



# OCTOBER 2022

## NEWSLETTER

### President's Report

U3A weekly Friday talks has seen a steady growth since it recommenced in July. It has been gratifying to see the willingness of presenters to choose a date, entertain and inform the audience each week. The subjects have been varied with lively Q&A participation. The quality of the presentations sourced from our membership is fantastic. We are grateful for the use of the Wildlife carers premises. We plan to continue the weekly talks until mid-November and recommence in the new year. We will canvas opinions about weekly, fortnightly or monthly sessions from our membership, ready for next year.

Recently we hosted a regional meeting of U3A branches lead by the Chairperson of U3A Qld Network. Attended by the presidents of Cairns, Mackay, Atherton and Townsville along with other committee members, the information sharing was positive and had something to offer us all. At the same time a separate session for tutors was led by Antonia and again a lively session ensured the exchange of information and new learnings from the experiences of each branch. The network passed information about their plans for the coming 12 months, gave an overview of the 2023 state conference to be held at Rockhampton and listened to the issues raised by each branch attendees.

We were able to use our current resources and 3 members attending at the TCC Seniors Expo. It was very lively and many brochures and leaflets were taken.

The Tutor's Handbook has been updated and added to the website, many thanks to the volunteers who finalised this project.

Our office and group room has been enhanced with the art class works hung on the walls. Big thanks to all who organised the hanging and the artwork.

Recognition and gratitude for all the voluntary efforts that support our branch.

Pauline Woodbridge OAM. U3A President.

**U3A Committee members wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,**

**We trust you have a good break and hope to see you again  
enjoying your U3A activities in 2023**



### U3A General Information Message

U3A Townsville Membership Renewal for the 2023 calendar year is due to commence and will take effective from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022. Your Membership Renewal will be processed each Monday commencing from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

The annual membership fee is still **\$40** for the calendar year of 2023 and the Membership Renewal needs to be actioned by you between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

You may have already received an email from the U3A Townsville Administration team addressing the 2023 Membership Renewals which also contains your current U3A Townsville database details. If any of your contact details have changed, please advise the U3A Townsville Administration team to update your details.

You can pay your subscription by bank transfer to the U3A Townsville bank account. The details are CBA bank account

**Account Name: U3A Townsville Inc**

**BSB Code: 064-823**

**Account Number: 10553473.**

In the reference field for your deposit please state **your surname and membership id number** so that your payment can be correctly allocated to your name.

The third option is to pay by either Cash or cheque at the office or forward the cheque to the U3A Office at PO Box 374 Aitkenvale 4814 Qld. Please include your **full name and membership id number** with your payment so that your payment can be correctly allocated to your name.

Please contact the Administration office if you have any questions on this on 4724 3530.

**Larry Frazer Treasurer U3A Townsville Inc.**



What a lovely get together we had meeting at Riverway for a chat, some lovely food and getting to know your peers who work other days in the same office. My job is just a fill-in on Fridays now n then if someone can't make it whilst continuing to play scrabble. We took along our home-made cakes to share and biscuits n cheese were brought by John to cover our savoury desires!

It's obvious Anne is use to these types of gatherings coming with lovely table linen to give our meeting a little class. We also had free entertainment by a lovely lady playing her ukulele and singing while she played.

Well done Anne for organising this getting to know your peers gathering.

Kate Eagling

**Why I Joined U3A** *If you are reading this then you are probably already a member. Are you using U3A to its full potential? That's the big question.*

Did you join to be physical? (e.g. exercise, Tai Chi, walking)

Did you join to keep the brain active?

Or did you join just to find some nice friends to have a coffee with.

#### **WHY DID I JOIN?**

All of the above:

- ◆ Looking for something to do.
- ◆ My friend joined.
- ◆ Needed to learn something new.
- ◆ I am introverted (quiet, reserved, & thoughtful)

#### **WHAT DID I LEARN?**

That there were other people just like me out there.

Step by step I joined a few things.

Some worked, & I enjoyed. Some didn't, but everyone was pleasant & all doing the same thing.

I tried computers in the early days, a language which was too advanced for me (that was interesting), Mah Jong, (games is a good way to interact with people). Another language which now suits me (& I don't have to be as smart as everyone else in the class. It's just FUN) & so we keep trying.

