



University of The Third Age
In Toowoomba Inc

NEWSLETTER 2024 TERM 3

WE WELCOMED 43 NEW MEMBERS IN TERM 2

U3A NEWS

:

EVENTS

:

COURSE / CLASS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflect for a moment on how much you enjoy coming to a U3A group each week. For some, 6 classes a week! We all appreciate the generous volunteer Tutors who give of their time. The Tutor has a considerable influence over the class as they bring together a collegiate group. Their influence is critical as a support for U3A. Some people make new lifelong friends, others are just happy to feel a real sense of belonging. For some the only people they interact with outside their home. U3A is an amazing organization run by Volunteers. I am thankful. Let's look after what we have. Our organization is made up of you and me.

It was interesting last month to attend the U3A Qld Network Conference in Beaudesert. Very full on with lots of interesting presenters. The opportunity to speak with members of other U3As from around Queensland was appreciated. We are all independent and often work quite differently but the common thread is to offer classes to enrich the lives of those of us in our 'Third Age'. The Conference theme, I felt, was the increasing use of the online world, its impact on our lives and our choice to adapt. To say 'old' people can't use technology is just untrue. That is an ageist statement. (Conference). It is only 'useful if it meets a need'. I like to see what my children and grandchildren are up to. I am very pleased that so many have worked hard to offer an online option for our U3A. Very happy with those who have a positive, 'can do' attitude to this change.

We seem to have hit a roadblock in our efforts to secure U3A members access to some classes at UniSQ. The issue seems to be access to their online class platforms. U3A did have an arrangement prior to Covid. Perhaps since then even more of their content is online. U3A has been granted access to their Library. If interested contact Bruce Arthur who is the U3A/UniSQ Partnership Officer : brucearthur01@outlook.com Thanks for pursuing this, Bruce. UniSQ have also offered Guest Speakers.

Term two for many of us has been extremely challenging. Plans to complete many scheduled tasks were abandoned. There now needs to be a lot of kind caring communication and healing. We will start Term 3 with a new Office Administrator. I look forward to welcoming her to our U3A. We received 86 applications.

I acknowledge the skills, dedication and support of our amazing, hardworking Management Committee. Anna Carson, on Committee for 7 years, 4 as our Secretary has been a gem. Just couldn't find enough words to say how much appreciated you are, Anna! Of course Anna is continuing to lead Thursday Walkers and the Singing for Fun.

We appreciate all our volunteers, particularly our wonderful Tutors. Aren't those who choose to volunteer their time amazingly unselfish and giving?

Penny Protheroe



Web Address:
u3atoowoomba.au

Facebook:
facebook.com/toowoombau3a



Philharmonic Performance Complex, 7 Matthews Street Harristown, Toowoomba Qld 4350

Office Hours : Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4pm during term time

Phone : 4687 7659 ***Email :*** info@u3atoowoomba.au



In Toowoomba Inc

NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES 2024

Term 3 starts (9 weeks)	15th July Monday
AGM	24th June
Term 3 ends	13th September Friday
King's Birthday	7th October Monday
Term 4 starts (8 weeks)	8th October Tuesday
Course Book Deadline	18th October Friday
Term 4 ends	29th November Friday
U3A Showcase	3rd December Tuesday

**\$35 HALF YEAR MEMBERSHIP
AVAILABLE FROM JULY 1**

Member Wizard Help

Marie Kajewski : 0488 176 481
Tom Fusae : 0408 981 334
Carlo Bertoldi : 0423 595 466

MEMBER WIZARD UPDATE

The ability to view and enrol in our courses/activities online has proven so popular with our members that many of them have been urging us to include some of the courses that are not yet entered in Member Wizard. But as you would know, due to the significant number of courses and activities which we have in Toowoomba (around 140), we have been entering them into Member Wizard in a staged approach where we have, at present, approximately 60% of our courses in the system.

RE-ENROLLING MEMBERS AT PPC CLASSES, WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL SOON

You will then have the option of clicking on the - **"Click here to pay for your class"**, link which will let you pay securely online by Credit/Debit card. Have your Credit Card ready to enter the details.

AGM

JUNE 24

9:00 am

PHILHARMONIC

7 Matthews St Harristown

Uni SQ/ U3A Relationships Update

As our president has mentioned, UniSQ has advised that their existing platforms for teaching students cannot be altered to accommodate U3A members. Thank you to all members who showed some interest in studying at the university.

