John D Cooper has served U3A Sunshine Coast since the very beginning when he was one of the four course convenors at ‘Tea, Talk and Tutors’ when more than forty 3rd Agers at Moffatt Beach joined our first mini-courses. John’s story is one of emigration, discovery and enterprise, with U3A at its centre.

“I came to Melbourne as 29 year old newly hatched Rabbi with an interest in service for the international Jewish community. I had also completed studies in psychology and gerontology - the psychology of ageing well - so I was involved in ageing networks from the first moment I arrived in Australia. I intended staying for three years, and here we are now 42 years later.”

With an academic background in adult education, psychology and gerontology it was preordained that John would have a significant career in ageing networks that are the cornerstone of U3A.

“I’ve always been fascinated by the issue of ageing well, and I had a really good model, with my mother, Frayda,” John said. “What allowed my mother to age well was that she just kept reinventing herself. First of all, she was a widow at age 40, my father having died of Hodgkin’s Disease, she was an innovative teacher and taught literacy and numeracy at all levels, then became a writer and editor of textbooks. John did not pursue a religious profession. “Truth be told, I didn’t see myself as a congregational Rabbi but rather to be involved in community service,” he said.

When Frayda joined John in Melbourne in 1979, they soon after began excursions north. “In those days my colleagues and friends regarded Queensland as foreign territory. However, we set off in our little Honda Civic and kept driving north until we reached Yeppoon. Frayda was part of the very beginnings of U3A in Melbourne. “Even in those early days my mother had a keen interest in ageing, and with her sociology and teaching background decided to do something that would provide services to independent older Australians,” John said. “She was interested in the Third Agers before we even had that in our vocabulary. “Pre-U3A, I thought of communities in terms of ‘silos’ of interests. Over here were the card players, over there the sporting types, those wanting further education, and whatever else. My mother, Frayda, brought all these disparate groups together before U3A began in Australia; so, when U3A came along it became the banner for what my mother was enacting already.

“On the downside, when we relocated to the Sunshine Coast, she said ‘I’ve come to a desert’. It may be an oasis in many ways but in terms of lifelong learning there were only a few diversionary TAFE hobby courses. It wasn’t U3A as we know it: mutual-aid, self-help lifelong learning.”

The genesis of U3A was essentially a meeting of minds. Frayda discovered that many of the talented people who were teaching and convening didn’t necessarily have formal qualifications, particularly women. Her generation, and some in my generation, didn’t often get a fair go at tertiary studies,” John said. “With U3A, this was their opportunity for ongoing learning.

“We identified people in the newspaper and elsewhere who seemed to be interesting people and we target recruited them into U3A. We recruited people with enthusiasm and the will to pass on their knowledge to others. There was scepticism but my mother said ‘it’s worked in Melbourne, we’re going to it, I’m going to do it’. We didn’t spend money on advertising, we used Letters to the Editor and sent in stories to the Sunshine Coast Daily newspaper to get the word out. We worked the system and lo and behold we started having these big meetings, and we were away.”

They wanted to learn. “Oh, they hungered for it, especially women who never had a chance to study science, the humanities, etc,” John said. “It took off like wildfire.”

“We are alive and living longer, and there are now a couple of generations of Third Agers. Some of us are more gregarious, others less so, and we need to bring together open-minded people in a comfortable social and learning atmosphere. There needs to be inclusiveness in our welcome to these new members.

Continued on page 2:
We celebrate the conclusion of Term 3, and what an achievement. When other U3As have found their activities curtailed or stopped, we have managed to keep going for the entire term. A very big “thank you” to our volunteer tutors, who have been helping to keep us safe with active Covid-19 prevention plans, physically distanced seating arrangements, and the use of hand sanitisers and wipes for chairs and tables. Table Tennis tutors even checked every player’s temperature before they were allowed to play.

Since our AGM on August 8th, negotiations for what was previously entitled ‘U3A Office Manager’ have been ongoing with our office day leaders who, along with their team of volunteers, keep our U3A office running at the University of the Sunshine Coast. We now have a very successful outcome, with two of our Day Leaders volunteering to share the role. Jennifer Strike, Day Leader for Tuesday, has offered to take on the new title of ‘Office Coordinator’ and Karen Martin, Day Leader for Wednesday, will take on the supporting role of ‘Project Officer’. Both these volunteers bring with them a broad range of experience not only as office volunteers but also as employees in the business world. I thank Jennifer and Karen for taking on these roles and I hope they enjoy the work entailed for our wonderful organisation.

This term I have attended the lectures hosted by Brian Holliday at the North Shore Community Centre. The lectures have been excellent and thanks must go to Lyn Lovell, who has the uncanny ability to track down and organize most interesting speakers for our benefit.

