

Jacaranda Journal

NEWSLETTER 1 2019

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A) PRETORIA

Email Address:
u3apretoria@gmail.com

Website:
http://www.u3a.org.za/U3A_PTA/PTA.htm

General meetings take place four times a year, 09:00 for 10:00, at NG Kerk Skuilkrans, cnr Cussonia Ave and Jan Alberts St, Val de Grace. GPS S25°44.580 E028°17.494.

Please adhere to the one-way flow of traffic around the church, absolutely essential for our safety!

The dates of the quarterly meetings for the 2019 are 28 February (AGM), 30 May, 25 July and 31 October.

The 2019 annual subscription is R100. Guests are welcome at a cost of R30 per event.

Payments can be made at quarterly meetings, or online (there is an application form on the website).

Banking Details:
Bank: NEDBANK
Branch: HATFIELD
Code: 160245
Acc. Name: U3A PRETORIA
Acc. No: 1602376972

A full list of courses and interest groups will be issued in February with an update in July.

One-day outings take place on a regular basis and longer excursions are also arranged.

You are encouraged to wear a name tag at every U3A event.

Contributions to the letter are most welcome. Please email U3A, subject: Editorial Team. A short English synopsis is requested if another (official SA) language is used.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

U3A Pretoria would like to wish you all a new year of stimulating and sociable membership. Reflecting on the variety of courses, the vibrant interest groups and the happy excursions we enjoyed last year, I'd like to compare your membership fee, which bought you access to four lectures with a 'cuppa' and biscuits thrown in, to these other R100 options: about six litres of petrol, or four cappuccinos, or one and a half movies (at pensioner's rates!). U3A is great value indeed. However, there are many South Africans who do not share our privileged lives, so the amendment last year to our constitution will enable us to add a voluntary 'Social / Environmental Conscience' element to our 2019 programme. Each Jacaranda Journal will focus on a project supported by the committee. This edition features the Residentia Homes for the Aged, details on page 5.



Let our U3A lead the way!

Gill Udal

TALK: 28 FEBRUARY 2019

ONE WORLD

Speaker: Jonathan Leeming

Social entrepreneur, professional speaker, conservationist and author, Jonathan Leeming offers unique insight into creating a sustainable future by teaching lessons from the natural world, to create opportunities for change, leadership and innovation. <http://jonathanleeming.com/about/>

REVIEW: HOPE CLARINET QUARTET

The final U3A meeting of 2018 proved to be different in quite a number of ways: It was the first held in the actual church building of the Skuilkrans NG Kerk, and also the first where members were treated to an all-male clarinet ensemble.

The enthusiastic leader of the quartet, Ayeku Ekundayo, introduced the other members of the quartet, viz. Vusi Blackscale Siwela, Jacob Sithole and Edwin Mitas. He explained the origin of the name of the quartet, the Hope Clarinet Quartet: Ayeku, who hails from Limpopo, specifically came to Pretoria in the hope of finding other clarinetists as there seems to be a virtual absence of such musicians there. Upon arriving in Pretoria, he made a few calls to concert masters of various orchestras. When Gerben Grooten introduced him to the other members of what became the Hope Quartet his hope became a reality.



The musical performance provided a diverse and wide listening spectrum, ranging from church music, classical works from different periods, to modern-day perennials, like The Entertainer, which elicited an encore. It is hard to believe that the young men had only been making music together for 10 days prior to their performance! And ... the cherry on the cake – listening to the sonorous, mellow sounds of a bass clarinet!

Gus de Villiers

MESSAGE FROM THE COURSE & INTEREST GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

First of all, I want to thank all the members who have so generously offered courses for our interest and enjoyment. This year we have a mixture of repeat courses for new members and those who missed them because of other commitments, as well as some new courses on offer.

Two courses from last year had such long lists of people who wanted to attend them that the presenters are working through the remaining people this year to give everyone a chance. Such stamina on the part of the presenters deserves a round of applause! We also have a new suggestion for an Interest Group: Photography. We are putting out feelers to see if there is sufficient interest to make it viable. The Economic Matters group started that way, and is now up and running.

Joining an Interest Group is a special pleasure because you get to meet once a month (or more often in the case of some groups) instead of just during the four times we have a general meeting each year. So you get to know people better, plus you gain stimulation, enjoyment and education in areas of interest to you. At the end of last year, I discovered how many of these groups made plans to celebrate together before the Christmas break, and how much their members are gaining through belonging to a group.

