

2023 U3A Network Queensland Conference and 50th anniversary of U3A worldwide.

I am getting excited and you will too, looking forward to May next year. This is the month we will be hosting an international Conference which will put Rockhampton U3A and Rockhampton City firmly on the map.

Henry Cope and his committee have been working hard, searching out venues and guest speakers, looking for funding, bringing together items for welcome ‘show’ bags, and generally covering all aspects of such a large venture



Left to right: Angela Johnson, Barbara Lloyd-Jones, Margaret Holland, Lenore Cook, Christine Dobebe, Vicki Cope, Terry Holland, Judy Nutley, Henry Cope, Jane Brazil.

An exciting program is slowly coming together starting with a “Meet and Greet” at the new Rockhampton Art Gallery on the evening of 8th May.

International speakers already confirmed are Professor Francois Vellas (son of founding member Professor Pierre Vellas in France in 1973) and President of the Association of International Universities of the Third Age (AIUTA); and Professor Maria Chester, Secretary General of AIUTA.

Interest is growing from around the world and Australia (a fact that is obvious by the increasing hits on the Conference pages on our website), estimates of attendance next year are increasing.

A normal U3A Network Queensland Conference attracts one or two representatives from each of the 35 member branches throughout the state, about 100 participants, however, with the promise of a birthday cake and a 50th celebration, these estimates have grown from 100 to 200 and could even reach in excess of 300 visitors to our city!

Because planned renovations at Frenchville Sports Club rule the FSC out for the conference, the University will be the venue for majority of the activities. Search is on for a venue large enough to cater for planned dinners on 9th and 10th May.

There will also be many tours and add-on activities offered to conference goers to entice them to stay beyond the conference itself and to experience all our region has to offer.

It will be an exciting week for U3A Rockhampton, so keep this week (8th, 9th, 10th, 11th 12th May) free in your diaries



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022

President: Cheryl Wickes 0428 452 836
Vice President: Henry Cope 0447 410 452
Secretary: Jane Brazil 0439 982 087
Assistant Secretary: Joan Cooper 0458 060 447
Treasurer: Lenore Cook 0749 267 499
Volunteers Coordinator: Vicki Cope 0412 336 450

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Activities Coordinator: Terry Holland 0427 689 312
Email: t.m2@bigpond.com

A big welcome to our new position holders:



Terry Holland



Bev Meredith

FEEES

Annual fee: (1st Jan. - 31st Dec. 2022) \$20.00
Mid Year fee: (1st July - 31st Dec. 2022) \$10.00
Joining fee (includes name badge): \$10.00

Check out the Quarterly Flyer in colour:

<https://www.u3arockhampton.org.au/images/sept22.pdf>

*A big hello
From our President
Cheryl Wickes
0428 452 836*



I hope this edition of the Flyer finds you safe and well.

I suppose we are all gradually learning to live with Covid... this is our world's frightening new reality, and for many members it remains a real threat. We have had confirmed cases among members, so I call on members to remember to follow our Covid Safe Plan at all times to protect yourselves and each other.

The U3A Network Queensland President, Rhonda Weston, will visit our region on 28th August, and will meet with our committee and the 2023 conference committee to discuss Network's plans and support.

Each state has its own version of Network supplying information and advice regarding laws covering Incorporation of groups such as ours and many more

issues.... Network also organises a joint insurance policy for member branches. Support so far from Network has been of great value to Henry Cope, our Conference 2023 Chair.

Because the 2023 conference includes fiftieth birthday celebrations of U3A worldwide, this has brought interest, not only from Queensland, but further afield from Australia and the world! Henry Cope and his committee are constantly revising estimates on the number of possible attendees.

It will certainly be a special celebration... and a great promotion of Rockhampton and all our attractions. Sponsorship is growing and grants are being applied for. Henry and his team are deep in organising the million and one details that such an event requires.

Our new Activity Coordinator, Terry Holland, has been busy making contact with our various activity organisers and settling into his new role.

Also Bev Meredith, our new Social Coordinator, has been cooking up a storm. She is very busy lining up quite a list of fun activities for members including Trivia night, Whale Watching, a visit to the Historic Village and so much more. Check out our Facebook Page and Website for updates.

