U3A Townsville Inc.

SUPPORTED BY City of Townsville

NEWSLETTER JULY 2018 EDITION

Presidents' Report

Greetings to All Townsville U3A Members.

Numbers are always interesting. I am reminded of the saying that was popularised in United States by Mark Twain (among others), who attributed it to the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli: "There are three kinds of **lies**: **lies**, **damned lies, and statistics**." If you take our membership numbers as at the AGM each year, in March 2017 we had 350 members. If you take the numbers as at March 2018 (AGM) we had 400 members. Our current membership is around 475. However, if you take the number of members as at 31st December 2017 we had 470. So, what? – if you were a politician you would say in March 2017 we had 350 members now we have 475 Members. A 35% increase – not bad. But if you take the 2017 December numbers it is only an increase of 5 members. Not so good.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE? Our financial year runs from January to December. From December to the March (the AGM) we have a lot of people who don't renew their membership. The reasons are many. People move, people die, People accomplish what they want to accomplish, people lose interest or get new interests. Whatever the reason people leave.

Your committee would like to understand more about what motivates people to continue their membership. We do understand it to some extent and this is what we are currently doing to make your club more 'user friendly' and inviting.

The office is now open every day from 9am to 12 noon – thanks to our capable volunteers and Christine their fearless leader, soon the new website should be up and accessible. We are constantly introducing new programs (see page 4 of this newsletter for details). Feel free to email or post your suggestions

We have several objectives in our strategic plan, endorsed at the AGM year, one of objective was to have an energetic committee comprising of new people every year. I said at the AGM that I would only serve two years as president. Our focus for the last 18 months has been on setting up systems and processes where most people who help run the organisation only spend a few hours a week on some tasks. This has made the tasks of those on the committee much easier.

Over the next few months we ask that you consider if you would like to serve on the committee. Being a volunteer on the committee can be a real growth experience. So, if you have never been on a management committee and you would like to give it a go please approach the committee. After all this is what U3A is all about – life long learning.

Last month we welcomed Jenny Barrett to the committee to fill a causal vacancy and become our new secretary. Congratulations Jenny.

All not for profit organisations must have a president, treasurer and a secretary – all other positions can change from time to time as the needs of the organisation change.

For both the *health of the organisation* and for *personal* reasons I will not be the president in 2019. Hence there is an opportunity for someone who either already has the skills, or would like to learn, how to manage a 450-plus person organisation, to step forward and make U3A the 'go to' organisation for seniors in Townsville and Magnetic Island.

Never stop learning Terry Lambrose (U3A President for 2018)

Getting to know the office girls:

The U3A office is now manned daily from 9-12, with members of the committee working Mondays, Jennifer Tuesdays, Jenny Wednesdays, Christine Thursdays, and Susannah on Fridays. Maureen is our backstop and we hope to recruit a couple more so that we are able to cover any situation that may arise. Some of the girls are looking for permanent employment and may give up volunteering. Over the next few newsletters we will tell you a little bit about us.

I decided to get involved in volunteering to help others and also to gain some experience and meet new people. My family and I moved to Australia 7 years ago from Papua New Guinea and plan to raise our little family in this beautiful country. I enjoy history and wildlife documentaries and have a keen interest in the different places and cultures around the world. Susannah

Maureen joined U3A Townsville a couple of years ago when she arrived in Townsville and took up the Publicity role on the committee. After a year it was time for someone new to step up - still waiting.

Does anyone feel they could contribute to the committee in the Publicity role?

Mah-jong was my introduction to U3A, and I enjoy helping where I can so I volunteered to co-ordinate the office staff and edit the U3A newsletter.

My family migrated to Australia from England when I was five years old and during the course of my life my family and I have travelled to many and interesting locations around Australia. Christine

You may have seen another volunteer, Sebastian, who assists Terry with organising the Friday talks , he works quietly on his own assisting with any projects that may arise.

Feel free to come and introduce yourself to any of the office personnel .

We would like to meet you.

HELP

Technology is great but sometimes it goes awry:

We have received applications from five people whose information has gone into cyberspace.

If you know any of the people listed in the table to the right would you please ask them to contact the office so their applications can be processed.

