



# Jacaranda Journal



NEWSLETTER 2 2018

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Website:

[http://www.u3a.org.za/U3A\\_PTA/PTA.htm](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!**

Dates of the quarterly meetings for the rest of 2018 are 31 May, 26 July and 25 October.

The 2018 annual subscription is R100. Guests are welcome at a cost of R30 per event.

Payments can be made at quarterly meetings, or online.

Banking Details:

Bank: NEDBANK

Branch: HATFIELD

Code: 160245

Acc. Name: U3A PRETORIA

Acc. No: 1602376972

A full list of courses and interest groups was issued in February with an update coming 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.

To contribute to the quarterly newsletter please email U3A, with subject Editorial Team.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I hope that you enjoyed reading the fascinating facts and figures about U3A International as much as I had fun researching them. What surprised me was the number of scholarly articles extolling the mental, emotional, physical and social benefits which U3A has offered to retired people all over the world. The smiling faces at our courses, excursions and meetings bear testimony to all the academic research. U3A-ers live longer and are happier!

Gill Udal



## OVERVIEW OF THE AGM HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY

I would like to thank all the present and past committee members who worked as a team to make the 16th AGM of U3A Pretoria such a success in our spacious, comfortable new venue. For those of you who were unfortunately not able to be present, here are some of the highlights of the morning. We welcomed a record number of new members who were able to share our enjoyment of the richly illustrated talk by John Lambert on Ecclesiastical Art and Architecture in Medieval English Churches.

The annual report revealed that our finances are sound, due to the sterling efforts of Treasurer Ken Brown. A total of 25 courses and eight interest groups provided stimulation to members in 2017. Jenny Janisch and her committee are to be congratulated for persuading so many members to share their expertise in this way. Six excursions to a variety of local venues were very well supported throughout the year. The Travel Club organised a third Vredefort Dome 'star-gazing long weekend'.

We are also moving into the digital age with an illustrated e-newsletter, the Jacaranda Journal, designed and created by Hilarie Riphagen. Helga Nordhoff has designed an attractive new website, and Ray Spencer has ensured that we can also be found on Facebook!

The meeting concluded with a sociable outdoor tea, capably organised in an unfamiliar environment by Gerda Rautenbach.

U3A offers very special opportunities to meet and make new friends, and to share 'Third Age' interests and activities, so please diarise 31 May for the next quarterly get together at NG Kerk Skuilkrans. We look forward to seeing you there.

Gill Udal

## UPCOMING TALK 31 MAY

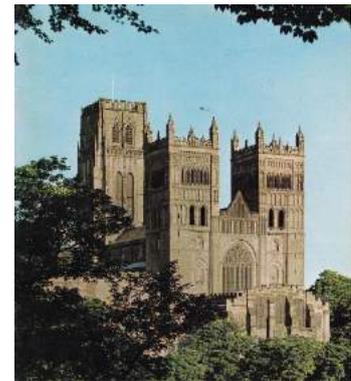
**100 and not out!**

**Speaker: Rae Labuschagne**

At the general meeting on 31 May Rae will be looking at centenarians and why this special group of people are receiving so much attention from researchers.

## FOR THOSE WHO MISSED IT...

It was a privilege and a pleasure to experience the illustrated talk on **Ecclesiastical Art and Architecture: England's Medieval Churches** by John Lambert. John studied History and Theology at Natal University in Pietermaritzburg in the 1960s. Medieval history and religion formed part of the curricula, beginning a life-long love of the Middle Ages. At Unisa he lectured in Medieval history and introduced his students to the creative achievements of the Middle Ages including art, literature and theology. Obviously ecclesiastical art and architecture played a prominent role. He was also a founder member and occasional chairman of the Unisa Medieval Association.



In his talk John traced the architectural and artistic development of England's medieval churches from their origins during Britain's late Roman period through the later architectural periods from Saxon to Romanesque and then the various forms of Gothic. To illustrate his talk, he used both his own and other photographs of many churches and cathedrals that he has visited over a fifty-year period. He showed how medieval masons and sculptors used architecture, sculpture, art and stained glass as a means of worshipping God. He also looked at how they incorporated the natural world and particularly pagan elements into their buildings.

The picture shows the towers of Durham Cathedral

John Lambert

## A TRIBUTE TO ANN ACKERMANN

It is with sadness that U3A Pretoria bids Ann Ackermann farewell. Ann is moving to Cape Town before our next general meeting, and her warm welcome to members and sparkling smile will be missed by us all.

Ann has been an active member of the U3A committee for more than a decade. She launched the very popular Movie Club, following her course on Film Appreciation. She was always prepared to phone everyone on the Movie Club list to remind them of the next meeting, even if they received notices by email. When asked about this, Ann said: "There are many lonely people out there who appreciate a personal phone call." And when you received that call, Ann always took the time to chat to you about your own life, rather than only focusing on the movie club programme.

