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**Volume 10 Issue 12
 December 2020**

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- Course coordinator*
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George Evans Ph 5541 0706
- Facebook*
Carol Castles Ph 0427 650 474
- Social activities facilitator*
Di Johnson Ph 0468 849 448
- Publicity*
Cheryl Folley Ph 5544 2024

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

To register as a friend of the committee, please contact Andy Fechner
 P 5541 2072
 E andyfechner@bigpond.com



President's piece
Andy Fechner

Our last newsletter for 2020! I have to admit that this year has been very different from years past. We all face challenges in life, dealing with our own personal issues and sharing those which touch us all. 2020 has been like that, throwing up a global pandemic which has changed the way we live for the foreseeable future. Australia has dealt with this problem so much better than most countries, acting early to minimise the effects. I am proud that your U3A has coped as well as we have, given that our walking group continued through, and then we were able to purchase on line courses which we offered free to our members. (A number of U3As closed completely, and some will not reopen until next year).

Our now traditional members' Christmas lunch function will not be hosted this year, due to venue restrictions. I am sure that you all know by now the option we have extended to all members, supplying a \$20 voucher to enable smaller course and activity groups to get together and celebrate the festive season.

Our fourth term is drawing to a close in line with the school year. As with all school holiday periods, some of our courses and activities will continue, ceasing only for the Christmas / New Year break. Others will not return until

after the start of term one in 2021. Check with your course tutor / facilitator for details.

Some changes are now taking place in course offerings for 2021. Firstly, I would like to thank Tricia Edward and Jean Stevens for their contribution to running the successful Meandering through History group. As Tricia and Jean have left our area, this course has ceased operating. In addition, our acoustic guitar group will not be on offer in 2021. Tutor Ken Jurd is no longer available to run this activity. There may be an opportunity for an electric guitar group to commence, more on this later. I would also like to thank Karen Goebel for conducting the inaugural Canine manners and Etiquette activity. This eight week course may be on offer again later in 2021. Register your interest with Course Coordinator Tina Jones 0418 780861. Finally a "thank you" to John Leatherbarrow for stepping in to conduct our aqua aerobics activity this summer, giving Trish Fraser a break. I wish all members a safe and enjoyable Christmas. Get together with family and friends and have a happy festive season. I say this every year, but I really do hope that the New Year will be better for all of us than the one we have just had.

Till next edition,
 Andy



A warm U3A Beaudesert welcome is extended to our new members, - Sarah Grodecki, Lesley Butler, Daphne Lawson, Alan and Lyn Durre, Julie Sansom, Gary Moloney, Leanne Dunn.

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 celebrating birthdays in December:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Barry Chatel | Sabby Gillow | Carolyn Gooding |
| Shirley Hardke | Anne Hei | Janet Hughes |
| Des Kearse | Mary Kurinnyi | Daphne Lawson |
| Lise Leatherbarrow | Pauline LeHir | Denise Martin |
| Bronwyn Miles | Lee Parris | Sherie Rodriques |
| Corinne Seiler | Graham Stephens | Janette Whitten |

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



Member of U3A Network Queensland

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.

Current courses - term four 5 October-11 December 2020

Course coordinator | Tina Jones
Phone 0418 780 861 | Email t.j.16@bigpond.com

Aqua aerobics

Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 7.30 am-8.30 am Beaudesert pool. Suggested wear clean sports shoes/aqua shoes, sun protection, hat, sunglasses. Pool entry \$3 pensioners
Contact John 0417 073 190 or Trish 0419 006 988



Art group - all mediums

Wednesdays 9 am-12 St Thomas Anglican Church hall.
Contact Denise 5546 9879 or 0402 012 267

Calligraphy

First and fourth Fridays of the month 1.00 pm-3.30 pm at the Arts & Information Centre Enterprise Drive Beaudesert
Contact Sue 5544 3146

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-3.00 pm at Dorrington House 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 12 noon-2.30 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 month 10.00 am-12 noon Beaudesert RSL club function room
Contact Liz 048 815 5506, email brizzie@bigpond.com

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 Trish 0419 006 988

Mahjong - Jimboomba

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

Mahjong - Beaudesert

Thursday afternoons 1 pm-3.30 pm Arts & Information Centre.
Contact Denise 5541 2801

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 by the pool/library Monday, Wednesday, Friday, walk 6.00 am-7.00 am. 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, 360 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 in February 2021 - TBA

Social tennis

Wednesdays 8 am-12 noon venue Beaudesert tennis courts Boonah Road
Contact Tex 0409 727 970

Table tennis

Thursdays 9 am-12 noon held at the St Thomas 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 at St Thomas Anglican Church hall, Albert Street, Beaudesert
Contact Jenny 0439 138 212

U3A Online

We now have four online courses available to our members:

- Australia Flora
- The Night Sky
- Creative writing: Genealogy
- Play Ukulele by Ear

If you would like to participate in any of these courses (at no cost to you), please contact our course coordinator, Tina Jones, 0418 780 861, email t.j.16@bigpond.com.

