

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

President's Report. Pauline Woodbridge OAM.

Welcome to 2025 and to all our members. As the branch reconvenes our many activities, we can look forward to learning from each other as well keeping up with friends and making new connections. We finished 2024 with the move to our purpose-built classroom co-located with Senior Citizens at Ryan Steet, which is working very well.

As our 2024 Newsletters show there was a range of activities and events over the year culminating with joining the end of year event held by Senior Citizens, a Christmas breakup with Magnetic Island members, an earlier Tutors lunch and an admin lunch to show appreciation and thank the members who are involved with these important volunteer activities.

The committee is preparing for our first meeting for this new year, and it is with regret we acknowledge the loss of three of our clever and active committee members, two standing down because of health issues and Jenny Sebba, who passed away late last year. One important activity as we tackle the tasks that arise in leading and managing the branch, is to plan for the March AGM. As mentioned, we have a couple of vacancies and would welcome interest from members who are keen to volunteer in these roles. The committee is well organised, meets its legal and fiduciary requirements and offers an interesting opportunity to be part of the core of the organisation. You would join, with the support of our continuing experienced members to settle into any role you are interested. Our newsletters print information about the committee roles, and we would welcome any interest or queries about what would be expected – for example, attendance at the monthly meetings. The longevity of many of the committee members speaks to the sense of satisfaction gained by being part of this aspect of the U3A Townsville branch.

Unfortunately, the Covid affect is still around and although we got through those years well, and our membership numbers are strong and close to pre-covid levels, some classes see low numbers of attendance. We would love to hear from you, our members about any subject you would like to see, any idea or skill you have and would consider tutoring or coordinating, or any queries you have about any aspect of our local branch or our classes. The voluntary management committee and the admin office volunteers as well as the Tutors are supported with mentoring, training, written policies, and our constitution.

We encourage you to get on board, use your skills, enjoy the social aspect of being part of the local branch, be connected to the Qld Network and the global organisation that comes with your annual membership with U3A.

Science Class 1pm to 2pm Thursdays U3A Vincent

Come and join a great 24 week lecture program on Microbiology. Titled **The Hidden Power of Microbes** this very topical 24 week series of lectures on the importance of microbes, in nature as well their role in the human body.

Booth, PhD. "Once you learn about what's all around us and inside us, you'll never see things in quite the same way again."



FRENCH

The French group enjoyed an outing for a delicious breakfast at Palm House, the Ville, in November 2024.



Tai chi & yoga Check the website regularly for date updates.

Geoff Ward, will advise when **Tai Chi** will resumes in 2025. They will remain at the Townsville Seniors Club, 14-16 Ryan Street, Belgian Gardens.



Yoga will resume 5th Feb 2025, also at the above location.



mahjong

Mahjong has new start and finish times at Riverway Library, Thuringowa, from **9.30am—12.30pm**.

There are several reasons for this change:

- * Allow for a smoother travel time for members, by avoiding school slow zone times.
- * Reduce the number of unnecessary cars on the road for peak hour commuters.
- * Allow library staff to catch their breath from the morning rush of library users.



A wonderful lunch was enjoyed by most of the Mahjong players at the Kirwan Tavern in early Dec. The vibrant decorations set the scene and everyone was more than satisfied with fabulous food and service. The team of organisers, Steve pictured and his wife Kristine, not pictured, Yvonne and some of the helpers,

Sue and Evelyn made sure we were entertained with group games and plenty of generous prizes, their contribution to the festivities was appreciated. Our group wishes everyone at U3A a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. (Debbie C.)

The annual **breakup** of the **Senior Citizens and U3A** members was enjoyed by over sixty people on Thursday 5th December at the Senior Citizens venue in Ryan Street Townsville. The morning began with morning tea and then we were entertained by the group **SPLASH** (Sing, Play, laugh, and Share Happiness.) run by TRCOTA (Townsville Region Committee on the Ageing). The group sang a variety of Christmas songs and Carols. TRCOTA supplied a mix of percussion instruments for the audience to participate in the fun. Due to the wet weather a planned Bar-B-Que was changed to a mix of cold meats and salads followed by cheesecake, plum pudding, and trifle. Thoroughly enjoyed by all. (Christine Douglas)



Pauline and Lorraine waiting for lunch



Kloudia and Katie enjoying morning tea

25th Oct. “Weird and wonderful stories about my travel experiences.” Barb Strickland



Using some selected photos from her travels and sharing stories of various jobs that she has had, Barbara gave a lively and interesting presentation on how such experiences can become the bases of a story, for which she has now become an author to highlight such tales.



Barbara believes everyone has a story and encourages them to share them by writing about them. She used her own life experiences and creativity for her written works, which are growing. She loves the richness of people, culture, and anecdotes it has brought into her life, which she infuses in her works.

