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PLEASE EMAIL ALL NEWSLETTER ITEMS AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE MONTH TO:

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VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In keeping with our last Vice-Presidents/President's report I am continuing the touring theme with both Robert and I away touring. Today's topic is "Vastness". Janet and I are currently in Queensland travelling by train from Brisbane to Cairns on the "Spirit of Queensland". An overnight journey of 1600+ kms...25 hours. Last week we went from Brisbane to Longreach on the "Spirit of the Outback". An overnight journey of 1300+ kms...26 hours. Out here, looking out of the train window, the vastness of our country isn't just an intellectual idea. It's breathtakingly real. Plains to the horizon and sometimes distant hills rise up. Pasture and crops stretch on forever. On the way to Longreach, even where there is no agriculture, the land is naturally tree-less and grassed. That is why it was so popular with farmers as no clearing was needed. Now, so much is as green as green can be, after large downfalls in recent times. The locals up in Longreach told us they had never seen it so green. Drought ridden outback stations which were red dust two years ago, could now be mistaken for the Emerald Isle. A station owner told us the cattle may get too fat! There is a wonderful spring in the step of the local community, who are enjoying it while they can. That was last week.

As we travelled north to Cairns, closer to the coast, everything was sparkling green. This was more tropical, so it should look greener! Next, inland to the west from Cairns, across mountain ranges through tropical forest, then on and on through drier wooded areas and savannah. Through small town after small town, once mining towns, now supported by agriculture and more and more by Tourism. After 700 kilometres we arrived on the south east coast of The Gulf of Carpentaria. On a beach, on a balmy evening in Karumba, we witnessed a stunning sunset across the waters of the Gulf. We never expected to get here! We saw so much more over our 2 tours. But you get the idea. The vastness took my breath away. At first it was a little daunting but we fell in love with it.

Footnote. As this is a U3A newsletter, I thought I should at least recognise that. So how is the U3A going in vast Queensland? Some statistics first. QL's land area is 1,851,736 sq kms, 8 times bigger than Victoria (Vic's area is 227,444 km²). QL's population is 5,240,520 (Vic pop is 6.7 mill). So Vic has a larger population in a much smaller area. The first individual U3As started in QL in 1986. U3A Network Queensland was started in 2009. This is a quote from Network Queensland's website.

"U3A is the largest provider of adult education programs for retirees in Queensland. All programs are provided by volunteers. There are now 35 U3A groups in Queensland including U3A Online, with an estimated 22,949 members."

Note that they call their individual U3As "groups". We have about 108 U3As in Victoria. QL U3As are spread over that huge area with massive distances between many of them. As far as I can tell the Longreach area doesn't have any U3As. Cairns has a couple with around 600 members (it is growing). Most of the other "groups" are clustered around the south east coast. Of course the size of QL encourages the use of online courses. It seems there is huge potential for more groups in the outback, but maybe populations are too small to generate them.

Dennis Atkin. Vice President.



OPERATIONAL DATES 2022

Term	Starts	Ends	Public Holidays
3	11 July	16 Sept	
4	3 Oct	2 Dec	31 Oct & 1 November—Melbourne Cup



"After I introduce you to solids, I'm going to need your help with some computer stuff." (from Geoff Fitzpatrick)

I've started investing in stocks: beef, chicken and vegetable...One day I hope to be a bouillonaire!

The older I get, the earlier it gets late!



I **before E** except when your foreign neighbour Keith receives eight counterfeit beige sleighs from feisty caffeinated weightlifters. **WEIRD**

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

When chemists die apparently they barium.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

Wow, I think you went too far with the plastic surgery!



Creating an Illustrated Book

(Course code: 22HUM028)

A new course, starting in Term 3 (July 14th) Rm 1
Every Thursday from 1.30pm to 3.30pm

This hands-on course is designed to demonstrate how, under guidance, anybody can create and produce an illustrated story book to share with family and friends. The approach taken to create simple illustrated story books will be explained using examples of the tutor's published books.

Participants will be invited to create the pages for their own 22 page, 6"x8", soft cover story book.

Example topics: Children's story, garden flowers, craft, hobby, photography, holiday, passion, art, the environment, fantasy.

At the end of the course each participant will have the opportunity to print one or more copies of their book.

David Fraser -Tutor



From Geoff Fitzpatrick

Our U3A Library

An OPPORTUNITY for you to look after the library. All that is required is to put date labels onto new books and remove the oldest books when the shelves are over full. The reward is having first choice with the new books. Contact Pamela at mum-rules@hotmail.com

Thank you, **Pamela**.

