Management committee members

President
Andy Fechner Ph 5541 2072
Vice President
Ray Folley Ph 5544 2024
Secretary
Rosemary Ryan Ph 5541 1282
Treasurer
Tex White Ph 5541 4772
Course coordinator
Laurel Fechner Ph 5541 2072
Publicity Officer
Ray Folley Ph 5544 2024
Webmaster
George Evans Ph 5541 0706
Newsletter
Yvonne Berry Ph 5541 2604
Social activities facilitator
Di Johnson Ph 0468 849 448
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Pat Millard Ph 5541 2492

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
Carol Castles Trish Alexander
Denice Knight Gwen Elliott
Tricia Edward Rita Evans
Margaret White

To register as a Friend of the Committee, please contact:
- Andy Fechner, president OR
- Laurel Fechner, course coordinator

P 5541 2072
E andyfechner@bigpond.com

President’s piece
Andy Fechner

A Christmas Message
“Twas a month until Christmas, we were getting worn out, Our joints were all aching….and even some gout!
End of term beckons, some courses will rest, And others continue, though there isn’t a test.
We all love our tutors … facilitators too, Without them we’d suffer, we’d have nothing to do!
U3A calls us, what a group, make a friend!
With your keen involvement we never will end.
There’s so much to do yet, and so little time,
I’ve struggled for ages to get this to rhyme…!!

Dates to remember ...

2015
4 December Margy Rose concert and U3A Christmas lunch
11 December Last day of term

2016
15 January Sign-on day annual fees $25 per person or $40 couple (morning tea provided)
25 January Term 1 commences
18 March AGM and morning tea

My goodness…where has 2015 gone?? Here we are just getting in to the last month, racing towards Christmas and the New Year.

When it comes to the festive season you may be a “bah humbug” type, or one who still sees the celebrations through the eyes of a child. In any case, we all go through this time of year with a mixture of the holy, festive, commercial and goodwill that melds together to produce our Christmas/New Year season. I believe that your Beaudesert U3A has had an exciting 2015, with many challenges and opportunities along the way. We have had an influx of new members, and a number of new courses made available. I must extend a special “thank you” to those members who have taken on the roles of tutors/facilitators to present our courses each week.

In closing, I thank you for your support during the year, and I would like to wish you and yours a happy and healthy Christmas, and a prosperous new year….

Until 2016

Andy Fechner

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.
Acoustic guitar
Tuesdays, Centacare rooms, 2 pm-3 pm.
Contact Laurel 5541 2072, email andyfechner@bigpond.com

Aqua aerobics
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30 am-8.30 am at the Beaudesert swimming pool. Clean, rubber soled shoes recommended, as well as a sun hat, and sunscreen.
Contact Paulette 5543 1261

Art appreciation
Third Wednesday each month, nominal time 10 am-12 noon at Centacare bistro room if not on an outing - usually involving art gallery visits with Tricia. A chance to look at and discuss works of art on display in the Scenic Rim and masterpieces from around the world.
Contact Tricia 5544 1462

Art group “The Limners”
Wednesdays 9 am-12 noon at the Centacare rooms. Contact Denice 5546 9879

Book club
Meets first Monday of each month, 2 pm-4 pm at 151 Cedar Grove Road, Cedar Grove. Cheese, nibbles, tea, coffee provided. BYO drinks.
Contact Lynn 5543 1430 or mobile 041 707 8712

Bridge
Meets every Wednesday morning, 9.30 am-11.30 am, Kurrajong Park, Jimboomba.
Contact Elizabeth 5546 9689

Card playing - Beaudesert
Every Monday, 1 pm-4 pm at Centacare rooms. Enjoy euchre, canasta, samba, 500 and bollivia (focus on bollivia.)
Contact Pat 5541 2492 or 0413 121 367

Card playing - Jimboomba
Meets every Thursday afternoon, 12 noon-3 pm at Dorrington House, Jimboomba.
Contact Pat 5541 2492 or 0413 121 367

Cookery group
Meets first Wednesday of each month, 1 pm-3 pm, alternately at tutors’ kitchens at Josephville and Gleneagle. Members also offer their kitchens as “guest locations”.
Contact Tina 0418 780 861 or Laurel, 5541 2072

Computer group
Mondays, 10 am-12 noon, at Centacare bistro room. Hands on computer application. Most members bring their laptop along and are assisted by tutors or computer group members with individual tasks or problems.
Contact George 5541 0706

Conversational French
Mondays 1 pm-3 pm, at Centacare rooms. Introduction to conversational French.
Contact Jane 5541 2321

