

*A huge welcome to our new streamlined
2022 Management Committee.*



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022

President:	Cheryl Wickes	0428 452 826
Vice President:	Henry Cope	0447 410 452
Secretary:	Jane Brazil	0439 982 087
Assistant Secretary:	Joan Cooper	0458 060 447
Treasurer:	Lenore Cook	49 267 499
Volunteers Coordinator:	Vicki Cope	0412 336 450
Guest Speakers:	Alan Watts	0411 469 563
Web Coordinator:	Nick Quigley OAM	0428 851 874
Web Coordinator email:	<u>vietvets@gmail.com</u>	
Quarterly Flyer Editor:	Leslie Smith	0419 179 133
Quarterly Flyer Email:	<u>zebu3.u3a@gmail.com</u>	

We are in need of three more positions to be filled, that of Activities Manager, Publicity Officer and Social Coordinator. It is proposed that anyone volunteering to fill these positions no longer need to attend committee meetings.

FEES AND STUFF:

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

Check out the Quarterly Flyer in colour:

<https://www.u3arockhampton.org.au/images/Jun22.pdf>

SOME BIO'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cheryl Wickes President

Born in northern NSW, I spent most of my school years in Sydney before marrying and beginning a whirlwind life of moving constantly with my husband's job. I didn't have a chance to develop my own career during those years throughout Australia and New Guinea.

I often thought I must be descended from some nomadic tribe or another, as just as I began making friends, we were moving again until, after 18 years of constant change, my marriage ended. With two teenage children to support, I needed to find a job in a small Sunshine Coast Hinterland town.

Finally bought myself a job by buying the local community newspaper and fell into the perfect career!!!

When I sold that paper, I decided to move closer to my daughter and grandchildren in Rockhampton and ended up buying the local paper in Agnes Water before retiring to Rocky 14 years later



Henry Cope

Vice President and 2023 Conference Coordinator

Born in Toowoomba in 1952, I grew up there until moving to Brisbane in 1970 to attend University.

In 1974/5 in a gap year from Uni, Vicki and I travelled for nine months through Europe in a Combi Van, and married in 1976.

I became a bit of a perpetual student studying for a variety of degrees. Registered as an Architect, I worked in a number of Architectural offices in Brisbane until in 1983 when I accepted a six months job with a local Architectural Office in Rockhampton.

In 1987 I joined the Public Service (the old Works Department), and worked my way up to become the Regional Architect (for one day), before being seconded to the Health Department in 1993.



After three years as Program Manager for their Regional Capital Works Program, I returned to the Works Department as a Project/Program Manager until retiring in 2011.

I have held President, Secretary and Treasurer positions for a number of community organisations, and joined U3A in 2016.

Vicki and I have two daughters, Nicole and Mynissa, and two granddaughters, Charlie and Kaitlin.

For most of my life I did not know what I wanted to be when I grew up. Finally I realized that all I wanted was to be a grandfather and be retired. Success! another move, another community and here with the U3A, I have found many new friends while enjoying growing old gracefully!

Jane Brazil Secretary

In my previous life I worked in a butcher shop, owned and ran a garage, then a bar attendant at Brothers Leagues Club, and when I finished 32 years later, I was Administration Manager.

I was married for 45 years, have 4 children and 8 grandchildren all of which are the apples of my eye.

I joined U3A last year and have enjoyed the activities I have experienced. I have also met a lot of wonderful people through U3A.



Lenore Cook Treasurer 2022

I'm sure my previous life and work is of no interest to anyone.

I came back to Rockhampton to live in the late 1970's, and studied for a Bachelor of Business degree from Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education (now CQ Uni). Afterwards I studied to become a Chartered Accountant and worked at Kennas, Chartered Accountants, for many years.

I joined U3A Rockhampton in May 2013. The following March, I became Assistant Secretary, then Treasurer, and then both Secretary and Treasurer for the 2021 year. I'm still Treasurer, which is a position I enjoy holding. I also enjoy a good joke.



To read more biographies please click the following
<https://www.u3arockhampton.org.au/contact.htm#committee>

**Report from our new
President
Cheryl Wickes**



A big hello to all our U3A members...

Welcome to my first report in the Quarterly Flyer.

