

## OPEN MORNING TOOWOOMBA 2026

The Open mornings at the beginning of our term were very busy. Thank you to all our Volunteer Tutors for being present so Members and future Members could speak with you about your course.

We shared many photos from Toowoomba, Crows Nest and Pittsworth on our Facebook page as the events were in progress. Organised by **Marie Kajewski (Tutor Liaison)** Thank you Marie! Thanks to our **Committee & 'Friends of U3A'** who keep these events running smoothly with setting up, packing up, directing new members to where they need to go and organising morning teas. Thanks to **Libby Forster** our U3A Caterer & member of U3A, your slices and sandwiches are scrumptious!

**Penny Protheroe, President and Crows Nest Coordinator**



Did you see our Open Day Corflute signs around town? They were positioned in 20 different places advertising our great U3A family!

# OPEN MORNINGS

## CROWS NEST



## PITTSWORTH



On the 29th January we held our annual Open Day at Crows Nest Community Centre and then Friday 30th January at the Pittsworth Function Centre. It was wonderful to see some familiar faces renewing their membership for the new year and some new faces joining up for the first time. As always a big thank you to our Crows Nest & Pittsworth Tutors for coming along and to our **Crows Nest Coordinator Penny Protheroe** and **Pittsworth Coordinator Inge Gajczak** and **Tutor Liaison Coordinator Marie Kajewski** for organizing both days, **Graham Moore, Hazel and Tom Fusae** and **Office Administrator Kelly Keleher** for helping our members get signed up and enrolled in classes!

**Join a U3A class today. Enrol now before the start of Term 2**



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## NEW COURSES FOR TERM 2 *ENROL NOW*



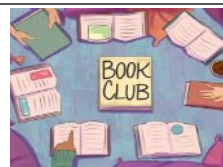
### THE U3A 'CHIMESTERS'

A new musical ensemble performed on hand-tuned chimes, which you ring whenever those assigned notes appear in the music. This is a beginner group, no musical experience required, although the ability to read musical notes is an advantage. The three-octave hand chime set is on loan from the Toowoomba Handbell Choir. An additional \$10 fee per term covers a contribution to their maintenance as well as suitable musical scores.  
Tutor: Eduarda Van Klinken  
Weekly: Monday 11:30am—1:30pm  
Venue: PPC—Studio Room  
Phone Eduarda on 0409 421 545  
Email: [eduardavk@bigpond.com](mailto:eduardavk@bigpond.com)



### INTRODUCTION TO BONSAI

Discover the art of Bonsai with step-by-step instruction on the technique for pruning, wiring & repotting to create stunning miniature trees. Learn about the anatomy & rich history of Bonsai artistry and gain practical skills. Tailored to both beginners and those seeking to refine their skills. This is a hands-on course, starting by selecting your first tree species and learning how to reflect your artistic vision. There will be small periodic costs incurred by participants for plants, soil, pots etc  
Tutor: Mark Holland  
Weekly: Tuesday 9am– 10.30am  
Venue: PPC – The Lab  
Phone: Mark on 0418 775 038  
Email: [dodge.vc@gmail.com](mailto:dodge.vc@gmail.com)



### BOOK CLUB AT HIGHFIELDS

This book discussion group will revolve around reading & discussion of current & classic literature – book to be advised by Tutor. Venue will be around various cafes in Highfields area (Tutor to advise).

Tutor: Norma Legg  
Monthly: Wednesday  
10am onwards  
Venue: Various cafes in Highfields  
Phone: Norma on 0419 013 823  
Email: [normalegg11@gmail.com](mailto:normalegg11@gmail.com)



### MAHJONG FOR EVERYONE

This group invites beginners and seasoned Mahjong players. We have sheets with multiple games/hands to use as well as games/hands you bring. If you choose to play easy games we are accommodating and if you want to challenge yourself we encourage that too. If you have a set of tiles please bring it.

Tutor: Lynne Behrend  
Weekly: Wednesday 2pm—4pm  
Venue: PPC—Austral Room  
Phone Lynne: 0447 067 682  
Email: [solidfootsteps@gmail.com](mailto:solidfootsteps@gmail.com)



### LEARNING THE ART OF CALLIGRAPHY

Learn the basics of Calligraphy, a word meaning "Beautiful Writing" in Greek. Learn the formula for creating letters & numbers. You will start with the basics of Italic Handwriting, using a Calligraphy pen & nib, then moving on to use brush/soft pointed markers for modern Calligraphy. If time allows, you will get to experiment using nibs with water colours. Additional costs expected to purchase supplies. Tutor to advise details on supplies required.

