

U3A General Information Message

As we welcome in the new Committee for 2022 and plan for the year ahead, it's an ideal opportunity to keep members informed about how we provide the best possible support and service to our members. I'll explain how Class Fees help to maintain services and improve your experiences. I'll also explain why completion of Attendance Sheets is so essential.

This is an extract from the U3A Townsville By-Laws on Class Fees:

5. Class fees

5.1 There may be a nominal class fee for attendance at any class provided by the Association.

5.1.1 Any nominal class fee collected is for the conduct of the class business and a levy paid to the Association to support the overall growth and development of U3A in Townsville and the local region.

Every Monday morning the Class Fees received are recorded on a spreadsheet which is available to be viewed by members if they so wish of a Monday morning but cannot be removed from the U3A Office or copied. These funds and any other funds received, such as membership subscriptions, are then banked into the U3A Townsville bank account on a weekly basis.

All funds received and banked go towards the operating costs for U3A Townsville such as Rent, Insurance, Telephone, Internet, WiFi, Stationery, Repairs and Maintenance to equipment, provision of sanitisers and cleaning products to meet COVID requirements, and all other associated running costs. Your fees also help to meet photocopying and resource development expenses for various classes and to develop and provide promotional materials at various locations around Townsville, e.g. at the city's libraries and at special events.

Members may also wonder whether the Tutors, Facilitators and Committee Members are paid for their services. All members, and that includes Tutors, Facilitators and Committee members, are volunteers in the Association. Tutors, Facilitators and Committee members **do not receive any monetary payment whatsoever** from U3A Townsville and all of their time and effort is on a totally volunteer basis for the good of U3A Townsville. Without these volunteers there would be no classes being run or any office administration being carried out and U3A Townsville would not function at all without these volunteers giving their time and effort to U3A Townsville.

Attendance sheets need to be completed by attendees to a class so that they are covered by U3A Townsville's Public Liability Insurance should an injury be sustained by an attendee while attending the Class. It also ensures that Financial members are attending the Class as the recorded Receipt Number is scrutinised to ensure it is for the current calendar year.

It is a requirement that all members complete the Attendance Sheets to ensure good governance is maintained and that U3A Townsville is meeting its legal obligations in this period of change.

Larry Frazer
Treasurer U3A Townsville Inc.