

U 3 A THE QUARTERLY FLYER

Rockhampton & District Inc



From Singapore's Gardens by the Bay, an Australian Display from The Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers, celebrating the work of the humble Bee

Some of our Wonderful Volunteers



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2024 Please Note New Members *

President: Cheryl Wickes 0428 452 836

Email: president@u3arocky.au

Vice Pres: Lauree Lanyon 0417 042 870

Email: vp@u3arocky.au

Secretary: Jane Brazil 0439 982 087

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Ass. Secretary: Trish Meek 0432 961 290

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Email: treasurer@u3arocky.au

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Email chaplain@u3arocky.au

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1/4 Flyer Ed. Angela Johnson 0419 605 662

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Activities Co-ord: Terry Holland 0427 689 312

Email: <u>activitiesmanager@u3arocky.au</u>

FEES

Annual fee: (1st Jan. - 31st Dec. 2024) \$20.00 Mid Year fee: (1st July - 31st Dec. 2024) \$10.00 Joining fee (includes name badge): \$10.00

Why not check out
The Quarterly Flyer in Colour

https://www.u3arockhampton.org.au/images/Dec24.pdf





And now
A word from our
President
Cheryl Wickes

Here we are in November at our last general meeting for the year. I find it hard to believe how quickly the year has flown since last February's Expo of Activities. In that time, we have achieved a great deal. We have introduced new activities such as Mind Games, Yoga, Craft for Christmas, and a self-guided language group. Our Poetry Appreciation group has re-started. We also held workshops in art and creative writing.

Our very successful Digital Safety seminar to educate members on the perils posed by scammers both over the internet, via the phone and even knocking on your door was a great success. We all learnt a great deal and hopefully the knowledge learnt will help those who attended to stay safe online.

U3A Rocky held information stalls at the CQ Health Expo and Oaktree's Seniors Expo, and we have been invited to hold another stall at the 2025 CQ Health, Sport and Recreation Expo on 15th February.

There have been a lot of changes during the year as we adjusted our operations to work around the renovations going on here at the Club. And we thank the Frenchville Club for organising alternative accommodation for various activities and committee meetings in the process.

Our General Meetings have been fun and informative with some great guest speakers. And we all enjoyed a full calendar of social events and luncheons; and welcomed many new members. We also lost some good friends over the past 12

We also lost some good friends over the past 12 months. Losses that are felt greatly among friends in our close U3A family.

I want to thank all those members who have helped keep our U3A operating... Our Volunteers. Last month we held our annual Volunteers Morning Tea to honour all the wonderful people who work hard behind the scenes to make our U3A a great success. My committee and I thank you, one and all for everything you do... Many of

you take on more than one role... and you are always willing to step in to help out.

To paraphrase a comment made by King Charles when he visited Sydney recently... 'Volunteers are the glue that hold a community together' ... or in our case, that holds our U3A together.

How right he is!

Cheryl Wickes, President U3A Rockhampton



Ms Kim Harrington, GCertMgt, BAAVTHRD(Hons), DipPM

Associate Vice-President
Rockhampton and Central Highlands
Region

As we approach the conclusion of 2024, CQUniversity campuses continue the celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the merge between CQU and CQ Tafe. Campuses across Australia are actively engaging with their local industry partners to thank them for their support over the past 10 years. This has been instrumental in keeping our VET students enrolled and job ready at the end of their apprenticeships. There are currently more than 11,000 students enrolled in a TAFE CQUniversity, qualification at representing approximately one-third of the University's total student population

The past decade following the merger of CQU and CQ Tafe has been characterised by dedicated efforts and advocacy to unite our Rockhampton City and Rockhampton North campuses. The Liberal National Party pledged \$61.1 million contingent upon their election to Government. Following the announcement of the Queensland State Election results on Monday 28th October 2024, the new Premier was sworn in, officially confirming that the Queensland Liberal National Party will govern for the upcoming term.

This outcome now confirms that we can realise our long-anticipated vision of the consolidation of the two campuses, through the construction and delivery of the CQ TAFE Centre of Excellence. This consolidation project will integrate all our

Rockhampton-based TAFE and higher education facilities onto the one site, creating more seamless educational pathways and establishing state of the art facilities that will drive skills development across Central Queensland.

