



# THE QUARTERLY FLYER

## Rockhampton & District Inc

Congratulations to our very own **Christine Dobel** who was pronounced **Citizen of the Year for Rockhampton** at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony.



## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2025**

### **Please Note New Members \***

President: t.b.a.  
Email: [president@u3arocky.au](mailto:president@u3arocky.au)  
Vice Pres: Lauree Lanyon 0417 042 870  
Email: [vp@u3arocky.au](mailto:vp@u3arocky.au)  
Secretary: t.b.a.  
Email: [secretary@u3arocky.au](mailto:secretary@u3arocky.au)  
Ass. Secretary: Trish Meek 0432 961 290  
Email: [assistantsecretary@u3arocky.au](mailto:assistantsecretary@u3arocky.au)  
Treasurer: Jennifer Robertson 0402 811 996  
Email: [treasurer@u3arocky.au](mailto:treasurer@u3arocky.au)  
Volunteer Co-ord: Vicki Cope 0412 336 450  
Email: [volunteercoordinator@u3arocky.au](mailto:volunteercoordinator@u3arocky.au)  
Social Co-ord: Bev Meredith 0410 341 843  
Email: [socialcoordinator@u3arocky.au](mailto:socialcoordinator@u3arocky.au)  
Ordinary Member Rhonda Couper 0407 141 881  
Email: [coups13@bigpond.com](mailto:coups13@bigpond.com)

### **OTHER POSITIONS**

Chaplain Kathleen Winter 0408 276 628  
Email: [chaplain@u3arocky.au](mailto:chaplain@u3arocky.au)  
Guest Speakers: Len & Pat Hill 07 4927 1429  
Email: [speakercoordinator@u3arodky.au](mailto:speakercoordinator@u3arodky.au)  
Web Co-ord: Nick Quigley OAM 0428 851874  
Email: [webcoordinator@rocky.u3a.au](mailto:webcoordinator@rocky.u3a.au)  
Publicity: Leslie Smith **NEW** 0419 179 133  
Email: [publicity@u3arocky.au](mailto:publicity@u3arocky.au)  
1/4 Flyer Ed. Angela Johnson 0419 605 662  
Email: [editor@u3arocky.au](mailto:editor@u3arocky.au)  
Activities Co-ord: Terry Holland 0427 689 312  
Email: [activitiesmanager@u3arocky.au](mailto:activitiesmanager@u3arocky.au)

### **FEES**

Annual fee: (1st Jan. - 31st Dec. 2025) \$20.00  
Mid Year fee: (1st July - 31st Dec. 2025) \$10.00  
Joining fee (includes name badge): \$10.00

**Why not check out**

**The Quarterly Flyer in Colour**

<https://www.u3arockhampton.org.au/images/mar25.pdf>



*And now  
A word from our  
President  
Cheryl Wickes*

Welcome to another year filled with fun and informative activities, entertaining special events and get-togethers for U3A.

With our AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, I reflect on the past three years as your President, and I am proud to say that it has been a successful period of rebuilding our U3A after the disruptions of Covid.

Our Expo of Activities held in February at Bauhinia House, our new general meeting venue, and on our new day of the first Monday of each month, was a huge success with nearly 30 new members.

We were notified just before Christmas that Frenchville Sports Club will not be able to accommodate us for Monthly General Meetings due to continuing renovations at the club. With this announcement, your committee quickly swung into action and secured Bauhinia House as an alternative venue. However, Bauhinia already has regular bookings for Tuesdays so the only solution was to move our meetings back to the first Monday of each month. The upside of this move is that we will now be able to serve bikkies with your morning tea.

The U3A Rocky committee wishes to thank Frenchville Sports Club for all the support they have given us over many years, and since Bauhinia House is just around the corner, members will still be able to enjoy lunch at the Club's bistro.

Other changes so far for 2025 include a new name and direction for our Day for Girls group who have become the U3A Angels enabling them to expand their charitable efforts to other areas of need in the community.

