



U3A TOOWOOMBA AGM 2026

On Wednesday 22nd April we had our Annual General Meeting held in the PPC Playhouse. It was a smaller meeting this year for various reasons, but we had a confirmed 32 members in attendance all up. Many topics were discussed and our 2026 Management Committee were elected. After the formalities were completed, we closed the 2026 AGM with a delicious morning tea provided by U3A caterer Libby Forster.

U3A Management Committee 2026

(left to right) (top) Marie Kajewski, Suzanne Strong, Craig Brunckhorst, Greg Jacobsen, Carlo Bertoldi, David Wilson (bottom) Michelle Neven, Averil Hawthorne, Penny Protheroe, Julie Grant, Jennie Thomas, Robb Keeley, Kathryn McLaughlin (absent: Gillian Lyons)



Join a U3A class today. Enrol now before the start of Term 3



University of The Third Age
In Toowoomba Inc

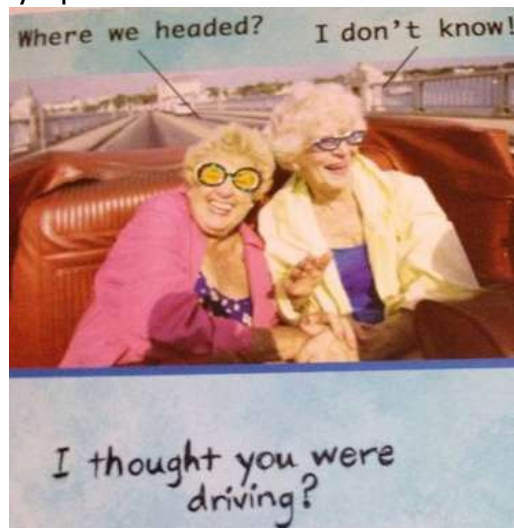
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



WITH RHONDA WESTON AM

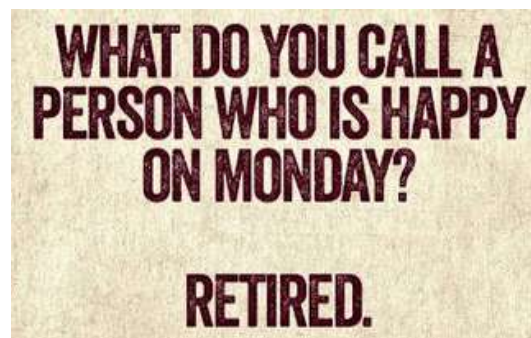
- ➔ U3A in Toowoomba Inc. created, organised and ran the very successful Seniors Expos for 9 years. 2010 - 2018
- ➔ U3A in Toowoomba Inc. hosted the very successful 2013 Qld State Conference, held at the beautiful Gabbinbah Homestead.
- ➔ U3A in Toowoomba Inc. had a poem, 'Mellow Fruitfulness', written especially for this conference. The conference theme was 'High Country Encounter'.

As many of you know, our fearless leader Penny Protheroe is taking some time off from U3A duties for a well-earned and overdue holiday. Many areas of her road trip to Perth are without adequate internet service so she is unable to provide us with her President's Message for this Newsletter. Stay tuned in the next Newsletter for some photos and anecdotes from her holiday upon her return!

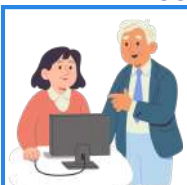


IMPORTANT DATES 2026

Term 2 Ends	Friday 26 June
Tutor Info 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
Term 4 Ends	Friday 4 December



18th - 24th May is National Volunteer Week. At U3A we rely on volunteer Tutors, 2IC's, Committee and helpers to keep our doors open and classes running. So, this week and every week we say a huge thank you for your time, knowledge and skills that you share with us each week.



COMPUTER SKILLS MADE EASY
Returning in Term 3

Build Your Confidence with Technology!