With all the difficulties of the pandemic, the past few years have been, arguably, the most challenging in the history of our organisation. I want to honour and thank past President Maurice Dittmann for his wonderful leadership during this time. He has brought wisdom, dignity, a light touch, and lots of laughter to our meetings and to all who have worked with him on his committee. He is a hard act to follow, but I will do my best!

The April general meeting, the first under new arrangements with Frenchville Sports Club, on a new day, with a new set up, proved to be a success. In fact, everyone seemed pleased with the way the room was arranged, sitting at tables made conversation easier with more people than when sitting in rows with one person either side. Also when the meeting started, it was easy to turn chairs towards the stage to take in the proceedings.

The timing of the meeting was our main concern with the Frenchville Club Bingo afternoon starting after our meeting, several bingo players were already waiting as we were finishing up. Worried about running overtime, I rushed the proceedings a little, ending up feeling that members may have found the meeting hurried. Therefore, being flexible, we have decided to start our meetings 10 minutes earlier, at 9:20am, so that hopefully we won't end up calling numbers for bingo.

Because, due to Covid, we had to cancel the Activities Expo in February, and as activities are now well underway, the committee has decided to forgo holding an Expo this year! Instead, we will have a display by one or two activities at each general meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing what each group is doing and I encourage you all to check out other groups that you might find interesting! I already attend Mahjong, Writing for Pleasure, Book Lovers and I try hard to make it to several other groups each month, but look forward to seeing, in particular, what the Photography and Birdwatching groups do when they mount a display... How about you? What group do you want explore? And, have you any suggestions for new activities that members may enjoy? I'm sure Maurice would like to see our Drawing group re-established!

Your committee has also decided to encourage some different workshops in coming months, with an interest already shown in holding a Mosaic Workshop in October... sounds great! I will definitely line up for that one! More details will be revealed as planning progresses.

I thank everyone currently on our U3A committee. Nothing could be achieved without such a strong team... However, with several positions still vacant, and to streamline committee meetings, we are proposing that the president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and volunteer co-ordinator will make up a main committee, freeing the remaining office holders to just email in a report each month.

Activities Manager, Social Coordinator, and Publicity Officer positions still remain vacant, but hopefully without the need to attend committee meetings, more members will be keen to get involved. None of these jobs are overwhelming, and a great committee, who support each other, is always on hand to help! If you feel you could take on any of these positions, just contact secretary Jane or myself.

A strong team from the committee and our 2023 Conference Committee will attend the Network U3A Conference at Pine Rivers in early June Henry and his team have assembled an amazing promotional pack to distribute to the other attendees. This is not just a trip to encourage visitors to our conference, it will also be a fact-finding visit for our own conference planning. It is an exciting coup for us to be hosting the 50th anniversary celebrations of U3A in 2023!

I am looking forward to getting to know more of you in coming months, and visiting more activities over time.

I am honoured to take on the role of president and I invite members to contact me at any time to discuss any suggestions, or concerns or to just have a chat.

Hoping you all stay safe and well!

Cheryl Wickes 0428 452 836



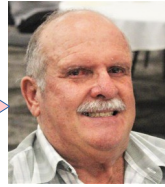
Collective nouns for people and animals.

(I spotted two charts on the wall of a QML office and took photos. The more unusual ones I will insert as gap fillers. Enjoy!)

People

a **Worship** of Writers, a **Force** of workmen, a
Nonpatience of Wives, a **Gaggle** of Women,

Nicks Tech Tips
0428 851 874



Judy's classes helping you understand how to do more with your computer is advancing the computer knowledge of our members.

Be aware that some online catalogues may contain malware. One of our members was browsing a local catalogue looking for specials when suddenly a voice came from her computer saying "don't turn your computer off, phone this number for assistance". She was very wise and rang me, so I could hear the message. I did get her to turn her computer off and then back on and pointed her to Malwarebytes <https://www.malwarebytes.com/>

When the page opens do not click on the yellow "Free Download" but scroll down the page and select "**Personal Free Downloads**". When the download finishes, run the **MBSetup.exe** file and allow it to alter your computer settings. Click install and then run the program. Now Malwarebytes gives you 14 days of top quality malware protection. After 14 days you **DO NOT** have to buy it. It will keep getting updates and not run as a premium product, but still effective.

iOS and iPad OS latest version is **15.4.1**. iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch.