Ann's interest in all things theatrical often enlivened committee meetings, as when she suggested that we should initiate a line-dancing group. She has been an embodiment of the true volunteer spirit of U3A as a member who always offered to share her considerable abilities with warmth and enthusiasm.



**Travel safely, Ann. We wish you a happy association with U3A in Cape Town.**

Gill Udal

## THE ESSENCE OF ANN'S 'WATCHPOINTS' FOR VIEWING A FILM

What are your reactions during the first five minutes of a film? Are you confused or led directly into the story? Do you think the opening scene sets the mood for the rest of the film, or by contrast is this then abruptly altered?

What factors contribute to the 'mood' of a film – music (or lack of music), lighting, camera angles? The mood of a film works on many levels on the subconscious of the viewer.

The Director sees the 'big' picture, the wood as well as the trees and creates a cohesive whole from individual scenes. He/she has a continuing relationship with the actors, leading them 'into' the film as they – and you – identify with the characters. The Director directs the cameramen. Each frame should be able to stand alone and convey a specific message.

Gill Udal

## ANN'S FAREWELL TEA

The Committee decided that a warm winter cape would be an appropriate farewell gift to give Ann from U3A. As she would be leaving Pretoria before the meeting this was presented to her at a tea hosted by Verna Brown for Ann's special friends. Coincidentally everyone at the tea was a member of U3A! It was both a happy gathering of friends, and a sad goodbye to Ann.



On the right is Gill Udal presenting Ann with her gift, with on the left Moira Arni and on the right Betty Urry.

On the left is Ann with Gretchen Carpenter.

Others present at the tea were (upper row, left to right): Betty Urry and Melanie Block; Jenny Price and Jen van Gruting, and (lower row, left to right): Helene Loubser, Connie Page Shipp and Verna Brown; Moira Arni with Ann. Gill Udal



## MESSAGE FROM THE COURSE & INTEREST GROUP COORDINATOR

One of the most enjoyable and well supported aspects of our U3A is the existence of eight Interest Groups which meet monthly or, in the case of the walking group, weekly.

Because of these regular meetings the groups' members have got to know one another much better so the social element becomes stronger.

The coordinators of these groups are very important to us as they provide a sterling service to members. They organise the meetings and see that all runs smoothly. Each group works in its own way. Sensibly, Fridays are not used for such meetings – Friday mornings are often the choice of course leaders for their presentations.

The newest club is the Mahjong Club which started small and is slowly growing. The History Group has the largest number of members (sometimes they overflow their venue!) and their programme for the year is drawn up at the beginning of the year with talks given by its members.

Travel, Art, Music and Film are well supported but if anyone has an idea for another sort of Interest group please contact Jenny at [davenjen@mweb.co.za](mailto:davenjen@mweb.co.za) or 082-923 7982. What about a wine-tasting group? Or bridge group? Or a theatre group (excluding the Brooklyn Theatre which infrequently offers us cheaper tickets.)? Is there anyone who could start a line dancing group? There are so many possibilities.

Jenny Janisch

## UPCOMING EXCURSIONS IN 2018

Excursion details will be emailed to members closer to the dates.

May: We will be breaking new ground with our evening visit to the Hartebeesthoek Satellite Tracking station and Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) on Saturday 19 May, which is fully booked.

June: The JPO has an exciting programme planned for their second season. U3A has selected the date of Wednesday 20 June to attend a morning concert-rehearsal featuring the acclaimed American pianist Spencer Myer, under the baton of Cathrine Winnes. Full details of the Winter Season will be emailed to you as soon as these become available, but please diarise this date if you are interested in attending the concert.

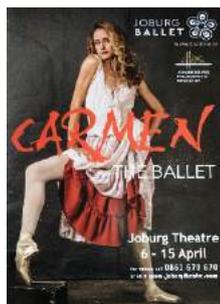
July: Winter is an ideal time to visit the Renzo Vignali Artistic Sculpture Foundry again. This is a unique opportunity to watch the casting of bronze sculptures using 300-year old processes.

We have postponed the excursion to the Buddhist Temple as the tour guide was not available on the proposed date. If you would like to receive information about a winter visit to the temple, which will include a talk on Buddhism and lunch with the residents, please send U3A an email with the subject Buddhist temple and you will be added to the mailing list for this excursion. **Gill Udal**

## EXCURSIONS ENJOYED IN MARCH & APRIL

### JPO CONCERT REHEARSAL AT THE LINDER

2018 started on a cultural note with a concert performed by the JPO at the Linder Auditorium in March, featuring the Brahms double concerto for violin and cello and the marvellous Sibelius 5th symphony.



