



**DECEMBER
2019**

www.u3aqlld.org.au

U3A Network Queensland Inc Newsletter

Email: networknews2016@gmail.com

ISSUE 14

Have you seen it?

What should I be looking for?

The fabulous new
Network Web Page
@

www.u3aqlld.org.au

President's Report December 2019

The Christmas break is fast approaching and I hope that all members are able to enjoy a relaxing holiday.

Being on Christmas holiday is for me a bit like it was when my children were on holidays from school – no need to rush out of the house in the morning or to prepare lunches, get to bed early, etc., not to mention having some time to read those books that have been beckoning throughout the year!

I'm aware that not all members welcome the break because U3A provides a large part of their social structure. I do hope that those members can manage some get together occasions over coffee or a movie or even just a morning or evening walk with U3A friends.

The impending end of the year meant that a Network committee meeting was due. The meeting was held in Brisbane on 29 November and the agenda was an interesting one.

Among the matters discussed was the finalisation and launch of the revamped website. I hope that you've been able to take a look. If not, enter www.u3aqlld.org.au into your browser and check out the site. I hope that you're as pleased with the result as we are.

Robert and Christine from *Computer Interiors* led the project and to their credit we've ended up with a fresh, easily navigated website that has loads of useful information. We approached the task with two user groups in mind – our members looking for information or news and potential members wanting to know about U3A and where they might find the nearest one or if there isn't a U3A handy, how they could start one.

We also discussed the budget. Network treasurer Maria Licence has been working on formulation of the next budget which will need to provide for the next priority projects which include training, finding strategies to brand U3A, establishment of new U3As and the development of a model website "kit."

The 2020 state conference to be hosted by Redlands on 2 and 3 June was also discussed. Julie Porteous who is chairing the Conference Organising Committee reported that arrangements are proceeding well. Julie and her committee have planned a very interesting pre-conference activity which takes in a visit to Stradbroke Island. The activity is heavily subsidised and places will be limited so watch out for registrations which open on 28 January. There will also be drinks and nibbles provided on the night before the conference. The conference program is shaping up beautifully with a range of interesting and relevant speakers.

The committee approved the reimbursement of the conference fee for the registered delegate from each U3A.

I hope to meet you at the conference which is a great opportunity to network with other U3A members and to meet up with old and new friends.



The Network committee also discussed the latest development in negotiation with the Third Age Trust for use of the U3A trademark. The Trust has recently sent an alternative document to the draft Deed of Licence that Queensland submitted. The alternative document is too narrow in its application and much more restrictive than what was sought in our draft Deed. It's of interest to note that the Trust signed off with Networks NSW and WA only a few months ago on a Deed that was very similar to the one submitted by Queensland.

Copyright licencing was also a topic on our agenda. Maria Licence recently sent a copy of a newsletter compiled by the copyright agencies to all U3As. The newsletter provided a simple explanation of the types of licences that are needed to copy written, electronic and sheet music materials, play DVDs or television programs, put on performances and/or conduct choirs as part of a program: in other words to do the things that most of our U3As do. The newsletter provides contact points for queries about licencing. Maria will shortly be re-sending the information to ensure that all U3As can bring themselves up to date.

Intellectual property laws are strict and the copyright agencies have a role in ensuring that the laws are followed. We all have an obligation to ensure that we are playing by the rules. Not observing copyright requirements is tantamount to stealing and none of us wants to be a thief.

The Presidents of our U3As will have received an invitation to a seminar being hosted by U3A Toowoomba on 27 February 2020 at which Professor Francois Vellas is the principal speaker and guest. Professor Vellas is a Director of the University of the Third Age of Toulouse (where the first U3A was formed) and is President of the International Association of Universities of the Third Age (AIUTA). I understand that there has been an excellent response to the invitation to attend the seminar.

Congratulations are due to Iris Murray, who has been recently awarded Volunteer of the Year in the Redlands district. You'll be able to read the whole story in the next edition of the U3AAA Bulletin!