Android Software latest Version. Version 12.1.0_r4
April 4, 2022

Microsoft released version **21H2**, which includes new security, management and virtualisation features. Microsoft reiterated that Windows 10 will continue to receive support until October 2025.

Then I found a note saying:

However the latest report states that Microsoft have changed this to "**21H2** will reach the end of support: **13 June 2023**". Your computer will run perfectly well as long as you have completed the updates put out by Microsoft.

Software companies continue to develop better products and in hand with hardware design they are continually trying to force **you** to buy the latest gear. But I know that if I still had my old MS DOS 386 computer it would still work. But would not run the latest MS Word and I'd have to create Batch files and create a front end on the monitor to load programs.

Windows has made operating a computer very easy. You move the mouse over the icon and double left click and the program loads

When you do upgrade your old computer and are not keeping the old model, before you put it in the rubbish bin you should **FORMAT** the hard drive several times or remove it from the box.

This site is of a great help to Seniors.

<https://www.greatseniorliving.com/articles/tablets-and-computers> a little way down the page you will find the

question: "Which type should I buy" so here you have some answers

Desktop computers vs. laptops vs. tablets

- [How to decide what you need](#)
- [What to look for in a device](#)
- [10 of the best standard devices for seniors](#)
- [Computers and tablets specifically designed for seniors](#)
- [Software solutions that simplify tablets and computers for seniors](#)

All the Best with Bits and Bytes, What will August bring?

Nick Quigley OAM



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

March was certainly an exciting and busy month for CQUniversity students and staff with the commencement of Term 1 2022. Because the restrictions of Covid 19 eased it was wonderful to see international students slowly returning back on campus.

Our campus life events commenced in Week 1. To date, the Rockhampton Campus Life team have hosted 14 free events this term. Many students took the opportunity to participate in our many free events including an outdoor cinema night, social sports, pizza and live music lunches, yoga, laser skirmish and neighbour morning teas.

Our most recent news is CQUniversity has been certified as Australia's first and only social enterprise university, recognising the institution's unique commitment to change making and social impact

The recognition builds on CQUniversity's work as Australia's only Changemaker University, accredited by global social change network Ashoka U since 2016.

Additionally, CQUniversity was named the second most energy efficient university in Australia as a result of the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association (TEFMA) annual benchmarking survey in March.

International recognition by WHO of a CQUniversity Researcher, also occurred early this year. Dr Imran Ali has had his first research article published by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

While this article was not Dr Ali's first research article published, it is the first article that has been published by the WHO.

A number of CQUniversity Academics have also been recognised in the 2022 National learning and teaching awards as part of the Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT).

Occupational Health and Safety lecturer Dr Elise Crawford, education expert Dr Robert Vanderburg, Head of Course for CQUniversity's new Bachelor of Medical Science (Pathway to Medicine) Dr Sonia Saluja, and the CQUniversity Physiotherapy teaching team have each received citations for outstanding contributions to student learning as part of the 2022 awards.

The Citations recognise and reward the diversity of contributions made by individuals and teams to the quality of student learning in Australian universities and are awarded to individuals or teams who have contributed to the quality of student learning in a specific area of responsibility over a sustained period.

The new foundation year of CQUniversity's Bachelor of Medical Science (Pathway to Medicine) commenced in March 2022. 40 students in total make up the foundation year of the pathway program (20 places offered in each Bundaberg and Rockhampton).

It was also announced in March 2022 that a new project being led by CQUniversity in partnership with the Peanut Farming Services team at Bega Cheese Limited (Bega), and principal co-investment from the CRC for Developing Northern Australia, is setting out to test the concept of dual-purpose peanut production through a series of trials at multiple sites across Queensland and the Northern Territory over the next three years.

Cancer Council Queensland launched the 2022 Rockhampton Relay for Life, celebrating 20 years of

fund raising in Rockhampton, of which CQUniversity has been involved in all but two events.



In April A life-size graduate statue has made a welcome addition to CQUniversity's Rockhampton Campus thanks to a donation by renowned Australian sculptor Linda Klarfeld.

