



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Newsletter 2023 Term 4

Term Dates 9/10/23 To 1/12/23

**We welcomed
65 New Members in Term 3**



The Management Committee meet once a month and 'chat' informally many other times!

L-R: Rod Pullinger, Carlo Bertoldi, Penny Protheroe, Judy McWilliam, Warren Dutton, Nicola Stidever. Standing: Janelle Connolly, Anna Carson, Julie Grant, Michelle Pullinger.

This has certainly been a time of new discovery. Some members of the team have been allocated new responsibilities and all are reviewing the expectations and tasks that their roles require. **Every one of us is a Volunteer.** We have the courage, regardless of age and health, to stand up and say we'll give it our best because we believe in this organization.

Thank you, Team!

We look to the future with an awareness of the strong foundation and vision set by the leadership of our previous President, Rhonda Weston AM.

U3A COMMITTEE QUIRKY QUIZ WHO AM I?

- 'I performed on a TV show with the Bee Gees!'
- 'I am a Woodworker.'
- 'I taught school in the United States.'
- 'I ride a motorbike.'
- 'I sailed waterways Fraser Island to Tasmania.'
- 'I am a Coach Builder.'
- 'I trained as a Civil Engineer graduating with Honours.'
- 'I hitch-hiked around New Zealand.'
- 'My horse won a group three race in Perth.'
- 'Just missed out on Conscriptation, thanks to my Mother!'

There will be changes. Change can be a frightening thing to some but to others it is invigorating, bringing with it the expectation and value of doing something different. As a team we will explore new horizons with due diligence, in consideration of the impact on our U3A. **Read our Newsletters, look at the U3A in Toowoomba Inc. website, see weekly happenings on our Facebook page. (This month = 1,300 followers, 3,500 engagements). Talk to Committee Members. How well do you know them? **Take the Quiz.****

This is your U3A: the classes you enjoy, the friends you make, 'for the people, by the people'. When you see photos/videos of groups you think, 'I could give it a go'. Recently, I visited our Archery group and was challenged with the question, "Would you like a shot?" With careful instruction I even managed to hit the target, but once! Members were helpful and welcoming. Such an ancient skill and I love history.

Part of our changes will be a shift in focus to feature our Tutors and classes more often, with permission of course, from participants. Do welcome a Committee Member to visit your group. All of us attend selected U3A classes. Some of us are also Tutors.

In 2024 we will go to eNews for our term Newsletters so as not to be restricted by printing costs and document size. More interesting publications.

With the availability of technology and different programs we are exploring the possibility of some changes to our office management processes. No firm decision yet. One change I am keen to see is the opportunity for the classes at the Philharmonic (U3A base) to be given the choice to pay by card instead of cash. Seems simple but this would be a big change which may impact other areas of administration.

Looking forward to a strong and varied selection of classes in 2024 in Toowoomba, Crows Nest and Pittsworth. Already we have new offerings. Photography class to start in Term 4. In Toowoomba.

Penny Protheroe

B.A.(U.Q.), Dip.Ed. (Syd.), Grad.Dip.Teach.Librarian(Q.U.T.)



Rhonda Weston AM

Member of the Order of Australia

As stated in the official signed **Patron** document:

‘This is an honorary position. It shall be awarded to a person due to his/her outstanding leadership, public achievement, stature in the community, the modelling of ideals of leadership, and the enhancement of the credibility of U3A in Toowoomba Inc. as an association for Seniors.’

Rhonda is an active member of U3A at our local level, statewide and internationally.

It seems that a Patron is often someone who is a ‘significant’ person in society possibly with no connection to the organization honouring them, or a

PATRON U3A in Toowoomba Inc.

President of U3A Network, Queensland
Deputy Chair and a Director of U3A Australia

Member of the International Governing Board
International Association of Universities of the Third
Age. AIUTA

Life Member U3A in Toowoomba Inc.

person who has made a considerable philanthropic contribution. Rhonda was President of U3A in Toowoomba Inc. for 12 years.

She is happy to ‘Contribute to the organization by sharing insights, experiences and other leadership perspectives and act as a Mentor to the organization’s leadership team’ without any special authority over the Management Committee.

