

# MALA MESSENGER

*Newsletter of the Mature Adults Learning Association Inc. Rockingham Branch*

**JANUARY 2021**

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## **FROM THE CHAIR**

With Christmas and the New Year now rapidly retreating in the realms of memory as 2021 begins its race through time I hope you are all well and ready for an interesting year. After the shockwave and uncertainty that COVID triggered may 2021 bring us all a healthier and stable year in our post-COVID new-normal world.

2021 is off to a slow and sedate start at Rockingham MALA this year. So far we have four classes in view for Term 1. It has proved very difficult to find presenters with the ability to fit into our timetable this term. We have some already committed for courses later in the year, but year this term has been problematic. We welcome back however three of our favourite presenters, in Prof Charles Oxnard, Carl Altman and Rhuwina Griffiths. Our new presenter input this term is from David Abela with a wonderful course on the history and consequences of D-Day. The creative among you will we welcoming back Judy Kirkpatrick at the Autumn Centre for more art activity. There is much to enjoy and learn

I look forward to being able to welcome one and all again this term.

**Bronwen Usher**  
**Chair**



*As Albert Einstein said*  
*"Learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow."*



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## **DIARY DATES**

### **ENROLMENT DAY**

*Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February from 10:00 to 11:30*

*in the Foyer at Rockingham Central Library on Dixon Road*

### **GOOD NEWS!**

*This year EFTPOS will be available on Enrolment Day,  
cash or cheque payments will also be accepted.*

*Enrolments can also be done online through the website:*

***mala.org.au***

*go to the Rockingham link*

*We are still awaiting the account number for our new bank account.  
We will send out the details for direct credit payments as soon as we have them.*

*Alternatively, you can email your Enrolment Form to: [rockinghammala@gmail.com](mailto:rockinghammala@gmail.com)*

*or post it to: MALA - PO Box 469 Rockingham WA 6968*

*with cheques made payable to "Mature Adults Learning Association Rockingham"*



### **TERM ONE DATES**

#### ***At the Library***

*Classes begin on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March*



#### ***At the Autumn Centre***

*Classes begin on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March*



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## **TERM ONE COURSES**

### **AT THE ROCKINGHAM CENTRAL LIBRARY**

**Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March**

9:00 – 11:00    *Writing Skills for Everyone with Rhuwina Griffiths*

*This course titled “The devil is in the detail” is for anyone who wants to improve their writing skills. There are no prerequisites, and everyone is welcome.*

*It can be extremely easy when writing a story to concentrate on developing characters, plot, descriptions, place etc and overlook the small details that make a story come alive. It is the difference between writing something that might be technically good but fails to engage the reader compared to writing scenes that pull readers in and make them excited to turn the pages. Each week we will look at different ways to write about one small detail.*

*These are: the weather, pain, sex, feelings and colour. You will soon discover the difference really is in the detail.*

*Presenter: Rhuwina Griffiths will show you not only how to develop a great new writing skills, but also give you a great appreciation of what you read. Fun and discovery are guaranteed.*



11:30 – 13:00    *Art Appreciation with Carl Altmann “What Paintings Say” (Part 1)*

*For art lovers, and those just curious about art.*

*The lectures explore the structure of an artwork and what the artist is saying really. The course encourages people to understand an artwork just like people are encouraged to read a book and appreciate the techniques and words used to enhance its meaning.*

*Presenter: Carl Altmann has lectured in Art History, Art Education, Visual Literacy, Drawing, Painting and Textiles for many years. He is founder member of Artrinsic and continues to take a keen interest in the local art scene.*



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11:30 – 13:00 *What's New in Medicine? with Charles Oxnard*

*Today is witnessing many new things in Medicine. This thought-provoking course series covers the things that are 'In the Presses' at this time: Viruses, Artificial Intelligence, Human Growth, 'Denial' in Medicine! and Medical Heresies.*

*Viruses: Epidemics, Pandemics and all that.*

*Intelligence - Natural and Artificial: Growth and Growth Disorders.*

*The Place of Denial in Science and Medicine:*

*Medical Heresies and a Medical Heretic: A Personal View*

*Presenter: Charles Oxnard: Prof, UWA. Doing Science and Medicine, for 68 years, over 3 continents, pretending to be retired, but hopefully still with it! You are the Judges!*



13:30 – 15:00 *D - Day 6th June 1944 - Invasion of Europe (Operation Overlord)  
with David Abela*

*This will be a narrative and discussion session. It is 1944 and WWII has been raging for 5 years. Let us examine this day of days in detail from conception to planning to the execution.*

*Session 1 Overview of Overlord. What were the catalysts for the invasion of Europe?*

*Session 2 Preparation and Deception. The build up of forces, can you keep it all a secret?*

