

# **MALA MESSENGER**

*Newsletter of the Mature Adults Learning Association Inc.*

ROCKINGHAM BRANCH

*September 2023*

*Mature Adults Learning Association Inc.*

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## **NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

for all members of the Rockingham Branch of MALA

**A Special General Meeting is to be held at 10.00am**

**on the 13<sup>TH</sup> September 2023**

At the Learning Centre of  
Rockingham Community Library

Dixon Rd  
Rockingham

**The purpose of this meeting is to decide the  
Future of MALA in Rockingham**

The view of our future from the Chair,

The time has come the walrus said, to think of other things, of shoes and ships and sealing wax and ,,,,.....what next year will bring.

The call out to all our membership to consider taking up a leadership role in MALA has yielded exactly zero response.

**The reality now is - NO VOLUNTEERS – NO MALA.**

Very reluctantly and with a great deal of sadness we have to face the fact that the Rockingham branch of MALA will have to close unless more people volunteer for our key roles.

The energy of the remnants of the team that set up and have run a branch of MALA here in Rockingham almost ten years ago is being exhausted. We have all enjoyed and been thankful for the wonderful times and friendships we have had with MALA, but the organization and running of it are now beginning to be too onerous for so small a group. The lack of volunteer support for the core positions has been consistently disappointing and is finally rendering Mala here unsustainable.

The then spritely seventy-something year olds, that we were, are now tiring eighty-something year olds and we feel ready to hand over the baton to a younger team. Problem is, there isn't one in sight!

I feel confident, reading the evaluation sheets and hearing your general comments and seeing your reactions to the presenters, that you have enjoyed and gained a lot from the courses that Mala has offered over the years. Unfortunately, as JFK said, "Things do not just happen, they are made to happen".

At the AGM on November 22nd the current Chair must step down, the Coordinator and Treasurer will resign. Without these key roles we just can't operate.

We do not intend just to hit the wall. We have the first semester of 2024 actively being planned. That time frame gives just six months to fill and train new volunteers for the tasks. Help to take on the roles will be available – mentoring and support is on hand. The current committee from both Rockingham and Mandurah are available to help .

Our next meeting will be a Special General Meeting of all members. to take the decision on the future of Mala in Rockingham *If you want MALA to continue in Rockingham now I the time to consider how you can help to make that happen.*

**NOW..... Back to the here and how**

**Term Three** has been a successful one. The variety of topics in the “From the Air” series and the depth of the Genealogy course have been really well received.

The good news is that we have another cracker line up for you for **Term Four**.

**Session One** (9.30) brings us two young research scientists to introduce us to Systems Medicine - an holistic look at disease and our susceptibility to it.

**Session Two** (11.30) is an exciting new mix of Forensic Science with Bob Mead.

**Session Three** –(1.30) The War In and Over Ukraine. Understanding the Why, the How and What’s Next with leading expert on the topic Dr. Alexey Muraviev.

Having said all that, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank those volunteers that we have and who are keep the wheels turning for us week by week. Not jut by setting up and clearing away but taking on other things -- Margaret who took over the job of enrolment while Julie was away; Penny who sets up our computers and takes care of any photocopying for us and Martin who looks after our presenters and introduced them so capability. Thank You so much.

Bronwen Usher  
Chair



**ENROLMENT DAY**

**When** WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER at 10.00 -11.30am

**Where** Foyer of the Rockingham Community Library

Dixon Road, Rockingham

EFPOS is AVAILABLE

**Course Dates** 18th 25<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup>,8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November



**9..30 – 11.00am**

**Systems Medicine in Health and Disease**

*with Dr Nicola Gray and Dr Luke Whitley*

**-Research in the field of systems medicine investigates the human body as part of an integrated whole , analysing all aspects of biochemical, physiological and environment interactions that may contribute to our risk of disease. Using cutting edge technologies researchers aim to determine the underlying causes of disease – is it genetic, environmental or lifestyle that has the greatest influence?**

**This course aims to introduce participants to the concept of systems medicine and how technologies are used to further our understanding of the mechanics of disease and to identify those in the population who are most at risk of developing diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and dementia.**

*Dr Whitley is a research scientist and senior lecturer at the Australian Phenome Centre who specialises in system technology and data to investigate disease with a specific interest in healthy aging and dementia and the maintenance of cognitive health as we age.*

*Dr Gray is a Senior lecturer at the Australian Phonemic Centre and Centre for Computational and System Medicine. Her specific interest lies in understanding the complex interactions between our genetics, environment and lifestyle and disease.*

**11.30- 1.00pm**

**Forensic Science with Dr Bob Mead**

**A truly mixed bag of forensic delights. A mock trial- with you as a jury: either a local murder case or possibly the case I am currently working on , a complex cold case murder in Queensland. A new unidentified human remains case and a fatal airline crash are also in the mix.**

*Dr Bob Mead is a biochemical molecular toxicologist He established Murdoch University's Bachelor degree prod gram and organised and taught many of the key unit in the degree He is currently reviewing a cold case murder for the Qld Police Dept.*

**1.30- - 3.00pm**

**The War in and Over Ukraine. Understanding the Why, the How and What's Next**

*with Dr. Alexey Muraviev*

**Russia's aggression against Ukraine launched on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 has accelerated several debates of global political and military importance. These include the renewed role of conventional military power in contemporary and future conflicts and the nature of near future warfare, and the transformation of the world order triggered by the crisis of the established international rules-based order. As the prolonged Russia West rivalry has now transformed into a quasi-open war with Ukraine understanding advertorial failures and successes is essential to avoid the risk of mankind strategic error of international judgement in times of conflict. I**

**In this series Alexey will provide an overview of the war in Ukraine and the current state of play on the battlefield and beyond. He will consider possible future courses of action by major actors involved in this conflict including Vladimir Putin 's political future and draw some preliminary conclusion on what key takeaway lessons can be learned from the unfolding tragedy in eastern Europe.**

*Dr. Muraviev is Associate Professor of National Security and Strategic Studies at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. He is founder and Director of the Strategic Flashlight forum on national security and strategy at Curtin.*

**For enrolment in the above courses, please go to the fillable-pdf Enrolment Form on the Rockingham page of the mala.au website!**