Genealogy club
No set days - Tricia is willing to help out anyone who is interested, one on one. Participants generally meet monthly by arrangement to discuss progress.
Contact Tricia 5544 1462 or email shikeo@bigpond.com

General discussion group
Meets Tuesdays 9.30 am-11.30 am, Beaucare Community Room, 44 Tina Street, Beaudesert. General discussions on any subject the group wishes. Group participation is the key here.
Contact Andy 5541 2072

A History of European Art
Meets Thursday mornings, 10 am-12 noon, Centacare rooms. The course should appeal to lovers of art and/or history.
Contact Jean 5541 3706

Jigsaw library
Select a jigsaw to use from the library. For selection and collection, contact Sandra, 5541 0978.

Mah Jong - Jimboomba
Meets every Tuesday afternoon 11 am-2 pm, Dorrington House, Jimboomba.
Contact Elizabeth 5546 9689.

Mah Jong - Beaudesert
Meets Thursday afternoons, 1 pm-3.30 pm, Centacare rooms. Beginners welcome.
Contact Denise 5541 2801

Mosaics
Meet Mondays 1.30 pm-4 pm at 533 Cryna Road, Beaudesert. A hands-on course in this fascinating art form which will encourage your imagination to create delightful objects.
Contact Beryl 5541 2120

Nordic walking
Meet Wednesday and Friday mornings, 6.30 am-7.30 am at the soccer field by Beaudesert tennis courts. Wear a comfortable pair of sports walking shoes, bring a pair of poles and a bottle of water.
Contact Lawrie 0423 322 975

Social lunches/outings
U3A members social lunches/outings will be held on the second Friday of the month. The first lunch/outing for 2016 will be on Friday 12 February - venue to be confirmed.

Social tennis
Wednesdays 8 am-12 noon, venue Beaudesert tennis courts
Boonah Road
Contact Tex 5541 4772

Table tennis
Thursdays 9 am-12 noon, held at the Uniting Church hall.
Contact Des or Pamela 5541 2662 or 0448 133 146

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Our kitchens rule
November meeting

The Our Kitchens Rule group enjoyed a guided tour of one of the finer private gardens here in the Scenic Rim, showcasing flowers, trees and of course exotic fruits and vegetables. Following the outing, and armed with sample cuttings, the group enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea at Laurel’s for their final get together of 2015 prior to their planned Christmas break up event in December.

Social lunch

The first social lunch for 2016 will be on Friday 12 February. Venue to be advised.

"So, what’s new ... ?"

"Can I start now?"

Margo, Trish and June wait to order their lunches

Lawrie, Sandra and Margaret catching up on happenings while they wait for their lunches

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Aqua aerobics
Paulette Watson (who is currently feeling the cold in Antarctica. Aqua aerobics will be held as usual in her absence)

The spring mornings are now bright and warm and ideal for a spot aquatic exercising. We had the heroic few in October. However, in December the number of aqua aerobic aficionados has bloomed. The aqua aerobics class is good fun with a mix of exercise activities aimed to aid muscle tone, aerobic fitness, co-ordination and relaxation. It is also a great way to catch up with friends and make new ones.

We would like to give a big welcome to all our new members and hope you enjoy the classes.

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A reminder that annual subscription fees are now due for 2016. You must be a current financial member of U3A to participate in any of the activities.

Fees remain unchanged for 2016 -
Single $25
Couple $40

Financial year is 1 January-31 December. If you became a new member in term four 2015, you are a current member until December 2016, ie you get term four 2015 at no cost.

Sign on day is Friday 15 January 2016, 9.30 am to 12 noon at Centacare, Petersen Street, Beaudesert. Come along and reconnect with other members and enjoy a morning tea with us. You may also give your completed renewal form and fees to the facilitator of your group.

Buy, sell, free, wanted to buy...

If you have something that you no longer want/need, or there is something you are wanting to buy, advertise it in OWLS (free of charge).

Simply text or email your ad to Yvonne at - yvonneberry47@gmail.com, 0431 522 752

with a brief description of your product, the price you are wanting and include your contact details for prospective purchasers/sellers to contact you.

A free community service for Beaudesert U3A members.
International Men’s Day dinner
Andy Fechner and Tex White

Your U3A was well represented at this event by (pictured right L-R back) Tex White, Ray Foley, (front L-R) Rob Hopkins, another U3A member who they met up with, and Andy Fechner, and enjoyed the presentations from the guest presenters Tony Dell and Fred Smith.