Before signing off I would like to say a big thank you to the members of the Network Committee and all U3A committees. Your hard work in the interests of your members is acknowledged and appreciated.

I would also like to wish you all a very merry Christmas, a happy New Year and a restful break.

Gail Bonser
President



U3A IS a Business ??!

During a recent conversation it was suggested to me that the U3A movement is not actually a business. Well, in my opinion, nothing could be further from the truth. To have an effective and well-resourced U3A it is imperative that good business principles be applied at all times and good governance be observed.

Why? If you think about it, anyone involved in the management of a U3A is not only responsible to its members but is also accountable to the Office of Fair Trading and quite a few other Government entities as well.

In effect, all U3A Management Committee members are directors of a small to medium sized business and the general members should be treated in the same manner as shareholders of a company. Although members may not hold shares as such, they are still entitled to the benefits generated by their membership fees. For that reason, good management principles are absolutely essential because, ultimately, committee members are responsible for administering the affairs of the association on behalf of the membership.

Another comment that I heard was the belief that, just because we are a not-for-profit organisation, we cannot make a surplus.

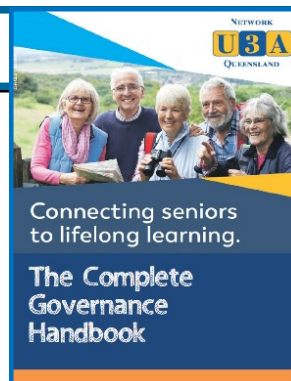
Again, nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, making a surplus is encouraged in U3A Queensland's *Complete Governance Handbook*. I believe it is incumbent on all Management Committee members to ensure a reasonable surplus is raised every year which can be placed in reserve for a number of contingencies such as accommodating future growth or purchasing equipment.

I know some U3As rely heavily on receiving grants and, although this is all well and good, it is a very unreliable source of revenue which quite often comes with strings attached. Membership or class fees (if applicable) don't have to be excessive to achieve a good surplus – application of good budgeting will result in healthy reserves being achieved over time.

In a recent seminar on Good Governance, it was stated that a not-for-profit organisation should ideally have one to three times their yearly income as a reserve. Although it may take some years to achieve this, it is a worthwhile goal to pursue to ensure the viability of your organisation. Look at your own U3A and plan where your Management Committee want it to be in, say, five years. You will probably identify a number of projects that will have to be funded over that time such as a move to larger premises or replacement of essential IT equipment. This is why reserve funds are essential to the long-term health of your organisation and I believe the accumulation of such funds should be given top priority in your U3A's future planning.

But, don't just believe me. By following the link on our website to the ***Complete Governance Handbook*** that I mentioned above will spell out all this and more. This very comprehensive publication can be read online or downloaded for future reference by clicking on: www.u3aqlld.org.au/starting-a-u3a.html and then Resources, where the Governance icon appears as one of the Components of Starting a U3A. You will find many other useful links on that page that could help with your future planning.

*Greg Doolan,
Marketing & Public Relations,
U3A Network Queensland*



Cairns U3A



U3A Cairns received a grant to revitalise the facade of their building in the year that the COTA theme was ***Young and Old Working Together***.

Youth Empowered Towards Independence (YETI) is a support agency for young people aged 12-25 years old living in Far North Queensland. A Not For Profit, YETI has programmes to support young people and responded to the call from Cairns U3A. Wally, a young professional street artist agreed to oversee the project. He arrived with a group of enthusiastic young people and the group have transformed the building's facade.

U3A members kept the food and drinks coming and those wonderful youth kept the paint splashing. The artists turned up at the Seniors Week ceremony to officially cut the ribbon.

The building used to be hard to find but now giving directions is simple because it is now far and away the most visible building on a very long road.

2020 Conference

Date Claimer for your phone calendars or, if you prefer, a wall calendar when you have one for 2020.