Topics may include:
Using computers, tablets and smartphones
File management and cloud storage
Internet searching and online safety
Email and communication tools
Questions and troubleshooting sessions
(No advanced knowledge required)
Tutor: Graham Moore
Fortnightly: Monday 9:30am - 11:30am
Venue: Crows Nest Community Centre
Phone Graham 0400 580 103
Email: graham.moore8@gmail.com or
info@u3atoowoomba.au

FAMILY HISTORY
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The class/session would include the following items:
In depth workings of the Ancestry, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage web sites and Family Tree Maker software
Available web sites for free family history records also information about AI, and DNA
Venue: PPC Austral – Friday – 9am-11am.
Members interested, please phone or email Rick Aindow:
Email: rickaindow@gmail.com
Phone: 0439 290 887 leave a message if there is no answer



MAHJONG FOR EVERYONE

Taking new beginners!
Tutor: Lynne Behrend
Wednesdays weekly 2pm-4pm
Venue: PPC Austral Room
Phone Lynne: 0447 067 682
Email: solidfootsteps@gmail.com



TRAVEL CLASS


Interested in sharing your travel experience and photos?
We would love to have you join our class for a great morning somewhere around the world, topped off with a cuppa and a chat. We meet Tuesdays from 9:30am - 11:30am at the SDA Hall, Glendale. Contact Barbara Rose on 0410 898 70 or email: barbararose11@gmail.com



PASTEL DRAWING
SPACES AVAILABLE!

Come and join a happy, friendly group who enjoy their art and morning tea. Students need to bring their own materials. The tutor can send you a suggested materials list.
Tutor: Allan Crichton
Wednesday weekly 9am - 11am PPC Playhouse
Phone Allan: 0407 203 008
Email: crichtonallan00@gmail.com


APPLE DEVICES
Returning in Term 3 with a change in format



The class will take on a more interactive approach, relying only on participant questions and discussion. Bring along your Apple device questions, challenges, or topics of interest, and we will explore solutions together. I will be available to assist and support you as much as possible. Please note the Monday class will not be offered in Term 3.

Tutor: Liz Kennedy
Thursday Weekly 9am—10:15am
Venue: PPC The Lab
Phone Liz: 0447 305 345
Email: lizkennedyu3a@gmail.com

PENTEL DRAWING
Spaces Available!



This course is for artists who can work in this genre on their own. We have a very friendly and knowledgeable group of inspired artists.

Tutor: Rosemary Kennedy
Tuesday Weekly 11:30am - 1:30pm
Venue: PPC- Studio Room
Phone Rosemary: 0457 612 344
Email: flagstock@bigpond.com


ART WEDNESDAYS
SPACES AVAILABLE!



Come and join us on Wednesday mornings for a few hours of learning and fun. Beginners, experienced artists and all levels in between are welcome. Individual help will be given if needed as you work on your own reference material. Come and enjoy an atmosphere of friendship and creativity in the art gallery in the lovely town of Pittsworth.

Tutor: Cecelia Krieg
Wednesday weekly 9am- 1:30pm
Venue: Pittsworth Art Gallery
Phone Cecelia: 0429 939 174
Email: ceceliakrieg14@gmail.com

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY & IT'S EXCEPTIONALISM



Term 3 begins at the dawn of the 20th century, the 'age of optimism'. New participants welcome to join us at this momentous occasion in our history as we start at Federation and go through until the 21st century and modernity.

Tutor: Graham Blackman
Mondays Weekly 10:30am - 1:15pm
Venue: PPC The Lab Room
Phone Graham: 0491 766 808
Email: aushistorygroup25@gmail.com



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In Toowoomba Inc

NEW COURSES FOR TERM 3 ENROL NOW

NEW HISTORY CLASS! Terms 3 & 4



ARCHAEOLOGY SCIENCE:

HOMOSAPIENS BECOMING HUMAN.

Our fascinating human journey.
Who are our far distant ancestors?
How long ago did we come down from the trees and walk on two legs?
Why do we carry traces of Neanderthal genes in our genomes?
How did Homosapiens become the dominant hominin species on earth today?
Travel on this fascinating journey through time with Charles Darwin, Gregor Mendel and Watson and Crick. Term four covers the latest DNA human migration data from around the world. Some knowledge of biology would be of great assistance for this course. Limited places available. Power Point notes posted to Member Wizard 'Class Resources' each week.