Name	Date Joined
Hedley Monkhouse	8/2/18
Ian Douglas Ivers	9/3/18
M Kay McCubben	14/3/18
Carol Moss	11/5/18
Lynne Forsberg	24/5/18

The Watercolour Group meets on Wednesday mornings in the U3a meeting room.

Of necessity we are a small number – seven only plus the two excellent teachers, Heather and Irene.

The teaching is excellent (and, of course, free). Both Heather and Irene have many years of experience which they willingly to impart. Heather teaches us watercolour and is able to divert her teaching to suit each individual's needs.

Irene has recently returned from holiday and is helping us develop and improve our sketching. It's useful to be able to draw, as it adds to the finished, painted product.

This is a happy, loud group. We have one male, Trevor, who is learning to sketch and is making huge progress. Trevor is also coping VERY well with the female element in the room. Jean Miller

PS one of the class members Kate Eagling has won 2nd Prize in the Townsville show for a watercolour entry.

Congratulations Kate!!

U3A YARNS

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A Mah-Jong reflection by Margaret Hooper;

I have been playing Mah-Jong for approximately forty years. I am extremely grateful to an elderly friend, long deceased, whose family had bought a set back from overseas and she was interested in learning how to play!

A friend from church played and offered to teach us how to play. I then played privately with a group of four or five other ladies for a number of years until one by one people moved away etc.

I then started playing with U3a, not sure exactly when, but we played at the Salvation Army hall, (opposite Stockland's). We also played in the meeting room of the Aitkenvale Library and also the Sound Shell before coming to the Thuringowa library years ago.

I often play three times a week with the three hours passing quite quickly. It is the sort of game that when you are focused on the game you forget about everything else.

Mah-Jong is played twice a week at the Thuringowa library each Monday and Friday from 9am till noon. Cost is $1.00 to cover the price of a cuppa, but you are required to join U3a in order to play the game.

We are constantly introducing new programmes – some recent additions include:

- Spanish (Townsville),
- Introduction to computers (more of this in an email within the next month)
- Travel trips AIMS and later in the year Charters Towers
- Biology – 8-week course (Townsville)
- The History and spread of the English Language (Magnetic Island)
- Practical Psychology for Relationships (Magnetic Island)
- Gardening club

Feel free to write to the office email with your suggestions.

Friday talks are proving popular with a variety of topics from reptiles, diabetes, home security and glimpses of personal challenges.

Talks are at the AITKENVALE LIBRARY. Each Friday at 2pm

Cost is $2.00

ATTENTION NEW GROUP NEWS

FISHING GROUP

There will be a meeting in the

U3A TRAINING ROOM AT 1.30 – 2.30pm MONDAY 23rd JULY.

WOODWORKING

There will be a meeting in the

U3A TRAINING ROOM AT 2.30pm – 3.30pm

MONDAY 23rd JULY.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CALLED FOR

CONVERSATIONAL GERMAN EVENING CLASS

ALSO, LOOKING FOR FACILITATOR FOR THIS CLASS SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST

PLEASE PHONE ANN KROME 0400822973

OR EMAIL annkrome2@bigpond.com

THANK YOU, ANN KROME

COURSE COORDINATOR

Members listening intently to the poetry

Mid Year Function

Our mid-year function was held at the Riverview Community Centre, where we enjoyed musicians Monika and Lyndsey Ward playing Clarinet and Guitar.

They were joined by well known entertainer around town, Mick 'Mustang Mick' Price who sang a variety of favourite songs.

Jean Miller was a great hit with her poetry recitations. We then enjoyed a buffet of delicacies provided by members. Many thanks to Ann Krome for organising the event

Our next event will be our Christmas get together. Keep your eye out for the date

A reflection by John Wosner (Octogenarian)

At first I took the suggestion that I should uproot and move halfway around the world with a pinch of salt. "What would I do in Australia?" I thought. I have no friends there. True, my son and his family are there, but I am a very independent person and however much I loved them (which I still do), I did not want to be a burden. I had lived in two countries in my life: England and Israel, both of which were still very close to my heart. But Australia? No thanks. However on reflection, and after much soul searching, plus cajoling from both my sons, the prospect started to become more and more appealing. "What did I have in London?" I was a widower; my two sons were no longer living there. I had sold my house, and I was now living in a very nice flat, the rent of which was rising each year and soon would be more than my monthly pension. I had some friends, far fewer since my wife died, and in the cold light of day (and believe me, London can be very cold in the light of day), the idea to emigrate did not seem so stupid after all. I had visited Townsville twice since my son moved there so I knew what to expect.

