

From the President

Denise and I were shocked this week by the passing of my father after a short illness. He and my mother had very recently entered a respite facility preparatory for aged care so it was unexpected.

We have spent much of our time in Brisbane since early February clearing out their belongings. One discovery was a dozen pairs of old spectacles which provided a reminder that our local Lions Club collects unwanted prescription glasses for the Lions Recycle for Sight program. We'll have a collection box at Tuesday Forum during March, so please, everyone, bring along any old specs hiding in your drawer to add to the U3A contribution. Spectacle cases cannot be used though.

Lions Recycle for Sight Australia is part of the Lions Clubs International Worldwide Eyeglass Recycling Program, headquartered in Queensland and operating throughout Australia and overseas. They receive requests from humanitarian organisations either travelling to a third world country or supplying container loads of suitable humanitarian aid from Australia to groups in the third world.

Roger Curran
President
0413 060 010

From the Men's Shed

This photo of our late member Don Mulcahy arrived just too late for inclusion in the last edition so here it is for you now. Thanks to Geoff Harris from the Men's Shed.



While we're on the subject of the Men's Shed - here's Justine Elliot MP drawing the raffle for the table last December.



Dolphin Research Australia



At Tuesday Forum on February 19, Dr Elizabeth Hawkins, Founding Director of Dolphin Research Australia, told us about the internationally significant longitudinal research project that her organisation has been undertaking on the Byron Bay coastal dolphins since 2003.

Research has provided valuable baseline information on this population. Results have revealed that the Byron Bay region is utilised by over 1000 bottlenose dolphins that live in highly structured societies. Within this large population, only an estimated 30% are resident throughout the year. Critical habitats for these resident groups, which consist primarily of females and calves, have been identified within areas of concentrated human activity.

As well as the scientists driving these projects, volunteer workers play an important role in the research. Visit Dolphin Research Australia to find out more. It could be an opportunity for you to get up close and personal with these amazing creatures.

We passed round the hat at our meeting and members generously donated \$78 towards Dolphin Research Australia's work.

Brunswick Heads Stargazing

Local amateur astronomers Phillip Hood and Marie Whealing spoke with us at Tuesday Forum on 26 February. Comments from the members present included:

- I think I get it now.
- I didn't realise that so many of those things that I know come together to explain how it all works.
- Marie must have been amazing teacher.
- I even get the periodic table now.
- Those simple props made all the difference.
- So that's why gold comes from outer space.



BVU3A is now on Phil and Marie's mailing list. They will let us know next time they are setting up their telescope in Bruns and we will pass that information on to members.

In the past we've thought that we must do that one day. Now we are looking forward to the next viewing with much anticipation.

Tuesday Forum - Rest of Term 1 2019

March 12 – Des Wann



Mathematics and Me – A Love/Hate Relationship. This talk is mainly about fascinating numbers. But it also covers some other interesting and mysterious aspects of mathematics, including some magical ones.

One section of the presentation will involve audience participation and hopefully will leave you with a sense of wonder.

March 19 – Jan Olley from Byron Bird Buddies



Byron Bird Buddies is a volunteer community group, involved with bird monitoring, conservation and education in the Northern Rivers since 2004.

Bird Buddies Coordinator Jan Olley will talk to us largely about Birds in Backyards. The title is self explanatory – the presentation will inform us of the birds which visit our backyards here in the Byron Shire and will give us some clues to make sure that they do. Jan will also refer to rainforest and

shorebirds of the area.

March 26 – Marine Rescue Brunswick



Marine Rescue volunteers are recognised for their marine skill, experience and commitment to saving lives on the water. They work together, both on and off the water, to provide boaters with the assistance, advice and vital rescue services to help them stay safe on the water. Members for our local

branch, Marine Rescue Brunswick, will tell us how they train, what they are called on to do, tales of daring rescues and maybe some inside information on the development of the Bruns boat harbour.

April 9 – Friends of the Koala outing



Mark from Friends of the Koala spoke to us last year. Aside from the funny stories about koala behaviour, Mark told us of the work undertaken by his volunteer organisation and invited us to come and visit. Due to the considerable interest shown we will be car pooling to Lismore to see first hand what the koalas and volunteers get up to. More information will be

made available closer to the day.