



## President's Report

What a start to the first quarter of 2021! COVID restrictions have been slowly wound back and an early Autumn began half way through February. The Bright Autumn Festival was partially cancelled yet the visitors continued to arrive. Most of our U3A activities have restarted in some fashion , and our AGM will go ahead on the 16th of April only two and a half months later than usual.

Zooming has continued to dominate the U3A Victoria agenda. Congratulations to our French Group who were one of the first U3As to stay "open" through zooming.

There will be at least one, maybe two positions on our committee vacant for 2021, so if you are interested in standing for the committee of management please contact myself or our secretary Kim to discuss your possible contribution.

**AUTUMN 2021**

# AGM Bright and District U3A

**The Bright District AGM will be held on**

**Sixteenth Day of April 2021**

**The meeting will be held at the  
Bowls Club, Churchill Ave, Bright at 10am**

**Due to the fluid nature of COVID-19 Restrictions it has been decided that there will be no catering on the day.**

**If you wish to nominate for a position on the committee please use the form on the last page of this newsletter**

## U3A WRITERS GROUP

We currently meet on the second Thursday each month at 10:30am at U3A Headquarters; summer under the English oaks, winter inside around the big table. Rob Duncan is the current convenor.

Our present format is to present a short work (500 – 1000 words) of creativity composed over the past month on a topic chosen at the previous meeting. If the author invites it, comment and constructive criticism might be made, but the usual object and outcome is the creation of a novel description of a piece of life experience.

An example from our March 11 meeting when the topic was 'A CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE' is attached, as is 'THORNY, A CHILDRENS STORY'.

If you have an interest in joining the Writers Group, contact Rob Duncan; [brightduncan@bigpond.com](mailto:brightduncan@bigpond.com) or just turn up at our next meeting on April 8, 10:30 am.

Rob Duncan



## CONDOLENCES

*It's with great sadness that I have to let our U3A know that Sandra Correa, a lovely lady from Myrtleford & an outstanding & inspiring teacher of our Italian group, died last Friday.*

*A card has been sent to her partner Guido on behalf of our members.*

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*On behalf of Bright U3A, our condolences to Jenny and Nick Swanveldt on the loss of their son, Jamin.*

***May they Rest in Peace***

My quotation for this newsletter comes from Malala Yousafzai's memoir "I am Malala" written in 2013....

" I raise up my voice \_ not so I can shout but so that those without a voice can be heard. We cannot succeed when half of us are held back."

In 2014, aged 17, Malala became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Happy Autumn to all members and their families. See you at our AGM next month.

Roy Ward  
President



The Casual Cycling group of Bright U3A has 71 active members this year with a few standing in the wings thinking of joining and a couple of frustrated members stranded overseas waiting to get back to this beautiful area and reconnect with the group.

So far this year we have had mainly local rides, encouraging members gradually to ride longer distances and more varied rides. The social dynamics of the group have also been cemented, after a chaotic and fragmented calendar of rides last year, with an evening ride to Porepunkah for pizzas and a Sunday Session with partners, and not a soul riding, to a creek side location for drinks and nibbles.

The best riding effort in 2021 so far has been the “70 for 70” ride on March 19 when all those riders who had turned 70 in 2019, 2020 and 2021, plus any others who fancied the challenge attempted riding 70kms. Fourteen members over 70 successfully rode the 70 kms, while one added on 10kms because they had recently turned 80. Post ride celebrations finished off the day. The group is now looking forward to our week away ride in April “Albury Autumn Days” plus a mix of shorter local rides and “drive and ride” rides on a Tuesday and plenty of lunch rides and challenges in between.

Riders who completed “70 for 70” Helen Carlson, Roger Carlson, Sue van Winden, Arno van Winden, Kim Robinson, Ian Browne, Lorraine Shennan, Dennis Lambert, Ian Ellen, Dave Innes, Stephanie Duffy, Robin Duffy, Greg Withers, with Malcolm Millar completing 80 for 80.

If you are interested in joining the group please email [suevanwinden@gmail.com](mailto:suevanwinden@gmail.com)



## NON-FICTION INTEREST GROUP

### A COMBINED U3A BRIGHT AND MYRTLEFORD MONTHLY ACTIVITY

TIME: LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1.30PM

LOCATION: Yvonne and Roy Ward's house, 6703 Great Alpine Road, Porepunkah.

PHONE 5756 2371

email: yward13@gmail.com

There will be a different theme each month, and a featured book.

Hopefully a list will be available at the start of each term, but due to circumstances, may have to be varied. I invite suggestions of books and themes to be featured. To date we have had themes of Antarctic exploration, and Shakespeare.

The format will be:

Welcome

PART 1: a. Presentation by Speaker – including a summary of the featured book.

b. Discussion of the book and books on the the broader theme by everyone

PART 2: "Show and Tell" Bring along a non-fiction book that you have read (or would like to read), and tell the group about it...