Dinner was served from 7.00 pm buffet style, with roast meats, vegetables and salads laid out in the side room, and then it was a “seat yourself” at the tables inside. The bar was also open.

First guest speaker was Tony Dell, a former Vietnam veteran, a fast bowler for Queensland and Australia, and also Founder of Standtall4PTS, (post traumatic stress.) He is the only living person in the world who has served in the armed forces and played cricket for his country.

Standtall4PTS is an organization formed to assist former soldiers, and other front line workers to recover from the effects of PTS and associated problems. Tony gave an in-depth speech on how PTS had affected him during his life, and his struggles to help raise awareness and funding to combat it.

The second guest speaker was Fred Smith, a diplomat, singer/songwriter and winner of two National Film and Sound Archives Awards. While being an accomplished singer/songwriter, Fred was also a diplomat in Afghanistan during the Australian Defence Force’s involvement during this campaign. He has written and performed songs that tell a story about what he had seen, and the people he had come in contact with during this time.

International Men’s Day is involved in promoting men’s health and welfare, and is held every year. This is the fourth time that International Men’s Day has been recognised here in the Scenic Rim in this manner.

Introducing –
Pat Millard - Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

A Word or Two
about this and that
Yvonne Berry

Another year is drawing to a close and I am wondering where the days went and what I have got to show for them. I guess that is the good part about being retired, no clocks to watch, no one looking over your shoulder to make sure you are “on task”. The hardest part is being without a strict routine and having to remember to do things and be at places on the right day at the right time! A whiteboard on the fridge door has become my BFF but sometimes even that lets me down.

Then there is the omega 3 which (so they tell me) is really good for the grey matter. Problem is I would probably need a continual supply of it in 44 gallon drums to keep the wheels turning.

I have a hand-me-down iPhone with gidgets and gadgets on it – perhaps I could really get into the 21st century by using the events calendar and alarms to keep me on time and in the right place. Yes, well ...

Nothing for it but to accept the fact that old(er) age brings with it slower memory recall and sometimes total brain fade; and then just get on with things.

PS - almost forgot - happy Christmas!

Raffle results ...

... and the winning tickets (drawn by Lisa of Centacare under the watchful eye of Andy Fechner) were purchased by:

- First draw: L Melling
- Second draw: B Haymans
- Third draw: M Haymans
- Fourth draw: C Leahey
- Fifth draw: J Garner
- Sixth draw: M Berry
- Seventh draw: Max Doors P/L

Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to the donors of the prizes and to everyone who sold and/or purchased tickets.
After prolonged and often delicate negotiations with the top decision maker approval was finally given in October for Archie to move into the Folley household at Laravale to keep Ray company in his twilight years.

Archie had been living with Alicia on a property at Peats Ridge in NSW after his first love, Georgina, had gone off to France to live on a houseboat. Archie is a handsome chap and he and the flame haired Alicia made a pretty good team bringing home some blue ribbons from a few local shows.

But Alicia thought he should move on and Georgina thought he might be good company for Ray if approval could be obtained. So in the early morning of October 17 the chauffeur dropped Archie off to start his new career as aged carer and general cheerer-upper for Ray who, having been without a horse for a year, was, according to the top decision maker, becoming a grumpy old man.

Archie entered this world carrying his owner’s dreams of racing glory due to the achievements of his aristocratic parents. But Archie was a happy soul, somewhat lazy, opinionated and had no interest in racing anyone. He could have followed many of his like-minded contemporaries to the knackery. But the Gods smiled and Georgina succumbed to his charm to give him a go at another career. Now he has his biggest challenge – making an old bloke young again!

Low cost computers available

Our Webmaster George Evans has obtained information from an organisation called SORT (Soils Oceans Rivers and Trees). Their address is 6/113 Brisbane Street Beaudesert. Telephone number 5541 1203. They are a non-profit organisation.

SORT refurbish desktop computers at a very low cost complete with 12 month Warranty and Registered Windows Software installed. If you show your CentreLink Healthcare card, SORT will also include Office 2010 on any system 1, 2 or 3 computer purchase.

Purchase of one of these systems will enable you to access the internet if you have a broadband connection to your home. If you do not have broadband, a low cost way to get connection would be to purchase a wifi dongle and buy download allowance in small amounts to keep the price down.

For approximately $70 per year you can have access to the internet and check your email. If you wish to surf the net a lot more then you may wish to use your telephone line for broadband which can be arranged through an ISP (Internet Service Provider). Prices range from $39.95 to $69.95 for broadband in addition to your normal telephone charges.

