



Newsletter

JUNE 2019

WEBSITE - u3agympie.com

PHONE - 0490 757 458

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month saw me, and three other Committee members attend the annual State Conference. This year it was held in Bundaberg and had the theme "Break out of your shell".

After the initial opening and welcome, the keynote speaker was Rhonda Weston of U3A Toowoomba. She spoke of the beginnings of U3A, how it has grown and developed over time and how it is today. She considered the importance of U3A to its members, summed up very nicely in a quote she overheard - "U3A opens up a world that I want to belong to".

The next session was a discussion of issues facing U3As. Several key issues were identified as common to all U3As.

Funding is always a concern. While there are grants available, there is no consistent monetary support from either State or Federal governments, with all U3As predominantly self funded from membership and class fees.

Tutors also proved to be a common issue. Specifically, searching for Tutors is a ongoing task, with keeping them a close second. We also considered ways to let Tutors know how valuable their efforts are and how much appreciated.

Succession planning affects both Tutors and Committee members. At times, everyone feels the need to step out of a role, whether for a break or for the long term. Succession planning allows this to happen without too much disruption. I will have more to say on this in relation to our U3A group.

Relationships with the local Council were an issue for many U3As. Support provided by Councils varies considerably across the state. This does, ofcourse cut into their own issues with funding and demand on those funds.

Publicity is also a key issue for many groups. Available funds means we need to access as many free publicity opportunities as possible. When money is spent, it needs to generate a significant return for a small outlay. Many excellent ideas were exchanged regarding how to do this.

U3A Network Queensland AGM was next. Gail Bonser, U3A Network President, talked about Networks accomplishments this last year. A new group has started at Beachmere and already has 200 members. The Networks Strategic Plan and Constitution were both revised and a PR guide published online. Elections were conducted, with all nominees elected unopposed.

Day one finished with short talks on self-care for volunteers and on dealing with conflict in a volunteer environment.

Day two opened with the Presidents Council. We discussed insurance issues, covering what insurances we need and the joint coverage arranged through Network. We also discussed promotion of U3A as a State- and Nationwide organisation. Part of that are moves to trademark U3A. This is to both protect the image and to enable it to become more widely known.

During the President's Council there were workshops offered to other delegates.

We came together as one group again to consider future directions for U3A. We discussed ideas on building effective teams and using the strengths of the team members effectively.

U3A Online told us how it can help U3A groups, as well as individuals.

We ended with more ideas on positive relationships with local Councils.

All in all, it was an effective conference. I left with many ideas I hope to put to good use benefitting our group.

AQUAJOULES

The Tuesday and Thursday classes of water aerobics are well attended and are always great fun.

CLASS CO-ORDINATOR

We are looking for a tutor for Computer Classes for next term and beyond.

Classes would be organised into themes, such as Absolute Beginners, Social Media and so on. Please let Denice know what aspects of using computers you are interested in learning.

Line Dancing has recommenced and those attending are enjoying themselves.

Anyone who hasn't received a photo badge to please contact me.

Please contact Denice 0490757458

GARDEN GROUP

The next meeting for the Garden Group will be on the 7th June at The Zig Zag Garden (diagonally opposite to Pannini's Bakery) starting 9.30 am. The topic is cottage gardens.

BEST DISCOUNTS FOR AUSTRALIAN PENSIONERS

Growing older has its perks – as well as wisdom and perspective, you can also get some sweet discounts. There are lots of discounts and deals available exclusively for pensioners – some well-known, some rarely used, and as always, finder.com.au is here to scour the market for the best available. Here are the best perks for Australian seniors.

Concession cards

One of the best-known routes to saving is using a concession card. Many concession schemes for pensioners are free and require nothing more than proof of age, while others have a membership fee.

National Seniors Card

National Seniors is a national consumer lobby for Australians over 50. It offers membership for a low yearly fee (starting from \$40), which offers access discounts, rewards, reduced price insurance and an advice line.

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

The Commonwealth Seniors Card is provided by the Australian Department of Human Services, and provide older Australians with access to cheaper prescription medicines, government medical services and other federal concessions.

Pensioner Concession Card

Another card from the Australian Government, the Pensioner Concession Card aims to provide some health concessions and access to other discounts.

Other discounts for those over 60

Aside from the card and membership schemes, many private businesses also offer discounts for seniors. It's always worth asking in every store you visit. A few that we have found which offer senior discounts:

SpecSavers, Red Rooster, Best Western Hotels, Ultratune and Telstra.

The secret: ask, ask, ask!

The most important rule: constantly ask if there is any seniors discount. Every time you visit a store or are checking out with a purchase, get into the habit of asking 'Are there any discounts available for seniors?' The worst that they can do is say no.

A lot of business keep quiet about discounts they offer, and so you might not see your discount advertised. But if you ask, you might find yourself with a little more money in your pocket.

GRC AGEING STRATEGY

U3A Gympie has been invited to send up to 10 members to a consultation session to inform the planning of Council's Ageing Strategy. The Ageing Strategy is a priority in Council's Corporate Plan and is due to be completed by 2022.

Through group discussion and activities, participants will identify key strengths and challenges faced by older people in the Gympie area. Other key seniors groups in Gympie will also be invited.

Exactly what do you want U3A to tell the Council? They are seeking to know what are the strengths & challenges faced by older people in the Gympie area?

Let Susan know what you would like us to tell the Council on your behalf. Send me an email (president@u3agympie.com), or a text (0416158648), or write me a letter (PO Box 600, Gympie). Make sure I receive your input no later than Friday 21st June.

**TERM 2 FINISHES
FRIDAY 28th
JUNE**

DATES TO REMEMBER

4th June - Lunch (Farmer & Sun)
11th June - Lunch (Farmer & Sun)
11th June - Committee Meeting
18th June - Lunch (Farmer & Sun)
21st June - Ageing Strategy input due
25th June - Lunch (Farmer & Sun)
28th June - Coffee With Friends (Gympie Market Place)