*Session 3 Hobarts Funnies & Mulberry Harbours. These are not the titles of Beatles Albums! We talk about the many specialised vehicles that were designed and built for this huge undertaking.*

*Session 4 The Attack at Dawn. Looking at the crucial time that is now become known as "The Longest Day"*

*Session 5 Success! But . . . What if Overlord was a failure? How would History have changed?*

*Presenter: David Abela, an Ex-Navy military history buff.*



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## AT THE AUTUMN CENTRE

*Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26th of March and 9<sup>th</sup> of April*

*13:30 – 15:00 About Abstract Art with Judy Kirkpatrick*

*Abstract Art is suitable for all skill levels. It teaches the use of colour, form and texture. There will be a minimum of two different exercises per lesson. The last week you will be painting a canvas of your favourite lesson.*

*Required Supplies:*

- Acrylic paint - primary colours red, yellow, blue as well as black and white*
- Paint brushes and palette knife (plastic or butter knife will work)*
- Art pad or cartridge paper, thick paper or even old place mats*
- One canvas, medium sized*

*You can find these things in Red Dot, Reject Shop or Spotlight.*

*Presenter: Judy Kirkpatrick is a long standing member of the Rockingham Visual Arts Society. She has been practicing and teaching for over 20 years. We are delighted to welcome her back this term,*



*What's the different between a cat and a comma?*

*A cat has claws at the end of paws;*

*A comma is a pause at the end of a clause.*



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## BOOKSHELF

***Just a couple this month:***

*“THE SEVEN KINDS OF PEOPLE YOU FIND IN BOOKSHOP”* by Shaun Bythell

*For those of us who love bookshops beware you habits and interests and quirks are being noticed or at least they were in one bookshop owned by Shaun Bythell. Shaun has produced a delightful little book full of acute observations about his customers. So familiar is he with the patterns of behaviour and types of customers he has grouped them into seven categories. From The expert through the loiterer without intent to the enthusiast, the whistle ,the exhausted parent to the conspiracy theorist, and of course the perfect customer - they are all captured here. The book is a fun and funny to read. You will no doubt find fragments of yourself here as I did. A great Christmas present that I really enjoyed.*

*Rachel*



*“ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MILITARY INCOMPETENCE”* By Dr Norman F. Dixon

*For those of us with an interest in military history, or those with an interest in Psychology this is a must read. Through the light of the exploration of the battles of the last two centuries of our history this explores the fascinating world of military leadership. Often hilarious, and sometime alarming but always very informative this is a classic military history with a twist. From the Crimea, Boer War, Torbruk, the Somme, Pearl Harbour to the Bay of Pigs the blunders and mishaps are examined and the pattern of inept leadership shines through. I thoroughly enjoyed it and hope more of you get to read it. It is like rediscovering history.*

*Geoff*



### DID YOU KNOW?

GIRRAFE tongues are dark blue (or purplish or dark grey) and average around 20 inches in length.

The length of their tongues allows them to browse for the very highest, juiciest leaves on their favourite acacia trees, and the melanin in their tongues may protect them from UV rays—that is, getting sunburned.



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## THAT'S ALL FOLKS

A lighter note to finish:-

Chocolate seems to be a staple part of the diet of the majority of Australians, but spare a thought for those of us who really don't like it and find ourselves thoughtlessly submerged in the stuff all too frequently.

### We Don't All Like Chocolate!!

'Oh thanks Chris, how kind, there really was no need.'

Why does everyone assume you LOVE chocolate? Every birthday, every Christmas, every Thank You – every dinner party!! I've a cupboard full of the stuff- ugh. Do they know that all I do is re-gift it? I can't see it go to waste can I?

Lack of imagination, no thought, last minute grab, whatever – PLEASE DON'T BOTHER. If you have to grab, grab flowers instead.

I've given lots of hints, but the torrent keeps coming, dark, milk, soft and hard centres, boxes and bags – still it comes. Maybe it is time just to say it out loud- like very loud - STOP BRINGING CHOCOLATE. Will they be bringing chocolate to my funeral?

Maybe if I stop opening them and sharing it with them they will give up – Why does no one never seem to notice that I'm not eating it!

"How does it feel to be three quarters of a century old" Chris witters on.

"Oh great" I reply, 'better than the alternative'.

I reckon my 75 years are a testament to my early parental training in the social niceties and a great deal of forbearance. Actually, I am amazed that I've not been had up for murdering a chocolate giver before now. The urge tonight is almost irresistible.

"Come and have a drink. I think you know everyone," I say, as I clutch the box tightly in the strangle hold I restrain myself from using on Chris.

Keep happy, keep safe, keep healthy.

See you on Enrolment Day or at class in March

Until then

Kind regards to you all

**Bronwen Usher**  
Editor



*Did you hear about the mathematician who's afraid of negative numbers?  
He'll stop at nothing to avoid them.*

