



U3A Townsville Inc.

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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020

A little thought; Worrying does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES,
it takes away today's PEACE. Editor:

President's Report

The 400 and more people who became members joined U3A for myriad reasons; for many it was the fulfilment of lifelong learning, the signature purpose of U3A, offering a wide range of opportunities, classes and groups. For others it was to stay connected to the community of retired or semi-retired people of around the same age group, thereby providing shared life stories, support and friendships, for others it may have been a way to ameliorate loneliness after loss of a partner. Then there are members who needed to find a purpose after leaving a busy and fulfilling working life behind. There are members who have grandparent duties and like to have a break with other people in the same boat. Then there are the members who are keen to pass on their skills and knowledge by running classes on so many diverse subjects. I am sure there are other reasons why so many of our local women and men give so much effort and commitment to ensure that U3A goes well.

Going very well is where we were up to until the recent pandemic found all of us needing to make unexpected decisions about ourselves as well as the organisation that is so very important to the members. Friday talks were a flagship event, so well attended, a great variety of classes were available with dedicated Tutors and students. Members are engaged with JCU study and Be Connected. The raft of voluntary tasks that are done by the members make the organisation the vibrant and valued community service it is.

There was a well-attended AGM and a committee of new and seasoned members met a few days later and resolved to support aspects of U3A that could continue although hard decisions needed to be made about others. The membership was informed about the plans to move to the larger premises next door and those plans are still being enacted, with lots of wiping down and safe distancing being observed.

As we all know the virus effect has been moving fast as our country and States make efforts to protect the community. So too, has the local U3A efforts been incremental as new information comes to light and as the members contacted each other about their thoughts, information and support. It was hard to close the office, and committee members and Christine, office manager are still carrying out their roles as needed to keep the organisation meeting its legal and fiduciary requirements. This website is regularly updated and this current newsletter is to keep all the members up to date as much as possible.

We will continue to 'tick over' until we can all safely reconvene in person again. The commitment and passion of the membership is U3A. Go well, go safely and help keep our local branch ready to arc up again as soon as we can.

Pauline

AGM

The U3A Annual General meeting was held at the Seniors centre on 13th March 2020, members gathered to elect a new committee to take us forward into this new year.

As Usual Bev Ponder our events co-ordinator did a great job organising the event ,which included a scrumptious morning tea and a multi draw raffle.



Pictured; Back L; to R; Graham Collins, John Webster, Alan Williams, Pauline Woodbridge, Christine Douglas and Larry Frazer. Front L; to R; Vicki Tocci, Jenny Sebba, Kate Eagling and Lyn Rooke. Absent; Liz McDine and Bev Ponder. *A list of positions is on the back page*

To All members,

In light of recent Covid-19 developments, it has been decided to close the U3A office for the foreseeable future. We will keep you informed if anything changes; our website is the best place to follow changes. <https://u3atownsville.com> Just follow the link!

Larry Frazer our treasurer will continue his usual Monday duties re finance and member applications.

I will monitor the emails from home and
any queries can be directed to me .on 0439 517 470

Wishing you all health and safety in these troubling times.

Yours Faithfully

Christine Douglas (U3A Office Manager)

READER CONTRIBUTIONS

My pet fish. By Trish Jordan.....*Italian Tutor*



His name is Prince because he is the colour purple. I had the need for a companion and now I am happy! Prince is there every day and gets very excited at breakfast time. He hates it when it is time to change his water. He has been on two road trips with me one up to Cow Bay in the Daintree and one when I worked down on a farm for three weeks in the middle of Queensland. Most people think it very funny and my Vet friend could hardly believe that he would survive. But survive he has! He is my friend and he is easy to look after and he loves the interaction that we have as Siamese fish are intelligent. I didn't read that part until I had him for some weeks. It's true.

SPANISH CLASS WITH GRAHAM

Holla

There are many benefits to learning Spanish

Spanish is spoken as the first language by at least 400 million people around the world and is currently the fourth most commonly spoken language worldwide.

It will give you a kick start when visiting Spanish-speaking countries and make you feel more confident booking in to a hotel and ordering a taxi. Also, you will get a better insight into the people and culture.

Many studies show that acquiring a second language can help to you to be healthier mentally. And, compared to many other languages, Spanish is fairly straight forward for an English speaker to pick up.