1st Nov. “GBRMPA (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority).

”How is the top man shaping our reef for generations to come. Josh Thomas

Josh Thomas presented information about the work of the Great Barrier Reef Authority. He showed that the Barrier Reef was larger than Italy and is a series of individual reefs. He talked about the partnerships with indigenous communities ensuring cultural practices and protection of the reef. Josh emphasised the important relationships with other authorities such as CSIRO and BOM and managing the health of the reef while supporting tourism, educating communities and dealing with issues such as climate change and the Crown of Thorns damage to the reef.



There were questions from the audience and the discussion wrapped up with the welcome confirmation that the aquarium funding was secure and work should commence next year. Josh is an engaging speaker, who interacted well with the attendees.

Nov 8 - Max Tomlinson - Copy boy to MD A Paperman to be reckoned with.

The Friday Talk audience were treated to an entertaining story from Max



Tomlinson, a fourth generation newspaper man. It was a fascinating talk about his journey from paper boy to managing director in the Murdock empire, with many of the regional news papers in Nth Queensland. What an interesting afternoon to hear of Maz’s time working with small town newspapers to the big print media. Audience participation included much reminiscing from some members who had worked at the Townsville Bulletin. A lively talk with lots of Q and A. Rhyl.

Nov 15 - Judy Knox - Teaching in Japan, 2011

Ever the school teacher, Judy orientated the audience with some facts about Japan before delving into working life, because of bureaucratic paperwork Judy had 3-3 month teaching positions at the one schools, with a Scottish-Japanese principal and her collegial family members. Her passion for her small groups of students and her work shone through with the photos of her experiences. This well paid position allowed Judy to explore her nearby regions regularly. The earthquake story had many of us clutching on to our seats.



U3A Townsville Class Timetable

Monday:

Be Connected: Basic Computer (Aitkenvale)

Time: Session 1: 9.00am – 10.00am

Session 2: 10.00am – 11.00am

Tutor: Malcolm Hall

Location: Aitkenvale Library

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Mahjong

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Tutor: Anne Thomson

Location: Riverway Library

Craft Group

Time: 9.30am – 11.00am

Tutor: Genevieve Caldwell

Location: U3A Vincent

Book Club Aitkenvale 3rd Monday of the Month

Time: 10.00am – 11.00am

Tutor: Antonia Gerrard

Location: Aitkenvale Library

Book Club Flinders St 2nd Monday of the Month

Time: 12.00pm – 1.00pm

Tutor: Jeanette Hind

Location: Flinders St Library

Family History & Ancestry DNA

Time: 12.30pm - 5.30pm

Tutor: Liz Scammel

Location: Aitkenvale Library

Amateur Astronomy

Time: 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Tutor: David Burdeu

Location: U3A Vincent

Tuesday:

Spanish Conversation

Time: 9.30am – 11.00am

Tutor: Graham Collins

Location: U3A Vincent

Creative Writing

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Time: 9.45am - 12.00pm

Tutor: Anne Atkinson | Judy Knox

Location: Brooklea Lifestyle Village, 1 Linderman Ave, Cranbrook

Computer Programming

Time: 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Tutor: David Browning

Location: TBA

History

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Tutor: Andy Cole & Michele Cloonan

Location: Oonoonba Community Centre, 2 Shannon Street, Oonoonba

Guitar Lessons

Time: 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Tutor: Basil Harvey

Location: U3A Vincent

Wednesday:

Tai Chi

Temp Cancelled Restart TBA

Time: 9.00am – 10.00am Beginners

Tutor: Johannes Boyke

Location: TBA

Creative Art

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Tutor: Kate Eagling

Location: U3A Vincent

Philosophy

Time: 10.00am – 11.30am

Tutor: Pamela Hancock, Neil Renison

Location: Aitkenvale Library

Wednesday:	
Indonesian Language and Culture	
Time: 12.00pm – 1.30pm	Tutor: Anni Hurst, Val Colquhoun—Coordinator
Location: Aitkenvale Library	
Yoga	
Time: 11.00am – 12.00pm	Tutor: Jan Harvey
Location: TBA	
5 Crowns Card Group	
Time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm	Tutor: Liz Scammel
Location: Private Residence's until further notice	
Thursday:	
Digital Photography	
Time: 9.00am - 11.00am	Tutor: John Webster
Location: U3A Vincent	
French, Conversational	
Time: 11.30am – 1.00pm	Tutor: Georgina Valdeter
Location: 382B Charles St, Kirwan	
Science	
Time: 1.00pm – 2.00pm	Tutor: John Webster, Ian Cormack
Location: U3A Vincent	
Friday:	
Walking	
Time: 6.45am – 8.00am	Tutor: Angela Ward
Location: Various Walking Paths	
Basic Computer & Technology (Riverway)	
Time: Session 1: 9.00am - 10.00am	Session 2: 10.00am – 11.00am
Tutor: Gaye Higgins Malcolm Hall	Ivor Preston
Location: Riverway Library	BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Mahjong	
Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm	Tutor: Anne Thomson
Location: Riverway Library	
Scrabble	
Time: 10.00am – 12.30pm	Tutor: Kate Eagling
Location: U3A Vincent	
Italian for Travel & Fun	
Time: 12.00pm – 1.30pm Intermediate	2.00pm - 3.00pm Beginners
Tutor: Trish Jordan	
Location: Aitkenvale Library	
Friday Talks Townsville	
Time: 2.00pm – 3.00pm	Every Friday 2025 Program TBA
Location: TBA	
Saturday:	
Chinese	
Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm	Tutor: Phoebe Chan
Location: Private Residence	

U3A Magnetic Island Class Timetable

Monday:

Monday Talks Magnetic Island

Time: 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Tutor: Brian Furby

Location: RSL, 31 Hayles Ave, Magnetic Island

Wednesday:

French

Time: 9.00 am – 11.00 am

Tutor: Una Glavin

Location: Private Residence

U3A Singers

Time: 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Tutor: Una Glavin

Location: St Margaret's Anglican Church 8 Endeavour Rd, Arcadia

Thursday:

Recorder Ensemble

Time: 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Tutor: Una Glavin

Location: Private Residence

Friday:

Italian Elementary

Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm

Tutor: Lucia Parigi Facilitator Dian Stroud

Location: Private Residence

Monday Talks - Term 1 2025 10am-12noon RSL Hall Arcadia . Facilitator is Brian Furby

Contact Brian Furby (04 3885 2945) for further information.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL U3A. NON MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Date	Speaker	Subject
03-02	ABC Australia	Australia: The Time Traveller's Guide Episode 1. The Early Days (57min) Australia: The Time Traveller's Guide Episode 2. The First Steps (57min)
10-02	Prof, Ian Plimer	Climate Change - The Facts (60min) Discussion on Climate Change Facts
17-02	Inside Universe You	Pre-historic Megastructure Discovered in NZ (31min) Pre-historic Megastructure Discovered in the jungles of Indonesia (36min)
24-02	Tony Robinson ABC	Tony Robinson Down Under Episode 1 - 2 Tony Robinson Down Under Episode 2 - 3
03-03	ABC Australia	Australia: The Time Traveller's Guide Episode 3. The Wild Years (57min) Australia: The Time Traveller's Guide Episode 4. The Wild Years (57min)
10-03	Coral Jackz 9 News Australia	The Stonehenge Bluestone Debate (66min) Aussie Researchers make extraordinary discovery about..... (3min)
17-03	Astrum Jarry King NOW	What Voyager detected at the edge of the solar system (51min) Neil Tyson on the afterlife, origins of the earth and extreme weather (30min)
24-03	Dr Patric Moore	Carbon and Climate Catastrophe (79min)
30-03	Tony Robinson ABC Into the Wild Films	Tony Robinson Down Under Episode 3 (60min) The Blue Mountains hidden wonders (31min)

U3A Walking Group - MAR to AUG dates.



Meets Friday 6.45am for 7.00 start – 8.00.

Coordinator: Angela Ward. Phone U3A office **4724-3530** for details

Please bring your: hat, sunscreen, water bottle, & wear comfortable shoes.

