

U3A Asia Pacific Alliance International Conference, Brisbane 27 & 28 May 2015

With the support of grant funds, representing U3A South Australia, I attended the conference and participated in the U3A Australia Alliance meeting 26 May.

The conference program was varied and the people attending seemed genuinely to enjoy the talks and the opportunity to network. Most attending the conference were Queensland U3A members with small contingents from New Zealand, WA, Tas, Vic & NSW. While I was the only attendee from SA, I met many people and shared stories and ideas.

The Program of Guest Speakers:

- Professor Jan Thomas, Vice-Chancellor University of Southern Queensland,
- Mrs Barbara Lewis, Chair of the Third Age Trust, U.K.
- Prof. Carlos Santos, Deputy Secretary General of IAUTA, Portugal
- Mr Tom Holloway, World U3A, India
- Mr Kim Seng Goh, President of U3A Singapore
- Garry Humphries, Regional Manager, Sport and Recreation, Department of Communities
- Adrian Caneris, Principal Wildlife Expert, BAAM Pty Ltd.
- Sophie Ryan, UQ student
- Sue Attar, Senior Account Manager, Copyright Agency
- David Locke, Assistant Commissioner, ACNC
- Shane Stewart, Managing Partner, Bay Consulting Group
- Dr Glenda Powell AM
- Kelly Lindsay, ACCAN
- Brendan Fitzgerald, Digital Inclusion Manager, Infoxchange
- Mark Tucker-Evans, CEO of Council on the Ageing Queensland

Many of the presentations may be viewed on the website

<http://www.u3aqlidconference.org/presentations.html>

I recommend that U3A Management Committees look at the presentation by Sue Attar from **Copyright Agency** to review the benefits of holding a licence and the Myths and Facts around copyright.

Digital Literacy (ie being IT savvy)

Did you know 1 in 5 adults in Australia are not online? This represents about 4m people. There are programs being run to increase the digital literacy of Australians, many with a focus on seniors.

At the Conference, the session by **Digital Ready** provided information on a program offering small businesses, nfp organisations and clubs, free digital training. This is a

federal government funded program. Useful if your U3A is considering using social media or online registration. The website also offers some good but simple information for our members who might be struggling with the language and offerings of the digital world.

<http://digitalready.org.au/home>

The session by Brendan from Infoxchange provided information about **GoDigi** a program being run around Australia in collaboration with Australia Post. The purpose is to increase the digital literacy of particular community groups including ageing peoples. U3As may be interested in joining the network to provide face to face learning events to increase online confidence and skills of their members. GoDigi are also seeking mentors for a program to be rolled out in September 2015.

<https://www.godigi.org.au>