After many years, our Embroidery Group has called it a day, however, if there are any embroiderers who would like to get another embroidery group going, please contact Terry Holland. Another change is our Christmas Craft



Group, which has closed for the moment for obvious reasons.

Everyone at U3A Rocky was thrilled to hear the wonderful news that our member, Christine Dobeles was named Rockhampton Citizen of the Year in the Australia Day awards. We all congratulate Christine on the well-deserved recognition of her many contributions as a community volunteer.

We are also pleased to announce that Henry Cope has accepted the role of Guest Speaker co-ordinator for our U3A. Henry has been enjoying a well-earned rest since the overwhelming success of the U3A Network Queensland Conference in May, 2023. Repeated attempts to entice him back on the committee were knocked back, as were similar requests from Rhonda Weston, President of U3A Network Queensland to join her committee.

However, I prevailed first and he accepted the guest speaker role... but then he also gave in to Rhonda's pleas as well. Suddenly, from relaxed and enjoying his golf..., he is now doubly busy sourcing speakers for us and representing us on the U3A Network Queensland committee.

As I step down from the role of President at our AGM, I wish to thank my wonderful committee, all the amazing volunteers who work tirelessly for U3A, and our members for their support and encouragement over the past three years. I have loved being your President... and now I look forward to enjoying Mahjong... and Writing for Pleasure... and Yoga... and Book Lovers... and Mind Games, again!

I wish you all another successful year for U3A Rocky.

**Cheryl Wickes**

**President 2021-2025**

**0428 452 836**

**Please Note:**

**Monthly Meetings**

**Will now be held at Bauhinia House,  
cnr of Berserker and High Streets on  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Each Month in 2025,  
9am for 9.20am start.**

due to the renovations taking place at Frenchville Sports Club. Morning Tea includes a Biscuit too!!



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

**Associate Vice-President  
Rockhampton and  
Central Highlands Region**

As I look back on 2024, one of the most significant achievements was witnessing the graduation of the first cohort of students from the Regional Medical Pathway in December, with 14 students crossing the stage to receive their Bachelor of Medical Science (Pathway to Medicine) degree, at the Rockhampton Graduation ceremony. This milestone not only highlighted the hard work and dedication of the graduates, but it also represented a transformative step for our region in addressing local healthcare needs. The graduates will now move forward into the University of Queensland's Doctor of Medicine program which will also be delivered locally in Rockhampton.



*The cohort of Medical Pathway graduates with University leaders at the Rockhampton graduation ceremony in December 2024.*

You may have seen recently CQUniversity's new advertising campaign, highlighting the new look CQUniversity logo and colour palette. On 13 January 2025, CQUniversity launched its new visual identity through a brand refresh. The brand refresh includes, a new look logo, colour palette, text styles and other elements to enhance the CQUniversity brand. CQUniversity is committed to rolling out the brand refresh via a staged approach to ensure delivery is within operational budgets,

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[www.u3arockhampton.org.au](http://www.u3arockhampton.org.au) Email: [admin@u3arocky.au](mailto:admin@u3arocky.au)

and sustainability targets are met. To learn more about CQUniversity's brand refresh please visit the Brand Refresh page on the CQU website.



On the 22 January 2025, CQUniversity Rockhampton hosted its TAFE Careers Expo. The CQUniversity TAFE Careers Expo offers a unique opportunity for anyone interested in starting, changing, or upskilling their career to discuss their study options and career paths through vocational education and training. This year's attendance numbers surpassed those of the previous five years reinforcing the need for vocational education and training in the region.

For more information about vocational education and subsidised training, visit CQUniversity's Study at TAFE page.

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](mailto:be@cqu.edu.au).

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

## Editors Note

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the AGM in March as I will be attending my Granddaughter's engagement in Sydney, and due to time restraints I have not been able to update the Committee Positions for this issue as I need to complete it before I leave. If you need to contact somebody anyone who is on the list will be able to assist you.

Our First Excursion for this Quarter, with many thanks to Bev Meredith our activities Co-Ordinator, who is at present also looking after the Garden Club Activities.