Tutor: Lynne Behrend  
Weekly: Wednesday 9am – 10.30am  
Venue: PPC – The Lab  
Phone Lynne: 0447 067 682  
Email: [solidfootsteps@gmail.com](mailto:solidfootsteps@gmail.com)



### KETO PALEO DIETING

The Keto & Paleo diets evolved from approx. 3 million years of adaptation to the food readily available during the Paleolithic period. The main benefits of the diet are permanent weight loss, reduced inflammation and support for Diabetes, Neurological disorders, Cardiovascular Disease, Arthritis and many other conditions. Keto improves mood & energy levels. The course will comprise of a formal presentation followed by a tea break & group discussion.

Tutor: Richard Gill  
Weekly: Friday 11:30am—1:30pm  
Venue: PPC—The Lab  
Phone Richard: 4635 1051  
Email: [richard.gill3@bigpond.com](mailto:richard.gill3@bigpond.com)



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### WITH RHONDA WESTON AM

➡ U3A in Toowoomba has had 4 "homes" in its 36 year history. From 1990-1994 the Empire Church Theatre was U3A Toowoomba's first home. From 1994-1999 Wesley Hall on Russell St was U3A's second home. From 1999-2010 U3A joined the complex at Unilink Village. By 2010 U3A saw its membership grow to new heights and we then required a larger space so from 2010 to present we are at our 4th "home" at the Philharmonic Performance Complex (PPC).

➡ U3A in Toowoomba helped Dalby, Warwick, Stanthorpe and Jimboomba set up their U3A's and mentored them until they became autonomous.

➡ U3A in Toowoomba gave seeding funds to Howard U3A.

➡ In the pre- Covid days U3A Toowoomba was the second largest U3A in QLD, Brisbane being the largest.

### IMPORTANT DATES 2026

Term 1 ends	Thursday 2 April
<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 22 April</b>
Term 2 Starts	Monday 27 April
Labour Day Public Holiday (no classes at PPC )	Monday 4 May
Term 2 Ends	Friday 26 June
Tutor Information Morning Bookings Essential	Tuesday 14 July
Term 3 Starts	Monday 20 July
Term 3 Ends	Friday 18 September
U3A Showcase	Tuesday 22 September
Term 4 Starts	Monday 12 October
Appreciation Luncheon all Volunteers	Saturday 14 November
Term 4 Ends	Friday 4 December

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a busy start we had to the year with the Tutors Information Morning, the Open Mornings in Toowoomba, Crows Nest and Pittsworth. Thank you to Marie Kajewski for your organisation and to all those great helpers from Committee, and 'The Friends of U3A'. With our first Newsletter for 2026, U3A member numbers at this time are about 1710 with 218 new members. It is great to see so many of our Tutors continuing to offer classes/groups. These volunteers put in a lot of preparation time so you may enjoy and learn. It is always nice to receive appreciation. A simple 'thank you' feels good.

**Did you realise that if you haven't paid your yearly membership you are not covered by U3A Insurance and are not eligible to attend any class/group? Tutors rely on each participant doing the right thing.**

It came as an unpleasant surprise to discover some had joined early start classes, with no paid Membership! So what's new in 2026? Next term there will be new classes offered. Thank you to our new Volunteer Tutors. The Committee is, at this time, investigating the possibility of offering class extensions by **Zoom**. So for example, an oversubscribed history class could offer members the option of attending via **Zoom**. Maybe the class member is away for a short while on holiday or unwell. We do not intend offering stand-alone Zoom classes. By attending a U3A class away from home you are enhancing your own wellbeing by connecting with others. We must never lose sight of that fundamental purpose.

Our U3A **Constitution** has been reviewed resulting in a number of changes. An update will be given at the **AGM** on Wednesday April 22. The new Constitution will reflect present practice and changes in Legislation.

You will have received by email the information about the AGM and the Nomination form if you are interested in joining the Committee. Remember you can Volunteer to help with the Newsletter, or Facebook, various events like Showcase and Seniors Day. It is such fun being part of these 'extra curricular' activities. This was demonstrated for all to see by the wonderful 80 members who helped or took part in last years Carnival of Flowers. It's on again folks if anyone is interested let me know. Definitely not a big float. You would be surprised how many of our amazing groups perform or share their skills in the wider community.