As I am now also your Publicity Officer, I'm always looking for interesting stories and photos of activities and members to write about... just send me an email, or phone me at any time

Over recent months we have received great support from the local newspaper, **CQ Today**, with press releases and photos of activities and events. I ask that members please support **CQ Today** so they can continue to support our U3A, spreading our news and attracting new members.

We are continuing to see a steady increase in new members, and as I requested last meeting, please invite a friend, neighbour or acquaintance to an activity or to a meeting - introduce them to what U3A can do for them!

With our friendly welcome to visitors, and our numerous activities offering something for everyone, we will soon see our membership climb back to pre-covid levels. I am sure you will enjoy delving into this edition of the Flyer... our editor, Leslie, puts so much effort into producing an exciting mix of stories about members and events. Thank you, Leslie.

Hoping you all stay safe and well

Cheryl 0428 452 836





Ms Kim Harrington, GCertMgt, BAAVTHRD(Hons), DipPM
**Associate Vice-President Rockhampton and Central
Highlands Regions and VET International Business
Development**

A new sea grass research and education facility run in partnership between CQUniversity Australia, the Konomie (North Keppel) Island Environmental Education Centre (KIEEC), and Woppaburra TUMRA will see school students and traditional owners assist in the delivery of important marine research being conducted on Konomie Island in the Southern Great Barrier Reef. The formal launch of the new sea grass education and research facility – officially known as *SeaGrow Konomie Island*– took place alongside the signing of an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CQUniversity and the KIEEC on Konomie Island. The MoU allows for CQU students – such as those studying environmental science, digital media or conservation and land management – to visit Konomie Island as part of their coursework and assessments.

A new tech skills hub is being established in regional Queensland Mackay which will bring together industry, government and education providers, to expedite career pathways and skilling solutions for the State's agriculture and aquaculture workforce. The Aquaculture and Agriculture Tech Skills Hub project will determine the skills, knowledge and ways of working required to skill the current and future workforce, needed for a modern sector and technologies and other areas of Industry 4.0. The Aquaculture and Agriculture Tech Skills Hub is a partnership between the Australian Government, Queensland Government, CQUniversity Australia and TAFE Queensland to deliver the sector's workforce with skills and capabilities through a funding agreement valued at almost \$1.7 million.

Whilst Gladstone is kicking off a new era, CQUniversity has signed another MOU with The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) to become its new host organisation. GHHP will now be based out of CQU's Gladstone campus, and the University will be in charge of managing the partnership – enabling GHHP to be closer to the community that it provides for.

In June the CQUniversity Australia and BHP launched a First Nations Community Engagement

guide, titled *First Nations Community Engagement: Industry Guide Phase I*, the important resource was developed specifically for industry and organisations that engage with First Nations communities in Australia. CQUniversity Deputy Vice-President of Indigenous Engagement, Professor Adrian Miller, co-authored the guide and said he was proud to launch it to the wider community. In July CQUniversity recommitted to reconciliation by launching a new *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)* that will provide a clear direction for the next phase of the University's reconciliation journey.

Also, in June CQUniversity as STEM focused and hosted a series of Young Engineers club workshops across regional Queensland throughout the upcoming school holidays. Designed to ignite a student's passion for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) with the use of LEGO, students and instructors will be investigating all things heat and energy during the two-day workshops. Students from Years 1 and 8 will combine the use of hardware, LEGO compatible building blocks and coding to explore states of matter and energy to gain a better appreciation of how STEAM powers our society.

Young minds also put their skills to the test at the annual Whitsunday STEM Challenge - Festival of STEM (FoS). Now in its fourth year, FoS saw more than 450 students, who otherwise may not have been exposed to STEM learning, compete in F1 in Schools, Pedal Prix, Drones and Robotics activities, facilitating 25 schools from across the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday regions, Bundaberg, Emerald, Townsville and Bowen.

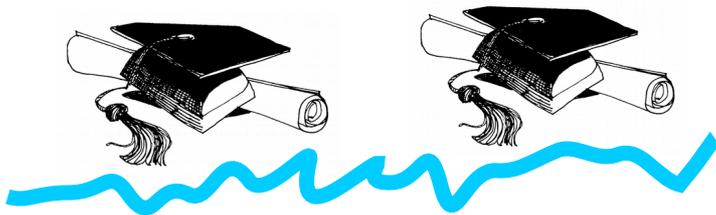
CQUniversity sponsored the Harry Hauenschild Apprentice of the Year at the Central Queensland Region Training Awards in Emerald. The Regional winner, Madonna Nelson-Bamford, joined the Parks and Gardens team at Central Highlands Regional Council in 2018.

