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Brisbane is a riot of colour at the moment. While many of us dislike the summer heat, it does provide the vegetation that makes our sub-tropical city look so vibrant. As we come closer to Christmas, our thoughts go back over the year that is nearly gone. It has been a busy year with most things going well. Enjoy your Christmas break.



## Important Notice

From Yvonne McGann Office Manager

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Remember that your 2015 memberships will run out on 31st December this year. Avoid the New Year's rush for renewals. Please contact the office or renew online for 2016.

The office will be open during the holidays at the following times:

Monday 14th Dec. to Friday 18th December  
from 8.30 am till 12 noon

Monday 18th January to Friday 22nd January  
from 8.30 am till 12 noon.

Classes recommence on Monday 25th January. There will be no classes on Tuesday 26th January - Australia Day.

## President's Comments:

From Marilyn Wagland

Thank you to Helen Dubois and her Social Committee for organising a great Christmas Lunch at City Hall.

It was a happy and successful day. Roly Sussex was a popular guest speaker and Anne Douglass was awarded Life Membership for her amazing contribution over many years with Winter School.

Another successful year has passed and U3A Brisbane has continued to thrive. Thank you to all those volunteers who contribute to this success and to our members for supporting us. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2016, the 30th anniversary of our founding.

Have a wonderful and relaxing break over Christmas and a happy New Year when we come together again, bigger and better than ever.

Merry Christmas

## Tutor Liaison:

From Gail Hawkins

It's hard to believe Term 4 has ended, and we are now looking at classes for Term 1 in 2016. As you would expect, we have a number of new classes for you to choose from. I'm sure you will give the new tutors and those tutors that are returning after short breaks your support by enrolling in their classes. I would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to the tutors who have decided for various reasons not to return to tutoring next term.

For new members intending to enrol in a class, it's an added benefit to be able to read some background information on the tutor. For tutors who have not added their biography, go to the privacy settings from the tutor menu, or if you prefer, email your biography information to me and I will update for you. (Please limit to 100 words).

Last E News, I advised that in Term 1 we would have a Learn the Guitar class, which judging by the response was going to be a popular course. Unfortunately the tutor has just advised that he's been given an end of January date for an operation. We wish him a speedy recovery. He has advised that he should be fit and well and able to start his class from Term 2 2016.

New or returning classes in Term 1 are:



## Monday Classes:

A64 – Art History & Appreciation from Early Renaissance to Contemporary

L55 – Literature Reading Group

D05 – Community Exchange & Alternative Currencies

K11 – Creative Writing

J157 – Japanese, Introductory Level

J155 – French Revision

J160 – Chinese (Mandarin) Intermediate

## Tuesday Classes:

L56 – Australian Poetry

D03 – Finance – Myth Busters

H38 – Ancient Civilizations

## Thursday Classes:

A63 – Drama Group

S20 - Chemistry

E24 – Current Affairs

J156 – Spanish for Beginners

X97 – Public Speaking

## Friday Classes:

X103 - Make Your Home More Environmentally Friendly

N11 – Enjoying Music

J159 – Introduction to Japanese Language

J158 – Latin for Beginners

D04 – Financial Security in Retirement

B80 – Peace Dancing

You can find details for all of our classes in the Term 1 Class Schedule which has now been published and is available on our website if you don't receive a copy via the mail.

We will have a number of tutors that are taking a break next year, so I will be actively looking for new tutors and new classes. If you know of anyone that has an interest in a subject, be it entertainment, history, art, games, science, etc, please encourage them to contact me. I'm always amazed at the number of people that tell me that U3A has changed their life, gets them out of the house and encourages them to use their brain and also to meet like-minded people and form new friendships. The more classes that we have to offer, the more choices our members have. Tutors are the backbone of our organisation so I encourage anyone that is even remotely interested to contact me so that we can discuss the possibilities.