UniSQ advises that some of their lecturing staff may be available as a 'guest' tutor for U3A classes.

Tutors please contact Bruce Arthur (below) if you would like to register an interest.

All U3A members now have free access to UniSQ's library facilities. You can follow the link UniSQ libraries (library/Unisq-libraries/join the Unisq library or contact Bruce below.

You can, of course, still study at UniSQ by enrolling as an ordinary, mature age student, completing assignments and paying course fees.

Bruce Arthur

U3A/UniSQ Liaison Officer
0408 935 764

brucearthur01@outlook.com

This is the easiest and most direct way to pay and will cut the workload of our volunteers. We will appreciate your help in this.

Alternatively, you can go to the **Member Portal** on the **U3A website** and click on **Pay Owing** to pay for any outstanding fees. This may be more direct if you have a number of classes to pay for.

A TUTOR OF LONG-STANDING - COLIN McGUIRE

Joining U3A shortly after arriving in Toowoomba in 2004 became a stepping stone in helping Colin and Roswitha McGuire settle in and make new friends.

As Colin and Rose were going to Germany in 2005, Colin started learning "German". He also joined and played table tennis for many years when Terry Zropf managed the team.

It wasn't long before he resumed his profession of teaching, by using his skills tutoring U3A students in Apple MacBooks and early editions of iPhones (think iPhone 3 released in 2008!).

When wife Rose gave him an iPad in 2010, he challenged himself to learn it and was tutoring many "newbies" in the same boat within two months !!!

With the release of the iPad many seniors students were given these devices by Family to help them keep up to date with modern communication and be safe in a technological age. Collin's classes attracted large numbers with one of his biggest being 64 students.

With newer editions of the iPhones and the iPads drawing more students to his classes Colin began writing books, large and small, mostly electronic, on Apple skills and relevant Topics. To date he's produced approximately 49, and using Apple technology, "dropped"

these into students' iPads and iPhones (saving on copious quantities of paper notes).

Information at your fingertips!

We've heard of "Sunday School Teachers", but Colin took this in a different direction when in 2014 he trialled an Advanced iPad Course on the Internet, with members from as far away as Glen Innis joining in. Following on from this he was invited, along with Rose, to teach on Saturdays and Sundays at Goondiwindi, and had a great time to boot. The happiest student during this time was the dyslexic man at Goondiwindi who learnt how to use SIRI to compile, send and receive/listen to messages and emails. A happy success story...

Back home, he often visited the homes of students, and students experiencing difficulties were welcomed to his home, learning to solve many iPad and iPhone problems with no charge.

For two years in conjunction with Law Week, and with support from Alan Langdon JP, Colin gave lectures to U3A members on "What are You Going to Leave Your Children, a subject about your "Digital Will/Estate".

Over the years Colin has had many people assist and support him, such as Liz Kennedy (who is following in his footsteps), Peter Hatch, Fae Gatfield, John



Colin McGuire

Scanlon, Bob Kretchmann, Trish Cameron and of course his lovely wife Roswitha, whom he would like to acknowledge along with the many students who have attended his various classes.

Colin, with your passion and generosity of time and spirit, you have left a gaping hole in the technology learning field of U3A, but you have earned a well-deserved break, and on behalf of all those who have passed through those daunting portals to come out on the other side as confident "Seniors" capable of using digital means of Communication, Photography, Banking, Music, and the list goes on, we wish you and Rose a relaxed, enjoyable and happy future.

Thank you Colin

ANNA CARSON RETIRES FROM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Retiring from the Management Committee NOT from U3A!

Anna and her husband Chris joined U3A Toowoomba in 2005.

Anna has served on the Committee for 7 years and our U3A in Toowoomba Inc. organization Secretary for 4 years.

She has been the leader of the Thursday Walkers for 9 years and recently accepted the task of Tutor of 'Singing for Fun'. Both these groups are very popular and require lots of preparation before meeting her U3A group.

Anna is also one of our U3A Facebook administrators, often posting about the wonderful walks she and Chris scouted out before the day. Always keen to vary the walks and find a happy place for morning tea. Just ask Anna about any place of interest between Clifton and Cabarlah and she will have a story to tell. We have the photos to prove it!