The poly chromed resin monument, which depicts a university graduate dressed in regalia with their Testamur in hand, acts as an aspirational figure to current students and celebrates the achievements of CQUniversity alumni



I look forward to sharing more details 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



Collective nouns for people

A Converting of Preachers, a Discretion of Priests, a Poverty of Pipers, a Skulk of Thieves, a Squad of Trainees, a Cluster of Twitchers, a Malepertness of Pedlars, a Commune of Workers, an Eloquence of Lawyers, a Confederacy of Dunces, a Temperance of Cooks, a Slate of Candidates, a Blush of Boys, a Skulk of Friars, a Herd of Harlots, a Melody of Harpers, a Family of Humans, a Blast of Hunters, a Gang of Varlets, a Route of Knights, a Bevy of Maidens



SWIMMING CARNIVAL FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL CIRCA 1951/2.

By Janet Stewart

Not sure whether the carnival was an inter-school or inter house carnival. I think it must have been inter-school because it was at a swimming pool. We only ever swam at the beach, no need for a swimming pool. I was in year 1 or 2 and all fired up to represent my school or house if possible.

The carnival was progressing very nicely. Points were being won, all good. The person who was to do the diving pulled out so they were looking for another diver. They asked if anyone could do the diving, somebody said that I could dive. They asked me and I was thrilled and agreed. How difficult would it be after all, I spent all my summers jumping, being pushed and occasionally diving from the Kanaook Creek pipeline at the Seaford beach. I confidently approached the diving spring board, did a couple of jumps like they did in the movies, raised my arms, positioned myself, soared off into the great blue sky to perform the best swallow dive ever seen. I hit the water with the most glorious belly flop. They fished me out of the pool and patted me down. I hurt all over. I was as red as a beetroot. Everybody clapped, I wasn't teased, but I was never asked to perform a dive again.



Amazing. Optima
semper.



JUST REMINISCING.

By Maurice Dittmann

As one ages, it seems we "reminisce" more and recall the small moments in our lives. Moments such as the first man on the moon are firmly implanted in our recall.

Recently, for no apparent reason, I remembered one of the major moments (until that point in time) of history in our lifetime. Russia began the space age with the launch of the first artificial Earth satellite in October 1957. It was named "Sputnik". It was a 58cm polished sphere and had four external radio antennas. After three weeks its batteries ran out and it then silently circled the earth for two months.

It orbited the earth approx. every hour and a half and burnt up as it reentered the Earth's atmosphere in January 1958. During its short life Sputnik travelled about 70 Million kilometers.

I recall when the local gang of youths would congregate at night where Joyce lived in Maryborough. We would lie on the lawn, gazing up into the starry void searching for "Sputnik" as it passed overhead. It was nothing more than a small speck of light that zoomed by and if you did not concentrate it was difficult to see. But we were proud to be witnessing such an important historical moment.

Looking back, it did not really compare with the moon landing, just twelve years later.



LIFE SAVING

LIVER

TRANSPLANT

By Renate Burke

There are approximately 60 liver transplants performed each year at Brisbane's PA Hospital. In 2021 I was one of those fortunate cases. I had had Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis for more than 10 years and had managed with numerous medications. However, at the beginning of 2021, my liver failed, and I was airlifted to Brisbane by the RFDS. What followed were extensive tests to ensure that I was physically able to have a transplant.

One Friday morning the nurse came into the room to announce that I was going to the operating theatre to have a transplant. After surgery, I was sent to the ICU for recovery and then to the transplant ward.

Post-transplant I experienced seizures due to hepatic encephalopathy. I was in ICU for another two days. Once the seizures were controlled, I returned to the ward.

I remember getting out of bed the first time. Initially, I felt like I could walk quite well, however, once vertical, I was soon aware that the mere act of standing up was all I could manage. What followed was an extended period of rehabilitation.

Brisbane became our home for 5 months as I recovered first in hospital and then at a unit close to the hospital.

I will always be grateful to the donor's family for allowing a loved one to donate their liver.

The Liver Transplant Team at the PA were wonderful!

Having a liver transplant has given me a better life.

(I have not mentioned the date of the transplant to protect the donor's identity).

**Garden Lovers
with Joan Cooper
0458 060 447**



Despite the threatened rain, a good number of Garden Lovers attended our April gathering at the Botanical Gardens. Linda, from Friends of the Gardens, gave us an extremely interesting talk on the history of our Botanical Gardens. We have to thank the hard working curators over the years, who were responsible for developing the Gardens that we have been able to enjoy for generations.



Saturday Walking & Chatting

Contact

Christine Dobe

0749 261 845



Now the weather has turned cooler for Rockhampton we meet at 6.20am at Queens Park for a 6.30 start.

