U3A in Toowoomba Inc

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

YEARBOOK 2027

& how to access the

Course Catalogue

Postal Address
P O Box 404
Drayton North Qld 4350

Location
Philharmonic Performance Complex
7 Matthews Street Harristown
Toowoomba Qld 4350

Office Hours
Monday to Friday
9:00am to 4pm during term time
(Closed 12:30 to 1:00)

Phone: 4687 7659
Email: info@u3atoowoomba.au

On our WEBPAGE you will find a wealth of information, such as a list of courses, FAQs, calendars, contact details, previous newsletters, policies and procedures (including our constitution), and much more.

To keep up-to-the-minute on activities and events, please like/follow us on Facebook. There's a link on our webpage and the QR code below

Web Address: u3atoowoomba.au

Facebook: facebook.com/toowoombau3a

From The President



Recently the BBC interviewed Dame Judy Dench who is 91 with an acting career of 70 years. She was asked, "Is ageing any good?" Judy replied, "Rubbish! There is nothing to say for it at all. Nothing at all. Don't think about it too much. Keep on the roller skates…" All of us who are members of U3A 'Keep on the roller skates' as we glide into exciting, interesting and fun classes/groups. Our membership of U3A, around 1900, range in ages from the late 40s to over 90 years, 74% of whom are women. Individual classes have a different demographic. All active retired or semi-retired enjoy and benefit from connection. New interests- New friends. Retire from work, not life!

For many, 'the working years gave structure for life, recognition, purpose and belonging'. We have designed, in most cases, a new structure for daily life and meaning. As far as U3A is concerned the benefits apply to both Tutors and members attending classes. All benefit in some way. Sharing skills and interests boosts confidence and understanding whilst building connections and helping our wider community. All Tutors and Management Committee are volunteers. Appreciation is frequently extended to Tutors the 'backbone' of U3A. For many years there was a Tutors Appreciation Lunch. It became obvious that Tutors were not interested in being appreciated in that manner. In 2026 the Management Committee chose to thank and appreciate Tutors personally with a gift presented to each by a member of Committee. We have approx.116 Tutors, some hold classes at the PPC, many in various venues around Toowoomba as well as Pittsworth and Crows Nest.

U3A in Toowoomba Inc. operates by collective governance as an incorporated association by the Management Committee. Members come from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences: Education, Accounting, Bookkeeping, Administration, Medical Science, Operations Management, Forestry, Retail, IT, Farming, Computers, Law & Real Estate. Great Team. Some decisions cover a huge range of complexities which can be challenging but are guided by our Constitution and approved Policies, not personal preferences.

In 2030 U3A in Toowoomba will celebrate 40 years. You may have read the wonderful publication "Our Tree of Knowledge. U3A in Toowoomba Inc. 30 years -1990 – 2020", compiled by the U3A Rainbow Writers class. Time now to start gathering information for the next 10 years. Many members have lived incredible lives so it is anticipated interviews may become part of the history. WANTED: a couple of Volunteers to help with the Archives. Please send a quick email to info@u3atoowoomba.au and I will get back to you.

This year U3A has a different publication instead of the Course Book which has been printed and posted for the last 11 years. You will see an explanation in the last section of this edition. Two new and different choices in 2027:
1. The introduction of 'U3A Toowoomba online by Zoom'. We are NOT introducing Zoom classes to Toowoomba or Highfields residents. U3A is about wellness & connecting with others. Four to five Tutors of classes held at the PPC have graciously offered to be part of this initiative offering the online option to those who live in rural areas and towns. U3A has country branches in Pittsworth and Crows Nest. See last part of this publication for more details.
2. We are delighted to offer classes at UniSQ to members of U3A. Classes were last offered briefly pre-Covid. It has taken considerable lobbying to once again offer in 2027.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to the Management Committee, Tutors and all Volunteer teams including 'The Friends of U3A'. You have given generously of your time. To Kelly, our Office Administrator, thanks for your skill and willingness to help. We look forward to a rewarding 2027.

Penny Protheroe B.A (U.Q), Dip. Ed., (Syd.), Grad. Dip. Teach.– Librarian (Q.U.T.), Cert. III Floristry.
President U3A in Toowoomba Inc.

