

U3A

AUSTRALIA



U3AAA BULLETIN No. 21

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From the Editor

Welcome to Tasmania, newest member of U3A Alliance Australia. Congratulations to those Hobart and Glenorchy members who had the determination to make it happen.

Thank you to everyone who submitted their articles by the deadline and for making them interesting and relevant to other U3As and networks. I delayed publication until our latest film offer arrived. The company who provides these complimentary tickets was particularly pleased with the feedback received after the previous film, 'Three Summers'. It could have been written especially for U3A audiences and at the local screening we all hooted at the same bits, particularly mention of ukuleles.

Do act promptly to take advantage of the free tickets to Breathe (see back page). Not to be confused with a recent teen drama of the same name, Breathe is a high-quality production of an inspiring true story which pays tribute to the late disability advocate Robin Cavendish, and his battle with polio in an era when it was as good as a death sentence.

As before, booking is online. Follow the link, download and print the tickets which you then take to the cinema on the night. Dates and locations are displayed when the link is followed. Unfortunately it is only mainland States this time. Sorry Tasmania, you have been left out again. We will have to let the powers-that-be know that you are one of us now.

The cover photo reminds us, as if we need it, that the downhill run to the end of year has started. Time to finalise programmes for next year so we too can kick up our heels. Have a wonderful party season everyone, shamelessly indulge in a few summer siestas and come back refreshed and ready for a tremendous 2018.



*Claire Eglinton
U3A Lower North
South Australia*



2018 Diary Dates

28 March: Deadline for next issue of Bulletin. Start collecting photos now. 😊

11-13 April: NSW U3A Network Conference and Annual General Meeting, hosted by U3A ACT at University of Canberra and Premier Hotel Belconnen. More information on program, cost, registration and accommodation options available shortly at www.nsw.u3anet.org.au

October: WA Network Conference, Mandurah.

From the Chairman

The current U3A NSW Network president, Ian Robertson, has advised that, having only recently taken on that role with attendant priorities, he has decided to step aside from the chair of the Alliance and has asked that I resume the role of chair of the Alliance as his nominee, until the Alliance meeting next March/April, when another State will take on that position. This will provide some continuity in attending to various matters discussed and still pending from the Alliance meeting in March this year. I appreciate the positive response I have received from other networks.



On a recent trip to Singapore, I took the opportunity to catch up with Irene Wee, the deputy president of U3A Singapore. We had previously met at the 2016 IAUTA conference in Osaka. U3A in Singapore was founded in 2012 under the auspices of the National Silver Academy (NSA) of the Singapore Association for Continuing Education (SACE). It currently has about 1000 members, and in the August-November term was offering 39 courses at various locations for its members. The NSA has a government grant which meets 80% of the costs of presenting these courses, so that U3A members pay a nominal fee to attend them. At the SACE/U3A Centre office, and at a delicious lunch later, I met the voluntary administrator of that Centre (Katherine Neo) as well as a group of Rummikub players, and two tutors, Dennis Carroll and Wee Chwee Heng. Irene was very interested to discuss prospects of exchange tours between U3A in Singapore and Australia, and hopes to attend the NSW Network conference in Canberra next April, when this idea can be explored further.



(Left) L-R Ron Browne, Ainslie Lamb, Katherine Neo, Irene Wee, Wee Chwee Heng.

(Right) Craft work at the SACE/U3A Centre: painting on polished stones.



Finally, birthday greetings to Dr Barry Jones, AC, the national patron of U3A in Australia, who turned 85 on 11 October. Barry, who has previously expressed his intention to '*spend the longest time possible in the Third Age and the shortest in the Fourth*', is still writing on a wide range of subjects, as well as accepting speaking engagements, and is on the National Trust's list of Australia's Living Treasures.

Best wishes,
Ainslie Lamb
Chair
U3A Alliance Australia



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA will soon have a new U3A in the metro area: U3A Prospect. It is in capable hands with a website, facebook page, dedicated email and mobile phone all established even before their first public meeting. It is impressive to see a group forming with all the tech trimmings that can sometimes prove a hurdle for much longer-established U3As. This is obviously the way to go and the State network should encourage everyone to achieve the same level.