Everyone loves a koala, including visitors attending Rockhampton Zoo who this past financial year chose to support research into the future of the Aussie icons. They collectively raised \$8 800 and the recipient was the community funded research program hosted by CQUniversity *Koala Research CQ (KR-CQ)*. They are very grateful to Rockhampton Zoo and its visitors for this generous donation of funding which will support KR-CQ research projects that look at the distribution and health of koalas and their habitat in Central Queensland.



I look forward to sharing more details about our upcoming events and activities in the next quarterly flyer.

You can read up on these events, plus more in the latest edition of our FREE Be Magazine, to subscribe, please email be@cqu.edu.au



Joke

(From Lenore)



Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place, I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey!" Miraculously, a parking place appeared. Paddy looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one."

Nicks Tech Tips



(Written by Leslie Smith)

As Nick is not feeling well at the moment, I offered and Nick agreed, for me to relate my recent brush with an evil spammer. Nick mentions that Australians have been defrauded of \$38 billion this year alone. I hope this article will save some people the anguish I experienced.

Tuesday 14th June 2022 – a date forever imprinted in my memory. I had just tested positive for Covid, fortunately not too sick, just felt like a head cold. So in a vulnerable state of mind, wondering what to do next, knowing I couldn't venture to the shops or anywhere where people gathered, I received a text message, (supposedly from Medicare) telling me I had recently been in contact with someone positive to the Omnicron virus and I should take advantage of the "free" new testing kits for this virus. So in a mad moment I committed the ultimate crime of pressing on the website highlighted in blue. This directed me to a site requesting first my credit card details as there was a processing fee of \$1.34, which I entered, then of

course they wanted my address. I immediately became suspicious when I couldn't enter my State as all the States listed were American. Realising I'd been scammed I raced downstairs to my desk top computer and frantically looking for a Medicare number (or any number) I could report this to.

Whilst I was doing this I received a call on my mobile from a fellow, with an accent, who asked if I had recently made a transaction for \$1.34 as whoever it was wanted to withdraw more money. I must have been temporarily out of my mind because despite frequent questions from me asking if he was from the ANZ bank (he couldn't even pronounce the letters correctly, he finally got it right and said he was).

He said he was a member of a team investigating this type of crime and there were thousands of cases currently under investigation. I was made to feel special because I would be helping thousands in a similar predicament if I went along with his following instructions.

I was so relieved that the bank had got on to this so quickly, that from that point on he had me in the palm of his hand.

During the course of the day, I had become suspicious but was very quickly reassured by him directing me to the bank website and to observe the telephone number listed that I should ring for information and then to check the number he was ringing on – of course they were the same.

So after transferring all my savings to a fake bank account with his reassurance that my money was safe and he would ring me first thing in the morning, the call ended.

The spell was broken by my daughter who convinced me it was a scam and tried to get me to ring the 03 bank numbers. I couldn't get any response at that late hour – so after a sleepless night I was on to the bank number at 7 am the next morning. My eternal thanks go to that bank because they hadn't transferred the money but were holding on to it with the intention of contacting me first to authenticate.

The moral of this story is "do not respond to any calls, no matter how convincing they may seem, until you have spoken to the source on your instigation". I feel somewhat embarrassed at relating this story as I thought I was reasonably tech savvy. Now I do not respond to any calls from mobile numbers I do not recognise and they fail to leave a message. These warnings have repeatedly been given by Nick.

BEWARE BE ON YOUR GUARD especially if you are feeling unwell.



Time for another joke to lighten the mood.

Brenda, pregnant with her first child, was paying a visit to her obstetrician's office. When the exam was over, she shyly began,

"My husband wants me to ask you..."

"I know, I know," the doctor said, placing a reassuring hand on her shoulder, "I get asked this all the time. Sex is fine until late in the pregnancy."

"No, that's not it at all," Brenda confessed. "He wants to know if I can still mow the lawn."

