



# University of the Third Age - Knysna

Incorporating Sedgefield  
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Website: [www.u3a.org.za](http://www.u3a.org.za)

**JULY 2010**

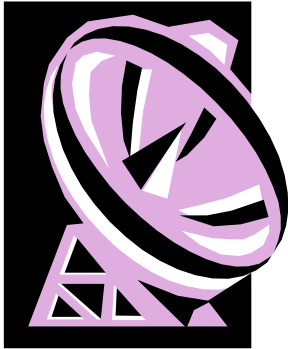
97th Monthly Newsletter

Dear U3A Members

## GENERAL MEETING – Thursday 29 July

**Venue: BRENTON COMMUNITY HALL, Brenton-on-Sea** – refreshments will be served between 9h30 and 10h15 and **the meeting will start promptly at 10h30. Cut-off time for tea, i.e. 10h15 will be strictly adhered to**, to allow helpers to attend the meeting in time. The contribution of R5 for members, R10 for visitors is intended for the hire of the hall. **NB: The tea/coffee and biscuits are complimentary!**

**Please show your membership card at the door on arrival.**



### **U3A Moves With New TV Technology**

**Neël Smuts**, a Communications Engineering Consultant, was intimately involved in launching television in South Africa. His talk to U3A is titled **“TV and the Migration to Digital Terrestrial Television”**. A brief overview will be given of the various significant developments and why it is now necessary to migrate from the obsolete national PAL analogue standard to a digital standard, what this offers and the significant issues involved (ordinary terms will be used!)

Neël is a former Deputy Director General (Technology) for the SABC, member of ICASA and MD of Sentech. He is presently assisting in the Meerkat and Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio astronomy projects, as well as licensing applications for new commercial radio stations.

U3A is fortunate to have such a qualified speaker presenting on a subject of relevance to all.

## COURSE COMMENTS

### **Attention all course coordinators!**

- 1) Would all coordinators please give any newsletter info for the August newsletter and September course list to Dereck Wheeldon on 044 384 0744 or [dereck.wheeldon@gmail.com](mailto:dereck.wheeldon@gmail.com) . Ariane will be paddling in the Great Lakes with grandchildren.
- 2) Judy Dixon has taken over as new Course Administrator. Please liaise with her on 044 883 1015 or e-mail at [jzd@telkomsa.net](mailto:jzd@telkomsa.net)

**NEW - The Story of Western Philosophy - Tuesday 24 August at 10h00 at the Knysna Library.** As an introduction to philosophy, in 6 fortnightly sessions on every second Tuesday, **Jenny Wilkinson** will take us on a whistle-stop tour through 2000 years of Western thought. No knowledge of philosophy is required or assumed!

*“Our conception of ourselves and the world in which we live, and the way in which we experience it, have been shaped by the thoughts of relatively few people. In this journey through the logical and historical development of Western thought we will look critically at some of the major ideas that form our worldview and that we often tend to take for granted. Although the basic reason for philosophy is curiosity about the world and not absorbing the ideas of philosophers, we also need to understand and appreciate the contribution of those who have changed our intellectual history. This course will therefore have a dual purpose. It will introduce philosophy, some of its problems, aims and methods by critically examining a selection of the greatest thinkers in history. We will start in Ancient Greece, travel via the Hellenistic period to Medieval Europe and the Dark Ages and then see how Aristotle and the scientific Revolution resuscitated human imagination and curiosity. Among the major figures who grappled with the new emerging explanations of the world were Rene Descartes, John Locke, George Berkeley, David Hume and Immanuel Kant. Their explanations form the basis of modern thought and we will follow its different paths to where we are today.*

The first session will take off with: **What philosophy is and how it all began (including the Pre-Socratic thinkers and Socrates)**. Contact **Jenny Wilkinson** on **044 382 5090**

