



# THE QUARTERLY FLYER

## Rockhampton & District Inc

**March 2022**

Volume 1/2022



*Against all odds, U3A Rockhampton has survived the tumultuous Covid 19 ravaged 2021 relatively unscathed. Lets continue enjoying our activities and building our membership by obediently observing the old and new rules without question.*

*The following is a Poem written by our own prize winning Poet , Rita Diplock. I feel these words put everything in to perspective*

### THE TRAVELLER

By Rita Diplock



*I love to travel; I've been far and wide  
From South to the North and then side to side  
But now I am here and I do like your town,  
So think I might stay here and settle down.*

*I've wandered through parks and walked through your streets,  
As well pubs and clubs where everyone meets.  
Out in the country I went to a dance  
When I went in no-one gave me a glance.*

*I waltzed all around and danced in the breeze,  
Smiling of course at the odd cough or sneeze.  
Delighted to find the ease of my task  
For no-one inside was wearing a mask.*

*When I found your town I hurried to tell  
My friends and kinfolk to join me as well.  
We thought we might join with the U3A,  
But found that it had been cancelled that day.*

*My friends like your town and so they will stay  
Long after I leave and go on my way.  
For I'm born to travel and must move on.  
I'm sure you all know me, I'm Omicron.*

## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2021**

**President:** Maurice Dittmann 0407 679 271  
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**Secretary:** Lenore Cook 0749 267 499  
**Assistant Secretary:** Joan Cooper 0458 060 447  
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Annual fee: (1<sup>st</sup> Jan. - 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2022) \$20.00  
Mid year fee: (1<sup>st</sup> July - 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2022) \$10.00  
Joining fee (includes name badge): \$10.00

Check out the Quarterly Flyer in colour:

<https://www.u3arockhampton.org.au/images/Mar22>

*Words of wisdom from  
our President,  
Maurice Dittmann*



My annual report will not be a commentary on “achievements”. U3A Rockhampton has had a successful year. Success, of course, can be measured in many different ways, when being addressed by a multitude of individuals.

My measure of success of organisations like our U3A, is the mood, the friendliness, the welcoming attitude, and the fellowship that radiates about the group. I am very satisfied that Rockhampton is up there with the best of U3As in all those fields. If an organisation has all those attributes, it will be very successful in any pursuit it wishes to undertake.

I thank the committee members for helping to keep the ship on an even keel, in calm waters and pointed in the right direction. With goodwill and cooperation, the controversial, the mundane, the trivial, as well as the normal tasks were all managed efficiently and

without duress. I must give Lenore Cook special mention, and on behalf of all members thank her for handling three positions with only a few grumbles along the way. Her assistance to me has been invaluable.

A special thank you must go to all the coordinators and other volunteers, who are the real power and thrust that keeps U3A Rockhampton going. I thank the general membership for listening to me, when at times, the presentation may have been very boring. And I thank all members for living together in a neighbourhood of diverse individuals, where we will not always agree with each other but we show respect for our fellow members and their opinion and belief.

So, let's not look back but rather into the future, where we will spend the rest of our lives.

Our conference 2023 committee has been beaver away quietly but at tremendous pace and are ready to launch at the appropriate time. Henry Cope has U3A Rockhampton featuring on the international stage. We should all be excited with the impact this conference is likely to have upon our association for years to come. I urge all of you to keep up-to-date by using our website regularly and coming forward to assist the conference committee if you have specialist skills to offer.

And, talking about websites, you will no doubt have seen the transformation of our website into a modern, colourful and eye attracting website, easy to navigate, and loaded with all the information you will need. Nick Quigley has worked tirelessly to get the website into its present state. We get all this for free, saving us a huge amount of expense. You should use the website to read our Quarterly Flyer in magnificent colour.

Covid-19 continues to stalk us all and we must be vigilant and ready to use everything in our possession to combat the virus. Accordingly, the committee has introduced a policy that dictates that members must be fully vaccinated, or have a suitable exemption, to permit entry to any U3A activity or meeting. You will no doubt be aware that this is now required by a number of organisations and businesses.