UniSQ on Campus. In 2027, UniSQ is expected to welcome U3A members to attend selected courses as observers. The initiative reflects a shared commitment to lifelong learning and community connection. It has been strongly supported by the Vice-Chancellor and developed in partnership with Professor Geoff Slaughter, Director of Academic Partnerships.
Potential course offerings include Anthropology, World Archaeology, Psychology, Storytelling, Environmental Studies, Nutrition and Health, Public Speaking, Communication and Creativity, Writing Good Prose, Data Insights and Financial Performance, and Digital Disruption. Course availability and other details are still being confirmed**. You must be a U3A member to register and wear your ID badge while attending classes.** Entry is free, and there are no exams. Further guidance will be available in early 2027 once the details are confirmed. Classes are expected to start in mid-February. **For enquiries, contact president@u3atoowoomba.au.**

TOOWOOMBA U3A
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Management Committee

PRESIDENT: Penny Protheroe**:** president@u3atoowoomba.au

VICE PRESIDENT: Craig Brunckhorst**:** vp@u3atoowoomba.au

SECRETARY: Michelle Neven: secretary@u3atoowoomba.au

TREASURER: Julie Grant: treasurer@u3atoowoomba.au

TUTOR LIAISON OFFICER: Marie Kajewski: tutorliaison@u3atoowoomba.au

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR/WEBMASTER: Carlo Bertoldi: ict@u3atoowoomba.au

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY : Suzanne Strong: membership@u3atoowoomba.au

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Jennie Thomas - treasurerassist@u3atoowoomba.au

COURSE COORDINATOR: Averil Hawthorne: coursecoordinator1@u3atoowoomba.au

COURSE COORDINATOR: Kathryn McLaughlin: coursecoordinator2@u3atoowoomba.au

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Robbyn Keeley: events@u3atoowoomba.au

MAINTENANCE OFFICER/RISK MANAGEMENT: Greg Jacobsen: assets@u3atoowoomba.au

POLICY/INSURANCE ADVISOR: Gillian Lyons: policy@u3atoowoomba.au

VENUE HIRE AGREEMENT: David Wilson: leasing@u3atoowoomba.au

PATRON: Rhonda Weston AM

The Team



Office Administrator
Kelly Keleher
info@u3atoowoomba.au
07 4687 7659



Penny Protheroe &
Inge Gajczak **Crows Nest & Pittsworth Coordinators**



Photographer
Dorothy Haig



Facebook
Penny Protheroe,
Graham Moore
and Anna Carson



"The Friends of U3A"



Contact our office if you would like to join this group.

Foundation members—**Averil Hawthorne, Tom & Hazel Fusae, Glenda Fechner & Robyn Adams.**
Best supporting members: Appreciation to those who offered the most help and support in 2026: Foundation Members, Members of the Management Committee who belong to this group (Greg Jacobsen, Michelle Neven, Robbyn Keeley, Kathryn McLaughlin), Saxan Allan, Lenore Foster, Geoff Kapernick & Clare Bentley.

'The Friends' are willing and committed to help on busy days such as those in January every year- Tutor Information & Open Days; Seniors Month Open Day, AGM, Showcase & other Events. 'Friends' promote U3A positively with other Members, their own Networks and friendship groups. 'The Friends' enjoy what U3A offers and want to give back by helping when needed. We plan to meet for Morning tea once a Term.

Thanks, and Appreciation, Penny Protheroe.

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL U3A TUTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

You are the people who give this organisation its energy, its kindness, its character, and quite often, its tea and biscuits. You are the tutors, organisers, encouragers, problem-solvers, quiet achievers and cheerful helpers who make lifelong learning not just possible, but enjoyable. You give your time, your skills, your patience, and your good humour. With **126 classes and 110 active Tutors**, and **22 Class Convenors** our U3A is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when people come together with a shared passion for learning, connection and community. Behind every class is someone willing to share their knowledge, inspire curiosity, lend a helping hand or make another person feel welcome. These numbers represent far more than classes and tutors; they represent opportunities, friendships, discoveries and countless moments of connection. U3A brings learning, friendship, confidence and connection during retirement, and it does this through generosity. It shows that curiosity does not retire, that contribution does not expire, and that our U3A community is built on conversation and acts of kindness.

We must also care about U3A's future. This does not mean forgetting the past. It means honouring the past by building on it. A good leader or volunteer does not want to be sorely missed when they leave. A good leader wants someone ready to carry on the good work they created. Real leadership is not about making yourself indispensable; it is about making the mission sustainable. It is about mentoring others, sharing responsibility, trusting fresh perspectives (including the use of modern technology), and making sure the next generation feels welcomed, encouraged and believed in.

To every volunteer, thank you for your commitment, your spirit, your ideas, and your willingness to contribute. Thank you for helping U3A remain relevant, welcoming and alive. And thank you also for understanding that the best legacy we can leave is not a monument to ourselves, but a strong and open door for those who come after us. Let us celebrate not only the extraordinary volunteers who have served faithfully for years, but also those who are stepping forward to take up the challenge and carry our organisation into the future. May U3A continue to grow through wisdom, generosity, courage and renewal — with gratitude for those who built it and confidence in those who will continue it.