Thanks to Kelly our super Office Administrator who is always very busy but once again stepped up to compile this Newsletter. [Where are our Volunteers?](#)

Appreciation to our small Committee team. You do an amazing job. We will have new members joining at the AGM. You will be welcomed and appreciated - all of you.

Enjoy your upcoming holiday time.

**Penny Protheroe,**  
**President, U3A In Toowoomba**

## COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS TERM 2



### MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 THE BASICS Back for Terms 2,3,4

This course is a great way to get started or enhance your skills in Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Suitable for all beginners.

Tutor: Suzanne Strong  
Weekly: Monday 2pm – 3.30pm  
Venue: PPC – The Lab  
Phone Suzanne on 0429 821 767  
Email: marches002@live.com



### AUSTRALIAN HISTORY & IT'S "EXCEPTIONALISM"

Australian History & its "Exceptionalism" has 6 places spare for Term 2 and would welcome new participants to join this 19th-century journey in our history.

Tutor: Graham Blackman  
Weekly: Monday 10:30– 1:30pm  
Venue: PPC—The Lab  
Phone Graham on 0491 766 808



### TRAVEL CLASS

Interested in sharing those wonderful photos you took on your travels? Come and join us as we share our experiences through photos, slides & presentations and enjoy the conversation triggered by our experiences.

Tutor: Irene Bridgeman  
Weekly: Tuesday 9:30– 11:30am  
Venue: Seventh Day Adventist Hall 135 Hume St  
Phone Irene on 0423 073 753  
Email: ireneb23@bigpond.com

### PROPOSED HISTORY CLASSES UPDATE

**THE WILD WEST OF THE USA**

**WORLD WAR 2**

**RUSSIA FROM NICHOLAS II TO PUTIN**

**BRITAIN IN QUEEN VICTORIA'S TIME**

**ANTARCTICA**

Will NOT be offered in 2026 as advertised in the Course Book due to Tutor illness. We hope these classes may be offered in 2027.



### THE SPEAKER'S HUB

Join this group where you will discover inspiring guest speakers and fellow learners who will address a variety of topics fortnightly. Discover new ideas & perspectives. Be inspired. Be connected and be a part of something revived.

Tutor: Penny Protheroe , Averil Hawthorne (2IC)  
Fortnightly: Mondays  
Venue: PPC— Concert Hall  
Phone U3A Office on 4687 7659  
Email: info@u3atoowoomba.au



### MEMOIRS & KEEPSAKES

Do you have a special story, recipes, holiday memoirs, a special life event or some tips you'd love to pass on? Would you like to create a keepsake to share with your family? This course will guide you in putting together a simple personal book in one term. Each week we explore ways to shape your ideas into a keepsake book that reflects your interests & personality.

Tutor: Roz Berg  
Weekly: Thursday 2pm—3:45pm Venue: PPC—The Lab  
Phone Roz: 0411 100 736  
Email: rosalyenberg@gmail.com



### HISTORY OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Find out how history effects us today! The History of the 20th Century course hosts lively & stimulating discussions about different 20th century historical events and how they may effect us today. Enrol now to find out more about how history may not repeat itself, but it does rhyme!

Tutor: Julie Pigdon  
Weekly: Tuesday 2pm — 4pm Venue: PPC—The Studio  
Phone Julie: 0400 427 257 Email: yakkaj@hotmail.com

### PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FUN - TERM 2

To join this class or any of Lyn or previous Tutor Paul Knie's other Photography classes please contact Tutor Lyn Wetzig via text on 0411 054 366 or Email: wholeoflifenuitrition@gmail.com

### 'STEELE RUDD & HIS DARLING DOWNS CONNECTION'

Will NOT be offered in Terms 3 and 4, 2026. Hopefully, it will recommence in 2027.

### COMPUTER BASED FAMILY HISTORY

Will NOT be offered in Term 2 due to ongoing illness with the Tutor. We will announce when the Tutor is ready to return.