<p><b><u>NEW – Improve Your Bridge</u></b> – local bridge expert, <b>Linda Bircher</b>, will be presenting a course of 5 weekly sessions starting on <b>Friday 6 August at 14h00</b> at the <b>Knysna Angling Club</b>.</p> <p><b>“Assessing and Playing Big Hands”</b> will be the theme of the course, but each session will stand-alone.</p> <p>This is <b>NOT</b> a beginner’s course. Some knowledge of bridge is essential.</p> <p>Coordinator: <b>Mick Roberts 044 387 1319</b></p>	<p><b><u>ONE-OFF</u></b> – <b>Tuesday 3 August at 10h30</b> at <b>St Boniface Hall – Shlomo Berknitz</b>, a motivational speaker, will give a talk on <b><u>Mental Acuity</u></b>, a subject very relevant to our age group; as Shlomo states: <i>“we all seem to experience an exponential increase in ‘senior moments’ as the years go by”</i></p> <p>Shlomo is an Israeli author and psychologist, former rector and president of the University of Haifa and former member of the Knesset. He has been in the forefront of cognitive training for a wide range of cognitive skills needed for everyday function.</p> <p>Coordinator: <b>Dereck Wheeldon 044 384 0744</b></p>
<p><b><u>Meteorology</u></b> – <b>Tuesday 17 August at 14h30</b> at the <b>Knysna Library</b>. This session will include <b>general pressure and wind distribution, oceanic winds and weather, and local winds</b>. Contact <b>Theo Honiball at 044 384 1363</b> or <a href="mailto:alongside@telkomsa.net">alongside@telkomsa.net</a></p>	<p><b><u>Medical Matters</u></b> – <b>Tuesday 3 August at St Boniface Hall at 14h30</b>. Coord: <b>Julie Dieterich 044 384 1753</b></p> <p><b>Dr Johan Olivier</b>, a General Practitioner here in Knysna, will address us in August. Some will remember his previous talk on Strokes, which was apparently excellent. This time he will speak on <b><i>Psychiatric Disorders in the Elderly</i></b>, a very interesting and broad topic. No bookings required.</p> <p><b>Medical Matters</b> takes place <b>once a month at St Boniface Hall on Tuesday afternoons at 14h30</b>. Due to use of the hall by various organisations, we were unable to secure a certain fixed afternoon every month. Please note the following dates for the rest of 2010: <b>3 August, 7 September, 12 October and 2 November</b>. The speaker for each month will appear in the newsletter with confirmation (or change if necessary) of the venue details. Julie Dieterich</p>
<p><b><u>U3A Science Discussion Group</u></b> – <b>Tuesday 10 August at Leisure Isle Small Boat Club at 10h00</b>.</p> <p><b>Mike Young</b> and <b>Melissa Mackay</b> will be presenting the topic of <b>“Desalination”</b> for discussion.</p> <p>All members are welcome. If you would like refreshments, bring your own mug and R5 for tea/coffee and biscuits. <b>Nick Sweet 044 343 2277</b>.</p>	<p><b><u>Intrepid Travellers</u></b> - <b>Monday 2 August at 10h00</b> at the <b>Knysna Library</b>. The topic in August will be <b>“Harkhuf”</b>, who was governor of Upper Egypt in the 23<sup>rd</sup> century BC, and who travelled extensively.</p> <p>Contact <b>Judy Dixon on 044 883 1015</b></p>
<p><b><u>ANDRÉ RIEU Concerts</u></b> – the continuation of this series for a further 3 concerts in August will be decided on towards the end of July. Keep in touch with <b>Jo Hardie</b> on <b>044 387 1903</b> or <a href="mailto:joanna@hardie.co.za">joanna@hardie.co.za</a></p>	<p><b><u>Non-Fiction Book Club No 1</u></b> – <b>Thursday 12 August at 9h30</b> at the home of <b>Anne and Mike Clarke at 48 Templeman Road, Knysna Heights</b>. Contact Anne or Mike on <b>044 382 5740</b></p>
<p><b><u>Scrabble Club</u></b> – future dates and times will be decided on at the first meeting: <b>Tues 27 July at 10h00 at Fat Susi’s</b>. Contact <b>Eleanora Fraser 044 382 6674</b></p>	<p><b><u>Non-Fiction Book Club No 2</u></b> – there will be no meeting in August</p>
<p><b><u>Lunch Club</u></b> – <b>Friday 13 August</b> at the <b>Cruise Café</b> (next to the Angling Club on Waterfront Drive) at <b>12h30 for 12h45</b>. Booking essential. Put your name down on the list at the General Meeting. R60 (including tip). Contact <b>Glenda Jackson on 044 382 7142</b></p>	<p><b><u>Book Exchange Club</u></b> – <b>Wednesday 4 August at 10h30</b> at <b>Nauticus in Brenton-on-Sea</b>. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at Nauticus.</p> <p>All are welcome. Contact <b>Lorna Skaife 044 381 0803</b> (mornings only)</p>
<p><b><u>Philosophy Club</u></b> – <b>Friday 20 August at 9h45 at 15-2 Hammock, Thesen Islands</b>.</p> <p><b>“The roots of Analytic philosophy:</b> The beginning of the 20th Century was also the beginning of a major revolution in philosophy, how it was conceived and how it was practised. GE Moore and Bertrand Russell led the move away from what was seen as the excesses of idealism and the 'return to common sense'. This was the start of analytic philosophy and the view that language is our best tool for understanding what the world is really like and how misuse of language can and has, misled us to misconstrue the nature of reality. This month we will discuss what gave rise to this linguistic turn in philosophy and its continuing significance for philosophy.”</p> <p><b>Jenny Wilkinson 044 382 5090</b></p>	<p><b><u>Hiking Club:</u></b> confirm with Maarten Taal <b>044 343 2067</b></p> <p><b>NB: there will be no hike on <u>Wednesday 21 July</u></b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 4 August – Robberg</b> at Plettenberg Bay – spectacular coastal scenery - 11km/mod-hard/5hrs – meet at <b>Knysna Station at 8h30</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 18 August – Elephant Walk 2</b> at Diepwalle - 8km/easy-mod/4hrs - beautiful wet natural forest, forest birds – meet at <b>Knysna Station at 8h30</b></p>
<p><b><u>Armchair Travel and Travel Club</u></b> – no activities in August</p>	<p><b><u>Know Your Neighbourhood</u></b> – there will be no meeting in August</p>
<p><b><u>Exceptional People</u></b> – <b>Monday 2 August at 14h30 at Belvidere Manor</b>. Tea and scones as usual – R20.</p> <p><b>Angela Embleton</b>, chairman of the Plett U3A, will talk about <b><i>Emperor Hadrian of Rome</i></b>. Emperor Hadrian is known for visiting Britain in 122 AD, where he ordered the building of Hadrian’s Wall.</p>	<p><b><u>Art Appreciation</u></b> - <b>Wednesday 11 August at 10h30 at Phantom Forest</b>. Currently full.</p>
<p><b><u>Computer Course</u></b> – A very big thanks to <b>Fred</b> for spending so much time arranging and sorting out this course. Future courses are still to be decided on.</p>	<p><b><u>Film Club</u></b> - on hold &amp; looking for a new Coordinator</p>