Marie Kajewski, Tutor Liaison Officer 2026

To Tutors, New Tutors and certain Volunteers required by U3A eg. An Archivist.

Are you on **JobSeeker** and aged 60–67? You can support U3A and meet your Centrelink requirements! Under Australian **JobSeeker** rules, if you are **aged 60 or over** (up to 67, Age Pension age), you can completely satisfy your Centrelink mutual obligation requirements by volunteering with an approved not-for-profit organisation. U3A has the required insurances and is registered with ACNC. **How it works:**

- There is no overarching registration or approval that U3A can obtain that allows it to enter into this arrangement with anyone it chooses, there has to be a separate application by each individual.
- Instead of searching for jobs or attending employment provider appointments, you can choose to volunteer with us for at least **30 hours per fortnight** (averaging 15 hours per week).
- You will continue to receive your normal **JobSeeker** payment from Centrelink while volunteering. This allows you to give back to a cause you love while fulfilling 100% of your government requirements.

If you are currently on **JobSeeker**, fit this age bracket, and want to swap job-hunting for meaningful community work, please reply to info@u3atoowoomba.au



TOOWOOMBA U3A THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A Calendar 2027

Date			Event
January	Friday	8	Tutors RSVP for "Tutor Information Morning" bookings essential
January	Tuesday	26	Australia Day Public Holiday
January	Wednesday	27	Tutor Information Morning
January	Wednesday	27	**Toowoomba U3A Office Reopens for Term 1- 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	18-22	Seniors Month U3A Open Day (TBC between 18-22)
December	Wednesday	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

SHOWCASE 2026 • ROARING TWENTIES



Showcase in Carnival week was the most enjoyable event. It offered a platform for Music and Arts & Crafts classes to demonstrate their talents.

























SHOWCASE






Those in the music groups were transported to the 'Roaring Twenties' with Gatsby- era glamour or jazz age Flappers and Gangsters. This so impressed a regional Newspaper that two of our Flappers featured on their front page!

U3A members and the public attended with 250+ lucky door tickets handed out. U3A Ipswich brought a minibus and members from Dalby came.









The Darling Downs Veteran and Vintage Motor Club generously provided 5 vintage,1920's vehicles, all beautifully restored, their drivers in appropriate 1920s gear.

Thanks to the Management Committee and members of 'The Friends of U3A' who contributed to the success of the Event.





Happenings at the PPC in 2026

Everyday is always a busy day at the PPC. Between our musical groups, singing groups, Art, History, Sewing, Discussion, Languages, games, Exercise and movement, Dancing, even a spot of indoor gardening! (Introduction to Bonsai) it's never a dull moment.







2026 saw our first ever **'Great Debate'.** The argument? Can our planet sustain a population of 10.9 bn by the year 2100? The winning answer? No it can't!



"There once was a fellow named Pete,
Who danced a jig down the main street.
With a shamrock in hand,
And the best green hat in the land, he toasted St. Paddy's so sweet!"

Singing for Fun group tutored by Julia Byrne enjoying a salute to the Emerald Isle for St Patrick's day in March.





Quilting for Advanced Beginners tutored by Michele McGill with their Community Blanket that they all took part in sewing and then presented as a donation to the Toowoomba Hospice Foundation.





Our **Lead Lighting** class tutored by Cathy Brown, working hard on their term projects.

The Lead Lighting groups accept a new intake of members every 1st and 3rd terms. Contact the office to be put on the wait list for the next intake in 2027

Happenings at the PPC in 2026





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. A recording of the concert in Hamer Hall will be available on ABC iView next year. Besten Dank für den Besuch, Thomas!

A new project for the ladies in **Sew & Share** tutored by Jane Rosenthal was to make and sew their own jackets this winter. Don't they all look bright and super snazzy!



Evelyn Muir in the middle of whipping up a masterpiece in the **Pentel Drawing** group on our recent Seniors Month Open Day (A Day with U3A!)

