grew up in Brisbane, where our family had “corner shops”. We moved quite a lot, buying a shop that was a bit rundown and rebuilding.

As a result I attended several primary schools including Camp Hill, Stafford and Sherwood. I finished my education in Brisbane and began working in the city.

After I married, my husband and I and two small sons moved to Kingaroy with Education Queensland. Then it was back to Brisbane for a couple of years.

Our next posting was Mirani, west of Mackay, where we spent seven happy years before returning to Brisbane, where our sons were attending university.

I worked in the city again, firstly for a newspaper company and then managing a large physiotherapy clinic in Edward Street.

In 1998 we were transferred to Atherton and after my husband retired from Atherton High School we started the Kip McGrath Education Centre, which we still operate.

I have been involved in several organisations over the years and am currently president of Soroptimist International Tropical Tablelands, a women's service club.

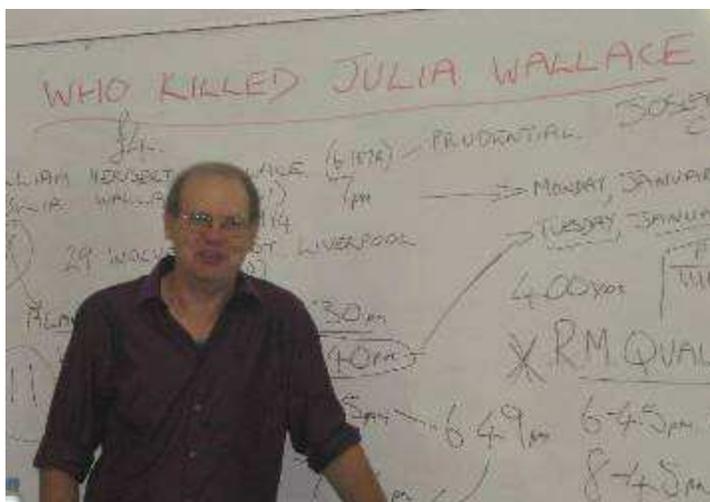
## out and about

### **. . . playing detective**

#### **Unsolved Mysteries, with Ken Cotterill**

Who Killed Julia Wallace? Well, we still don't know! Ken presented us with all the facts and, after much questioning and discussion, I'm afraid it is still unsolved! Half the group thought it was the husband, William Wallace, and the other half thought it was his co-worker, Alan Parry. Although this murder took

place in 1931, it is still an open case and termed "the perfect murder"! Several books have been written presenting different authors' views but even though William Wallace was originally convicted, he was released on appeal as all the evidence was circumstantial. This was the second unsolved crime talk that Ken has presented. How interesting these sessions have been — and the brain gets a good workout as



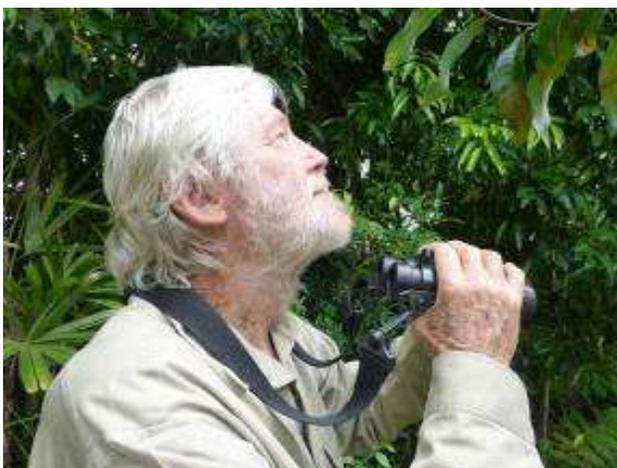
Hmmm. . . Geoff Cooney and Denise Vrengoer, top left, and Bev Massimo and Averil Douglas ponder the evidence presented by Ken Cotterill, above, in the Julia Wallace mystery.

well! Thank you Ken for such a wonderful series of presentations. **Jane Duncanson**

### . . . in our environment

#### **Ecology of the Wet Tropics, with Dr John Winter**

How lucky we are at U3AAT to have presenters of the calibre of Dr John Winter! John is a wildlife ecologist with 40 years' experience in far north Queensland, and an adjunct associate professor at James Cook University. A mammal specialist, John has been awarded for his contribution to fauna conservation in Cape York and the Wet Tropics.