Spanish at U3A Townsville covers many different aspects, grammar, conversation, quizzes, videos, and more. Come along and try out the class. Graham Collins

Picture is of the Spanish Flag



U3A JCU University student

I've now been to two interesting lectures on Politics. The lecturer is personable and very accepting and encouraging of U3A 'students'. I've met another U3A student, 'Catherine.' We enjoyed the opportunity to chat and share after lectures.

I've really enjoyed the opportunity to sit in on lectures and have also found that younger students are very accepting of we older students.

Go U 3 A and thanks for this opportunity.

Kathy Joyce

HUMOUR

A boss wondered why one of his most valued employees had not rung in sick one day.

Having an urgent problem with a main computer, he phoned the employee's home number and was greeted with a child's whisper, "Hello?"

"Is your Daddy home?" he asked.

"Yes," whispered the small voice.

"May I speak to him?"

The child whispered, "No."

Surprised and wanting to talk to an adult, the boss asked, "Is your Mummy there?" "Yes."

"Well, may I speak to her then?" Again the small voice whispered, "No."

Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, "Is anybody else there?" "Yes," whispered the child, "a policeman."

Wondering what the police would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, "May I speak to the policeman?" "No, he's busy," whispered the child.

"Busy doing what?" "Talking to Mummy and Daddy and the fireman," came the whispered reply.

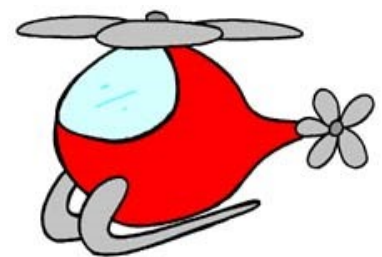
Growing more worried as he heard a loud noise in the background coming down the phone, the boss asked, "What's that noise?" "A helicopter," answered the whispering voice.

"What's going on there?" demanded the boss, now really apprehensive.

Again, whispered, the child answered, "The search team just landed a helicopter."

Alarmed, concerned, and a little frustrated, the boss asked, "What are they searching for?"

Still whispering, the young voice replied with a muffled giggle..."ME!"



I thought we could do with a laugh. Christine

Another Uni Tit-bit

I am hopeful that my subject is going to take me where I want to go. I have not been to uni for 2 weeks now - have been staying home as recommended. I have access to lecture notes and tutorial notes that I am hoping to work through as I remain in self-isolation for the time being.

From the limited opportunity of attending two lectures and one tutorial, I found the experience to be very good. The tutor was very helpful and gave me as much attention and help as he gave the fee-paying students. I am hopeful that the risk of COVID19 settles so that I can get back to lectures and tutorials.

I am going stir-crazy after staying home, avoiding the worst of the health issues. I have started talking to a spider. He is really nice. It turns out that he is into Web Design as well.

Regards, Lorraine

MESSAGE FROM THE CLASS CO-ORDINATOR

To All Members

I have spoken to some members in recent days and have been in contact with Tutors and Co-ordinators. I am in awe of the strength of members as they accept the situation as it is unfolding but work to build and maintain community bonds to help and support each other at this time.

Tutors are looking at what they can do to keep in contact with members and keep connected. On a personal level, ask what you can do to keep occupied, keep safe, be well-informed and starve off boredom while movement has been curtailed (there's only so much house cleaning a person can/should/wants to do).

- ♦ – look at what you can do to keep yourself and your family safe by checking federal and state government and other reputable websites regularly for advice and up-to-date information
- ♦ - keep engaged – dust off those books that have remained unopened and unread for years
- ♦ - go out and buy a pack of playing cards while you can and re-learn some of the games we played in our younger days (I've long forgotten them, those games my grandmother taught all her grandchildren so long ago)
- ♦ - play music, the old classics that make you feel good
- ♦ - and, if you are fortunate and can play a musical instrument, why not entertain the neighbourhood!

We are thinking of you and we wish you the best in the coming months. Be well-informed; follow government and health agencies recommendation, guidelines and instructions; maintain a healthy lifestyle despite the constraints; and generally do whatever you can to keep occupied.

Lyn Rooke; (Class Coordinator)

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: 'Woven? Are you sure?'

**Caller: 'Yes.. That's what it says on the label --
Woven in Scotland ...'**

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The physical meetings of this group have cancelled for as yet an undefined period in line with the social distancing measures instituted.