# TUTOR INFORMATION MORNING JANUARY 2026



**The Tutor information morning** is held twice a year to keep Tutors up to date with U3A policies & procedures, software and class schedules and to welcome new Tutors into the fold. It's organised by **Marie Kajewski (Tutor Liaison)** Thank you Marie! Thanks to our **Committee & 'Friends of U3A'** who keep these events running smoothly with setting up, packing up, directing new members to where they need to go and organising morning teas. Thanks to **Libby Forster**, our U3A Caterer & member of U3A, your slices and sandwiches are scrumptious!

**Penny Protheroe**  
**President and Crows Nest Coordinator**



## BECOMING A U3A TUTOR

If you have knowledge or skills you'd enjoy sharing, consider becoming a tutor with U3A Toowoomba.

As you are aware, our U3A in Toowoomba is supported by around 120 volunteer tutors delivering approximately 130 classes across a wide and varied program. Courses range from academic subjects such as history, languages, technology, philosophy, art, finance and literature, to sporting, social and recreational activities including exercise groups, walking groups, card games, lunch gatherings and movie groups.

Courses currently in demand are: exercise, walking, line dancing, singing, instrumental music, art, history, language (in particular French beginners).

With many classes regularly fully booked, as well as tutors requiring leave for one thing or another, we are always seeking new tutors, courses and activities to support our growing membership.

Don't be discouraged by the title "Tutor." No formal teaching qualifications are required — just a willingness to share your experience and knowledge to facilitate an activity in a friendly, supportive environment.

Tutoring with U3A is a rewarding way to contribute your experience, connect with like-minded people and continue lifelong learning for your students and yourself.

If you have an idea for a course or would like to learn more about becoming a tutor, please contact Marie Kajewski (Tutor Liaison/Course Coordinator):

Email Marie: [tutorliaison@u3atoowoomba.au](mailto:tutorliaison@u3atoowoomba.au)

Phone: 0448 176 481, or

Email Office: [info@u3atoowoomba.au](mailto:info@u3atoowoomba.au)

Phone: 4687 7659 or simply call in to the office.

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(Right) The finished product from Tutor Michele McGill's **Quilting For Advanced Beginners** group's 'Upcycled Neck Tie' project. All materials including backing and buttons have been recycled from other projects, scrap and donated neck ties. This project has been in the works since Term 2 and completed at end of Term 3 2025. Such a talented group of ladies!



Every Christmas we are so excited to see what goodies the amazing ladies in **Sew & Share** (Tutored by Jane Rosenthal) will create and last year was no exception. Their finished products are a treat for the eyes. (Above) the **Sew & Share** group enjoying their Christmas break up lunch. For Term 1 this year the ladies are busy working on some Easter creations.



Award winning creations created by Patricia McCallum last month at the Clifton Show. First place is a well deserved award.

Patricia McCallum (Tutor of **My Wardrobe** class) gives us a fine example of decorative stitching that can be achieved through most sewing machines (*Cushion*) The picture of the Denim jacket is an example of adult needlework and the far left picture is the outfit created entirely by Patricia and was entered in and won first place in the Clifton Show Society for Adult Needlework in February.

## University of The Third Age

We recently caught up with our **Lead Lighting Beginners** and **Lead Light Continuing** classes held on Thursdays at the PPC (Tutored by Cathy Brown) and saw the wonderful projects they are currently working on in Term 1 and 2.

Cathy said "It has been a busy and productive start to the term in our U3A Lead Lighting classes. Our beginners have been making wonderful progress as they work towards completing their very first leadlight panels. Learning the fundamentals of glass cutting, leading, and soldering has been both a challenge and a delight, and it's exciting to see their designs gradually come together piece by piece."

"Meanwhile, our continuing students have taken on the creative challenge of constructing solar light bollards. These projects are really beginning to take shape, with students carefully assembling their panels and preparing them for installation on the bollards or, as in Bob's case, to hang. The combination of craftsmanship and practical outdoor lighting is proving to be a very rewarding project. It's fantastic to see such enthusiasm, patience, and creativity in the workshop. We're looking forward to seeing the finished pieces in the coming weeks."

**Interested in joining the Beginners Lead Lighting class?** The next new student intake is Term 3. Please see Tutor Cathy Brown or Kelly in the U3A Office to put your name down for Term 3.



**HAPPY 80TH  
BIRTHDAY BRUCE!**



**Bruce Arthur's Archaeology Science** class surprised Bruce with a birthday cake on Thursday 5th March to celebrate his birthday achievement. We hope you have a wonderful 80th year Bruce!



