



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
U3A TOOWOOMBA
SHOWCASE 2026
**ROARING
TWENTIES**

TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

**9am - 12 Noon
Seventh Day Adventist Hall, 669
Greenwattle St. Glenvale.**

**Prizes for best dressed Flappers &
Gangsters and a lucky door prize!**

**Refreshments available
FREE entry & FREE parking
Showcasing the best of U3A's Music, Art &
Craft groups.
Non performers only to please RSVP via
U3A website or U3A Office:
info@u3atoowoomba.au**

U3A IN TOOWOOMBA - NEW INTERESTS NEW FRIENDS



University of The Third Age
In Toowoomba Inc



WITH RHONDA WESTON AM

➡ **CHINA** has 76,000 U3A's with approx. 20 million members.

The "Active & Healthy Ageing" strategy, has been profoundly affecting their country and has now become a National Policy.

Qicun Yang, Headmaster of China Jingdezhen University for the Aged firmly believes that "Active & Healthy Ageing" contributes to redefining the aged for the society as well as for the aged themselves.

The Chinese Model (Top-Down): The government drives and manages U3A and professional teachers are hired to run formal lectures.

➡ **UK THIRD AGE TRUST** has 1,000 U3A's across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with 400,000 members. Membership grows by approximately 6% each year. The U3A idea migrated from Toulouse, France to UK in 1981 where instead of being guided by traditional universities and 2nd agers, U3A's in the UK would be led by the members themselves. The learning would be self-directed.

Today this gives the UK movement greater intellectual and ideological independence and creates a different way of learning independent of state funding and external teaching. *Pam Jones, Past Chairman UK Third Age Trust*

➡ **MAURITIUS** U3A has only been established since 2013. They follow the Cambridge Model which is a community - based organisation. Certificates are not given however Graduation ceremonies are held where students are presented with Class Attendance Certificates.

IMPORTANT DATES 2026

Term 3 Ends	Friday 18 September
U3A Showcase	Tuesday 22 September
Term 4 Starts	Monday 12 October
Seniors Day (for Seniors Month)	Tuesday 20 October
Term 4 Ends	Friday 4 December

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"What is U3A?" How many times have you heard that said? What did you say? The very best way to spread a positive word is your personal contact with your friends and social groups. Presently our U3A has 1,826 'Active' members (Membership Secretary). According to the 2021 Census, 34% of adults in the Toowoomba region (173,204) were over 50. Mayor Geoff McDonald at "Speaker's Hub" stated that the estimated present population now is 185,000 and growing very fast! **So how do we return to the over 2000 pre-Covid numbers by offering more choices to the Toowoomba Region? The simple answer is more Tutors and more Venue space.** We have 4 new Tutors starting in Term 4. A total of 13 new Tutors in 2026 with 11 new courses. (See new classes in this issue). We encourage Tutors to identify class members who might volunteer to share their interests and skills with others. Committee members are always on the lookout for Tutors and are exploring Zoom options. Would you like to share your interest?

The U3A main **venue** is the facility in Matthews Street owned by The Toowoomba Philharmonic Society. We have a licensing agreement for use during our term time. Lots of other facilities are rented for classes. This week I was invited to the official opening of **U3A Southport's 'forever home'** near Australia Fair. An interesting and delightful function. This is a U3A with 700 members (3 U3As on the Gold Coast) which is highly valued for their contribution to the community. **They have the support of their local Council and the State MP for Southport.** The facility was purchased through a grant of \$2m from the State Government. As a note of interest Victoria supports its U3As.

How do MC plan to spread the word about U3A 'officially'? **Advertising** on social media, Newspapers, brochures, flyers, Expos, Facebook, Events like Carnival and **Showcase (Please support and bring a friend!)** on Tuesday 22nd Sept. Seniors Month "Today's the Day – Visit U3A" on Tuesday 20th October, Open Days in Toowoomba, Pittsworth & Crows Nest in January. **Tutors, YOU are the success of those Open Days. Please come along.** The largest advertising expenditure is the printing and posting of the **Course Book**. Members have received this for the last 15 years. I anticipate a smaller version with similar features this year including a **Course Catalogue** Index with QR Code coming your way end of November. I am looking for **Sponsorship** now. Please appreciate this document and hand on to others, don't toss in the bin. The book will not contain contact numbers as these are available to Members on our website: u3atoowoomba.au (Try the QR Code from Carlo) Sending thanks and appreciation to our Management Committee, to our Tutors and to Kelly our Office Admin. who has compiled this Newsletter. Thanks to all contributors. Enjoy your holiday time with family and friends.

Penny Protheroe, try this
President, U3A In Toowoomba



NEW COURSES FOR TERM 4 **ENROL NOW**



MODERN HISTORY

Topics covered will be the French Revolution of 1789, Storming of the Bastille to the downfall of Napoleon in 1815 and the creation of a democratic society.