Thank you, Rhonda. We look forward to a long association.

Penny Protheroe. President, U3A in Toowoomba Inc.

From Julie Grant

When U3A Network Queensland announced the theme of its 2023 Art competition, I decided to take on the challenge of creating my first ever collage.

I thoroughly enjoyed interpreting the theme ‘U3A Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow’ and was thrilled to receive the *People’s Choice Award*, especially with so many other creative entries.

It was a challenge to describe how my collage relates to my title ‘New Horizons’ in only 25 words and may have included a few extra.

“With roots, trunk and foliage representing past, present and future, my pastel connects us to the earth and sky opening new horizons for learning, fitness and friendships in our third age.”

After joining U3A in Toowoomba two years ago, I was fortunate to enrol in the Pastel Drawing class. I am grateful to my tutor Stephen Jones who has taught me the basic skills of pastel drawing and with ongoing classes I’ve been able to develop my own style. My love of painting Australian landscapes hasn’t changed from my high school days and I look forward to where this journey takes me next.



Julie Grant is our amazing Treasurer for U3A in Toowoomba Inc. This is a huge, complex job she carries out with considerable skill and patience. Julie is a Volunteer like all members of the Management Committee. You are much appreciated, Julie.

Walking with U3A

U3A offers Three Walking Groups. Two from Toowoomba and one from Crows Nest. The Crows Nest Leader who lives in Highfields, plans walks from Highfields to the Bunya Mountains. Walks include National Parks, Parks, and Historical Walks of some of the smaller rural towns.

The Toowoomba Thursday Walking Group started in 1990 and was one of U3A in Toowoomba's inaugural groups. Led by Marianne Phillips and called "Nature Walks", she described it as *"an opportunity to socialise while walking in the wonderful environment of Toowoomba Parks and Gardens. This satisfies one of our basic instincts and contributes to physical and mental well-being."*

Thursday Walking has continued without a break ever since those early days. Group Leaders have changed but the intent has remained the same. The benefit to physical and mental health derived from walking in nature is well recognised. The social interaction with like-minded people is invaluable.

In 2020, we began a second Walking Group, the Wednesday Wanderers, because the waiting list to join the Thursday Walkers kept growing. Both our Walking Groups are now full – and we still have waiting lists.

It would be wonderful if one of our U3A members would volunteer to start a third Walking Group for next year. They would like an advanced group - longer walks with a bit more challenge. Current Walking Group leaders, Anna and Barbara, would be happy to offer support and share details of their favourite walks. Being a leader is fun and rewarding as you observe members enjoying the exercise and forming lasting friendships both on the walks and whilst socialising over morning tea afterwards.



Wednesday Walking Group



Crows Nest Group picking oranges along the way!



Any weather is OK for the Thursday group!

Please contact the U3A Office for details if you would like to 'answer the call' and become the leader of our *Third Walking Group*.

Our New Catering Team



Narelle (Helper)

Alice

Shandra

From Alice Gegg

I grew up in Eidsvold and moved to Toowoomba to study a Diploma of Teaching at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education as it was then known. I met my husband, John, through my friendship with a fellow student and we taught in Brisbane and Miles before returning to Toowoomba with our two sons to teach in local schools. I specialised in Early Childhood and John was a Manual Arts Teacher in Secondary Schools.

I joined U3A in Toowoomba and the Thursday

Walking Group 9 years ago when I retired from full time teaching. I continue to work as a Supply Teacher for Education Queensland.

The Walking Group has enabled me to meet fun-filled people from varied backgrounds and careers.

We exercise, have great conversations, and form lasting friendships. We are able to appreciate our beautiful parks and gardens whilst we are walking at a leisurely pace – places you never see whilst driving past quickly in a car.

From Shandra Baker

I grew up on my parents' sheep property at Tara where they lived for 40 years. The property was 20 miles from Tara on black soil roads which were impassable in wet weather, so I boarded in Tara to attend Tara State School. There were no school buses back then!

After finishing my Senior years as a boarder at St. Catherine's School in Warwick, I worked at the Tara Post Office which was also the telephone exchange. I then worked for State Politician Don Neal for seven years before moving to Dalby where I worked for Federal Politician Bruce Scott as his Office Manager for 26 years. I retired in 2016 and moved to Toowoomba where I have put down roots and bought a Unit.