Representing U3A in the community



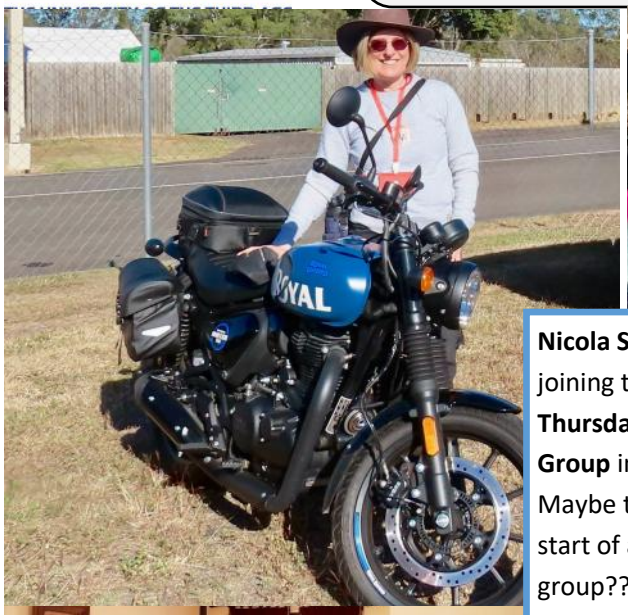




U3A Queensland Network Conference Held in early May at UniSC, Sippy Downs. Toowoomba Committee attending: L-R. **Penny, Marie** and **Averil** with **Rhonda Weston** AM Network President and **David Weston**.

U3A was well represented by our Vice President **Craig Brunckhorst,** Secretary **Michelle Neven** and Event Coordinator **Robbyn Keeley** at the Toowoomba Retirement Living & Senior Lifestyle Expo in August.

Out & About with U3A



Nicola Stidever joining the **Thursday Walking Group** in style! Maybe this is the start of a U3A Bikie group??



Harmony Day in Motion at Grand Central Shopping Centre. On 21 March, our U3A **Tai Chi** group tutored by Lucy White, brought grace, balance and calm to Grand Central Shopping Centre with a beautiful performance celebrating Harmony Day.



U3A band **The Toowoomba Fog Jug Band** were invited by the National Trust to play a gig at The Royal Bulls Head Inn at Drayton.



What a spectacular display at the Toowoomba Show this year. **Sew and Share** with Jane Rosenthal, **Knitting and Crochet** with Janette Eckersley and some amazing quilts from the **Quilting for Advanced Beginners** with Michele McGill.



Archery (left) with tutor Allan Crichton showing off skills that would put Robin Hood to the test! **Birding** (bottom left) with Tutor Mick Atzeni. It's not unusual for the group to spot over 30 different species of bird in one outing. The **Wednesday Stroll Patrol** (below) at Lemway Park.







TOOWOOMBA U3A THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Crows Nest & Pittsworth

U3A in Crows Nest will celebrate 10 years in 2027. *(Pencil in Saturday 6th March, 2027 as a possible celebration day!)*

With the support of **Rhonda and David Weston** (President and Course Coordinator at the time) Crows Nest was launched by then **Cr. Geoff Mc Donald**, as a branch of U3A Toowoomba on Thursday 2nd March 2017. Earlier that year the working Committee of four ladies including myself dropped hundreds of leaflets into letter boxes in Crows Nest and surrounding towns; Facebook posts and Newspaper adverts.

We started with 11 classes, by 2019 this had grown to 17 classes with over 100 U3A members in the area! Within these first couple of years we had **Graham Moore** (Computer Skills), **Sally & Ken Johnson** (Symphonic Sounds) and **Lyn Wetzig** (Photography) who all volunteered as Tutors. Special thanks to you as you still volunteer as Tutors today.



An example of the lovely art from **Nature Journalling** with Rosalie Eustace in Crows Nest



(*Below)* **Rosalie Eustace** and **Penny Protheroe** in Rosalie's Art Studio

(*Above)* **Pittsworth Singing for Fun,** Tutored by Cheryl Fowler. (*Below)* **Lyn Wetzig**'s **Photography** group



Listening to and discussing Classical Music in **Symphonic Sounds** with Ken Johnson











(*left*) **Early Settler Families of Crows Nest & Ravensbourne Region** tutored by Ian Eustace. (*Above*) **Marie Kajewski** with **Art Wednesdays Tutor Cecelia Krieg** and her lovely artwork. (*Right*) **Inge Gajczak** Pittsworth Coordinator.





(*Above*) **A Lunch in the Country** Crows Nest Group organised by **Penny Protheroe**, and the amazing **Ukulele for Fun Crows Nest** tutored by **Ian Harding**

Seniors month October 2026

As part of Seniors Month on Tuesday 6th October , U3A enjoyed a wonderful day celebrating learning, friendship and community at our **A Day with U3A** event in which we welcome non members to come and see what a day at U3A looks like. Participants took part in Tuesday's classes, enjoying the opportunity to learn, connect and share experiences with fellow members. We were delighted to welcome guest speaker **David Illife from ABC Breakfast Radio**, who shared his insights, and enjoyed some fantastic live music from U3A's very own **Toowoomba Fog Jug Band**. The day wrapped up with a lovely afternoon tea, giving everyone a chance to relax, chat and enjoy the company of others. It was a fantastic celebration of everything that makes U3A so special!



