

From the President

I am excited to confirm the commencement of our first new course in quite some time. Thanks to Ken Wood from Ballina U3A who will be conducting a series of orchid workshops for us, commencing on 20th May. Thanks, also, to Penny Fox who has worked hard to coordinate Ken's contributions to both the Orchid Society and our club. We also thank Nerada Price, who will host the monthly workshops in Mullumbimby, commencing 20 May. Ken Wood intends that his workshops will be fun and informative and assures that they will pose no threat of embarrassment to the novice orchid grower.

The committee has selected Murwillumbah as the destination for this month's outing on the last Tuesday of the month (30 May) in lieu of a Tuesday Forum speaker on that day. Denise and I have visited the Tweed Regional Museum and it seems a very appropriate venue. The staff will arrange a presentation for us. We have some options for morning tea/lunch and we will discuss these with the club at Tuesday Forum on 9 May before finalising arrangements. We may need a special newsletter to reach all members.

I have been concerned for some time about the unnecessarily high bank balance that the club maintains. Unless our groups have some equipment or maintenance needs which require significant expenditure in the near future, it is my intention to recommend that our membership fee is considerably reduced for the forthcoming year. I will speak further to the club about this at Tuesday Forums during May.

The committee has been considering how we might promote the club and its activities to the wider community. If any member knows where we could have a spot on a notice board or in another club's newsletter, please let me know. Likewise, other similar clubs or local not-for-profits are welcome to provide copies of posters for inclusion in this newsletter.

Roger Curran

Remembrance Seat

Just in time for Anzac Day the beautiful Seat of Remembrance was presented to the Members of Brunswick Heads-Billinudgel RSL Sub-Branch by members of the Mullumbimby Men's Shed and Quota International of Brunswick Valley.

"It's home is now in the Cenotaph to be hopefully used for quiet contemplation whilst respecting the Anzac Spirit," Secretary of Quota International of Brunswick Valley Jeanie Runciman said.

"The seat is indeed a community project. Members of the Quota Club of Brunswick Valley spied an image on social media and approached the Mullumbimby Men's Shed with the challenge to construct a similar product. "The challenge was accepted. The steel for the Remembrance Silhouette was donated by Roger Bowden from the local Marine Rescue Unit and the mixed hardwood timbers were donated by Don Mulcahy from the Men's Shed.

"All Members of the Mullumbimby Men's Shed contributed with each specialised trade skill

being used resulting in a beautiful result and a great credit to all.

"The Quota Club funded the project when necessary and both the Men's Shed and Quota dedicate the Seat to the memory of and in recognition of the men and women of the Australian Armed Forces.

"Lest We Forget."



Barry Hutton - RSL & Men's Shed, John McKay - RSL, Mick Wright - RSL & Men's Shed, David Lawson - Men's Shed, Don Mulcahy - Men's Shed, Bob Freestone - RSL, with Denise Hutton and Kerry Innes from Quota Club Brunswick Valley.

Report and photograph from Byron Shire News 26 April 2017

U3A Queensland Conference

Live, Laugh, Learn Without Boundaries

U3A Network Queensland State Conference
U3A 18-19 May 2017
u3aqldconference.org
Tweed Ultima Conference Centre

You may be interested in attending the U3A Queensland annual conference to be held in Tweed Heads. Full information available on [their website](#).

Conference registrations close 11th May so don't waste any time if you are thinking of attending. Note that BVU3A is not affiliated with the Queensland network.

Growing Orchids is Fun and Easy

We're pleased to report that we are offering a new course, starting soon - *Growing Orchids is Fun and Easy*.

Ken Wood is an orchid enthusiast and member of Byron District Orchid Society. He has conducted very successful orchid workshops over many years for Ballina U3A and is happy to run a six week series of workshops for BVU3A too. This series is special as it is combined with participants from the Ocean Shores Garden Club and Byron District Orchid Society.



Ken's classes are a lot of fun with a lot of hands-on experiences. The first session on May 20 will be a getting-to-know-you exercise. Ken is keen to find out what your experience is and also what you want to learn about. Other workshops will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month (but not September), i.e. May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, October 21, November 18. Our Tuesday Forum on 16 May will be presented by Ken so we will all be able to share his wit and wisdom.

