

-June 2021 Edition-

[Our website](#)

## From the President

Hello Members,

What was going to be a very exciting month for me, turned out to be not quite so exciting after all. Unfortunately, I missed out on attending the conference in Stanthorpe, due to illness. I have to say thank you to Denice McDougall for filling in at very short notice. Also to our secretary Sarah Henshaw, for taking my classes. Thanks to both of you. By all reports, Lindy Bell and Denice thoroughly enjoyed their time away.

On the 14th June, the committee is holding an afternoon tea for tutors. This is to acknowledge the work they do throughout the year, and to say a simple but heartfelt thank you. The time and effort they give to U3A is greatly appreciated.

In the near future, I will be coming around and taking photos of classes doing their thing...if you don't wish to be photographed, please let me know. Some of these photos will be sent to the U3A network for their magazine.

During the last couple of weeks, I have had the pleasure of reading some of the stories and memoirs written by our Life Writing Group. What a fantastic collection of stories. I laughed, I shed a silent tear, but it was thoroughly enjoyable reading. Well done to the class and your tutor Lindy Bell on producing some excellent entertainment, and a glimpse into what life looked like in your early years.

U3A Gympie has a casual vacancy for a Publicity Officer who will lead us in promoting our group. We are also seeking helpers for some of Committee's designated roles, for organising our current and new events, our equipment, our photo collection and a scrap book. No-one is expected to do it all - they will be supported by committee members and other helpers. If you think you can help us out with any of these roles or in any other way, please contact either myself ([president@u3agympie.com](mailto:president@u3agympie.com)) or Mary ([treasurer@u3agympie.com](mailto:treasurer@u3agympie.com)), for more information. We really do need you.

Before I go, I won't be taking the 'Aqua Exercise' classes in Term 3. This position will be ably filled by Sarah Henshaw. Depending on numbers, the classes will still be held on Tuesday and Thursday at 7.45am.

That's all from me - enjoy the coming winter...bbbrrrrr!

Evie

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**To all members celebrating a  
birthday this month:  
We wish you a very Happy  
Birthday!**



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## Class Coordinator's Report

Dear Members,

I was asked to fill in for our president at the State Conference in Stanthorpe, This was my 6th State Conference but I find that you always come away with new ideas on classes and improving membership, among other things.

One of the many ideas was short-term classes to be held over say a 4 or 5 week period. For example a class to make Christmas decorations, or a Christmas cooking class in the 4th term.

I am looking for suggestions for short term classes, so if you have an interest or a passion for a topic or activity that you would like to share please contact me.

We were surprised to learn from U3A Toowoomba that a very successful class there is 'Enjoying Maths'. They have offered this class for the past 12 years and it remains ever popular. So any ideas or suggestions for class topics are open.

At our Tutors' Get Together Afternoon Tea this month, I will have the opportunity to personally thank those tutors in attendance for their time and efforts on behalf of the members of U3A Gympie. I would like to encourage all members to offer some positive feedback to their tutors and helpers from time to time. Feeling appreciated is very gratifying and is a major factor in keeping our tutors happy to continue. I'm sure you will agree that they do a great job, and after all - without our volunteer tutors and helpers we would not have a U3A.

We are looking at two additional classes commencing in Term 3, but we need to know if there is sufficient interest in the two activities below: Term 3 is fast approaching, so don't delay.

**Memoir Writing Class** - This has been popular in the past, and we are pleased to have a tutor available for either a Monday or Tuesday class. Please let me know if you are interested.

**Phone Denice on 0490 757 458.**

**Pickleball Anyone?** This is a brand new offering. Social Pickleball is a sport for all ages and abilities. A great way to be active and have fun. Exercise without even realising it - keep that body moving! Want to know more? It is played on a small court with a paddle and a ball and can be played indoors or out. All equipment provided.