As I write this report, it is unfortunate that the management committee has found it necessary to cancel our February general meeting. Unfortunately, the committee felt it was not in the best interests of our members to be gathering in large groups at this time. The committee is clearly aware of the importance the membership places on such meetings and the enjoyment you get from that monthly occasion.

It is to be hoped that the omicron variant has reached it's peak in the next couple of weeks and the covid situation will have improved before the annual general meeting scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> March. Our monthly general meetings are the most important events on our calendar and indeed I venture to add, they are the lifeblood of our association because they keep members in contact with each other and maintains the fellowship on which this association is built.

In the December 2010 Quarterly Journal, Chris Tollner wrote a lengthy article titled "U3A History". In that article, Chris referred to how U3As will need to change. A small extract from that article reads: ***"Do we go with the times, or let time pass us by & make us irrelevant. Will we carry on in our own way, or will we cater for the needs & aspirations of those (the Baby-boomer's) on whom the survival of this wonderful Organisation depends. How we respond to this development, will determine our future."***

Eleven years later those thoughts are still relevant. The biggest challenge facing us, and indeed facing all voluntary associations, is finding enough volunteers to manage our association now and in the near future. I urge all of our members to seriously consider volunteering in some capacity. Even the smallest task needs a volunteer and if we had lots of helpers each doing a little bit, the load would be lesser on those few who put their hands up to offer their assistance. (The complete article written by Chris can be found at:

[https://www.u3arockhampton.org.au/images/U3A\\_December\\_2010\\_Journal.pdf](https://www.u3arockhampton.org.au/images/U3A_December_2010_Journal.pdf)

I believe we have U3A Rockhampton in good shape considering recent covid circumstances and the present day unstable situation. We all need to play our part in the community and follow Qld Health directives as best we can.

I have mostly enjoyed the past 12 months which was made so much easier by you because of your fellowship and willingness to engage with the management committee when necessary. I implore you to give Cheryl and her team the same generosity of spirit that you have given to me.

Please stay safe and covid free in 2022.

Maurice Dittmann

***Did I read that sign right?***

**In a London department store:**

**"BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS ..."**

Look out for more throughout the Flyer.



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

At the conclusion of 2021, I took the opportunity to reflect on CQUniversity's many achievements, despite the challenges that COVID-19 continued to present. Continuing online learning for all Higher Education and VET courses, hosting online events for staff and students, providing financial and meal assistance to students who faced significant financial hardship, continued sponsorship and support of our community events including the CQUniversity Village Festival and so much more!

In the final few months of 2021, a new partnership was established between CQUniversity, Aircraft Australia and the Mackay Airport with the aim of enhancing flight training and air travel services in the Mackay region. Through the partnership, CQUniversity Mackay aviation students will have pathway opportunities to have a career with newcomer Aircraft Australia at Mackay Airport.

Rockhampton CQUniversity TAFE Conservation and Land Management students also had the amazing opportunity to practice their land care skills at one of the most idyllic locations in the Central Queensland region, North Keppel Island. During the two-day experience, the group of Certificate III students honed their weed identification skills and learnt about land re vegetation and began putting these principles into action on the Island.

In late 2021, CQUniversity appointed a new Professor to contribute to livestock and animal science research, Professor Simon Quigley. Professor Quigley has a research background in ruminant nutrition and production systems, having worked primarily with beef cattle and more recently with goats and will lead delivery of a new research initiative in Indonesia.

CQUniversity Rockhampton had the privilege of hosting its December graduation ceremony. This was not only a great celebration of achievement but the first major event that CQUniversity held in 2021. With close to 500 graduates, the day was split into two COVID safe events at the CQUniversity Community Sports Centre.

One Associate Vice-President Rockhampton Region Medal was also awarded at the morning ceremony. The Associate Vice-President's Region Medal is presented to a student who not only demonstrates a strong commitment to their studies, but also includes contributions to community, capacity to act as a mentor to others, ability to respond to challenge and a commitment to the value of cultural diversity. The recipient of the Associate Vice-President's medal was Bachelor of Education (Secondary) graduate Mr Dominic Mappas.