PART 3: Notice for next meeting; Ideas for future themes; Refreshments ...

### THEMES AND FEATURED BOOKS FOR TERM 2

#### SESSION 1 28 APRIL 2021: HOAXERS, FORGERIES AND CHEATS

**Peter Hoystead and Pat Sheil, THE FINE COTTON FIASCO**; Anthony Grafton, FORGERS AND CRITICS; James Randi, THE TRUTH ABOUT URI GELLER; Michael Heyward, THE ERN MALLEY AFFAIR; Paul Maliszewski, FAKERS;

#### SESSION 2 26 MAY 2021: NATURE WRITING

**Bruce Pascoe, DARK EMU**; Don Watson, THE BUSH ; Henry DAVID Thoreau, WALDEN; Aldo Leopold, A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC; Keith Thomas MAN AND THE NATURAL WORLD; Edith Holden, NATURE NOTES OF AN EDWARDIAN LADY; Queen Victoria, LEAVES FROM THE JOURNAL OF OUR LIFE IN THE HIGHLANDS; Raynor Winn, THE SALT PATH; Robert MacFarlane, MOUNTAINS OF THE MIND, THE WILD PLACES and THE OLD WAYS; Nan Shepherd, THE LIVING MOUNTAIN; Margaret Fountaine, LOVE AMONG THE BUTTERFLIES; Sam Keith, ONE MAN'S WILDERNESS, AN ALASKAN ODYSSEY; John Muir, MY FIRST SUMMER IN SIERRA; Rachel Carson, SILENT SPRING; Rowena Farr, SEAL MORNING.

#### SESSION 3 BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS, PUBLISHING AND READING:

Alberto Manguel, A HISTORY OF READING; Michael Holyroyd, WORKS ON PAPER; Michael Dirda, BOOK BY BOOK; Jane Mount, BIBLIOPHILE; Stuart Kells, PENGUIN AND THE LANE BROTHERS, THE LIBRARY, A CATALOGUE OF WONDERS; Simon Winchester, THE SURGEON OF CROWTHORNE; Humphrey Carpenter, THE SEVEN LIVES OF JOHN MURRAY, THE STORY OF A PUBLISHING DYNASTY; Richard D, Altick, THE ENGLISH COMMON READER, A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE MASS READING PUBLIC, 1800-1900; Michael Legat, NON-FICTION BOOKS A WRITER'S GUIDE; Anthony Grafton, THE FOOTNOTE;



## THORNY – A CHILDRENS STORY

### Rob Duncan

The first thing I remember is struggling out of my soft egg shell and seeing my brothers and sisters crawling away up a sandy tunnel to a bright evening sky. I followed them into a gigantic world of red sand and stones and patches of prickly dry grass.

My siblings were motley yellow and brown, covered with scaly spikes and knobs and quickly disappeared into the background, well camouflaged among the stones and dry weeds.

I carefully stepped out of our nest hole, one foot at a time, across the warm sand, three steps forward, and then a sort of wobble back and forth, with my spiky tail turned straight up in the air. I had a big lump with spikes on the back of my neck, and when I put my head down, it looked like a scary battering ram. I knew then I was a Thorny Devil, not a very nice name for a gentle harmless little lizard, but my scientific species name; *Moloch horridus* is even worse. So I just call myself Thorny for short.

As I explored my new world I was worried. I had felt safe in my egg, food and moisture laid on, but now I felt hungry and thirsty and frightened of predators.

I could see a trail of busy little black ants carrying little logs of cut spinifex and suddenly felt very hungry. I licked one up with my short little tongue and it tasted good, so good in fact I went on licking up that ant trail, dozens of them, hundreds of them and then I didn't feel so hungry. But I was very thirsty after all those ants and there was no water in the dry sand.

As evening came on, a light dew dampened my skin, no drops big enough to drink, but enough to settle on my bumpy scales and spikes and slowly work along the valleys between my rows of scales, and along my neck to the soft spongy skin around my mouth. I licked and licked and like a face washer dipping in water, capillary action kept sucking in the dew from off my back.

Suddenly I knew I didn't have to worry about anything. After all, ants for food are everywhere, and every night dew falls for a drink of water, and my spikes and my neck lump with spines could scare of predators, and when I cross a road, my tail sticking straight up looks like it would spike a tyre, so cars go carefully around me.

Suddenly I feel really good in my new red sand world.



**Nomination Form for Committee Positions**

Return to the Secretary, Bright U3A Inc, PO Box 458, Bright 3741  
by 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 or hand in at the AGM 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Bright District**



Bright District U3A Inc. Reg A00433273

**Nomination for 2021 Committee**

I nominate.....(name) for the position of.....

Proposer..... Secondar.....

*Print name*

*Print name*

Signature.....Signature.....

I .....accept the nomination. Signature.....

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