



O. W. L. S.

OLDER WISER LEARNING SENIORS



President's piece
Brendan Dever

Volume 12 Issue 5
May 2022

Management committee members

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<i>Vice president</i>	
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Yvonne Berry	Ph 5541 2604
<i>Assistant secretary</i>	
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<i>Social activities facilitator</i>	
Di Johnson	Ph 0468 849 448
<i>Publicity</i>	
Cheryl Folley	Ph 5544 2024
<i>Assistant publicity</i>	
Diane Rewko	Ph 0434 724 991

Friends of the committee

If you would like to join with the following people who have nominated that they will help where they can at occasional events, outings and functions, your involvement will be most welcome.

June Carey	Patricia Castles
Denice Knight	Rita Evans
Rosemary Ryan	Carol Castles

To register as a friend of the committee, please contact Brendan Dever

P 0418 192 999
E presidentu3abeaudesert@gmail.com

Is it the end of April already? We've celebrated Easter and observed Anzac Day – there's a hint of autumn in the air. 2022 is really whizzing by.

April 14 saw the welcome lifting of vaccine and check-in restrictions which had impacted some of our activities and members. While the restrictions have been lifted, COVID-19 remains a potentially serious disease. The latest statistics for Queensland as I write (24 April) show 4,894 new cases in the last 24 hours, 474 people currently in hospital, with an average of seven deaths per day. Many of us are in higher risk groups – please take care of yourselves and follow COVID precautions appropriate to your circumstances. Please respect the health of your fellow members – do not attend any U3A functions or courses if you have symptoms or are a close contact.

I'm steadily learning what's 'under the bonnet' at Beaudesert U3A, and there's still a lot to discover. We've formed a sub-committee to review the applications currently used for accounting and membership, including options for better integration of information and tasks. There'll be an update in the next OWL's.

The last month has been a busy one on the home front. As told in Cheryl's article, Verlie and I headed to Sydney in early April for a University of Tasmania graduation ceremony at Darling Harbour

to receive the Diploma in Sustainable Living. Many moons ago at my first graduation ceremony, a degree in Engineering at QIT, the academic dress was a 1970's trendy coloured gown with no caps; then in the early 2000's an MBA Deakin University offered a 7am breakfast function, no gowns, no caps. So, it was refreshing to discover that the University of Tasmania follows the academic dress style University of Oxford, and finally there was an opportunity for the official photo with gown and mortarboard.

We also celebrated birthday milestones for our two grand-daughters – two years and 100 days respectively, for two very special people. Mothers' Day is coming up on Sunday 8 May, a chance to celebrate and remember special people in our families.

Is everyone enjoying the election campaign? I'm not convinced that our evolved campaign model with the two major party leaders dragging media bubbles around the country for a series of stage-managed TV spots is a sensible way to present the options for we the voters - but we seem to be stuck with it for now. The results on 21 May will be interesting.

Till next edition,

Brendan

PS: If you have any comments or suggestions for our U3A please feel free to email me at presidentu3abeaudesert@gmail.com.



A warm U3A Beaudesert welcome to our new and returning members, Joahn Rohan, Shirley Foreman, Cheryl Little, Lyn Price, Barbara Ragett.

We look forward to seeing you at the activities you have chosen for yourself where, we are sure, you will make many new friends.



Best wishes for a very **happy birthday** to our members who celebrate their birthdays in May:

Helen Atkinson	Vanessa Briaes	Dinah Buchanan	June Carey
Margaret Collins	Janice Cornwall	Julie D'Andilly	Helga Davidson
Andy Fechner	Laurel Fechner	Sarah Grodecki	Marion Harris
Harold Jackson	Shirley Kendall	Christa Kennedy	Carol Lucas
Lynette McKechnie	Beverley Musk	Margaret Paton	Rosemary Ryan
Kerry Stone			



Member of U3A Network Queensland

If your birthday is in May and you are not listed, please let us know so we can update our records and include you.

Current courses - term two 2022 19 April-24 June 2022

Course coordinator | Tina Jones
Phone 0418 780 861 | Email coursesu3abeaundesert@gmail.com

Aqua aerobics

Now in recess till term four 2022

Contact John 0417 073 190

Art group - all mediums

Wednesdays 9 am-12 St Thomas's Anglican Church hall.

Contact Denice 5546 9879 or 0402 012 267

Card playing - Beaudesert

Every Monday 12.30 pm-4.00 pm RSL function room. Enjoy 500 or Bolivia.