### U3A Member Profile—Averil Hawthorne

"I first joined U3A Toowoomba 5 years ago and have really enjoyed the classes I attend.

I joined "The Friends" group at the start of 2025 to assist at various functions held by the organisation, and this has been rewarding meeting new people and making friends. I assist Bruce Arthur co-ordinate his class with the help of Hazel, Tom and David.

A new class this year is "The Speakers Hub" which has proved to be most interesting with a variety of topics being discussed.

I have enjoyed my role as Acting Secretary and hope to continue on as a committee member in 2026 / 2027."



**NEED A JP?** U3A can now offer this service with thanks to U3A member and former Tutor Laurie (Keith) Lawrence who has kindly offered his services at the **PPC on Thursdays at 1pm**. Contact the U3A office to book in on 4687 7659 or Email: [info@u3atoowoomba.au](mailto:info@u3atoowoomba.au)

**Share your Interests  
Become a TUTOR**

**New class at the PPC in 2026 on alternate Mondays 9-10.30am, starting first Monday of Term.**

It is always a step into the unknown when starting a new group. Will members choose to attend? We started with 20 members prepared to 'give it a go'. After each Speaker has addressed the group we offer morning tea and an opportunity for all attending to chat with our Guest. I especially want to thank members who came to help: **Tom Fusae** & **Bruce Arthur** for sorting technology and encouraging speakers to wear a head microphone!, **Hazel Fusae** and **Averil Hawthorne** for helping with Morning tea and lots of other things, and **Lee Wellington** our U3A Photographer.

Penny Protheroe  
'The Speakers Hub'

**Term 2 Guest Speakers at the 'Hub'. A good variety of topics are, again, offered.**

**27<sup>th</sup> April.** Dr. Elias Mardini. **"Damascus, one of the oldest cities in the world"**. Very topical these days.

**11<sup>th</sup> May.** Daryl Thompson, Pipe Major, **Toowoomba Caledonian Society Pipe Band** or one of the Toowoomba based members of the band will address the group. Explain how bagpipes work, history, community parades. Have requested a tune or two!

**25<sup>th</sup> May.** Dr Rohan Genrich, Head of Business at UniSQ is returning by popular demand. A dynamic, engaging speaker. Topic: **"AI"** - addressing different aspects.

**8<sup>th</sup> June.** Professor Jonti Horner. UniSQ, Astrobiologist and Astronomer. **"In search of Alien Worlds"**. Jonti is an outstanding speaker. You may have heard him on the ABC and River 949 Radio.

**22<sup>nd</sup> June.** Maurice French, Vice President, Toowoomba Historical Society and Emeritus Professor of History, UniSQ. **"Researching Toowoomba's Historic Sites.** eg The Beresford's Building, 353 Ruthven Street."

**The Speakers Hub. Term 1 Guest Speakers:**

**2nd February** - President of the Southern Beekeepers Association, Toowoomba Region - Glen Tucker. We definitely know more now about bees, the varroa mite and keeping bees. Glen brought bees with him and a sample hive to explain the process. He also offered a honey tasting.

**16th February** - Dr. Kim Fielke. Anaesthetist. Topic – Working in war torn Syria for '*Medicines sans Frontieres*' (Medicine Without Borders) – very brave, Mercy Ships on Madagascar, and his latest special interest in Vanuatu.

**2nd March** – AI - Dr. Rohan Genrich, Head of Business, Senior Lecturer, UniSQ. Rohan, an engaging speaker, gave a general address on what AI is and isn't. It processes data, it cannot reason and it is not a person. It can be wrong!

**16th March**—We have all seen documentaries about Kokoda. Greg gave a totally different context as he worked on a very large cattle property, The Mamba Estate at Kokoda- 4046ha with 1600 ha of rubber trees and running 2,200 beef cattle. Gives a different perspective, doesn't it? His address included not only the war stories but the whole amazing New Guinea experience.

**30th March** - Egypt – Robyn Adams. At time of publishing Robyn has yet to address the group. We cover Robyn's trip to Egypt in more detail further in this Newsletter.



To my left: Dr Fielke, Jeannie Barton, who has an organisation, TAFEA (islands of Vanuatu) where she is organizing the funding of the building of a maternity wing on the hospital on Tanna, & Averil Hawthorne.