As the date of my departure grew nearer I began to have colder and colder feet. "How will I make friends? Where will I live? I do not want to be too dependent on my son. Will I get a Visa?" All these questions crowded my head. Still the die was cast and so I set out for pastures new.

In London, I was a member of the local U3A, and one of the first things I asked my son was if there was I similar organisation in Townsville. It so happened, that one of his best friends had a grandmother who was very involved in the Townsville U3A. That lady was Syd Collins. I contacted her and explained my circumstances – that I had just arrived in Townsville and wanted to get to know people of my own age. I was welcomed like a long lost relative. As luck would have it, the U3A annual general meeting was due to be held in a couple of weeks and I was invited to attend. The first thing that I felt was the friendly atmosphere. I was new and was approached by numerous people interested to know who I was. Such a far cry from London, where everyone has to wait to be introduced before they even say 'hallo'. (That is a bit of an exaggeration, but not too far off the mark.) Anyway, to cut a long story short, I found out that there was a scrabble group and a creative writing group. Both subjects appealed to me, so I contacted the tutors and enrolled in both activities. In both groups, I was the only male but the other members did not hold it against me. I soon became integrated in both disciplines. Today, I have absolutely no regrets, whatsoever. In fact, I recently visited London and could not understand what the attraction had been. Except for my beloved football team, *The Spurs*, London held no appeal for me. I am happy in Townsville. I am near my family. I have made many friends. Life is pleasant. People are friendly. The weather is great. "What more could I wish for?"

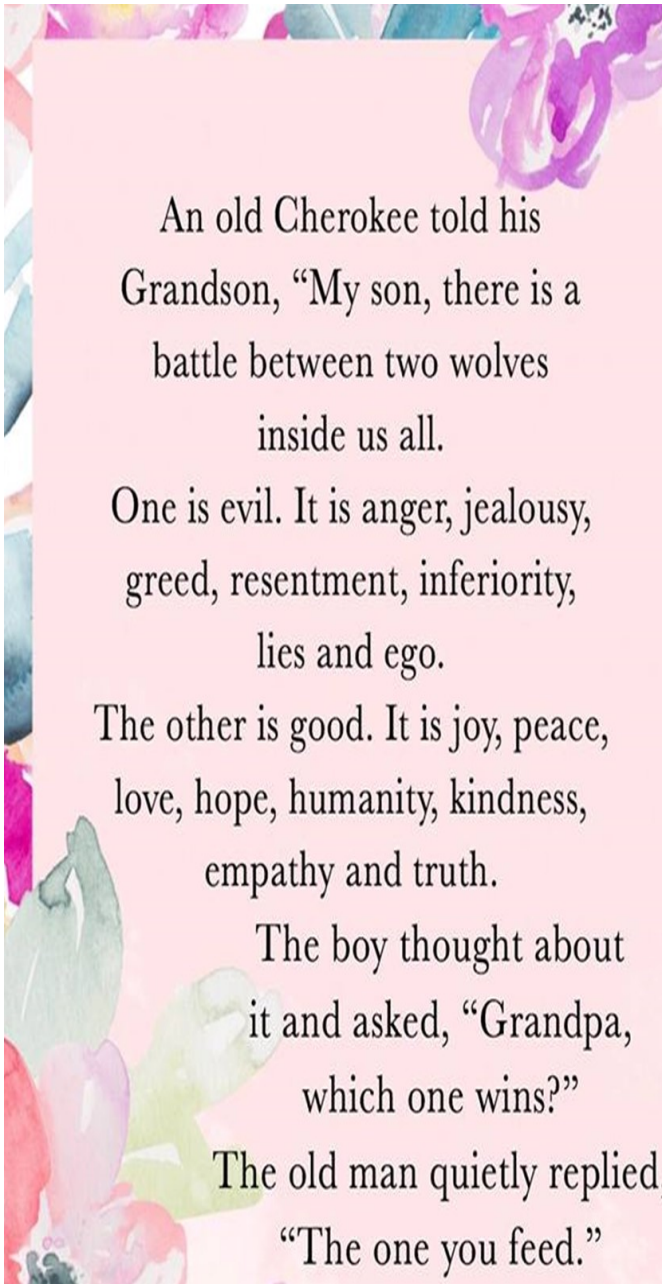
It would not be true to say that I owe it all to U3A, but without that organisation, I am certain that I would have found it far harder to settle down and find my niche in Townsville.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The call is out for new members to the U3A committee . We badly need a publicity/ marketing person and a vice president.

