

# MALA MESSENGER

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

**November 2021**

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## **FROM THE CHAIR**

As our year draws to an end, with classes all but over, the AGM comes into view and with that my tenure as Chair will finish. I have enjoyed the challenges that the role has presented. As you realise what happens behind any scene is the 'magic' that keeps our classes going, our presenters coming and our members interested and enjoying themselves.

I must thank the team that I have been fortunate in leading. John MacDonald, Vice Chair and fellow representative to the Association who has spent many an arduous hour working on our Constitution on our behalf. Esther Grogan, our Course Coordinator and provider of the presenters we have all appreciated, a mammoth task I think you will agree. Peter Lester who has taken up the position of Secretary, so long just 'farmed out', and is bringing our records and procedures into proper order. Julie Edwards our erstwhile Treasurer and guardian of the purse a very necessary job in a not for profit organisation where every cent counts. Martin our membership officer, who is happiest when he is busy, so the more of you attending courses the happier we can keep him. David who took on the task of organising and training us in the mysteries of technology and has led the reorganisation of our systems and helped committee members strengthen their skills. June tireless in making sure our photocopying needs have been met and publicity opportunities taken. Jan for transporting our presenters to and from the station each week. Nada and Elizabeth who attend our events, and push our cause in the community, spreading the word about MALA. Thanks one and all.

If you feel you have something to offer please think of nominating for a committee position at this AGM on the 17th. Rest assured we will find a job to suit your talents.

Time for Change - A new system of arranging our classes will start in the New Year. This means that we will no longer have to choose between classes that we wish to attend but are on at the same time. It also means that we will be so spreading the classes more evenly throughout the year and not having such a long break in the middle of the year. Let's see how it goes. More details to follow later.

I hope each and every one of you has found some enrichment in your association with MALA, and will long continue to support it.

All my best regards to you all.

**Bronwen Usher**

**Chair**



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## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

*Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2021*

*10:30 at the Rockingham Central Library*

*Dixon Road Rockingham*

*Join us for the election of our new Committee and a cup of tea.*



### ***TIME TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE***

MALA has been an institution in Rockingham for six great years now. Many of those who attend classes are very grateful for the opportunity of top quality, varied, fun, informal ongoing learning right here in Rockingham.

Over these years the successive committees have put a good deal of effort into administration, organisation and implementation in order to provide the classes that we all enjoy.

This work is very worthwhile, manageable and even enjoyable when the load is shared between a Committee.

With that in mind I would like you to consider giving some of your time to MALA as a committee member. We need you to bring your skills into the mix, there are plenty of roles to fill, so we can find a role for you.

Should you feel that you would like to join us but would like some help or training to take on a specific role, just ask and help will be there and know that you will be giving something back.

MALA is about ongoing learning and being on our committee is an opportunity to sharpen your skills or indeed learn a new one in a relaxed way while being of service to MALA.

There are now vacancies on the committee due to ageing, health concerns, the need to care for family members and so on. We definitely need new people who can help MALA survive and thrive into the future.

Without a strong Committee MALA can't remain strong and viable. Life . . . be in it and have a go.

Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts never fears and never regrets.  
Never stop learning because life never stops teaching.



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## WRITERS CORNER

My thanks to Winnie who took the time send in this message. It is much appreciated by those who work so hard to make MALA work.

“I am glad to be able to pen a few words in this newsletter. My very first writing workshop with MALA was incredibly great. The warm welcome from members and the facilitator made me feel so comfortable. Being the youngest participant, I get the opportunity to learn from many seniors. I would describe their sharing as a gem of counsel. MALA is a great place to keep you busy, support, and build a good friendship. If you are looking for a community that can bring you something fruitful, MALA is always on top of the list.”

by Winnie C



### ***FROM OUR WRITERS***

This month we have poetic offerings for you. The topics range from the frivolous to the funeral – enjoy.

An edict from Jacquie.

#### ***DONT WEAR BLACK AT MY FUNERAL***

Don't wear black at my funeral  
Wear flowers in your hair instead.  
Be happy, for I'm not really dead.

