



## Contact us

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## Upcoming events

**Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** ..... Christmas Party  
**Tuesday, Feb. 17<sup>t</sup>** ..... Enrolment Day

## The U3A Council

This is your Council for 2015.  
Positions for President, secretary and treasurer have yet to be assigned.

Lyn Hellier: Programming  
Anne Del Fante  
Linda McKellar  
Francesca Neylon  
Jo Jennings  
Barry Dufall

### 2014 Council

Sandra Anne Lewis  
Nirala Hunt  
Carol Orchard  
Rae Martin  
Lyn Hellier

**Current Volunteers** Mitze Vermote, Gail  
McMahon, Peta Goodwin, Paula  
Christoffanini

## From the President

We celebrate another successful year for U3A Margaret River. Our membership has continued to increase and we now have over 80 members. Our new and continuing courses are proving popular. As always we strive to find new ideas and new members to come and share their knowledge and skills with us. I wish to congratulate and thank your Council members for the incredible work they are doing on your behalf. These four volunteers have been responsible for keeping your branch of U3A alive for another year.

In recent weeks we have been heartened to have several people offering to help in various ways to continue our work and we hope that we can fill our positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer so we can continue. Many thanks go to our tutors and volunteers who have assisted at various functions.

I am honoured to have been associated with and to serve with U3A Margaret River.

**Sandra Ann Lewis**



## *Christmas in the Vineyard*

*Treeton Estate Winery*

*Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec*

*4.30 to 7pm*

## Enrolment Day is Coming:

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

**10.00 – 12.00**

**Wine Classroom 10**

**Margaret River Education Campus**

Please note that you must be a current member to enrol in courses.

Paying your membership before enrolment day will mean faster processing on the day.

Use the 2015 membership form attached to your newsletter email or call in to the office on Friday morning.

*Join us to celebrate the festive season and a successful year*

*Soft drink and nibbles are provided.*

*Wine can be purchased by the bottle or glass.*

***One guest only please***

***RSVP is essential - call or email by Thursday***

***November 27***

***[admin@u3amr.org.au](mailto:admin@u3amr.org.au)***

## Mitze - our chess queen

*This is Mitze Vermote's story of how she came to offer a course in chess for beginners last semester.*



Having learnt chess from my Dad as a youngster and then forgotten all about it for 40 years, (as you do), my interest in the "Game of Kings" was revived when I went to Bali recently.

I had gone there to volunteer with the Animal Welfare Association but soon discovered that their protocol to prevent cross infection, both from animal to animal and animal to workers left a great deal to be desired. So decided not to risk some intractable skin disease or rabies. And there I was by myself with nothing to do for 2 months. It turned out to be a lovely time, wandering randomly about, eating too much yummy Italian ice-cream, dancing salsa till the sweat was flying and playing "pavement chess" with the local gentry.

When I came to live in Margaret River I couldn't find anyone to practice chess with, so I opted to run a course in basic chess for U3A and that way maybe find a worthy opponent or two, after all anyone who knows the moves and rules is already worthy enough to challenge me. Well to my surprise 8 intrepid women turned up! We had a ball. Well I did, while they had a rather intensive learning curve to get under their belts. The determination and concentration of the group was astounding.

Now that the classes are all done, we're going to play "cafe chess" at Yahava every Wednesday from 2 to 4pm.

It won't be long before they cotton on that they can beat me into the ground. Anyone is welcome to come along and have a go.

## One Bird

*It takes one bird  
to make the bare branch  
tremble;  
it takes one bird  
to make the whole tree  
sing;  
it takes one bird  
to make the grey sky  
blue again;  
it takes one bird  
to tell the world  
it's Spring!*



Molly Hall

## Office hours have changed

The office at MR Community Centre is now open from 10am until 12.00 every Friday except public holidays. We are available to answer your queries, sign up members, hear your suggestions and gratefully accept any cake and coffee and offers of help.

The office is located on the back verandah (through the building towards the Childcare and Library.)

Come and say hello!

## Gotta Laugh...

When I was ready to check out and pay for my groceries the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me." Making a mental note so I could complain to my local MP about this unnecessary security rubbish, I did just as she instructed.

After the shrieking and hysteria finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should position my credit card.

Needless to say, I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions a little clearer for seniors. 😊

## Claire Timmons



### The Great Composers

I have been involved in the teaching of music for many years. When my children were learning piano, cello, violin and viola in London, I was a parent representative on the British Suzuki Institute committee. Last year, when I stopped to chat at the U3A stall at the Agricultural Show, I liked the idea of joining U3A and getting to know other people through their interest in life-long learning. After a bit of thought I had an idea for a class that I could give.

I had been listening to some wonderful audio books by Jeremy Siepmann in his series "The Life and Works of the Great Composers". They combine a brilliantly written (and researched) life story of each composer with examples of his music. At home I listen every day to classical FM but I have never had a good handle on who was who and what their individual stories were. Now I had found a fabulous way to get to know the great composers and their music.

These days, with access to first-rate audio books and online content, we have the unprecedented opportunity to learn by what I call "intentional listening", i.e. when you set out to study something by listening (repeatedly if necessary). It is particularly relevant for the study of music, as music is sound. I teach classical guitar by the Suzuki method and the key to this method is that the student listens repeatedly to the repertoire at home so that they get to know exactly how each piece of music sounds before trying to play it. I also recommend studying by listening in general - because it is usually much easier to find time (and therefore complete the task) if we listen rather than read - e.g. when walking the dog, in the car or doing chores.

The 5 week course runs like a book club. We listen to 2 audio books at home and then get together to discuss and review /re-listen to them. I am keen on the review as it helps everyone remember and take away more

## Which bank? Will Bank!!

About 50 people attended an informative and interesting presentation by Etta from the Public Trustee office. This presentation was the last in our "Last Wishes" series. It made many of us re-think what we had written in our wills, whom we had selected for our executor and where we had stored our wills.

Some interesting dos and don'ts which I learned were:

### ***DON'T put your will in a Safety Deposit box at the bank.***

Why? Because the executor will need a certificate of Probate before the bank will give the executor access to the Safety Deposit box and (you guessed it!!) you can't get a grant of probate without providing the will!

### ***DON'T put your funeral wishes in your will***

Why? Because the funeral service is often organized and conducted well before the will is found or accessed.

### ***DO consider using the WILL BANK.***

The Public Trustee's WA Will Bank is a community service that keeps original WA wills in a purpose-built, fireproof vault. It also scans and electronically stores the will for added security. You can either lodge the Will yourself at the Perth location or send it by registered mail. Include your original Will, deposit form and certified copies of 2 types of identification. There is no charge for this service.

An enjoyable morning tea after the presentation gave us a chance to catch up with friends.

Carol Orchard

## Cont...

from the course.

In May we studied Haydn and Verdi and in November Chopin and Dvorak. Interestingly, through the composers' lives, we are discovering not just about them and their music but about their wider world. We have gained historical insight into all sorts of aspects of life in Europe from 1750 to 1900, including for example the impact of the French revolution and Napoleon. If there is sufficient interest I would like to continue the course next year and cover Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Schubert, and Bach, or Mozart, Liszt or Brahms.