The work is not hard just a commitment of your time for a term. In order that we are able to continue is for someone to put up their hands to fill these positions. It is a lot better than sitting at home with *"nothing to do"*

Think about it!!!



One of our committee Ann has composed this poem, basically asking for YOU the member to step up and take on a role.

MESSAGE FOR U3A MEMBERS

A few of us work extremely hard,
But sometimes there's someone missing.
You see we are your voluntary committee,
But we have a family, and a other commitments too.
Sometimes we may be get sick, or a holiday is due
This is when we may need back up, and to call on you.
Now there is also a U3A constitution,
Demanding committee positions we must fill.
This year we are falling well short,
So I'm appealing to you to fill the bill.
Desperately needed is a Vice President,
Although we Don't have a lot of Vice
But to have someone trained and ready
To step up if needed would be nice.
Are you interested in publicity and marketing?
Maureen will show you the ropes
She'll show you the tricks of the trade,
A position you'll enjoy, one hopes.
An events coordinator is next on the list
Could this job fall in your lap?
This is not gender orientated,
So, can be a Lassie or a chap.
I'll gladly help you to put on a show.
Christmas will be the next thing.
There's only four events in a year.
Think of the pleasure you could bring.
Well that's it all I've got to say.
Please think it over, give it a go

TOWNSVILLE MAINLAND			
Time	*Class*	***Contact / Facilitator***	***Venue***
MONDAY			
9.00 – 10.00	**Book Club (on 2nd Mon of**	**Jenny Marks**	**Aitkenvale Library foyer**
9.00 – 10.00	**Exercise Class**	**Thea Eastwood**	**Health Studio, Hyde Park Centre**
9.00 – 12.00	**Mah Jong**	**Gwen Wilson**	**Thuringowa library**
12.30 – 6	**Social Art (no tutor)**	**Patricia Jones 4723 4298 Judy Osborne 0409764184**	**Sound Shell Building in Dan Gleeson Gardens (near library) Thuringowa**
1.00 – 2.00	**Indonesian**	**Eric Campbell**	**Aitkenvale Library**
1.30 – 3.00	**International Folk Dancing**	**Jacqueline Spry 0422 072 905 Barbara Romacker 4721 4823**	**Heatley Community Centre behind Long Tan Pool Cnr Fulham Rd & Lindeman Ave**
2.30 – 4.00	**Philosophy**	**Lyam Morris**	**Aitkenvale Library**
TUESDAY			
9.00 – 12.00	**Craft &Card making**	**June Lorrimer 4771 6227**	**Upper Ross Community Centre Allambie Lane, Rasmussen**
10.00 – 12.00	**Creative Writing**	**Valda Spencer 47236083 Ann 0400 822 973**	**Vale Hotel Ross River Road**
9 – 10.20 am	**Self-help Spanish**	**Graham Collins 4789 0590**	**U3A Vincent**
1.15pm 3.00pm	**Basic Computer**	**Maureen wright 0498 572 717**	**Thuringowa Library**
2.00 – 3.30	**History**	**Nanette Grace**	**U3A Vincent**
WEDNESDAY			
9.00 – 10.00	**Exercise Class**	**Viv Watkins 4773 5287**	**Health Studio, Hyde Park Centre 17 Woolcock St**
9.00 -10.00	**Tai Chi**	**Geoff Ward 0417 170 745**	**Church of Christ hall Vincent campus**
9.00 – 12.00	**Pottery**	**Nick Dimitriou**	**76 Bowen Rd., Rosslea**
9.30 – 12.30	**Canasta**	**Bev Ponder 0413 389 534**	**German-Australian Club**
10 – 12 noon	**Art Class**	**Heather 0408 737 021 Irene 0417 639 795**	**U3A Vincent**
1.30 – 3pm 2nd / 4th Weds	**Russian Language**	**Lucy Figg 0455 108 955**	**U3A Vincent**
7.00 – 9 pm 2nd& 4th Wed.	**Fact or Fiction writers group**	**Peter Hurst 4780 4731 Ann 0400 822 973**	**U3A Vincent Campus**
3rd weds 1.30 -3pm	Committee meeting		**U3A Vincent**