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**The Travel Class** with Tutor Irene Bridgeman (far right) at the Seventh Day Adventist Hall enjoying sharing photos, slides and presentations of their various travels and adventures.



The Green Chicken Writers (*Front left to right*) Norah Price, Henry Campey, Tutor John W. D. Humphreys (FM\*), Steve Smith, Ros Billingsley (FM\*), and Phil Anning. \*Founding Members.

*Below* : Ros Billingsley's impressive home studio.



*(right)* **Line Dancing—Beginners class.** Tutored by Bev English. As we near the end of another enjoyable term of line dancing, it's wonderful to see the progress being made by both our beginners and continuing dancers. The beginners have been steadily building their confidence and mastering the basic steps, while the continuing group has been expanding their repertoire and polishing their technique.

To add a little festive fun to the class, Bev and her trusted team treated everyone to a lively jig in celebration of St Patrick's Day. Their demonstration brought plenty of smiles, a great burst of energy to the room, and perhaps even inspired a few dancers to give the jig a try themselves!

It has been a fantastic term filled with laughter, learning, and plenty of dancing. Well done to everyone for their enthusiasm and commitment—we look forward to seeing even more progress next term.

**The Green Chicken Writers** remain alive and well (John's own words!) Having started almost 15 years ago in the second term of 2011, we've seen a number of writer members come and go. Many members through the years have published their own book(s) while a member, and as a group published our collection of stories book titled: 'Through the Keyhole' in November 2012, sold and was profitable. Since startup in 2011, we have operated weekly during all terms - even through Covid19 - creating and sharing our weekly 1000 word stories with the current group of members. For the 2026 startup we are operating with one vacancy, and remain operating weekly at different members' homes.



**German for Beginners and Intermediate/Advanced Learners** Members of the U3A German classes have joined the local "Stammtisch" group. A "Stammtisch" is a table reserved in German pubs for regular customers. If you are visiting a German pub and see the "Stammtisch" sign DO NOT sit down at it. The local group has been in existence in various forms since mid-1996, having been founded by Rod Wilson, then of USQ, now tutoring the U3A Intermediate/Advanced group. Karin Decker, Tutor for the Beginners group, was also in attendance at the most recent monthly dinner, held at Ice 'n Spice in the CBD. (See photo). This is an ideal opportunity for U3A learners to engage in conversation with local native speakers of German.

## U3A Toowoomba Fog Jug Band

Jug bands were born in the southern states of the USA after WWII. African-Americans could not afford expensive musical equipment and made their own instruments out of cigar boxes, tea chests, wine and whisky jugs and washboards. The genre of music, mainly twelve bar blues, also originates from such legends as Lead Belly Leadbitter and Muddy Waters. The band tries to incorporate all these elements into their music.

The band is made up of budding grey nomad musicians, rejects from other music classes, misfits and lovers of Memphis Blues: **Bruce Arthur (Fogman vocals and Banjo), Ian Harding (Washboard), Dave Mathers (Bass and Harp), Tony Done (lead Guitar), Suzie Ross (lead female vocals and Lagerphone), Geoff Ford (rhythm Guitar), Kat Adams (Keyboards) and Nette Hilton (lead Jug player and Banjolele).**

Toe Tapping Music for all the Family

'That Jug Band Music Certainly Was a Treat For Me!'

Bruce *Fogman* Arthur



**The Toowoomba Fog Jug Band** were invited by the National Trust to perform at the Royal Bulls Head Inn at Drayton. A fantastic time had by all, with the audience happily singing along to the music. The event was well attended and the musicians were paid handsomely in Tea & Scones following the performance.

If you would like your group to feature in newsletters, on Facebook or in the Course Book, please send a couple of photos and some words to Kelly at the Office [info@u3atoowoomba.au](mailto:info@u3atoowoomba.au)  
Facebook Admins are Penny Protheroe, Anna Carson and Graham Moore



**COMPUTER SKILLS  
MADE EASY**

**TERM 1 HIGHLIGHTS**

This term the U3A Computer Skills class focused entirely on spreadsheets in response to strong member interest. Participants were keen to build practical skills they could use everyday in tasks such as budgeting, record keeping and simple data analysis. The class began with the fundamentals, ensuring everyone was comfortable navigating spreadsheet programs, entering data and understanding rows, columns and basic formatting. As the weeks progressed, the group explored how to enhance their spreadsheets by creating charts and tables to present information clearly and visually.

