

EAST LONDON U3A ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Finally, after many promises to do so, I have got East London U3A on to the Internet. To be fair though, most of the work was done by Peter Lawson of one of the Cape Town U3A branches after I had sent him the information in the required format. The web sites of our and other U3As in South Africa can be accessed in several ways using web addresses:


www.u3a.org.za opens the South African U3A home page which has links, via the buttons on the left hand side of the screen, to other pages including overseas U3A groups.

www.u3a.org.za/U3Amap.htm opens a map of South Africa with the locations of all the known U3A groups on it. Clicking the relevant name (not the associated red dot) opens the home page of that U3A group.

www.u3a.org.za/Groups.html opens up a page with a listing of all U3A groups in South Africa. Clicking on anyone opens the home page of that group.

www.u3a.org.za/U3A_ELS/ELS.htm opens the home page of our own U3A group.

Apologies if you note on the web site that I have changed the picture of the coelacanth compared to the usual depiction on our Newsletter. I needed an actual photograph and did not have the original so had to copy one from the Internet.

If you have received your Newsletter by email, then holding the Ctrl key down and clicking (**Ctrl+click**) on any of the above hyperlinks, you will automatically open the relevant web site. That is of course if you are on line at the time! On some sites, alongside names of officials, you will notice an  icon. Clicking on here will automatically open up a New Message form in your email program. The use of this icon is to prevent trawlbots from identifying email addresses. "Trawlbots" are malicious programs that trawl the internet looking for information to use for nefarious purposes.

At the moment our site has links to our Course List (updated from the one that was issued previously to show the upcoming Antiques & Collectables and the Art Courses) and Newsletter. I plan to have the current and previous Newsletters available on line, removing a 'previous' one as a later one is published.

As part of this exercise I received from Elaine Trouw, who appears to keep the branch contact list up to date, a complete listing of a contact person at all the South African U3As. This will be useful when friends and family ask if there is a U3A group in their area or if you are visiting elsewhere in South Africa. As a U3A member you are entitled to visit any other U3A group meeting if you pay their normal charges and the same applies for people visiting here.

One of the available features, pointed out to me by Peter Lawson, is the provision of a free mailing list with Yahoo Groups. Both Cape Town and Helderberg (Somerset West) have done this - the Cape Town one has over 850 members. The advantages are that the moderator(s), and only the moderator(s), can post to all these people with a single e-mail. At the moment, because of spam filters, Ines can only send emailed Newsletters out in groups of 8 to 10 so it is quite onerous on her (and who ever takes over from her in August). When I was doing it in 2005/07 I could initially send out the whole lot in one go but that was gradually reduced to 20. At the moment I have not requested this facility but would welcome members' feedback. There is no maintenance required, as the members of the list simply subscribe or unsubscribe themselves, although you can get it up and running by adding 10 names per day, or inviting up to 50 persons per day.

*Good Surfing,
John Thompson*

U3A BRANCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Website: www.u3a.org.za

CAPE

Atlantic Seaboard	Bonnie Davidson	021 438 8910	bonnieclyde@mweb.co.za
Blaauwberg	Rod Hulley	021 552-2236	rhulley@kingsley.co.za
Cape Town (Central)	Eve Dunnell	021 531 5604	u3a.ct@sybaweb.co.za
False Bay	Peter Rickards	021 788 9469	peteric@telkomsa.net
George/ Wilderness	Spencer Hooper	044 874 4907	u3a.gandw@gmail.com
Greyton	Diana Segal	028 254 9406	segals@xsinet.co.za
Helderberg (Som. W)	Judy Henry	021 856 4020	judy@henry.org.za
Knysna	Gail Powers	044 343 3256	gail@sedgies.co.za
Oudtshoorn	William Gould	044 279 1515	sa_wi@yahoo.com
Overberg (Hermanus)	Allan Powell	028 316 1251	deallan@telkomsa.net
Plettenberg Bay	Angela Embleton	044 533 1437	ae@piab.co.za
Tygerberg (CT north)	Sylvia Phillips	021 913 9693	u3atygerberg@telkomsa.net