Contact Di 0468 849 448 to confirm attendance.



Card playing - Bolivia - Jimboomba

Meets every Thursday 12 noon-4.00 pm at the Anglican Church Hall, Jimboomba

Contact Di 0468 849 448

Computer/other technologies

This group is now an advisory group only, for issues with computers - no computer repairs or house calls.

Contact George 5541 0706, email dreeemboat@iinet.net.au

Croquet club

Play Tuesdays 8.00 am-11.00 am at Everdell Park Gleneagle

Contact George or Rita 5541 0706

French

Every Monday 11.00 am-2.00 pm RSL Sub Branch rooms, 1st floor, corner William and Brisbane Streets, Beaudesert.

Contact Jayne 5463 4841



Gardening group - BUGS

Meet third Friday of each even month 10.00 am-12 noon Beaudesert RSL club function room; away visits odd months

Contact Brendan 0418 192 999 or Carmel 0408 711 401

General discussion group

Meets Tuesdays 9.30 am-11.30 am Beaucare Community room, 44 Tina Street. General discussions on any subject group members propose.

Contact Andy 5541 2072

Indoor bowls

Friday mornings from 9.00 am at St. Thomas's Anglican Church Hall, Albert Street, Beaudesert

Contact Terry 0428 627 673

Jigsaw library

Select a jigsaw (or a wasgij) to use from the library. To select and collect, contact Sandra 5541 0978

Line dancing/dancing

Tuesday from 12.45 pm \$3 per session The Centre, Brisbane Street Beaudesert

Contact Marg 0422 415 145

Mahjong - Jimboomba

Meets every Tuesday 11 am-2 pm Davidson Road, Jimboomba.

Contact Elizabeth 5546 9689

Mahjong - Beaudesert

Thursday afternoons 1 pm-3.30 pm Arts & Information Centre.

Contact Michele 0459 335 403

Mosaics Meet Mondays 1.30 pm-3.30pm at Arts & Information Centre, Beaudesert a hands-on course in a fascinating art form. \$3/session payable on the day. Contact Tina 0418 780 861

Nordic walking/walking

Meet Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings. Contact Liz for start times. Nordic walkers will require a pair of poles, comfortable sports walking shoes, bottle of water. Walkers - poles not needed.

Contact Liz 0488 155 506

Scrapbooking

Second Monday of each month, 9.30 am-11.30 am, 142 Lambert Road, Nindooindah. \$10/session for materials payable on the day.

Contact Anita 0408 452 584

Social lunch

The next social lunch will be held on Friday 13 May at the Beaudesert Golf Club. RSVP to Di phone/text 0468 849 448, email candyroxy1946@gmail.com.

Social tennis

Wednesdays 8 am-12 noon venue Beaudesert tennis courts Boonah Road

Contact Paulette 0409 898 147

Table tennis

Thursdays 9 am-12 noon held at the St Thomas's Anglican Church hall.

Contact Glenda 5541 4290, 0418 771 758 or Ken 5541 1498

Travel and Adventure Group

Meet second Monday each month on the deck, Beaudesert Library 10.00 am onwards.

Contact Ray raymondarthy@gmail.com, ph 0447 554 480

Trivia puzzling

Wednesday afternoons from 1.30 pm St Thomas's Anglican Church hall, Albert Street, Beaudesert

Contact Jenny 0439 138 212

Ukulele

Meets Thursday afternoons St Thomas's Anglican Church hall, Albert Street, Beaudesert, 1 pm-2.30 pm.

Contact Finella 0439 414 491



As most members already know, we have a facebook page (U3A Beaudesert) If you have any notifications of events, photos or videos, messages, etc that you would like included on our page, please contact Pat:

- Phone - 0408 067 466
- Email - u3abeaundesert.facebook@gmail.com

Introducing

New president, Brendan Dever

Your favourite time of the day?

Relaxing over breakfast on the front verandah.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was very young, an engineer/train driver, but that later morphed to mechanical engineer

What is your perfect pizza?

Half and half - super supreme and Hawaiian

If you could select one person from history and have them truthfully answer a question, who would that be and what would be the question?

John Lennon, assassinated in December 1980, aged 40. I would ask him, "You returned to recording new music in the months before your death; what were your hopes and plans for 1981 and beyond?"

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

Spend more time listening, less time speaking

Who was your role model when you were growing up?

My dad, Keith; he had a quiet dignity, with a larrikin spirit always lurking just under the surface.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

The power to create a renewable liquid fuel using carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and water (H₂O).