If you are a gardening guru, enthusiast, organiser or even none of the above we would love for someone to step in and take over the role of The Garden Club convenor. If you are at all interested please speak to Bev or a Committee member.



## Morning Tea at Mt Archer

**WED 12 MAR**

**9.30**

**Morning Tea - \$5.00**

**Please advise of any dietary requirements**

**Bring your own thermos of tea/coffee  
Chair, Plate & Utensils**

**Enjoy the views from Mt Archer, walk the boardwalk or just sit and chat with U3a friends**

**RSVP 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Text: Bev 0410541845**

**[socialcoordinator@u3arocky.au](mailto:socialcoordinator@u3arocky.au)**



## Need Someone to lean on?

If you need support for yourself or a loved one, our U3A Chaplain Kathleen Winter is available at any time day or night. Phone 0408 276 628 or email: [chaplain@u3arocky.au](mailto:chaplain@u3arocky.au)

**Terry Holland**, our Activities Coordinator is hoping that one of our members will step in and help out with a couple of our groups that are without a convenor or possibly about to be, hence an explanation of what may be required to take on a position.



Christine Dobel  
on her  
Citizen of the Year Award

"I was nominated by a friend for the Rockhampton Regional Council Australia Day Awards, in the Community Service Award category. Rockhampton Council acknowledged this by email and letter.

On the 23rd January I received a second communication which to my surprise was Congratulations. I had been selected as a winner!

Then on Thursday night all the other winners were announced all in the various categories. In the Community Service Award there were 13 names put up on the screen and my name was one of them. They called out several people's names and then there was only one Certificate, and one glass statuette left on the table on the stage. I thought there had been a mistake.

The announcer then explained that Citizen of The Year was chosen from all those who had been nominated in all the other categories and the winner was picked from that list.

Then my name was called out! I was extremely surprised and very honoured because the calibre of all the nominees whose names and deeds were called out before the Citizen of The Year was phenomenal.

Volunteering is the best job you can have. When you turn up everyone is pleased to see you, you make many friends, you are helping the organisation you are volunteering for, which helps the community they are supporting. It is a win, win for everyone.

A lot of organisations need more volunteers. The majority of volunteers are all getting older and unfortunately we do not seem to be attracting younger volunteers. There are many reasons for this I know, but if we do not attract younger members some organisations may have to close in the future and the community will be poorer for that.

**Christine Dobe**



## Walk and Chat



Hello from the Saturday Walk and Chat Group. We had 22 members for our first official walk for 2025.

Before starting our walk this morning we covered the Risk Assessment and I let the walkers know that I have **booked Saturday 1st March at Jolt Café, beside the sea** for our breakfast after our walk.

I am not going to mention the name of our sea-side town because it is sure to rain on the 1st if I do.

I will remind you again as it gets closer that we will meet at the large flag pole in the Stockland Shopping Centre carpark at 5.50am to carpool if you choose and we will depart at 6.00am.



Everyone welcome. **Christine Dobe** 4926 1845

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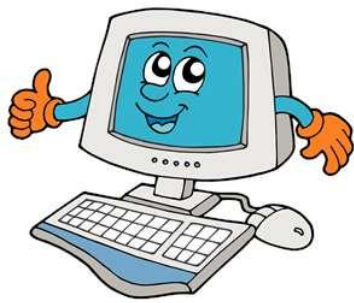
### Guest Speakers

**Henry Cope** has taken on the role of acquiring Guest Speakers for our upcoming meeting throughout the year. We are also pleased that he has also been appointed to the U3A Network Queensland Committee

**The Guest Speaker for March will be Graeme Brady O.A.M.** who is the current Chair and Club President for the Frenchville Sports Club. He will be able to give us some background on the Club and also details of how the current redevelopment is progressing including what the future will be for our U3A's use of the facility.



**Nicks Tech Tips**  
**March 2025**




Where have the years gone? 2025 just means we are all getting much older. But with 2025 if we divide it by 5 twice it comes down to a number a lot of you will know what it feels like to be. I'm not far off it either.