(This joke courtesy of Hash House Harriers)

Social

Coordinator

Bev Meredith

0410 341 843



I have enjoyed planning a few interesting and varied activities for the rest of 2022.

- On 17th August 2022 we will be visiting **Rockhampton Heritage Village**. We will have a tour of the Village by tram and then stroll around the grounds. We will get to enjoy a lovely Devonshire tea together.
- A guided tour of **Archer Park Rail Museum** will be our excursion for the **21st September 2022**. We'll learn all about the history of rail in the Rockhampton District. The Museum is providing us with morning tea.
- It will be a pleasure to join with U3A Yeppoon for a **Whale Watching Cruise** in early

September. The boat leaves from Keppel Bay Marina at 11.00 am. and will return by 2.00 pm. Bring a packed lunch. The date can't be finalised yet, it depends on when the whales are travelling north!

- Do you remember the 50's/60's - the Music/TV/Movies and their stars? Can you still sing the theme songs to your favourite shows? **The Digger's Memorial Club** will be the venue for a fun trivia and activities morning on the **19th October 2022**. Morning tea will be included.
- **Keep the date** for our **U3A Christmas luncheon** at Frenchville Sports Club – **28th November 2022**. More confirmed details to follow.

Looking forward to enjoying some fun times together.



Jokes from Lenore and Alan

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.



Paddy and Mick were employed to measure the height of a flagpole. They didn't have a ladder high enough. They parked the ute next to it and stood on the roof but still couldn't do it. An aussie came along and finding what they were trying to do said "It's only held up by two bolts". He went and got his spanner, undid the bolts, placed it flat on the ground and measured it. "There you go", he said. "It's 23 feet long". He put it back up and walked away. Paddy turned to Mick and said "What an idiot he was, we needed the height, not the length".

Activities Coordinator
Terry Holland
0427 689 312



Days for Girls News
By Christine Dobele
0749 261 845



One of the roles of Activities Manager is to visit the various activities as they happen to see if there is anything they need to keep the activity viable. I have, as yet, not succeeded in this task but have contacted the coordinators to see how things are going.

Because we did not have an expo this year, some of the groups are feeling the lack of numbers to make the activity as good as it could be.

Drama, Singing, Poetry are low on numbers and would love an influx of members.

Others like Days for Girls, Walk & Chat, Mahjong and Armchair travel are quite happy with attendance but are happy to welcome more.

Do not wait to be asked to attend, just check the activities program on the website and go along.

A short biography on Terry

Just a few words about Terry & Margaret Holland. We have lived in Wandal since April 2020, a week before the big hail storm (no damage thankfully).

We spent the forty years before that in Wandoan where I was the Postmaster. Our three children grew up there, two of them now live in Rockhampton, so for the past 20 years we had 2 or 3 trips to Rocky every year.

We lived in Darwin for 3 years until Cyclone Tracy convinced us it was time to leave. Our eldest daughter Jennifer was born a month later.

While in Wandoan we had many and varied experiences. Margaret has life membership of the Gymnastics Club. Both of us have life membership of the Tennis Club for many years of service.

I spent 7 years as a Councillor on the Taroom Shire Council which was a steep learning curve, but overall a rewarding experience.

We joined U3A early 2021 and have really enjoyed the activities we have been involved in and have made many new friends. I became Friday Mahjong coordinator February this year and have handed that job over and have taken on being Activities Manager since June this year.

For this report I decided to let you know what happens to some of the kits that our U3A Activity make.

In late June, a U3A member Val Gribble, took a full bag of kits to Papua New Guinea for distribution through the organisation GFS (Girls Friendly Society). GFS is a large worldwide organisation within the Anglican church and Val's role is to support GFS in PNG.

The Presidents of GFS groups in three different regions, namely Popondetta, Port Moresby and Kokopo, met with Val in Port Moresby for a three day workshop and during this time Val was able to train these women in the use of the kits, so they can distribute them in their areas.

However, because of the turmoil and violence during the current elections and counting of votes in PNG, it is a difficult time for GFS members to meet together. Kokopo members met at the end of July and the kits allocated to them were distributed. The members in Port Moresby live in a very "at risk" area, so no gatherings have happened. Popondetta leaders meet together in September (some 700 girls are expected) and the training and distribution will be offered to those who live in the very remote areas in the mountains.

