

THE CONVEYOR

April 2025 | Issue 2



Term Dates for 2025

Term 1

Monday 3 February to Friday 11 April

Term 2

Monday 28 April to Friday 4 July

Term 3

Monday 21 July to Friday 26 Sept

Term 4

Monday 13 Oct to Friday 5 Dec



Margaret & Tony Mittiga

A message from our President, Tony Mittiga

Welcome to Autumn in Term 2 for 2025!

As we entered the New Year, we introduced several new courses: 'Japanese Language' with Yoko Wylie, 'Acapella Singing Group' with Anne Keane, and 'History from the Roman Empire to the Fall of the Soviet Union' with Trevor Steele. All of these have been well received, along with a special presentation, 'Improving Your Memory' by Margaret Blades.

We have a newly elected Executive Committee for 2025, featuring some returning members in new roles, along with two new additions. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Warwick Grooby for stepping into the Vice President role and providing excellent support to me and the team. Additionally, a big thank you to David James for joining us as a new Committee Member in the position of Assistant Liaison Officer and for offering his assistance whenever needed.

Barbara Schumacher has now stepped down as Office Manager and also as a Committee Member. We thank Barbara sincerely for her 8.5 years of dedicated service to U3A and wish her well in her new role as a Database Coordinator and as a Co-opted Committee Member with Margaret Thomas. Shannon Kiely has now taken over the role as our new Office Manager and Secretary for the Executive Committee, for which we are very grateful and appreciative of her time, gifts and talents. Please make her welcome in her new management role.

In 2024 we made some improvements and also received grants to purchase some TV screens, all which have made the classes safer and more interesting. This year will be a year of technology to upgrade our I.T. systems. We also had security cameras installed as the computers, TV screens etc. are all easy targets for theft.

I would also like to say a huge sincere "Thank You" to Lawrie Fahey who has stepped into the role of I.T. Officer since the passing of Tom Mittiga just before Christmas. This has been a huge undertaking due to everything being on computers, security arrangements to be set up and general maintenance of the technology used by U3A.

Thank you also to Annette Latham who has volunteered to manage the TV Video in the corridor and the new Electronic Members Newsletter, and continues to manage our U3A TTG Facebook page and the Course Handbook. Technology is advancing at a fast pace at U3A TTG and our future looks brighter because of it.

The Management Committee Team and myself are all unpaid volunteers, giving of our time and skills as best we can, to ensure that U3A TTG is a successful organization to belong to, for the benefit of our members.

OUR OFFICE MANAGER RETIRES

My Amazing U3A Journey

On March 7th 2025 after over eight years, I stepped down from the Management Committee and reflected on my U3A journey from 2014 until now.

I initially joined in 2014 at the suggestion of my friend Veronica when I mentioned a desire to learn French. The French Class was a sociable and friendly group and a great start to my learning journey. That year also saw me attempting Cryptic Puzzles and being introduced to the wonders of my brand new iPad.

In 2015 I was accepted into the Book Discussion group where I discovered a wonderful array of amazing books that I had previously discounted as 'not my thing'. Thank you Jane, although I must admit there were a few stinkers. In 2017 Erica Majba and Ian Caddy convinced me to be the office manager and fortunately there was already a willing band of volunteers to assist me in the learning process. After the elected secretary had to step down, I was asked to combine Office Manager with the Secretary role. I was happy to comply with one exception; I wanted a minute Secretary to be appointed. As a former Finance Officer, people who know me knew that that "these fingers count, they don't type"

and over the next few years with the Minute Secretary assistance, I thoroughly enjoyed my roles.

In 2022, when we implemented the MyU3A system Marg Thomas and Linda Neale did all the hard work in setting the system up and I started using it in 2023. Every day we would discover new things within the system that amazed and excited us within the different portals and it is now a big thing within our organization. I felt that more time was needed to be dedicated to its implementation and upkeep, hence my decision to step down from my previous position and leave Secretary/Office Manager in the capable hands of Shannon Kiely.

The committee is prepared for me and Marg Thomas to be co-opted members to continue to maintain the MyU3A Data Management and I will still continue to enjoy my current classes Book Discussion, Shakespeare through Fresh Eyes and Wine Club

I sincerely thank all of the volunteers who have helped me over the years to achieve a well-run office with such a high standard of efficiency. (top right photo created in Doug McAlpine's creative photography class)

Barbara Schumacher



OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Welcome to Shannon Kiely

In January 2022 I retired from the receptionist/admin position where I had been for nine years. I soon got used to not having the early starts and peak hour traffic drives but it wasn't long before I started to struggle with the concept of talking to me, myself and I, 24/7.

I was already attending an evening Tai Chi class once a week, so then I joined the local walking group. Later on I joined the TTG Library Home Delivery service as a monthly volunteer. But I still had a lot of hours to fill in! A fellow Tai Chi member mentioned how she really enjoyed the groups that she attended at her local U3A group and gave me some written information to read. It all sounded like a good idea at the time, so I joined U3A TTG and enrolled with the Scrabble, Heart Moves and Coffee Social Groups. I figured I had covered most basis with exercise,

social and brain work but there was still only so many blocks I could walk, books I could read and crossword/word puzzles I could do in a day.