Tutor: Bruce Arthur
Thursday weekly 9am - 11am
Venue: PPC- Austral Room
Phone Bruce: 0408 935 764
Email: brucearthur01@outlook.com

HAND STITCHING OF ALL SORTS



Do you enjoy hand stitching? Think traditional hand embroidery such as crewel, candle wicking, gold work or cross stitch and beading. Even the modern 'slow stitching'. For anyone who loves a slow, gentle approach to creating. Work on your own projects independently or get tutor assistance with techniques, completion and knowledge. Students to bring their own materials.

Tutor: Julie Elliott
Monday weekly 11:30am - 1:30pm
Venue: PPC Studio Room
Phone Julie: 0422 177 935
Email: juelrose@westnet.com.au

BRITAIN IN QUEEN VICTORIA'S TIME



This course will survey the period of British history when Queen Victoria reigned from 1837-1901. It will include social and political ideas along with other aspects of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Course will include PowerPoint, DVDs and notes.

Tutor: Rob Eckersley
Wednesday weekly 11:30am - 1:30pm
Venue: PPC Austral Room
Phone Rob: 0409 809 800
Email: rob.eckersley@internode.on.net

DO YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF BELLS? MY, WHAT A LOVELY SOUND!



Term 3 sees the commencement of a new musical group, **The U3A Chimesters!** The chimes make a beautifully melodious sound and are very easy to ring. While some musical knowledge is an advantage, this group is designed for beginners.

Members of the affiliated **Toowoombells Handbell Choir** will be on hand in the courtyard of the PPC at various times during the last week of term 2 for people who wish to have a go at ringing them.

Tutor: Eduarda van Klinken
Tuesdays weekly 2pm - 4pm
Venue: PPC Studio Room
Enquiries about joining the U3A Chimesters can be directed to Eduarda van Klinken via email eduardavk@bigpond.com

IPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY



Discover how to make the most of your iPhone's features! This course is perfect for beginners and also covers the basics of photography. It's a hands-on course, so please bring your iPhone to the classes. Plus, we'll have a field trip to put your new skills to the test!

Tutor: Bruce Shaw
Wednesday weekly 2pm - 4pm The Lab
Venue: PPC The Lab Room
Phone Bruce: 0431 861 199
Email: owenshaw1956@gmail.com

FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS



Learning a new language can be so rewarding. Whether you are just starting out or have some prior knowledge of French, we encourage you to join this class and expand your knowledge.

Tutor: Connie Naehu
Thursday weekly 11:30am - 1:30pm
Venue: PPC Lab Room
Phone Connie: 0414 618 360
Email: conniecdt25@gmail.com





JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

U3A member Laurie (Keith) Lawrence had kindly offered his services as a qualified JP at the PPC during Term 2 on a Thursday. Please note that the service will now be offered Term 3 **Fridays at 1:30pm**. This service is by appointment only. Please contact Kelly at the Office to book an appointment.

CRADLES OF CIVILIZATION

GREAT DEBATE

Can Our Planet Sustain a Population of 10.9 Billion?

Thursday 25th June | 9:00 - 11:00 am | Austral Room



Quilting for Advanced Beginners with Tutor Michele McGill.

The ladies' project for Term 2 & 3 is the creation and completion of this fabulous quilt named **'The Community Quilt'**. Each piece has been made by a different group member using their own materials starting with the 'snail trail block' in the centre. Many hands make light work as they say! At completion the quilt will be donated to the Toowoomba Hospice. The talented quilters are Doris Clarke, Ann Matthew, Trudy Kay, Joanna Boast, Elizabeth Betts, Michele McGill.



"Two possibilities exist: Either we are alone in the universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying." Arthur C. Clarke.

