

THE CONVEYOR

February 2025 | Issue 1



Welcome to Term 1

Welcome to another New Year at U3A Tea Tree Gully! We hope you have had a wonderful break and are ready to start 2025 with enthusiasm. Whether you want to stay active, socialize, keep learning or be more creative, we provide a range of more than 80 courses designed to cater to your interests. It's time to focus on your personal development, growth and enjoyment for those over 50 who are working less than 20 hours per week!

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



Nomination Forms now available for the 2025 U3A TTG Management Committee

The next
Annual General Meeting
will be held on
Friday 7th March
at 1pm in Room 8

ALL WELCOME

AGM Agenda

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Confirmation of Previous Minutes
- Business arising from the Minutes
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Committee Members
- Appointment of Auditor
- Notification of Public Officer
- Any other business
- Close

Have you thought about nominating yourself for the U3A Tea Tree Gully Management Committee? If you possess prior experience on Management Boards and Committees, we would be glad to have your nomination to join our team. Volunteering can be a highly rewarding way to give back to society and utilize your skills for the benefit of our organization. By the end of 2024, we had 836 members, with 108 being new members. U3A TTG stands out as one of the most successful Universities of the Third Age in Australia, boasting a rich history of supporting retirees and semi-retirees in maintaining their health, activity, and vibrant lifestyles. Please note that nominations close on Friday February 28.

IN MEMORY OF TOM MITTIGA

A tribute to our friend and colleague

Tom grew up in Frewville; he attended Parkside Primary and Unley High Schools. He married Robyn in 1970 and they had two children, Kerryl and Benjamin.

Tom's last position before retiring and joining U3A, was as Chief Information Officer, ICT Coordinator of Catholic Education in SA.

After retirement, he obtained diplomas in Drafting & Business Studies and also degrees in Civil Engineering and Computing Science.

Tom joined U3A in 2013 and enrolled in the Wine Club. A few years later in 2017, he took over as the Tutor of the class, as well as teaching a class on "Technology Today".

Tom held the position of Technical Officer on the Management Committee from 2016 and also was elected Vice-President in 2020. He brought forward many agenda items to fruition.

He was instrumental in introducing big screen televisions and computers into all classrooms, so that members had access to world technology.

Tom had an inquiring mind, loved researching, and was a true gentleman always kind and considerate. He enjoyed music with the exception of DOOF DOOF DOOF, loved a joke or two, was a keen and loyal supporter of Port Power, and a true Aussie; a crossword addict and strategist who loved to chat. His catchphrase was "Take it easy, we can fix this".

Tom's mobile was constantly ringing with queries and questions (and he always answered) sometimes with "How can I help you?" or "Are you okay?" He was always polite and obliging.

He was pivotal in implementing a website that the older generation were attracted to and giving them a reason to explore the possibilities of life after 50 for Education, Friendship and Social Interaction.

(Written by Robyn Mittiga)



A wonderful friend and mentor who will be missed by all who knew him!

Are you looking for some purpose and meaning in your life? Why not become a volunteer Tutor or Group Leader? We have time slots available in the evenings from 3:30pm to 10pm for you to share your talents with others.



Do you have a passion for running an evening class for 'active retirees' at U3A TTG?

Share your skills and inspire others! Time slots available from 3:30pm - 10pm.



U3A TTG'S PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES



Photo: Marie Bury



Photo: Irene Moses



Photo: Paul Coolen

Outing Competition Photoshoot Brighton Beach 26th November 2024

After the proceeding clouding days, we were greeted at the Brighton jetty with perfect conditions for photography:

Cloud formations were interesting, a blue sky, and one could not image a more beautiful public beach setting. The street photography brief added an interesting element to the day.

TTG U3A Members could be seen across the esplanade and Jetty with cameras poised, jostling for prime position.

Many unsuspecting members of the public were captured going about their daily activities of running, fishing, walking and sipping their morning coffee.

Our final shoot was shooting Brighton Beach and jetty from a lookout above Kingston Park.

Thanks to Pam Allen we shared time over an enjoyable lunch at the Holdfast Hotel at Glenelg, demonstrated the value of our

common interest.

Thanks goes to the members who organised the day with precision making it a very successful club outing.

We look forward in anticipation of some creative interpretations of the three required themes of the day.

(Written by Neville Watchman)

HOWARD CUFFE RETIRES

I was born in Scotland in 1934 and at 18 years of age, I joined the British Royal Air Force. I served as Wireless Operator (in morse code) in a small mobile unit. We served in Belgium, Holland, Germany and North Ireland during the Cold War with Russia.