The Queensland Network Conference 2020
Tuesday June 2nd and Wednesday 3rd June
Redlands Performing Arts Centre
Cleveland

A pre-conference trip to Stradbroke Island is being organised for
Monday 1st June

Some interesting speakers will stimulate our brains and catching up
with old friends and making new friends will enrich our social lives.

Registration opens in January.

More information in the March Newsletter!!

The U3A Redlands Writer's Group

At the close of 2018, I asked members of The U3A Redlands Writers what project they wished to pursue in 2019. Gently, quietly came the plea for an anthology.

At the commencement of 2019, a Steering Committee was convened to oversee the project. All of the writing in this anthology, comes from members of the Writer's Group. All forms of writing were accepted.

As a result, there are biographies, short stories, poems and a radio play within its covers.

Formatting was decided with assistance offered by member to member, as were questions on writing styles and skills. The entire work was edited, checked and rechecked by group members. Our member-collator oversaw the formatting, layout, indexing, numbering and cover of the anthology, a most important and time consuming undertaking for which members are most thankful. Our treasurer collected orders and money, and then gave us *refunds* due to the number of copies ordered for printing.

Most of all our members have an anthology of which they can be proud, which can be gifted and bring pleasure to others.

Robyn Bree, Tutor

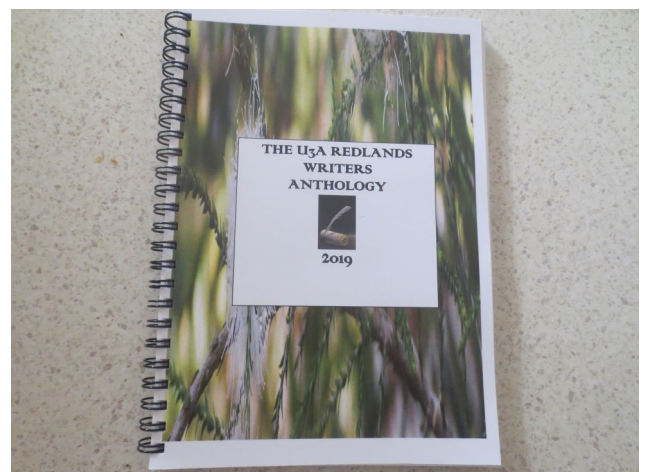
Robyn Bree has been tutor of the U3A Writer's Group for 11 years. During this time, the group has grown and developed their writing skill, gained confidence and produced four anthologies. The most recent anthology was launched in late September. Each of the members submitted up to four pieces of work which include biographies, short stories, poems and a radio play.

The group worked collaboratively in editing each other's work. Additionally, a member-collator oversaw the formatting, layout, indexing, numbering and cover of the anthology.

The anthology is the culmination of learning, creativity and friendships. The members are justifiably proud of their achievement and thank sincerely their tutor, Robyn Bree who has guided the group through this project.



Deb Barker, President Redlands U3A,
and Robyn Bree tutor of the Writer's Group.



Sunshine Coast

Every year, the University of the Sunshine Coast's Faculty of Science, Health, Education & Engineering put out a special request to our U3A members to participate in the "Volunteer Simulation Participation Program".

Instead of dull, lifeless, and sometimes quite frightening mannequins, (although our photo is quite fun!) volunteers change into nursing home patients to enable First Year Nursing students to practise their skills in readiness for their end-of-year clinical practical in local Nursing Homes.

One volunteer commented "It is such fun to do, as you have to get into both your role and your pyjamas and become a bit of a grumbly grouch – and then be fussed over and cosseted by a bunch of lovely smiling young people who only want to make you feel better."

Amanda Thomson, Technician at the Faculty of Science, Health, Education & Engineering says over the past two years the requirement for the Nursing Simulations at Sippy Downs campus has doubled to 30 volunteers, this year to cater for nearly 500 First Year students enrolled. So there's always room for more, if you'd like to consider volunteering next year!

Amanda extends her thanks to our U3A volunteers, and comments:

"The feedback we receive from students, staff and our volunteers is very positive and everyone seems to really enjoy the experience. Any specific, relevant feedback is integrated into the next year's classes.