We however welcome others to join our group to contribute skills and discussion. I suggest we could pick a theme and submit a photo via email and perhaps comment within the group.

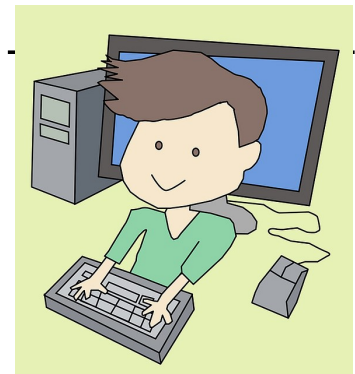
It would mean low resolution images but I am sure people could come up with some intriguing images and help keep things going.

Visits to outside areas such as the various Botanical Gardens or parks may also manage the social distancing guidelines.

We can also pass on interesting articles from the web or sites we find.

Any other suggestions would be welcome.

John Webster webj1@hotmail.com 0438322666



One for the computer buffs!!

Tech Support: 'I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop.'
Customer: 'OK..'
Tech Support: 'Did you get a pop-up menu?'
Customer: 'No.'
Tech Support: 'OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?'
Customer: 'No.'
Tech Support: 'OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?'
Customer: 'Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.

COMPUTER UPDATE

Hello everyone, Hope you are all well.

With the announcement of stricter guidelines for social distancing and to help keep everyone safe, we have decided to put the Computers, Tablets and Phones Digital Group at both Aitkenvale and Thuringowa libraries on hold. They usually meet at the Aitkenvale library on Monday mornings and the Thuringowa library on Friday mornings.

Depending on individual skills, participants work through modules on the Be Connected Esafety website at their own pace. Mentors are available at the sessions to assist with any digital enquiries.

One of our most popular questions is how to transfer photos from a mobile phone to a laptop or personal computer. As well as learning from each other and meeting new people, we have fun.

While the sessions are on hold, mentors are available by phone and email to support U3A members who are enrolled in the classes to continue with their learning.

Mentors :

Gaye - gayehiggins@hotmail.com or 0419 732 311

Liz - carliz88zeus@gmail.com or 0409 359 969



MAGNETIC ISLAND MONDAY TALKS NEWS

Monday Morning Talks on the island are a great opportunity for islanders to get together, listen to an interesting presentation and enjoy a cuppa with friends. This year we have introduced a monthly discussion topic the first of which was enthusiastically researched and participated in.

Our first topic was 'when does a charity become a business?', chosen after money donated to the bush fire appeal didn't reach the people as the donors had intended it would.

Our thanks to Una Glavin for facilitating the talk, which brought up some very interesting diverse points from informed participants. *We were left with much food for thought.*

Several members commented about how much they enjoyed the session and we look forward to our next discussion, hopefully in May.

Liz McDine

U3A Walking Group Timetable for March to May 2019

Day Friday

Time 7.00am for 7.15am - 8.15am walk

Contact: Margaret on 4779 1882

Come join us!

Month Date	Meet	Walk	Month Date	Meet	Walk
March 6	The Rockpool North Ward	The Strand	April 10	Kimball St. Aitkenvale Rossiter Park	Ross River Upstream
March 13	Cape Pall Rd/Esk Str. Rowes Bay Beach Car park	Towards Pallarenda	April 17	Weir School Carpark Ross River Road.	Ross River Circuit
March 20	O'Reilly St. Mundingburra Cnr Burt St.	Mundingburra Ross River Upstream	April 24	Cape Pallarenda Rd. Far end carpark	Pallarenda
March 27	Balls Lane Mundingburra	Anderson Park	May 1	Murry Lyons Cr Annandale Skate park near bridge	Fairfield Waters downstream
April 3	Palmer St. South Townsville	Port Area	May 8	Paxton St. North Ward Queens garden gate	North Ward

Come and join us, get some fresh air, exercise and explore Townsville. We walk at a pleasant pace that allows for chatting or stopping to see wildlife. The itinerary above gives you an idea of where we go. Mostly on walking paths.

The walkers continue; they are outside ion the fresh air and maintain the social distancing.

Message to Tutors: How to keep in touch with your class group

During this difficult time for U3A, tutors are wondering how to keep in touch with their class members. With so many clubs and other community outlets closed down it's important to keep U3A members connected.