I joined the Thursday Walkers in 2017. They are a great group, and we enjoy chatting whilst we walk. I am so pleased that I joined.



Helen Geyer has been leading the **U3A Crows Nest Ukulele Group** over the past two years. She joined U3A Toowoomba Ukulele Group 6 years ago and, with no experience, began in the Beginners class with Marita and David Rayner. Through ukulele she learnt to appreciate much about music in general and in particular, ukulele music. "It brings me joy and life energy and many interesting friends. I recommend it to you." Helen.

Appreciation to you Helen for encouraging a vibrant, happy group and for being prepared to travel.

Many thanks, Penny.



Class Information

Please refer to your 2023 Course Book for continuing classes.

Only classes that are RESTARTING or have a CHANGE are listed below.

Ask your Tutor for specific requirements.

NEW CLASS - TOOWOOMBA

<p>Tuesday 9am Start TBA/Ask Tutor Term 4</p>	<p>PHOTOGRAPHY - EXPLORE WITH YOUR CAMERA Get the most out of your camera. Modern cameras are capable of so much more & many features never get used. This general interest course is designed for people who want to improve their photography skills while exploring various parks & locations around Toowoomba. Come along & enjoy the company of others with the same interest. Bring whatever equipment you like, including cameras, flashes & tripods etc. Expeditions will last 1- 2 hours.</p>	<p>Paul Knie</p>
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CHANGES TO CLASS INFORMATION - TOOWOOMBA

<p>RESTARTING TERM 4 CHANGE OF ROOM/ TIME Monday 9:00 – 10:30 The Lab</p>	<p>APPLE IPAD - REFRESHER There is a review of using strategies for staying safe & secure when using your iPad for email, messaging, Apps & using & researching the Internet. Common scams; Advantages of your iPad; then student selected topics.</p>	<p>Colin McGuire</p>
<p>RESTARTING TERM 4 CHANGE OF ROOM/ TIME Monday 11:00 – 12:30 The Lab</p>	<p>APPLE IPHONE - REFRESHER We revisit strategies for staying safe & secure when using your iPhone for email, messaging, Apps & using & researching the Internet. Common scams; some special iPhone features; using your iPhone in a crisis & updating your iPhone.</p>	<p>Colin McGuire</p>
<p>CHANGE OF TIME Tuesday Thursday Concordia Aquatic Centre 6:45 – 7:30</p>	<p>AQUATIC EXERCISE GROUP No vacancies at present.</p>	<p>Judy McWilliam</p>
<p>CHANGE OF ROOM Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 PPC Studio</p>	<p>PIONEERS AND PROGRESS - A SOCIAL HISTORY</p>	<p>Glynne Hilton</p>
<p>CHANGE OF TIME Tuesday Thursday Concordia Aquatic Centre 5:45 – 6:30</p>	<p>SWIMMING No vacancies at present.</p>	<p>Judy McWilliam</p>
<p>CHANGE OF ROOM Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 PPC Austral Room</p>	<p>WONDERS OF WATERCOLOUR</p>	<p>Ngairé Sorrensen</p>

TOOWOOMBA CLASSES IN RECESS

<p>FRENCH - BEGINNERS</p>	<p>Sheila Scott Power</p>
<p>FRENCH INTERMEDIATE</p>	<p>Sheila Scott Power</p>