I now help in the office at U3A (& believe me I knew nothing when I went in there.) Now a couple of years later I have found a niche with nice people and meeting more all the time. So many different characters pop in to say hello, & we help them with their queries or just have a chat.

So glad I joined U3A

**WHO AM I** ??????? I'm an admin volunteer.

Terry Fittler

#### **Why I joined U3A. John Webster**

I first heard of U3A when my father and partner joined in Buderim over 25 years ago? They attended a number of courses including history, and computing, I also enjoyed the learning and companionship and recommended the group to all. I had made a few attempts over the years to join after my family had grown up. However, by the time I "got around to it" the office had moved a couple of times. Finally, I successfully caught up and joined. I was particularly interested in the photography and Science groups and also a variety of the Friday talks. Our photographic tutor was unable to continue so I decided to try to keep the group together, as obviously a number of members were still keen. I also keen to continue learning from the other members and compare our various personal "takes" on photographic themes or topics. I found U3A also a very good forum to meet other people with common and new interests.



Please send your stories on Why you joined U3A to Anne at: [admin@u3atownsville.com](mailto:admin@u3atownsville.com)



## FRIDAY TALKS. FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**“They all say we have at least one book in us, but we found out the Growing Pains of publishing not 1 but 5 books” by U3A member Joyce Higgins.**

Joyce entertained us by telling stories of her journey to become a Townsvillian”. Her reminiscences brought back memories of events that happened locally: she mentioned people and places familiar to many in the audience, and covered events such as T150 celebrations; the wild weather destruction wrought by Cyclone Althea; and then again with Cyclone Yasi. Joyce talked about the development of Nathan Plaza and, along with her children, picnics at the top of Mount Stuart, swimming at Kokoda, free concerts in the park, and the Rocket at Pallarenda playground, later demolished. These experiences along with many others have been published by Joyce in her book *“My Townsville”* 2018 Cleveland Bay Publications, as her tribute to the town she and her family have made home.

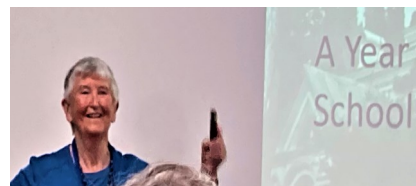
At the conclusion of her lively talk, the audience asked questions about writing and publishing, which raised some discussion about the processes used by Joyce. An enjoyable hour spent together listening and laughing with Joyce.

Keith said: *This was very interesting and well presented.*



## FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 – Hot Topic

**“An insight to what it was like to live and work in Kyiv Ukraine” by U3A member Judy Knox.**



Judy provided a thought-provoking history of what is now a war-torn country. She outlined as a teacher working and living in Kyiv with husband Dallas their experiences with a bit of Chernobyl and Crimea thrown in for good measure.



## FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2022. Back to the 1628” “What made the Swedish Warship Vasa sink so quickly”. U3A member, Chris Ward.

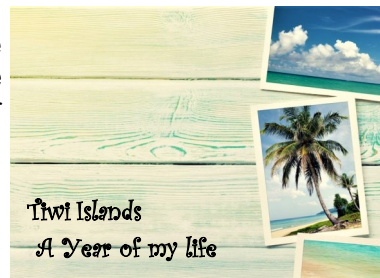
I think many of us had never heard of the “Vasa”, so Friday’s talk was both intriguing and enlightening. Christine took us right back to the 17th century with a marvellous collection of slides to illustrate life in those times, quite apart from the actual Vasa story. How this huge warship was conceived and built made for a fascinating account. But the grandiose plans of Swedish King Gustavus II came to an abrupt end when the Vasa overturned and sank only a few hours into its maiden voyage. Christine explained how the Vasa came to survive under water for over 300 years, before being raised from the seabed almost intact, to be displayed in a special museum in Stockholm. A fascinating and remarkable story.



## FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. U3A member, Anne Thomson. Living on a remote tropical Aboriginal island: The Tiwi Islands.

Anne gave a delightful lighthearted recount of her daily life experiences during her 2000 year on Melville Island. She shared her talk by telling stories of episodes that made her time there so memorable.

