



Editors Notes:

from Helen Duboi



With most of us feeling the effects of current heat wave, I thought that a view showing the sea might be as soothing as walking along the beach at the end of the day.

Enjoy...

President's Notes:

from Marilyn Wagland:



U3A Brisbane has got off to a very successful start, breaking all previous attendance records. This is a great tribute to the enthusiasm of our members, the dedication of our tutors and the tireless work of our Tutor Liaison, Gail Hawkins, who coordinates all the City Campus classes and timetabling. Attendances are also good in the Districts, and we acknowledge the work of the District Coordinators and helpers. Those who have attended in the past realise the benefits in the acquisition and knowledge and skills and the social interactions that U3A offers. Those who have just joined will, I hope, also quickly reap the rewards that membership offers in our friendly, welcoming environment.

Thank you to the office volunteers, some of whom worked unofficially throughout the holidays to manage the volume of registrations, and to everyone for their huge effort in the first week which was incredibly busy. All memberships should now be paid for 2017 if you wish to attend classes.

U3A Network Qld State Conference 2017

This year's conference will be hosted by U3A Twin Towns on 18-19 May at the Tweed Civic Centre. All U3A members are encouraged to attend to participate in the many informative sessions. It's a great way to network with U3As from all over Queensland, renewing friendships and sharing ideas

Registration is now open and information on the speakers and programs is posted on the Conference website -

www.u3aqldconference.org

These conferences are relaxed and friendly and a worthwhile event. Enjoy a couple of days down at the Gold Coast as part of the experience for an enjoyable few days.

Brisbane City News:

from Gail Hawkins

tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au



What a great start to the year ! Many of our tutors have had to put "Class Full" against their courses, which is an excellent response and motion of support for our tutors, but unfortunate for those members who missed out on enrolling in classes. Next term, we will have numerous new classes covering languages, music, history, current affairs and many other topics. Hopefully the members who missed out on joining their class of choice this term will have better luck in Term 2.

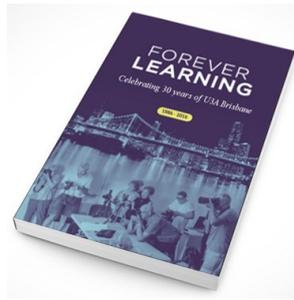
History classes continue to be very popular and our tutors offer a wide variety of subjects to choose from. If you are interested in Australian History, then look at Derek Cameron's Thursday classes - The Battle for Australia 1942-43 and The Burma Railway. Derek taught Modern History as a secondary school teacher and has personal experience with family who fought in new Guinea, and were interned in Changi prison and worked on the Burma Railway, so he is passionate about the subject and would welcome you into one or both of his classes.

If tutors would like to promote their classes outside of the online Schedule, our Facebook page is available and has been successful in highlighting classes and attracting members to enrol. Please email publicity@u3abrisbane.org.au to find out more about our Facebook page, or to get your class advertised. We also have a Noticeboard in the Reception area at Adelaide Street where classes can be advertised for a one month period. To advertise your class on the noticeboard, the notice needs to be dated and submitted to the Admin Staff who will manage the process of placing the notice on the board and removing it when the time elapses.

FOREVER LEARNING

From Greg Doolan:

Do you have your copy of the 30 year history book of U3A Brisbane yet? Hurry to avoid disappointment. This book would make an ideal gift or to have just as a memento of U3A Brisbane and all that's been achieved



over the last 30 years.

Leave it on your coffee table so visitors can browse and perhaps ask about U3A Brisbane. A great way to get your friends and relatives involved with U3A.

Available from both Creek and Adelaide Street offices in the city. Price: \$20

Computer Lab:

Volunteer Computer Tutors Required.

from Gwenn Ball

We are looking for people who may have computer and programming skills and would like to put their existing knowledge and expertise to work for the benefit of others. Formal qualifications are not essential.

A genuine interest in both working with mature adults and computers could possibly make you an ideal tutor. Whether as a short-term or long-term volunteer, your skills will help make a difference in building digital bridges for our members to thrive in the information age.

Benefits: Volunteering provides you with renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into your personal life.

Our computer section courses run from 3 to 10 weeks, depending on the topic, one session per week classes are 1½ hour in duration. At present, we have a number of 3 and 5 week timeslots available. Classes are run with small groups of students, in our Creek Street computer lab, in a non-formal learning setting.

