

THE CONVEYOR

July 2025 | Issue 3



Welcome to Term 3

Yes, Winter is here yet again, bringing with it chilly temperatures and some much needed rain, but that shouldn't stop us from enjoying our courses, interest groups, and most importantly, the company of our friends at U3A Tea Tree Gully.

At U3A TTG, our goal is to empower retirees to remain engaged, socialize, and forge new friendships while continuing to learn and stay connected and stay active. We offer over 80 courses tailored for seniors aged 50 and above who are not working full-time.

Remembering Our Most Senior Member

Sadly, our most senior member of U3A TTG, Donald Walter Baker, passed away on Tuesday 17th June, aged at the amazing age of 103 years.

Born on 28th March, 1922, Don went on to become an Inspector for the Electrical Trust and was retired for 37 years. Married to Heather for 32 years, Don had 2 children, 3 step children, 5 grandchildren, 6 step grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Until recently, Don was a loved member of the U3A TTG Indoor Bias Bowls at the Lutheran Village in Hope Valley with Group Leader, Lorraine Watts. Lorraine says that Don was such a gentleman when playing bowls and always picked up the ladies bowls for them and the stray ones that went off the mat. Don was an inspiration to us all! He kept active right to the end and was a long-standing member of the Hope Valley Bowling Club for many years. He was greatly liked and respected by all who knew him. His sense of humour and great company will be sadly missed by all. Our sincere condolences to Don's wife, Heather and all Don's family.

We are a not-for-profit organization entirely operated by volunteers who selflessly share their time, skills, knowledge, expertise, and life experiences. Our main objective is to create a positive impact on the lives of active seniors in our community.

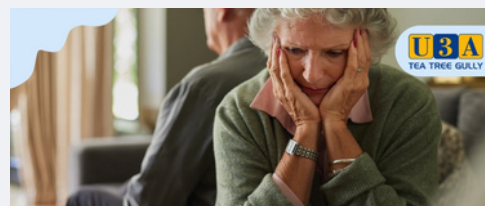
U3A TTG also offers individuals a chance to contribute to society by sharing their skills and experiences while discovering new interests and embracing the joy of lifelong learning. Where else can you get all that for just \$65 per year?

In Loving Memory of



Donald Walter Baker

One Off Presentation:



Depression, What is it?

Signs and Symptoms of Depression and Strategies, family and friends can utilize to assist in recovery.

Friday August 15th at 1.00pm
in Room 8 & 9.

Presented by Margaret Blades, an experienced Clinician who has delivered many courses for people over 60.

Contact us to enrol on
u3attgoffice@gmail.com

Help Desk Service:

with Lawrie & Kevin.

IT assistance for U3A TTG Members only in Term 3. Help with your iPhones, iPads, Macs and Androids!
Monday 10am - 12pm in Room 6.
What an awesome opportunity!

Remaining Term Dates

Term 3

Monday 21 July to Friday 26 September

Term 4

Monday 13 October to Friday 5 December

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

The Lighthouse Keeper

The keeper looked out toward the horizon. There was a storm coming, and he knew it would be a big one this time. Wearily, he turned, and trudged up the stairs, to clean the glass one more time. These stairs seemed to get harder every day now.

When the storm hit, it was far worse than he had thought it would be. The waves rose and fell, but it seemed as though they were alive. They threw themselves against the rocks far below, as if trying to undermine the towering cliffs above. It was as though the full strength of the ocean was fighting against the land, attacking and retreating, only to attack with another wave. With each onslaught, the crashing noise sent an echo reverberating across the cliff face, and a corresponding shiver through the land under his feet, until noise, movement, and wave reluctantly receded into the greater void once again, only to join the larger maelstrom of the storm, preparing for another offensive.

As he ascended the stairs, in the relative safety of the lighthouse, he checked the small marble statue that he kept on the ledge. It was a fisherman, standing strong against a storm, in all of his wet weather gear. It was a still and silent reminder of those who relied on him at a time like this. He could not remember who had given it to him, but he knew it had been a thank you from someone who had appreciated his efforts.

The keeper sighed, and sent a silent prayer into the heavens, for any poor soul who was caught out in this storm. He no longer knew who he was praying to, but hoped that his prayer might help somehow. Too many lives

had been lost over too many years, for him to feel any emotion but sadness, in this roiling, violent atmosphere..