*“Talk came across as a series of love stories.” Will Horsfall.*



## FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. By U3A member Judy Knox. “An insight to what it was like to live and work in Mongolia

Judy spoke of places only seen in Geography books. She was well and truly off the tourist trail, where piped water and sewerage were non-existent in many areas and economically self-sufficient, but where people’s generosity captured her heart. She was teaching with her husband at the International school in Ulaanbaatar.



## Having trouble with digital technology? Maybe we can help!

U3A has a team of willing, friendly and knowledgeable Digital Mentors who volunteer their time to help our members to find their way around in the digital world.

If you are very new to working online then we offer a free course called "GOFTAT" (Getting Online For The Absolutely Terrified), which starts with a 2-hour small group introductory session, followed by a 1-hour individual one-on-one session with a mentor to make sure that you have a working email account and that you get logged on to the BeConnected network. This provides a free self-paced online course set up by the Australian Government which walks you gently through a wide range of topics from absolute basics such as how to use a keyboard, through safety online and connecting to others, and on to how to install and use Apps and examples of online hobbies - among many other topics.

If you feel that you have the basics but would like some extra help, we offer 2-hour sessions in city libraries where you can connect your device to the internet and be assisted by our mentors as you work through the BeConnected course or receive help with specific issues that you may have encountered when trying to use your device. These informal sessions are held on Monday mornings between 9:00 and 11:00 am at the Aitkenvale Library and Friday mornings between 9:00 -11:00 am at the Thuringowa Library. These sessions are **free**, but booking is required. They are for U3A members only, if you are interested in any of the above, please contact the U3A office.

*I would like to give a big vote of thanks to the  
3 tutors of the Friday Computer Class at  
Thuringowa Library:*

*Gaye, Ivor and Malcom. 😊😊😊*

*They are so helpful and always patient.*

*We all appreciate their good humour as well.*

*So appreciative of their efforts.*

*Kind regards, Margaret Graham*



### ACROSS MY DESK:

This "blast from the past" from the Townsville Bulletin newspaper clip for Tues. Oct 30, 2001 mystically appeared on my desk.

I thought you mind find it interesting. Some of you might recognize some of the characters in the feature photos.

**prime time**

**University with a difference**

**T**here are no academic entry requirements. No assessment of Age means that you have reached a stage where you don't have to deny yourself because of other commitments and other demands on your life and your time.

According to Anne, qualifying to enter the University of the Third Age means that you have reached a stage where you don't have to deny yourself because of other commitments and other demands on your life and your time.

There is only one criteria to become a member of the University of the Third Age (U3A). You have to have retired from full-time work.

But the primary feature which distinguishes U3A from other educational institutions is the motivation of its members in the pursuit of knowledge.

Members do have an unofficial motto: "Learning is for pleasure and fun. It keeps you healthy".

U3A is all about people getting together to learn.

It is explained in a way: "The first age is your learning years. When you are growing up. Second is when you have the responsibility of earning for the family, and raising your children. Third age is when you are free to get on with the rest of your life, and are prepared to find out more."

Acting publicity officer of the Townsville U3A Anne Matthews said all the successful applicants needed was the will to learn and a healthy mental attitude.

"You are only as old as you want to be," she stressed. "We have people in their late 80s signing up for creative writing classes, and some quite elderly people wanting to learn how to use a computer."

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There are more than 30 classes available locally five days a week. All tutors at the various locations are volunteers.

Courses include computer education, a variety of languages, welding, metal and wood turning, furniture restoration, watercolour and oil painting, embroidery and quilting, book reviews, photography, sport (including "aqua-aerobics"), creative writing, finance and investments.

The local U3A holds a number of social functions throughout the year. Secretary Ann Bower can be contacted by phone on 4782 2005, or free to get on with the rest of your life, and are prepared to find out more."

U3A provides a great opportunity for people to meet, learn, and discuss issues with others.

The Townsville U3A has a membership of more than 400.