The experience for the students is greatly enhanced by having a real person (instead of a mannequin) in the position of our patient. We thank everyone who has been involved over the year for their ongoing support and

we hope to see you all again next year."



A MESSAGE FROM ENGLAND



The following message of support was received from U3A Todmorden on the Yorkshire/Lancashire border in Northern England.

Gail Allaby sent the following message:-

This is just to let you know that we, and I am speaking on behalf of our members, are thinking of all U3A members who have been affected by these disastrous fires. Unable to do anything to help, our only option is to send greetings of kind thoughts and support to you all.

U3A Todmorden on the Yorkshire/Lancashire

I think it's quite heart-warming that they took the time to send this message when they are having their own problems with floods.

Great to see the camaraderie of U3As extends far and wide and proves that our movement is truly a world-wide family.

Greg Doolan

Congratulations Beaudesert U3A

When Beaudesert U3A held its AGM last March, president Andy Fechner was happy to announce that the group had reached a new record membership of 250. Following a recent committee meeting, he again announced a new milestone, this time of 300 members.

"This is significant as it makes us probably the largest community group for seniors in the Scenic Rim," he said. "We have had a consistent and steady growth of membership in recent years. "For the first time this year, we had a considerable number of activities that reached capacity and others that have had to set up waiting lists. We've also had to find new venues as numbers increased, but fortunately we've had great support from the community at large."

Andy said that Beaudesert U3A would enter the New Year with some old favourites amongst its 20+ offerings, and at least two new activities with a Calligraphy course and the new Travel and Adventure Group (TAG).

"This is a very positive feeling as we reach the end of the year and prepare to celebrate our Christmas party at the Beaudesert RSL," he said. We'll be offering a special bottle of champagne amongst the door prizes to celebrate!"

Queensland Community Development Conference

The 2019 Queensland Community Development Conference was an excellent platform to promote the importance of U3A to the wider community. The conference is held bi-annually at different locations in Queensland and this year was hosted by Toowoomba Regional Council.



The conference theme, "*A Place for Everyone*" is such an important topic, given that "Place" and "Place-based" approaches and initiatives are gaining currency with governments, non-government organisations and even the corporate sector. The conference explored how community development and community perspectives are critical to an inclusive society.

I was invited by Margot Ross-Smith, Volunteer Management Officer, Community Development, Toowoomba Regional Council to participate in this event with a presentation on U3A. As I never turn down an opportunity to promote U3A, I was happy to participate.

My presentation was entitled "U3A – Its place in Community. Here, There & Everywhere. Over 400 people from across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria & Tasmania attended the conference over two days. However, due to the large number of presentations and workshops, there were always several presentations on at the same time. Choice was challenging.

The true value of the event for U3A was not the presentation, it was the conversations with Community Development personnel who work in a cross section of services and with a cross section of people. Many who had never heard of U3A. I had many meaningful discussions about the value of U3A with many people, among them delegates from Aye, Mundubbera, Kingaroy and Oakey all towns where U3A is not presently available.

The conference was pricey however there are bursaries available and it is an extremely important opportunity for us to raise awareness of Our Place in Community. Now that U3A is on the program, it would be advantageous to ensure that U3A is invited to future Community Development Conferences.

Rhonda Weston



U3A NETWORK QUEENSLAND INC.

Incorporation No: 1A37380 ABN: 13517501874

Web: www.u3aqlld.org.au

Objects of the U3A Network Queensland Inc

- To be the Queensland peak body for autonomous U3A Groups, and to represent them at state, national and international level.
- To promote the U3A movement in Queensland and foster new U3A Groups in regions not yet served.
- To provide publicity for U3A at a state level, including the development of a U3A Network Queensland website to which all individual member websites could be linked.
- To enhance communication and information exchange between Member U3A Groups and as far as practicable with other U3As in Australia and Internationally.
- To act with others to improve the status and position of U3As in our community.
- To exchange ideas and resources with other universities of the Third Age both in Australia and overseas.

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