[Click here for a short video](#) to give you an idea:

Tutor Margaret has invited those interested to visit on Tuesdays between 8-00 - 9.30am when the Kandanga Tennis Club play their social Pickleball games. Our members are invited to ask to speak to Margaret and discuss the game. Their address is Corner Pine and Elizabeth Streets, Kandanga.

Or, for How to Play the game, Margaret will run sessions on Thursday, 10 June from 9.30 to 11.00am and on Wednesday, 16 June from 9.30 to 11.00am. Players need to bring a hat, sunglasses, a water bottle, wear comfortable clothes and shoes. As the How to Play sessions are a U3A Gympie activity, members or non-members must contact **Mary on Phone 0417 433 034** or email at [treasurer@u3agympie.com](mailto:treasurer@u3agympie.com) (or use the contact form on our website) to register for these sessions.

Our **Sign-On Day for Term 3** Classes will be held on Tuesday 6 July. Time and location to be advised.

Once again, remember COVID safety measures are important. Melbourne's current situation is a reminder of how easily it can break out.

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Denice

Pictured below L to R:

Lindy Bell & Denice McDougall at the Queensland U3A Network State Conference 2021



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## Featured Class - Life Writing Group

This writer's group meets on Friday afternoons, and it is a delightful way to end the week. Our 2 hour session is spent in sharing and critiquing our writing - memoir and stories of our lives. Our group is limited in size to allow each of us the time and attention our writing efforts deserve. There are no vacancies at present.

**However, with the prospect of a Memoir Writing Class being made available from Term 3, I would urge anyone with an interest in writing down their own stories to join that class as a first step.**

In fact, that is exactly how our Life Writing Group came into being - from the previous Memoir Writing Class. After 2 years I felt a change was needed. Students had long surpassed the tutor in their writing skills and lessons were becoming superfluous. So we evolved into a Writer's Group, sharing, learning, and encouraging each other in what can, by its nature, be an isolating and lonely pursuit - writing.

Lindy Bell



## **More Class News! - Family Genealogy Class**

*The Family Genealogy Class (Tues 9.30-11am) has been successfully running this term and will continue in Term 3.*

*If you are interested in exploring your family tree and would like to join us please contact **Barbara Dobson** by email [barb.genealogy@gmail.com](mailto:barb.genealogy@gmail.com)*

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## **From the Treasurer**

Dear Members

With funding support from the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF), we have purchased laptops for the committee members, a card printer for our membership cards, a 2 metre, three-piece folding panel with stabilising feet; two double sided A-Frame Stands; two mesh brochure stands that will hold 16 brochures and a small feather flag that can be used either inside or outside. No photos at this time as the promotional items are still in boxes.

We have also purchased an electric Wok, two digital cameras, and dumbbells for the AQUA classes and expect to receive the delivery of the 3m x 3m marquee within the next two weeks.

As previously mentioned, part of the acquittal process is providing images of the purchased items so if you are approached to be included in a photo, don't forget to put on a 'happy' face, wave and say 'thank you' as the GCBF is an excellent source of grants in Queensland. We need to fulfil our obligation to acknowledge and promote this funding organisation, and we just may have another opportunity to purchase essential items like furniture for a new home-base for U3A Gympie in the future! I would have great pleasure in arranging for a plaque acknowledging the support of "Gambling Community Benefit Fund, Queensland Government".

Mary, Treasurer

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## **Good Morning Vietnam – a live music concert presenting tunes from the Vietnam War Era!**

Member Denice is looking for others interested in a Saturday Matinee Show at the Gympie RSL Club. If you would like to attend but don't want to go alone why not go with a group of friends? All welcome! Phone Denice on 0427 192017.