Anna had planned to retire from the Management Committee at the AGM in 2023. She kindly said she would give me a year. Her support has been absolutely amazing both on a professional and personal level. Only Anna knows how incredibly difficult this year has been for me on a personal level whilst outwardly giving the best I could to U3A. She has offered her unstinting support on every occasion and good at giving me a respectful (always) reminder that the time has come to get something going or sorted.

There is a professional public side to a good Committee but

also a personal level where members can share ideas and know it will be in confidence and trust. A good 'chat' on the side often results in a better 'public' decision.

Know we will catch up, my friend, after the AGM as you continue to volunteer for U3A.

Penny Protheroe

Dear Anna,

Thank you to our good friend and volunteer colleague, you have done an exceptional job as Secretary of U3A.

We would like to thank you for your friendship forged in the committee room and over walking trails over the last 4 years. These memories will remain with us as we carry on within U3A while you and Chris enjoy your travel.

Take care and though we are disappointed that you are leaving, we wish you every happiness. Take care and think of us some time!

The U3A motto "New Interests – New Friends" is very appropriate as without U3A our paths would never have crossed.

Warmest wishes,

Rod and Michelle

Many thanks, Anna, for your many years of dedicated service to the committee of U3A as a member and especially as our most amazing Secretary. Your professionalism, courtesy and promptness have been very much appreciated by us all. I es-

pecially enjoyed your humour, positivity and kindness. We'll miss you, Anna. Enjoy your sleep-ins on committee meeting day!

Janelle Connolly.

RAINBOW WRITERS DONATE

The Rainbow Writers have been a continuous group for more than ten years. Over that time we have written four books. More than thirty different writers contributed and many have gone on to publish their own books.

Three of the books were anthologies of stories or poems written in our classes. The book, *Heartbeat of the Outback*, was written online during the COVID lockdown with each member writing a chapter. We would wait with anticipation for each chapter as the writers tried to continue the storyline. It was challenging and the editing afterwards was a long and difficult process. We are pleased we were able to make donations to the Heart Bus and to Care Flight from the proceeds.

We were also pleased to produce, research, write and edit the U3A History book which was a fantastic learning experience for all of us.

It was a unanimous decision to donate \$1,000 from the proceeds of *Nuggets of Gold*, to the Toowoomba Hospice along with a copy of each of our four books.

Irene Bridgeman deserves a well earned thanks and appreciation for her leadership during this time. She has inspired all of us with her passion and dedication and it is certainly a daunting, if not impossible, task to try and stand in her shoes.

Jill Cory
Tutor

**U3A IN TOOWOOMBA
NEW INTERESTS
NEW FRIENDS**



Irene Bridgeman, Mark Munroe Toowoomba Hospice and Jill Cory

A Thank you from The Toowoomba Hospice

*Irene and Jill
U3A Rainbow Writers Toowoomba Qld 4350*

Dear Irene, Jill and Members

Please accept our sincere thanks for your extremely generous donation of \$1,000 and books that were written by your group. Your support is truly appreciated!

Your thoughtfulness will help the Toowoomba Hospice in its mission "To provide quality care in partnership with the community for those with a terminal illness".

It is wonderful people like you all, that make our community the great place to live in, by supporting local community organisations like ours. Thank you once again for thinking of us.

Best wishes and we look forward to catching up with you all soon.

Yours in Partnership with the Community

Mark Munroe
Business manager
Toowoomba Hospice

FAREWELL TRISH



Always a special end of year gift given by the Committee in appreciation 2023

We thank you Trish for your years of service to U3A in Toowoomba Inc. For many, especially those who come to the 'Philo' you became the 'face' of U3A. The 'go to person' for everything! We wish you well in your new job and travels

Management Committee.

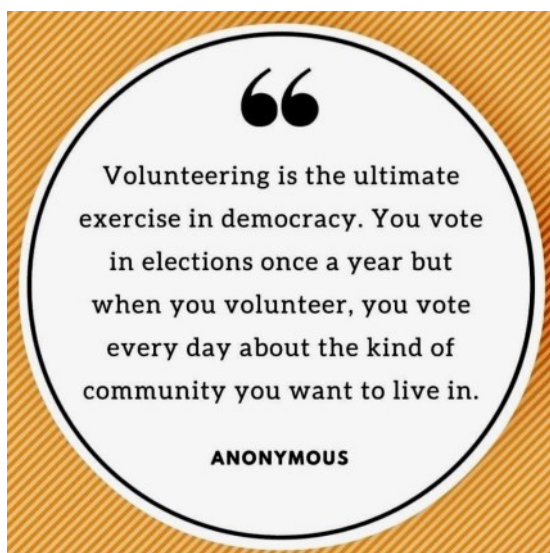


Help in the Office on busy days



Beginning of year. Helping new members to join, those renewing, and all with class selection