THURSDAY			
9.00 – 12.00	**Art (watercolour, acrylic & oil painting)**	**Jan Fels 0473 015 613 Kathleen 4779 1252**	**CWA Hall 36 Latchford Street Pimlico**
9.30 – 11.30	**Photography**	**Roland Lange 0406 471 721**	**U3A Vincent**
9.30 – 12.00	**Successful Investor**	**John Weil 4723 8615**	**Heatley Community Centre**
12.15-1.30	**Conversational French**	**Georgina Valdeter**	**U3A Vincent**
2.00 – 3.00	**S.T.E.M**	**Terry Lambrose 0434 634 822**	**U3A Vincent**
2.00 – 4.00	**Beading**	**Bev Ponder 0413 389 534**	***Phone Bev***
FRIDAY			
7.30 – 8.45	**Walking**	**Margaret Cuthbert 4779 1882**	***Phone Margaret***
9.00 – 10.00	**Exercise Class+**	**Val Grogan 4723 5432**	**Health Studio, Hyde Park Centre**
9.00 – 12.00	**Mah Jong+**	**Gwen Wilson 0419 189 151**	**Thuringowa library**
10.00 – 12.00	**Scrabble**	**Kate Eagling 0429 419 580**	**U3A Vincent**
2.00 – 3.00	**Friday Talk**	**Terry Lambrose 0434 634 822**	**Aitkenvale Library**
SATURDAY			
9.00 – 10.00	**Exercise Class**	**Jenny Nyambane 4725 0434**	**Health Studio, Hyde Park Centre 17 Woolcock St**
10.00	**Social Group**	**Bev Ponder 0413 389 534**	***Phone Bev***
SUNDAY			
1.30	**Social Games**	**Bev Ponder 0413 389 534**	**U3A Vincent**

VARIOUS DAYS			
Various	**James Cook University**	**Terry Lambrose**	**James Cook University**
various	**Gardening in the dry trop-ics**	**Maureen Wright 0498 572 717 Maureen Kelly 0408 793 162**	**Once a month meeting in Various outdoor locations**
ANY DAY			
Any time	**U3A online (many cours-**	**Terry Lambrose**	**www.u3aonline.org.au**

Feel free to access the website and choose one or more of the courses, there is a fee but well worth a look. All course and information regarding U3A is available on the site, including history, all about, application and tutor forms. Happy hunting!!!

Website; http://members.westnet.com.au/u3atownsville

MAGNETIC ISLAND

Time	*Class*	*Contact / Facilitator*	*Venue*
MONDAY			
10.00 – 12.00*	**Monday Talk / Short course**	**Michael Keating 0408 072 251**	**RSL, Arcadia**
TUESDAY			
7.00 – 8.00	**Tai chi – Chi Kung exercise class**	**Peter Duckworth Tania Thoreau 4758 1981**	***Phone for venue***
1.30 – 3.30	**Recorder ensemble**	**Ros Burry 4778 5082 Kelly Marlin-Zwa 4758 1426**	***Phone for venue***
WEDNESDAY			
9.30 – 11.00	**French conversation**	**Gisela Edwards 4778 5548**	***Phone for venue***
7.30 pm	**U3A singers**	**Barbara White 0458 058 163 Tania Thoreau 4758 1981**	**RSL, Arcadia**
THURSDAY			
9.30 – 11.00	**Spanish conversation**	**Tania Thoreau 4758 1981**	***Phone for venue***
FRIDAY			
7.00 – 8.00	**Tai chi – Yang 85**	**Peter Duckworth 4758 1981**	***Phone for venue***

U3A Walking Group Timetable for August to November 2018

Day Friday Time 7.30am for 7.45am - 8.45am walk

Contact: Margaret on 47 79 1882 Come join us!