It was a real pleasure attending the opening of a new building at Murray Bridge. U3A Murraylands has worked in partnership with Lions and local government to finance and construct a fine shared venue. The original building, at about 30 sq.m., was only suitable for small groups. Now they have an extension of 150sq.m. with plenty of room for physical activities like line dancing and their larger groups, social gatherings, etc. Currently they have about 36 activities between the two rooms in a month. Next on U3A Murraylands agenda is expanding their programme to fully utilise the new room and pursuing grants to finance room dividers to allow multiple classes to be held concurrently. Bringing this long-term project to fruition took vision, effort and tenacity. Well done to everyone involved.

Right: U3A Murraylands delegate to State network, Clyde Leach tells the U3A SA executive how it was achieved. From left: Bernie McSwain, Clyde, Peter Adams and Brent Morrell.

Below: U3A Murraylands members keeping physically active with line dancing led by Debbie Griffiths in their spacious new venue.



U3A South Australia held its AGM in October and has a couple of new faces on the committee. U3A Campbelltown's Kerrie Smith, who had already assumed the duties of grant officer, is now also the State network's president, taking over from Bernie McSwain. Marjolijn Haraghey from U3A Adelaide Hills is the new vice president. Former vice president Brent Morrell is now back-up to treasurer Peter Adams. Major goal at the moment is finding a new source of funding as our current four-year plan comes to an end mid 2018.

Promotional activities by some U3A Lower North groups deserve a mention. The art group, tutored by local artist Gerald Moore, though small has held an annual art exhibition since 2009. With support of the needlecraft group, they have now extended to taking stalls at the Christmas Craft Fair and Autumn Garden Festival. These are well badged with U3A flags, banners, brochures, etc.

U3A Lower North's quilters put on a public exhibition of their handiwork draped over the backs of pews in a local church, and the Sunday service included a mention of the importance to the community of groups like ours.

Presenting U3A to the public in such a positive way is the sort of promotion that money can't buy.



Top: Art Group members with Gerald Moore (left) and chief organiser Pauline Reid (right).

Left: Diane Richardson was the driving force behind this exhibition of quilts draped over church pews. It was an impressive display of different styles and techniques which raised funds for church projects.

Claire Eglinton
Secretary
U3A South Australia



QUEENSLAND

Network Qld has two Memorandums of Understanding in place which we are pleased to be able to say are not just “pieces of paper that make us feel good”. There have been practical and encouraging links between U3A Network Queensland, COTAQ and the LGAQ.

For the launch of Senior Citizens’ Week in Queensland, COTAQ hosted an Age Friendly Communities forum with a celebration for their 60th anniversary at which they spoke of the important role they have played in supporting older people and working with services and governments to bring about positive change. COTAQ was a strong supporter of the establishment of U3A in Queensland in 1986. Peter Howells, chair, and Mark Tucker-Evans, CEO, were hosts to 80 invitees. Speakers focused on leading a healthy and socially inclusive older life. Turning 60 was also a chance to announce COTAQ intentions for the future and remind everyone of their Vision: ageing in Australia is a time of possibility, opportunity and influence. This sits very well with who we are and was a great opportunity for me to network with like-minded people working in education and other seniors organisations.

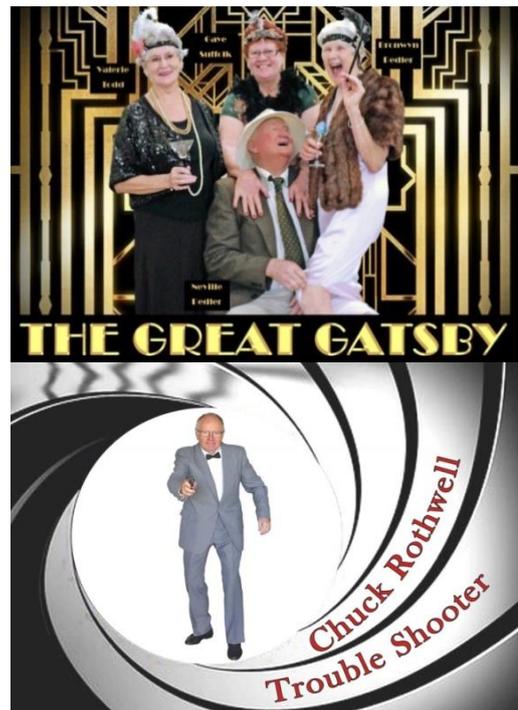
Another great opportunity for U3A has been the complimentary delegate observer pass for a U3A delegate to attend the LGAQ annual conference held in Gladstone in October. This year, our delegate was Philip Morissette, president of U3A Rockhampton. Unfortunately his time was limited to the official opening by His Excellency, the Honourable Paul de Jersey, AC, QC, Governor of Queensland and Day 1 with the launch of a new computer system and various panel discussions. Phil was keen to make contact with mayors and councillors from adjoining areas like Biloela, Emerald and Gladstone where we could possibly start up a new U3A but the weather turned nasty, flooding was forecast, so he needed to head home.