Some of us entered the 7 Rocky River Run on Sunday the 22nd May. Although the title says run we all walked.

We are looking at starting later one Saturday in the near future, car-pooling and walking at the beach.

If you would like to join us any Saturday please come along no experience required.



**Hello from Days for Girls
With Christine Dobe
0749 261 845**

We continue to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month from 1.00pm till 3.00pm at the Fred Fox Hall 3 Gladstone Road.

If you would like to spend a very pleasant 2 hours chatting and supporting girls and women less fortunate than us please do not hesitate to join us.



How to wash a cat

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl...
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may need to stand on the lid.
4. At this point the cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this!
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a 'Power-Wash' and 'Rinse'.
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand well back, behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift the lid.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.
9. Both the toilet and the cat will be sparkling clean.

Yours Sincerely,

The Dog



***Tweets from the
Bird Watcher group
Rod Elder
0409 630 584***



Our meeting at the Dump Lake and Rigarlsford Park in Elphinstone Street in April was fortunate in that we had a great day with some cloud, light wind and pleasant temperatures.

The Dump Lake was full and surrounded by lush green vegetation. There was an excellent selection of birds. We were lucky to sight a pair of Radjah Shelducks. They are not common.

The Dump Lake bird observatory offers and excellent vantage point. Ian and Peter took some lovely photos.

We were able to learn some more about the use of binoculars and fix a problem with one pair.

The park (Rigarlsford Park) in Elphinstone St is well maintained. We could walk along a gravel path beside Frenchman's Creek initially and then had morning tea at one of the covered areas with some seating close to the road. The bird life was the usual species we see in our Rockhampton suburbs.

We are investigating Lake Mary (just north of Rockhampton) for our next outing scheduled on **8 June 2022..** If you would like to join us please contact Rod for details.



Radjah Shelduck



Spoonbill, Ibis, Swan

CHEESY CROW JOKE

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) found over 450 dead crows on I-35 this past week, and there was concern that they may have died from the Coronavirus.

A veterinary epidemiologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was NOT Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The cause of death was actually from vehicular impacts. However, during analysis it was noted that varying colours of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws. By analyzing these

paint residues it was found that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by cars.

KDOT then hired an Ornithological Behaviourist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of truck kills versus car kills.

The Ornithological Behaviourist quickly concluded that when crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow to warn of danger.

They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", "Cah" not a single one could shout "Truck"!!!



Meet Cynthia Drane

Tuesday Mahjong Coordinator

Mob 0418 227 760



U3A have a lot of activities offered to all members. Tuesday Mahjong is one of them and I would like to introduce myself, my name is Cynthia and I am the coordinator of Tuesday Mahjong. The venue is at Fitzroy by Teman (previously known as Settlers) on the South side. It costs \$2:00 and commences at 12:45 until 4pm. Tea and coffee are provided with biscuits for afternoon tea.

I've only been playing the game since the beginning of last year and totally enjoying it especially meeting the ladies and gents I play with. We play half limit games for the 1st half time and after the break, limit games are played.

If this is something you would like to learn how to play, please give me a call on my Mobile 0418 227 760. We are a bunch of friendly players, happy and willing to teach those who are interested in learning how to play the game.



**Financial Discussion
Group with Alan
Watts
0411 469 563**



**The following questions were discussed at our
May meeting.**

1. The 2022 Federal Budget's effect on you as retirees? Is it good for the Australian Economy or just a vote buying exercise ?
2. What's ahead for us financially in 2022?
Examples are
 - Current and future effects of the War in Ukraine.
 - On going effects of Covid and the recent floods in Qld and NSW.
 - Inflation.-Causes and Effects
 - Interest Rates- will they go up? If so how much? How this will effect us and the economy?
 - The Markets- Property and Shares
 - Government measures - potential change of government

Next month we will looking at our experiences with Real Estate as an investment. Rod Elder, one of our group members, has had a wider range of experiences with property investment than most of us and will share these with us.

Our group would welcome anyone interested in financial matters. We discuss a variety of topics and at times have guest speakers along.



**Current Affairs
Discussion group
With Lance Cowan
0497 575 231**



We have 10 regular attenders at Current Affairs from 15 registered members. But I can accommodate more now that we have the extra space in the Champions room. If we get too big I'll run two sessions.