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**RIGHT: tutors Dick Abraham and John Dighton at the U3A luncheon, held at Pimlico TAPE**

**Phone: BRYAN LYNCH BL115019**

**Bill and Audrey Tonkin with Robbie Fuller BL115012**

**Bill Read and Judy Nutt at the U3A Tutors Luncheon BL115020**

**Diana and Ernie Pridau with Beverly Burns at the luncheon BL115018**

**Anne Weston, Pat Jensen and Vanda Coyne BL115029**

**Margaret Mills and Janet Blacklock BL115012**

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## Christmas in July lunch with the Mahjong players.

The U3A Mahjong groups celebrated Christmas in July 2022 with lunch's held for the Monday and Friday groups. The Monday group enjoyed delicious cuisine at the Capitol Chinese venue, Cannon Park while the Friday group were off for a pub-lunch at the Centenary Hotel, Pimlico. Some of us were fortunate enough to celebrate at both, and with three lucky-door prize draws, I managed to win a bottle of wine. Though there was a battle with flies at the Centenary, and a dilemma decision between the affordable lunch menu or having a full main course at the Capitol, good times and great food was had by all, Merry Christmas (in July).

Christine Ward



Lucky door prize winners.



A big thank you to our wonderful Mahjong tutor Hanna Wiskar.

You are a very good teacher that can share your knowledge, expertise and experience with novice players. Very enjoyable lessons and lovely to meet you.

Laura and Malcolm.

## History Group

Members of the History Group went to Saint James' Cathedral on Tuesday July 26th. They enjoyed a talk and tour guided by Lorraine Kennedy, who is a member of the Friends of the Cathedral. It was a very interesting excursion.

Many thanks to Lorraine.



## *Wednesday Art at Vincent.*

The art ladies continue to produce stunning art work, which they exhibited some of their cleverness at the Saint James Cathedral Exhibition for 2 weeks in August.

At the Wed morning sessions from 9.30am to midday all new comers are welcome to exchange ideas in a discussion forum, where there is no specific tutor. Participants help and advise each other on techniques and share social media ideas.

As numbers are limited it is best to contact the office if you would like to attend a session on **4724 3530**



**CREATIVE WRITING CLASS** meet on Tuesdays One of the topic for our 5-minute write was "A cup of tea". Paula Greenslade produced the attached piece.

ONE of the best things about Creative Writing Class is having a cup of tea/coffee or herbal tea. I enjoy the interesting and intellectually stimulating conversations we have with each other at morning tea. The biscuits (which I probably shouldn't eat) are a yummy treat as well. It's just a fantastic way to spend a couple of hours on a Tuesday morning. I've made some lovely friends with vivid imaginations over the years. Doing the set homework is a meditative, spiritual, and cathartic experience.



Also enjoying a cuppa is the Walking Group.



A number of years ago I had a great talent writing poems/quotes. The following is one that I wrote for my husband, Michael, and the love we share. Now I would like to share it with you:

*"eternal love belongs only to you and me, it can be seen by all, but it can only be touched by each other".*

Thank you all and God Bless.

Janelle Jones

My name is Esther White of the U3A weekly **WALK GROUP**. Our facilitator is Roslyn McEwen, who has done a fantastic job, compiling safe, enjoyable, interesting and informative walking tracks for our walk group, whose membership range in their 60s through to the 90s. I feel our Facilitator is responsible for creating a nurturing environment for individual members in our group to feel safe and comfortable, participating. Thank you Roslyn !!

Our weekly walks include other mindful activities such as feeding ducks in the rivers or parks, looking at cultural murals on street corners, visiting wetlands, riverways, birds and Kangaroo spotting, the Cowboy Stadium, the Strand, Pallarenda and many more stimulating venues!

The highlight of our weekly walking 🧑🧑🧑🧑🧑 group, for me is our Coffee gathering after every walk. I am pretty sure I speak for everyone in my group that our Coffee Gathering is a nurturing ending to every week we meet. I feel it has also cemented our friendship as a group.

Photos of some of our members enjoying some of the activities mentioned during our weekly walk group. Kind Regards, Esther.



### **CRAFT GROUP.**

Our craft group continues to enjoy our Monday morning get-togethers. We have a cuppa while sitting and chatting about anything and everything and produce a variety of useful and decorative items for ourselves and others. Items worked on this term include, amongst others, Paddington Bear, decorated hand towels, a beautiful rug, Trauma Teddies and an assortment of soft toys. One of our ladies is learning more about crotchet, and will, no doubt, soon be making beautiful articles.