#### **APPLE USERS**

There has been a number of updates and you may wonder why so many. The following site addresses problems Apple have fixed, however, if you are not technically minded don't look:

<https://www.cve.org/CVERecord/SearchResults?query=apple>

All the latest Apple security updates are here  
<https://support.apple.com/en-us/100100>

The latest version of iOS and iPadOS is 18.3.1. Learn how to update the software on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch click  here or go to: [supportapple.com/en-us/118575](https://support.apple.com/en-us/118575)

#### **WINDOWS USERS**

After October 14, 2025, Microsoft will no longer provide free software updates from Windows Update, technical assistance, or security fixes for Windows 10. **Your PC will still work.**

If your PC is capable of installing Windows 11 you will find it nearly as easy as Windows 10. On your monitor bottom left you will see a window **Type here to search**. To check your computer is up to date Type: **Check for Updates**. If updates are available download and install them.

Computers can entertain you, you can learn new things, watch movies:- the following site will give

you some ideas: content, games, writing and more, it's worth a look.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Have-Computer-Fun>  
you can also download the site as a PDF.

#### **A new look at Be Connected**

<https://www.dss.gov.au/improving-digital-skills-older-australians>

For those of you who attended the Skills Workshops last year, this site will help with anything you have forgotten, or need help with.

**Telstra** have a great site to help Seniors. I know at U3A we have a lot of new members so don't hesitate to look up this site and brush up on technology:

<https://www.telstra.com.au/content/dam/tcom/seniors/pdf/intro-to-computers.pdf>

What is the difference between **HTTP** and **HTTPS**

**HTTP** is an *unencrypted protocol*, while

**HTTPS** is an *encrypted* version of **HTTP**.

**HTTPS** is more secure and is recommended for websites that handle sensitive information.

You may remember a few years ago we had a visit from **Dave and Debbie Morgan** talking about a book he had written from the time he was in Vietnam. Dave has written 4 books now, first was **Ice Journey** his working trip to the Antarctic as the Weather Operator, 2<sup>nd</sup> book **My Vietnam**, covered his tour and that of a couple of his mates. The 3<sup>rd</sup> book is **Invisible Trauma** where he writes about PTSD that causes many problems with returning soldiers from any war, and the 4<sup>th</sup> book **Never Forgotten** which is made up of many individual chapters by Veterans from Vietnam to Afghanistan. These Books and Kindle versions are available at Amazon Books. If you order from Amazon, use Australia Post to deliver.

I think that is enough heavy reading for this QF. If you would like a particular subject covered let me know, my Email is on our web site or at the beginning of this Flyer.

Keep Safe All the best  
**Nick Quigley OAM**

## U3A Monthly Lunch

Back in the saddle again! The monthly lunchers were pleased to be back for another fabulous



lunch, this time at The Parkhurst Tavern. Members enjoyed a variety of delicious meals and thirst quenching drinks and once again were entertained by the activities provided. Bev Meredith kindly took over Robyn's hostessing role whilst she was on holiday and did a wonderful job. They held their usual Lucky Spot winner and then had an



Australian themed competition which provided several winners. Bev's solution to find an ultimate winner was to find the person who could sing the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of our National Anthem! Once again another successful and enjoyable U3A function.

Monthly lunches are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 12 noon  
Contact Robyn Edwards: 0438 284 871

## Contribute to your U3A

Are you aware that you can help our U3A by donating every time you go shopping.

If you happen to shop at Drakes IGA at Norman Gardens or Emu Park, they have a scheme whereby when you spend money a small percentage of your payment will go back to U3A Rockhampton (at their expense, -not yours). You can either get a tag from them with our U3A name on it which the checkout person will swipe for you, or you can use your mobile phone and get their app, then scan it when you make a purchase, which by the by, also enters you automatically into any competition they may be running also.