U3A IN TOOWOOMBA NEW INTERESTS NEW FRIENDS



U3A Tutor
Bruce Arthur in action
at The Bull's Head Inn
His Subject
Local Bush
Rangers
The Kenniff Brothers



U3A MEMBER WIZARD ON OUR WEB SITE

u3atoowoomba.au

BECOMING A NEW U3A MEMBER

On your mobile Phone (easiest), Tablet, Laptop or PC

Use your internet browser to find

u3atoowoomba.au

SCROLL DOWN TO FIND BIG GREEN BUTTON and TAP -

"New Member Registration"

Then enter your details and follow the prompts to pay your Membership Fees Securely by way of Credit or Debit card.



New Member Registration

Existing Member Renewal

View Available Courses/Activities

tutor to re-establish German
ve had many requests from
refresh their knowledge of the

please contact Judy
oomba.au
becoming Ambassadors at
mbassadors Wellcamp is
lights coming in and out of
o 3 times a day, 7 days a week.
bassador representing U3A to
e information please contact
atoowoomba.au



HOME

MEMBER PORTAL

CALENDAR

CLASSES

REGISTERING TO USE THE MEMBER PORTAL

On your Device (Phone, Tablet, Laptop, PC)

Click here

To get first time access to your account in the Member Wizard

You must be a member (see above)

Know your membership "email address"

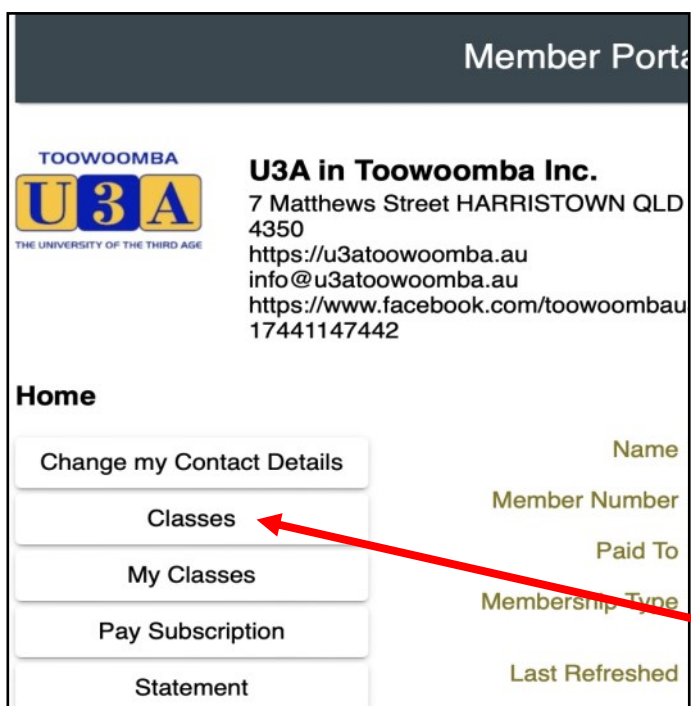
Need to "register" and get a confirmation **6 digit** "one time use number" to your email.

Copy this number into the box

When prompted create your own easily

remembered **4 digit PIN** for future access.

You are **now registered** and have a 4 digit PIN for future access.



U3A in Toowoomba Inc.

7 Matthews Street HARRISTOWN QLD 4350
https://u3atoowoomba.au
info@u3atoowoomba.au
https://www.facebook.com/toowoombau
17441147442

Home

Change my Contact Details

Classes

My Classes

Pay Subscription

Statement

Name

Member Number

Paid To

Membership Type

Last Refreshed

TO ENROL IN A CLASS OR CLASSES

On your Device (Phone, Tablet, Laptop, PC)

Find *u3atoowoomba.au*

Select Member Portal

Enter your PIN

Select the class(es)

Pay securely by credit or debit card

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEW COURSE TERM 3/4 GERMAN LANGUAGE

Intermediate/Advanced
Conversation and Writing
If you are interested in this class

Contact:
Rod Wilson
fwil2843@gmail.com
Ph 0419 174 564
Lecturer in German since 1969

The classes will firstly establish learners' levels of competence and build on their skills in communicating effectively and accurately in speech and in writing. Themes and topics will depend on learners' areas of interest.