One other opportunity that Andy Fechner, president U3A Beaudesert, has nurtured is a working relationship with the local library. Libraries are always looking for ways to engage with their community and who better than U3A to help them with access to our members who are keen readers. A couple of years ago these members formed Friends of Beaudesert Library and since then have assisted with the selection and delivery of library books to house-bound people and also book boxes placed in local business, particularly medical waiting rooms. Once again, U3A Beaudesert has partnered with Adult Learners’ Week and had a huge display and information table in their library. It’s a great partnership when the assistant librarian takes time to hand out our marketing materials and talk to customers about U3A and the community.

U3A Redlands District and U3A Caboolture once again took part in the Super Tuesday Bike Count 5 September in their local areas. This is a joint venture between Bicycle Network, the local council and any NFP organization that can contribute volunteers for a few hours counting cyclists at designated points and recording the information. Bicycle Network donates \$50 per counter to the organization and, as many of our U3A members are keen cyclists, this is beneficial for council planning of bike paths and helps our funds.

U3A Cairns had a novel way to celebrate Seniors Week and fundraise by creating a calendar featuring members in the roles of famous movie characters like James Bond and Mary Poppins. Denise Collyer, president, says she is very proud of the result which was produced solely by in-house talent. *'It was fun, it was a joint effort, and a lot of different groups joined in'* said Denise. Every photo in the calendar has a story to tell like the reshoots, travelling to Yungaburra for just the right car, balancing on a chair in high winds and many more!

Needless to say, U3A Cairns Open Day was a great success with orders taken for the calendar as well as enrolments for new members. U3A Cairns also has a partnership with James Cook University that allows U3A members to audit classes - another example of a local U3A building up relationships within their local community.



More news from Queensland has been the success of the training workshops which were funded through the Commonwealth government DSS volunteer grant. Twenty-four people attended the grant writing workshop facilitated by Lisa Nardone, GrantsPlus Consulting, held at U3A Brisbane and which was hands on with tricks of the trade, exercises and discussions. Attendees travelled from as far afield as Coolangatta, Stanthorpe, Gympie, and there was one from Cairns who took the opportunity to attend whilst here on holiday. And in North Queensland, U3A committee members travelled long distances to attend the good governance workshop facilitated by Leisa Donlan, director of Committee.com.au, and held on the U3A Townsville campus. Attendees came from Atherton Tablelands, Cairns and Mackay to join with U3A Townsville. Comments were that they just wished everyone could have been there because Leisa's presentation was relevant and informative and they learnt so much from her and the discussion with other U3As.

Network continues bringing together U3As in regional areas and this month U3A Maryborough hosted another roadshow in the town hall, Maryborough. Attending were presidents and vice presidents from Hervey Bay, Howard, Maryborough, Gympie and Bundaberg. Our meeting venue was complimentary and offered to us by the CEO and councillors of the Fraser Coast council. One topic well debated was U3A finances and whether there were sufficient funds in the bank to future-proof our business.

Julie Porteous
President
U3A Network Qld Inc

NEW SOUTH WALES

At the Network AGM in June, four members of the Network committee retired (including the president and treasurer) and three new members joined the committee. In addition, a new web administrator has been appointed. As some others have been members only for a year, the incoming president, Ian Robertson, initiated a strategic planning day in August, in conjunction with the regular committee meeting the following day, aimed at reviewing the Network's current activities and prioritising our directions for the next few years.