**The Embroiderer's Group** is another group which has currently ceased operating. Some of the



members just feel they couldn't take on the role as they are not as sprightly as they once were, but their love of embroidery is still there, so they are looking forward to finding somebody who could take on the position of convenor and bring them back together on a monthly basis. **Please ring Terry Holland if you are at all interested on 0427 689 312**

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### **Weird Fact: *Just a Sitting Duck!***

The Steamer Duck of the Falklands stays put. It is unique as it is able to fly when it is young but cannot do so as an adult. Too tired perhaps?



## Bev's Activities



Bev Meredith, our Social Co-ordinator, has been busy coming up with some wonderful things for us to do, see and enjoy. She is also helping with the Gardening Group until we find someone to take on the position, so we have some wonderful activities to look forward to.

We have Garden Club visits, Barefoot Bowling, A Murder Mystery, Trivia, and some return trips, so something for everyone. As not all events are finalised prior to the Quarterly Flyer publications, either call Bev or the Secretary or if you have a mobile phone or computer type in [www.U3arockhampton.org.au](http://www.U3arockhampton.org.au). Or find the Rockhampton U3A Facebook page.

Later in the year return trips to Cockscomb, Trivia Day with the theme "Surf's Up", at the Diggers, all things Beach Boys, sun, sand and surf. plus a talk has been booked at **Bunnings for the 28<sup>th</sup> of March @9.30am for the Garden Group** - no set topic yet.



And then we have ----



### Keep The Date:

Veteran journalist, Jack Hack, from The Daily Beast has been killed at Gregory House in Sussex, the ancestral home of the Wynkle family. The current owner, the 7<sup>th</sup> Baron, has converted the West Wing of the house into an exclusive gym and sauna complex for wealthy clients, called Wynkle Training and Fitness.

The Date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

The Place: Diggers Memorial Bowls Club

The Time : 9.30am – 12.30pm

The Cost: \$15.00 for hall hire and morning tea.

Team party bookings essential for tables of 9 suspects and one observer (if required).



**U3A Garden Group Activity**

*A return visit to the beautiful tropical garden of Kathleen and Mark. They have both been busy in the garden since we last visited!!*

**Where:** 2 Oakland Court Norman Gardens

**When:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Time:** 9.30am

**Bring:** Your chair & coffee/tea cup  
A plate of yummy morning tea to share.  
Tea and coffee will be provided.

**We will not disturb anyone for the morning if we park on the middle grass reserve in Walnut Avenue.**

**We really appreciate that Kathleen and Mark are available to host us again this year.@@**

**Bev Meredith** – Interim Garden Group co Ordinator.  
**Text:** 0410 341 843    [socialcoordinator@u3arocky.au](mailto:socialcoordinator@u3arocky.au)

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## U3A ANGELS

I have had the privilege of being the Rockhampton Co-ordinator for the U3A activity Days For Girls for the past 5 years. Unfortunately, the trained Region Co-ordinator for U3A Network Qld DFG retired last September which caused a little consternation as she was aware of the projects that were required in the State, and through that network procured the projects that we worked on. Therefore, if a certain component from a Kit was required that was what we would work on for the month. Sometimes we worked on Kit Bags marking and cutting them out, and sometimes marking out Transport Bags, and as long as we had the material, that is what we would work on.

It was suggested that we work with Gladstone U3A but that didn't work out so, as a result of that, we had a group meeting in November last year, and that is when we decided that we would like to continue meeting but we would also like to broaden our volunteering. Hence the change of name to **U3A Angels**, and we are now looking for ideas on how we can help the community with all our skills.



If you have any contact with Nursing Homes, Pre School, or schools please ask your contact whether there is something that our ladies can make to support them and, if so, please bring either a sample or give me the contact's information.

We have a lot of donated fabric helped by a generous donation from a U3A member last year and we still have a number of DFG packs in various

stages of construction that we will complete and donate to the **Homeless Connect Day at the Rockhampton Showgrounds on the 21<sup>st</sup> May**. As this will be a first for us, we are not sure whether the girls and ladies who will attend will accept our items that would need to be washed, or whether they would prefer purchased items that are disposable. If that turns out to be the case, we would donate them elsewhere so that they won't remain stored in a room somewhere.

