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# O. W. L. S.

OLDER WISER LEARNING SENIORS

Volume 6 Issue 4  
May 2016

## Management committee members

### President

Andy Fechner Ph 5541 2072

### Vice President/Publicity Officer

Ray Folley Ph 5544 2024

### Secretary/Newsletter

Yvonne Berry Ph 5541 2604

### Treasurer

Pat Millard Ph 5541 2492

### Course coordinator

Laurel Fechner Ph 5541 2072

### Webmaster

George Evans Ph 5541 0706

### Facebook

Rosemary Ryan Ph 5541 1282

### Social activities facilitator

Di Johnson Ph 0468 849 448

### Membership Secretary

Tex White Ph 5541 4772

## 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
Rita Evans	Margaret White
Lise Leatherbarrow	

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](mailto:andyfechner@bigpond.com)



## President's piece

Andy Fechner

Is your life busy?? Mine seems to be very much so lately. Perhaps it is the time of year...change of term, change of season, lots of family birthdays along with public holidays for Anzac Day and Labour Day...just a couple of weeks and then Mother's Day will be here!!

The Scenic Rim Regional Council will be hosting their annual "Volunteer's Day" morning tea again on 11 May at The Centre in Beaudesert, starting at 10.00am. This free event invitation is extended to all our tutor/facilitators, committee members and Friends of the Committee, so please take the time to go along. It is always a great couple of hours, with lucky door prizes and entertaining video presentations from the Council.

The very next day, on Thursday 12 May, the Beaudesert Library is hosting a New Residents evening from 6.00pm to 7.00pm, with a light supper provided. Even if you are not that new to the area, perhaps you might be new to the library! Quite a number of community groups,

## Welcome

to three new members this month - Gregory Wright, Kerrie Wise, and Mavis Rostedt.

It's great to see many new faces at U3A classes. If you are one of them - and you are keen to explore other options among the voluntary organisations in the Scenic Rim - you may wish to attend the Welcome to New Residents to be held from 6-7 pm on Thursday, May 12 at the Beaudesert library. Ring the library on 5540 5142 to register your attendance.



(including U3A), go along on the evening to show what they have to offer.

Of course, the Annual "Arts in the Olives" event takes place on the Mother's Day weekend, and has been widely publicised.

On another note...after contemplating how much was going on in my own situation, I took a few minutes to reflect on others, particularly those who are U3A members, and some other long time friends. Everyone I talk to has their own full agenda to deal with....(just think about it)...you have your own personal triumphs and tragedies, your own worries and celebrations....and everyone else is in the same boat, steering a slightly different course from you, but in the same boat nevertheless!!

The wonderful thing about U3A is there is always someone to share mutual highs and lows with. I guess that is what making new friends is all about.

Until next edition

Andy Fechner



## Change of details

Has any of your contact information changed - email, address, postal address, phone numbers ...? If so please let us know your new details to ensure you receive notices about U3A events, new or changed courses etc, and of course the newsletter.

Contact -

- Email [u3abeaudesert@gmail.com](mailto:u3abeaudesert@gmail.com)
- Phone/text 0408 801 780

or let your tutor/facilitator know so your records can be updated.



Current courses - term two 2016  
11 April-24 June

### Acoustic guitar

Tuesdays Centacare rooms 1.30 pm-3.30 pm.  
Contact Laurel 5541 2072 email andyfechner@bigpond.com

### Afternoon tea - your place or mine?

Meets first Wednesday of each month 1 pm-3 pm alternately at course members' homes.  
Contact Tina 0418 780 861 or Laurel 5541 2072

### Aqua aerobics

In recess now until the pool reopens in term four.

*Beaudesert U3A members enjoying lunch at the April social outing at Happy Valley Restaurant*



### 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 Denise 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 bolivia (focus on bolivia.)  
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

### 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.

Course coordinator - Laurel Fechner  
P 5541 2072 | M 0417 644 506  
E andyfechner@bigpond.com

*All course participants must be paid up members of Beaudesert U3A (\$25) per annum (couples \$40). Most sessions have a minimum fee of \$2 towards venue expenses (tea/coffee aircon etc.) If necessary extra course costs for other requirements will be set by tutors.*

### 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

### History of American 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.

### Mahjong - Jimboomba

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

### Mahjong - 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 Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 7.00-8.00 am at the soccer field by Beaudesert tennis courts. You will need a comfortable pair of sports walking shoes, a pair of poles and a bottle of water.