The Computer lab has 10 student Toshiba 23in. Touch computers with Keyboard and Mouse attached, 1 Tutor computer all installed with MS Windows 10, MS/Office 2010 and MS/office 2016. There is an Apple TV connected to the Data Projector.

Some Topics needed:

- **Web Design**
- **Blogging**
- **Genealogy research**
- **PowerPoint**

For more information, please contact:

Gwenn Ball 3823 4326 after 5pm
gwenn.ball@u3abrisbane.org.au

Logan District News:

The Open Day on January 18th was an excellent event. About 200 people turned up and nearly all tutors were there to tell everyone about their lessons or activities. The local newspaper took photos and wrote a feature about it, and representatives of the Brisbane Management Committee called in. There was plenty of interest from the public, including people who had never previously realised what U3A is, or what is on offer here. It was a wonderful turnout, and the local committee are particularly grateful to the tutors for their support. Tutors have literally made this District. We were lucky to have had a good range of subjects from the very start in 2010, and a special vote of thanks goes to those tutors who have been with us continuously for five years or more: From 2010 when we started in Term 3 - Kevin Woodward, Sharon Uren, Dawn Davis (who started well prior to 2010 in Beenleigh District); From 2011 - David Anderson, Erika Meerwald, Judith Barltrop, and Bill Bohlen, From 2012 - Peter Clark, Julie Henderson, Judy George and Bryan Iles. You deserve a medal!

The term is in full swing now but it is not too late to enrol in most classes. New classes are going well, with unexpectedly large numbers of students in some, for instance Israeli Folk Dancing and Hand Bell Ringing. The Handicrafts tutor, Dawn Noe can offer a wide range of subjects, giving virtually one on one assistance in Quilting, Knitting, Crotchet, Sewing for various purposes and other needle skills - whatever students want to learn.

The local committee has lost three members recently, and we are very sorry that Trevor Scott, Kathy Roman and Bill Bohlen have retired from the working group. Like all of us they have a lot of commitments, and all have contributed mightily to our success and will be sorely missed. As a result volunteers are needed to help with the running of U3A classes in Logan. We need people to help with tutor liaison, finding venues, handling promotions and general publicity, administrative duties, and generally being available as needed to assist. Volunteers would need to be contactable by email. If you can donate some of your time and you want to help making U3A available to the benefit people like yourself, please call **Monika (3800 6789)** or Jean (0400 787 298) to find out more.

Reclaim your Age Pension:

By Darren Titmus,
U3A Tutor & Principal Adviser at Financial Planning Qld.

OK, we have been talking about this for some time during the lead up from May 2015 Budget until finally the changes took effect on January 1 this year. You or someone you know have probably been subject to a change in your Age Pension entitlements.

Centrelink assess Age Pension eligibility using an Asset Test and an Income Test. For those recipients receiving Age Pension under the income test there will be no material change to benefit amounts. For those assessed under the Assets Test however, you may well have noticed a change. It is important to understand that the Asset Test assesses the Centrelink Value of assets which is not necessarily the same value that those assets are worth to you. This is because Centrelink have different valuation methods for various asset/investment types – this is not necessarily account balance! Now, this means that there are opportunities to reduce your Assets Test without spending your cash or giving it away. Yes, that is right!

There are two key problems with reducing your asset test by spending or giving away money. Firstly, you no longer have the money! This can simply be false economy because the pension amount that you get back may not make up for what you had to lose to get it. The second issue is that it is a band aid measure. It is a temporary fix. As your investments grow again you will find yourself in a similar situation with the Assets Test and pension entitlements will be reduced again. Having your investments structured properly fixes both of these problems.

Maximising Age Pension entitlements is not on top of everyone's agendas however if it is important to you then it is important to consider all of your investment options and the impact that these different options have on your personal cash flow, risk & security, future growth AND Age Pension entitlements. You could be surprised at the difference small changes can make!

For more information on this article, superannuation, retirement planning and the like, please go to www.financialplanningqld.com.au or contact Darren Titmus directly on 0466 934 574.