Moreover, this project will also address the critical housing needs of the region. In addition, it will create opportunities to expand the local construction workforce, allowing surplus land at our Rockhampton North campus to be allocated for residential development, bringing approximately 500 much-needed new homes to the area.

On Monday 18 November 2024, Premier David Crisafulli announced the land vacated by CQUniversity at Rockhampton City campus will be used to expand the Rockhampton Hospital.

Lastly, in other exciting news, CQUniversity is preparing for upcoming graduation ceremonies at Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Gladstone. CQUniversity will see over 400+ graduands cross the stage to receive their testamur at the Rockhampton Graduation Ceremony on Thursday 5 December 2024.

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

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.

Ms Kim Harrington, GCertMgt, BAAVTHRD(Hons), DipPM & Ass. Vice President Rockhampton and Central Highlands.

Strange But True

King Louis IX of France 'died' of the plague at the age of 29 in 1244.

But the King had other ideas for, to everyone's horror, during his funeral service he sat up in his coffin.

He lived for another 26 years, fought a crusade and was eventually declared a Saint.

Emperor Napoleons' hat sold in 1970 for £14,032 to a French Champagne Company

With Christmas fast approaching many activities have been taking place within U3A. **The Volunteers Morning Tea,** which was held 28th October, **The U3A Christmas Party** which was on the 25th of November, plus various activities which hold their own celebrations towards the years end. Unfortunately, I missed out on this year's activities but I was having a wonderful time with family throughout the 6 weeks I was away.

Cheryl Wickes, our President, gave this speech at the Volunteers Morning Tea

Welcome everyone to this year's Volunteers Morning Tea...

You are here for your committee to thank you, in a small way, for your service to U3A, and to your friends, new and old, who make up its members!

Ivan Scheier is an American author who has written many books on the benefits of volunteering, says ... "The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good."

And what cause is better than the opportunity to be a member of U3A.

U3A was formed, and continues to grow worldwide, to encourage physical and mental fitness into our latter years. It is also a social organisation to enjoy, learn and laugh while making friends. I don't have to tell you that. You are all part of our wonderful organisation because you understand its benefits.

These social benefits alone are worth the very small cost of belonging.

However, I am not bringing coals to Newcastle as they say... I just want you all to understand the enormous value you bring to our U3A.

This year we made the decision not to give you certificates. They are costly... and time consuming to create. In the past, we have done so... and here, are some that were never claimed from the last two events. (Come and collect one if you think your name might be among them.)

Instead, we thought it much better to give you a small gift... a token of our thanks to each of you!



Armchair Travel Group with Judy Trinder

Another year has gone by and we have had lots of interesting holiday destinations presented to us by members of our group. Some of the places visited were Antarctica and Argentina, Vietnam and Cambodia, US and Panama, and Wild Flowers of WA to name a few.

As you can see there are a wide variety of countries and places that we all wouldn't be able to visit except for our excellent presenters.

You are welcome to join us every 3rd Friday at 9.30 am at Athelstane Bowls Club at the end of Ward Street just off Agnes Street.

Contact Judy Trinder on 0457 712 978 for more



ir Ankor Wat Panama Canal

Wild Flowers W.A Great Barrier Reef



Thank you all, Cheryl Wickes and Committee.

U3A Rockhampton – P.O. Box 8160, Allenstown, Rockhampton, QLD 4700 <u>www.u3arockhampton.org.au</u> Email: admin@u3arocky.au

CHRISTMAS IS ON ITS WAY

Garden Lovers group with Joan Cooper

A large number of members came to my place this morning for our Christmas breakup. We did our usual plant swap and garden quiz and had a lot of fun. I feel a bit sad to be giving up the role of coordinator but anyone new can be assured of having lots of keen followers.