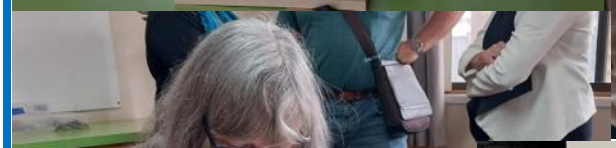
















The Speakers Hub 2027

Is it an Event or a Class? Both actually! It operates a little differently from a regular class as there are different people invited fortnightly to address this group – 'Event'. U3A members join as a 'Class'. Our invited Speakers may charge a fee, each is given a small appreciation gift, morning tea is available to allow those who attend time to speak/discuss personally with our Guest. Our venue is the Concert Hall at the PPC which is not part of our Licensing Agreement but is available by negotiation with the Toowoomba Philharmonic Society.

Term 1. (*This is an 8 week term as Easter is early*)

Monday 1st February – Professor Geoff Slaughter, Academic Director (Partnerships) UniSQ, Discussing courses that will be available for U3A members at UniSQ

Monday 15th February– Ian Macfarlane, Chairman of Board of Directors Toowoomba & Surat Basin Enterprise.

Monday 1st March- Robert Ketton "Exploring Turner" with his artist wife, Catherine, who paints while he talks.

Monday 15th March- Sharon Matheson - Harpist. She will demonstrate large and small harps, discuss their musical abilities and play for us.

Monday 22nd March – Dr Rohan Genrich, Head of Business, School of Business, Law, Humanities & Pathways. UniSQ Discussing "Explanations on AI"

For those you live in rural areas Speakers Hub will also be available on Zoom. We were delighted to be able to bring to the class outstanding Speakers in 2026. Sending appreciation to Paddy & David Nicholls who, although not members of the class, connected us with some exceptional and distinguished Speakers. Finding Speakers is a team effort. Thanks also goes to Averil Hawthorne who has a wide Network and to Lynne Quattromani who shared a list of suggestions with us.



Mayor Geoff McDonald











Dr Kim Fielke & Jeannie Barton



Capt. Robin Cartwright

FEES AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2027

New & Renewing Membership (full year)	**$55.00**
Joining or Renewing on or after July 1	**$30.00**

PAYMENT OPTIONS

PREFERRED:

PAY ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE: u3atoowoomba.au

On our website, you will see two large green buttons, one "New Member Registration" and the other "Existing & Past Member Renewal". Click/tap on the appropriate one and follow the prompts to pay your membership fees securely online via your Debit or Credit Card. A receipt will be emailed to you. The website also includes a menu option for "MEMBER PORTAL" for existing members to pay their Membership Renewal. You can also administer your account and print your Member Badge from the Member Portal.

OTHER OPTIONS:

- **DIRECT TRANSFER TO OUR HERITAGE BANK ACCOUNT** U3A in Toowoomba Inc. BSB: 638070 Account: 8770239. **Enter your Name in Reference Line so we can track your payment.** If 'no name' checking takes many hours by our Treasurer who is a volunteer.
- **IN PERSON AT THE OFFICE DURING OPENING HOURS EFTPOS or CASH** (No change given). See office opening hours listed below.

OFFICE HOURS

For those wanting to pay in person, our office at the Philharmonic Performance Complex will open before term in January, from 9:00am to 4:00pm on the following dates for both renewals and new membership enrolments:

Wednesday 27 January, 2027
Thursday 28 January, 2027
Friday 29 January, 2027

For opening hours during the year, please refer to our 2027 Calendar

CLASS ENROLMENT OPTIONS

PREFERRED:

If you can access the internet on one of your devices:
Go to our website **u3atoowoomba.au**
Select CLASSES from the main menu.
Browse through all classes being offered.
See which classes have vacancies.
Enrol in classes you are interested in. (Note: Many classes require you to contact the tutor prior to enrolling).
For existing members, this may be best done through the Member Portal, accessed through our website.

TO ENROL IN A CLASS

In the Online Class List Click/tap on the "Enrol now" button. You will be asked if you are a U3A Toowoomba member.
If you answer YES, it will ask you for your registered email address to identify you.
If you answer NO, it will allow you to enter your details, join U3A Toowoomba and pay your membership fee.

For existing members, a better option is to log in to your Member Portal by selecting "MEMBER PORTAL" from the website main menu. You can:

View classes you are enrolled in.
Browse all classes being offered.
Enrol in classes.

OTHER OPTIONS:

Alternatively, if you do not have internet access, you can enrol in classes by contacting the tutor listed in the Tutor Contact Details document. Call our office if in doubt.

COST OF CLASSES

Most U3A Toowoomba classes have a "per term" fee to cover leasing of premises and cost of materials. Please refer to the online class list for details or contact the tutor.