Darren Titmus Principal Adviser

o & m Suite 1, 295 Chatsworth Rd Coorparoo Qld 4151



Live, Laugh, Learn Without Boundaries U3A Network Queensland State Conference 18-19 May 2017



U3A Network Queensland State Conference will be held on the Gold Coast on 18-19 May 2017 and, as a member of U3A Brisbane, you are invited to attend.

Listen to great speakers and meet new friends from U3As across the state and other parts of Australia and New Zealand. This conference will be a great opportunity to see at first hand how other U3As operate and learn more about our great movement.

The conference will be hosted by U3A Twin Towns and registration details are as follows: Conference fees:

- Full Conference Package, \$160 (includes refreshments, lunches and Conference Dinner)
- Conference only, \$100 (includes refreshments and lunches but excludes Conference Dinner)
- Conference Dinner only, \$60

Owing to catering requirements, bookings for the Full Package and Dinner Only options close on Friday 5th May.

All who register before 10th April will go into the draw for the Early Bird Prize - a refund of your Conference fees!

But it's not all work; there are some very interesting optional activities on offer as well so, why not register today? Just go to the conference website for all the details:

www.u3aqldconference.org

Social Committee News:

from Helen Dubois

Here's something different for you...

How about an afternoon of live theatre, in air-conditioned comfort, with afternoon tea at interval ?

Sunnybank Theatre Group presents the comedy...

SECRET BRIDESMAIDS BUSINESS

It's the night before Meg Bacon's wedding. She's waited thirty-three years for this and she knows she's going to love every moment! She's gathered her mum and her bridesmaids together for one last night of girlie fun ... or so she thinks.

While the bride prepares for the biggest day of her life and her mum Colleen fusses over ribbons and shoe fabrics, Meg's bridesmaids, Lucy and Angela, stumble upon some information that has the potential to shatter Meg's dream. Should they tell or not tell?

In the hilarious yet painful push and pull that follows, Lucy and Angela discover that sometimes there is no right answer when it comes to doing what's best for your friend?

In true Australian style, Elizabeth Coleman's play **Secret Bridesmaids Business** is a funny look at some

serious issues like truth, loyalty, denial, sex, love, the meaning of marriage, female friendship and the plight of Modern Woman with a biological clock that just won't keep up with the times!

Our Performance Date

Saturday 18 Feb 2pm

(see [website](#) for other performance dates)

Tickets just \$22 !

(Includes afternoon Tea at interval.)

Sunnybank Theatre Group
Cnr Mains and Beenleigh Rds,
Sunnybank

There are only 21 tickets available, and they will be on sale in the U3A office from 30th January 2017.

My Fair Lady tickets are now in the office at 97 Creek. Would you please pick up your tickets as soon as possible. It is better if you hold them as they might get mislaid in the office.

Helen Dubois
Editor
3398 9668
0407 734 337



SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP
cnr Mains & Beenleigh Rds, Sunnybank

in association with **The Cameron Creswell Agency Pty Ltd**



SECRET BRIDESMAIDS BUSINESS
ELIZABETH COLEMAN

director **LEONIE WALSH** box office
Feb 3 - Feb 18 Jan 7

performances
8pm evening
2pm matinee

to book phone: **3345 3964**
online at **www.stg.org.au**



U3A China Tour 2017



Guizhou Province and Chongqing Municipality

Tour Outline:

Guizhou Province:

Fly into the capital Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province. Visit the Guiyang U3A before visiting the key recruiting region during the Long March in 1934. This extremely mountainous Province is home to several different ethnic groups, spectacular scenery and incredible highways and bridges.

Chongqing Municipality:

Fly from Guiyang to Chongqing City to enjoy the capital of Chongqing Municipality, situated on the Yangtze River. The tour will include two UNESCO World Heritage listed sites: the Dazu Rock carvings carved in the 7th C, and the karst scenery of Wulong Karst National Geology Park

Dates: 10 October 2017 to 25 October 2017

Price: Land content price is \$3350 twin share, single accommodation \$3900.

The cost of international flights, visa, travel insurance, etc are **NOT** included.

Register: For a detailed itinerary contact:

BRYAN ILES, tutor of Experiencing China, Brisbane U3A

Email: bryaniles@bigpond.com; Post: 57 Crewe Street, Mount Gravatt East, Qld 4122

U3A classes: Wednesday 12.30 at Adelaide Street campus or Friday 11.15 at Logan North Library, Springwood