Tutor: Robert Hamill

Weekly: Thursday 9am—11:00am

Venue: PPC—Lab Room

Phone Robert on 0467 502 669

Email: rhamill@gmail.com



PRACTICAL ASTRONOMY

This course will cover stars, planets and other interesting objects in the sky. However the main emphasis will be on things we see everyday.

These include: the position of the sun, the seasons, the shape of the moon, solar & lunar eclipse and the movement of the stars. It may also include nights with binoculars and with a good telescope for seeing splendour in the sky.

Tutor: Keith Forbes

Weekly: Friday 11:30am—12:30pm

Venue: PPC—Lab Room

Phone: Keith on 0408 158 276

Email: kpmforbes1@bigpond.com



TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE

The aim of the "Take Charge of your Life" program is to empower you with the knowledge & skills to create a mentally healthier & more satisfying life so you feel in control and have more freedom to choose what you do. This course offers an introduction to internal control psychology in which you can develop, maintain and improve your mental wellbeing.

Tutor: John Archibald

Weekly: Monday 9am— 10.30am

Venue: PPC – The Lab

Phone: John on 0409 396 139

Email: jarch1@bigpond.com



PSYCHOLOGY & BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

We will explore questions that have fascinated psychologists, criminologists & scientists for years. Are some people born "bad"? Or do they become "bad"? Or can both be true? To focus this discussion, six infamous people will be presented as case studies through the lens of the nature vs nurture debate. Put on your FBI hats as the group delve into, was it biology or genes, or is the key in their upbringing and developmental environment?

Tutor: Karlene Coombes

Weekly: Thursday 2pm—4pm

Venue: PPC—Lab Room

Phone: Karlene 0408 239 338

Email: karlenecoombes@fastmail.fm



These previously postponed history classes will now return in 2027 on Wednesdays at the PPC

- ⇒ Russian History from Nicholas II to Putin (Term 1 & 2)
- ⇒ The American Wild West (Term 3 & 4)

"Don't let aging put a damper on your lifelong learning and curiosity about life. That'll take the fun out of retirement."

Susan C Ballinger

**Share your Interests
Become a TUTOR**





SING A SONG OF SIXPENCE

A cosy, friendly, fun group sitting around the piano, as we did growing up, singing beloved melodies from 1880 through to 1980. There are 2 vacancies now opened up for this musically minded group.

Weekly: Friday 11:30am—1:30pm
Venue: PPC—The Studio Room

Phone Jeannette on 0474 555 543

Email: jandgzeller@bigpond.com



AUSTRALIAN HISTORY & ITS "EXCEPTIONALISM"

Australian History & its "Exceptionalism" continues into the 20th century and will conclude at the end of Term 4

Tutor: Graham Blackman

Weekly: Monday 10:30– 1:30pm

Venue: PPC—The Lab

Phone Graham on 0491 766 808

Email: aushistorygroup25@gmail.com



CALLIGRAPHY

The art of beautiful writing. Join us for a beginners look at three styles of calligraphy— Gothic (Blackletter), Faux & Commercial. We focus on different styles of calligraphy to expand your awareness of calligraphic writing all around you. You will learn basic and simple skills to get you started and plenty of practice in class. please purchase and bring to class:

1x Brause pen holder,

1x Speedball nib size C1 (4mm)

1x Pilot Parralel Pen 2.4mm (yellow cap)

1x bottle calligraphy ink (black, suitable for dip pens do not buy fountain pen ink)

1x timber cutting board (sometimes referred to as cutting board or paddle board) choose a size you can hang in your kitchen. Spotlight, Kmart, Big W has stock.

If buying online you can buy through artshedbrisbane.com.au or artsup.com.au

Tutor: Lynne Behrend

Weekly: Wednesday 9am– 11am

Venue: PPC—The Lab Room

Phone Lynne on 0447 067 682

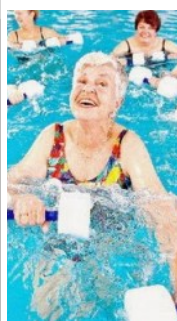
Email: solidfootsteps@gmail.com



CHRISTIANITY AND FEMINISM

In Term 4, will begin an in-depth study of eco-feminism, particularly in relation to Christianity, and drawing largely on the work of feminist theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether.

Contact Tutor Marie Cameron if you'd like to join this class: 0416 052 040 Email: dawnie45@westnet.com.au



SWIMMING & AQUA ATTENDEES PLEASE NOTE

Swimming & Aqua Aerobics start back a week earlier than the other U3A classes. Our start dates for Term 4 are as follows:

- Tuesday 6th October
- Thursday 8th October
- Saturday 10th October

- Commencement times:
- Swimming 5:45am—6:30am
- Aqua Aerobics 6:45am—7:30am

Both Swimming & Aqua Aerobics have some vacancies on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. If you are interested, please review the class requirements on the U3A website to ensure these classes are suitable for your skill and fitness level. Enquiries to the Tutor can be made through the website or U3A office.