**This class runs again in Term 3**

**Email: graham.moore8@gmail.com**

Some members of the **"EARLY SETTLERS OF THE CROWS NEST, RAVENSBOURNE AREA"** class with Tutor Ian Eustace.

Ian has considerable knowledge of the area and presents his extensive research. Very interesting. Thanks Ian. One topic was the history of the train line from Toowoomba to Crows Nest. One of the ladies in the class lives in what was the Cabarlah Station house.

Ian told a story which can be found in 'Tall Timbers'. The steam train took 3 hours to travel from Crows Nest to Toowoomba. On one occasion, the story goes, an elderly man alighted from the train in Toowoomba and presented a child's ticket for the journey. When challenged his comment was that when he got on the train he WAS a child! It took the train 1 hour from Crows Nest to Geham. Very steep.



Crows Nest 1890s

Crow's Nest railway yards, 1890s. Turntable in foreground.



**CROWS NEST**



**PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FUN  
TERM 2 ONLY**

This general interest group is designed for people who want to explore and photograph various parks and locations around Crows Nest and Toowoomba. Come along and enjoy the company of others who share your interest. Expeditions will be casual, not strenuous, and last about 2 hours. Bring whatever camera (including phones) you use. We usually end up enjoying a coffee (café or picnic depending on location) afterwards.

**Tuesday Fortnightly—1:30pm—3:30pm**

**To join this class or any of Lyn or previous Tutor Paul Knie's other Photography classes please contact Tutor Lyn Wetzig via text on 0411 054 366 or**

**Email: wholeoflifefnutrition@gmail.com**

**NATURE JOURNALLING - NOW 2 GROUPS!** In the Crows Nest area with Rosalie Eustace, a talented artist and inspirational Tutor. **There are a couple of vacancies in both classes, one on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and the other on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, both held in nature areas near Crows Nest.** The group at Williams Park, Highfields did some exercises in contour and rapid drawing and then went for a walk drawing things in nature along the way and then sharing what they found. The other group did some writing exercises then found something to draw and write about at Gus Beutel Lookout at Ravensbourne.



**UKULELE CROWS NEST**

This group started in 2017 when David and Marita Rayner kindly came from Toowoomba. Ian Harding travels from Highfields to lead this enthusiastic group who refuse to let Ian retire, he is so popular as a Tutor! Thanks Ian.





**Pittsworth U3A photographers**, tutored by Inge Gajczak, joined **Pittsworth U3A artists**, tutored by Cecelia Krieg, for a creative day at the Pittsworth Art Gallery.

U3A Tutor Liaison/Course Coordinator, Marie Kajewski, was invited to see the artists at work and to view the impressive award-winning displays of art and photography from our tutors and members. The photography group was there to capture the activity and fun of the day.

It was a great reminder of the talent among our U3A tutors and members, and their enthusiasm for sharing their skills with both beginners & experienced artists alike.



On 21st March 2026, Pittsworth was celebrating local talents at the Pittsworth Art Gallery, while Crafty Quilters displayed their work at their room in Yandilla Street. The Women's Shed, Woodcrafters and Men's Shed had their doors open at the Pioneer Village.

**Trish Arnold's Ukulele group** entertained at the main street which was a real joy to listen to. The Pittsworth Ukulele group is Simply the Best!

The Photography class in Pittsworth continues to grow each year, with most students coming from Toowoomba. Tutor Inge Gajczak has welcomed many new faces as well as returning participants year after year. It seems that once people join, the camaraderie and friendly atmosphere encourage them to come back. Enthusiastic photographers contribute images for local brochures, maps, and even for a major exhibition stand at Pittsworth's Centenary Park. They also showcased their talents by providing photos for a 35-minute slideshow titled '**Pittsworth in Pictures**'. Nowadays, many of these keen photographers also attend the photo-editing class producing impressive results.



## EGYPTIAN EXCURSION by Robyn Adams

Egypt called once again. Try as I might to ignore it, I embarked on a fourth visit in December last year, joining 40 other Egyptophiles on a deeply spiritual journey. My first visit was way back in 1963, a day trip to Cairo while our ship the old P&O *Strathmore* negotiated the Suez Canal. The second in 1981, was my first real spiritual journey led by Paul Soloman, an American teacher; the third in 2017 was with the group I have just been with last December, which I was sure would be my last, but no, the pull was strong. Each trip has been full of adventure and some mishap.