Web Address: u3atoowoomba.au

Facebook: facebook.com/toowoombau3a

New 2027 digital Course Catalogue

U3A in Toowoomba Inc. is transitioning to a fully digital Course Catalogue, in line with many other U3A organisations across Australia. This Course Catalogue will replace the course information that, in the past, appeared in our yearly Course Book (CB).

Previously, course information for the CB was collected in November for the following full year. By the time the printed CB reached members, some information was already out of date, with further unforeseen changes occurring throughout the year. To illustrate this, listed are the changes that occurred throughout 2026. **All these changes were quickly and easily adjusted online but unable to be changed in the printed CB publication:**

- 13 classes were cancelled but remained listed in the printed CB.
- 9 tutors retired or took extended leave, still listed in the printed CB.
- The names and contact details of the 9 replacement tutors were not listed in the printed CB.
- 2 classes changed venues.
- 2 classes changed the terms in which they offered their course.
- 8 tutors changed their class name or course description.
- 12 new tutors were approved and commenced during the year but not listed in the printed CB.
- 33 course descriptions required urgent amendment to comply with our new Constitution. Easily amended online, but unable to amend in the hard copy CB.

The above statistics highlight that outdated information can cause confusion and inconvenience for members. **The digital approach is to ensure our members and the public have access to the most current course information** and at the same time reducing our volunteers' workload.

The Course Catalogue will be published four times a year, before the start of each term. It will be updated whenever changes occur to the listed courses. It will contain a table of contents of all our courses as well as details of all courses offered. It can be viewed, downloaded and printed directly from the U3A Toowoomba website. Through the website, you will always have access to the latest version.

So that no member is disadvantaged, those unable to access the internet can request an up-to-date printed Course Catalogue (exported directly from our website) from the U3A office at 7 Matthews Street, Harristown during term opening hours.

To access the current Course Catalogue online, either

Visit our website at https://u3atoowoomba.au or scan this QR code
On our website, click/tap on the blue button that says, "Course Catalogue".

OR

Go directly to the Course Catalogue web page at
https://u3atoowoomba.au/course-catalogue/ or scan this QR code.

U3A Toowoomba Online by Zoom

HOW U3A TOOWOOMBA USES ZOOM

U3A Toowoomba does not conduct classes exclusively via Zoom. It is **not intended to replace face-to-face classes**, which remain our primary method of delivery. Zoom is an online communication platform that allows people to participate in video meetings, voice calls and screen sharing.

You can use Zoom on a computer, tablet or smartphone with an internet connection, microphone, camera and speakers. Zoom is initially offered to members living in rural areas and towns outside Toowoomba and Highfields, including our Crows Nest and Pittsworth branches. Other areas include Oakey, Goombungee, Murphy's Creek and Westbrook.

Some tutors based at the PPC also offer Zoom to include members unable to travel to class, or those temporarily unable to attend due to travel, illness or injury.

Finding Zoom classes: Look for the word "Zoom" in the course title in our online Class List or Course Catalogue. For example, *Shakespeare by Zoom*.

JOINING YOUR CLASS ON ZOOM

Follow these simple steps at your own pace. You can use a computer, tablet or smartphone.

BEFORE YOUR CLASS

⇒ Make sure your device is charged and connected to the internet.

⇒ Have your tutor's email or message containing your class link ready.

⇒ If new to Zoom, ask someone to help install the Zoom Workplace app before class day.

⇒ Try joining 10 minutes before the class starts.

HOW TO JOIN

1. **Open your invitation:** Find the email or message sent by your tutor.

2. **Select the class link:** Click or tap the link beside "Join Zoom Meeting", or the link provided by your tutor.

3. **Open Zoom:** If prompted, select "Open", "Open Zoom Meetings" or "Allow".

4. **Enter your name:** Use the name your tutor will recognise. Enter the passcode from your invitation if requested.

5. **Join the meeting:** Select "Join" if prompted. If you enter a waiting room, simply wait for your tutor to admit you.

6. **Connect your sound:** Select "Join Audio", then "Join with Computer Audio" on a computer, or "Wi-Fi or Cellular Data" / "Call over Internet" on a phone or tablet. Allow microphone access if requested.

7. **Turn on your camera:** Select "Start Video" if your tutor asks you to. Allow camera access if prompted.

YOU'RE READY!

You should now be able to see and hear your tutor. Please keep your microphone **muted** when you are not speaking. Select **"Unmute"** when you wish to talk

IF YOU NEED HELP

• **The link will not open:** Check your internet connection, then return to the

invitation and try the link again.

• **Zoom is not installed:** On a computer, select “Join from your browser” if it is offered. Otherwise, ask your tutor or a trusted helper to assist with

installing the app.