## Logan District News:

From Jean Townsend

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The Christmas party was a wonderful start to the holidays. Over 120 members and guests turned up and clearly enjoyed themselves. The food was delicious and the cakes made by Monika were out of this world. The function was expertly compered by Kathy Roman. Fourteen new classes start next term and some of the tutors introduced themselves at the party. The German Group performed some traditional German Christmas songs and a very funny one about a baby monkey who stole the coconut, "Wer hat die Kokosnus gekaut?" Jean entertained us with some comic verse, like this: Said Hamlet to Ophelia, "I'll draw a sketch of thee — What kind of pencil shall I use? 2B or not 2B?" Fourteen new classes start next term and some of the tutors introduced themselves at the party. Cherie Ng is back teaching French to help students advance further from the level have already reached with Peter and other French teachers. Lorraine Moyes is a charismatic entertainer and it looks like her class on Personality Types will be fascinating. Helen Mardiste kindly appeared in place of her sister, Lesley Collins and showed us the improvements that can be made to old and damaged photos using Photoshop in the Digital Photo Restoration class. Drew Grozier spoke about his course on the Pearls and Perils of Self-Publishing and also Anne Santangeli's Italian class in which several students have already enrolled. Janice Cooper returns with another Family History Research course. Students who enjoyed her previous class spoke very highly of it. Jim Ancliffe, a member of the Sunnybank Bridge Club, recommended the Bridge class which will be taught by Andrew McKee at the clubhouse in Runcorn on Tuesday evenings. Jean will start a discussion group for Freethinkers. Eddie Keane was not present, but his Poetry course will be held at Hyperdome Library. Bryan encouraged members to join Exploring China, and later slides were shown of the China trip this year. Participants speak highly of the Experience. Rosa's Card-Making will resume next year. Monika was too busy preparing lunch to speak of her new class, Painting and Exploring Art which will be held in Browns Plains Library, as will Computers for Seniors and Short Story writing. We are keen to recruit new members in Browns Plains and in Marsden and Beenleigh to fill the classes there. The local committee heartily thank all who helped make the party such a success, and especially to thank tutors for their continued dedication. U3A really can be

life-changing, thanks to you. Finally we wish everyone a pleasant, safe and interesting time in the holidays and hope to see you all next year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.

## A VISITOR FROM ENGLAND

From Greg Doolan, Publicity:

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Barbara Pybus from Shepway & District U3A in Kent, UK visited U3A Brisbane recently and was shown around our Creek Street premises by Publicity Officer and committee member, Greg Doolan. Barbara met a number of our office staff and members and took notes on our operation to write an article about U3A Brisbane on her return to England. She also offered an open invitation for anyone visiting the UK to visit her home U3A in Folkestone, Kent.

To discover more about this U3A, visit their website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=67&page=0>

## China Trip: from Lester Cusack

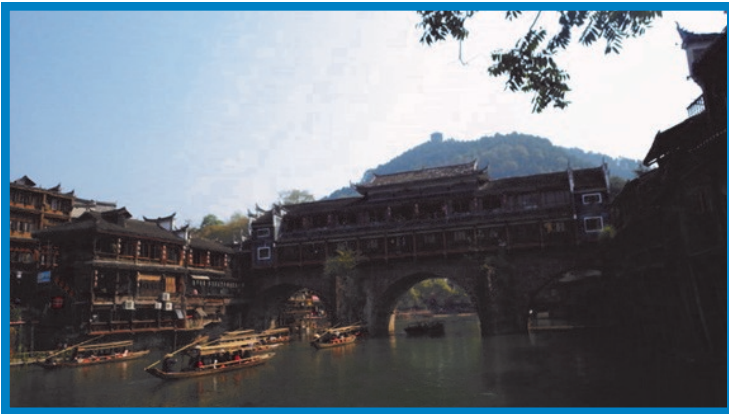
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China – so huge and populous and vitally important to Australia, but what do we know about it? For two weeks in October this year, a fortunate group of U3A members were able to discover a China beyond the usual tourist destinations. Lead by Bryan Iles (tutor of the U3A's "Experiencing China" class), our group visited the central provinces of Hubei and Hunan, flying into Nanjing and out of Changsha.