Good health to all. Cheers, Gen.



There are no class timetables in this issue but if you would like to check please go to our website and you will find them there. **Web: [u3atownsville.com](http://u3atownsville.com)**

We will have the class timetables for 2023 in the Jan. issue of the U3A newsletter.

### **A reminder: March is when the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is held.**

As usual, all seats on the committee will be declared vacant, so that a new committee could be formed. If you, or indeed any one you know would like to take on a role please feel free to attend this important meeting.



#### **Roles to be filled:**

⇒	<b>President</b>	Face of U3A /Presiding over meetings
⇒	<b>Vice President</b>	Aiding the President
⇒	<b>Secretary</b>	Works with the President and the committee
⇒	<b>IT Coordinator</b>	Keeping our technology up to date
⇒	<b>Treasurer</b>	Organising payments / receipts
⇒	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Aiding the treasurer
⇒	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Produces a quarterly newsletter.
⇒	<b>Office &amp; Volunteer Manager</b>	Organising the office and its' volunteers.
⇒	<b>Facilities Maintenance Coordinator</b>	Keeping the area spick and span
⇒	<b>Magnetic Island Coordinator</b>	Organising activities on Magnetic Island
⇒	<b>Events Coordinator</b>	Supervising any events (usually 3 per year)
⇒	<b>Class Coordinator</b>	Arranging timetables and classes
⇒	<b>Grants Coordinator</b>	Arranging Grants for a variety of events
⇒	<b>Committee member</b>	Assisting where needed
⇒	<b>Publicity and Promotions</b>	Overseeing the publicity for U3A

*These role descriptions are only an outline of each role, if you are interested in any of them please feel free to contact the office and we will give you a more in depth description.*

As a committee member you are expected to attend a monthly meeting held at 1.00pm on the fourth Wednesday each month. We are a friendly bunch organizing the groups to have fun and take on an activity that you enjoy. Please come along to our next meeting to see what we are all about.



Last November, 2021  
aged 84.

#### **Sad Passing of Joan Twine**

**It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to one of our own. Our hearts go out to her friends and families and all those that were blessed with her presence. RIP**

She has been an active member of U3A for many years and an active person in the Townsville community teaching English to immigrants, music, drama and so much more. Thank you, Joan, for the contribution to the U3A organisation over many years.

Graham's memory of Joan: *"I remember going to Joan's house several times to help fix her latest computer problem. While I was doing that, she would bring out her latest photos, or read one of her poems".*



***"The journey of becoming old has its own learning. We certainly face this task with little experience except what we notice about ourselves and those around us. I guess volunteering at U3A gives us a chance to be purposeful as we each cope with our ageing journey and warm thoughts about our shared third age activities."***

Regards Pauline current U3A President.



## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP.

Each Thursday morning members of our local U3A group look forward to meeting at Pimlico campus to immerse ourselves in all things photographic. Regardless of previous experience we are all eager to soak up new knowledge about our chosen pastime and to interact with other like-minded people in a very welcoming environment.

Each week our sessions kick off with a review of members' photographic images captured by them in the days preceding each meeting, and because we are all still learning and not in competition with each other, we happily display our individual images, warts and all. A new theme is set each week using a generic list from the internet. This very enjoyable light-hearted opening part of each Thursday's activities provides us all with opportunity to discuss techniques, camera settings and the pros and cons of our own equipment in capturing our own images. Our image themes are always open to generous interpretation and may not always be suitable for all members, however those who 'stray' a little are readily forgiven.

At all sessions we are encouraged by our enthusiastic leader-coordinator John Webster, to gain knowledge of and/or refresh what we know about the principles of good photography and importantly to explore new developments in the world of photography. In the last few weeks, we have been taking a deeper look at developments in mobile phone camera technology which can capture fantastic images in the hands of a knowledgeable user.

We all look forward to photographic outings with our group and so far, we have visited places such as Queen's Gardens in North Ward, Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park and the Conservatory in Anderson Gardens. The diversity of images captured at the one location by different photographers is truly amazing. On these occasions we get to know each other a little better, usually over smoko in a very social atmosphere.