I am always hopeful that members will come forward with ideas for courses, and am presently contacting people who have said that they would be prepared to present a course. Course preparation needs time, so hopefully there will be even more new courses on offer in the second part of the year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas and suggestions. My email address is davenjen@mweb.co.za, and phone numbers: 012- 460 8270 / 082-923 7982. **Jenny Janisch**

FORTHCOMING EXCURSIONS

On 3 April we travel to the Civic Theatre to watch the Joburg Ballet perform Tchaikovsky's The Sleeping Beauty. Both outings offer members and their guests the opportunity to enjoy outstanding entertainment as a sociable group without the stress of driving to and from Johannesburg. **FULLY BOOKED**

Future visits planned are to

- the Anton Smit sculpture garden in Bronkhorstspuit (proposed date 16 May)
- and the Aloe Garden near the Hartbeespoort Dam either in late June or early July when the gardens are at their best (proposed date 27 June).

Also proposed is a walking / bus tour of old historic homes in Johannesburg in August.

Details will be available at the AGM.

Gill Udal

MEMORABLE MOMENTS (CONTINUED FROM NEWSLETTER 4 2018)

In the last edition of the Jacaranda Journal I recalled the 'Red Triangle' incident when I was asked to perform this function on a 10-lane highway behind our bus which had broken down on the N1 north just before the Allandale turn off.

This is episode 2 of that eventful journey: the transfer of about 40 passengers from bus 1 to bus 2, parked *after* the Allandale turnoff and only accessible via the offramps. Have you ever seen videos of sheepdogs attempting to herd undisciplined sheep? Try escorting a flock of vintage U3A-ers, all clutching handbags and each other as they lurched their way up the narrow exit, many somewhat affected by the amount of wine consumed at lunch. The greatest challenge, apart from rescuing the few who wobbled in front of cars sharing the same offramp, lay in climbing over the metal barrier which had been placed at the top of the road to prevent anyone from doing precisely what we were about to do, i.e. cross four lanes of traffic without the benefit of a pedestrian traffic light.

We all have visions of what angels are supposed to look like, usually dressed in flowing white robes with outspread wings. Ours materialised wearing lime green and purple, with outstretched arms to lift the less athletic over the barriers and to guide this group of unruly pensioners across the road and down the next ramp to the waiting bus. Thank you, Outsurance traffic controllers! You certainly were our guardian angels on that eventful day.

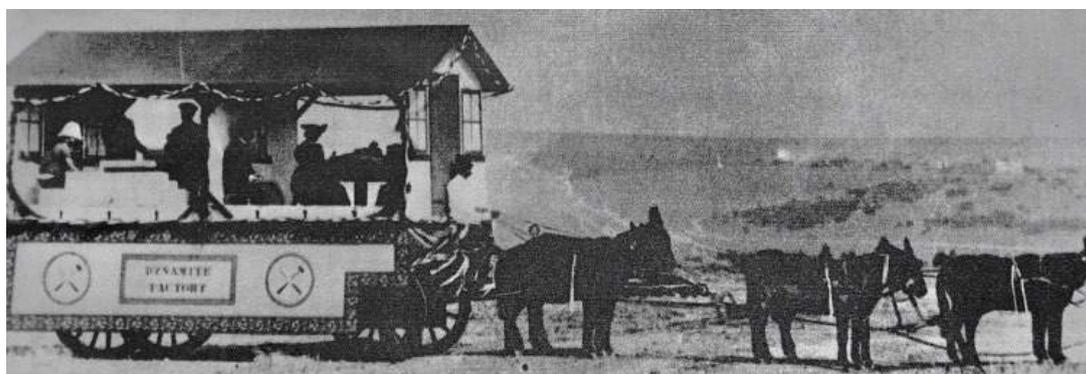
Gill Udal

AN INTEREST GROUP IN ACTION

Members of the **History Interest Group** are not historians, but share a love of history. Talks in 2018 covered fascinating subjects: History of English, Cleopatra, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Huguenots, Genghis Kahn, the Great War and more. For the first time all our speakers were History Group members. In the past three years we've also included an annual excursion. A visit to Melrose House was led by two members who had been voluntary guides at the house; a guided visit to the bowels of the African Window Cultural History Museum to see wonderful articles not generally on display. In 2017 we had a talk about Old Pretoria from our view point at Fort Klapperkop. This past year a pilot group visited Leeuwfontein. An excursion for 2019 is yet to be planned. Interest in the group has grown to the extent that we now have a waiting list for new members. **Felicia Fourie**



Several members of the group visited Rose Hendey's bushveld farm on the Edendale River in the Leeuwfontein district during 2018. The farm is of particular historic interest as it has several massive pits, each big enough to conceal a small building, which were used to store dynamite from the Leeuwfontein factory in the late 19th century. Remnants of old brick roads and buildings are also found on the farm, as well as military uniform buttons, glass bottles and other indications that soldiers were housed here in the late 1890s. Rose took the group for a fascinating walk around the farm and then treated everyone to a splendid tea on her verandah.