#### **Mammal expert Dr John Winter**

Years ago, an old friend, Dr Len Webb (an eminent botanist and environmentalist), said that everything in our environment is "hitched on" to everything else. John Winter has reinforced this notion with his explanations of how the geology, flora and fauna of the Wet Tropics are hitched onto each other. John encouraged us to participate in discussions and to share information about our experiences. Where had we spotted the Lumholtz tree kangaroo, the Atherton antechinus or the musky rat kangaroo? From these three sessions we learned a heap and enjoyed every minute of the learning. John is next scheduled to present two sessions on the marsupial gliders of north Queensland, which will include a field trip to hopefully observe these beautiful creatures in the wild. I can't wait! **Pamela Herriott**

The three sessions for U3AAT examined the relationship between and interdependence of the geology and landform of the region, the vegetation, and the distribution of the mammals endemic to the area.

It was fascinating to learn about the bioregions of the World Heritage Wet Tropics area, which stretches from Cooktown to Townsville, and the environmental processes that influence its ecosystems.

John's sessions were informative and well illustrated through PowerPoint presentations, maps, geological samples, wildlife trivia quizzes and even a field excursion to Halloran's Hill, where we could identify the landforms and begin to understand the geological composition of the landscape and the soils, and their importance in the formation of our natural environment.

**Looking Closely and the Art of Biodiversity, a photographic exhibition by Stan and Kaisa Breeden from their book, Rainforest Country**

Stan and Kaisa presented a detailed and interesting talk for U3AAT on their photos at the Atherton Regional Gallery and explained how their photographs evolved using different focus shots and a processing called photo-stacking. This resulted in really detailed photographs that were truly works of art.

**Jane Duncanson**

**Kaisa Breeden explains the photographic technique she and Stan use to produce such stunning images as these of plants pods**



**... considering the big issues**

**Helen Myles and John Winter** also attended David Turnbull's course, Ethics is for Everyone. They write:

David defined ethics as a quest for good and judgments. He proposed that ethics is about everything that might be conceivably called "good" or worthwhile getting involved in.

A sizeable group of U3A members participated in these sessions and those seeing the course through to its end avidly engaged in discussion about the topics covered. These have included:

- beginning of life
- quality of life
- living with disabilities
- family issues
- end of life
- euthanasia
- the human condition
- moral responsibility -- praise and blame, rewards and punishment, innocence and guilt
- being with others and being alone

The classes often started with some theory proposed by David, followed by wide-ranging discussion, including the sharing of personal stories. As the course progressed, participants became more comfortable about raising issues of concern to them and gained more understanding of the process whereby they could choose their own position on the issues being discussed.

Thinking about these issues can be approached from four dimensions, from outward looking to increasingly more inward looking:

- agency (living well on the planet)
- person (living well within the community)
- self (living with self-respect and dignity)
- spirit (living in connection with the universe)

### . . . In Pamela's kitchen

#### **Cook! Chat! Eat! Presented by Pamela Herriott and chef Michael Braund.**

Pamela Herriott repeated her popular cooking series at the wonderful location of River House. It was a relaxing and enjoyable morning learning about Thai cuisine, which, to be honest, I don't normally cook. I have learned that Thai food does not have to be super hot and that the flavour of herbs and spices is very important.

Pamela sourced all of the herbs from her garden and chef, Michael, explained how to professionally cut and trim chillies and limes to get the best flavour. And then, the best part of all, we all sat down to a wonderful relaxing lunch eating the food we made.