I love this U3A Group for the knowledge I have gained about photography and am now a much more confident user of my own gear. I am also grateful for the friendship and support of our Co-Ordinator John and the other members of the group.

Readers interested in attending the photographic sessions, regardless of skill and experience, should contact the U3A directly. You will be most welcome, and after paying the annual U3A membership, you will get great value for the \$2 fee charged for each session.

See you at U3A photography?

**Norm Rains**



## MAGNETIC ISLAND NEWS

**Liz McDine**

In August the U3A Singers group performed for the second year at MICare for the seniors in the community and friends of group members. This year we told stories about each of the songs which proved very popular. We featured a new song written by our own song writer, Pete Duckworth. Pete put words and music together after two singers had simultaneously said, '(There's) Just enough time for one more' before the end of our weekly session. We also sang our signature tune, 'Island Time', written by Pete in Canberra at the turn of the century while waiting and dreaming of his move to Magnetic Island with his partner Tania. Many thanks to MICare for their welcome and the morning tea.



## French National Day. Vive la France.

On July 14th all French students celebrated French National Day with a picnic at Sheriff Park. French music, trivia and pétanque game were appreciated by all. Vive la France A fun time had by all.



USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



CHRISTMAS  
SANTA  
HOLIDAY  
TREE  
ORNAMENT  
PRESENTS  
HOLLY  
SNOWFLAKE  
RIBBON  
CANDY  
GINGERBREAD  
CARD  
JOLLY  
MERRY  
ELF  
TOYS  
CANDYCANE  
STAR  
STOCKING  
LIGHTS  
TWINKLE  
REINDEER

# U3A WALKING GROUP - SEPT TO NOV DATES.

Meets Friday 7am for 7.15 start – 8.15.

Coordinator: Roslyn McEwan. Phone U3A office **4724-3530** for contact details



Date	Meet	Walk
Oct	7	Rock Pool, The Strand
	14	Thuringowa Library car park.
	21	Dean Park car park
	28	Rossiter Park
Nov	4	Weir School car park
	11	End of year breakfast.

## U3A Walking Group


The U3A walking group will take a break during the really hot months with no meetings from mid-November to mid-March.

You are most welcome to join the group so just turn up.

Please bring with you: hat, sun-screen, water bottle, and wear comfortable shoes.

## YOUR U3A COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS



First Name	Surname	Committee Role	Email
Pauline	Woodbridge	President Publicity and Promotions	<a href="mailto:president@u3atownsville.com">president@u3atownsville.com</a>
Liz	McDine	Magnetic Island Co-Ordinator	<a href="mailto:magneticis@u3atownsville.com">magneticis@u3atownsville.com</a>
Antonia	Gerrard	Class Coordinator	<a href="mailto:classcoord@u3atownsville.com">classcoord@u3atownsville.com</a>
Alan	Williams	Vice President	 <a href="mailto:admin@u3atownsville.com">admin@u3atownsville.com</a>
Lorraine	Ryrie	Secretary	
Larry	Frazer	Treasurer	
Jenny	Sebba	Assistant Treasurer	
Christine	Titmus	Office & Web Co- Ordinator	
Graham	Collins	IT Co-Ordinator	
John	Webster	Committee member	
Will	Horsfall	Committee member	

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES

Term 4 Summer 10 Dec 2022 (Sat) 22 Jan 2023 (Sun)



## CONTACT US



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



Open: Monday 9:00am—10.30am  
Tuesday—Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm



P.O. Box 374, Aitkenvale QLD 4814



Telephone: (07) 4724 3530



Email: [admin@u3atownsville.com](mailto:admin@u3atownsville.com)



Website: [u3atownsville.com](http://u3atownsville.com)

## FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER DATE

Next newsletter submission date to assist publication time is: **Tues Jan 24.**

Early submissions are always appreciated.

## IMPORTANT DATES

The U3A Office will **close** on **Friday Dec 17** at noon.  
It will **reopen** on **Monday January 10, 2023.**

Many classes will **resume** on **Jan. 17, 2023**,  
but it is best to check with your tutor what their preference is.