INTERMEDIATE GUITAR

Initially the group grew out of a singalong guitar group when some members decided that new skills & understanding about the instrument could only add to the joy of playing.

This was some years ago but our intention remains the same, to learn a little, sing a little and ultimately bring our new skills to a performance level. This involves learning riffs, fingerpicking, tab and music reading. Mostly, we set time aside to learn a bit and practice it, add voices to it then see how we can stitch it all together. Sometimes we're so good it even surprises us.

Tutor: Nette Hilton

Weekly: Thursday 2pm — 4pm Venue: PPC—The Austral Room

Phone Nette: 0438 877 324

Email: nette@nettehilton.com.au



Even tutors need time to REBOOT!

REQUEST FOR 1 TERM ABSENCE
from Tutor Duties
COMPUTER SKILLS CLASS

I would like to request approval for a 1 term break from my tutor duties.





PASTEL DRAWING

Vacancies available if you'd like to join this friendly art group. Beginners or experienced artists welcome. We learn through a combination of help from various members of the group and by drawing/painting/colouring. Equipment required is a dust sheet for the table, some pastels and pastel paper. If you don't have these to begin with you may be able to borrow some. Also a photo or a copy of a picture you would use as a guide for drawing.

Tutor: Allan Crichton

Weekly: Wednesday 9am—11:00am

Venue: PPC—Playhouse

Phone Allan on 0407 203 008

Email: crichtonallan00@gmail.com



QUILTING FOR ADVANCED BEGINNERS

Vacancies now available in this established class. Some experience is necessary. We will continue building on our basic skills. Two sewing machines are available. Members will need to supply their own materials, thread and basic tools, and preferably their own sewing machine if possible.

Tutor: Michele McGill

Weekly: Friday 9am—11am

Venue: PPC—Playhouse

Phone Michele on 0419 581 161

Email: michelemcgill47@gmail.com



RAMBLING WRITERS

We've welcomed several new members who have thrown themselves into writing their stories with such enthusiasm, and makes for a great couple of hours each week regaling stories gleaned from the past, imagination or from surroundings.

Rambling Writers is a small group of long standing members, however we do welcome several newcomers at the beginning of each new term.

If this group sounds like something you would like to be a part of, please feel free to pop your name on to our waiting list and we will welcome you as soon as we can.

Tutor: Sue Smith

Weekly: Friday 2pm—4pm Venue: PPC—Studio Room

Phone Sue on 07 4634 6580

Email: sues1441@outlook.com



IPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Term 4 will see a brand new intake of students to this photography class as the class only runs for the Term, so if you would love to join a photography class that you can complete in only one Term then this is perfect for you!

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

Weekly: Wednesday 2pm—4pm

Venue: PPC—The Lab Room

Phone Bruce: 0431 861 199

Email: owenshaw1956@gmail.com



STROLL PATROL & THURSDAY WALKING GROUP *START TIME CHANGE*

Please note that now the weather is going to be warming up we will be starting our walks from **8am** instead of 9am.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP – 1st TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Finishing at the end of 2026

After 12 years as a valued U3A Tutor, **Desley Smith** will be retiring from her role at the end of 2026. Desley has generously led a U3A **Book Discussion Group** on the first Tuesday of each month at the City Bowls Club, and we extend our sincere thanks for her many years of dedication, enthusiasm and hard work on behalf of U3A and the members of her group. Thank you, Desley, for your wonderful contribution to U3A. We wish you all the very best as you look forward to some well-deserved travel, relaxation and leisure.

This opens an opportunity for another U3A Book Discussion Group to be formed. The Toowoomba City Library offers opportunities for Book Discussion Groups to meet. If anyone would be interested in leading a U3A Book Discussion Group in 2027,

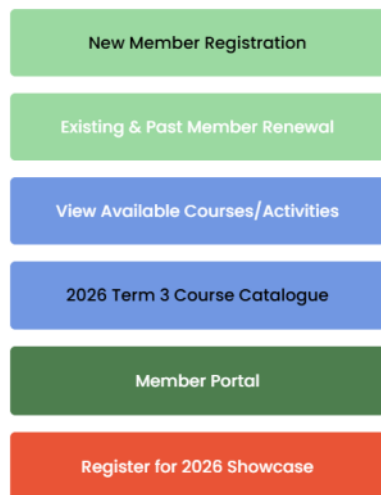
please contact our Course Coordinators for further information: Averil Hawthorne (0457 083 399) or Kathryn McLaughlin (0414 460 115).



University of The Third Age

ENROL IN CLASSES ONLINE - by ICT Coordinator & Webmaster Carlo Bertoldi

Visit the U3A Toowoomba website at <https://u3atoowoomba.au> for everything you need to know about us, our course offerings, calendar of events & dates and all the latest news. Our Home page Includes a number of easily accessible buttons (see screenshot below) which you can click/tap to join U3A as a new member, Visit the U3A Toowoomba website at <https://u3atoowoomba.au> for everything you need to know about us, our course offerings, calendar of events & dates and all the latest news.