An alternative would be to purchase a Tablet for approximately $149 with built-in wifi. You will then be able to use free wifi to check your email and surf the web. Free wifi is available at most shopping malls and your local library.

Want to buy or sell something? Have something to give away?

Advertise it in OWLS - see page 3.

For sale

Sliding Shoji screen door, with track, all fittings and pelmet. Pick up only.

Dimensions 2.06 m high x 1.025 m wide

Good condition $20 ono

Contact Lawrie - 043 223 3975 or email bckpck8@gmail.com.

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

You do not need a parachute to sky-dive. You only need a parachute to sky-dive twice.

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.

And Archie makes three

contributed by Ray Folley

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New sculpture park at Lake Wyaralong
George Evans

During September/October my wife and other family members decided to visit the Lake Wyaralong Park area on the Boonah – Beaudesert Road. Upon discovering the Sculpture Festival was in full swing with a number of sculptors hard at work, we visited on a number of occasions. I have since talked to a number of people about the festival and none appeared to know it was on. The following is a snippet of information about the festival.

Between the 26 September and 11 October 2015 seven Queensland, Australian and international sculptors created individual sculptures over 16 days. The sculptures have been placed within a new Lake Wyaralong Sculpture Park on the banks of Lake Wyaralong in the Scenic Rim Queensland. The large scale artworks reflect the recreational and environmental elements enjoyed by visitors to the area.

The festival and symposium was organised by BADCAP – the Beaudesert and Community Art Project (www.badcap.org). The BADCAP committee paid the sculptors to participate in the festival/symposium and will retain ownership of the artworks.

The sculpture (above right) was carved by Birgit Grapentin, and is one of the more fascinating of the eight exhibits, which, when you place your head inside the hole and “hum”, the stone reverberates to an amazing level of volume and frequency.

Visit the new Lake Wyaralong Sculpture Park, bring some food to cook on the free to use barbecues in one of the many covered areas close to the children’s play area.

Chris Grimmett from BADCAP has promised to update us on future functions which we shall include within the U3A newsletter. A link has been placed on Beaudesert U3A website in the Contents/Useful Links column to access the BADCAP website.

To find out more about other BADCAP functions -
- Visit their website - www.badcap.org
- Email - contact@badcap.org
- Telephone - Chris Grimmett 0421 006 220

Meet Ingo and Poldi: the most, unlikely friends in the world!
Hennie van Dyk

Tanja Brandt is a German photographer who has dedicated her career towards photographing animals and wildlife. In one of her most recent projects, Brandt shot photographs of a highly unlikely pair of friends – Ingo, the Belgian shepherd; and Poldi (Napoleon), the one-year-old owlet. Poldi and Ingo are both pets of Brandt’s, and have formed a bond over the past year that the photographer simply couldn’t ignore.

Brandt is a professional photographer, and has years of experience doing photoshoots with various animals. Ingo, the shepherd, is one of her most loyal and popular models.

“The dog is very, very well educated. He is able to do every order by far. Head down, head right, stay, sit, everything… but not so with the birds.”

Brandt describes the relationship between Ingo and Poldi as somewhat of a ‘protector-protected’ relationship. Ingo is a guardian for Poldi, whom Brandt states “doesn’t know how to live free”. Poldi didn’t hatch until two days after his six brothers and sisters, and has always been very vulnerable due to his size. Ingo, on the other hand, comes from a family of strong and oftentimes ruthless police dogs. Ingo is very protective over the year-old owlet, and their bond is as strong off-camera as it appears in Tanja’s photographs. “They respect each other and they can read each other.”

Ingo is often photographed with various birds (such as the Harris hawk) and other animals, but he doesn’t share a bond with anyone quite like he does with Poldi.
For all the lexophiles out there .  
contributed by Pat Millard

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A
The batteries were given out free of charge.
A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

The Impossible  
contributed by Jim Caswell

A man was cruising on his Harley up the coast when suddenly the sky clouded above his head, and in a booming voice the Lord said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The biker pulled over and said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over any time I want." The Lord replied, "Your request is materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of construction, the supports required to reach the bottom of the ocean, and the concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. Of course I can do it, but it's hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind."

The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, "Lord, I wish that I and all men could understand women. I want to know how a woman feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make a woman truly happy."

The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four lanes on that bridge?"

Law of random numbers
If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

Variation Law
If you change lines (or traffic lanes) the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are now in.

Law of the bath
When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.
Some of the 2015 U3A Beaudesert groups in action

Top L-R  Discussion group, Limners
Middle L-R  Table tennis, History of European Art
Bottom L-R  Our Kitchens Rule, Beaudesert mahjong