



From the President

Hello Members,

Here's to 2021 being a much better year than the confinements of 2020 brought us. Of course, we still have social distancing, hand sanitizing, and hygiene standards that have become the norm, but the most important thing, is if you are unwell, please stay at home. We can't be too careful at our age.

U3A Gympie got off to a rousing start at our Open Day in January. After a somewhat jumbled start, things soon settled down and we had a very successful day. Of course, this couldn't have happened without the dedicated committee, our tutors and volunteers who manned the tables, and the people from Gympie Bowls Club who helped us out with arranging the tables etc. Thank you so much to all of you. Your efforts were very much appreciated.

A big welcome to our new members, here's to an enjoyable time and new friendships on your U3A journey. And it goes without saying, a huge welcome to our returning members, I look forward to catching up with you.

At the Open Day, I picked up a cushion, I think it was from the book club table. If this is yours, let me know, so it can be returned to you.

The committee have recently hired a storage shed for the equipment U3A has gathered over the years. If you have any stock of U3A, could you please let a committee member know and they can arrange for pick up or delivery from you.

We have received an email from Amanda Harvey from the Queensland Rail Travel Centre, offering us the opportunity of a 30-minute presentation to showcase some of Queensland's iconic rail journeys, concession fares information and holiday experiences for your members' enjoyment.

Could you please advise your intentions in attending this presentation by email to publicity@u3agympie.com or a text message to 0417 433 034. No need to leave your personal details just a number or number of members interested in attending.

Our AGM will be held on the Thursday, 4th March at Gympie Bowls Club, Southside starting at 2:00pm. To assist the Gympie Bowls Club with their COVID requirements for setting up the venue and providing refreshments, we will need an indication of numbers of members planning on attending the AGM on the 4th. The best way to gather this information is at class level so I will be asking the Class Coordinator and the Tutors to help with this matter. Remember it is only an indication so there will be no need to advise if your plans change.

I will be sending a separate email regarding the nomination forms shortly. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Claire, our Secretary and Lynlie, our Publicity Officer for all their efforts and support during their time on the management committee.

If are interested or thinking about nominating for the Management Committee and would like to speak to a committee member before taking this step, please email me on president@u3agympie.com and I will arrange for a meeting to have a chat. Have a great term 1.

Evie





Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to everyone celebrating their birthday this month. We wish you all many happy returns.

From the Class Coordinator

All classes will be in full force starting this week.

Pleased to report that the Art Gallery will be reopening on Tuesday, 9 February 2021.

Unfortunately the upgrade to Sherwood Hall at the Avenues, has been delay again and is expected to be finished by Monday, 22 February 2021.

History had its first session on Monday at the Gympie Mining Museum, where the history of gold in Gympie and its effect on the nation was explored.

The Chit Chat group had a lively morning at Gunabul Homestead, more information to be provided in Elizabeth Power's Tutor report coming up next.

Craft is another group starting this week and places still available. Committee members will be calling into classes to collect membership and class fees over the next two weeks.

Denice McDougall
Class Coordinator

Elizabeth Power – Tutor – Chit Chat

Our Chat Group, formerly referred to as Discussion Group, met for the first time this morning, Monday, 1 February, in the delightful surroundings of Gunabul's veranda.

Over coffee and cake, or scones, those present delved into the topical issue of the future of Australia Day. Renamed? Moved to another date? Stay as it is? It was a most enjoyable and enlightening conversation with each member contributing her viewpoint in an open and friendly manner.

It was decided that those present will agree on a set topic for each next meeting, thus allowing two weeks in which to consider the subject, or perhaps to do some research to broaden knowledge and understanding.

The Chat Group will meet again on Monday, 15 February at 10am on the veranda at Gunabul. The subject for this conversation - positive and negative implications of the COVID pandemic for us as individuals; for our society/nation; indeed for the world!

Come along and share your thoughts.

From the Publicity Officer

Welcome to past, present and new members to U3A Gympie for 2021. Welcome also to Tutors/Facilitators/Convenors, because without you we could not hold classes. This year, hopefully, classes will run smoothly throughout the year, unlike 2020.

Thank you also to the dedicated U3A Committee, helpers on the day, plus all returning and new members for a very successful Open Day. 2021 Open Day required a bit more setting up, so that all COVID rules could be adhered to.

Thank you to the Gympie Bowls Club for helping with the arranging of tables and chairs, with appropriate spacing between them, around the

room for classes. Black and Yellow arrows could be clearly seen on the floor showing the Entry and Exit points to the room and club. Signs in front of table indicated which classes were at what tables. On entering the club there were hand sanitizers' available and sign in sheets for COVID tracing.

All these things helped everyone maintain Social Distancing, while talking about the classes they were interested in joining.

Some classes even had to have a waiting list for people's names, if the class was full. This situation now leads us to be searching for more Tutors/Facilitators/Convenors for classes.

Tutors do not need to hold a certificate in a subject, only be competent in the subject, and able to pass on the information to others. They also do not need to have a certificate in Training to allow them to tutor. We do not have any assessments or exams in subjects, so no certificates are given to participants. Tutors do not have to be senior, or able bodied. If a younger person, or someone with a disability, would like to tutor seniors, that would also be welcome.

Wendy Flikweert
Publicity Officer

From the Treasurer

Dear Members

I also wish to thank all the returning and new members for their patience during this very busy time. Effective 31st December 2020, we had 285 paid-up members and as of today, we have a total of 213 paid-up members.

As your Treasurer, I am responsible for setting up your profile so that you will receive the President's emails and our monthly Newsletters via our mailchimp email system. If you have provided an email address and you are not receiving our newsletters or if you need to change your email address, could you please send an email to treasurer@u3agympie.com and I will update your profile.

I still have an unclaimed payment of \$20.00 for a 2021 Membership payment. The payment was made from a Bank of QLD account on 4 January 2021. Contact me at treasurer@u3agympie.com or on 0417 433 034 if this is your payment.

Mary Inman



THE MEMBERS OF U3A GYMPIE INC. WISH TO THANK THE GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TERM FOR THEIR CONTINUAL SUPPORT WITH MANAGING THE COVID-19 COMMUNITY GRANT.

Dates to Remember

- 2nd February - Tuesday Lunch**
- 8th February – Management Committee Meeting**
- 9th February - Tuesday Lunch**
- 16th February - Tuesday Lunch**
- 23rd February - Tuesday Lunch**
- 26th February - Coffee with Friends**
- 1st March - Management Committee Meeting**
- 4th March - Annual General Meeting for 2021**

Newsletter Contributions

Please submit all contributions no later than the 28th of the month. The newsletter is published on the 1st of the following month. Please keep publication dates in mind for any time sensitive contributions.



**STAY HOME IF YOU
ARE FEELING SICK.**



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