Date		Meet	Walk
Mar	14	Rockpool, North Ward	The Strand
	21	Aplins Weir Rotary Park cnr of O'Reilly St & Burt St	Annandale upstream
	28	Balls Lane, Mundingburra	Anderson Gardens
11			
Apr	4	Palmetum carpark	Palmetum & River Walk
	11	Dirty Boots Cafe @ The Oasis, Staging Camp Avenue - Idalia	Idalia River Park loop
	18	Good Friday	Public Holiday
	25	Anzac Day	Public Holiday
11			
May	2	Aplins Weir Rotary Park cnr O'Reilly St & Burt St	Mundingburra Side -Downstream
	9	Reana Park, Greenwood Dve, Kirwan	Catchment Area Through Park
	16	56 Yolanda Drive (small shopping centre)	Annandale Circuit
	23	Ottos carpark at the Precinct (Nandos side)	Upstream river walk
	30	Rossiter Park, Kimball St, Aitkenvale	Ross River upstream
11			
Jun	6	Cape Pallarenda Road park nearing wood	Lagoon's Walk
	13	Palmer St near maritime museum	Palmer St to cruise ship terminal
	20	Weir School carpark	Riverway loop
	27	End Carmody St, Hermit Park	Bicentennial Park circuit
11			
July	4	Aplins Weir Carpark cnr O'Reilly St & Burt St	Annandale St, downstream.
	11	Tobruk Pool, North Ward	Anzac Park to Jupiter (breakwater walk optional)
	18	Robertson Park, Cape Pallarenda Rd. 3 Mile Ck carpark after garden settlement & before bridge	Foreshore Park towards city
	25	Rock Pool, North Ward	Strand Walk to view Ephemera
11			
Aug	1	Tyack St Rosslea	Around Golf Club Boundary+B33:B37
	8	Roundabout at Riverside B'Varde & Riverbend Dve Douglas	Ross River, Downstream towards Nathan St Bridge
	15	Ottos carpark at the Precinct (Nandos side). Village Dr. Idalia	Fairfield Waters downstream
	22	Park near Bakehouse off Eyre (71 Eyre St.)	Queens Gardens
	29	Palmetum Carpark	Ross River upstream Douglas side

Why I Joined U3A.

Angela Ward



Having recently taken over as the Walking Group facilitator from Roslyn, I would like to thank her for the dedicated leadership and interesting walks she provided.

Initially I joined U3A Cairns, after moving there from a 7 year stint working in Papua New Guinea. I've always had an interest in a wide variety of topics, so for me U3A provided the stimulus I was looking for.

My keen appreciation of nature led me to take on the role as team leader for the Cairns bush walking group, which hopefully generated a greater love and understanding for this wonderful country in which we live for those that who participated. We moved to Townsville in 2010 due to my husband receiving a job promotion.

Please send your stories on Why you joined U3A to Anne at: admin@u3atownsville.com

Sad Farewell



On Tuesday January, **Gwen Wilson** passed away, aged 88, born in 1937. Gwen was the Mahjong coordinator for many years before retiring from the position two years ago. While in an assisted care facility at Mount Louisa she started a mahjong group for the residents. She leaves behind two daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. A memorial service was held on 13/01/2025.



First Name	Surname	Committee Role	Email
Pauline	Woodbridge	President Publicity and Promotions	president@u3atownsville.com
Antonia	Gerrard	Class Coordinator	classcoord@u3atownsville.com
Christine	Titmus	Office, Web, Member Communication	officemanager@u3atownsville.com
Antonia	Gerrard	Vice President	admin@u3atownsville.com
Lorraine	Ryrie	Secretary	
Larry	Frazer	Treasurer	
David	Browning	Committee Member	

CONTACT US



Office location: D4 Corner Palmerston St & Fullham Road Vincent 4814.



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



PO Box 378 Belgian Gardens 4810



Telephone: (07) 4724 3530



Email: admin@u3atownsville.com

Important Dates for 2025

QLD School Terms:

- Term 1: Tue. 28 Jan— Fri 4 Apr
- Term 2: Tue. 22 Apr — Fri 27 June
- Term 3: Mon 14 July — Fri 9 Sept
- Term 4: Tue. 7 Oct — Fri 12 Dec

Next Newsletter deadline for articles and photos is **Tuesday 15 April**
Preferably before this.

A reminder: 26th March 10.00am ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Venue U3A Belgian Gdns.

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:

- ⇒ **President** Face of U3A /Presiding over meetings
- ⇒ **Vice President** Aiding the President
- ⇒ **Secretary** Works with the President and the committee
- ⇒ **IT Coordinator** Keeping our technology up to date
- ⇒ **Treasurer** Organising payments / receipts
- ⇒ **Assistant Treasurer** Aiding the treasurer
- ⇒ **Newsletter Editor** Produces a quarterly newsletter.
- ⇒ **Office & Volunteer Manager** Organising the office and its' volunteers.
- ⇒ **Facilities Maintenance Coordinator** Keeping the area spick and span
- ⇒ **Magnetic Island Coordinator** Organising activities on Magnetic Island
- ⇒ **Events Coordinator** Supervising any events (usually 3 per year)



Nominations for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Proposed positions for the 2025 Committee

I hereby nominate _____ for the position of

President	
Vice President	
Treasurer	
Assistant Treasurer	
Secretary	
Office Manager	
Class Coordinator	
Promotions	
IT Administrator	
Members Communication & Web	
Grants Coordinator	
Committee Member	
Committee Member	
Committee Member	

Proposer _____ (must be a financial member)

Seconder _____ (must be a financial member)

I, _____ accept the nomination and confirm that I am a financial member of U3A Townsville Inc.

Please return this nomination form to Larry Frazer, Treasurer, U3A Townsville Inc.