NEWS

- Come join us for our **2026 Showcase on September 22**. Featuring a Roaring 20's theme, there will be wonderful vintage music like The Charleston, The Talkies, Al Jolson and Mac the Knife, as well as fabulous Art, Sewing and Craft displays showcasing the talent of our Music, Art, Craft and Sewing groups. Click [here](#) to register. Free entry. Open to members and the public.
- Join U3A now** to take advantage of our **\$35 half-year new membership fee**. This is a saving of \$30 on the full-year new membership fee. This half-year fee will entitle you to enrol in classes for Terms 3 and 4 of this year. To take advantage of this offer, click on the "New Member Registration" button on this page.
- Past Members can also renew** their membership for the second half of 2026 **for the \$35 half-year fee**. Click on the "Existing & Past Member Renewal" button on this page.
- 2026 Term 3 Courses/Activities** are now online and available for enrolment. To view and enrol in these classes, click/tap on the CLASSES option in the main menu or click/tap on the blue button "View Available Courses/Activities". Please note that some classes require you to contact the tutor before enrolling.
- Our U3A Toowoomba **Office** at 7 Matthews Street Harristown is now **open for Term 3**.
- View our **2026 Term 2 Newsletter** [here](#).
- New classes in Term 3** or classes returning after a break include: **Mosaic – Beginners & Advanced, Apple Devices, Britain in Queen Victoria's Time, French Beginners, Hand Stitching of All Sorts, iPhone Photography, U3A Chimesters, and Computer Skills Made Easy**. See the full list of classes with details by clicking/tapping on the CLASSES option in the main menu or clicking/tapping on the blue button "View Available Courses/Activities".

The **View Available Courses/Activities** button takes you to our web-based course list, currently totalling 127 courses/activities (see screenshot below). You can also view this list of courses by clicking/tapping on the **CLASSES** option in the main menu.

Terms
Term 3 2026 20 Jul 2026 - 18 Sep 2026

Classes

☒ All Subjects
Academic
Arts & Crafts
Cards & Games
Computers & Technology
Crows Nest
Health, Mind & Body
History & Archaeology
Languages
Lecture / Discussion

Literature & Writing
Miscellaneous
Music
Pittsworth
Social Outings
Sports & Physical Activities

☒ All Days
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

All Venues ☒

List View
Calendar View

Classes with places available ☐
Classes that allow web enrolment ☐

Search

Please tap or click for details

APPLE DEVICES (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Liz Kennedy	Thursday	Weekly on Thursday 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	▼
AQUA AEROBICS GENTLE EXERCISES - SATURDAY (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Rosalie Trim	Saturday	Weekly on Saturday 6:45 AM - 7:30 AM	▼
AQUA AEROBICS GENTLE EXERCISES - THURSDAY (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Rosalie Trim, Susan Berthelsen	Thursday	Weekly on Thursday 7:45 AM - 8:30 AM	▼
AQUA AEROBICS GENTLE EXERCISES - TUESDAY (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Rosalie Trim, Susan Berthelsen	Tuesday	Weekly on Tuesday 7:45 AM - 8:30 AM	▼
ARCHAEOLOGY SCIENCE - HOMO SAPIENS BECOMING HUMAN (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Bruce Arthur	Thursday	Weekly on Thursday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	▼
ARCHERY - TARGET ARCHERY (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Allan James Crichton	Thursday	Weekly on Thursday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	▼
ART - WEDNESDAYS (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Cecelia Krieg	Wednesday	Weekly on Wednesday 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM	▼
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY & ITS 'EXCEPTIONALISM' (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Graham Blackman	Monday	Weekly on Monday 10:45 AM - 1:30 PM	▼
BADMINTON (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Andrew Trim	Thursday	Weekly on Thursday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	▼

You can scroll through our course offerings or search by subject, day of the week, or name. Once you have found a course that interests you, simply click/tap on the course name to display details about that course (see example below). You can see when and where the class is held, who the tutor is and how many places are currently available. Here you can "Enrol Now", "Join the Waiting List", or "Contact the Tutor".