Propane is C₃H₈, diesel average is C₁₂H₂₃ – just carbon and hydrogen, it can't be that hard!



Brendan's learning continues

Cheryl Folley



It seems our new president was a believer in the central theme of U3A - life-long learning - before he joined us a couple of years ago.

He became involved in guitar and ukulele groups following his retirement from full-time work but at the same time, Brendan was also engaged in the challenge of a Diploma in Sustainable Living online from the University of Tasmania, which he finished last December.

Earlier this month, he and wife Verlie attended the Sydney-based graduation ceremony for mostly mainland students in several courses, conducted by the Chancellor of the University of Tasmania. Predictably for a former engineer, his favourite elements in the diploma were the Science of Gardening, parts 1 and 2!

Brendan has put his new knowledge into practice in his garden, concentrating mainly on vegetables, fruit trees and Australian edible bush tucker - which led him to joining BUGs and eventually, as we know, on to becoming president of Beaudesert U3A.

Great oaks from little acorns grow, it seems!

Giant machines and vege gardens for president Brendan!

Cheryl Folley

Our new president Brendan Dever is exploring new interests as he re-discovers the town of his childhood - he just didn't expect everything to happen so quickly....

Returning to his grandparents' old family home in Albert Street after a high-flying engineering career, he had his first encounter with U3A in Ken Jurd's guitar group, and later transferred to the ukulele group (just two of his wide-ranging musical interests).

Then he started extending his existing interest in sustainable gardening, growing vegetables, fruit trees and 'bush tucker' native plants, which led him to our gardening group BUGs - and in no time, Brendan found himself the new facilitator of the group.

"I'm a relatively late starter and envy the knowledge and experience of the BUGs regulars," he says.

Those regulars noticed his capacity to set goals and organise the gardeners, and soon he was approached by several members to consider taking on the role of president when Andy Fechner retired. Like Andy, his corporate experience stands him in good stead in planning his approach.

Brendan has an engineer's mind, nurtured by both his father and grandfather, and on his year 12 graduation found a job as a trades assistant at the Tancred Meatworks, where he continued part-time and returned as a mechanical



engineering graduate. He was appointed company chief engineer for Tancreds after work experience elsewhere, and then took part in a Government/CSIRO project to build a prototype of a giant freezer which could freeze 50 tonnes of meat in export cartons every 24 hours.

It is this plate freezer technology which has occupied his professional career and he still "tinkers" in a part-time role in research and development at Milmeq in Park Ridge.

Brendan and wife Verlie have two sons, Keith and Matthew, born at the Beaudesert Hospital. He and Verlie both have extended family in both the Scenic Rim and elsewhere in South East Queensland.

Andy's surprise retirement gift Cheryl Folley

When Andy Fechner announced his retirement to

U3A committee members, he was adamant - no long speeches, no gifts, no fuss.

Well, we couldn't quite go along with that, of course, so there WAS a speech, and a presentation of a certificate as our first life member, at the AGM in March.

But the committee had a surprise of its own up its sleeve, and a week later, at a morning tea at VK's, former vice president Lise Leatherbarrow presented Andy with a gift which actually had him speechless!

Following a chat with U3A member Liz Avery - who had trodden the same path previously in another group - Lise contacted our local cartoonist Phil Day to arrange a personal cartoon summing up Andy's U3A involvement.

It showed him on his much-valued tractor, ploughing the letters U3A into the grass at his acreage property, watched by wife Laurel and a family of pretty-faced wallabies that are ever-present along the driveway.

As members agreed, it was a family memento to treasure and an inspired choice!



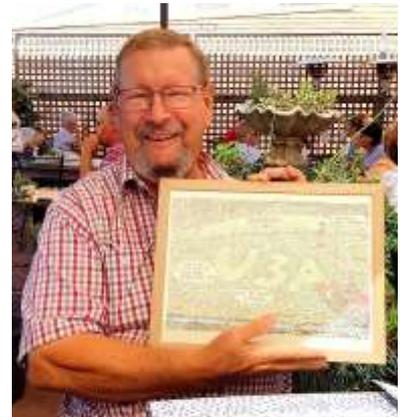
"Oh my stars"



"You did this for me"?



Still gob-smacked!



"Love it"

Social lunch April
Di Johnson

U3A Beaudesert had their April lunch at Crunchies on 8 April, Jimboomba. Despite some cancellations due to sickness, 21 members and guests enjoyed their time and food there.