**If you would like to join us we meet at  
The Fred Fox Hall on  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month until November,  
1-3pm.**

You can choose your project, or just come for a chat, there is certainly no pressure and you can do things at your own pace.

**Christine Dobeles:- 07 4926 1845**

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### *Help Needed*

Now a heartfelt message from our **Activities Director, Terry Holland** as follows,

*"We have an urgent need of someone to take over as convenor of the Garden Lovers and our Armchair Travel Groups for them to continue to function. Both groups are very popular so it would be a shame for them to cease to function. Please flood me with offers to be the next convenor. Also, the Embroidery Group has discontinued, we hope temporarily, and is also looking for a new convenor."*

***I can be contacted on 0427 689 312***

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**The Garden Lovers Group** is continuing at present with both Bev Meredith and Terry Holland standing in until a new person can be found. To convene the group.

If you are interested in gardening, or even just like looking at beautiful plants, why not consider either joining the U3A Gardening Group or even taking on as the convenor. If you have any experience in this field they would be so glad to hear from you. They meet on a regular basis and explore some of the beautiful gardens, both private and public that abound in the

U3A Rockhampton – P.O. Box 8160, Allenstown, Rockhampton, QLD 4700

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Rockhampton area. Included are interesting talks from experts and enthusiastic garden lovers. The position is not onerous, a love of gardens and the ability to find some locations to visit would be an asset. The members are always pleased to help where they can.

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***Armchair Travel*** is another group that would like a new convenor. Judy Trinder, who has recently been in hospital would like to pass on the position to someone who either loves to travel, or perhaps who can't travel themselves, but can get the excitement and knowledge from those who have. Cruising, for example, is becoming very popular, and if you have never been, then this is a wonderful way to find out what it would be like and whether the cost is justified, et al. The job would entail finding someone who has been on a trip and would like to share their experience and some photographs etc. The activity is held at the **Athelstone Bowls Club in Ward Street on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 9.30am-11.30am**, so a nice lunch afterwards if you wish to indulge. **Please ring Judy on 0457 712 978 if you are interested.**



The Ukulele Group, with Barry Lloyd as our Convenor and Malcolm (Mal) Barker to lead the playing and singing, is going from strength to strength with 32 active members. Our newest players at present getting some extra instruction to help them feel confident when they play with the long standing members.



The group is already very well booked up for the coming year to do playouts at the various aged care facilities and nursing homes around Rockhampton, which have proved to be very popular.

The Annual Christmas Party is great fun with



various members getting together to perform. Last year was no exception with some great songs and costumes

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### **The Photography Group**

also enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch together,



they meet on the **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays** at the Walter Reid Cultural Centre on the cnr. of Derby & East Streets, this group is run by **Ian Ewings 0438 284 084**. New members are most welcome.

**??** What has a 25 year old lady got in common with a 65 year old man?

Almost equal muscle strength!



## Bird Watchers

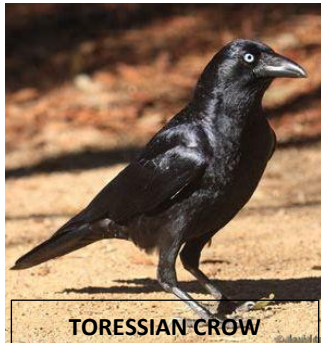
One of our most active groups is the Bird Watchers.

Rod Elder leads the group that meet up every on a Wednesday every 2<sup>nd</sup> month. The next outing is on the 9th April, so if you are interested please don't hesitate to contact Rod on 0409 630 584. For new members we have spare binoculars and can give you some pointers on their use. We try to ensure everyone gets a chance to see any birds sighted so please let us know if we can help.

In February the Group visited Bluff Point which is at the Southern end of Kemp Beach at Rosslyn. Ian's report follows:

At the February U3A meeting & Expo we had 8 new members who signed up on the day. Welcome to you all!