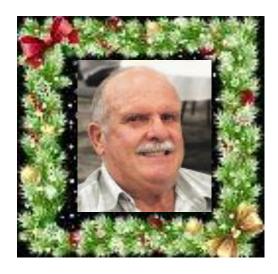




ROCKHAMPTON U3A UKULELE GROUP at Sunset Ridge, Zilzie

L-R Barry Lloyd, Jane Brazil, Jeanette Arthur, Judith Nutley, Shirley Turner, Sue Boor, Clive Boor, Jill Cotter, Kay Wooler, Jeanette Finlayson, Ros Nielsen, Robyn Halliday, Philip Morisette, Ken Napper, Robert Clegg. Photo by Lyn Lloyd

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Nicks Tech Tips

Accidents happen-Walking down to pull my bins in, I tripped on some air and fell SPLAT! Onto the concrete driveway. Blood! -and I've still got evidence on my shoes. Big Red Dots! A man walking his dog nearby rushed over and got me off the driveway and led me back to the house. I rang my son to tell him I'd had a heavy fall. A couple of minutes later my phone rings. "Have you called the ambulance?",- "No I've stopped the blood". "I'm ringing back in 5 minutes to see when the Ambulance is coming".

On my phone (iPhone) I have an App called Emergency Plus. Very easy to use, there are 3



buttons, 000, SES, POLICE. An operator answers, What town "Rockhampton" Then Rockhampton asks 'what is the Emergency?' "Fell on the concrete

driveway, injured arm and leg" 'What is your Address?' – The App will tell you where you are address, suburb and Latitude and Longitude-'An ambulance is on the way'. Now, if they want you to stay on the line do so, don't hang up. It took 40 minutes to arrive and my check up person rang 3 more times. Nothing was broken.

After returning from JOTA (Scouting Conference) at Chinchilla and having an amazing time providing electronics, magnetism and Morse code with the Scouts, Cubs and Joeys, I arrived home to find my main computer didn't want to boot up. Not easy to fix because the main computer Drive was a Solid State Drive. I rang a computer shop and he said + \$900, so I rang my son. He looked up the motherboard and said order

a M2.2 which was a Samsung 1TerraByte **SSD.** (following image is actual size). I also ordered 2 sticks of 16GigaBytes RAM. For a total of \$305.



Andrew came in on his way to work, installed the 3 items and we used the original Window 10 Pro USB and all is working again.

Andrew mentioned I built the computer in March 2017, so I should expect more issues. So, I have bought a refurbished i7 Lenovo with 64Gb RAM and a 1 Terabyte SDD with Windows 11 Pro. I've got to *Experiment* with it to see if I can run Dreamweaver my Web program on Windows 11.

Beware: I had a phone call from a NSW number and I answered it. A person said he was part of a Blockchain and could get my wallet containing \$US56,000 (\$AUD78,134) and return it to me. All I had to do was pay him \$AUD8,600, But it seemed too easy, so I looked up Blockchain Scams. And the support page said.....

Fake Refunds – We (Blockchain) do not provide refund services of lost funds from third-party platforms. If someone asks for payment in order to recover/refund lost or previously scammed funds from third-party platforms or old forgotten wallets, then this request is *definitely a fraud*. We would never ask you to pay us for such a service.

With Christmas only one month away, prepare to ensure all Electrical sensitive items are switched off before you go out. If you have items that run on **lithium-ion batteries** a good safety site to visit is

https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9389

It is the festive season and I hope you all enjoy your activities safely. Take great care on the roads and ensure you lock your car after parking, don't leave windows down, park in the shade, put a sun visor up to help to keep your car cool

Keep Safe All the best and Cheers
Nick Quigley OAM

A Word Search all about U3A

What we do and what we get out of it. Have fun Searching, I can tell you it is a little bent, and if you attend our monthly meetings you will find someone/something we are all familiar with.

Answers Page 9 because I didn't want to make it too easy for you! P.S. There are 36 items in total (compiled by AJ)

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Melbourne Cup & Mahjong!

Fitzroy by Teman invited the U3A Mahjong group to join their Melbourne Cup lunch back on 5th November. Col, was our jockey of the day to keep everyone in order!. It was a great afternoon and some of us were lucky to have success in the sweeps. Afterwards we played our usual Mahjong games.





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Brie Encounter

The skies are gruyère since she left me I've never felt so Danish blue Caught between a roquefort and a hard cheese I stilton't know what to do

Don't give edam about the future Now my babybel's walked out the door Can't believe I've double Gloucester I camembert it any more

I've ricotta get myself together And build my life back Caerphilly Cheddar tear for the first time Say goodbye to us and halloumi!

Author - Brian Bilston.