Mr Mappas not only excelled academically, but also immersed himself into campus life and culture. He volunteered his time as a student mentor and ambassador by attending many events on and off campus as well as online. Dominic is a proud CQUniversity graduate who will now take what he has learnt and apply it to his prospective professions. I look forward to fostering the next intake of students through their academic and university experience.

As we head into a busy period of the year and with Term 1 Orientation 2022 fast approaching, our staff are busy making preparations to warmly welcome new students and facilitate the return of current students to on-campus learning. I look forward to sharing more details about Term 1 Orientation and on campus events 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](mailto:be@cqu.edu.au)



Olivia Turner was our Bursary winner. Olivia addressed the December meeting telling us how the Bursary had helped her to complete her studies.



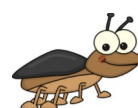
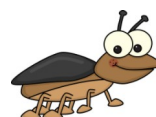
## Nick's Tech Tips



As funny as this may seem to you, our world is changing. We no longer have to sit up for hours watching the test pattern on the TV. Last time I tuned my digital 4K TV there were 47 channels, some with sound only and the remainder were watchable channels.

### What can you do to protect against fraud?

- **Never** disclose your login details, PINs, SMS authentication codes to **ANYONE**.
- **A reputable** organisation or financial institution will **NEVER** ask you for this information.
- **Never** provide information like account details and credit card numbers over the phone unless you have initiated the call and are satisfied that the phone number you are using is a trusted source.
- **Regularly** update your computer and digital devices with security protection such as anti-virus, anti-spyware software and firewalls from a reputable provider.
- **Select** a password that is difficult to guess and has no connection to you, is lengthy and contains a mixture of both alphabetical and numeric characters and &^%\$\* symbols.
- **Beware** of pop-ups advising you that you need to fix your computer and can do so by calling a particular number.
- **Never give a stranger or unsolicited contact remote access to your computer. If you are asked to do this – hang up.**
- **If you** think the call is legitimate, confirm the identity of the caller.
- **Ask** for the person's name and contact details and advise that you will call them back.
- **Once you have hung up, validate their contact details by looking up the organisation's official website and calling the organisation's advertised number**



•**Never** call back on details provided by the caller; if they are a scammer, this number will be false.

•**Do** not open suspicious or unusual texts, or click on links or attachments in unsolicited emails.

•**Avoid** using computers in public places, such as Internet Cafes or **free** Wi-Fi

•**Do** not undertake financial transactions for people you have not physically met and only have an online relationship.

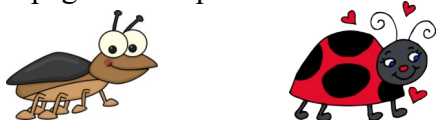
Remember: any reputable organisation will never ask you to: disclose your access code, passwords or secret questions or call unsolicited and tell you to download software or open a link

**You may be held liable for any fraud losses where you have disclosed your PIN or access codes, so NEVER disclose your pin to anyone** I have put the above story here because I know of a number of U3A members who have had to deal with FRAUD, the next one may be you. My Bankcard was hit last month for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in two years. It is very inconvenient but I was lucky the funds were recovered.

If you own an **iPhone, iPad** the latest Software is IOS 15.3

**Android** Software is 12.0.0 and **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 and said the Windows 10 release cadence will join Windows 11 in returning to just one feature update a year from here on out.

For those who grew up with **Cut, Copy and Paste** being readily available to move photos and documents in the new Windows 11, left click on the item, window opens, go to the bottom look for “**show more options**” left click and select. There is also a scissor icon to cut and a double page icon to paste.



•Cheers Nick

More odd signs:

**“Red tape holds up new bridges”**

You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?

*A few words from Leslie  
your Flyer editor*



It is unfortunate we couldn't hold our annual activities expo in February. Do not despair we will still be having an expo maybe August. Hopefully we will have conquered the war with Covid by then. In the meantime I have asked our activity coordinators to send in a few words on their activity to try and encourage you to give them a ring and go along and give any activity you think you may be interested in, a try. So remain as safe as you can, wear a mask and have your vaccinations including boosters.