There is a huge interest in the kits and a great need but getting them to these places is difficult and expensive.

There were many thanks offered to the Rockhampton ladies for introducing them to these kits. Thank you Val for your efforts.

Thank you also to the ladies who turn up on the 3rd Monday of the month to make, what you can see, is a very necessary item that we living in Rockhampton take for granted and have no trouble sourcing.



*Armchair Travel
Coordinator
Judy Trinder
4928 7538*



I was the guest of the Governor of the Province but even his vehicle couldn't manage the terrible roads as we attempted to visit a village in the mountains. We crossed a bridge over the mud made by the men taking the boards off the back of the bridge after we had driven across them and putting them in the front and so on but still we were bogged and had to turn back.

Then after coming to a river, a beautifully decorated outrigger arrived and I was rowed down the river, out to the ocean and then into shore and carried into the village. I was the first white woman to visit this village where a new church had been built. Three pigs had been trussed up and laid across the door to the church. After the opening they were of course part of the traditional feast.

Two years later I was asked to visit a village near the commencement of the Kokoda Track to provide training for the women leaders of the many GFS branches that were springing up. It was my first time to stay in a village, always an interesting experience.

As a reasonably proficient trainer in Australia I had asked how many Leaders would be at the training. I was told nearly 20 so I prepared handouts, craft activities, and a 2 day training program.

On arriving at the church, I found as well as the Leaders, the whole village was there, Priest, congregation, other people of the village, children, dogs, well over 100 people all sitting on the floor – there were no seats.

That was a learning experience for evermore. The program went out the window, well, at least the handouts and craft did, and I responded as best I could. I found that people hungry for learning and information.

The journeys have continued each year until COVID. In 2007 Cyclone Guba hit the area, causing 137 deaths. Every major bridge destroyed, villages, particularly those near the rivers or oceans, were destroyed (including the village of my first visit) and the gardens, which are the life blood of the people, all destroyed.

So when we (we are now an Australian team of three) made our first visit after Guba to get to the village, we crossed the major river, the Kumusi, by tractor tyre, the men swimming beside us and others bringing across all our luggage.

I see some progress but most of the villages we visit still do not have running water or power. The women and children bring the water from the river (not always close) every day and bathing and washing of dishes and clothes is all done in the river. Life is tough.

At our last gathering, Val Gribble gave an engrossing talk on her travels to Papua New Guinea. Following is her story.

Travelling in the Land of the Unexpected

by Val Gribble ML

My love for Papua New Guinea began many years ago and has not diminished. I belong to a large worldwide organisation within the Anglican Church called GFS (Girls Friendly Society in full). As we now have male membership we just use the initials. Change doesn't happen overnight so we continue to battle with our name!!! We interact with women and girls and now boys and men, in many different countries. Our main purpose is to bring others to Christ and to serve. We are a service organisation working in many areas covering education, leadership and domestic violence.

The organisation in PNG began in 1996 in the Province of Oro (think the Kokoda Track is part of the province). My role within GFS Australia was and is to support GFS in PNG. This has led me to many exciting, humbling, sometimes frightening situations.

My first visit was in 1998. Who would have expected a dancing and drumming group of men and women (all in traditional dress with the wonderful headdresses of the men) to come out onto the tarmac at Popondetta right up to the stairs of the plane to welcome me to their country. This activity continued over many years but now with a new airport and new safety regulations, the welcomes are outside the airport. Often groups of trekkers were on the plane, on their way to Kokoda and were always asking why we were given such a welcome. We are always honoured by this activity.

*Val with
her welcoming
committee in
traditional dress*



I have seen the introduction of cheap prepaid mobiles which are changing the lives of many. We marvelled when we could first phone home from the middle of the jungle. I ponder after each visit about my plenty, my lifestyle and the need to have so much in my home!

I have just returned from my first post COVID visit, I managed to miss the well documented violence and turmoil in the current election. A new government has such a huge role in trying to bring stability and to bring a better lifestyle to a loving and caring people.



Ukulele Group

Contact

Barry Lloyd

4926 4654



The U3A Ukulele group are currently enjoying a busy period, with ongoing performances at Bethany Aged Care Day Respite Centre, and planned visits to Benevolent Aged Care, Fitzroy by Tenman (Happy Hippie theme) and our Wednesday afternoon practice sessions during July.