The black and white photographs, depicting a dynamite wagon and the factory staff in 1892, are from her archive. **Gill Udai**

TOURS FOR 2019

REPEAT VREDEFORT DOME TOUR

Participants will visit the central area of the 300-km-wide crater formed more than two billion years ago by meteorite impact, a World Heritage Site. The tour includes two full-day tours taking in the fascinating geological features in the area and historical Boer War sites on the Dome (details on <http://www.domeimpacttours.co.za/> and <http://www.otters.co.za/index.php/vredefort-dome/> respectively) both with well-qualified local guides.

The tour is based on the farm Deelfontein near Parys (see <http://www.deelfontein.co.za/>) and an evening will be spent stargazing far from city lights with the help of telescopes set up on the farm, the experience enhanced by a talk by an expert astronomer. Other activities will include visits to two Potchefstroom museums on the way down, a game drive and antique shopping in Parys, rounded off by lunch at beautiful O's restaurant on the banks of the Vaal (<http://www.osrestaurant.co.za/>).

This would be the fourth time the tour has taken place. Winter dates (around the New Moon) are chosen to suit the stargazing, and every effort will be made to keep costs as low as possible. The viability of the tour will depend on sufficient commitment by the end of March. For further details and to express your interest please contact Hilarie at hilarie0001@gmail.com.

SAKABULA TOURS

Anne Lawrance (U3A and Travel Club member) has several tours lined up for 2019. Brief itineraries of the following tours have already been sent out to members:

Groot Marico, 9-11 April
Music & Mountains, 11-17 May
Great North (KNP), 3-7 June
Diamonds, Dunes & Daisies, 21 August – 13 September
Mapungubwe & Azaleas, 9-13 September
Hinterland, 7-13 October

If you are interested in any of the tours please deal directly with Anne at anne@sakabula.com or at 012 460 5251. She will also be in attendance to field your questions at the AGM on 28 February.

Anne writes: 'At this stage I would like an expression of interest – people should get in touch with me I think, as this might be the easiest. I don't expect any commitment at this stage. Once I know how many are interested, I'll go ahead and prepare the quotes. I'd actually like to meet with the interested parties – perhaps they could come here to my home – so that I can find out everyone's interests and tweak or change the itinerary before finalising the quote. As far as possible we'll use self-catering accommodation in order to reduce costs but there will normally be restaurants nearby and I am prepared to do the preparation and cooking, where necessary. For example, in the Kruger Park most people like to have a braai – everyone can chip in for the cost of what is braaied and it can be bought here before leaving as it's less expensive than in KNP. I usually like to have an early morning coffee in my room but we could also share who brings tea, or coffee, or sugar etc.'

PROPOSED BOOK EXCHANGE



Do you have a good book that you've really enjoyed reading and would like to share with other U3A members? Bring it along to the AGM and put it onto the table provided for this purpose. Write your name and contact number inside if you would like it returned to you. You are welcome to take home any other book contributed by members to our new U3A Book Exchange. Please note that this is a reading group and not a venue to dispose of your unwanted book collection!

Gill Udal

During a recent visit to the UK Gill noticed this tiny lending library (an enterprising use of a now sadly redundant British icon) that works wholly on the basis of trust. The idea is for borrowers to either replace or return books they take out. Have a look at

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1232331/The-red-phone-box-Britains-smallest-library.html>.

DVD LIBRARY

New DVDs include Simon Schama's *The Story of the Jews* and *The Face of Britain*; Simon Sebag Montefiore's *Jerusalem*; *The Royal Box* (*The Young Victoria*, *The King's Speech* and *The Queen*); and the outstanding film recently on circuit, *They Shall Not Grow Old*.

John Lambert

SOS!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The **second-hand bookshop located at the Princess Christian Home** in Nieuw Muckleneuk (see Newsletter 4 2018) urgently requires the assistance of a volunteer who doesn't mind getting their hands dirty sorting books twice a month in the Book Store with a team of four others on a Tuesday morning, working on the last Saturday morning of each month at our sale, (need not necessarily be the whole morning, times can be decided) and being available to help out occasionally in the shop on a Saturday morning. For more information, please Whatsapp or SMS Pat at 083 653 0994.