• **You cannot hear:** Turn up your device’s volume and check that you have

selected “Join Audio”.

• **You are still waiting:** Your tutor may not have opened the class yet. Check

the class time in your invitation.

• **You are asked to sign in:** Most classes do not require a Zoom account, but

some do. Ask your tutor what is needed.

For help, contact your tutor: We will provide you with your tutor’s name and

phone number

When class finishes: Select “Leave”, then “Leave Meeting” if asked.

Thanks to Suzanne Strong, Membership Secretary and ICT assistant, for providing Zoom information and training.

U3A Courses expected to be on offer in 2027

Classes/Groups in Toowoomba, Crows Nest and Pittsworth

As we know, things can change unexpectedly due to unforeseen circumstances. This can sometimes include our classes that are planned to run. For the most up to date information on our classes in 2027 please see the full Course Catalogue on our website www.u3atoowoomba.au alternatively please visit our U3A Office if you have trouble downloading the Course Catalogue.

APPLE DEVICES
AQUATIC EXERCISE GROUP - TUES,THURS, SAT
ARCHERY - TARGET ARCHERY
ART BOTANICAL ART
ART MULTIMEDIA
ART PASTEL DRAWING
ART PENTEL DRAWING
ART WEDNESDAYS
ART WONDERS OF WATERCOLOUR
BADMINTON
BIRDING
BOOK CLUB A - MODERN AUSTRALIAN WRITERS - 1ST MONDAY OF MONTH
BOOK CLUB B - MODERN AUSTRALIAN WRITERS - 3RD MONDAY OF MONTH
BOOK CLUB AT HIGHFIELDS
CALLIGRAPHY, THE ART OF BEAUTIFUL WRITING
CARDS 500
CARDS BOLIVIA
CARDS BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS
CARDS CANASTA
CHRISTIANITY AND FEMINISM
COMPUTER FAMILY HISTORY
COMPUTER SKILLS MADE EASY
CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS
CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS - ALTERNATE MONDAYS - PITTSWORTH
DANCE SOCIAL DANCING - OLD TIME/NEW VOGUE
DANCING CIRCLE DANCING
DANCING LINE DANCING - BEGINNERS
DANCING LINE DANCING - PITTSWORTH
DANCING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING
DISCUSSION GROUP ROUND TABLE

DIVERSE CONVERSATIONS
EXERCISE FOR THE WELL MEANING
EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL DISCUSSION GROUP
GATEBALL- TUESDAY, SATURDAY
GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY
GOLF CROQUET - WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY
HAND STITCHING OF ALL SORTS
HISTORY- RUSSIAN HISTORY
HISTORY- EARLY SETTLER FAMILIES OF CROWS NEST & RAVENSBOURNE
HISTORY- PIONEERS & PROGRESS
HISTORY- WILD WEST OF USA
HISTORY– MODERN HISTORY
HISTORY OF THE 20TH CENTURY
HISTORY- STEELE RUDD ON THE DARLING DOWNS
HISTORY- THE ISLES OF THE EVENING
INFLATION – NECESSARY EVIL OR JUST A SWINDLE?
INTRODUCTION TO BONSAI
KNITTING & CROCHET
LANGUAGE CHINESE - MANDARIN
LANGUAGE FRENCH - BEGINNERS
LANGUAGE FRENCH - CONVERSATION
LANGUAGE FRENCH - INTERMEDIATE
LANGUAGE GERMAN FOR BEGINNERS—CONTINUING
LANGUAGE GERMAN INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED CONVERSATION & WRITING
LANGUAGE ITALIAN - ONGOING STUDY
LANGUAGE ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS
LANGUAGE JAPANESE ONGOING STUDY
LANGUAGE SPANISH - CONVERSATION

TOOWOOMBA U3A THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A Courses expected to be on offer in 2027