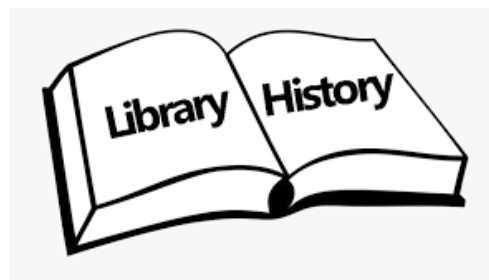


**HISTORY GROUP**  
with Ann Findlater on 0400766112

If you are interested in fascinating stories about the history of Rockhampton and the surrounding region, why not come and join our History group.

We normally meet on the third Monday afternoon of each month at 2pm at Oaktree Village on Glenmore Road, Park Avenue.

We study a different subject each month which we all research for the month beforehand. Many interesting stories are presented at each meeting and the group is now over 10 years old.



Because of covid we may be a little late starting this year For more information contact Ann on the number above.

*Some happy tweets from  
our Bird Watcher group  
coordinator  
Rod Elder*



Rod Elder Mobile 0409630584. Rod has 40+ years experience in bird identification and research.

The group has 6 outings per year to easily accessible bird habitats around Rockhampton. The group also provides an identification service, photos and articles on bird stories and identification in the interim. Spare binoculars and help in using them is provided.

The following delightful story was provided by two members of the group.

### **THREE LITTLE KOOKABURRAS**

by Rosemary Wines and Margaret Warren

On the afternoon of 26 October 2021 my sister, Margaret, found a tiny kookaburra on the ground near our back fence. On further investigation, and with the assistance of our neighbour, we located two more baby birds.

The big old ironbark on our fence line has been a well-used nesting place for our local kookaburras for some years. On that Tuesday morning however, there had been a storm (27ml) and the base of the termite mud nest had collapsed, with the baby birds falling, I estimated a good ten meters to the ground below.

We put them in a plant hanging basket along with some Spanish moss for comfort, and hung near the original nesting tree. The Spanish moss was a problem. One bird tried to eat it, and the birds were getting it tangled around their legs and body. So we moved them into a hanging wicker basket with more suitable cane mulch as nesting material. The three adult birds fortunately remained in attendance and continued to feed the chicks (immature birds often stay with their parents and help rear and protect the next generation). We were amazed at the fast growth of the chicks. Incredibly, after only 25 days, the young kookaburras had tested those newly grown wings and taken their first flight, but not too far. They remained in my neighbours' trees, just over the fence, for quite some time. The adults continued to feed the young birds, and teach hunting skills.

So now, after three months, we have the pleasure of having this family of five kookaburras visit almost every afternoon. A joy to see.

Our advice is that baby birds are far better cared for by their parents, if this is possible... This experience is a perfect example as, frankly, I am not as proficient as they are at catching small snakes, mice, and the sundry other delectable morsels that comprise the kookaburra diet!.



*Garden Lovers with  
Joan Cooper  
0458 060 447*



Despite COVID restrictions, Garden Lovers had a very successful 2021. We made use of Council parks to have guest speakers on propagating native plants, grevilleas, native bees and hydroponics. We also visited 3 lovely private gardens, and the RRC plant nursery

We meet on the fourth Friday of each month, check your Newsletter to find out the venue for that month.

If you are interested in joining us this year give me a ring and come along to learn a more about plants and gardening and make new like minded friends.. Contact Joan on 0458 060 447.

The photo below was taken on a visit to a private garden of a Desert Flower enthusiast.





**ARMCHAIR TRAVEL**  
with  
**Judy Trinder**

If you love to travel and haven't been able to for the last couple of years, then why not join our group and see the world through our speakers' eyes.. Our first trip for 2022 will be Turkey.

In 2021 we travelled to NZ, Harbin Ice City, China, Columbia, Estonia, a farm stay in Queensland, Thailand, Jordan, Norway and Canada/Alaska.

As you can see the topics are varied and very interesting.

You are very welcome to come along every third Friday at 9.30 am at Athelstane House in Ward Street. Contact **Judy Trinder** on **0457 712 978** or **trinderj@hotmail.com** for more information.



**A nice cold scene of a Lake  
in Canada to cool you.**



**CARDS & SCRABBLE**  
with  
**Kym Jacobi**



Hi I have taken over Cards & Scrabble from Judy Sutton who has done it for years and now would like to relax and just play. Thanks Judy for all your years of keeping it going so well and hope I can do it justice after your dedication.