Month Date	Meet	Walk	Month Date	Meet	Walk
Aug 10	Morindo Dr. Kirwan, Catholic College carpark	Willow Gardens	Oct 5	Cnr Cook St & the Esplanade	Jezzine Park Indigenous
Aug 17	Cricket club rooms, midway down Harold St, West End	Cutheringa Park area	Oct 12	O'Reilly St, Mundingburra Cnr Burt St	Annandale side upstream
Aug 24	Hindley St, Currajong	Lakes Circuit	Oct 19	End Carmody St, Hermit Park Bicentennial Park	Park area circuit
Aug 31	Cape Pallarenda Rd, 3 mile Ck beach carpark, after Garden Settlement, before bridge	Foreshore to-wards city	Oct 26	Cape Pall Rd/Esk St, Rowes Bay beach carpark	Mundy Creek
Sept 7	Dean Carpark, Sth Townsville Morey St end	CBD	Nov 2	Tyack St, Rosslea, near Viles St	Around golf club boundary
Sept 14	O'Reilly St, Mundingburra Cnr Burt St	Annandale side Downstream	Nov 9	Palmetum Carpark, Nathan St. Aitkenvale	Palmetum
Sept 21	Cape Pallarenda Rd, Sustaina-bility Centre carpark	Foreshore path towards Pallarenda	Nov 16	To be decided	End of year breakfast
Sept 28	Petunia St, Aitkenvale Library carpark	Aitkenvale Park area		Official U3A group does not walk again until March	

2018 Committee members

Barrett	Jenny	Secretary	
Collins	Graham	Past President / system admin.	grahamc@internode.on.net
Douglas	Christine	Office Volunteer co-ordinator / News letter editor	cjdouglas11@bigpond.com
Eagling	Kate	Office Cleaning	kate.eagling@gmail.com
Frazer	Larry	Treasurer / Property officer	patriciafrazer@optusnet.com.au
Joyce	Kathy	Minutes Secretary	kathleen.joyce@bigpond.com
Keating	Michael	Magnetic Island	mikekeating30@gmail.com
Krome	Ann	Course co-ordinator / Events	annkrome2@bigpond.com
Lambrose	Terry	President /U3A online/ Friday talks	tj.lambrose@gmail.com
Morley	Mary	Grants Sub Committee	mbmorley123@bigpond.com
Ponder	Beverley	Social	bev.ponder1@gmail.com
Sebba	Jenny	Helps treasury Web site updates	jsebba@netspace.net.au
Williams	Alan	Network rep /acting Secretary / helps treasurer	alanlois@ozemail.com.au

Contact Details for the office are:

PO Box 374, Aitkenvale QLD 4810

PH; (07) 4724 3530

Email; u3atownsville@westnet.com.au

Website; http://members.westnet.com.au/u3atownsville

Membership Fees;

Annual fees are due at the beginning of each year and may be posted or paid directly by bank transfer.

Tell us who you are

It is essential that you fill out your details correctly and legibly on the application form.

Also include you name if sending by direct debit, as information has been lost when this is not done. Please visit the website or phone/email the office for banking details

U3A Townsville Office.

Our office is now manned Monday to Friday 9am till noon. We are there to answer queries, accept membership fees and any other way we may be of assistance. Maureen Jennifer, Jenny, Christine, and Susannah, are all able to assist you with your query.

The office is situated behind the Church of Christ, Fulham Road Vincent. Entrance via Ronan Street

Your next newsletter date will be 30th November Please keep your stories rolling in.

I enjoy reading them as do members, Pictures are most welcome Thanks Christine