

The Maleny U3A Book Group - Feb 2002 - Dec 2015

Becoming

The Third Friday Book Group

Feb 2016

The Maleny Book Group started when local people, interested in belonging to a Book Group under the umbrella of the University of the Third Age, gathered at Tesch Park on Monday, 11 February 2002 to discuss its formation. The first meeting was held at the Maleny Library on the 20 March 2002.

Our first book was the *English Patient*. We met on the third Wednesday morning each month, February to December until 2012. We later changed to the third Friday when the room became unavailable.

Each U3A Book Group was allocated 10 books so we could have 10 members. The members fluctuated. Ten books were passed on to the next group and we received our next set. For this organisation we owe Wyn Rahilly a huge amount of gratitude. It was Wyn who was mostly responsible for choosing and distributing the books from her home in Buderim. Wyn also hosted a Book Convenor's meeting each year. Sadly Wyn died suddenly in September 2010.

Because the number of U3A Book Groups was growing and the area of distribution was increasing, the task of the co-ordinator became very difficult. Sunshine Coast U3A decided to cease running book groups at the end of 2015 and donated their books to the Sunshine Coast Libraries.

Our group continued to meet at the Library and we are now known as the Third Friday Book Group. Because of the donation of U3A books to the Library, the Library waived our fees for 2006. We now source our eight books directly from the Library, many other Book Groups do the same.

The Library has a long list of books, and all the Libraries of the Sunshine Coast are included. All Book Groups source their books from them. Often, when our convenor orders a book of her choice, she finds that it has already been ordered by another Book Group. She has to make several requests until a book becomes available. Sometimes we're lucky and we find it a good read and other times it is very unpopular and many don't finish it. Strangely sometimes we have quite a lengthy discussion about such a book. These books take us out of our comfort zone.

Over the past 16 years many of us have taken on the responsibility of Convenor, but under U3A we did not have to choose the books. Having to choose has made the Convenor's task a lot harder and we all understand that often the book chosen is not the first choice.

We've been allocated 160 book over the years, these book have provided us with plenty of material for discussion. We do not receive a book in December, so at our February meeting, we discuss books that we have read over the break.

The Library has so many advantages as a meeting room. It's air-conditioned, has parking and is close to coffee shops as "going for coffee" after our meeting is a lovely way to end our morning. We find the librarians helpful, their workload must have increased markedly with so many more Book Groups.

Sadly, over the year, some of our members have passed away, others have shifted from Maleny or left because of health reasons. We have only had two brave men as members over the time.

Beth Lawson and myself have been members since the group's inception, others have belonged for over 10 years. Judy travels from Mapleton and Rose from Palmwoods to be part our happy group. Rose has been with us since 2014 and is taking on the unenviable task as Convenor for 2019. Rose has a huge knowledge of books, we we are looking forward to her choices, or the ones that are available.

Thanks Margaret for organising this luncheon to celebrate our 17th Birthday next February. I hope that the 6 of us enjoy many more years of happy reading together.

Beth Whan

Membership Third Friday Book Group 2016

Rose Brown
Wendy Butler
Judy Crocker
Mary Donohue
Margares Ginns
Beth Lawson
Heather Robertson
Beth Whan



Members past and present at 17th Birthday Luncheon at the Mary Cairncross Park Cafe.
14 December 2018.

L to R - Marilla Cundell, Heather Robertson, Mary Donohue, Rose Brown, Judy Crocker, Desley Malone, Adrienne Price, Carol Frawley, Beth Whan, Margaret Ginns (standing) Jan Glasscock, Beth Lawson.