EASTERN CAPE

East London	John Thompson	043 740 3339	johnlorn@iafrica.com
Grahamstown	Helen Crawford	046 622 773	helenmary@imagnet.co.za
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FREE STATE

Bloemfontein	Inez Greenstein	079 340 915	greenstein@telkomsa.net
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GAUTENG

Johannesburg	Marcia Leveson	011 880 7174	mleveson@icon.co.za
Joburg East	Mari Phitidis	011 440 1935	mphitidis@iafrica.com
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NATAL

Durban	Margaret Knight	031 208 0729	meknight@telkomsa.net
Howick	Rev Ron Nicolson	033 330 3537	nicolsonr@vodamail.co.za

IMPORTANT

Time is passing so fast that it is easily forgotten that by the end of July four of our Committee Members will vacate their post as their 3 year term has passed. It is important that we are now thinking about new Committee Members. We have so many wonderful and capable members in the U3A with so many skills, that it should not be too difficult. If you would like to serve on the Committee please come forward as U3A really needs you. The posts which will have to be replaced are Treasurer, Secretary, Course Coordinator, and, last but not least, the post of editor of the Newsletter and registrar of memberships.

Current Affairs: Colin White will not be able to hold the lecture in April, as he has to meet the deadline with his thesis. Gavin Stewart is so kind and will stand in for Colin. His subject will be announced at the general meeting in April. In May, all will be back as usual.

Guest Speakers

8 April	Dennis Jenkinson	The trams of EL 1900-1935
13 May	Mervyn Gatcke	Tourism
10 June	Lynne Holland	Kenya

Kindly take note that U3A can not be held responsible for the views and opinions of the speakers. These are entirely theirs and may not represent views and opinions of the U3A and the Committee.

Please wear your name tags as it is not easy to remember all members' names.

U3A Course Program: April - May 2010

General Meetings are at St Andrew's Bowling Club (in East London Golf Club grounds) on the **2nd Thursday** of the month at **9.30am**. Most open courses are also there. All start at **10am** unless otherwise stated.

Course	Leader	Telephone	Day	Venue	Duration	Notes
East London History	Keith Tankard	043 748 2087	1st Tuesday	St Andrew's Club	Full Year	OPEN
Book Club	Pauline Theron	043 748 5943	1st Wednesday	St Andrew's Club	Full Year	10 people needed
Scrabble	Wendy Brent	043 748 4069	1st Thursday	39 The Dunes Beacon Bay	Full Year	OPEN Bring board and / or dictionary
Conversational German	Wisegard v. Oertzen	043 740 5170	2nd Monday	Settlers Gonubie	Full Year	CLOSED
Long Grass Whispers	Carl Vernon	043 721 3518	2nd Tuesday + 2nd Friday	Nahoon Estuary (Dassie Trail)	Full Year	Starts 9 am 2 nd course Starts 10:30
Environmental Matters	Shirley Baxter	043 721 3518	2nd Wednesday	St. Andrew's Club	Half Year	OPEN
Conversational French	Joan Barrow	043 748 4990	2nd Wednesday	6 Strelitzia 3 Beacon-hurst Drive	Full year	CLOSED 2pm - 4 pm
Music A	Deanne Driver	043 722 3523	3rd Tuesday	11 St. Andrews Rd	Full Year	CLOSED
Music C	Deanne Driver	043 722 3523	3rd Wednesday	11 St. Andrews Rd	Full Year	CLOSED
Current Affairs	Colin White	043 732 1190	3rd Thursday	St Andrew's Club	Full year	OPEN
Music B	Deanne Driver	043 722 3523	4th Tuesday	11 St. Andrews Rd	Full Year	CLOSED
English Literature	Gloria Smith	043 740 1846	4th Wednesday	23 Hart Str. Gonubie	Full Year	CLOSED
Writing	Gavin Stewart	083 708 2719	4th Friday	St Andrew's Club	Full Year	OPEN
Art Course	Barry Gibb	043	every Monday	St Andrew's Club	2 Month	OPEN Starting 10 May at 11 am

If you have a problem receiving your Newsletter please e-mail Ines at inesbehr@telkomsa.net or phone 043 740 4601.