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ENROL IN U3A CLASSES ONLINE– CONT.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Margaret Connell	Thursday	Weekly on Thursday 9:00 AM - 12 noon	▼
SCRABBLE (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Marie-Therese Annis-Brown	Wednesday	Weekly on Wednesday 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM	▼
SEW AND SHARE (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Jane Rosenthal	Wednesday	Weekly on Wednesday 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	▼
SHAKESPEARE - A PLAYWRIGHT FOR HIS TIME & OURS (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Peter Bevan	Thursday	Weekly on Thursday 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM	▲
Enrol now Venue: Austral Room, PPC, 7 Matthews Street, Harristown Dates: 23 Jul 2026 - 17 Sep 2026 Excluded Dates: No excluded dates Cost: Members: \$25.00 Term 3 2026 Places available: 1 SHAKESPEARE - A PLAYWRIGHT FOR HIS TIME & OURS In this class, specific plays are studied and discussed. As well, where possible, we view different productions of the plays. Discussion is both lively and insightful. Whether you are familiar with the works of Shakespeare or merely recognise his name, you should enjoy this class and learn how relevant his words are in today's world. The Plays to be studied will be advised. Terms: 1,2,3,4 Enrolment: If you wish to enrol in this course, please contact the tutor. The tutor's contact details can be found in the information emailed to financial U3A members. You can also contact the tutor by clicking on the "Contact Tutor" button on our website class list. Contact Tutor				
SHIBASHI QIGONG (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Christina Hayes, Ruth McCallum	Tuesday	Weekly on Tuesday 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	▼
SILENT MEDITATION (2026 Term 3)	Tutor: Bob Knight	Tuesday	Weekly on Tuesday 12 noon - 1:30 PM	▼

The **Member Portal** button on the website Home page allows you to log into our Member Portal where you can View your membership details, Enrol in classes, Update your contact details, Renew your membership, View and manage classes you are enrolled in, Access member-only resources, View and print your statement, Pay invoices, Print your Name Tag and Download a Digital Membership Card to your phone's Apple of Google wallet. The Member Portal can also be accessed via the **MEMBER PORTAL** option in the website main menu.

Through the website main menu, you can also view and print our **CALENDAR** of events and key dates, View past newsletters and other important documents, View a **GALLERY** of photos from past events and see our key contacts and management committee members.

Our website infrastructure has recently been upgraded so the time taken for web pages to load has dramatically improved. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

U3A Toowoomba uses an online computer system called 'Member Wizard', used by many other U3As and community groups. Member Wizard is a membership and course management system which contains all our member data and course data and allows our staff and volunteers to manage and administer this data. The web-based course list and the Member Portal mentioned above are all part of the Member Wizard system. All that is needed for members, staff and volunteers to access their respective part of the system is an internet connection and a device with a web browser.

Member Wizard was introduced in January 2024 to provide a much-needed online service to our members. Whereas members once had to come into the U3A office to join, renew their membership, enrol in classes or pay fees, they can now do all this from the comfort of their homes, at a time that suits them. Many of our members were asking for such a service as they were accustomed to similar services provided by other institutions like banks, utility providers and so on. Of course, if members are not comfortable with online services and they prefer to still come into our office, this is an option that we will continue to support.

The introduction of Member Wizard has reduced the workload on our staff and volunteers allowing them to provide better overall services to our members. It also gives us better control and accountability of our member-based administrative and financial transactions to satisfy legislative and auditing requirements. Member Wizard will also automatically generate membership renewal invoices and email these to the renewing members. When you enrol in a class, if that class has fixed fees associated with it, the system will generate an invoice for such fees and email it to you. Invoices you receive for fees can be paid by clicking on the link in the email or by logging into the Member Portal. All online payments are totally secure, and no bank or credit card details are retained. While online payments by credit or debit card are our preferred method of payment, we still accept direct deposits to our bank account or cash or card payments in the office.



U3A MEMBER PROFILE—Craig Brunckhorst

Retirement meant time for catching up on doing the additional things I wanted to do but never had the time when I was working full time.

My working life was in agricultural industries and accounting. I was raised west of Stanthorpe on the family property which was based on wool production. As being a wool producer was not a realistic path following significant decline in wool prices I chose a different career. After working away for several years I returned to Stanthorpe and joined a local accounting firm. I moved to Toowoomba in the mid 1990's and joined Cheesman Applegarth accountants as a partner. My client base was a mixture of primary producers and various city based businesses.

I joined U3A in 2024 and chose the Australian History classes. This satisfied my interest in the subject as well as introducing me to new social connections. It was revealing to discover, in such an informal environment, the characters and events that made Australia the amazing country it is today.

This year I have been attending "Australian History and its Exceptionalism". This is similar to the history course chosen in 2024 but with more emphasis on exceptional people and events.

I have always had the attitude that if you are in a group, it is preferable to be involved. When the opportunity arose to become a member of U3A management committee as Vice President in 2025, I accepted.

They are an amazing group dedicated to the concept of U3A, its co-ordination and operation of its daily classes.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW COURSE COORDINATORS!

I would like to acknowledge and thank **Averil Hawthorne** and **Kathryn McLaughlin**, who have been assisting me in the Course Coordinator role this year. Their support has been greatly appreciated.

Averil and Kathryn will assume full responsibility for the Course Coordinator role from Term 4, allowing me to focus on Tutor Liaison responsibilities.

As **Course Coordinators**, Averil and Kathryn will be the key personnel for the following tasks:

- sourcing, interviewing and approving new tutors and courses;
- sourcing replacement tutors in the event of tutor absence or retirement;
- managing PPC room allocations and helping source external venues if required;
- reporting to Management Committee.