GERMAN FOR BEGINNERS

TERM 4

If you would like to learn German here is your chance.

Contact :- **Karin Decker 0421 027 262**
ninrak08@yahoo.com.au

MOVIE GROUP - FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH

If you are interested in joining this group please call.

Dianne Turner 4633 2849



FORAGING IN YOUR BACKYARD



RETURNING IN TERM 3

Tuesdays 1:30 TO 2:30 pm
Crows Nest Community Centre

Lyn Wetzig
0411 054 366

NEW FOR TERM 3 TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE



Motivational Psychology

Wednesdays

4:00 to 5:30pm at Toowoomba City Library Meeting Rooms

Contact:
Cecily Bisshop
cecilyb@westnet.com.au
0404 987 080

A series of workshops based on Dr Bill Glasser's book "Take Charge of Your Life" an exploration of internal motivation psychology. It will assist the participant to:

- Gain effective control over painful feelings and to choose more helpful thinking behaviours.
- Become more self accepting and less critical of others.
- Learn specific techniques for resolving conflict with others and inside self.
- Add happiness and connect better in important relationships.

LEADLIGHTING TERMS 3 AND 4



There are places available in this creative course.
Learn how to create and construct projects in

Leadlighting and Copper foiling

Joining this class requires a commitment over Terms 3 and 4
It is envisaged that 4 projects will be completed over this time frame
Call Cathy Brown on 0427 822 788
pcbrown@bigpond.com

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS



APPLE DEVICES TERM 3

2 sessions on Monday mornings
having the same content

9:00 to 10:15 again at 10:30 to 11:45

*Security, Banking, Photos, Scan and file Docs,
and more*

Please call or email to express your interest.

Liz Kennedy 0477 305 345
lizkennedyu3a@gmail.com

Tom Fusae 0408 981 334
tomfusae@gmail.com

SING A SONG OF SIXPENCE

A friendly group of members sitting around the piano singing anything and everything from 1880 through to 1980. Music is good for the body and soul - come join us. We currently have two vacancies and would love to have you join us !!!

Jeanette Zeller 0474 555 543 (9am to 5pm)

jandgzeller@bigpond.com

HISTORY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Beginning 2025

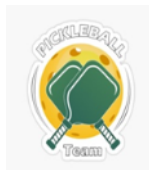
Show your interest by contacting

Julie Pigdon

0400 427 257
yakkaj@hotmail.com

History of the 20th C - This discussion group will examine and discuss different aspects of the historical events from the twentieth century. A short primer will be sent out prior to each class, summarising the major events of the period and outlining points for discussion and debate. Possible topics may include:

Pre WW1/WW1/between WW1 AND WW2/WW2/
COLD WAR AND 1960s/70s/80s/90s



PICKLEBALL



Pickleball is a paddle and plastic ball sport that brings together the elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong, to create a sport on a half sized tennis court, that's fun for all ages and skill levels. It's lower impact than tennis and easier on the body. It focuses on quick reflexes rather than powerful serves or running speed. Whether you are competitive or just want to get involved in something fun, social and active, pickleball is for you!

Toowoomba U3A members play Pickleball at the

**Clive Berghofer Sports Centre at The
Glennie School 39-45 Vacy Street
Newtown**

Mon, Wed & Fri from 9.30 until 11.30am. \$10 per session.

Why not come and have a go! It is lots of fun.

**Wendy Davies - Toowoomba U3A Pickleball
Tutor**

Contact:-

Karen Gaul (Mondays) 0427 681 863
Carol Murdoch (Wednesdays) 0447 632 108
Wendy Davies (Fridays) 0428 280 955

EXERCISE for the WELL-MEANING

Time Correction

9:30am - 10:30am

(Not 9 - 10 as Course Book)

Marie Kajewski 0448 176 481

marie.kajewski53@gmail.com

**U3A IN TOOWOOMBA
NEW INTERESTS
NEW FRIENDS**

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW WEATHER - A LAYMAN'S LOOK Term 3