The day was facilitated by Rose Lyons, a member of Sapphire Coast U3A who has degrees in community management. Rose took the committee through the process of identifying what each of them thought the Network was about, what their role as committee members was, discussing perceived strengths and problems, and then creating the basis for a plan for the next three years.

After much discussion it was decided that the following best summed up the purpose of the Network: *"The U3A Network NSW provides services to our members and represents them through partnership and collaboration."* Using this vision statement as a starting point, a number of tasks and projects were discussed and then listed for possible inclusion in our next three year plan document, where they will be prioritised and resources allocated.

Apart from the planning day, the committee has also taken decisions about revamping and future-proofing the website and upgrading our website security, purchasing laptops for regional representatives and key committee members, and creating permanent online storage for Network records so they are not lost when office holders change. The first steps have been taken in reviewing the make-up of regions to make it more manageable for regional representatives to service their members. The committee will also review and where necessary revise Network resources and publications.

Meanwhile, back at the grassroots...

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A: *The Hello Koalas Festival* and conference held recently in Port Macquarie included a temporary exhibition of textile art featuring koalas. The art works were created by members of our U3A textile art class run by Jill Williams and were displayed



at the Port Macquarie Museum in Clarence Street where they were warmly admired. Although the exhibit has since been taken down Jill's original koala, 'Con', can still be seen in the grounds of the Old Court House.



The most remote U3A in the NSW Network is **Norfolk Island U3A**. Due to their physical isolation and very small numbers, the U3A has teamed up with the NI tourist agency to encourage U3A members from the mainland to visit, and socialise. Whether other U3A members come for special island events, as individuals or as a small group, they will be guaranteed a very warm welcome, and may even wish to offer some sort of presentation about or from their own U3A to the local group. Intending visitors can visit the NI U3A website at www.norfolkisland.u3anet.org.au or contact president Barbara Kelly via email president@norfolkisland.u3anet.org.au

Newcastle U3A - Photography class

'U3A members queuing at the Newcastle Museum' earned one snapper a commendation from Tutor Mark: 'Even if not technically correct, an interesting point of view often makes a good photograph.'



2018 U3A Network NSW Conference



will be hosted by U3A ACT Inc

at the University of Canberra and the Premier Hotel Belconnen

11-13 April 2018

Guest speakers include:

- **Professor Tom Griffiths**, Professor of History at Australian National University, author of *The Art of Time Travel: Historians and their Craft*.
- **Dr Caroline Fisher**, Professor in Communications and Journalism, University of Canberra, on the role of the media and the future of journalism.

More information about the program, cost, registration and accommodation options will be available shortly from the NSW Network website: www.nsw.u3anet.org.au

VICTORIA

U3A Network Victoria has been busy working with the two government departments we receive funding from. Fortunately for U3A the decision was made to continue the funding but they decided it would have a different focus.

This has proved to be both challenging and exciting. The funding is geared to project work and there are great opportunities for our member U3As to be involved. There are five project titles: policy & research, capacity & capability building, coordination & integration, building community engagement & awareness, and pilot educational programs. A working party has been formed and members of the Network committee are taking a leading role.

Network was involved in the opening of Seniors Week at Federation Square in early October. Along with marquees along the Yarra River there were performances of many types of dancing, orchestras and choirs. A great start to the month-long celebrations.

A new U3A has taken the total number of member U3As in Victoria to 107. There are three more in the establishment stage and we hope to welcome them early in 2018.

A number of our member U3As have had success in working with their local municipal councils on having either a new building built for them or refurbished senior citizens or under-utilised buildings. This has been a slow process over many years but we are now experiencing seeing U3A being recognised as a vital part of the community.

Although Christmas is still a few weeks away one of our U3As papercraft class decided they would like to decorate a tree with their special decorations. This tree is now taking pride of place in their reception area.

Working with Latrobe University students, Victoria now has a promotional video. Please click on the link below. I am sure you will enjoy it: [U3A promo 2.mp4](#)

Enjoy the coming festivities and Victoria look forward to working with you all in 2018.