There were a small number of birds scattered through the dense forest and scrub canopy. We saw and identified Laughing Kookaburras, Magpies, Scrub Turkeys, Torresian Crows, Black Faced Cuckoo-Shrikes and Mistletoe Birds plus some small birds flitting through the canopy but were too fast to identify. The weather was warm humid (25/30C) and cloudy. We had hoped to see Rose-Crowned Fruit Doves, Little



TORESSIAN CROW



MISTLETOE BIRD

Shrike-thrushes, and Reef Egrets (at high tide) but not even a call!

There is a wonderful circuit of 2.3 km which takes you to the top of Bluff Point and back down to the Picnic grounds. The 180-degree view extends from Curtis Island to past Iwasaki's. The sign said a 600m climb! We all balked at such a climb and return; however, we went about 200m up each arm of the circuit in the hope of more bird sightings, with those who were less active spending their time back at the picnic grounds. We

had varying success walking up the pathways with Esther and Ian going the farthest – so they shared the Mountaineer Award. I have decided to increase my gym time so I can catch up.

After an excellent morning birding at a wonderful site for a couple of hours we had morning tea. A great way to socialize at a site beside the beach and enjoy a different type of venue.



Ian's picture of the group enjoying the discussion and morning tea at Bluff Point

There were 13 U3A Bird Group members attending. We car shared as it is 45-minute drive there and back.

***Our next place to visit on April 9 is to the Southside Gardens for more bird watching and a breakfast Barbecue beside the lagoon.*** It is my favourite venue as it is always changing in appearance with varying bird species and numbers.



### Membership Badges

Please check the box of Membership badges when next attending a Meeting, we have a lot of uncollected ones. When you Join U3A a Membership Badge is printed with your name that you can pick up at a subsequent General Meeting, there is a choice between magnetic or a pin. We do ask members to wear their badges when they attend a U3A group or function. It makes life easier for Convenors and/or members, especially if you don't remember names easily. If you have lost your badge you can ask Jennifer, our Treasurer to order you another for a small fee. Mine is kept on the dash-board of my car where there is a small ledge.

# Rockhampton U3A Expo - February 2025



Rockhampton U3A February General Meeting at Bauhinia House prior to Expo

This year's Expo exceeded all expectations with 157 members, 34 visitors plus approximately 20 who did not sign in, tut tut, making a total of about 211 folk!! Amongst the crowd, besides our loyal members, were 25 people who signed up with us as new members, which was wonderful. We would like to thank those visitors who came along and found one or more activities that they would like to come along to. New members bring new experiences and ideas which keep any organisation fresh and vibrant. We hope you stay for many years and enjoy what we have to offer.

You are most welcome!

We now have a membership that far exceeds 460 people.

There were 16 tables set up around the room with 12 advertising current U3A Activities and 4 with Associated Activities. Associated Activities are run and authorised by organisations not affiliated with U3A so if you attend you are not covered by our U3A Insurance.

The "new" venue, Bauhinia House, which we will be using in 2025, had quite a large meeting area, unfortunately we did underestimate a little and found that we didn't have enough chairs available for everyone, but we managed, and know better for next time. One bonus was that we

were allowed a free biscuit with our morning tea, (and there were enough to go around), which took place after the meeting itself and before people started investigating the goodies (wonderful groups) that were on offer.

We have some news about **The Financial Discussion Group** which now has a new Convenor. Gordon Sue, who many of you will know, as he is often seen taking photographs at various functions. The meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at Rockhampton Golf Club at 12noon till 2pm. The discussions are generally held over lunch and, as an added bonus, the Golf Club has good meals at reasonable prices. All welcome.

All the groups were well patronised during the session with some members wearing more than one hat. Phil Morissette with the Ukulele group and his coin collecting, along with several members who love **Mahjong**, which has two sessions a week, Tuesdays and Fridays at Fitzroy on Teman in Pauline Martin Drive, 12.45 – 4.00pm. Contact either Kym Jacobi on 0438 778 438 or Beth Tootell on 0488 769 173

Please take time to download the **Activities Sheet** or pick one up at the next Monthly meeting, **on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March.** which also happens to be our **AGM, starting at 9.20 am**