**Jane Duncanson**

**Herbs are the essence of freshness in Thai cooking, as Janet Mensinga, left, Chris and Sue Yeo, Cassandra Harvey, Jane Duncanson, Denise Vrenegoor and Terry Faber learn from presenter Pamela Herriott, right.**



### . . . at the U3A state conference

#### **Glyn Davies reports**

I begin this account with a sincere compliment. This year's Queensland Network Conference at Toowoomba on April 23-24 was brilliantly conceived and just as brilliantly executed. Some 80 people attended, from as far afield as Britain, Victoria and South Australia. Deanna and I represented the most northerly U3A in Australia. The conference title was "High Country Encounter, Autumn, the Third Season", and each element has significance. Toowoomba is undoubtedly elevated above the coastal plain, a place for cooling breezes in summer, and a mountain retreat for the Queensland Governor, Lord Lamington, who chose to spend his summers there. In 1900, he served to his guests the very first lamingtons. Then again, the conference was held in autumn, for attendees who were largely in the autumn years of their lives. And finally, like all of us in U3A, they were enjoying the third season of their lives, not yet in their winter, but summer and spring had passed them by. All these connotations were neatly summed up in a delightful new Shakespearian sonnet based on Keats's *Ode to Autumn*, specially composed for the conference, and read out to great acclaim.

Gabbinbar Homestead, constructed in 1863 and set in a lush sub-tropical park, was the conference setting. Sir Hugh Nelson (Premier of Queensland 1893 – 1898) and his good lady wife gave the opening speeches. Well, it wasn't them to be precise, but members of Toowoomba U3A dressed in period costume, acting out a brief sketch. It was a dramatic welcome. There followed a fine selection of speakers who addressed the audience on topics ranging from the history of Toowoomba and its importance as the gateway to the Darling Downs, its businesses, and especially its horticulture, to the controversial presence of Australian troops in Iraq and Afghanistan in an unforgettable address by Major-General John Cantwell, (retired) AO, DSC. Never a dull speech among them. Then, for added variety, there was a Q&A style panel discussion (with questions from the audience) on topics like "Communities of the



### **Delegates get to know each other outside Gabbinbar Homestead at the state conference in May**

Twenty-First Century”, “Is U3A the meaning of life?”, “How to keep up with Technology” and “The Future of U3A in an Electronic Age”. There were small-group workshops on fund-raising and grant-seeking, on tutor co-ordination and induction, on croquet and tai chi, and there was a tour of the Gabbinbar homestead and its gardens. To cap off the excellent morning and afternoon teas, at a conference dinner in the Conservatory fine dining was accompanied by the dulcet tones of a male *a capella* group called High Altitude Harmony, some of whose members were hardly out of short pants! All this for a very reasonable conference registration fee (including dinner) of less than \$100 per person.

The matter of copyright (see box at right) has obviously been taken seriously by Toowoomba and some other Queensland U3As – with the result that some of them have 40 or more activity groups running at any one time, whereas we on the Atherton Tableland have a proliferation of small single-focus clubs. What a range of activity choices Toowoomba and similar U3As have for their members! And what a range of benefits as well. It’s no wonder that, while seniors clubs of one kind or another seem to be losing membership and folding right across Australia, the very reverse holds true for the U3A groups across the country.

*Grey Matters*, the online newsletter of the network, is a good read, and easily obtained at <https://sites.google.com/site/u3anetworkqld/home> . Look for the newsletters tag on the left panel of your screen.

### **Where to from here?**

I am sometimes asked what the benefits are to us on the Atherton Tableland of belonging to the Queensland Network. There could be no better answer to this question than attendance at the annual state conference. The facts are that 25 of the 32 branches in Queensland are members, the network’s officers work tirelessly to promote U3A throughout the state to governments both state and local, to lobby for our interests, and to assist (as they did with U3AAT) in the formation of new branches. The network contributes further to our well-being by communicating government decisions that affect us, promoting regional get-togethers, and sharing information. Deanna and I came away with an expanded vision of what our U3A might be. We have ideas about refreshing our course offerings with new additions to the existing line-up. In our first two years, we’ve done well at U3AAT, very well. But we can do even better, by providing even more — more services, more learning opportunities and more social functions. We can look

to obtain more discounts and other financial benefits for our members; the bigger our membership, the more readily available they will become. We can look to meet our fellow branch members in Townsville and Cairns at regional get-togethers, and as a North Queensland network, we can consider sponsoring the formation of new branches in Innisfail, Mareeba, Mossman and Port Douglas. I strongly advise *L&L* readers to consider joining an FNQ U3A touring party to attend the next network conference to be hosted by the Redlands U3A in Cleveland, near Brisbane, in June, 2014. I have placed a folder containing information about the Redlands Conference in Room 6 of the Atherton Community Centre. It's worth more than a glance. Deanna and I want you to share our excitement at being part of a friendly, invigorating group of networking Third Agers.