As **Tutor Liaison Officer**, I will continue to:

- support new tutors in their role, including 'member wizard' training;
- maintain regular communication with tutors through updates, reminders and class visits;
- assist tutors with course related matters and administration, as required;
- coordinate with tutors regarding course changes and enrolments for each term;
- work with the MW team to complete each term's online rollover;
- update the Tutors' Handbook as required;
- organise tutor information sessions in consultation with the Management Committee.

This new arrangement should strengthen the way we develop our courses and support our tutors.

Marie Kajewski

Tutor Liaison Officer



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PPC



The **Sew & Share** group are modelling their finished Term project. Tutor Jane Rosenthal says "Last term our class was given a challenge to make a jacket out of strips of fabric and an oversized sweatshirt."

The results are fabulous!

This lovely group of ladies get together each Wednesday 2pm—4pm at the Playhouse

The newly formed **Chimesters** musical group have made fantastic progress in this, their first term. They've learned various ringing techniques, Improved their music reading literacy and learned to play as a cohesive ensemble. They have their first public performance in a collaborative Carnival of Flowers concert with **Toowoombells** and **Brisbane Bells** at **3pm on Sunday 18th September** (Redeemer Lutheran Church). Why not come along and hear them perform!



NEED A JP? U3A now offers this service with thanks to U3A member and former

Tutor Laurie (Keith) Lawrence who has kindly offered his services at the **PPC on Fridays at 1pm**. Contact the U3A office to book in on 4687 7659 or Email: info@u3atoowoomba.au (*booking is required*)



Besuch aus Berlin (Visitor from Berlin)

In Week 7 of Term 3 our **Intermediate/Advanced German** class (Tutored by Rod Wilson) was honoured with a visit by **Thomas Meadowcroft**, son of class member, Fay. Thomas has been living in Berlin for about 27 years. He is a composer and musician of note and had come back to Australia for the world premiere of his work **Hollywood Parsifals**, played by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in Hamer Hall, Melbourne on 21 August. Thomas entertained us with some piano pieces, including Kurt Weill's **Moritat von Mackie Messer (Mac the Knife)**, and with lively conversation. A recording of the concert in Hamer Hall will be available on ABC iView next year. It will also be broadcast on ABC Classic FM at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 14 October this year. One can hear an interview with Thomas by Andrew Ford on ABC's **The Music Show**, accessible on the ABC Listen app. Thomas's musical journey began right here in Toowoomba at East State School. Besten Dank für den Besuch, Thomas!!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PPC

Bruce Arthur has been 'digging' up the past in his Archaeology Science class. Some might even say he really 'excavated' the topic..

A Guest Speaker this term was **Dr Cyril D Skeleton** (yes, he has a 'bone-afide' PHD) who really got down to the 'bare bones' of his favourite subject, fossils! (I apologise for all the Archaeology puns, I'm just trying to be 'Humerus'..)

Why are archaeologists so calm?
They know how to keep things in perspective... layer by layer.



At **The Speakers Hub**, we were addressed by Dr Maurice French AM, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Southern Queensland and Vice-President of the Toowoomba Historical Society. Dr. French took us on a journey through Toowoomba's past with special emphasis on Russell Street Toowoomba and the Beresford's Building on the corner of Russell and Ruthven Streets from 1860 to the present day. He spoke about the processes and resources used to research the history of historic buildings and introduced us to some of the well-known Toowoomba identities who have owned and developed these buildings over the years.

Dr French also explained The Historic site Plaque Project Initiated by The Toowoomba Historical Society which aims to preserve the history of these buildings into the future. Dr. French is the author of many books on the History of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, the most recent being the 2-volume "Bar and Boniface": A Compendium of Toowoomba's Pubs and Publicans 1844-2020"



Tutor Julie Elliott of our new **Hand Stitching & Allsorts** class (Mondays at the PPC) inspecting Kathryn's creation.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH U3A

The **Ukulele for Fun Intermediate and Advanced** Group, tutored by **Marita and David Rayner** had a Christmas in July Ukulele Jam session, rocking around the Christmas tree singing and strumming to around 20 different Christmas favourites. A lovely comment on the Facebook page from **Graham Blackman** "Wonderful world, beautiful people, makes U3A the best place to be "



U3A Toowoomba's Secretary **Michelle Neven** and Vice President **Craig Brunckhorst** representing U3A at **The Retirement Living & Senior Lifestyle Expo** on 30th July at the Toowoomba Showgrounds.

'Birding' with Mick Atzeni. The group met at Lilyvale West Meringandan Park for an outing to the Yalangue-Glencoe district targeting some nice birds of the Eastern Downs including the White -Winged Fairywren. Yes they spotted this bird (below)



Tutor **Lyn Wetzig** and her Photography group at the Williams Park short walk trail at Highfields

Join a U3A class today. Enrol now before the start of Term 4

OUT AND ABOUT WITH U3A



The '**Ukulele for Fun' Beginners** have truly been having fun this year learning to play their Ukuleles.