On the 8th June **U3A Speaker's Hub** Group, we had the absolute pleasure of listening to Jonti Horner (Astrobiologist and Astronomer) as he spoke about "The Search for Alien Worlds". He also told us how UniSQ is at the forefront of planet discovery work through the Mount Kent Observatory, located at a dark-sky site outside of Toowoomba in southern Queensland. Mount Kent Observatory is Queensland's only professional research observatory for astronomy teaching and research training. This world-class facility includes an array of state-of-the-art telescopes and technology, bringing UniSQ researchers and students to the forefront of ongoing research.

Jonti is also a passionate astrophotographer.

In his own words:

"I first became interested in astrophotography as a teenager back in the 1990s. Back then, I took photos using an old Pentax ME Super camera, on slide film. Taking pictures was a costly and frustrating experience - especially when the photographs took several weeks to develop! Nowadays, I take wide-field photographs using my Canon EOS R6 camera, with Samyang lenses, and a Star Adventurer tracking camera mount. I am also the proud owner of a Celestron 8" RASA telescope, which I use to image deep sky objects across the night sky." You can check out examples of Jonti's astrophotography at: AstroJonti.com

**Share your Interests
Become a TUTOR**

The Speakers Hub - Term 3 & 4 Guest Speakers

The Speakers Hub runs Monday fortnightly at the PPC Concert Hall from 9am - 10:30am

Term 3

- 20/07/2026 Jeannie Barton - Building health and hope on Tanna Island and TAFEA Province.
- 03/08/2026 Dr Rohan Genrich - Topics on AI (Artificial Intelligence) Following on from his talk in Term 1.
- 17/08/2026 Mayor Geoff MacDonald - Past Achievements and What the Future Holds for the Toowoomba Region.
- 31/08/2026 Dr Andy Cumming - Aerospace Medicine and the American U2 Spy Plane.
- 14/09/2026 Jane Smith - On being an author - "Three Times Buried", a historical fiction based on her husband's family.

Term 4

- 12/10/2026 Laura Black - On Editing Romance Novels with Paddy Nicholls.
 - 26/10/2026 Damian Carroll - The Role of a Queensland Magistrate.
- (The final two Guest Speakers of Term 4 are TBC)



Happy Coronation Anniversary Queen Victoria!

Graham Blackman showing U3A what a gracious Queen he would make. On the 8th June, Graham's Australian History & its exceptionalism class reflected on Queen Vic's Coronation on 28th June 1838. It was reported at the time in the Australian & Sydney Gazette newspapers that a public holiday should be observed and Governor Gipps held a formal military function in honour of the occasion.

A lifetime in song!

It seems that singing in choirs has been a part of **Netta Obst's** life forever. As a girl growing up on the Gold Coast, her father was the church choir conductor, her mother in that choir, and once old enough Netta also became involved.

When the family moved to Toowoomba, Netta was 15 or 16. It was at this point that Netta, her mother and her sister Gwen, joined the Toowoomba Philharmonic Society. She sang with Philo until 10 years ago.

Netta also sang with the Harmony Friends for about 15 years under the leadership of Robyn Morris. They performed at a number of events in town including church functions and Retirement homes. Netta is probably one of the earliest remaining members of the **U3A Chamber Singers**, along with Marie Cameron who started in 2001 under the direction of Elaine Coates.. Elaine conducted the choir until 2015 when she handed the baton on to Sue Rutter.

Still singing and performing with the Chamber Singers, Netta's innate musicality has certainly kept many a second soprano on the right note and made her a valuable member of the ensemble for many years. Looking back, singing has been a staple part of her 93 years, and something she still loves and looks forward to every week.