Lately we have discussed

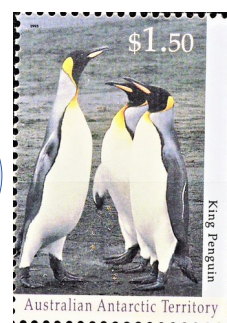
- The Mount Morgan water supply crisis.
- Considering our now friendly relationship with Germany and Japan. Can you ever envisage

having the same kind of relationship with Russia?

- What can the combined democratic nations do to stop megalomaniacs like Putin from invading democratic sovereign nations like Ukraine?
- What can be done to minimise blatant youth crime in Rockhampton?
- How can we establish parameters that curb nasty, disparaging, misleading and untruthful messages and enforce such action?
- The nasty disparaging comments related to the political advertising for the recent Federal Govt election

These topics are raised by the Group members themselves and circulated by me prior to the meeting so that attendees can consider their opinions to present on the day.

**A few words from
a Third Party activity
Dave Smith
STAMPS**



At the May meeting of the Rockhampton Stamp Club, one of our members gave an illustrated talk on the topic "Penguins on stamps". Most of the arguably seventeen species of penguins were depicted on various stamps produced by several different World postal authorities. The talk was well received and a spirited discussion ensued at its conclusion.

The Club will host its Annual Stamp Fair at the Frenchville Sports Club on Saturday 25th. June from 10.00 am. Several dealers and visiting clubs will be in attendance. Entry is free. If you have an interest in stamps, please come along.

Further information from David Smith on 49263336 or David.smith79@hotmail.com



*A few words from
Writing with Pleasure
Coordinator
Peter Wilson
0407 620 356*



*A few words from your editor
Leslie
zebu3.u3a@gmail.com*



Our group is meeting twice a month In Teman, in the Eventide complex. We meet at 9am on the first and third Thursday for reading our set work and to write an exercise we do on the day, which we also read for the others to share. We have interesting discussions and some chatter on the topics we have written both on the day and during the fortnight. Some times we even discuss group goals and make plans.

This month has had good attendance and every one is encouraged to present something in the friendly non judgemental atmosphere we all enjoy. All are welcome to join. There is no demand to present work at every meeting but you are always welcome to join the discussions.



*More news from the Walking
and Chatting Group*



This is some of our U3A Walk and Chat team who walked in the 5k 7 Rocky River Run this morning. When I receive more photos from other members I will post them also.

We all had a wonderful time and the weather was very good to all.

Because we had such a good time today we did talk this morning about perhaps entering in the 10k walk next year. I will keep you informed.

Christine Dobeles 4926 1845

I am always looking for interesting stories and pictures from members past experiences. Please, when the urge takes you, just jot something down and send to me at the above email address.

Do not worry about closing dates for submissions. There are only four publications March, June, September and December so if you are too late for one I can always print it in a future edition. Also don't stress on the grammar I can always edit and send back to you for approval, and a photo of you would be great. If you are depicted in a group shot I am able to crop your head and shoulders. I strongly believe stories of this kind will serve to bring members closer together.

If you would like to read the biographies of all the committee members please click on the url:

<https://www.u3arockhampton.org.au/contact.htm#committee>

OMICRON a poem by Alan Watts

I've watched the news. What's going on,
With Wretched, Dreaded Omicron?
We've seen an increase in the cases.
It's happening in many places.

Our hospitals are overrun.

There's not much more that can be done.
Staff numbers there are running tight
As they all serve with all their might.

There are people dying DAILY too.
Unfortunately, not just a few.

Despite what we have all heard stated,
A lot of these were vaccinated.

The elderly are most affected,
And that's a fact. Can't be rejected.
We're asked to get our booster shot,
And that is something I have got.

It's wise to stay at home much more,
For things you NEED, just go out for.
Avoid unnecessary meetings.

Use electronics for your greetings.

Do what you can. Protect Yourself.

There's nothing worth more than your health.
I'll be so glad when it is gone.

THIS WRETCHED, DREADED OMICRON.

A hair raising travel experience



Brisbane to Dubai via China return on a shoestring

We entered the world of the long queue's on 21st December 2016. Long wait at the China East desk to get the boarding pass – wading through all the mandatory security checks, a wait at the boarding gate and finally squeezed in to our economy seats for an unforgettable arduous journey – first stop Shanghai. Food on board was okay if you like noodles and rice but the audio system was poor and selection of films limited.

