

# PERTH MALA MATTERS : July 2020

## MESSAGE from the CHAIR - from Julie Ginbey

Greetings all and grateful thanks to all members and our West Australian community, we are in a position with appropriate social distancing protocols in place, to re-instate lectures at GBLC.

MALA since its inception in its various guises has drawn its committee from members who volunteer their time and expertise. According to our constitution, committee positions are held for 2 consecutive years and most current committee members have served their tenure, so positions will become vacant. Please keep this in mind as we approach the AGM.

Perth MALA contracts Fiona Birt as our Course Convenor, and we are glad to have renewed her contract till March 2021. Fiona also runs the membership database, sends out notices, Newsletters and Enrolments to those who are on email. The committee have asked Fiona to prepare a programme for parts A and B of semester 2.

**Part A** will run for four weeks from **September 4 to 25**

**Part B** will run for five weeks from **October 16 to November 13.**

The **AGM** will follow the last lecture as usual.

Recognising that sending invitations, holding ongoing negotiations and timetabling are a juggle, we all have to be patient. That has been, and still is also advisable with the current pandemic, as we are witnessing, from a distance. There has been, and may still be, the probability of negative consequences from moving too soon.

Thanking those emailed members who have indicated positively about returning to live lectures, we never the less, are considering different possibilities to enable lectures with a different regime. So, the Branch Monthly Newsletter will keep you posted.

Probabilities and Possibilities! Those words bring to mind a few memorable quotes:

“If it is to be, it is up to me!” Anon.

And from young Anne Frank: “how wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the World.”

I await a return to a new normal,

where respect is afforded to all, regardless of age, gender, class or religion;

where the young are realistically given a go, to realise their potential;

where clean water, fresh air, adequate nourishment and a place to call home is regarded as a human right;

where we care for this world we call home.

Before we seek to populate new planets let us embrace this Earth and all its treasures.

This monthly newsletter is intended to keep you informed about MALA.

Contributions by members to the newsletter are always welcome can be sent via email to [enrol.perth@mala.org.au](mailto:enrol.perth@mala.org.au) or [info@mala.org.au](mailto:info@mala.org.au) .

## BOOK BROWSING from Celia Cole and Sue Higgs

This time, Book Browsing from Celia includes a part of a very old poem - knowing as she does that Books can take so many forms and ideas – some are about crimes, others romance, and not forgetting the non-fiction books covering every aspect known to man! It is of endless fascination to wind our way through the various places that books take us – and always know that there are more coming ...

Celia also includes songs with her memories, and Vera Lynn came to her mind with

“We’ll meet again, don’t know where, don’t know when,  
but I know we’ll meet again some sunny day.

Keep smiling through just like you always do,  
till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away”.

For anybody who went through the War, this must evoke strong thoughts of a time past, and often people they knew.

Rest In Peace Vera Lynn.

**'Invictus'** – a poem by William Ernest Henley (1849 – 1903)

(a poem loved by Nelson Mandela)

the final words say:

‘It matters not how strait the gate. (strait = narrow)

How charged with punishments the scroll.

I am the master of my fate:

I am the captain of my soul.’

Such inspiring words which travel through time to emotionally affect us now.

Talking of time, have you read **'Time and Time Again'** by Ben Elton?

It is well written (and enjoyed by my book club) as our main character travels through time to attempt to change the course of history – and Ben Elton puts the doubt in our minds as to whether this is still happening!

On another note, **'The Birdman's Wife'** by Melisa Ashley was most interesting, based on facts but woven into fiction, it was a story of earlier times when women were not recognized for the work they did, and the Birdman's wife beautifully illustrated the bird books produced by her famous husband, with little expectation or acknowledgement of her fantastic work.

## FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT

from various contributors

English is a crazy language, let's face it, but how can *I intimate* this to my most *intimate* friends?

I recall the bemused comments Bernhard Shaw, the Irish author, made about the English language. He posed the question: 'How do you spell fish?'. Answer: 'ghoti' - 'gh' as in enough, 'o' as in women, 'ti' as in nation.

This gem comes from the introduction to the play he wrote: 'Pygmalion'. I was introduced to it at Highschool, decades ago. It became the musical 'My Fair Lady' ('The rain in Spain'...)

No wonder teachers have trouble teaching reading and people make spelling mistakes!

Those born here, or in England, take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

Here are some other examples:

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you have left?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.