**Wednesday 2 to 4pm in the
LAB Philharmonic**

How we see Temperature, Air pressure, Humidity,
Wind and Patterns, Rainfall seasons and Interaction
with topography

Dougal Johnston

0409 920 399

johndo9@jeology.com.au



BIRDING MONTHLY

Term 3 outing dates

Tuesday

July 30, August 20, September 3

Phillipa Harvey

0407 649 086

Harvey.ph6@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL PICTURE FRAMING NEW Term 3

Inviting artists or craftsmen (Mannus the hands) to learn
how to frame their creative works. Limited number of
places available and seeking participants who are familiar
with tools, electric saws etc. We require a reasonable level
of confidence and fitness. Participants will learn the
language, terms and all the steps involved in framing an
item. Expect to complete a medium size item and for further
information contact the tutor.

Margaret Cruickshank

0427309316

margycruick62@gmail.com

Monday 9.30-11.30am
Toowoomba – address TBA

PEOPLE OF THE RAJ

Finished for 2024

New Subject for 2025

Watch this space !

Glynne Hilton

0406 747 760

LUNCH GROUP B

3rd Friday of Month

Places available Call -

Wendy Robertson

0411 669 933

CONCERT

Heave Away Band

"SEA SHANTIES"



Followed by

Ukuleles For Fun

**"SOMEWHERE OVER THE
RAINBOW"**



Thursday August 22

9:30am - 10:30am Heave Away Band

10:30 - 11:00 intermission

11:00 - 12:00 Ukuleles for Fun

Seventh Day Adventist Community Centre
669 Greenwattle St Glenvale

Bring a small plate to share, Tea and Coffee
Supplied

ALL WELCOME

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUITAR INTERMEDIATE NEW TUTOR

Lee Wellington is stepping down and Brett Robinson will be taking over for Terms 3 and 4

Contact : **Brett Robinson**

0407 313 656

carbondioxide@live.com.au

MISADVENTURE ON THE HIGH SEAS NEW FOR TERMS 3 AND 4



Thursday 9.00 - 11.00 am

Austral Room Philharmonic

Commencing: Thursday July 18

Sail with us to Terra Australis in the 18th and 19th Centuries, when the uncharted waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans were full of reefs, pirates and cannibals.

The course covers Zhu Di's Treasure Fleets (1421), Batavia Saga (1629), Cook's Voyages (1768-1779) and Bounty Mutiny (1789).

See you on board. A few berths left.

Bruce Arthur

0408 935 764

brucearthur01@outlook.com

WONDERS OF WATERCOLOUR

Beginners or advanced. A course in studying composition and colour. Learn from one another and develop.

Places available contact

Ngaire Sorrensen

0491 081 383

ngairesorrensen@icloud.com

MINDFUL LIVING

Will not be returning in Term 3 but it is intended to begin again in Term 4

Janine Hills 0403 013 049

janinehills1@gmail.com

CARDS 500

New Venue

Club Toowoomba 331-339 Hume St

New Tutor

Neil Maher 0408 646 574

CLASSES NOT CONTINUING

PSYCHOLOGY / BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

Not continuing

Karlene Coombes 0408 239 338

karlenecoombes@fastmail.fm

COMPUTER BASED FAMILY HISTORY

Tutor Rick Aindow advises this course will **not** be held in Term 3

Rick Aindow 0439 290 887

GAINING CONFIDENCE IN OILS

Not continuing

Catherine Ketton 0431 190 839

COMPUTER SKILLS CROWS NEST

Graham Moore

The Computer Skills class in Crows Nest continues to explore the many and varied facilities available in our on-line world.

The class visited our new **Member Wizard** application early after its implementation. While this class is yet to be included in Member Wizard, the overwhelming opinion was that we are keen for this to happen so that we can take advantage of the functionality available. With class members spread from Crows Nest to Highfields, urban to rural residences, the ability to manage renewals, perform online payments and enrolments and check class schedules online will be welcomed.