Tutors Trish Proud and Claire Petterson, aided by some willing helpers, have enjoyed watching their progress and found it very rewarding, but neither Claire nor Trish is able to Tutor in 2027. They are both willing to offer support and guidance to a new Tutor/Tutors.

If you would like to offer to Tutor this lovely musical group please contact the Tutor Liaison Officer Marie Kajewski: tutorliaison@u3atooowoomba.au

The group play at the Seventh Day Adventist Hall on Tuesdays 9:30am—10:30am



CROWS NEST

U3A President Penny Protheroe Visited Rosalie Eustace, **Nature Journalling** Tutor who opened her home studio for the High Country Art Trail.

Very inspirational. An amazing collection of art work. Rosalie runs her U3A class in nature reserves in and around the Crows Nest area.



The Thursday Walkers getting into the 'swing' of Term 3 in the playground next to the miniature railway tracks at Lemway Ave park.

THE SPEAKERS HUB TERM 3 & 4

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

Toowoomba Mayor, Geoff McDonald visit.

Geoff spoke with considerable enthusiasm about the future of the Toowoomba Region, the 2032 Olympics and the Equestrian events, passenger rail to Brisbane, the airport and opportunities and developments at Cressbrook Dam.

The region is at a crossroads in time with big changes in the next 10-20 years. A huge increase in population with associated housing. We all see that now! Again in my lifetime I see rich agricultural land being covered by houses and now solar panels as well.

Historically Toowoomba was seen as a major service centre for the Darling Downs region and beyond. As the Mayor said the pull is now coming from the east. Vast areas of land being made available in the Toowoomba Region as the area is seen as a base for industry and technology.

Thanks to Averil Hawthorne, Paddy & David Nicholls for suggesting Speakers, Bruce Arthur & Tom Fusae for tech. support, and Averil & Hazel Fusae for catering.

Penny Protheroe
'The Speakers Hub'

Term 4 at the 'Hub'

This is an 8 week term. We will have 4 Guest Speakers.

I would encourage you to attend even if you think it might be a topic you are not interested in. Good for a Speaker to see lots of seats occupied!

12th October Term 4 - first day of term. Speaker : Laura Black. Book Editor. Will be Question and Answer session with Paddy Nichols.

26th October Damian Carroll. Magistrate, Magistrate Court of Queensland (Retired)

"The Role of a Queensland Magistrate"

6th November : Professor Bryce Barker. Professor, Anthropology & Archaeology at Uni SQ.

23rd November : Mick Atzeni "Birds of the Toowoomba Region" Toowoomba based bird tourism; a birders eye view.



CROWS NEST TO PERTH

by Penny Protheroe

An adventure of 5,238ks in 3 weeks. 2 drivers, lots of laughs & masses of photos!

Know many U3A members have travelled this way over the years. Perhaps this will bring back memories. Here is a snippet of my journey as requested. Booked accommodation: **Crows Nest-Moree-Coonabarabran-Cobar-Broken Hill-Port Augusta-Ceduna-Border Village-Balladonia-Esperance-Albany-Perth**. A few little side trips too. 500+ks every travel day. Fantastic roads once we left Queensland and very little traffic. Between Broken Hill and Albany, we didn't have to pass one caravan, in fact only saw about twelve on the roads. Big trucks and road trains – yes! The supposed fuel shortage: never an issue and cheaper in Broken Hill than Toowoomba. On the Nullarbor we paid \$2.30 a litre.

Coonabarabran – Cobar. Our stay at the 'Dark Sky Eco Retreat' was an absolute highlight -optical telescope dark sky experience. Also, an emu farm. Getting lost on a bush track at night was not fun! All day out to Siding Springs and the telescopes was amazing as were our quiet times taking walks or having a cuppa sitting in the Warrumbungle National Park. Being on the 4th floor of a massive optical telescope when the roof rotated – very disorienting.

Cobar to Broken Hill with a stop in Wilcannia. Wilcannia was a big surprise. Lots of water in the Darling River. This was once a grand river port with many beautiful old stone buildings. Some still standing. Bought salt from a lady who harvested it on her property between Wilcannia and White Cliffs. They had 340mls of rain so all salt lakes flooded. Was welcomed to join in a party celebrating a person who had been given an Australia Day award. Good fun. Road Cobar to Broken Hill (470ks) was a nightmare with literally thousands of goats on the roadside. Do we go slow? Noticed no dead goats, smarter than 'roos' so upped the speed. Every vehicle we saw had big bullbars. We were lucky.

Broken Hill had many highlights. Sadly only 1 mine left – foreign owned. Town looked prosperous but grand old homes left derelict told a story of times passed.

'Ducks and Drakes Outback House' BnB was 'palatial', a washing machine and dryer, what a treat! Swimming pool.