*Elsie Mutton
Acting President,
U3A Network Victoria*

Live Learn Enjoy



TASMANIA

At last Tasmania has officially become a member of the U3A Australian Alliance. This has been made possible by an additional clause in the Alliance MoU:

3.2 Until such time as an incorporated representative organisation (i.e. a network) of U3As is formed in Tasmania or the Northern Territory, one or more incorporated U3As in that State or Territory may apply to be accepted as a member of the Alliance, and nominate an individual to represent them as their delegate.

Consequently, **U3A Hobart** and **U3A Glenorchy** agreed to join and have nominated me to be their representative until further notice.

Both U3As sincerely hope that this move will encourage the other Tasmanian U3As to join the Alliance. I have always believed that every State should be represented on our national body, so that it truly represents the country as a whole, especially when approaching our federal government. So let me introduce the first two members:

U3A Glenorchy: This is my own local U3A and is the newest in the greater Hobart area. We were established in 2008 and are a relatively small group of about 120 members. We are very lucky to be housed in a local high school which has decreased enrolments and we have the sole use of a small classroom block with a common room and kitchen that we share with the Tasmanian Ceramics group. We operate three mornings a week and currently offer 14 courses which include creative writing, art, mah-jong, French, Spanish, jewellery making and weekly talks. We are looking at ways to increase our enrolments and would be glad of any ideas from other U3As which have done just that.

U3A Hobart: (by Leone Scrivener) The inaugural meeting for the formation of U3A Hobart was held at the University Centre on 2 April 1990. It met with an enthusiastic response, with over 100 people joining at once. Membership rose rapidly, reaching 800 within a few years. By the year 2000, members of the committee had assisted in the establishment of U3A Clarence on the eastern shore and U3A Kingborough, and finally, in 2008, U3A Glenorchy.

We now have around 670 members and offer 36 courses over four days each week. These include language courses (French, German, Latin and Italian), lectures on history, literature, art and astronomy, play reading and discussion groups, calligraphy, writing workshop, painting and drawing classes, and courses for Apple and iPhone owners.

Over the years many of us have wished to join the Alliance, believing that every state should be represented on our national body. The move was resisted by a few committee members, but now we hope that other U3As in Tasmania will also join the Alliance.

Jean Walker
President
U3A Glenorchy

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The WA State Conference will be held in Mandurah next October

Mandurah Milestones and Memories. On 29 August, U3A Mandurah put on two sell-out performances on the history of Mandurah at the Fish Trap Theatre. Mayor Vergone opened the morning show and Minister for Culture and the Arts, David Templeman the evening one.

Preparation began in May with five local schools involved. Students started constructing models of old cottages, fish canneries, flour mills and bridges to be placed on a huge floor map to show the build-up of infrastructure through the years. Another school provided a video of indigenous dancing.



Pioneer families contributed artefacts and documents. The community museum and many groups played a part. Framed historic photographs augmented the colourful PowerPoint presentation with script by David Smeeton, and project co-ordination by Sheila Twine.

It was such a success that there will be a repeat performance on Wednesday 17 January, 2-4 pm at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre (MPAC). Tickets at MPAC box office or online for only \$15 which includes refreshments. As it is set in holiday time, we hope lots of metro and country U3A members will be able to come and enjoy this visual history of Mandurah. Looking forward to seeing you there. *Sheila Twine for Mandurah U3A*

Margaret River. The Cat in the Hat visited U3A Margaret River for quite a remarkable party.

Peter Flanigan
Vice President
WA Network



BREATHE

Complimentary Film Preview Tickets

Follow this link to download complimentary tickets to your preferred cinema:

For more info and to download tickets: <http://www.showfilmfirst.com/pin/299726>

This is your chance to attend a free preview before general release from Boxing Day.
Limited tickets available. Act fast.



BREATHE

Transmission Films invites you and a guest to a special advanced preview of BREATHE

To download complimentary tickets go to

www.showfilmfirst.com
and enter the code
299726

#BREATHE

In Cinemas
BOXING DAY


TRANSMISSION

You and a guest are invited to a special preview of BREATHE at cinemas across Australia.

Check out the trailer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olg-0xvkmY>