### . . . with the Happy Snappers

**Club members rose to the challenge of a variety of assignments this semester, from capturing the textures of Granite Gorge, above right, by Bev Massasso, to being creative with flour and eggs, by Peter Jones . . .**



### Copyright: what you need to know

Representatives of the Australian Copyright Agency and the Australian Performing Rights Association. emphasised that even educational institutions such as U3A **must** hold licences for the use of copyrighted material and for performances on stage and screen.

*There is no blanket approval for anyone to freely use copyright material of any kind; any unlicensed use of such material is illegal and subject to heavy fines.* Fortunately for educational institutions a licence is available for about \$100 a year and covers a wide range of printed material, including photographs. A separate licence is required for the use of film, video clips, music performance and so on. We have legal obligations regarding the use of anyone's copyrighted work as part of our lecture programs, but we can gain special permission to reproduce materials or performances under an umbrella licence. For instance, if U3A were to run a dance class using recorded music, or sponsor a choral group performing from copyrighted sheet music, or mount a lecture program on the works of a particular writer, an educational institution licence would cover the activity.

There is a case for U3As to make an arrangement with other community groups to consider their activities becoming sponsored by a U3A branch. Such groups could save themselves a lot of money and heartache by scheduling their activities within the timetable for existing U3A activities. They would then be covered for their use of copyright material and their performances. They would also be covered for public liability under insurance which U3A Qld Network has for all its member branches at a very low cost per member (about 20c, currently).

## coming up

### The Thursday Book Club

U3AAT is starting up a book club – matching the ABC's Tuesday Book Club on a Thursday!

Helen Myles is coordinating the setting up and the Tableland Regional Library will supply 10 books every six weeks, so the number in the club is restricted to 10. Four people have already expressed interest in participating.

The Thursday Book Club will meet every six weeks, beginning on August 1.

If this idea interests you, think about the following:

- What would you want from a book club – literary discussion, socialisation, serious literary debate or light-hearted discussion?
- There is list of 49 titles to choose from for each six-weekly meeting
- Someone will lead the discussions
- Be prepared to push yourself beyond saying “I liked it” or “I didn't like it” — add a “because” or two!
- Trust your opinions and support them with passages from the book
- Be willing to read books that aren't your usual choice
- Be challenged by the interaction and discussion with fellow book lovers

Enjoy yourself!

If you are interested in joining, please contact our Course coordinator, Jane Duncanson, on [info@athtablends.u3anet.org.au](mailto:info@athtablends.u3anet.org.au), so that we know ahead of time if we have to seek participants outside U3AAT membership.

## in the pipeline

The program committee is busy working on next semester's offerings David Turnbull's Ethics lectures will continue throughout August and September; the Harringtons will present talks on bird identification and How to Direct a Play. Alf Hogan's daughter, Kathryn, may find a time slot in her busy schedule to talk about sleep apnoea. Averil Douglas is contacting possible presenters for talks about gardening or conducting tours through open gardens, and is also looking for a presenter to talk about dementia. Due to popular demand, Jane Duncanson will again present Savvy Travel, a revised and updated version of previous lectures.

## member's story

### *Dream*

by Clyde Cook

(This has lately become one of those recurring dreams, a non-frightening one for a change. I have had it three or four times now so decided to write it down so that you will know about it if, one of these nights, it should become more than a dream.)

I'm back in New Guinea and about the age I was when I came here. I'm dressed for war and carrying

## working together

The Arts Council Tablelands (TACTIC) offers U3A members the opportunity to join its bus trips to Cairns for concerts, shows and other events, as well as seats and priority information on the events it brings to the Tablelands.

On Saturday, August 3, for example, TACTIC is bringing to the Atherton High School Hall what promises to be a really interesting and enjoyable show, *Waltzing Our Matilda*.

