

THE MALA ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

Our last newsletter gave a brief overview of **the evolution of MALA** from 1980 (*taken from THE MALA STORY- A Social and Cultural History of the Mature Adults Learning Assoc. (Inc.) 1980 to 2004 by Peter Reynolds*) to this year 2020, when we celebrate 40 years of operation. That does not mean we had the same name throughout those years, and in fact MALA as a name, only came into existence 27 years ago, but it has remained forward from then. We are blessed to still have original members from the 1980 beginnings amongst our group.... someone to keep our history correct and share memories.

We have **a Website** giving information from all three Branches including available Courses and Enrolment, extending our philosophy of lifelong learning. The technology reaches out to a generation who can continue MALA into the future.

The most important part of MALA is **its Volunteers** – those amazing people who hold our philosophy and commitment to the group, and who share their experience and knowledge – with humour if you're lucky! Each year we welcome new people to our committees, and strengthen the Teamwork that ensures MALA continues.

MALA is an important component of **Adult Education in WA**, which is on-going with more people ageing disgracefully (!) – and more wanting to continue, or even begin, learning about the world around us, and about absolutely everything and anything. It offers exercise for the brain, and gives focus to many areas in which we have questions. The answers, or at least the wherewithal to find out about a topic is given by lecturers we engage, who know their subject very well. We operate an independent approach, and united belief shared with others such as U3A and Trinity School for Seniors to name but a couple. There are no exams or homework, and no academic qualification required, just a hope that the interesting and stimulating courses will reach what you seek. MALA does not repeat any courses, but may give lectures on similar topics, with different content.

The **MALA Association Incorporated** came into being when the requirement from the Department of Consumer Protection, and the Incorporation Commission, ensured that our three branches had an over-arching legal entity which presented as one, in their reporting of activities and finances. This has been a requirement of all small groups, and has caused some angst among them. A revision of our Constitution was undertaken, and accepted, and is available should you want to read it, on our Website. The committee of the Assoc. consists of members representing each of our branches, and meets 3 times a year to discuss matters affecting all branches and members. Our AGM to find new representatives for this important group will be held later this year.

The **future is an unknown** for all of us – who expected a virus such as we have, to appear – but in this “brave new world” we hope MALA will continue forwards as it has for the last 40 years. From small beginnings in 1980 – something much bigger has grown and flourished!

Sue Higgs – Hon. Association President