The journey began in Cairo with a visit to the ancient capital of Memphis. The ancient city of Memphis is one of the most fascinating and mysterious places in the world. Founded over 5,000 years ago by Memes, Memphis was once the capital of Egypt and a hub of trade and culture in the ancient world. Today, the city lies in ruins, but its legacy lives on through the countless artifacts and monuments that have been uncovered by archaeologists over the years, like the broken mega-statue of Ramses II.



The following morning, after watching the sunrise between the paws of the Sphinx, was spent entranced by the new Grand Egyptian museum which had opened only a month earlier, and nearly rivals the small pyramid in size. Over 1 million items, many of which have been stored for decades, are on display, but the crowning glory is the section devoted to Tutankhamen, his golden tomb and the exquisite alabaster canopic jars containing his vital organs. One morning was not nearly enough time to spend there.

Abu Simbel, site of two temples built by the Egyptian king Ramses II in 13<sup>BCE</sup>, located in ancient times at pharaonic Egypt's southern frontier facing Nubia. . Endangered by the erection of the Aswan High Dam in the mid-20th century, the temples were disassembled and reconstructed on higher ground. That evening several of us attended the Sound and Light show at the temple, telling of the life of Ramses II.

Across to the West Bank to visit the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Queens, following a very early start, we were walking up the ramp to Hatshepsut's well preserved Temple at sunrise, marvelling at the dozens of hot air balloons drifting aloft.

Karnak is probably the most impressive Temple in Egypt with its mighty pillars reaching up to the sky above.

Finally we arrived at Abydos, once the beautifully decorated palace of Pharaoh Seti I, housing the ancient Osirion, a weird and wonderful structure, unique in Egypt, perhaps an antediluvian building, and still baffling Egyptologists. Two days at the Oberoi luxury resort on the Red Sea restored some of our depleted energy, for it had been a strenuous journey. On returning to Cairo, the group spent two private hours in the Kings and Queens chambers, mostly in deep meditation, before being treated to a sumptuous dinner show, featuring Whirling Dervishes, at our hotel.

The following day most of the group left for the airport, while I had planned to stay on for a couple of days to travel to Alexandria and further explore the museum, but was felled by an unknown lurgy which confined me to the hotel. Not a very comfortable flight home.

Recently, several prominent scientists and scholars have stated that the pyramids of Giza are not the tombs of ancient Pharaohs who only renovated or put their names on them, but 10,000 year old power generators and frequency resonance devices that powered a great power system. These claims can be viewed on a number of YouTube channels.



**If you would like your travel story to be featured in our Newsletter please forward a few photos and a short 'blurb' to Kelly in the office via email [info@u3atoowoomba.au](mailto:info@u3atoowoomba.au)**



“Technology is most effective when wielded by people who provide the necessary ‘human’ elements: deep insights, creativity and ethical judgment”

The Speakers Hub, Guest speaker **Dr Rohan Genrich, Head of Business UniSQ.**

## A Gentle Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

A short guide for U3A members

### What do we mean by Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems that can recognise patterns, learn from data, and make predictions or generate outputs — without being programmed step-by-step for every situation. AI does not think, feel, or understand in a human sense. It works by analysing large amounts of data and identifying statistical patterns.

### Why does AI seem to be everywhere now?

AI has existed for decades, but recent advances have made it more visible due to vast amounts of digital data, much faster computers, and improved mathematical techniques.

### What AI is good at?

AI works best with large volumes of data, repeated patterns, and clear goals. Common examples include spam filtering, fraud detection, speech-to-text transcription, image recognition, navigation systems, and recommendation engines.

### What AI is not good at?

AI struggles with common sense, moral judgement, understanding meaning, and knowing when it is wrong. Confidence does not guarantee correctness.

### Generative AI: why it feels different

Newer AI systems can generate text, images, music, and video. They predict what comes next based on patterns in data; treat outputs as drafts, not final authority.

### AI and professional life

AI rarely replaces entire professions. Instead, it reshapes tasks within them, supporting education, medicine, law, business, and the humanities while leaving judgement and responsibility with people.

### A sensible way to think about AI

AI is a powerful tool, not a human mind. Its impact depends on how people choose to use it. Ask where it helps, where it should not be used, and who remains responsible.



### APPLICATIONS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WITH REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