Pro Hart Museum with an interesting video of the artist's life, gallery and gift shop. The painted Rolls Royces were a surprise! Visit to the **Royal Flying Doctor Base** was dear to both our hearts. Great tour of the museum with historic planes on display and a well curated history.

Bells 1950's Milk Bar (est. 1892) for a malted milkshake! Visit to the **Palace Hotel** made famous by the film Priscilla Queen of the Desert. Interesting paintings (spared you the nude!) -pink shoe in storage! Visit to Silverton-not worth the drive. Wreck of a place including Mad Max museum.

Broken Hill to Peterborough to Port Augusta, Streaky Bay, Ceduna.

Iron Knob, Monarch mine. Learnt about that in Primary school! Streaky Bay is a beautiful little town on the coast. Ceduna, a pretty area and a major port exporting wheat, gypsum and silica. This area of SA only gets 297mls rain a year usually, but we saw extensive cropping. Hotel/motel overlooking the bay is 'Community' owned run by an elected board since 1949.

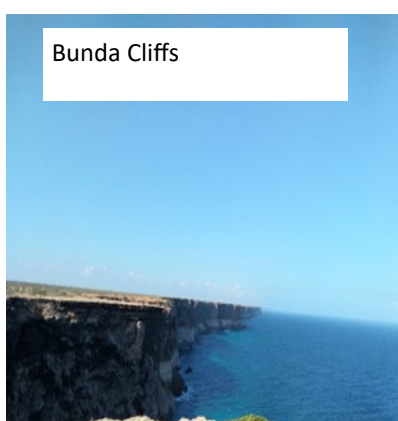
The Nullarbor- 1200ks. Ceduna to Norseman. (3 different time zones)



Nullarbor



Leaving Madura



Bunda Cliffs



Wildflowers Nullarbor

The Nullarbor is GREEN and in the west are the Dundas Great Western Woodlands, largest intact temperate woodland on earth!! **We had expected to see desert and NO trees.**

Train runs further inland – desert. Nine wild camels near Cocklebiddy. One dead beside the road. A road train had hit 5!

The Bunda Cliffs. The ones in the Aboriginal reserve nowhere near as amazing as the next stop and free. No food but enjoyed an ice cream. Whales.

Vast areas of grey shrubs. Madura Pass in the middle of the Nullarbor – big hills then a view of an endless plain. Lots of wildflowers in May! The little town of Penong west of Ceduna. 50+ windmills including "Bruce" a Comet windmill, the largest in Australia. 1932. 10.67 metre blade.

Norseman, Esperance, Albany, Perth 1125ks.

Norseman. Busy mining area, rich in gold, between Kalgoorlie to the north, Nullarbor to the east and Esperance to the south. Norseman named after a horse who got a chunk of gold stuck in his hoof...or so the story goes. We turned south. Spectacular rainbows! South-west W.A. including Esperance and Albany were experiencing the worst weather conditions in 5 years with rain and strong winds.

Fortunately, we missed most of it except on a sightseeing journey around Albany. We stopped at a high point to take photos. Almost lost our phones over the cliff as well as ourselves!! No pink lake at Esperance. Loved Albany. Great port where many Aussie troops left from in WW1.

Perth. Welcomed by my sister. (Car returned to Brisbane by train and truck.)

We did it! Amazing trip. Very happy time.

Where to next?

Penny Protheroe.

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

Date			Event
January	Tuesday	26	Australia Day Public Holiday
January	Wednesday	27	Tutor Information Morning
January	Wednesday	27	Toowoomba U3A Office open 9am - 4pm
January	Thursday	28	Toowoomba U3A Open Morning - 9am - 11.30am
January	Friday	29	Pittsworth U3A Open Morning - 9.30am - 11am
January	Friday	29	Crows Nest U3A Open Afternoon - 2pm - 3pm
February	Monday	1	Term 1 Starts (8-week term)
March	Thursday	25	Term 1 Ends
March	Friday	26	Easter Friday Public Holiday
March	Saturday	27	Term 2 Course Information available online
March	Monday	29	Easter Monday Public Holiday
April	Friday	16	Toowoomba Show Holiday
April	Monday	19	Term 2 Starts (9-week term)
May	Saturday	1	AGM Meeting
May	Monday	3	Labour Day Public Holiday
June	Friday	18	Term 2 Ends
June	Saturday	19	Term 3 Course Information available online
July	Monday	19	Term 3 Starts (9-week term)
September	Friday	17	Term 3 Ends
September	Saturday	18	Term 4 Course Information available online
September	Saturday	18	Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Parade
September	Tuesday	21	Showcase 2027
October	Monday	4	King's Birthday Public Holiday
October	Monday	11	Term 4 Starts (9-week term)
October	Monday	18	Seniors Month U3A Open Day (date TBC between 18-22nd)
November	Monday	1	Membership Renewals for 2028 open online
December	Wednesday	1	New Membership Registrations for 2028 open online
December	Friday	10	Term 4 Ends
December	Saturday	11	Term 1, 2028 Course Information available online