

Contents

- December in Brisbane
- President's Message
- Logan District News
- Brisbane City Campus classes
- 2014 Christmas Lunch
- Gwenn Ball Life Membership
- Social Committee News
- Book Review—Dutch Treat



Spring this year has given us a wonderful end to that season and we have had the joy of being surrounded by the glorious display of the Poinciana trees that are growing prolifically around Brisbane. It has been a long time since we have seen these trees looking so beautiful. It is worth driving around just to see their elegance and colour.

From the President

Marilyn Wagland

One hundred and fifty members enjoyed the U3A Brisbane Christmas lunch at the City Hall last week. Thanks to the superb organisation of the Social Committee, it was a lovely occasion and a fitting end to this year's social activities.



On behalf of the Management Committee, I wish all our members and tutors a very happy and restful holiday

period. Thank you to the many who assist us in so many ways throughout the year to keep this organisation vital and running so smoothly. U3A plays an important part in the lives of many so the work done by these people is valuable indeed. We look forward to welcoming you back next year. Spread the word amongst friends and acquaintances so more retirees can gain from the numerous benefits U3A offers. Enjoy your break and come back ready to tackle new challenges next year.

Date claimer: *U3A Network Qld and U3A Asia Pacific Alliance International Conference* is on at the City Hall from 28-30 May 2015. You will enjoy meeting other local, interstate and overseas U3A members present and the high quality speakers already engaged. As the host city, we need your involvement as conference delegates and volunteers. Do join us. Registration is now open. Full information is available at:

www.u3aqldconference.org

Logan District News

from Jean Townsend

Don't forget the Christmas Party on Wednesday, 10th December, 10.30 am to 2 pm at the Logan Community Centre behind the Art Gallery in Jacaranda Avenue, Logan Central. No need to bring a plate this time as lunch will be served for a fee of only \$2. Two professional bush poets will entertain us along with some of our groups. There will be raffles and a super Lucky Door prize. We had a really good time last year and the year before.

Several new classes start in Logan next year, including two in Beenleigh: Musicality and Drawing and Painting. We will have nine classes at John Paul College: French for Travellers, Beginners French, Spanish, Beading, and Japanese. New classes at Logan North Library include Movie-making, Lightroom, Cartooning, and a new Beginners Photoshop. Beginners are invited to join the Ukulele group too. Most Term 4 classes remain unchanged, but sadly Ruth cannot continue

Hypnotherapy. Thank you Ruth for all your efforts. We hope to have another craft class and Names and Lives again later in the year. Full details will be on the website.

Michael Willmer will tutor History next year. He recently recorded a 10 minute interview on Radio station 4RPH. Mike says "We discussed U3A and our history class...Radio 4RPH performs a magnificent job catering for people who, for reasons of age, disability or literacy problems cannot handle, assimilate or read information. I was delighted to work with them". Mike's segment will be one of a group of seven interviews about U3A to be aired within two months.



Brisbane City Campus

from Gail Hawkins

It's hard to believe that Term 4 is over and the Christmas break is fast approaching, and before we know it we'll be back into the routine of weekly classes with Term 1 commencing on Tuesday 27th January. We have a number of tutors returning after a well earned break as well as a number of first time tutors that will be offering new classes in Term 1 next year. Again I ask that you support our new tutors just as you do for our established tutors and their classes. Following is a list of the new classes that will commence in Term 1, I will give a more detailed description of these classes in the next E News, they will also be marked as New Classes in the Term 1 Class Schedule that will be released early December.

J125 – Brazilian Portuguese for Beginners

J134 – Japanese for Beginners

J135 – English for Speakers of Other Languages, Level 1

J136 – English for Speakers of Other Languages, Level 2

J126 – Spanish Advanced

J127 – Spanish for Beginners

J129 – German for Beginners

J128 – Latin for Beginners

Y16 – Philosophy – The Love of Wisdom

S18 – Sustainable Environment

P13 – Digital Camera Use

X76 – Theatre through the Ages

X74 – The Linguistic Universe

M17 – Intermediate Recorder Ensemble

F46 – Rummi tiles (Rummikubs), double class

A50 – Jewelry Making, double class

Earlier in the year our tutors were invited to get involved with an exciting joint venture between U3A and 4RPH, the radio station for the print handicapped. The goal is for our tutors to pre-record an interview that would showcase the diversity, talent and interesting topics offered by U3A, and be broadcast as a 10 minute weekly program for the 4RPH listeners. A number of interviews have been recorded and it is expected that the program "The Pleasure of Learning" will commence airing early December, however for the program to continue into the New Year we need additional tutors to volunteer their service. If you would be interested in getting involved in this unique opportunity or would like more information on what is involved, please contact me at

tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au

2014 Christmas Lunch

This year's Christmas Lunch went well and those who attended seem to enjoy themselves. The Guest Speaker, Patrick Condren, was very interesting and told an entertaining story of the joys of being a political journalist, a broadcaster and a family man. He answered questions from the audience and mixed with the guests after the lunch.



Patrick Condren

Marianne Jones
and Prue Jenkins

President
Marilyn Wagland

photos David Gemmell

Gwenn Ball awarded Honorary Life Membership

In recognition of her many years' of service as Computer Section Coordinator and tutor, the Management Committee has awarded Gwenn Ball Honorary Life Membership. Her certificate was presented to her by President Marilyn Wagland at an afternoon tea for office staff on Wednesday 3rd December. Congratulations and thanks, Gwenn.