**"Step inside the musical Era of the Vietnam War with Gympie RSL!**

**Featuring hit songs from CCR, Jimi Hendrix, Aretha Franklin, The Doors, Bob Dylan and more!**

**Join us on Saturday the 26th June for a 2pm matinee concert. You won't want to miss this tribute show event!"**

[Good Morning Vietnam - Tribute Show | Gympie RSL](#)

*Note: This is not an official U3A function*



## Certificate of Appreciation

Following on from last month - here we have Kaye and John from U3A Gympie Mahjong Class, presenting a Certificate to Rachel from **Century 21 Platinum Agents** - in appreciation of their assistance in storing Mahjong equipment at their business premises.

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## Take a tour of the World Wide Web

There's so much available on the Web - here are some links and a brief description. Great for enquiring minds, animal lovers, and armchair travellers. Definitely something for everyone.

<https://www.yourlifechoices.com.au/> A magazine and e-news for 50s, 60s and beyond will keep you up to date on health, wealth, travel, work, new technology and great food.

<https://qldseniorsmonth.org.au/> Link to Queensland Seniors Month – October 2021

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/> Free online safety presentations

<https://www.u3aonline.org.au/content/gems> - For enquiring minds

<https://artsandculture.google.com/> - Art and Culture – Limited by your imagination

<https://www.zoo.org.au/animals-at-home/> Bringing the zoo to life from anywhere around the world with live cams, keeper talks and other virtual updates.

<https://www.webcamtaxi.com/en/australia.html> Live Virtual Travel - you choose the country you wish to visit.

## Dates to Remember

**1 June - Tuesday Lunch**

**7 June - Committee Members - Workshop**

**8 June - Tuesday Lunch**

**8 June - Management Committee Meeting**

**14 June - Tutor's Get-Together Afternoon Tea**

**15 June - Tuesday Lunch**

**22 June - Tuesday Lunch**

**25 June - Coffee with Friends**

**25 June - Last Day of Term 2**

**26 June - 11 July - Qld State School Holidays**

**6 July - Sign On Day for Term 3 (Venue to be advised.)**

**12 July - Classes resume for Term 3**

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## Getting to Know .... Rhonda Whitewood

- Committee Member

Hello, I'm Rhonda and I've been a member of U3A in various locations over the past 20 years. I lived in Melbourne and then Hervey Bay before settling in Gympie - drawn here by its affordable housing and a lifestyle that suits me.

Having friends in various areas of SE Queensland and family in Brisbane and Melbourne, it's a very convenient location for me. During the 1980s I lived in London UK for 10 years with my family, and that was an amazing time in our lives. This year I nominated for a position on the Management Committee, and was successful. As a General Committee Member I am there to help in the running of U3A Gympie.

My working life has been varied, from bookkeeping for a solicitor in London to then attaining firstly a Cert. III in Aged Care, followed by a Diploma in Lifestyle and Leisure for Aged Care. I worked in that field for 8 years and loved the interaction with the older people I came in contact with.

In 2014 I set off on a trip around Australia with a tent, an Engel fridge and my Mazda 3, spending an extended time in Alice Springs where I found some work for a while – or was it that the work found me? Afterwards, I returned to Melbourne via the east coast, but after another winter in Melbourne I decided I'd had enough of the cold, so I sold my apartment, packed my bags and headed north to Queensland, where I now live in Paradise.

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### We need your photos!

Do you have any photos taken at U3A Gympie classes or events? If the persons photographed are happy for you to share we would love to have them, whether from the past or more recent occasions. We need to know where and when taken and names if possible for our group archives. These pictures could appear in a gallery on our website, or for promotional purposes. Please send to [publicity@u3agympie.com.au](mailto:publicity@u3agympie.com.au)

### Did you know?

Contributions for Newsletters are welcomed from all members. If you have something you think other members may like to hear about, please contact Lindy at [newsletters@u3agympie.com](mailto:newsletters@u3agympie.com)

## Newsletter Contributions

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

Send contributions to: [newsletters@u3agympie.com](mailto:newsletters@u3agympie.com)



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**Our mailing address is:**

U3A Gympie  
PO Box 600  
Gympie, QLD 4570  
Australia