

MALA MESSENGER

Newsletter of the Mature Adults Learning Association Inc. Rockingham Branch

APRIL 2020

FROM THE CHAIR

In a short couple of months the world seems to have shifted on its axis. The safe and stable life we were all taking for granted has been abruptly taken from us. I hope you and your families are all well and safe. I trust that you are all coping with the situation with the laconic humour, stoicism and adaptability that marks the generation that most of us come from. Daily I give thanks that I am in Australia, particularly WA, at a time like this.

It was with the greatest regret, but an overwhelming feeling of necessity that we cancelled all our courses until further notice. We have had unanimous support in this decision from all of our lecturers. Hopefully we will be able to begin again for Semester two, but time alone will tell. We will keep you up to date on what is happening with MALA.

Apologies to those of you who are new to us, some of you have not received the refund information as quickly as we would have liked. Hopefully you have all heard now and have decided on the refund or credit route that suits you. Some of the problem lay in email addresses bouncing. If you know anyone who was booked for the course and has not had our notifications, please let us know at malarockingham@gmail.com

We do have some good news however. We now have a new Treasurer. Chris Elliott has stepped up. He has come into the role as we move to electronic banking. This is proving invaluable with those of you who elected a refund rather than a credit for your cancelled courses.

I trust you are all finding inventive ways to spend your time at home. I find that looking for the silver lining is a great way to keep busy.

Stay happy and healthy, until we can all meet again.

Best wishes to you all and remember Charlie Brown's advice :

*Worrying won't stop bad stuff happening -
it just stops us from enjoying the good stuff.*

Bronwen Usher – Chair



COMMITTEE NEWS

WELCOME CHRIS ELLIOTT

A former teacher, Chris is well known for his work on our city council. Chris served three terms as councillor over the past 21 years including a stint as mayor from 1997 to 2003. His experience and commitment to MALA was much appreciated and we welcome his readiness to take up the role of Treasurer.

SPARE A THOUGHT

For Esther Grogan

Our Programme Convener who worked so hard organising a record number of 12 lecturers for this term's courses only to then have them cancelled/postponed until who knows when. Esther was only too happy to postpone, as her main thought was for the well-being of our members and presenters.

I feel sure that all our members will be only too happy to be back enjoying our courses once more as soon as we are able to do so.

For Our Lecturers

Who had put in a lot of work preparing the course for us to enjoy. They all agreed with our early decision to close and wish you all the best until we are safe to meet again.

P.S. I think Rhuwina (Let's Get Writing) is optimistic that the break will give us time to get on with a bit of writing.

HAVE YOUR SAY

We need you more than ever. We would really welcome any contributions for the newsletter whilst classes are in abeyance.

Any of you with good quirky facts, quiz questions, funny stories, stories of our childhoods, travel stories, bushfire stories, book reviews, any ideas for wiling away our stay at home time to survive a pandemic.

Please feel free to send them to : malarockingham@gmail.com

To quote Kermit the Frog – Time's Fun when you're having Flies !



BUT WAIT ... THERE'S MORE

FROM OUR NAVAL HISTORY GURU

John MacDonald

According to W.H.Smith's Sailors Word Book

"Quarantine is, at most, a seclusion of forty days from a free communication with the inhabitants of any country, in order to prevent the importation of the plague, or any other infectious disorder, either by person or goods. The quarantine laws originating in the council of Health at Venice in the Fourteenth century"

As this originated in Italy, the Italian for forty Quaranto, was chosen to designate the period. People with only fourteen days of isolation should count themselves lucky.

Ships in quarantine were required to fly a yellow flag to keep all others away, but I have not seen any yellow flags flown on any of the cruise ships lately.

MALA WEBSITE

MALA has a new website !

mala.org.au

Follow the links to Rockingham



For those of you turning to books

*A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies.
He who never reads lives only one. Martins Maxim*



ANYONE FOR SHAKESPEARE ?

Shakespeare has been a source of much inspiration for just over 400 hundred years but few of us realise just how much of a legacy he has left in the everyday language we use today.

“As Good Luck Would Have It” (The Merry Wives of Windsor) Martin Hveissel has picked out these commonly used phrases coined by the Bard and often used by us.

Appropriate at the moment is “Brave New World” (The Tempest), “Cold Comfort” (The Taming of the Shrew/King John) and “Milk Of Human Kindness” (Macbeth)

On a happier note come “Salad Days” (Anthony and Cleopatra) or “Merry As The Day Is Long” (Much Ado about Nothing/King John) “Fancy Free” (A Midsummer Night’s Dream) and a “A Dish Fit For The Gods” (Julius Caesar)

So “For Goodness’ Sake” (Henry VIII) let’s give “Short Shrift” (Richard III) and say “Good Riddance” (Troilus and Cressida) to those among us who “Refuse To Budge An Inch” (Measure for Measure/The Taming of the Shrew) and “Play Fast And Loose” (King John) with the isolation restrictions at present.

This is not the “Be-All And The End All” (Macbeth) of Martin’s list, and I know you will be waiting with “Bated Breath” (The Merchant of Venice) for the next edition

Thanks Martin

A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything.



*For those of you finding solace in your garden
and have time for a bit of weeding Ella Wilcox tells us
“A weed is but an unloved flower.”*



FREE EBOOK

Beating the Isolation Blues

Linda Bettenay, editor of the Roleystone Courier and author was a presenter for us last year and entertained us with her tales of local history. With the Libraries closed Linda is now kindly offering a Free E Book to you and any of your isolated friends.

Hi all,

If you are in isolation (compulsorily or voluntarily) and you do not currently have something to read, feel free to email me and I will send you a FREE eBook copy of my book -

“Wishes For Starlight”

This book is based on a true story in our local area.

You need to tell me what eReader you read on (eg Kindle) and your name.

Send your email to: info@lindasbooks.com.au

For more information on my other books visit www.lindasbooks.com.au

Happy isolation time.

Linda

Those who have read it tell me it is a good read,
and shines a light on little known history of the Roleystone area.



Many thanks Linda for your kind offer in this time of no libraries, which all readers know is a big loss. I am sure there will be many of our members and their friends who would love to access your work and really appreciate this opportunity to do so.

Bronwen Usher



THAT'S ALL FOLKS