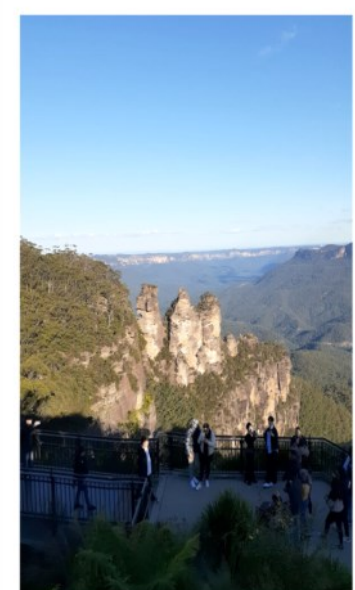
After sessions investing resources and techniques available to aid with trip planning and how to send photos back to the class, an initial road trip by one member to visit Cooktown in FNQ was undertaken. Subsequently, images of journeys to the Blue Mountains and Sardinia have been distributed to tempt others to plan and undertake adventures.

The class has also received guest presentations from Liam Boundy Community Ambassador with Southern Qld NBN local. Liam has presented information on Scam Awareness, Password Management and multi-factor authentication. The class has looked at AI, and Liam has been asked to visit again to present a topic based around the

Interest continues from the class into the techniques and skills needed to navigate our increasingly online world with some class members continuing since the class commenced when U3A opened its door in Crows Nest to our most recent addition joining us last month.



Graham Moore



Graham has been a Crows Nest U3A tutor for 7 years and along with Penny Protheroe, and Anna Carson is part of the *Facebook* team

ACTIVITIES

TRACK AND TRAIL GROUP



The Track and Trail Group led by Allan Crichton is the U3A Walking Group which offers the most challenge. They walk along existing walkways in and around National Parks and Reserves in the Toowoomba to Crows Nest Regions. They certainly enjoy a good tramp through the great Australian bush on tracks and have been known to walk up to 9kms! A picnic beside a creek is an opportune time to cool down and have a natter.

Pictured is the group taking a break for morning tea at Bull Creek in the Deongwah National Park.



The second photo is taken at Glen Lomond Park when the group walked 9 kms to the headwaters of Glen Lomond Creek along the Hell Hole Track.
Allan Crichton

LUNCH IN THE COUNTRY



This group meets 3 times a term to have a happy chat and eat in a country setting. We do travel! Our first lunch this last term was at the 'German Bake and Wurst House' Postman's Ridge Road, Murphy's Creek. Set in Lovely gardens. Next time I'll try the Wurst. We went to the new cafe 'Wild Honey' at Cabarlah. Such delightful welcoming hosts. Good food offering. Waiting for the 'Clock and Bull' to open next door! Lastly we made our way to the Pioneer Arms pub in Goombungee. Nice fire! Our Lunches are always a happy time. **Penny Protheroe**



PITTSWORTH PHOTOGRAPHY

Pittsworth Photography at the Japanese Gardens, Uni SQ. Coordinator Inge second from the right.

EXPLORE WITH YOUR CAMERA

When joining a new group it is like 'Forrest Gump's Box of Chocolates' you don't know what you will get. What we got is a very pleasant and friendly group of people wanting to know more about how their cameras work and how to take the best photographs possible. Leading us on this path to this new photographic knowledge is Tutor, Paul Knie. He is a fountain of knowledge when it comes to cameras and photography in general. What he also possesses is a great deal of PATIENCE. The group members had a range of different cameras and Paul had to negotiate his way around the different types of brands and models and show us all where to find the different controls we would need to take better photographs. After a couple of weeks terms like ISO, F STOP, APERTURE etc became second nature to us. While we spoke of photographic terms, we also chatted about other issues while we moved



around locations taking photographs of flowers, birds, lakes, bridges and portraits of each other. Tutor, Paul has led the group in a laid-back way to understand our cameras and how to use them to obtain better photographs without using automatic and programmed functions.

Rodney Ball (Student) Paul Knie (Tutor)



THURSDAY WALKERS TOOWOOMBA

Walking in 'Active Street'. The final link to the existing cycleway through the City Golf Course. Room for pedestrians also - even tired ones



**U3A in Toowoomba
New Interests – New Friends**

WHY HAVE A STATE CONFERENCE EACH YEAR?

*(Edited version of the Keynote address given by **Rhonda Weston** AM at the recent Conference hosted by U3A Beaudesert, Queensland)*

There are many components to a conference. My personal opinion is that they should be

a platform for the sharing of knowledge, after all our core business is Lifelong Learning and in today's world with its fast-changing pace we are constantly learning.

Exchange ideas that promote and sustain the U3A organization.

Communication between delegates who face similar challenges, successes and who may have found innovative solutions to common problems.