Contact Lawrie 0423 322 975

### Social lunches/outings

U3A members' and guests' social lunches/outings will be held on the second Friday of the month. Next outing 13 May - see page 4 for details.

### Social tennis

Wednesdays 8 am-12 noon venue Beaudesert tennis courts Boonah Road.  
Contact Paulette, from 2 May for 4-6 weeks 5543 1261, email watsonpab@bigpond.com

### Table tennis

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

Extra day

Contact change - temporary



*Jim and Desley Caswell attended the social outing at Happy Valley restaurant in April*

## Notes from a Nordic walker

Liz Avery

Just back from a bracing Nordic walk with Lawrie and Yvonne, I felt impelled to write about the feeling. It was a glorious autumn morning, with mist in the valley, when we met at the cemetery in Tubber Street for Lawrie to test our fitness on the Hart Street (or Heartbreak) hill. This was followed by another circuit that included the Kamarooka Street hill. The endlessly patient Yvonne stayed with the newer members on a less taxing walk. Those of us who are foundation walkers were delighted to notice the improvement in our stamina after this challenge.

We have all noticed that we see our town from a different perspective while on foot. It also gives us the time to solve

many of the world's problems, and at the same time, puts our own in perspective.

I would encourage other U3A members to join us, especially while the weather is so perfect for walking. I am so grateful to Lawrie and Yvonne for suggesting the group and for their ongoing commitment and direction.



Paulette, Judith, Lawrie, Jane, Liz, Barbara, Marilyn, Mavis and Judith setting off on a walk

## Computer group

George Evans



We are a transient mixed group currently totalling 22. There is a regular attendance of around 8 to 10 people each week, most of

whom have knowledge and skills ranging from none at all, to novice, intermediate or very experienced. Several tutors are usually available and generally all members participate in helping each other.

We meet every Monday from 10 am until 12 midday (except public holidays) at the Centacare rooms. A small fee of

\$2.00 is charged to cover tea/coffee etc and venue hire.

The group activities include the exchange of views, raising questions, discussion of the latest trends in the computer world, and helping to solve group member's computer-related problems.

Most members bring their laptop along to have their problem solved on their own computer. Alternatively we use the Beaudesert U3A laptops to explain and try to solve the problem that way. Our aim is to provide a relaxed and friendly format to enable full participation by each member. There are various opportunities for advanced computer courses, if you have a specific interest please let us know.

Our sessions generally follow the format:

Each meeting starts with a short discussion on varied topics, each member asked to contribute. Members are asked to discuss or record the computer problem they need help with for hands-on assistance. Topics raised will either be dealt with there and then or investigated by one of the tutors and dealt with at a later meeting. From time to time there will be a presentation of a specific subject. The rest of the meeting will be by way of computer hands-on activities.

We have accumulated a large number of hand outs on varied computer related subjects, copies of which can be made for personal reference.

## Social lunch/outing

Di Johnson

Our last lunch at the Happy Valley Chinese Restaurant went very well.

Twenty members attended, the numbers were down from what they usually are due to people being away, or had other things on, including committee members.

The food was excellent as was the service. There was lots of chatting and laughter and all agreed that a good time was had by all.



(Above) - Lynnette Weckert and Libby Bremner ; (right - U3A members Patricia Lamb, Maurice (guest), Judith Logan were all smiles after the social outing lunch at Happy Valley Chinese restaurant recently.

I've got salad for lunch.

Actually fruit salad.  
Well, mostly grapes,  
Ok all grapes.  
Fermented grapes.  
Wine.

I've got wine for lunch.



Dear Alcohol

We had a deal that you would make me prettier, funnier and a better dancer.

I saw the video - we need to talk.



## Social lunches/outings for May-July

Di Johnson

Continuing on with the international theme for our lunches:

- **May 13** - lunch is to be at The Aussie Thai restaurant which is situated in the old Crazy Clarks building near the Queensland Transport Centre. Good looking menu from \$15 head; BYO.