In famous Nanjing, we were welcomed by members of the “Jinling University for Senior Citizens”, a type of U3A, but with 11, 000 students, a 14 storey building and enviable resources! We took classes in Chinese painting, Tai Chi, and traditional medicine, all of us graduating with Honours!

Hubei and Hunan provinces are home to spectacular mountain and river scenery equal to or surpassing that elsewhere in the world. We visited Enshi Grand Canyon, Zhangjiajie Forest Park, Wulingyuan National Park, Tianzi Mountain, Yichang (Three Gorges Dam) and others magnificent sights. Each with precipitous cliffs, deep gorges, and karst and cave formations, all made accessible by cable cars, glass sided lifts, escalators - or boats - as well as hundreds (in some cases, thousands) of steps! We crossed major rivers – the Yangtze, the Xiang – each holding a special place in Chinese history and development.

These same areas are home to important ethnic minorities such as the Miao and Tujia peoples and we were most fortunate to see some of their amazing dance spectacles and try some of their very spicy dishes. A particular highlight was Fenghuang water “village”



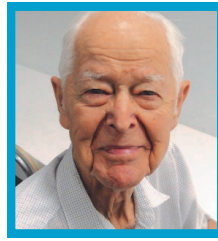
where we all enjoyed the unique sights - and bargained determinedly for the cheapest deals on souvenirs and gifts.

Everywhere we were awed by the impressive road and high-speed rail infrastructure in today’s China – not to mention the huge cities and endless apartment blocks in places that most of us had never heard of!

Our most lasting impressions are sure to be the friendliness and generosity of the Chinese people, those requests for by locals for “selfies” with us, and the search for the cheapest deals on beer at each destination!

We were very fortunate to have had the benefit of Bryan’s knowledge and skill to put together such a rewarding experience. Xie Xie Bryan!

## Happy 98th Birthday Bill Richards



Ray Bricknell has two classes on Tuesdays and one of his students for both classes is Bill Richards. Bill turned 98 on the 10th December so Ray arranged a small party for him at Saffron on Creek following classes.

It was well attended by the class members. 98 is a wonderful achievement and it shows Bill is keeping his life together.

Happy Birthday Bill.

## Internet scammers and fraudsters

Members should exercise care when dealing with emails and phone calls requesting personal information. Here are just 2 examples of the methods used to extract your personal details, generally for the purpose of identity theft.

### **This Scam is prevalent on the net :**

<http://www.mailguard.com.au/blog/spammers-impersonate-department-of-human-services-in-recent-phishing-scam>

### **And on the phone...**

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/news/beware-of-scammers-imitating-centrelink-officers>

If you have friends without a computer, do let them know about these scams.

## Social Committee News from Helen Dubois:



The Christmas Lunch went very well with both Speakers Sallyanne Atkinson and Roly Sussex being well received.. Sallyanne keeps very busy and keeps up with the goings on in Brisbane. Roly Sussex was very well received with his dislikes of some words and phrases and delivered his thoughts very amusingly. He was generous with his time and answered many questions. His advice; learning a language will give you at least 3 additional years of life. So keep those classes going !!!

I would like to thank the members of the Social Committee, Barbara Scott, Angela Butler, Prue Jenkins, who

unfortunately became ill and retired earlier in the year and is now an honorary member, Jann Olsson, June Gemmell and Jill Wootton. They have all worked hard during the year getting our activities together and making things work. We have a lot of fun doing this and it is great when things go well. They are a great bunch.

We as a Committee could not manage without the lovely ladies who work in the office. They are the ones who take your calls, do the bookings take the money and keep us advised of any problems. This bunch of very special people are Yvonne Mc Gann's staff and to them we all owe a big a big thanks . The place would unravel without them.

The activities for 2016 are listed on page 3 of the Class Schedule with the booking form is on page 4.

Keep in mind that the office is closing on Friday December 18th.

Have a very happy Christmas and may 2016 be kind to us all.

Helen Dubois

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