Term 4 Ends: Holiday Arrangements for the Creek St Office

from Yvonne McGann

Classes finish on Friday 12th December 2014 and will resume on Tuesday January 27th 2015. During the holidays the office will be open from 15th to 19th December from 9am till 12noon. We will then re-open from 12th to 23rd January from 9am till 12noon.

City Precinct

from Mary-Anne Scott

Come, try and enjoy Gateball; a strategic 30 minute Mallet Sport game invented in Japan in 1947. All equipment supplied; wear flat shoes; bring a hat. Train to Auchenflower Station; exit west side. Or, parking available at Club. No initial charges or fees. All welcome. Mcllwraith Croquet Club, Tuesday 2.30pm onwards.

Christmas Bonus

from Ray Bricknell

Helen and I have a wonderful two week holiday in North Island of New Zealand booked for this February – one week in each of two of NZ's most popular holiday locations. However, we have now had a change of plans, and we can't go. I could cancel the bookings without cost, but if anyone would like to have them for my cost of \$800 per unit per week, I'll happily transfer them. The going rate for comparable units in these locations during the peak February season would probably be about \$2,000 per week. Because we got them as Timeshare exchanges they are only costing us \$800 per week. Total cost \$1600. The units can very comfortably be shared by two couples.

Here are the details:

Week One: Bishop Selwyn Resort, Bay of Islands (Paihia). Fri 6 Feb to Fri 13 Feb.

Week Two: Phoenix Resort, Lake Taupo. Fri 13 Feb to Fri 20 Feb.

If you are interested in taking these two weeks please email me at: raybrick@bigpond.net.au

Social Committee

from Helen Dubois

The Class Schedule and Social Calendar for Term 1 2015 is now available on the website and will be posted to members on Monday 8th December. Our thanks go to those people who put the booklet together and those who have fun on Saturday 6th December doing the mail out. In the CSSC you will find the details of the Social activities for Term 1 2015. A trip to Brisbane Airport, and the promised trip to Margaret Olley Art Centre. There will also be Tickets for *Dirty Dancing*. You can book for any of these activities by ringing the office now.



A very happy Christmas to you all. Have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you all in January 2015.

Helen Dubois

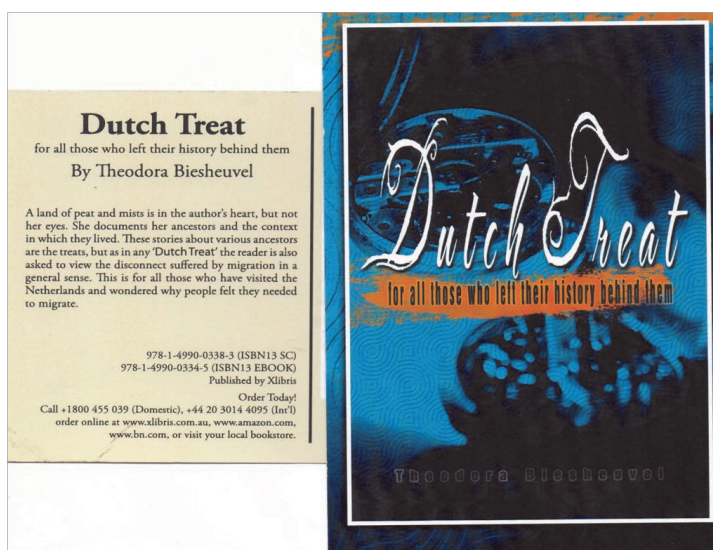
Editor

hellsbells21@optusnet.com.au

Ph. 3398 9668

Book Review

By Anne Douglass



Thea Biesheuvel has been a U3A Creative Writing Tutor for many years. She is a remarkably talented lady who has published over 20 works in her career and 'Dutch Treat' is her latest.

This delightful little book is a series of short stories built around the lives of Thea's ancestors in the marshy land that became the Holland that we know today.

A family history stretching from 1400AD to the present day would normally be of little interest to anyone other than a family member, but not so here. Thea has melded fact with fiction by clever characterisation of her early ancestors and using the quite detailed resources of family members for the latter more truthful history of her family.

Her research has been thorough, and by telling it in the first person, she has breathed life into these people and at the same time given us snapshots of lives lived long ago; the day to day activities, the bits of tribal and general history, all help to round out the characters and make them believable.

As these new characters introduce themselves there is a feeling of immediacy. It is easy to slip inside their heads and the vivid descriptions and language place the reader in that time and in that place. To achieve this takes experience, imagination and great skill, and Thea has managed to do this quite seamlessly. There is drama, humour and pathos to be found between these pages and the history of how Holland was reclaimed from the sea and the ongoing battle to keep it, adds extra interest.

She writes beautifully. Her words flow and scenes play out like a movie in one's head. It is not a long book, and the stories are self contained, so it is just the thing to keep beside the bed, to be dipped into and out of at will, without any fear of losing the thread.

This is a little gem and it comes highly recommended.

Thea may be contacted by email: thea_eric@virginbroadband.com.au