Then the two positions as the U3A TTG Management Committee Minute Taker and Office Manager came up on the U3A corridor TV Screen which really interested me. Most of my working life has been administration/secretarial work so I made some enquiries.

In 2024, I started the Minute Taking and in March this year I commenced as the new Office Manager. I look forward to the few hours out of the house, talking to other people and at the same time doing something useful and learning new procedures, while keeping my skills up to date.

Shannon Kiely



OUR NEWLY ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

Warwick Grooby - Vice President



My experience with U3A TTG began shortly after I retired at the end of 2016 when my wife Sue suggested I join her at the Tai Chi class being run by Pat Harris. The warm welcome and friendship I received from the class members, along with the wonderful leadership and passion delivered by Pat quickly made me realise this was a great community-based organisation to be part of and I have been a regular member ever since.

Sometime later I joined Linda Neale's Muscles in Motion class and I'm sure it was during one of these classes in 2023 that Kevin Neale, then President of U3A TTG, and I were chatting about my background and I mentioned that I'd retired from 35 years in both the medical science and water quality arenas. Much of this work involved writing grant applications and business development plans. It was at that point Kevin's eyes lit up and he told me the current U3A Grants Officer position had recently been vacated and would I consider joining the Committee and "helping out".

Having taken on the Grants Officer and joining the Management Committee gave me the opportunity to see other sides of U3A, from general class member to assisting with enrolments and now also to Liaison Officer and the Vice President role following the unexpected and tragic passing of Tom Mittiga. Tom was an absolute font of knowledge on so many aspects of the operation of U3A and he is sadly missed.



When Sue & I are not at U3A classes or helping look after our wonderful grandchildren, we are active gardeners around home and I also volunteer at a Community Garden in Highbury. We also enjoy travel as much as possible around Australia and overseas. Over the past few years we have completed the half lap of Australia, driving with some friends around southern WA and then up to Broome, across the Kimberley to Darwin and back down the Red Centre. Last year we also did a Kimberley cruise from Broome to Darwin to explore the fantastic NW coastline and get a different perspective on the Kimberley region. Next on our plans are a trip to Ireland with friends from Wales and later a cruise through the Panama Canal.

Finally, I mentioned my role in assisting with enrolments and over the past 2 years this is one activity that has given me great pleasure and insight into the U3A TTG community culture. I have lost count of the number of times I've had people tell me whilst sitting next to me completing their re-enrolment, about the pleasure they get in coming to U3A each week and how this organisation has helped them remain active and involved in our community. As a member of the Management Committee that is music to my ears and I hope that we continue to inspire people to get involved and try something new. From personal experience I know that welcoming first encounter with Pat and her Tai Chi class, plus all our other wonderful Group Leaders and the diversity of classes on offer, has kept me coming back each week and encouraged me to take on roles in the Management Committee.

Celebrating and honouring our wonderful volunteers!

David James - Management Committee Member



I have been a member of the U3A Tea Tree Gully for about 3 years. We live in Ingle Farm and have done so for over 50 years. My wife Elisabeth (Lis to you) and I enrolled in the U3A in November 2021 ready to join the courses of 2022. This was to fill in a day or two during the week as I had just retired after about 50 years of work. Possibly also to keep me out of "being bored" and hanging around the house.

I recently became a committee member in February 2025. My position currently is as a committee person, although I was a co-opted member to the committee in late 2023. This was for me to see how things are run at U3A. I helped out in a community forum run by the Tea Tree Gully Council with Mike Pruis and assisted again later working on the Christmas bar-b-que 2023 and 2024.

In my first year 2022 I participated in Geology, Astronomy, and two Friday walking groups.

Since 2023 I have enjoyed my time in a history class, playing Canasta on Wednesday, walking with various groups on Fridays and every couple of weeks I join in Muscles in Motion.

I enjoy the classes I have been part of and the comradery in the groups have been fun. I believe I have made friends within the groups and hopefully the people enjoy my silly sense of humour.

As a Committee Member of the U3A TTG I see a great future. This group of dedicated people wish and hope that we progress into retirement developing skills and confidence to lead a fruitful, active and healthy life. Life is good in retirement with U3A TTG!

2025 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



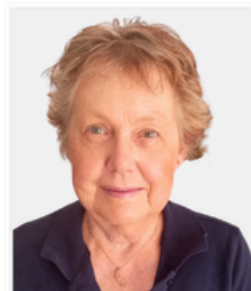
TONY MITTIGA
PRESIDENT &
HOUSE SERVICES



WARWICK GROOBY
VICE PRESIDENT



DAVID JEFFS
TREASURER



SHANNON KIELY
OFFICE MANAGER &
MINUTE SECRETARY



LUCI CAMPESTRE
COURSE COORDINATOR



ANNETTE LATHAM
MARKETING COORDINATOR



LAWRENCE FAHY
TECHNICAL OFFICER



MIKE PRUS
MAINTENANCE OFFICER



TESS ANTHONY
U3A STATE DELEGATE



DAVID JAMES
COMMITTEE MEMBER



BARBARA SCHUMACHER
CO-OPTED MEMBER
DATABASE COORDINATOR



MARGARET THOMAS
CO-OPTED MEMBER
DATABASE COORDINATOR