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST 2024

Please contact the Tutor to indicate your interest in these 2024 courses

Day Time Venue TBA Terms 1 & 2	AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS HISTORY The history of Indigenous people of Australia, with DVD's, Guest Speakers and printed handouts relating to historical events.	Veronica Luck
Tuesday 11:30 – 1:30 PPC Room: TBA Terms 1 & 3	AUSTRALIA'S PACIFIC ISLAND NEIGHBOURS This course aims to better understand our various island nations in the Pacific. Papua New Guinea, various island groups, Easter Island . (those who have expressed interest during current classes PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR INTEREST)	John Pryce Davies
Thursday 11:30 – 1:30 PPC Room: TBA Terms 1 & 3	EASTERN EUROPE FROM 1945 UNTIL 2015 Ukraine/Russia war, the background to this present-day conflict. Also survey the Communist capture & domination of this part of Europe from 1945 until the fall of Communist regimes from 1989.	John Pryce Davies
Day Time Venue TBA Terms 1 & 2	EFFECTIVE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS – BAH! WHO NEEDS THEM?! You need these! This course focuses on making your text, note, letter, a joy to read. It's a practical course-come and see!	John Newport
Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 PPC Room: TBA Term 1	FAMILY HISTORY <u>Beginners</u> How to start, where to get information, how to record it, family tree websites, basic DNA research & more. <u>Intermediate</u> Some prior knowledge required (as per the beginners course), desktop software for Family Tree , Google search for Family History, recording DNA matches, in-depth research methods & more.	Rick Aindow
Day Time Venue TBA Terms 1 2 3 4	IT'S RIGGED! (A RIP-OFF) ALL THE WAY! Based loosely on Murray & Frijters book "Rigged", this course seeks to explain how "the rich get far richer while the poor get even poorer". No-its not just the way things are, it's a deliberate strategy and there are remedies. Come and see for yourself.	John Newport
Monday 9:00 – 11:00 PPC Room: TBA Terms 1 2 3 4	PHILOSOPHY – THEN AND NOW The course will investigate the origins of western philosophic thought while defining what constitutes a philosophic question. Investigations will follow into the life & times of the great thinkers & the relevance of their contributions to 'the now'.	Ian Kennedy
Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 PPC Room: TBA Terms 1 & 2	THE PEOPLE OF THE RAJ – A SOCIAL HISTORY An in-depth look at the lives of British men, women & children living in India during the last, turbulent 100 years of British Rule (The RAJ) from the 1850's to Independence from Britain in 1947.	Glynne Hilton
Wednesday 11:30 – 1:30 PPC Room: TBA Terms 1 & 3	THE VIETNAM WAR & AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT Discussion of Australia's involvement in this war between 1965-73 and the anti-war protest movement. (those who have expressed interest during current classes PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR INTEREST)	John Pryce Davies

CROWS NEST CLASSES CHANGES/RECOMMENCING/IN RECESS

Tuesday 1:30pm Start Crows Nest Communi- ty Centre Term 4 -Fortnightly	CROWS NEST - FORAGING IN YOUR BACKYARD 17th & 31 st October; 14 th & 28 th November	Lyn Wetzig
Tuesday 1:30pm Start Crows Nest Communi- ty Centre Term 4 -Fortnightly	CROWS NEST - PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FUN 10 th & 24 th October; 7 th & 21 st November	Lyn Wetzig

2023 DATES

TERM 4 DATES 9/10/23 TO 1/12/23

COURSE BOOK 2024 SUBMISSION DATE DEADLINE - 26th October 2023

2024 DATES

JANUARY 2024	Activity
2nd Tuesday	Mail out Course Book
10th to 12th 15th to 19th	Open Office Philharmonic Performance Centre (PPC) Daily 9am to 11:30am
16th Tuesday	Tutor Orientation—Bookings Essential
19th Friday	Early Bird Discount Ceases
22nd Monday	Open Morning 9am To 11.30am TOOWOOMBA at Philharmonic Performance Centre
23rd Tuesday	Open Morning 9.30am to 11.00am CROWS NEST at Crows Nest Community Centre
24th Wednesday	Open Morning 9.30am to 11.00am PITTSWORTH at Pittsworth Function Centre

Term 1	29/1/24 to 28/3/24	9 weeks
Term 2	22/4/24 to 21/6/24	9 weeks
Term 3	15/7/24 to 13/9/24	9 weeks
Term 4	8/10/24 to 29/11/24 King's Birthday 7th Oct	8 weeks

U3A FEES 2024

Annual Membership Paid Before Early Bird Discount deadline	\$55
New Membership and Late payments	\$65
Term Fee Classes held at Philharmonic Performance Complex (PCC) for other venues ask Tutor	\$25



Keep TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER Free
Come to the U3A Showcase
Art and Craft display and Musical Concert
Uniting Church Stenner Street
Hope to see you there.