Conferences are more than just events; they are conduits for growth and learning. They offer a unique blend of specialised development opportunities from the rich experiences that they provide.

Conferences also offer the opportunity for representatives from across Queensland to meet in a social context forging connections and friendship with people who share a common interest.

Now more on Why Are We Here.

A quick overview of the history of the University of the Third

Age. It commenced at the University Capitoile in Toulouse France in the academic year 1973/74. Professor Pierre Vellas, father of the current International President Professor Francois Vellas was the founder of U3A. It quickly spread around Europe and in 1976 crossed the channel to Cambridge, United Kingdom. It became evident that the French model, operating in mainstream universities would not be best suited to the UK and the focus changed to a community-based organization. The first Australian U3A opened in Melbourne in 1984. We now have 36 U3As in Queensland with some 22,000 members.

WHAT IS OUR STRUCTURE – LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

One of the great benefits of U3A in Australia and particularly in Queensland is that it is a bottom-up organization. Each U3A is totally autonomous. If you look at the Network website you will see that we say "*At U3A Network Queensland we promote and **provide guidance** for 36 U3As across Queensland. We are passionate about the enduring*



From Left: Larry Frazer Treasurer, David Bowden Committee, John Armstrong VP, Rhonda Weston AM President, Ruth Northcroft Secretary, Trudy Graham Committee

benefits of physical wellness, mental wellbeing and social interaction derived through the programs enabled by U3A membership."

Back to our Structure which we have already agreed is "bottom-up". Your local U3A, U3A Network Qld Inc., U3A Australia Ltd., A.I.U.T.A (Association of International Universities of the Third Age) U3A Australia Ltd is the national face of the U3A movement in Australia, bringing together the State and Territory networks of U3A groups throughout the country.

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U3A Toowoomba attendees
Penny Protheroe, Rod and Michelle Pullinger,
Judy McWilliam, Julie Grant

ON THE WORLD STAGE (A.I.U.T.A)

The International President is Professor Francois Vellas. U3A in Toowoomba Inc. is a full member of AIUTA and U3A Australia Ltd is an Affiliate member. I am honoured to be the first Australian to be elected to the International Governing Board and I have proudly promoted U3A Toowoomba and Australia.

AIUTA U3As currently operate on 6 continents and in 85 countries and are considered as the Foremost International Association for Lifelong Learning in the world. There are an estimated 10 million plus senior students worldwide.

WHAT ARE THE RETURNS ON THE INVESTMENT BE IT FINANCIAL AND/OR TIME THAT YOU HAVE MADE BY ATTENDING THIS CONFERENCE: Build your corporate knowledge. A necessity for any committee member in 2024.

Remember good governance and due

diligence is the responsibility of every committee member, not just the Executive. A short time ago Network advised all U3As of the numerous *changes introduced recently by the Office of Fair Trading. These changes directly impact the management of your incorporated association. They include:*

- *Dispute Resolution Procedures*
- *Remuneration Disclosure*
- *Audits and Verification of Financial Statements*
- *Australia Tax Office Requirements*

Sharing resources and positive outcomes.

Member Wizard is a cloud-based Management system that was developed right here in South East Qld, to assist Not for Profits organize their membership. The take up of Member Wizard, particularly since 2023 has spread not only further around our Qld U3As but nationwide. This take-up of Member

Wizard is a very positive outcome.

THE IMPORTANCE OF U3A AND WHERE IT SITS IN SOCIETY. On the Network website you will find a link to a paper "The Impact of U3As upon the Health and Welfare of their Membership" by Dr. Martin Bridgstock, a member of U3A Brisbane and a retired academic.

IMAGINE THE FUTURE

Like any organisation U3A must face the current challenges. What structures and approaches need to be changed and which ones kept if we are to remain relevant and significant in the 21st century. The digital world is impacting every aspect of our lives. Everyone has their own opinion of how much or how little this improves or challenges their life. We can't deny that almost everything can and is being done online now. We have to move with the times and get on board with these new management and operating systems, whether they be internet banking, cloud-based membership programs, webinars, pod casts, streaming programs, social media and in the news at present is A.I.

However, what the digital world can't replace is the importance of personal interactions. More importantly ask yourself **HOW DID I CONTRIBUTE? HOW/WHO DID I HELP?**

Rhonda Weston AM

Patron U3A in Toowoomba Inc. Life Member.