Just one such speaker is the much honoured and awarded polar explorer, Syd Kirkby. In his topic ‘Australia’s Frozen Frontier’ he shared some of his experiences as a surveyor working in the Australian Antarctic Territory during the 1950s and 1960s, exploring where no other human had ever been before, and as an expedition leader

in the late 1970s. A wonderfully relaxed raconteur, his story about the Emperor Penguins’ domestic arrangements and child-rearing practices was charming.

We are singularly fortunate on the Sunshine Coast to have access to such vibrant octogenarians and older, who are willing to share their extraordinary life experiences with us. Please take advantage of this opportunity while it is available.

Your executive members took up the opportunity to meet the University’s third Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Helen Bartlett. As we enjoy an excellent relationship with our USC host, we were keen to meet her. Formerly Vice-Chancellor and President of Federation University Australia in Ballarat, Professor Bartlett is still chair of the Regional Universities Network, and as such, has transformed the V.C. office into a giant media centre with huge screens to run effective Australia-wide Zoom meetings.

Professor Bartlett is also a gerontologist who, during a period at the University of Queensland established the Australasian Centre on Ageing. She made us feel very welcome as we expressed our appreciation for the USC’s ongoing support, and advised her about our contribution to the university, via our bursaries, and as research clients or nursing patients. We have already invited her to be our guest speaker at next year’s AGM.

We hope that you have all enjoyed your membership of U3A in Term 3. Enjoy your break and see you back again in Term 4. Remember, our organization functions entirely on volunteers. We are always looking for new people to sign up for a stint in the office, or draw on their life’s experience to present a lecture, or if you enjoy meeting new people and asking questions, perhaps you may even consider joining the Communication team as a photo-journalist for e-Voice or Facebook.

Kind regards,

Glynis Cumming

JOHN D. COOPER
LIFE MEMBER U3A-SC

Continued from page 1:

“While the past may be important historically, should we be asking ‘what is your interest now’? Perhaps we should also ask ‘how did we get here’ and then, ‘now that we are here, where do we want to go?’”

“I think U3A should always be a place of active exchange of ideas and knowledge, with people not just attending lectures passively but becoming involved. The U3A way is to ask a question, not out of academic interest but out of lived experience, out of our ‘seat of the pants’ curiosity.

John Cooper advocates having younger people with “new energy” coming through, and working through how U3A can expand without it becoming bureaucratic in its delivery of services.

“We also need to enhance, augment and discover, with technology, but also in person. “We have unlimited access to the Internet, through webinars and online groups but there’s another dimension you don’t quite get online, and that’s the personal contact with people ‘on the ground’. in your gambit.”

The linkage with the University of the Sunshine Coast is regarded highly. “They embrace us because we are community minded and we are a gateway to courses undertaken by our members. This brings another dimension to tertiary education and not only that, if grandparents keep learning, it wakes up their grandchildren who say, ‘hey, grandma’s doing this, why can’t we stay the course’? John says the essence of U3A boils down to ‘use it or lose it’, not just the physical, all domains: continue to use and engage the educational, social and community channels, and enable people of all persuasions and health levels to participate. When we embrace the wonder of discovery with like-minded and interesting people of all ages, the Third Age may become the best chapter in your lives.”
NEW COURSE IN CREATIVE WRITING

If you are interested in exploring creative writing, this new course will provide the tools for you to begin a project of your own.

Introducing the basics of story structure, writing styles, narrative viewpoint, characterisation, setting/place and dialogue, the course will be practical with in-class exercises and examples.

To enrol or to find out more about the course please go to the U3A website u3asunshine.org.au or phone the office on 07 5430 1123.

Timings:
Start Date: 8/10/2020
Finish Date: 26/11/2020
Start Time: 10:00am
Finish Time: 12:00
(Course Code: 20WRI303)

GOLFERS’ DREAM - A HOLE IN ONE

On 3rd September at Maroochy River Golf Club U3A Golf Class Tutor Graham Whyte achieved ‘The Golfers Dream’, a hole in one on the Par 3, 12th Hole.

With his 7 wood he landed the ball 3 metres beyond a green side bunker 5 metres from the hole. It released and rolled forward 5 metres into the cup. Graham and his partners did not realise the ball had gone into the hole.

Graham has been playing golf since 1963 and this was his first ‘Ace’. When asked what he thought about his achievement, Graham was stuck for words. All he could say was, “SURPRISED”.

Congratulations Graham.

VICE-CHANCELLOR IS AGED CARE RESEARCH SPECIALIST

Professor Helen Bartlett has commenced tenure as the University’s new Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Professor Bartlett was previously Vice-Chancellor and President of Federation University Australia and has had a distinguished career in academia and university management across Australia, the United Kingdom, Malaysia and Hong Kong. She is an internationally recognised scholar in gerontology and during a period at the University of Queensland established the Australasian Centre on Ageing.