## 2010 Knysna

A number of residents of Knysna and the Garden Route attended the Germany-Serbia match at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth on Friday 18 June. The day dawned bright and sunny and remained so for the rest of the day. Access to the near vicinity of the stadium proved to be easy, as was getting out of the stadium after the match. The passing parade of interestingly attired and happy supporters was most entertaining. German fans were by far in the majority, which made the Serbian win all the more impressive. Vuvuzelas were in the minority!

### SEEN AT THE MATCH



U3A members:  
Irene Wustrow  
Ina Engelbrecht  
Bernd Rohloff

Serbian and  
German fans



## OUT & ABOUT

In the course of six lectures in ***Astronomy in "Bite Size Chunks"***, **Case Rijdsijk** has taken us on a most remarkable journey. By means of today's wonderful process of power point presentation, allied to his inimitable delivery of the spoken word, he has carried us through our universe from the moment of its birth – or to be precise, a miniscule fraction of a second later – through the gradual development of stars, galaxies, and galactic structures, to the very edge of the Universe, across the incredible time scale of almost fourteen billion years.



It has been a voyage of remarkable revelation. We have been privileged to see some of the most awe-inspiring beautiful photographs, taken by the Hubble satellite, of our home galaxy as Case revealed some of his vast store of knowledge and experience.

Each of us will, I am sure, recall for some long time much of the material we have absorbed during the course. Our time and the small cost of notes have certainly been very well spent in the company of such a wonderful lecturer.

We thank you, Case, most sincerely for devoting your valuable time and effort in preparing the very full notes of each lecture, and in travelling to Knysna every other week to present your material.

**Eric Bult**

The picture above, taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, has been named ***Starry Night*** as it reminded astronomers of the Van Gogh painting. It shows an expanding halo of light, illuminating interstellar dust coming from a red supergiant star, located 20,000 light years away at the outer edge of the Milky Way. A light year (ly) is a unit of length equal to just under 10 trillion kilometres and is the distance that light travels in a vacuum in one Julian year of 365.25 days.

**DISCOVER THE COSMOS YOURSELVES!** Each day a different image or photograph of our fascinating universe is featured, along with a brief explanation written by a professional astronomer. To sign up for a free automatic download of the Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD) go to <http://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~qtracy/astronomy/signup.htm>

## Knysna Footprint – Green Tip

Vinegar (=very diluted acetic acid) is a very powerful anti-bacterial agent, so think twice before reaching for harmful chemical solutions and consider this natural alternative, which can be used for a myriad of purposes, such as:

- unblocking drains – try pouring down a solution of boiling white vinegar
- as a room deodorizer – used in a fine atomizer, vinegar is an effective air freshener
- as an ant repellent – ants dislike vinegar, so spray it around doorways and other areas where they congregate