If you would like more information about the workshops please contact Penny Fox on 6680 1600 or 0427 801 600.

Speakers Forum

Thanks once again to Dot Andrews for organising the speakers for this term.

9 May – Terry Christmas

Police Dogs. Terry will tell us about his experiences training police dogs.

16 May – Ken Wood

Growing Orchids is Fun and Easy. Ken is an orchid enthusiast and member of Byron District Orchid Society. He has conducted very successful orchid workshops for many years for Ballina U3A and has just started a class for BVU3A. Ken will give us some tips and stories and show us some of his pride and joy orchids.

23 May – Kim Elderton

Mercy Ships. Mercy Ships is a global charity that has operated hospital ships in developing nations since 1978, bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor. Kim, a clinical nurse specialist, first heard about the Mercy Ships program when she was watching a TV documentary. She knew that she had the skills and experience to help people less fortunate than herself, so she signed up and spent a month on the Africa Mercy in the Madagascan port of Tamatave working in the operating room. Kim will tell us her story.

30 May – Outing

Tweed Regional Museum outing. Details still to be finalised.

13 June – Stephen and Anne Jones

Traveling in Europe. Stephen and Anne will tell us about their travels, starting in London, through France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Their presentation will be aided by a video

package they have prepared. It includes a voice over by Anne, animation, photos, history of the region, maps showing the route they took and background music applicable to the various countries they visited.

20 June – Lenna Kelson

Story Dogs. According to the Story Dogs website: when children read to a dog, the outcomes are amazing. It's non-judgemental, children's focus improves, literacy skills increase and confidence soars. The non-judgmental, loving nature of dogs gives this program its magic and helps children relax, open up, try harder and have fun reading to a friendly and calm dog. BVU3A member Lenna is a volunteer facilitator, along with her dog Sooti. Lenna will tell us about the benefits of story dogs, and Sooti will demonstrate. Sooti is well behaved and only barks when you clap hands – that's her way of joining in!

27 June – Marie Matthews

Lismore Rainforest Botanical Gardens. The dream of establishing a Botanic Garden in the Lismore area had been around since 1988. The Gardens finally opened officially in June 2013, partly due to the work of the Friends of Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens. Marie is president of the garden's volunteer group. She will tell us about the recent developments on the garden including a sensory garden, a Japanese bridge, coastal plants garden, hoop pine forest walk with a labyrinth at the summit, an aboriginal plant use talking sign, plus some native bee boxes. Marie and her team sure know how to get things done.

Getting to know us better

Member Gloria Constine asked some U3A members to provide her with a photo of themselves at around 20-30 years of age, a recent photo and less than fifty words describing an event where they were courageous or in an adventure or a funny incident.

Nerada Price

Not happy with the 'norm' New Guinea called.

Working with women – basic hygiene, ballroom dancing, cooking, film making, running craft groups, and among other things teaching basic bookkeeping so as to control their earnings. Preparing village wives for their move to Australia. Even film making. I was awarded a Churchill fellowship and travelled o/seas studying cottage industry development. Papua New Guinea was my life!



Diana Gall

My great excitement as a child was cycling with my father, aged 28 and sister from Manchester to Cardiff. I was seven and my sister just 10. It took three days – the distance was 340 km, and my bike a small girls bike. My father was in total ignorance of what he so confidently decided to do. We came home on the train. My sister and I were really surprised to find out later that he had not enjoy the journey at all.



David Rowlands

In January 1957 I was a junior engineer on a steamship visiting Cornerbrook, Newfoundland. We invited a group of nurses to a party on the ship, and I later escorted a lady back to her hostel. Unable to allow me into the hostel, we kissed and parted. My taxi had left too, so I faced a three mile trip through a dense pine forest. Realising this was remote far North Canada, with bears and wolves; I ran the three miles at Olympic pace, climbing aboard bathed in sweat at minus 10 degrees F.



*Many thanks to Gloria for the work that she has put into compiling these profiles.
If anyone would like to continue with the project, please speak to Gloria.*