I started to write short stories to pass off our off-duty times. On demob I joined the Royal Photography Society of Great Britain when I became a Licentiate of the Australian Institute of Professional Photography leading to a life membership.

As a hobby, I joined South Australian Writers Centre with some success. I had an interest in family history and so after a trek in the Himalaya, I decided to write my family history.

In 2000, I joined the wonderful world of U3A Tea Tree Gully, I submitted some homework to the class tutor who informed me that he was leaving and asked me if I would be prepared to take over the position as Tutor for Family History (Writing). at the beginning of the 2002 year. It has been a marvelous experience to help members of U3A to

become published authors.

Unfortunately, I have now been declared legally blind and I am also very deaf. I regret having to retire from the position, but it is now time for new blood to take over the reigns.

Thank you for all the support of both staff and students over the years. It has been a great joy of mine to have been a leader at U3A Tea Tree Gully and I am leaving with many special memories and friends.

My very best wishes to all from Howard.



OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

Celebrating and honouring our wonderful volunteers!

John Eldridge - Group Leader for Music Appreciation



I retired in 1994 after 45 years in insurance and finance, and began to take it easy, with holidays around Australia and overseas, and helping with (eventually) four grandchildren.

By 1998, my musical feet were itching. I had always been keen, my wife said "obsessed", with classical music and opera. I ran a recorded music programme in Tottenham, London, and had been a volunteer music presenter on Radio 5 UV for a while in the 1970s. Then my great friend, Bryan Young, found U3A and quickly told me about it, saying that the music group was run on similar lines to my club in London. So I came along to see what it was all about and discovered the world that is U3A. I joined Betty White's Music for Enjoyment class and began to contribute. I made my first presentation in May 1998.

In 2003 I joined the Committee as Course Co-ordinator, a role I held until 2009, which included the setting up in our new building. Then Dorothy and I moved to Gawler and I found it too inconvenient to travel down to meetings, and was unable to be on the spot, a factor I always felt to be important in the role of Course Co-ordinator. I thoroughly enjoyed that time, and it gave me a great oversight of the wonderful array of Group Leaders that we are lucky to have.

I re-joined the committee for about a year in the mid 20-teens to support David Steel and Margaret King, who had been somewhat thrown into their tasks unexpectedly. I have have reluctantly decided that 2025 will be my last year. I have found U3A to be a great cause to be involved with. I have made some great friends, and at the same time I have had fun. What more could one want?

Margaret Blades - Volunteer Guest Presenter

I have been an accredited Social Worker/Mental Health Professional for over 30 yrs with my own private practice, working mainly with clients - young and old, who have developed depression or extreme stress and anxiety in their life which has led them to get a GP Mental Health Care plan organised by their GP.

Previously in my working life in Aged Care, I ran numerous groups for people over 50 yrs on a variety of topics related to mental health.

Now semi retired, I have more time to do the things I enjoy but I did miss the interaction with groups and contemplated for quite some time whether I should offer to run a one off session at the U3A and if I did, would anyone come!!

Thankfully I did and yes people came along - especially to the 'Improve the Memory' session so will be running more of these this coming year.

I feel extremely grateful to the U3A TTG in enabling me to to pass on the skills and information I developed over the years through the sessions and to know that people are benefiting from them.

Joining U3A Tea Tree Gully around 5 years ago was a great move in enabling me to mix with like minded people who wanted to keep body and mind active for as long as possible and I have made some incredible friends in the process.



Pauline Smith - Past Walking Group Leader



I joined in 1996, when there were only 87 members. I have belonged to many and various courses over the years including Creative Writing, Keep Fit groups, Australians in History, History of Today, Book Discussion.

It didn't take long to become very involved, resulting my starting the first Walking Group in 2000. The number of enthusiastic walkers very quickly grew to 18, the limit I felt I could cope with. I showed them how to travel by bus, train and tram as we explored all of Adelaide and beyond.

We usually walked between 10 to 14 kms. One example was catching the train to Granville, walking through Semaphore to Largs Bay and down to Outer Harbor. A long, but glorious beach walk. We usually took our own lunch and

found a coffee place, very important!

We had such fun together. It's the friendships that grew out of this group that I've come to appreciate so much.

When Covid moved in I felt it was time to end the group, and that was after 22 years. Some of us still meet regularly for coffee and chat, and we so often talk about all the experiences we shared. Friendships continue!

U3A TTG has grown so much over the years, with so many courses on offer. We are indeed lucky to have such a facility to share. I remember the days when we only had a couple of classrooms and had to meet in many different places as the demand for our U3A grew. Thank you U3A TTG!