Martha Pretorius

COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE

RESIDENTIA FOUNDATION: TAKING CARE OF THE AGED IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Residentia Foundation was founded by the Reformed Church in 1957 in Sunnyside and provides accommodation and other services to almost 2000 older persons and provides income to almost 800 employees in fourteen facilities for the aged throughout the country. (See also <https://www.residentia.co.za/>.)

Although Residentia has a few facilities which have life rights, the majority provide care for people who are not able to afford these and who do not qualify for the State Old Age grant. These people fall between the cracks and so Residentia, in these challenging economic times, takes care of them.

According to CEO Joe Duvenage, Residentia faces several challenges: Government does not see services to older persons as a priority. Churches that supported the organisation have also grown old and are not able to donate and support as generously as they did previously. Insufficient maintenance of buildings in the past creates problems for today. The new minimum wage had a tremendous effect on the organisation's budget. While Residentia also believes that staff must earn a proper wage, the sudden jump had a negative influence on residents and also on its financial sustainability and security.

The retirement homes and care facilities in the countryside are battling even more to make ends meet.

A list of their needs was sent to the Committee, and it brought home to us how fortunate many of us are. Most of the homes sent in a list of their needs. The most expensive item, needed by Palm-Oord in Bethal is a convection oven of R53 000, while Bethulie needs items such as blankets, pillows, sheets, drinking glasses, soup bowls, and basic items for their kitchen. Their bedding and crockery have been in use for approximately 20 years. Another facility was asking for plastic bowls with lids, and Huis Hermon in Pretoria North needs blood pressure apparatus on stands as well as medicine trolleys.

Receiving the list has been a humbling experience and it is satisfying that we have, in some small measure, been able to help such a worthy cause.

Rae Labuschagne

**PLEASE CONTACT RESIDENTIA IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST IN YOUR PERSONAL CAPACITY.
THEIR NPO NUMBER IS 001-651.**

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Jacaranda Jottings...

U3A PRETORIA HAS A NEW LOGO!

Before you say 'but I voted for number 3 last year', that vote was for the emblem used on the title page of our beautiful Jacaranda Journal. A logo has different design elements, including: it must be unique to and characterise the organisation or product with which it is associated; and it must be reproducible in black and white, or in colour, and on any scale from postage stamp size to highway billboard. The emblem chosen for the Journal (see the next slot), is a photograph and as such is not an original image, nor does it reproduce well in black and white on the smaller scale ideal for a printed letterhead.



The international logo for U3A (left) consists of three building blocks in a straight line. Our previous logo modified that design slightly (right).



The horizontal profile of the Union Buildings was proposed but has been used by several other organisations already so would not be unique to U3A Pretoria.

Here are the logos of some other South African U3As, left to right - West Rand, Cape Town and Johannesburg:



While the West rand logo, depicting the Witpoortjie waterfall and Verreux eagle synonymous with the region, fulfils all the requirements of an appropriate logo, the other two share the same font, which has also been used by several other U3As, and although they work on a website, do not reproduce well in black and white on a letterhead.

Our new logo (below) is based on an original water colour by one of our members, Janet Hughes. We will display this at the AGM on 28 February so you can admire Janet's beautiful painting at first hand.



We decided to combine our previous logo, part of U3A Pretoria's history since the inception in 2002, with Janet's Union Building image. As you can see, it also adapts very well to a letterhead. We will also use this image on our website as our official logo in 2019.

We would like to thank everyone who offered alternative designs and suggestions. Your interest has been really appreciated. And we'd like to congratulate Janet on her exceptional design. U3A is privileged to have so many skilled artists among its members!

Gill Udal



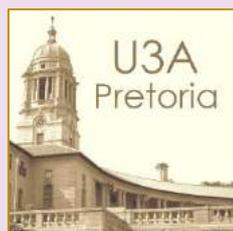
OWN YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Thank you, everyone who cast a vote to choose the future emblem for the Jacaranda Journal. Emblem 3, featuring both jacarandas and the Union Buildings, won by an overwhelming majority! Here are the final tallies:

EMBLEM 1: 12 VOTES



EMBLEM 2: 7 VOTES



EMBLEM 3: 88 VOTES



EMBLEM 4: 38 VOTES