Classes/Groups in Toowoomba, Crows Nest and Pittsworth

LAWN BOWLS - LINDSAY STREET
LAWN BOWLS - VICTORIA STREET
LEAD LIGHTING - BEGINNERS
LEAD LIGHTING - CONTINUING
LUNCH GROUP A - LUNCH IN THE COUNTRY
LUNCH GROUP C
LUNCH GROUP D - PITTSWORTH
MAHJONG
MAHJONG BEGINNERS
MAHJONG FOR FUN
MAHJONG FOR EVERYONE AT PPC
MATHEMATICS IN OUR LIVES
MATHS- BASIC - ADULT LEVEL
MEDITATION SILENT
MICROSOFT 365– THE BASICS
MOSAIC– BEGINNERS
MOSAIC– CONTINUE & ADVANCED
MOVIE CINEMA OUTING/LUNCH GROUP
MOVIE GROUP
MUSIC- CHAMBER SINGERS
MUSIC- U3A CHIMESTERS
MUSIC- DINKY DI BUSH BALLADS AND COUNTRY
MUSIC- GUITAR - JAM SESSION - ADVANCED
MUSIC- GUITAR FOR BEGINNERS
MUSIC- GUITAR FOR FUN
MUSIC– GUITAR INTERMEDIATE GROUP
MUSIC- SING A SONG OF SIXPENCE
MUSIC- SING-A-LONG SINGERS
MUSIC- SINGING FOR FUN
MUSIC- SINGING FOR FUN - ALTERNATE WEDNESDAY - PITTSWORTH
MUSIC- SYMPHONIC SOUNDS - ALTERNATE THURSDAYS
MUSIC– SONGBIRDS– LADIES CHORAL GROUP
MUSIC- TOOWOOMBA FOG JUG BAND
MUSIC- UKULELE FOR FUN - ADVANCED
MUSIC- UKULELE FOR FUN - BEGINNERS
MUSIC- UKULELE FOR FUN - CROWS NEST
MUSIC- UKULELE FOR FUN - INTERMEDIATE
MUSIC- UKULELE FOR FUN - PITTSWORTH

MY WARDROBE
MYSTERIES OF LIFE: FROM ET'S, ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENIGMAS, ANCIENT GODS, RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY, TO CONSCIOUSNESS AND REALITY
NATURE JOURNALLING
NUMEROLOGY
PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION GROUP
PHOTO BASIC EDITING
PHOTOGRAPHY—IPHONE
PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FUN
PHOTOGRAPHY IMPROVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY
PICKLEBALL at GLENNIE - MON, TUES, FRI, SAT
PRACTICAL ASTRONOMY
PSYCHOLOGY & BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE
QUILTING FOR ADVANCED BEGINNERS
SCRABBLE
SEW AND SHARE
SHAKESPEARE - A PLAYWRIGHT FOR HIS TIME & OURS
SHIBASHI QIGONG
SPEAKER'S HUB
SWIMMING - THURSDAY
SWIMMING - TUESDAY
TAI CHI
TAI CHI—MODIFIED YANG STYLE
TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE
TENNIS - MORNING
TRAVEL CLASS
WALKING GROUP - THURSDAY
WALKING FOR FITNESS
WALKING THE WEDNESDAY STROLL PATROL
WALKING TRACK AND TRAIL WALKING GROUP
WINDOWS 11 AND MICROSOFT OFFICE 365
WRITERS GREEN CHICKEN
WRITERS RAINBOW
WRITERS RAMBLING
YOGA

BE DISASTER READY!!

The following information was noted from U3A Toowoomba Senior's Month 'A Day with U3A' Guest Speaker Dale Swanson, Community Resilience and Recovery Officer, Disaster Management. (Thursday, 30th October 2025.)

ONLINE

1) RED CROSS REDIPLAN Google booklet to download and print.

2) Person centred emergency preparedness (P-CEP) Workbook for people at risk disability, aged. All types of accommodation - Most households

3) POINT OF INFORMATION

Ideas for Consideration:

Google P-CEP Booklet and look up information online either through a computer or mobile device. And print for general information. This is an interactive APP (allows you to download and fill in form electronically and print) and needs online connection to look up relevant information for different areas.

Go to **DISASTER DASHBOARDS** as a point of factual updated information relating to weather, disasters, roadworks, electricity breakdowns etc. Note that each Regional Area Council has its own Dashboard information. So type in Area of interest i.e. Toowoomba, Warwick, Ipswich and then type Disaster Dashboard. Then click onto relevant council. This information outlet is used by individual councils to update information in their relevant shires as a point of truth as its updated regularly by various Emergency and Service Providers. Dashboard provides the following sources of information in real time disaster concerns.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Ideas are linked into Fire Dept, Councils, Ergon etc, Department of Health. The top of this dashboard has 4 major areas represented in different colours and covers in succinct mode the following: Emergency Numbers,

Types of Emergencies; Weather, Fire, Flood, electricity outages, roadworks, and number of those listed. Map of area of interest.

The map viewed on this dashboard, has icons relevant to the areas where outages, weather events and roadworks are or have happened, and what is going on in that area and the type of help being given by all agencies and Government departments responding. A map with icons representing roadworks, disaster spots, weather events, fire, flood and electrical outages in individual areas in Queensland. NB same Dashboard are available for most Regional Councils with the overall appearance similar but key information and links to point of truth information remains the same.

Phone 000 Emergency or Phone 112 for Connection to other networks if your phone company is out of order and 000 is not contactable.