Days For Girls Announcement

From henceforth we will be known as

U3A ANGELS

The Days For Girls (DFG) coordinator for North Rockhampton has retired and the nearest DFG Chapter in Gladstone does not wish to take on the extra responsibility of this area.

Therefore, our U3A group will now be known as the U3A Angels.

And, as the new name suggests, we will not be limiting ourselves but will create a variety of items in support of local charities and groups in need. Over the next two months we will collect ideas for new projects. If you have any ideas what our dedicated ladies can create for people in need, please let me know.

Newcomers are most welcome and the group will re-convene on 17th February 2025 at the Fred Fox Hall, 1pm to 3pm on the 3rd Monday of the month Please Call Christine Dobell for further information On **4926 1845** or email **tandcdobele@gmail.com**

The Red Lion

Cnr. Denham & West Streets



U3A December Lunch will be held at The Red Lion Hotel

December 16th @ 12 Midday

To Book: RSVP via Facebook or Contact Robyn Edwards on 0438284871



Saturday Walk & Chat Group

It seems that all the walkers have been very proactive over the past quarter and have walked many kilometres around our town and even Yeppoon.

On the 12th of Oct we joined a group for Breakfast at the Lagoon (Carinity Shalom at 121 Maloney Street.) Thank you to the organisers for all their hard work because the morning was very enjoyable, the surroundings were very beautiful, cool and peaceful.

The guest speakers were very knowledgeable and informative, the breakfast spot on and all the volunteers were also extremely friendly.



Walk & Chat ctd.

Christine Dobele: - My family and I took the opportunity to take a guided tour of the Barrage this morning. It was very informative and not something you get to see every day.





Our last walk was last week but we will officially restart on Saturday 1st February 2025.

Hope you can join us

4926 1845 or email tandcdobele@gmail.com

November Guest Speakers Hanah Bunt and Perry Davis from The Department of Transport and Main Roads

At our final general meeting/get together for 2024, Hannah & Perry gave an excellent presentation for us as many of us are not so young anymore and can be inclined to worry about what should happen if we, or our partners, lose our driving ability. Discussion was held on Road Rules, Safe Driving, Driving as an older road user, Health and Driving, and the transition from driving to Mobility Scooters. This talk was very informative and also created lots of questions and follow-ups.

Welcome to 2025!

The first official meeting of the New Year will be the **U3A Rockhampton's General** Meeting and Expo on Tuesday 4th February at 9am at Frenchville Sports Club

Some of our longstanding Committee and Group leaders are bowing out at the next AGM. If you are interested in taking on a position, please let the Committee know.

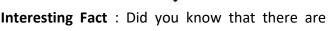
Cheryl Wickes, President and Jane Brazil, Secretary have fulfilled 3 years in their positions and feel it is time to take a break.

Joan Cooper, who has been 9 years at the helm of the **Garden Group** is also taking a back seat.

Alan Watts, leader of the Financial Discussion Group has also called time and

Sadly, also the **Embroidery Group** have decided to no longer continue.

Hopefully you will all be able to attend the AGM & Expo, and no, you won't be coerced into taking a position (unless you wish to, that is) but come along to see what exciting project ideas this group and other U3A groups have come up with for the New Year!



10,000 different varieties of apples?



Answers to U3A Wordsearch Puzzle.

Armchair travel, Bird Watchers, Book Lovers, Cards and Scrabble, Christmas Crafts, Current Affairs, Days For Girls, Digital Skills, Embroidery, Exercise, Financial Discussion, Friends, Garden Lovers, Christmas Crafts, History, Italian for Travellers, Laughter, Learning, Lenore's Jokes, Mahjong, Mates, Mind Games and Cryptic Crosswords, Monthly Lunch, Monthly Meetings, Music Appreciation, Outings, Photography, Picnics, Poetry, Third Age Chorus, Ukulele, Uni Of The Third Age, Walk and Chat Walking Group, Writing for Pleasure, Yoga



U3A Bird Group with Rod Elder

A lovely report came in from Rod Elder re a visit to Bouldercombe in October2024

The visit to Rod and Zoes property in Bouldercombe was an interesting change to our usual sites in that it was all bush with no bodies of water. This restricted the bird life to bush birds. This was deliberate as we hoped to see Wonga Pigeons and Red-winged parrots. The site has also been used for bush concerts/with camping and had great facilities with a covered area and toilets.