We scrabble players also play cards while awaiting for players to arrive or if we finish early, sometimes we play Quiddler which is a fun word card game (thank you Terry for introducing this game).

The cards people play a game called Hand & Foot. If you don't know the rules of this game the participants are more than happy to show you how to play (I played this game once when scrabble players left early and found it loads of fun). They also play a game called 500.

Please come and have some fun with us, no experience necessary. Ring me on 0438 778 438 if you are interested in joining us. We play on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 9 am – 11.15 am at the Oaktree Retirement Village, Glenmore Road, Park Avenue.



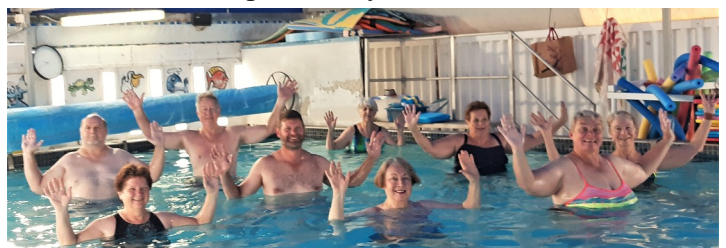
**A few words from a third party  
activity contact  
Annette Bleney  
0499 265 992**

**AQUA AEROBICS**

U3A members and the general public are invited to attend the aqua fitness sessions held at the Caribee Swimming Academy situated on the corner of Menzies Street & Richardson Road, North Rockhampton. The pool is heated throughout the year which is great for all our aches and pains. You can stand up in the pool as it is not deep, also there is easy access to the heated pool with stairs/ladders in place for entry. These work very well, as when I had both my knee replacements (separately) done, I found it easy to access the pool. The pool also has railings at various places within the pool. There is a reduced cost for U3A members and session times can be found on your Activity Sheet.

Everyone is welcome, ladies and gentlemen. COVID rules and regulations apply to this activity.

If you have any queries please telephone Annette on 0499 265 992 or contact Caribee Swimming Academy on 49 261650. Hope to see you there





### **FRIDAY MAHJONG**

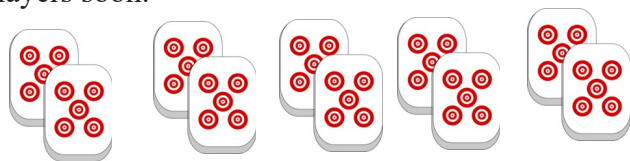
**Coordinator Terry Holland**

**0484 861 859**

Our group has been underway for several weeks, It is well attended considering holidays etc... Covid rules apply and masks are worn while we play.

New players are very welcome. We offer courteous friendly instruction if you have not played before

Our venue is Fitzroy by Teman (previously Settlers Village) at 1.45 pm each Friday. Parking is available at the rear via Mary Blow Drive. Please give myself a ring for more information. Hoping to greet new players soon.



**Days for Girls  
Contact  
Christine Dobeles  
4926 1845**



Our 1st meeting will be 21st February then 21st March. Because of Easter Monday our April meeting will be 2nd Monday 11th of April. You don't need any particular sewing skills to join our happy group. Just come along and help with cutting out those essential sanitary items for disadvantaged women and girls living in remote regions of the world. We meet at the Fred Fox Hall, 3 Gladstone Road, Rockhampton for two hours commencing 1.00pm. For further information please give myself a ring. Looking forward to seeing you there, Christine.



### **Walking and chatting Group**



If you enjoy an early morning walk in the cool air to wake up your body, please come along and join our group on Saturday mornings. The walk is made more enjoyable by chatting to friends on the way. During summer we are meet at 5.50am at Queens Park (Glenmore Road) for a 6am start....During Winter months we gather at a later time.

We are entering a U3A team in the 7 Rocky River Run (we are walking) which is being held on Sunday 22nd May. You are welcome to join our U3A Walk and Chat Team. We are in training now.



Any inquiries please ring Christine on 4926 1845.