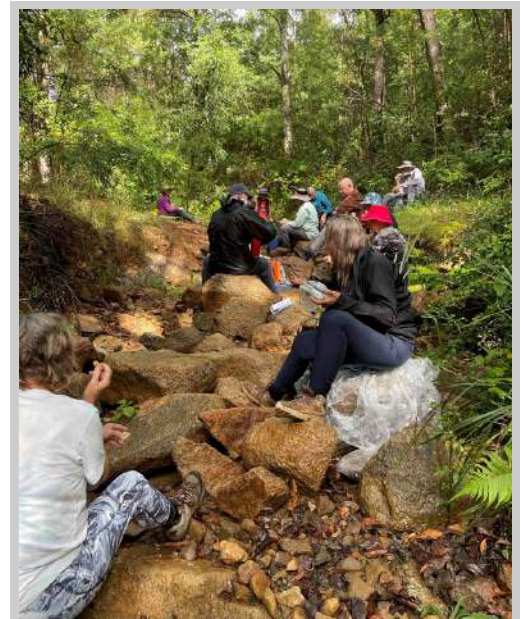
Photography Crows Nest & Toowoomba Tutor Lyn Wetzig says, "We had a good turnout today at the bird habitat. We saw Ibis, Ducks, Water Hens, Cormorants and then coffee at the Kingfisher Cafe."

U3A choir groups **Songbirds** and **Chamber Singers** (Tutored by Sue Rutter) held a concert on 7th May at St Luke's Church. The Songbirds choir sang a selection of popular songs from the 20th century. The Chamber Singers followed after with their performance of more classical choral music of contemporary and stage and screen.



The Tai Chi Dance group have been busy within the local community. Here they are on the 19th May at the Hilltop at Teman Retirement Village. The Tai Chi class is held every Monday at the PPC Playhouse, and tutored by Lucy White and 2IC Diane Bradford.

Morning tea on Kipper Creek West. Tutor Allan Crighton and **The Track and Trail Walking group** stopped for a quick refuel in the lush greenery during a walk in April. The Track and Trail group take their walking very seriously, walking anywhere from between 5 - 12 kilometres each Monday!



If you would like your group to feature in newsletters or Facebook, please send a photo and some words to Kelly at the Office info@u3atoowoomba.au Facebook Admins are Penny Protheroe, Anna Carson and Graham Moore.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH U3A

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U3A Queensland Network Conference held in early May at UniSC, Sippy Downs. Toowoomba Committee attending: L-R. Penny, Marie and Averil with Rhonda Weston AM Network President and David Weston.

Thursday Bowls at Toowoomba Bowls Club L-R. Kel Schelberg, Janette Schelberg, Patricia Solomon, Karen Schneider, Greg Hill, Barbara Sealey. Tutor is Kevin Cotterell. Spaces are still available if you would like to join these cheerful bowlers.



The Thursday Walking Group was happy to be out walking again after some rainy weather. Tutor is Bill Gabler. They warmed up afterwards with a coffee and cake treat at Cafe Inferno.



The Tai Chi Modified Yang Style Group Tutored by Marie Kajewski at the Drayton Hall on Fridays. They perform advanced Tai Chi movements - not for the faint of heart!



U3A IN TOOWOOMBA - NEW INTERESTS NEW FRIENDS

UPCOMING SHOWCASE 2026

Pencil it into your calendar!

Did you enjoy last year's Flower Power themed Showcase? This year's theme has been decided and expressions of interest from our music groups are encouraged to speak with Bruce Arthur about performing in this year's lineup. A more detailed flyer and program of events will be available in the coming weeks and will be sent out to the membership.

Sewing & Craft groups are also encouraged to participate.



ROARING TWENTIES ARE BACK AT U3A SHOWCASE 2026

Tuesday 22nd September

SDA Hall

669 Greenwattle Street

Glenvale



The theme for this year's event will be
Roaring Twenties(1920 – 1929)

Speakeasies, Mac the Knife, Prohibition, Gangsters & Flappers
I would like you to send me any ideas: songs, stage decorations, do any members have Vintage cars? On illicit still!!

I thought maybe each music class could include one song from 1920's – 1930's in their repertoire. (not all the same!) We still sing some of them: Ol' Man River, Whispering, Bye Bye Blackbird, Baby face, I'm Lookin' Over a Four Leaf Clover, Somebody Stole My Gal etc.

The general format will be the same as Showcase '25 with Guitar Jam Advanced being the final Act. Art Displays and Refreshments will be supplied in the foyer. Give it some thought and email Kelly or myself with your ideas: Bruce Arthur Showcase '26 Producer

brucearthur01@outlook.com 0408 935 764

(next meeting late July sometime!)