**RSVP Di Johnson, by 6 May** phone/text 0468 849 448, email [candyroxy1946@gmail.com](mailto:candyroxy1946@gmail.com), to confirm your attendance.

- **June 10** - thinking Indian, but would like feedback from our members before making a booking.
- **July 8** - mid-year Christmas party at St Bernards, Tamborine Mountain. Details to come.

U3A members and their partners/friends are invited to attend all or any of these outings.

Feedback to Di from members after attending any of the lunches would be appreciated.



## Thank you to Scenic Rim Regional Council



Members of the Beaudesert U3A table tennis group with one of the new tables



Ken Johnston looks confident with his shot - Trish Fraser is not so sure!

Table tennis is one of the more popular activities in Beaudesert U3A and over the years the tables have taken quite a hammering. So much so that they needed to be replaced. Enter the Scenic Rim Regional Council who very generously gave Beaudesert U3A a grant which was used to replace the tables.

A big thank you to Council, and Lacey Sawtell for her assistance in securing this grant, and also to George Evans who used his canny negotiating skills to secure two better tables for the original price of two lesser tables.

This will ensure that table tennis will continue to be the fun and well-liked activity in Beaudesert U3A that it is.



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## Famous people in history

contributed by Barry Owen

Sir Harry Smith (1787-1860) and his child bride Juana Maria De Los Dolores De Leon, (known as Juanita) (1798-1872)

Harry Smith and Juana Maria de los Dolores de Leon  
Image is in the public domain via IndieQuill.



Harry Smith was a gallant British soldier in the war between France and Britain which was waged in Spain; he was involved in the battle of Badajoz in 1812. Badajoz was occupied by the French, and the British army captured the town after suffering terrible casualties. The occupying troops lost control, looting and destroying the town.

Juanita, at this time 14 years old, had emerged from a convent, and accompanied by her older sister sought refuge at the Regimental headquarters where Harry Smith was based. Both sisters had been injured, with their ears bleeding where their earrings had been torn off. Harry Smith not only offered sanctuary, but also married Juanita a few days later.

During the subsequent campaign, Juanita endured a great deal of marching across Spain, though previously her only excursions were short trips on a donkey.

Harry Smith was made a Baronet in 1846 after the battle of "Alewai" against the Sikhs, and was made Governor of Cape Province in South Africa in 1850. The couple remained devoted to each other for 48 years until his death in 1860.

The town of Ladysmith in South Africa was named after his wife Juanita.

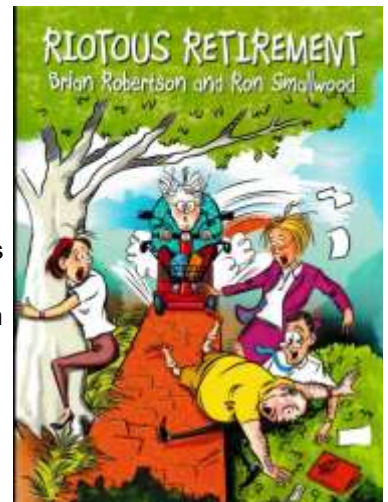
## Riotous Retirement

co-written by Brian Robertson and Ron Smallwood

If you are looking for a light-hearted fun read, this book may be one for you. Co-authored by Brian Robertson and Beaudesert U3A member Ron Smallwood, it tells the tale of Gabriel who used to boss others about in a former life and is never satisfied unless he is the centre of attention - but he is continually frustrated. Suffice to say, at Burnside Retirement Village, he is not the king-pin he believes himself to be.

Copies of the book may be ordered from Ron Smallwood, email [ronsmallwood334@gmail.com](mailto:ronsmallwood334@gmail.com) for the princely sum of \$10/copy. Ron is happy to deliver your copy to you, or he will send by mail (postage extra).

Brian and Ron have also made a YouTube video which you can view on-line - YouTube Riotous Retirement - which gives a prelude of how come Gabriel and his long-suffering wife came to be living in Burnside Retirement Village.



Caravan for sale by a Beaudesert U3A member. Sleeps 3. Annexe converts into a room. Easy towing - 12' 6". All curtains included, 3-way oven, 3-way fridge, small table, sink cupboards. Lights 240v, 4 burner hotplate. Heaps of storage in caravan also under caravan and a water tank outside. Price \$12,500.