Arrived at Shanghai on time at 8 pm – this is where the fun started. We had a 14 hour stopover in transit and had booked a hotel for the night. Contrary to what we first thought as we were 'in transit' we had to collect our suitcases, go through interminable security checks and join huge queues to get in to Shanghai. Didn't realise, until we were halfway down the queue, that we should have filled out an arrival form – so much scrabbling around was had to find these forms. Only one immigration officer was on duty to clear over 300 passengers and get a temporary entry stamp in our passports.

Not many folk spoke English and I was panicking (observing the sea of black haired Chinese) wondering how on earth we were going to make contact with our Hotel, as I had been told they could only wait for 10 mins outside the terminal and we were supposed to ring the hotel when we finally got through all the paperwork. Miracles do sometimes happen – as we hustled our way through the crowds in the arrivals hall I spotted a lady holding up a Card with my name on it – wow!

It had taken us over one and a half hours to get through all the officialdom – the little lady from the hotel who collected us – had to rush us quickly down escalators along corridors saying that they had been waiting for hours – I suppose they had been driving around.

Finally on the mini bus – a hair raising drive was had through Shanghai's poorly lit rain soaked back streets. The driver didn't believe in using indicators, seat belts or not talking on his phone while driving!! Also small mopeds coming towards us (on wrong side of road) without lights. The hotel was okay. The room small but the bed was lovely and we were able to have a shower and finally slump to sleep at around midnight.

Up at 6 am to get ready for our mini bus ride back to the airport to catch our final plane to Dubai (or so we

thought). The bus dropped us at the wrong Terminal – so after frantic running around and being security checked each time we entered the (wrong) terminal looking for a bus to take us to Terminal 1, no-one speaking English. Finally hailed a taxi who was dropping people off, to transport us to Terminal 1. Then once again joining a long queue to find the correct counter to get a boarding pass for the trip to Dubai. While waiting in a room with all the other hopeful passengers we began talking to an African fellow – who informed us that the plane was detouring to Kunming before going to Dubai. We were herded on to a bus with 100 other passengers and driven (seemed like kms) to our plane – to be confronted with a huge staircase to climb before, once again, being poured into our seats for the 4 hour journey to Kunming.

Okay the story doesn't end there. On arrival in Kunming and stumbling down the staircase from heaven or hell we were herded (literally) on to an overcrowded bus - clinging on to straps or bars trying to keep our balance and not get too up front and personal with the other passengers, this was hard not to do. We were squashed in so tightly. Once in the terminal, even though we were herded into a Dubai transit area, we had to fill out entry forms – go through immigration and x-ray checks and, this time, body searched, before we found ourselves in an arrivals hall, wondering where to go next? Finally the correct counter was found and more forms to complete (departure forms) and again x-rayed before making it to the departure gate for another packed bus ride back to the plane, up the staircase to heaven (or was it hell). Finally in our cramped seats for the last leg to Dubai. Arriving in Dubai was a breeze and we cleared all the official checks and balances with no trouble – bought our allotted amount of grog and met our daughter and grandson.

The journey back to Brisbane was pretty much the same but seemed more arduous because we were travelling overnight, feeling decidedly ill from lack of sleep and both had colds. Also we hadn't had the luxury of a hotel bed for the 8 hour stop-over in Shanghai; there was also a long wait in Kunming. But we made it in one piece and mustn't complain too much as the trip only cost us just over \$3K return for the two of us. I was just amazed that our main suitcases arrived in one piece – I think they had a better journey than us.

We have both vowed and declared we will stick to Australia for our next 'get-a-way'. Unless we have a windfall, and can afford overseas air trips in business class. Leslie Smith

Some happy faces at the May monthly luncheon.



The May monthly lunch was held at the Park Avenue Hotel. Those who attended, as always, had a very pleasant afternoon. In the absence of Robyn today, who is busy this week with Grandma duties, I was deputised to do the lucky spot & competition. Hope you do not get too many complaints Rob!! 🤔🤔. Judy Nutley was the lucky competition winner & 4 lucky people won "lucky spot" prizes. Robyn will announce the venue for the June monthly luncheon on Facebook and may announce at the next General Meeting on the 14th June.