The show is a theatrical journey through the wonderful music and history of Queensland as told by the legendary Australian poet, Banjo Patterson and features classic Australian songs and some little known gems from some of our greatest singers,



Liz Skitch in *Skitch Tease*

such as Dame Nellie Melba, Peter Dawson and Gladys Moncrieff. Contact TACTIC or our Mareeba representative Anne

Davis for more information on this show and those coming up, including a concert pianist like no other and a hilarious comedy cabaret act called *Skitch Tease*.

my Owen gun. The jungle to both sides of the track is silent except for the occasional sound of a bird. There is no longer the noise of warfare I have been used to ever since I walked into the ranges so long ago and I'm still not sure of what is happening or why I'm walking alone I'm walking a track along a mountain ridge as I seem to have been doing as long as I can remember. It's wet underfoot as always but not raining and there are a few pockets of mist in the hollows where the ridge plunges down to the distant creeks so far below that I can barely hear their rush over the rapids.

I walk up a long slope until I reach a crest. There is a clearing just over the crest and sitting or squatting around a fire I see a group of people, twenty or more. I know them all, by name except two who came late to the platoon and whose names I had deliberately avoided knowing because somehow that made it easier when they were killed or wounded.



I keep walking until I reach where they are sitting around a fire.

Charlie Malone grins at me and says 'You took your time getting here.'

The others endorse his words with assenting noises and grins. They seem happy that I've joined them.

I feel surprise and relief at that because somewhere in my memory, in a place I can't quite reach, I seem to recall that there's a reason why some of them shouldn't be pleased to see me.

'Get your gear off and get warm,' Arthur says, 'we'll be pushing off soon, now that we're all present again.'

I do that and squat near the fire. We are, as always, comfortable with each other and there is nothing out of place in the fact that we are mostly silent and reflective After a while Charlie gets to his feet. It is only then that I notice that none of them have weapons or web equipment He speaks quietly and they are familiar words, ones I have heard many times

'Right, you blokes, time we weren't here.'

I stand up and reach for my equipment and weapon but Charlie says, 'Leave them. You won't need them any more.'

The others are watching me. I look from face to face, knowing that I love each man there. These are my brothers, closer than my family ever were. Arthur nods in affirmation of Charlie's words. Bob and Dick and Frankie and Peter and the others grin at my expression before they turn from the fire and begin moving away..

I've followed Charlie without question for as long as I've known him so I'm at peace as I join them. As we walk along the mountain track I look back. The fire is a bed of red coals and my Owen gun and equipment lie beside it. There is a body there as well and I know without any surprise that it's mine.

I stop.

Arthur, who is walking beside me as he so often did, touches my shoulder. 'You won't need that either,' he says quietly.

'But,' I begin, 'Why just me? What about. . .'

'Sorry, I thought you'd remember,' he said, 'we left ours a while back.'

I look at the others and begin to remember. And then I wake.

## other ways to learn

### U3A Online

To check on other U3A Online courses please go to [www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au) and click on '**Courses**' in the left-hand panel and then on '**Looking Ahead**' from the drop-down list.

### U3A Cairns

Financial members of U3AAT have reciprocal rights with any other U3A group in Queensland. For example, Tableland members can attend Cairns courses. You'll find all the information you need about U3A in Cairns at [www.u3acairnsinc.org.au](http://www.u3acairnsinc.org.au), or phone Cairns Course Coordinator Frederika Hatley (4036 4263).

### JCU

Members are entitled to sit in on JCU courses. There is no charge and no awards are given. Details about JCU subjects can be obtained from the JCU website. When you know the name, subject code and course co-ordinator's name contact JCU's U3A coordinator, Judith Woods, at [judith@ruello.com](mailto:judith@ruello.com) or on 4059 0836.

## keep in touch

### Inquiries

Email [info@athtablends@u3anet.org.au](mailto:info@athtablends@u3anet.org.au) or write to U3AAT, PO box 928, Atherton, Qld 4883.

You can also contact us via the website, [athtablends.u3anet.org.au](http://athtablends.u3anet.org.au).

### Course inquiries and enrolment:

Jane Duncanson, email [courses@athtablends.u3anet.org.au](mailto:courses@athtablends.u3anet.org.au) or 4096 6693

### James Cook University

For information contact course co-ordinator, Judith Woods, [judith@ruello.com](mailto:judith@ruello.com) or telephone 4059 0836.

## make your day