Contact details Sandra - 07 5543 2646, mobile 041 8582 182, email [sandracollins316@gmail.com](mailto:sandracollins316@gmail.com).

## Just for a laugh

contributed by Pat Millard

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 87 years old to spend an additional five months in a nursing home at \$4,000 per month.

My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we have no idea where the hell he is.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing...



Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

I do have flabby thighs - fortunately my stomach covers them.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years... just getting over the hill.

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a pub with a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

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- you choose!

## Calling all walkers

For all you walkers out there, get a group of friends together and enter the Walk to 'De-Feet' for the Motor Neurone Disease organisation.

It is being held on Sunday 15 May at Roma Street Parkland, Brisbane at 10.00 am. Beaudesert U3A Nordic walkers have registered to do the walk which is approximately 4 kms around the Botanical Gardens; it is wheelchair, stroller and dog (on leads) friendly. There is a sausage sizzle at the end of the event. Cost for adults \$30 (includes t-shirt), children \$12 (includes t-shirt). Children under the age of 4 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration on the day is \$40.

For a registration form enter online at <https://www.mycause.com.au/events/walktodfeetqld> or contact MND Queensland, phone 3372 9004, freecall 1800 777 175 or email [admin@mndaq.org.au](mailto:admin@mndaq.org.au).



Gather for 2 days on the beautiful Sunshine Coast to "Renew & Reconnect" with old friends and make new ones while discovering what's happening in other U3As across Queensland.

Registration details: [u3aqldconference.org](http://u3aqldconference.org)

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**



Proudly hosted by U3A Sunshine Coast

"Proudly celebrating 30 years 1986—2016"

Venue is the Innovation Centre,  
University of the Sunshine Coast,  
Sippy Downs



## National volunteers week

Scenic Rim Regional Council invites Scenic Rim volunteers to celebrate national volunteers week.

Beaudesert U3A group facilitators/tutors are invited to morning tea - with door prizes, entertainment and friendship - at The Centre, Beaudesert, Wednesday 11 May, at 10.00 am.

This morning tea is to acknowledge and recognise the important community-minded people who make a significant difference to peoples lives and our local community.

For further information, contact Council on 5540 5111.



## A Word or Two *about this and that* Yvonne Berry

The alarm went off at 3.30 am this morning, (Monday 25 April). This morning we were attending our first Anzac Day dawn service in Australia since arriving here two years ago.

It was amazing to see so many people turning out at such an ungodly hour of the day - young, old, families - and kids still in their PJs. The A-Choired Taste choristers were there to sing the national anthems of both Australia and New Zealand as well as to perform Finella's composition *We Will Remember* for the first time.

Jarrad Fogarty held our attention with his didgeridoo playing and John Fisher recited part of a poem which was a touching tribute to those who fell.

Bagpipe music played while wreaths were laid by the RSL, representatives of the Services as well as other community groups. The *Last Post*, a minute's silence and the reciting of *The Ode*, followed by *Reveille* were poignant moments for me.

All this brought back memories to me of when I was a child and my father used to take us to the dawn parade in the front of the museum at the Domain in Auckland. He served New Zealand in the Pacific in WWII and he proudly wore his medals and marched with his comrades every Anzac Day. Made me proud to watch him.

My younger son, at the tender age of six years, was obviously entranced with his grandfather's exploits in the war which Dad readily told him about; so much so that my son wrote several stories about how brave and clever his grandfather was. Such blissful ignorance of the brutalities of war. Dad knew differently and did not speak to us too much about his experiences. He was thankful he made it through and wanted to put it behind him, all the time remembering his mates who did not return home to their families.

I have a tape recording of my father speaking with my elder son who was in year 12 at high school at the time. Dad was answering questions my son put to him about his thoughts on war before, during and after the war, for a history assignment. I learned more about Dad's reality of war from that recording than in the whole time I was growing up.

Other families were not so lucky to get their loved husbands, fathers, sons, wives, mothers, and daughters back and I know my mother was eternally thankful that my father did return and she was spared the pain of losing someone she loved.

Every Anzac Day, in particular, I do remember.



## Thank you to all of our sponsors