No need to wear black at my funeral  
Wear clothes of colour or white.  
Don't be sad at my funeral, I'm on a glorious flight

Send lots of bright thoughts at my funeral.  
Do not sorrow for there is a tomorrow,  
For those who are not really dead.

By Jacqui Robinson



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The consequences of becoming too involved in a writing course come to us from Marie Claire.

***ALL BECAUSE OF THIS WRITING WORKSHOP***

He'd opened his purse, only a few coins were left  
"Sorry, not enough money", and he'd quickly left.  
He looked around trying to find his wife in the shop  
She's done it again! And it's all because of this writing workshop.

Yesterday, he has lent her \$14 when she was short.  
He is a nice husband, a good bloke and a good sort.  
He was in great need of that money yesterday, at the shop.  
Cursing under his breath," it's all because of the writing workshop!"

The problem you see, his wife has started to write her memories  
He finds little notes everywhere, the recollections of her stories.  
Apologising she said, she has been so busy lately, so much writing  
She has lost all capacity to remember every day's little thing.

But did she?... Smiling to herself, she's thinking  
Oops! Fourteen dollars, I've done it again,  
My poor husband... Your loss; is my gain!!!

PS: Ah, ah, poor Jacques! Unfortunately for my husband, it's a true story.

By Marie-Claire  
(December 2018)



*Children aren't happy with nothing to ignore.  
That's why parents were created.*

*Ogden Nash*



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. . . and so to a moment of quiet reflection when

***TIME STOOD STILL***

Time and I stood still  
To listen to the wind  
Recounting ancient tales  
to the trees.

Time and I stood still  
To see a mighty Blackbutt's blaze-charred bark  
It's verdant life-force bursting forth unquenched  
From a fiery duel with nature

Time and I stood still  
To smell the eucalyptus scented forest  
The river's damp, and leafy banks  
I smelt the scent of agelessness – in ever renewing life

Time and I stood still  
And was touched by silence  
A silence, most profound  
No need to think, to say, to share  
A silence just to be.

Time and I stood still  
And I tasted sweet simplicity  
Of life's most basic qualities  
Strength, endurance and primal fear.

This place I leave reluctantly  
To re-join the march of time  
But in my mind and hearts secret vault  
The stillness will remain.

The Earth drew breath  
or was it me?

From our old friend Anon



And finally a touch of rhyme for fun. From an ex- teacher wondering one day if she was really the one in the room who had the hardest day . . . maybe it's a classroom chair.

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## ***A CLASSROOM CHAIR***

Year 4A - you'll find me there.  
For I'm a humble classroom chair  
Blue plastic seat and legs of steal  
And a little short on sex appeal.

I'm built to last, I'm extra tough  
To withstand children when they're rough  
They have no respect, they show no care  
After all I'm just a chair.

I'm stackable and pack quite tall  
Backed up against the classroom wall  
The nights are peaceful and mundane  
But daytime brings such stress and strain

Behind a desk I sit all day  
As the children come to work and play  
My day is fraught with little rest  
With bangs and bumps – it's quite a test

Sometimes I'm dragged along the floor  
despite an angry teacher's roar  
A voice rings out "Pick up that chair"  
And I am heaved up in the air  
The bang must come and soon I feel  
my legs hit concrete with squeal

Assembly time is on today  
Always a cause for some dismay  
Small feet soon in my back will kick  
Usually those tykes Jack or Rick

Flop, there's Jai arriving  
He's really quite a lump  
He never lowers down his weight  
He always lands with a mighty thump

Rachel is so gentle  
and treats me with such care  
But Melanie and Joshua  
are far more laissez-faire

The kids the noise the mess have cleared  
another day has disappeared  
I miss the kids when they're not there  
I like my life as a classroom chair



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Thanks to our Poets one and all for a great selection.

And so it appears true -



*"Poets have been mysteriously silent on the subject of cheese."*

*GK Chesterton*



Our maybe he just hadn't challenged MALA poets before. We will see!



*That's all Folks !*