Croquet

George Evans

Croquet has now finished for 2020. Due to the extremely hot weather we experienced at the same time last year during January and February, we may not resume playing until the end of February 2021. A decision on when to resume will be dependent on weather conditions at the time. Be sure that we will let you know when croquet will resume.



Rita and I would like to thank all croquet group members for their help in setting up hoops, lines, doing washing up, and helping to carry equipment back. It made our jobs a lot easier and made it a pleasure to play the game!

Please let our membership secretary know if you move house or make telephone or email alterations. Michele can be contacted by email - membershipu3abeaudesert@gmail.com. We hope you will all have a healthy, happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year.



Mosaics

Tina Jones

Margie displays her penguins wall art made entirely of cut glass



Carol added her magic touch to a terracotta pot and created a charming wind chime



(Left) Donna has completed her second piece and has got it right with her eye popping vibrant colour combination



Marlene has embellished a jewel box using glitter mosaic tiles for that extra sparkle



Wendy wasn't happy with just this gorgeous pot - a faded mushroom ornament from her garden got a makeover, and then she made another much bigger mushroom from scratch. When you're on a roll keep on rolling



(Right) A beautiful mix of colour using 3D flowers and pre-cut petals make for a perfect picture, created by Patricia

Meandering Through History

Tricia Edward

October 29 was the end of this course. It has been running for nearly two years and has been a joy to the great group who attended.

Unfortunately, myself as facilitator and presenter along with Jean Stevens and Mary Street who presented courses, have all left the area and are unable to continue Meandering. We have coped with the corona virus which caused a change of venue and the illness and subsequent passing of Bernie Brown who was to present part of the course.

Now we have to say farewell to U3A and the wonderful friends with whom we have shared the lectures and discussion. It is our hope that someone will step forward to run the course in the future.

But in the meantime we thank the library and the information centre for their assistance.

This photo was taken at our farewell lunch at Everyday's restaurant.



(L-R clockwise) Ellen Paulin, Lyndal Ferguson, Sue Estsberg, Mary Street, Tricia Edward, Barry Owen, Jean Stevens, Jim and Ann Bunnell



What a joyful Christmas party we had recently at Stuhmcke's farm. Many thanks to Pat and Rowan for hosting us under the shade of a giant fig tree and with the many Christmassy objects they spread around the garden. Rowan's restored wagons were a big attraction too. Members brought plants for the plant swap and some of the more than 50 guests enjoyed the always yummy food.

It was bitter sweet for me as it is my last BUGs as facilitator. Starting the group and meeting so many like-minded people has been great. In my experience gardeners are sharers and that is so special. Thank you for my parting gift. I will enjoy spending it wisely in the garden section. I know Marilyn will steer the ship well in 2021 and I will still be an enthusiastic member.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas.



Johnno takes on aquatic job

Cheryl Folley

Our new aqua-aerobics instructor two mornings a week at the Beaudesert swimming pool is former national serviceman John Leatherbarrow, who was happy to agree with his wife, U3A committee member Lise, that he was the person for the job!

Johnno has had an ongoing, close association with the veteran community following his stint in national service and was a gym/PT instructor with the Citizens Military Forces (CMF), including aqua exercise.

He follows instructors Paulette Watson and Trish Fraser in the role. There's a regular following of 20 members and that number can reach 30 at times, which is why Vicki Mills has taken on the task as assistant instructor during times when the group divides into two – one in deep water and another in the shallow end of the pool for members who like to keep their feet on the bottom!

The aqua aerobics group aims to make the most of the limited swimming season, so breaks for Christmas a week later than most of our other groups and will be back together again on January 12.



If you haven't tried it, members say it's the ideal exercise during hot weather, and a great one for people with any mobility problems as it offers support in the water. It's also a way to reach out and find new friends and social interaction.