As the current chair of the Regional Universities Network, Professor Bartlett has been a strong advocate for more government-funded university places in regional Australia and greater investment in research and research infrastructure to address regional challenges.

Professor Bartlett has taken over the reins at USC following the retirement of Professor Greg Hill, who had been Vice-Chancellor and President for the past 10 years.

(Source: USC)

Participate in upcoming COVID-19 research at USC Clinical Trials

Register your interest now if you are:
• over 18 years old
• in generally good health

Contact USC Clinical Trials at our Sunshine Coast or Moreton Bay locations. Participants will be reimbursed for their time.

Sunshine Coast: Tel: 07 5456 3797 | Email: ctc@usc.edu.au
Moreton Bay: Tel: 07 5456 3965 | Email: ctcchm@usc.edu.au

Clinical TRIALS

usc.edu.au/trials
This discussion group will examine and discuss different aspects of the historical events and timelines from the 20th Century and explore their influence in shaping the world as we know it today.

A short brief will be sent out prior to each class summarising the major events of the period and outlining points for discussion and debate. Members of the class will have the opportunity to have input into the conversation, which will be conducted in a respectful, non-judgemental and informative manner.

Possible topics that may be examined include:
- 1900-1914
- The First World War
- The between years
- The Second World War
- The Cold War 1
- The Wall comes down
- The Rise of the Right
- Here we are

To enrol or to find out more about this new class please go to the U3A website u3asunshine.org.au (Course Code: 20DSG310) or phone the U3A Office 5430 1123.

Venue: The Avenue Maroochydore Retirement Community, 32 Baden Powell Street, Maroochydore 4558. (Parking is available below premises)

Tutor: Julie Pigdon
Email: yakkaj@hotmail.com
Fee: Nil

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**DISCUSSION GROUP CHRONICLES EVENTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

- The between years
- The Second World War
- The Cold War 1
- The Wall comes down
- The Rise of the Right
- Here we are

**U3A LECTURE SERIES PROGRAMME - TERM 4**

Lyn Lovell has advised the Lecture Series programme for all four venues that will be open during Term 4 at Caloundra, Mudjimba, Maleny and Nambour. Please paste the link below to view and download the programme.


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**SPECIAL DELIVERY FOR IAN R. WILSON’S LIFE MEMBER CREDENTIALS**

Ian R. Wilson wasn’t able to attend the Annual General Meeting at North Shore Community Centre to be presented with his Life Member badge and Certificate, owing to self-isolating at home, but his badge and certificate were hand-delivered by President Glyni Cumming.

Ian has enjoyed a 30-year association with U3A Sunshine Coast as a Tutor in Geography and as a staunch supporter of U3A activities.

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**CALOUNDRA TRAVEL CHAT GROUP RESUMES ITS PRESENTATIONS**

The Caloundra Travel Chat group resumed in early August, with six enjoyable presentations planned for this term. Our fabulous destinations included Kazakhstan and Mongolia with Gwyn Jarrott, Scotland its glorious islands including other parts of Britain, beautifully presented by our past leader Leanne McCauley.

Other destinations include: Antarctica with Bloo Campbell, Heron Island presented by Kathy McGowan including holiday options in Queensland during border closures. Towards end of term we will take a look at the places we travelled to before and after Covid-19, with Jeff Gunns showing how our world has changed.

Our new Venue in the CWA hall in Caloundra (opposite IGA & PO) has proved popular indeed. The Caloundra Library gave us years of valuable space and assistance but Covid forced our move to the CWA hall, just up the street.

Our numbers may have been restricted but our larger venue means we can all safely socially distance. The absence of tourists, for our avid travellers to wildlife destinations has changed vastly, with poaching sadly increased in some countries due to the absence of tourists, and some creatures taking advantage of no tourists so they wander more freely into built-up areas.

We have an exciting trip booked for St Helena Is (overseas! hah!) during the upcoming U3A recess. This trip was rescheduled due to shutdown. We still have an exciting list of destinations lined up for Term 4 both in Australia and overseas.

The photo shows our members enjoying a presentation at our new large spaced venue in the CWA hall and Leanne McCauley telling tales of British pubs.

*Ruth Fiechtner, Travel Chat Leader*

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**HAND CHIMES GROUP NEEDS MUSIC STANDS**

The Hand Chimes group would very much like to keep meeting over the holidays and they are working to meet this request. They are also asking for assistance by way of a wood working group who could make tabletop music stands for the group. If anyone can assist the Chimes group with the music stands please contact Wendy Turton at wrturton@hotmail.com.