More comical signs found on the net:

#### **Did I read that sign right?**

- **IN AN OFFICE**

After tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

- **OUTSIDE A SECOND-HAND SHOP**

We exchange anything – bicycles, washing machines, etc. why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

- **NOTICE IN HEALTH FOOD SHOP WINDOW:**

Closed due to illness

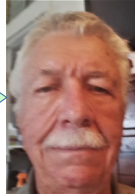
- **MINERS REFUSE TO WORK AFTER DEATH**

No-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's

- **PANDA MATING FAILS;  
VETERINARIAN TAKES OVER.**

What a guy!

**Writing for Pleasure  
with  
Peter Wilson  
0407 620 356**



Let your imagination run free and try your hand at some creative writing. We meet twice a month on the first and third Thursday. A topic is suggested for us to write to showcase at our next get-together, but encourage you to allow your imagination loose on any subject you please.

We normally undertake short exercise while we are together and have an enjoyable exchange of ideas over the allotted two and half hours.

As a group we have diverse interests and enthusiasms which shows in our written output.

Every few years the group publish a book to showcase our writing. The first one in 1997 titled *Creative Writers*. In 2006 we published *A Way With Words* and in 2011 *Take The Time*. In 2013 it was *People and Places*. In 2016 it was *Its A Lottery* and in 2019 *Mayhem, Mysteries and Memories* with a touch of Rockhampton. Copies of the last three books are still available (please refer to the December Flyer for details). Maybe there will be another book in 2022! You'll just have to wait and see.

There has been a Writers' Group since the inception of U3A in 1988 with Barbara Birchill being the first tutor. Over the years Fay Reeve, Isabel Hoch, Rita Diplock, Judy Whitworth, Rodger Williamson and Julie Davies lead out, with Judy once more filling the spot left during the early COVID 19 lock-down where we 'met' and exchanged our work via email.

The first meeting for 2022 was held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February the chosen topic for this meet was *A Safe Haven*.



**The following is Alan Watts' contribution  
to the WFP February topic  
A SAFE HAVEN**

### **A SAFE HAVEN by Alan Watts**

At the moment, I am at home as a "safe haven" from the Omicron strain of Covid 19. Because of the large number of cases, hospitalisations and deaths of elderly people, I have become very selective in where I go to protect both myself and my wife who has other health issues. In these times, I remember the words of Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz- "There's no place like home".

Being home gives me time to think about the past instead of dwelling on the present and my mind wandered back to a time when I found another safe haven.

It was Australia Day Weekend in 1978. I was 20 years old and it was my first year in living away from home. I had moved from Hervey Bay to Biloela in August 1977 and went home for the long weekend. The other guys living in the bank quarters in Biloela where I lived, went to Keppel Island for the weekend. Most of the girls I worked with came from farm families outside Biloela and went home for the long weekend.

The end of the weekend came and the weather was fine when I left Hervey Bay, but by the time I had passed Torbanlea heading towards Childers, it began raining heavily, and I mean heavy wind driven hard rain. It was hard to see ahead so I followed the lights of the vehicle in front rather than watching the road ahead.

The further I went, the harder the rain fell. I remember going across the Burnett River over an old wooden bridge with water lapping at the edges. In those days, you went down a hill, across the bridge and up the hill on the other side.

I continued on with my eyes focussed on the tail lights of the vehicle ahead. It was rather scary but what else could I do? I had to get back to Biloela for work the next day (or so I thought).

Finally, I reached the crossroads. Should I continue on the Bruce Highway and go to Rockhampton where my sister lived or head straight to Biloela? Would the road be open to Biloela?



How safe would it be driving over the range on the Callide Coal Road, a narrow winding road? Would I have someone to follow, as I had on the Bruce Highway? The main Gladstone to Biloela road was closed at that time with all traffic having to take the Coal Road instead.

I decided to risk it and turned off toward Biloela and drove into the township of Calliope. Just past the township, there was a long line of cars. I found there were two creeks to cross. The first one was passable but the second wasn't.

The risk of going through the first one and waiting for the second to go down was maybe the first one may come up and become impassable, then I would be stuck between the two.

It was now late afternoon. A girl I worked with, also there with her parents, advised that there were no motels available in Calliope or Benaraby and that The Calliope Hall would be opened for stranded travellers to sleep overnight. More than just any port in a storm, it was a safe haven for the night.