During the past couple of months we have had the pleasure of visits from U3A ukulele players from England and Townsville. The invitation is open, if any of our members visit either of these areas, to join in for a jam session or any of their activities.

Our membership is still growing, currently 35 active players, with an average of 25 players at our practice sessions.

New members in 2022 Mary Clare, Cynthia Drane, Margaret Holland and Marshall Scott. Thank you Rhonda for your time in assisting our new players.

New players, and/or singers, are most welcome to join our group.

We are available as a group to spread the music, where suitable, to aged care, Senior's activities etc.

Saturday Walking & Chatting

Contact

Christine Dobele

0749 261 845



The walking group continue to enjoy the Fitzroy River early Saturday morning just as the sun rises.

I asked on Saturday 30th July why they walked. Some of the answers were as follows.

Keep fit

Coffee and chat

Pleasant walk

Motivation to walk when you have company

Raising the awareness of seniors in the community

Watch the sun rise

We also exercise our tongue which works twice as much as our legs



Happy U3A Hippies having fun playing their Ukuleles at Fitzroy on Teman.

**Contact Alan Watts
for Poetry for Leisure
& Financial Discussion
Groups
0411 469 563**



DRAMA GROUP
contact
TONY MOORE
0400 579 530



Our Drama group needs new members. Last year the Drama Class wrote a radio play as a group, which we performed at the Christmas luncheon. Unfortunately, for various reasons including health, attendance has dropped considerably and we have decided to put the drama group on hold. We are hoping to begin again in October this year.

I would welcome feedback as to what you expect from a drama group. We can - write a play or read plays. I can talk about the history of theatre worldwide and here in Australia. I am always happy to listen to feedback.

As I am not able to attend General Meetings because of my commitment to the Third Age Chorus Singing group (which are held on a Tuesday). Please use the Suggestion Box situated on the table with the other leaflets or give me a ring on the above number. I anxiously await any feedback.



WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ROCKHAMPTON'S C.B.D.?

What's happened to our CBD? The Banks are even leavin'. After money spent on Quay St where the tiled road's uneven.

They've knocked the public toilets down and opened up the street.

There's nowhere you can "go" now, even if you are discreet.

We've lost "The Rock" to My State Bank and "My State" was Tasmanian.

It's Agencies and Branches closed. This really needs "Explainian".

Then Suncorp closed its branch in town, and then the C.B.A.

Soon followed by the N.A.B.. Now Westpac's gone that way.

The Arcade, it has now closed down. Its businesses went too.

It also was another place where one could use the loo.

News agencies - well there are none, though there is still a need.

Despite no Morning Bulletin produced for one to read.

So many vacant shops there now, and many need repairs.

I feel for businesses still there. It's a sad state of affairs.

Now what about the other Banks? Will they be closing too?

Is the River Bank the only one that will be left for you?

We need a sweetener there now to get us back to town.

What can we do to stop this trend of places closing down?

One sweetener is still there now, and that is Silly Sollys.

That's somewhere you can go in town. You can still, at least, buy lollies.

P.S. There is a Jeweller's shop in East St that is very "A PEEL ING". (Phil Peel Jewellers)

Alan Watts 10/08/2022.



**Wanted
BOOKS FOR CHARITY
Shirley Hopkins writes.....**

Could you find a little space to remind Members the project is ongoing.

Jenny Baker and Shirley Hopkins are continuing the project which has provided over \$500 to Woorabinda Ministries from our various sources of collection.

Please bring your pre-loved books to a meeting or telephone Shirley on 49 364 792 (leave a message) if you would like a pick-up for heavy donations.



**Embroidery Group
With
Pat Lorraway
4927 4493**

Our embroidery group meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Frenchville Sports Club in the Champions Bar 1.00pm – 4.30 pm. We do a variety of needlework such as Drawn Thread, Hardanger, Pulled Thread as well as knitting and crochet.

If you enjoy embroidery, crochet or knitting and would like to meet with other like minded people, why not come along and enjoy our company and exchange patterns and ideas. It is always a happy group.