The weather was excellent with temperatures of maximum 29 C and 19 C overnight, very light winds, sunny with some clouds. It was a short drive on a dirt road from near the Service Station. On the way we stopped near a dry creek bed for further birdwatching. We also found a wild honeybee hive in a hollow tree stump and a strangling fig tree which had colonized a huge dead tree trunk.

We sat back under the covered area on our camp chairs and waited for the birds to come to us. A large, mowed area in front of Rod and Zoe's house allowed easy access to the edge of the bush for further observation. It was also a great spot to have morning tea, solve the world's problems and socialize.

We saw 17 species of birds. The Channel-billed Cuckoos noisily flew up and down the dry creek line making their raucous calls after arriving after their long migration from as far north as New Guinea. The local bird life was not impressed and chased them to prevent them laying their eggs in the nests of Crows, Kookaburras and others. A pair of Masked Lapwings walked round the lawn

looking for insects and accompanied by their nearly full grown "chick". We also saw Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Little Friar Birds, a Brown Goshawk, Kookaburras and Noisy Miners. Peter caught a brief view of a Wonga Pigeon before it retreated into undergrowth. Sadly, the Red-winged parrots did not come in to eat at the feeder.

We were graced by 8 members on this outing with a few apologies from others.





Channel-billed Cuckoo

Wonga Pigeon

RJC Race Day



Callaghan Raceway Clubhouse was the venue for our great day out at the races. A large group of U3a members attended.

We had a terrific spot overlooking the mounting yard and the finish line. We missed none of the day's terrific racing action!

I had a mammoth task choosing the winners of the Fashions in the Field contest. Our U3a ladies really know how to frock it up spectacularly. The fascinators were equally impressive, many of them homemade. Our men made quite an effort to look race worthy too.

There was lots of laughter, glasses of bubbly, some lucky winners and great food from the club's cafe. There will definitely be a repeat visit in 2025 to look forward to!

More pics from The Day at the Races







Memberships Now Due

Annual membership is from January to December each year. The annual membership fee is **\$20.00 per year** payable before 31 December in the prior year.

There is a **joining fee of \$10.00**, which includes a name badge. If joining between 1 July and 31 October, the membership fee is \$10.00.

Your Annual U3A Membership fees now due!

A form was sent by email on 7th October, however if you missed it you can go to:-

<u>u3arockhampton.org.au</u> and click on Membership and you will find the form.

If payment is being made by direct deposit to the association's account or by internet transfer, please include your surname as reference so your payment can be linked to your application.

Bank details: Commonwealth Bank

Name: U3A Rockhampton and District Inc.

BSB: 064 710

Account number: 0092 5452 Reference: Your surname

There are no course fees other than cost of

materials and venue where applicable.





The Smith Family

Dan Smith spoke to U3A Members at the recent meeting and sent this message to our President, Cheryl Wickes.

'Thank you again for your kind invitation (through Bev) to speak to your U3A meeting this morning.

The children of our community will really benefit from the books collected. I hope through the books we get to the children and families will help foster a lifelong love of reading.'

At the U3A Christmas Party it was requested that some donations could be put under the Christmas Tree. U3A members in their generosity donated many books which Bev has now delivered to them Many of your colleagues also asked me how they could best donate.



Please visit our website: https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/donate

Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year
To All of our U3A Members
And Your Families



U3A Let's Rock!

Determined not to spend our twilight years rocking gently in rocking chairs, U3A members decided to relive their early years by recreating the fun they had when they were young and Rocking around the Clock.

This event was held in September at the Diggers Memorial Bowls Club. Elvis was in the building as well as Danny and Sandy from Grease, even Angus Young from ACDC made an appearance with his girlfriend. 'Poodle' and polka dot skirts were seen in abundance. The men sported cool retro looks with 'Jelly-Roll', 'Greaser' and 'Duck-Tail' hair styles!

Lots of fun and laughter was had at the Rock Around the Clock morning with great rock music. There were trivia games, sing-alongs, raffles, and also a 'sock hop' and a 'twisting' dance off.

A scrumptious morning tea of sandwiches, made by our members were enjoyed by all.

More Fun, laughter and good times are planned for 2025 with a theme of "Surf's Up".

And Party?



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