I decided to attempt getting to Gladstone instead. Being young and bullet-proof, I drove across a flooded creek in my little Datsun 120Y and into town where I bought a takeaway meal. I knew no-one there I could stay with, so now the Calliope Hall seemed to be a more attractive option, than paying to stay somewhere.

Returning to Calliope, crossing the flooded creek, again in the dark, in my little car. I found my own floor space among the many stranded people in the safe haven there.

The following morning, being unable to get back to Biloela, I drove back into Gladstone, crossing the flooded creek once again, and reported for duty at Gladstone branch of the Commonwealth Bank. This was standard procedure in circumstances such as this.

A married woman on staff offered to let me stay at her house until the roads opened. The Bank Manager was having none of that, and insisted that I stay in their single men's quarters with other male staff. Maybe he knew more about her than he let on, or it may have only been how it would look to others, I will never know.

I stayed for a couple of days until I heard the road to Biloela had reopened. Driving through water in a number of places, made it back to work. At least crossing the Callide Coal Road was better in daylight without rain, than what it would have been on the day I was scheduled to drive back.

I was not used to getting "the cold shoulder" at work but that was exactly what occurred. All, bar one of the guys who went to Great Keppel Island, had not returned and the girls who went home to their properties were all stranded and unable to get to work. The guy who did get back from Keppel had left early to get his girlfriend back to return to Brisbane where she worked. He took a long way around via Wowan and Banana, as the Rockhampton to Biloela road was also cut.

The branch had opened with a skeleton staff and the boss's wife came in to answer the phone and do some typing etc. Those who made it to work were the "golden girls and boy" the rest of us were made to feel like lepers. The guy who made it back was treated like a saint.

I have never forgotten this weekend where I found a safe haven in the Calliope Hall that night.

Alan Watts. Written for U3A Writing for Pleasure Group Meeting 17/2/2022



**Time for a joke to lighten the page. Author unknown sent to me via email from friend. Leslie**

While the pope was visiting the USA, he told the driver of his limo that he has the sudden urge to drive. The driver was a good Catholic man, and would not ever dream of questioning the pope's authority. So the pope sat at the wheel, while his driver got in the back.

They were travelling down the road doing between 70 and 80 mph, when a policeman happened to see them. As he pulled them over, he called in to headquarters reporting a speeding limo, with a VIP inside it.

The chief asked: "Who is in the limo, the mayor?"

The policeman told him: "No, someone more important than the mayor."

Then the chief asked "Is it the governor?"

The policeman answered: "No, someone more important than the governor."

The chief finally asked: "Is it the President?"

The policeman answered: "No, someone even more important than the President."

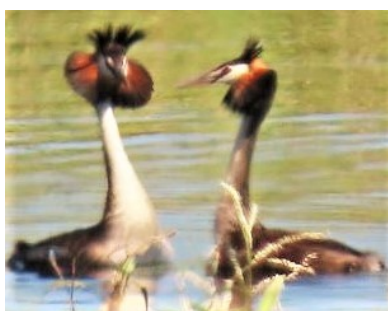
This made the chief very angry and he bellowed: "Now who is more important than the President?!"

The policeman calmly whispered: "I'll put it to you this way chief. I don't know who is this guy, but he has the pope as his chauffeur."



*Saturday Walking and Chatting Group enjoying a well earned cuppa.*

## Collection of birds spotted on Rod Elders bird watching excursions



Grebes



Darter

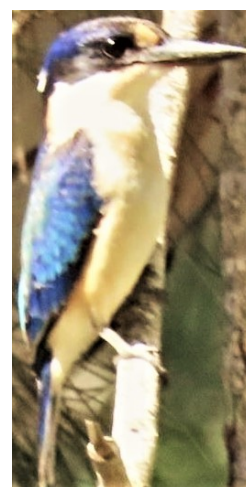


Tawny Frogmouth mum with chick

## *The good old days – December 2020 An outing with the Garden Lovers Group*



Male red back Wren with grasshopper



Forest Kingfisher

## Happy memories from our Christmas luncheon