*Lots of happy tweets
via our bird watching
co-ordinator
Rod Elder
4928 4383*



**Nesting sites in short supply – go underground – if
you are a Pardalote
By Cheryl Wickes**

This is my pardalote experience. We have only been here six months. and one of our plans to smarten up the garden area was to dismantled some boards which were being used as a retaining wall against a bank, intending using rocks and plants in their place.

Within a week, the Striated Pardalotes started a burrow but not happy with the first attempt, they started another, and then a third in which they have now taken up residence.

We were unsure what to do... whether to evict and cover the burrow or let them go ahead with their burrowing and for us to build around them until they finally leave at the end of the breeding season (June-February), hopefully with a full clutch of 2 to 5 babies or even more clutches!

We decided to wait...

They are amazing little 9.5-11.5 cm long birds - the burrow is very deep, and they worked very hard excavating it out!

Rod Elder has added the following information.

Striated Pardalote are very common over much of Australia but are seldom seen because of their small size, rapid movement high up in eucalypt tree canopies. They feed on small scale like insects which feed on the leaf sap. They have a distinctive chip – chip-chip- chip call. Males are more colourful than females.

Nests are globular, of bark fibre, rootlets, fine grass; in tree hollow, 3m-25m high; tunnels in creekbanks, road-cutting; mid-section of tall bank; cracks in brickwork, weatherboards; disused nest of Fairy Martin. I have seen them investigating car exhaust pipes as a nesting site.

There are other pardalote species. Also found here is the less common Spotted Pardalote.



Overview by Rod Elder

We meet at various outdoor venues every second month on the second Wednesday of the designated months. You can contact me by email or mobile. We ride share for more distant sites. We usually meet at 7am at a site and after around 2 hours we have morning tea where we discuss what we have seen and how to solve the world's problems. We endeavour to make the group very welcoming and as social as possible.

The venues are selected for their potential to have a higher concentration of bird life, to be accessible for a moderately active person and have formed paths. Some sites visited to date include: The Caves, the Woolwash, Springers Lagoon, Southside Botanical Gardens, Peter Wilsons at Stanwell, and Mt Archer.

We make sure all who attend are shown any bird we sight, they are identified and recorded. Binoculars and help in their use of them is provided. Features that help identification are pointed out and discussed.

U3A can contact me at any time if they have a bird they would like identified. A picture can be very helpful.

If anyone provides a picture it is sent out to all members of the group with the appropriate notes. Short stories are also welcome.

Come and enjoy the great outdoors and some of Rockhampton's scenic areas.



Enjoying a welcome cuppa on a recent trip to Mt Archer



A couple of photos taken by members of bird group on one of their excursions.

An exciting travel memory from the 1970's by

Clare Fountain.

KATMANDU

My husband and I travelled overland from Australia to Europe to reach Katmandu. After obtaining a Trekking Permit we explored the lower slopes of Everest, sleeping and eating with families each night

.Such beautiful people – hard working, gentle and spiritual. They welcomed us into their homes and hearts and introduced us to the delights of Chang the local beer. It was served hot (which was a good thing on a cold night), and had quite a kick.

We were enjoying a welcome rest at the “Travellers Lodge” hotel, while we explored the city's amazing temples and culture. One such temple was named The Temple of the Barking Dogs. Its bells ringing sends the local dogs into a noisy frenzy.

A Bollywood Film Company was also staying at the hotel and after we became friendly, the crew persuaded us to be extras in their movie. This involved lounging in a temple at night pretending to be hippies. At least it paid well!

Western ideas had already made inroads into Nepal, particularly with music and food. We often wandered into The Pie Shop where delicious lemon meringue pies were sold.

However, I can still recall the gruesome sight of a small, half-naked Nepalese boy squatting outside The Pie Shop as he tried to evacuate a huge tapeworm. It dangled down and was promptly devoured by a large black pig wandering down the road. ***The delights of travel!***



Val Gribble is with Judy Trinder at an Armchair Travel presentation by Val



Robyn Edwards continues to do a sterling job of organising monthly luncheons. Photos below are from the August luncheon held at St Aubins Village Teahouse and a Xmas in July held at Victoria's Secret (Victoria Tavern)



Last word from your editor, Leslie Smith. My thoughts are already with the December issue. If any activity coordinators would like their activity mentioned in this issue the closing date for submissions is the 7th November. Send photos as an attachment in JPG format, please. Email: zebu3.u3a@gmail.com

