

# MALA MESSENGER

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

**MARCH 2021**

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## **FROM THE CHAIR**

Welcome back. It is so good to see smiling faces again ready to take up the challenge of learning something new and keeping the grey cells ticking for another year. COVID came back to bite us – thank goodness this time it was just a nibble and has not stopped us, but instead gave us a gentle reminder that we still must still be careful and keep the measures we have in place going.

Apologies to those of you who were affected by our phone outages while you were trying to access enrolment information. Neither of our numbers were working for a period before we realised that we had no operative phones. In one case the mobile had in fact decided to die, we now have a new one up and running. The other case was a Telstra bungle that took a long time to resolve – as those of you who have had dealing with Telstra will understand. All well now however, so hopefully your next term enquires will be promptly attended to.

This term the enrolments have been down on previous years, a little disappointing, as the presenters put a lot of work into preparing their lectures for us. Hopefully as COVID fades with the vaccinations underway and the weather becoming milder, more of you will be returning to enjoy the classes once again.

Thanks for the work of the committee members who have helped get the year underway and keep mature adult learning alive and well in Rockingham.

**Bronwen Usher**  
**Chair**



*All my life I thought that air was free – until I bought a bag of chips.*



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## 2021 COMMITTEE

<i>CHAIR</i>	–	<i>Bronwen Usher</i>
<i>VICE CHAIR</i>	–	<i>John MacDonald</i>
<i>SECRETARY</i>	–	<i>Peter Lester</i>
<i>TREASURER</i>	–	<i>Chris Elliott</i>
<i>ASSISTANT/TREASURER</i>	–	<i>David Abela</i>
<i>COURSE CONVENOR</i>	–	<i>Esther Grogan</i>
<i>MEMBERSHIP/ ENROLMENT</i>	–	<i>Martin Hveissel</i>
<i>PHOTOCOPYING</i>	–	<i>June Hveissel</i>
<i>ROSTER/EVENTS</i>	–	<i>Elizabeth Carton-Smith</i>
<i>TRANSPORT</i>	–	<i>Janet McMahon</i>
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<i>General Committee Members</i>	–	<i>Julie Edwards and Nada Lubay</i>
<i>Co-opted Member</i>	–	<i>Jan Rogers</i>

*WELCOME BACK Nada Lubay, who filled the vacancy sadly left by Vicki Foster  
and WELCOME Jan Rogers, a new volunteer who will be assisting with Programs*



*My bed is a magical place were I suddenly remember everything I forgot to do today.*

*While in bed mode . . .*

*Laugh and the World laughs with you,  
Snore and you sleep alone - Anthony Burgess*



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## BOOKSHELF

*“CASE HISTORIES”* by Kate Atkinson

*Many of you will be Kate Atkinson fans already and I can see why. “Case Histories” is a compelling read. Every character comes to life in deeply human ways. It is part complex family drama and part mystery, but it is often funny, original and has lots of twists and thrills that keep you wanting to read on. It is a very satisfying read that will stay with you after you have finished reading. I will be looking for more of her books myself.*

Katherine



*“PHOSPHORESCENCE”* by Julia Baird

*I heard about this book on the radio and it sounded good. It is a book that says it all in the title and subtitle. Phosphorescence on Awe, wonder and things that sustain you when the world goes dark.*

*It touches on so much of our lives, light and dark, female and male, it shows us how to find joy in the ordinary, bathe and learn in nature and revel in being ourselves, human, imperfect, able to overcome challenges and be a whole and valuable person. Julia’s letter to a young woman and letter to my son are both amazing and well worth a read. Having been a few dark places, as we all have from time to time, I really connected with this book.*

Carol



*If you have read a book you have enjoyed, why not share it? – Drop us a line at :*

*malarockingham@gmail.com.au – attention Ed.*



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## Feedback from our Bookworms (and review in one this time)

Tomorrow's Roses by Bernadette Piper. I was given this book for Christmas. It didn't look like the cover of a book that I would normally pick up. But being a small book I decided to dive in.

The story is set against the backdrop of WWII and follows the lives of a Family from Fremantle. I found I could identify with the local places and could easily put myself back into that time when the telegram boy meant loss and years of grief, uncertainty and struggle to keep families going. The social attitudes and limited options for women left on their own was highlighted, especially when impacted by an American Naval lieutenant.

The struggle to do the right thing conflicts with the needs of the heart and the war makes sure there are plenty of tragic stops and starts throughout this story.

I was delighted to hear that it was written by one of us – a MALA member – and that the story is true.

I enjoyed the read and through it I relived a few memories of my own. Thank you Bernadette

Linda



### THINGS TO REMEMBER

A contact address on the back of your name tag is essential.  
If you have not already done so please make sure you do so soon.

Phones are an unnecessary interruption to a class.  
Please mute your phone or turn it off during classes.

Please keep telling your friends and acquaintances about us.  
Nothing works as well as word of mouth recommendations.



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## THAT'S ALL FOLKS

Editor's note:

Just a note of explanation. A few people have asked why we had the section on eating out in the last edition. It was not advertising - although some of you thought so - what should have been explained but I neglected to do (sorry) was that those contributions came from our writing group. The challenge they had been set was to write a review, as if they were a food critic of a place they had eaten at. I think you agree that they did a pretty good job.

**Please Note** - We are revising our mailing list. Should you wish to be removed from our list please send us an email at [malarockingham@gmail.com](mailto:malarockingham@gmail.com)

*I don't mean to brag, but I put together a puzzle in 1 day and the box said 2-4 years !*

Hope you all stay happy and well and I'll leave you with Edith Warton's thought that . . .

*The air of ideas is the only air worth breathing.*

**Bronwen Usher**  
**Editor**

