

# MALA MESSENGER

Newsletter of the Mature Adults Learning Association Inc. Rockingham Branch

DECEMBER 2023



## VALE MALA ROCKINGHAM

The deed is done - MALA is no longer operating in Rockingham. Time and tide have caught up with us here. Our recent AGM was a very sad day, but my overwhelming feeling is, that sad as it was, that we have been blessed having had something very special, something meaningful and appreciated, and something so good that it makes saying goodbye so hard.

It has been a great joy, albeit at times hard work and very stressful to have been so involved with Mala here in Rockingham. I think I was born with an innate love of learning for learning's sake, but parents who always encouraged my curiosity about everything undoubtedly helped. When the opportunity to be in a group of like-minded people to set up MALA here, it seems a natural fit.

Thanks to Esther Grogan, a fellow lifelong learner, the idea of having a Mala here was born. Six of us, bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and thankfully ignorant of the task ahead, were at the inaugural meeting.

Esther has worked tirelessly for the Mala cause. She sought help from the Rockingham City Council, Murdoch University and her business and newspaper contacts to get us off the ground. She has never stopped in her efforts to keep MALA alive here.

Over the years we have had many people contribute much to Mala, thanks to you all. I hope you all have great memories of a job well done for a great cause. Every story is organic, and every story finds its own ending. The last page of our story is now written, but I did enjoy the read.

Bronwen  
Chair

At the end of the day remember the positives and look to the future

"If you dwell on what you had, you won't be able to begin to enjoy what you have" - Oprah

MALA may have ended here,  
but we are lucky to have MALA alive and well in Mandurah and Perth to begin to enjoy.

# CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR - AND HERE IT COMES AGAIN



Christmas is almost upon us. I hope we all can find some joy and happiness, be it with family, friends or treasured memories.

Happy Christmas everyone



My granddaughter's class of six-year-olds sang "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" at a Christmas concert. The line "God and sinners reconciled" was a bit tricky for this age group. And one little boy, with a voice that completely drowned out the rest of the choir, happily belted out, "God and sinners dressed in style!"

.... and a happy and healthy and safe New Year to you and your family.

*Let's hope 2024 will see some peace in the world, some sensible progress on climate change and we can all find things to keep ourselves active and engaged and happy.*

\*\*\*\*\*

What is every parent's favourite Christmas song?

Silent Night!

As we look ahead to next year without a local MALA, we have found a couple of things for you to think about.

### Why not head to the **Peel MALA Summer School in January?**

*The program and booking details are available on the MALA website.*  
[www.mala.au](http://www.mala.au)

### MALA CONNECT.

FOR LIFELONG LEARNERS - AND THOSE WITH INCURABLE CURIOSITY

*Some of us will be attending MALA next year at either of our sister branches, Peel or Perth.*

*Some of us prefer to be independent travellers but if you would like to be connected with someone wishing to do the same course and would appreciate a travelling companion to and from the venue, then let us know and we will contact you to arrange travel, whether by train, or in some instances by car.*

*It is sometime easier to enter a new group with company.*

*If you would like a buddy to go with contact us and we will see what we can arrange. No guarantee, but we will try.*

*Register at [malarockingham@gmail.com](mailto:malarockingham@gmail.com) to receive the course notifications each semester and to let us know when you are interested in finding a buddy.*

**The course information for Peel and Perth courses is available on the website [www.mala.au](http://www.mala.au)**

## U3A

University of the Third Age

Learning, Social Activities -and it's LOCAL

**Venue:** Masonic Hall, Wanliss Street, Rockingham,

**When** The first and third Fridays of the month.

Check out the website <https://u3auwa.org/branches/rockingham/>



## FROM THE BOOKSHELF



I can't leave you without a few books to keep you going over the Christmas period

**Mayflies**    **Andrew O'Hagan**    a story of lifelong friendship, tested to the limit

**Red Notice (How I became Putin's no 1 enemy)**    **Bill Browder**

Read like a thriller, but it's based on a true story

**Mothers and Children**    **Tony Birch**

A cracking read of a confronting and complex issue handled with great insight, sensitivity and humanity.

**What Happened to Nina**    **Dervla McTiernan**

No one knows. One family want answers, another family looking to protect their son from suspicion at any cost. A good holiday read

**Christmas Tales and Yeh, Nup!**    By William McInnis

A story of life in ordinary Australia, told in a very Aussie colloquial way – fun and a good for a chuckle or two

Staying on a Christmas Theme

What did the English teacher call Santa's helpers?

Subordinate Clauses.

As the last edition comes to end, I'd like to thank everyone who has worked for the MALA cause here, especially those of you who have been on the committee over the years.

I have certainly enjoyed learning about a diverse range of topics. I've enjoyed the challenge and fun of helping MALA in Rockingham and I value the friends and connections I have had the good fortune to make.

Just a few thoughts to take on your next venture in learning.

From Confucius

"He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger."

From Einstein

Wisdom is not a product of schooling but the lifelong attempt to acquire it.

and finally, from Brian Herbert

The capacity to learn is a *gift*: the ability to learn is a *skill*:

The willingness to learn is a choice.

## Vale Mala Rockingham

Ed - for the final time .

Best wishes to you all - Bronwen