### THE BALLET CARMEN AT THE JOBURG CIVIC THEATRE

'South Africa's leading ballet company Joburg Ballet brings Carmen back to the Joburg stage for the first time in eight years, kicking off their 2018 season with ten performances of Bizet's dramatic love story.

'A timeless tale of passion and betrayal set in southern Spain, this version of Bizet's classic is choreographed by leading South African choreographer Veronica Paeper with live orchestral accompaniment from the newly relaunched Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra. Four ballerinas share the title role over the ten performances; Shannon Glover, Sanmarie Kreuzhuber, Claudia Monja and Monike Cristina while Carmen's lover Don Jose is danced by Ruan Galdino, Leusson Muniz, and Revil Yon.'

**From:** [https://www.inyourpocket.com/johannesburg/joburg-ballets-carmen\\_11561e](https://www.inyourpocket.com/johannesburg/joburg-ballets-carmen_11561e)

## EXPLORING JOHANNESBURG VIA THE CITY-SIGHTSEEING HOP-ON, HOP-OFF GREEN AND RED BUSES



Taking advantage of the cooler autumn weather, U3A-ers enjoyed their trip through Johannesburg on 5 April, including a look inside the Constitutional Court. There was a lot of hopping on and off, so the pictures are not representative of the numbers.



## TOURS PLANNED FOR 2018

### VREDEFORT DOME

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. Eleven people have already signed up and if others are interested please contact Hilarie at [hilarie0001@gmail.com](mailto:hilarie0001@gmail.com).

### SAKABULA TOURS

Anne Lawrance (U3A and Travel Club member) has several tours lined up for 2018 that are generously discounted for U3A. Tours planned for later in the year have been included with those shown here in a separate notice to members. If you are interested please deal directly with Anne at [anne@sakabula.com](mailto:anne@sakabula.com).

#### 14 – 20 May: **Music & Mountains**

We drive to the Eastern Free State and spend a night in Fouriesburg before driving to the foothills of the Drakensberg for 2 nights. Visit the **Hlatikulu Crane Sanctuary** and enjoy a performance of the **Drakensberg Boys Choir** before heading further south to Underberg. Take an optional 4x4 drive up **Sani Pass** to "the highest pub in Southern Africa" (passport needed). Our return journey takes us to the **Nelson Mandela Capture Site** and the little town of Dundee.

Cost: FROM R6382.00 per person sharing

Included: B&B accommodation, 3 x dinner, Drakensberg Boys Choir Concert, transport, guide.

BOOK AND PAY 50% DEPOSIT BY 23 APRIL

#### 18 – 22 June: **Great North**

Visit the remote northern part of Kruger Park with 2 nights at Punda Maria and an optional excursion to Thulamela Heritage Site. Drive to Crooks Corner and the fever tree forest before heading southwards to Shingwedzi. We leave the Kruger Park at Phalaborwa and spend the last night at Blyde River Canyon.

Cost: FROM R5536.00 per person sharing LESS 40% on Kruger accommodation if ID details given when booking.

Included: B&B accommodation, Conservation fee KNP, game drives in our vehicle

BOOK AND PAY 50% DEPOSIT BY 30 APRIL

#### 23 – 27 July: **Wild West**

Head westwards to the little town of Groot Marico. We spend 2 nights here – ample time to enjoy Mampoer tasting and be regaled by Bosman's stories of Oom Schalk Lourens. The next 2 nights are spent in the Pilanesberg National Park, with game drives and optional open vehicle safaris before returning to Pretoria or Johannesburg.

Cost: FROM R5735.00 per person sharing LESS Seniors discount on entrance to Pilanesberg

Included: B&B accommodation, Mampoer tasting, sightseeing in Groot Marico. Game drives in our vehicle.

BOOK & PAY 50% DEPOSIT BY 11 JUNE



### KRUGER PARK LODGE

Mia Rich has a week at Kruger Park Lodge from 14 - 21 September which is available at R7000 to U3A members. The unit is on the banks of the Sabie River, in most attractive surroundings. For more information please contact Hilarie at [hilarie0001@gmail.com](mailto:hilarie0001@gmail.com) .



### SELF-DRIVE OPTIONS TO HOGSBACK & FOURIESBURG

Gill Udal is prepared to advise and assist any U3A group who would like to follow her proposed routes to Hogsback and Fouriesburg, but is not prepared to make bookings etc. Please contact Hilarie at [hilarie0001@gmail.com](mailto:hilarie0001@gmail.com) if you are interested.



## WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Helga Nordhoff has done a sterling job setting up our new website – easy on the eye and easy to navigate. For me being able to access the course and interest-group lists at the click of a mouse is particularly useful. So, thank you, Helga, for bringing your considerable skills to bear on this project and for taking on the responsibility of maintaining and developing our website in the midst of your very busy life.

Hilarie Riphagen

## DVD LIBRARY

We lend DVDs to members at every general meeting for a deposit of R50 per series, which is refundable only if the DVDs are returned no later than the next such meeting. You are welcome to make suggestions for new DVD series, or to donate / lend any of your own DVDs to our library.

We have purchased these DVDs in 2018: Planet Earth, Loving Vincent and Churches: How to Read Them, as well as:



#### Downton Abbey: The Finale - 2015 Christmas Special (DVD)

Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern



1 hour, 34 minutes

Studio: Universal Home Entertainment



#### Downton Abbey - Journey to The Highlands (DVD)



1 hour, 36 minutes

Studio: Universal



#### The Mekong River with Sue Perkins (2014) (DVD)

Sue Perkins



Studio: 2 Entertain



#### The Jewel in The Crown - The Complete Series (1984) (DVD, 25th Anniversary Edition)

Peggy Ashcroft, Charles Dance, Art Malik, Susan Wooldridge

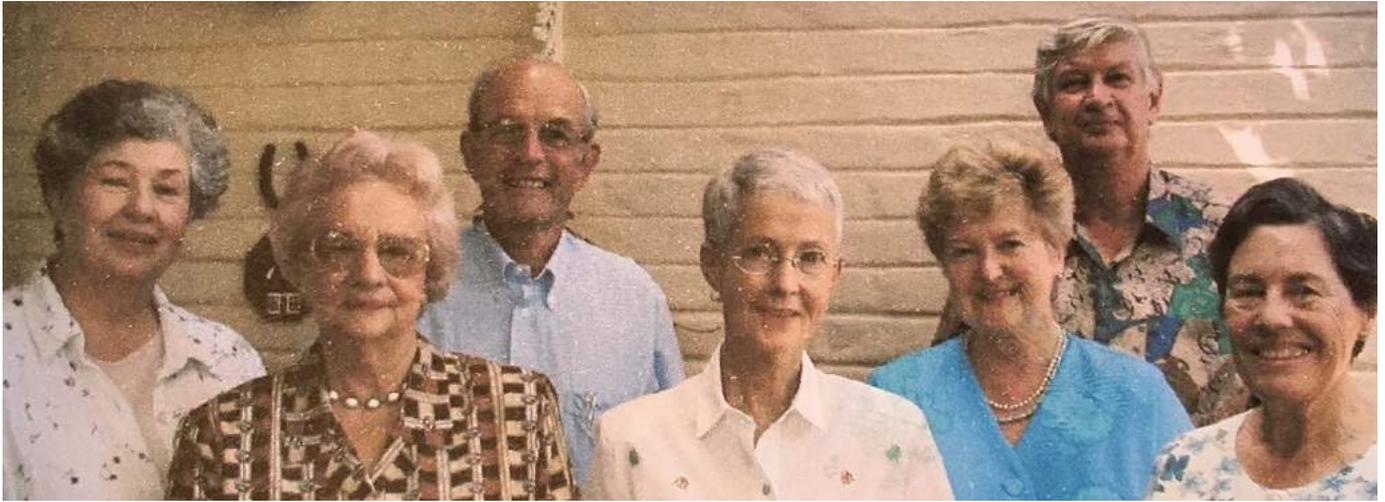


12 hours, 58 minutes

Studio: It DVD

# Jacaranda Jottings...

## THE ORIGINAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2002):



From left to right: Mary Harrop-Allin, Lily Gerdes, George McGillivray, Angela Rethman, Jeanette Serfontein, Douglas Reid and Lesbury van Zyl

## THE CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2018):



From left to right: Ray Spencer, Verna Brown, Gus de Villiers, Philip van der Merwe, Jean Richter, Ken Brown, Gill Udal, Jenny Janisch, Colleen van Niekerk, Hilarie Riphagen, Ann Ackermann, John Lambert, Gerda Rautenbach

### OWN YOUR NEWSLETTER!

This newsletter is a work in progress. If you would like to propose a catchy alternative name for the letter, together with a matching title for the last page, we would like to hear from you. You might even win a prize!

Likewise, the emblem displayed in this issue is not cast in stone. In fact, two more possibilities will appear in coming issues, to be voted on at the end of the year. If you have a creative idea for a different emblem for the newsletter, or for a new letterhead logo for U3A Pretoria that captures the spirit of U3A, and of our U3A in particular, do send it along. Who knows, it could be the top contender. Another newsletter emblem will be added to this slot each quarter.