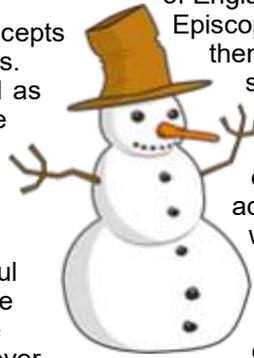
Dreaming of a white Christmas

Cheryl Folley

Snow – and a white Christmas – were just alien concepts to me, growing up in suburban Australia in the 1950s. That is, until I went to Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1961 as an exchange student and came face to face with the real thing.

I stayed with a southern Baptist host family and enjoyed the lead-up to Christmas. They were part of a large city congregation, housed in a tabernacle building of some grandeur, and therefore a wonderful setting for my introduction to *The Messiah*, which the church choir presented each year two weeks before Christmas. My best friend was a soloist and I was over-awed by her beautiful voice.

So far, so good. We put up traditional decorations, cooked and prepared gifts, but Baptist services celebrated Christmas on the nearest Sunday to December 25, not on the day itself.



This seemed a little strange to someone reared on the pragmatic Christmas and Easter attendances of the Church of England, so I was happy to accept an invitation from an Episcopal (C of E) friend to go to Midnight Mass. I was by then a bit underwhelmed at being frozen every time I stepped out of doors, with no compensation of the white stuff – as yet unseen.

Then we emerged from church into flurries of drifting white flakes. It was strangely silent (I hadn't actually computed that snow has this property!) I was totally over-excited and kept waltzing around in circles with my friend Tex (who had arrived only the past summer from Texas) and was also celebrating her first white Christmas. The whole drive home was magical, and I couldn't wait to get up early next morning to see the difference that the snow had made.

My host mother told me that I was very lucky. Snow falls only rarely before Christmas in that part of the USA, and it had done so for me.

A step back in time at Christmas lunch

Cheryl Folley



Apart from offering the Stuhmcke's large and quirky garden as the venue for our BUGs lunch, Pat was also able to pass on some Beaudesert history from 20 years ago, when – at Liz's request – she showed us her replica Olympic torch and other memorabilia from the Sydney 2000 Olympics torch relay.

Pat still clearly remembers the day. She took the torch from a Boonah runner at the point which is now the intersection of the Beaudesert bypass and Boonah road, and walked with it to the next changeover at the St Mary's School corner.

"I didn't want to run quickly as there were so many faces to see, so many people lining the route," she recalled.

Pat was nominated by her three adult daughters after she mused one day "Wouldn't it be wonderful to be part of that Olympic relay?"

Local residents were chosen for their involvement in local affairs, which for Pat stretched over many years including presenter of Wongaburra Happy Hour, treasurer of Kerry Hall, Darlington School committee president, tennis, pottery and bowls groups.

Her youngest daughter Tracey, heavily pregnant on the day, walked with her – then gave birth the next day!

Torch relay facts: In its 27 000km journey around Australia, the torch passed through 11 000 bearers' hands. The route passed within one hour's drive of 85% of the nation's population. The lightweight torch, made of three layers of stainless steel and aluminium, represented earth, fire and water. Runners were given the chance to buy a replica at \$300. They're now available on the Net for around \$2,500 but Pat wouldn't sell this wonderful family heirloom.

A Word or Two about this and that

Yvonne Berry

Have you ever be disheartened by so-called "customer service" when purchasing goods or services? Unsmiling, unhelpful shop assistants, or abrupt tradesmen, a can't-do attitude - all are certainly off-putting to the customers.

I am amazed at how many shop and business owners, banks, and the like function under the belief that we (the public) are there for them, we who pay their wages, we who advertise their goods/services free through word-of-mouth. Why can they not see that they are there for us and that courtesy, politeness, a can-do attitude and availability go a long way to growing their business/services.

They need us to keep them in business - choose your attitude, be there.

(Choose your attitude, play, be there, make their day are all part of the wonderful Fish! Philosophy.)

For sale

Cobalt power chair

One of our members has this power chair available for purchase. The chair was bought at Christmas in 2017 to use indoors. In May 2018 the owner fell and broke her hip and, as she went to Wongaburra, it has not been used since. It does need new batteries.

\$900 ONO

For further information contact:

Phone Denise 5541 3943 or 0419 348 466



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Growing old gracefully

Contributed by Jenny Hughes

- 1 When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
- 2 To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
- 3 Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
- 4 It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
- 5 The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
- 6 When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- 7 I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
- 8 I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
- 9 Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
- 10 If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
- 11 When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
- 12 I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
- 13 I run like the winded.
- 14 I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
- 15 When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
- 16 When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
- 17 I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
- 18 When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
- 19 Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
- 20 Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
- 21 My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.



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