We had a choice of sweet or savoury dishes - but don't think, because of the size of the servings that we could have managed both; although some, in parties of two, shared both.

The food was presented beautifully and reasonably priced.

Next social lunch will be Friday 13 May at the Beaudesert Golf Club.
RSVP Di -
phone/text 0468 849 448
email candyroxy1946@gmail.com



The thoughts and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the named individual contributor alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, U3A committee, U3A, or its members.

Line dancing - a fun way to exercise

Marg Arnold



The U3A line dancing group currently comprises around 20 to 25 friendly people who meet at The Centre in Brisbane Street on Tuesdays 1.45 pm to 3.45 pm. The Centre has a large air conditioned hall which makes social distancing while dancing easy. We are partially subsidised by the Scenic Rim Regional Council's *Be Healthy and Active* programme. Cost is \$3.00 per session to help towards the cost of hall hire..

We are a relaxed, beginner group with many easy dances and some slightly more challenging dances.

To choose each week's dances, we have a repertoire of about 30, gradually adding to this from the hundreds written up online (called step sheets) from simple sequences of 16 steps, to 64-step sequences with more complex choreography. The music and styles cover almost all genres including country, rock 'n roll, cha cha, swing, and waltz. And because we need to dance to it, the music is always catchy and/or melodic.

I asked some of the participants why they line dance.

"Enjoyable exercise"

"Enjoy the social contact"

"I love the variety of music"

"You don't need a partner"

"I thought I could never dance, but I love this"

"It has increased my balance and body springiness"

"I like the challenge of learning a new dance"

"Line dancing with this group gives me great team camaraderie and mental stimulation"

"It's great fun!"

Research has shown that various forms of heart-rate raising exercise and strength training are significantly beneficial to brain health and general wellbeing at all ages. I read about a respected and extensive research study indicating that the process of learning and mastering choreography to music (line dancing was used) in the 65 to 80-plus age group has greater benefits to the brain than repetitive exercises or walking. As my ageing brain needs all the help it can get, I am always happy to occasionally learn and teach new dances. I always walk through every dance first, as a reminder, as much for myself as the class!

U3A non members are welcome to 'try before they buy' for a few weeks, paying the \$3.00 per session as mentioned above. If they decide it is for them, then they need to join U3A. The spinoff is that they can then partake of U3A's other many and varied activities.

For further information please contact Marg Arnold - ph 0422 415 145.

TAG travels

Jim Costello

19 TAG members departed the Beaudesert Museum on Friday 11 March on a local history tour which followed parts of the track routes of the Beaudesert Shire Tramway (1904-1944) with stops at Sandy Ck Road (Tancred Meatworks site), Round Mountain (WWII US

Prisoner of War Camp), Tamrookum Hall, the Rathdowney Museum which incorporates the tramway station building, lunch at the Rathdowney pub. The day concluded near the terminus of the Lamington branch of the tramway. For further information about this group, contact Ray Arthy 0447 554 480.

(Above) Lani sharing the story of the challenges and achievements of the Tamrookum Hall Committee members in a huge renovation project which will be celebrated on the hall's 70th anniversary in April 2022.

(Top right) An amazing diorama of the Rathdowney terminus of the Beaudesert Shire Tramway crafted by TAG member Jim Costello. The tramway operated from 1904 to 1944.

(Bottom right) Exploring the Rathdowney Museum



Dingbats - solution below

from the website www.quizmasters.biz

 01	 02	 03	 04
 05	 06	 07	 08
 09	 10	 11	 12

Wonderful English from signs around the world

Road sign in Mombasa: Take notice - when this sign is under water, this road is impassable.

A Nairobi restaurant: Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.

An airline ticket office, Copenhagen: We take your bags and send them in all directions

A Swiss restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for

A cocktail lounge, Norway: Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar



REMEMBER WHEN WE HAD TO SMACK THE TV BECAUSE THE CHANNEL WASN'T COMING IN CLEARLY? I FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE.



Kids exploring ancient ruins



Product fail

I'm at that delusional age where I think everyone my age looks way older than I do

Solution to dingbats

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Dragging your heels | 7 Heat wave |
| 2 Car boot sale | 8 Serial killer |
| 3 It's written in the stars | 9 Step up to the plate |
| 4 Time flies when you're having fun | 10 All hands on deck |
| 5 Pie-eyed | 11 Bit on the side |
| 6 Inspector Morse | 12 Jay walking (homage to Jay Flynn) |

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