There are several things we can do as tutors. The old standby is email. If you have the email addresses of your members, you can send class notes, quizzes, videos, and news items. If you don't have the emails, they can be provided from the U3A database, provided that the members agree. For a more direct approach, there are several teleconferencing programs available. Here, the old standby is Skype. It comes with Windows, and is free. The tutor would need to tell the class members to be ready for a call at a certain time. If you're not too sure about using Skype, you can get help here:

<https://www.sunriseseniorliving.com/blog/september-2016/a-stepbystep-guide-on-how-to-use-skype.aspx>

If you are a Facebook user, you can keep in touch with your class by uploading pictures, videos, and notes. Similarly with Whatsapp. Use your PC, tablet, or mobile phone

Unfortunately, for U3A members who don't use internet keeping in touch will be more difficult.

Graham Collins, Committee Member

U3A CLASS CANCELLATIONS

Basically all U3A classes have been suspended for the time being until the **COVID-19** issues have cleared. The Libraries are closing so any group there will no longer function.

The Be connected group can continue via your own computer at home and Gay and Liz are offering their services for you to be able to continue. (as per the article on page 5)

The walking group is continuing, they are outside in the fresh air and are keeping their social distance from one another. The Spanish group at Vincent is also continuing.

Some Tutors/Coordinators have indicated that they hope to return to regular class meeting times after Easter. However, this is subject to confirmation as resumptions may be delayed. Tutors/Coordinators continue to monitor the situation daily and will advise their members about resumption dates when they can give a definitive answer.

The situation is changing daily. For further information, visit the Australian Government Department of Health Coronavirus (COVID-19) health alert webpage at

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

and check out the advice for public gatherings and visits to vulnerable groups to stay up to date with the latest information and advice for your situation –

STAY INFORMED BY CHECKING THE WEBSITE DAILY.

There is also the psychological impact related to suspension/potential suspension of classes. If there are to be delays with class resumptions, several Tutors/Coordinators are making arrangements to stay in touch with group members via a number of different mediums. This may prove to be quite innovative. **But, please, don't forget the humble telephone.**

MEMBER'S STORY .

I came from Brisbane to Townsville to a job involving water pollution studies. This included water quality surveys, sampling and basic laboratory analysis. The general area covered was coastal North Queensland so travel was a large component of work.

I have always enjoyed the “great outdoors” so was pleased to be able to work in areas I had not explored. I have enjoyed living in Townsville watching it grow physically and culturally. I met my wife here and have helped raise two now adult boys.

The more relaxed life style here has been at odds with what I was often told was going to be a “hardship posting” to Townsville.

I first became aware of U3A as my father was involved in Buderim many years ago when he took up an interest in computers. I became interested when I joined the photography group to learn more about a subject I have been interested in for many years. I have enjoyed the U3A group in particular the social and learning experiences and hope to contribute to it.

John Webster webj1@hotmail.com 0438 322 666

U3A TOWNSVILLE 2020 COMMITTEE

First Name	Surname	Committee Role	Contact
Graham	Collins	IT Co-Ordinator	admin@u3atownsville.com
Christine	Douglas	Office & Volunteer Manager	admin@u3atownsville.com
Kate	Eagling	Facilities Maintenance Co-Ordinator	admin@u3atownsville.com
Larry	Frazer	Treasurer	treasurer@u3atownsville.com
Liz	McDine	Magnetic Island Co-Ordinator	magneticis@u3atownsville.com
Beverley	Ponder	Events Co-Ordinator	admin@u3atownsville.com
Lyn	Rooke	Secretary	secretary@u3atownsville.com
Jenny	Sebba	Assistant Treasurer	admin@u3atownsville.com
Vicki	Toci	Grants Co-Ordinator	admin@u3atownsville.com
John	Webster	Committee member	admin@u3atownsville.com
Alan	Williams	Vice President	admin@u3atownsville.com
Pauline	Woodbridge	President Publicity and Promotions	president@u3atownsville.com

To keep abreast of the changing times please

Check the website <https://u3atownsville.com> follow this link

These are worrying times but we all need to remain vigilant and patient. Those of you who do praying is a good option, good for you and helpful in many ways;

Be thankful for what you have. God bless you all and stay indoors; *Christine (Editor)*



**Office location: Vincent Church of Christ Centre, Unit D.4
Corner of Palmerston Street and Ronan Street, Vincent.**

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