He knew his lantern would be sending a warning light through the darkness, but he would not sleep, as he searched constantly for any lights from vessels that ventured too close to those deadly rocks. All night, the tearing wind whipped around the lighthouse, causing the keeper to huddle further into himself, in response to the noise and violence. The slashing rain, pouring down the glass, uimpeded his view, but never daunted the brave light that flashed out its message, minute by minute. His eyes grew weary, as he strained through the darkness, looking for any lights that might appear in the wrong place. Finally, it was dawn, and as the sun rose, it seemed to sap the energy from the storm, and the keeper.

The storm had drained all of its energy raging against then solid cliffs, and the persistent lighthouse. Once again, the lighthouse had prevailed against the storm's forces. Now, there was only a whisper of a breeze, as the keeper started for the stairs.

He was tired beyond belief, and sad that his time here had come to an end. He had only to pack a few last things, before the one who would replace him would arrive. This would never again be his fight, and he wasn't really ready to give it up, but he had been given no choice. They said he was too old to continue.

As he stepped onto the stairs, a crushing pain began in his chest. He reached for the rail, but his grip failed, and he tumbled down

the long length of the stairs, feeling the damage that was being done to his body, as he bounced against wall and step. He struggled to breath, and his arms would not respond to his protective instincts. He knew this was bad

At the bottom, he tried to move, but no longer had the energy or desire to do more than lie where he had landed, in a crumpled heap. As his life dimmed, his memory was full of the many sailors he had saved through the years. Him and his beloved lighthouse, that would not let him go.

Lyn Gray, 5 June 2025

Above is a story written by Lyn Gray, who is a member of the Creative Writing Group at U3A TTG. The object of the exercise was to write a story incorporating the words "lantern, whisper, marble, echo, shiver and horizon". We thought Lyn's story had used all these beautifully and she was commended for her skilful writing. If you like writing stories, you would be very welcome to join this U3A TTG group which meets on Wks 1 & 3, Thursday mornings at Lutheran Homes.



PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP COMPETITION



Chris Deguet



Janice Gill



Marie Bury

Photoshoot Competition at Tanunda

On the 10th of June, 2025 members of both the Beginners and Intermediate Photography classes of the Tea Tree Gully U3A, met at a private acreage outside of Tanunda for our regular photo competition. There were 39 participants in total including 3 observers. The property had a very natural Australian outlook with gum trees, large moss rock outcrops as well as large numbers of *Xanthorrhoea australis* or more commonly known as 'Grass Trees' or 'Kangaroo Tails'. An historic perspective was provided via an old wooden horse drawn cart which was strategically positioned to enhance the landscape. Special thanks must go to the owner of the property, James and his daughter Courtney, for their hospitality on the day.

We initially met at the Tanunda Bakery for our ritual coffee and chat. Weather looked bleak, overcast with showers and a thick fog blanketing the Barossa Valley. It certainly looked as though it was going to be quite a

challenge when it came to photo taking. Particularly when taking into consideration the primarily landscape themes set by Jack. It was to everybody's relief that on arrival to the property the sun broke through, and fine conditions remained until the very end when rain set in. We had

the perfect window of opportunity! At the conclusion 35 members, including the three observers, met at the 'Clubhouse' Hotel at TANUNDA for lunch and had some great social interaction. Thank you to Pam. A terrific time was had by all!

Darryl Foyle



INTERMEDIATE PIANO GROUP

with Tutor, Stephen Bush

Hello, my name is Stephen Bush and I am the group leader for the Intermediate Piano class. I joined the group back in 2020 when it was led by the wonderful Milton Colins. Milton was not only a talented teacher but a dear friend to many of us. His dedication to U3A over more than 20 years left a lasting legacy. Sadly, however, Milton passed away earlier on this year, and he is greatly missed.

After Milton's passing, and with no other teacher available, we decided to continue our learning through an online subscription based piano course. This course is varied and covers a wide range of both practical and theory topics. We look at the structure of major and minor scales, chords and chord progressions. We also delve into the many different playing styles such as jazz, classical, lounge, pop etc. For those who are a little more adventurous, composition is a topic also covered. We have a lot of fun!

We are a small and friendly group, and we'd love to welcome new members. The course is ideal for those who can already read music and play some basic chords so come along, bring your own keyboard and join in. If you're looking to build your

piano skills in a relaxed, supportive, and enjoyable environment, then this is the course for you. You are most welcome to visit our class anytime or if you want to find out more then please contact me on the email address above. Happy playing!



OUR UNSEEN VOLUNTEERS

Celebrating and honouring our wonderful volunteers!

Carolyn Clarke - Front Office Volunteer



I volunteer at the office every Monday, where I handle tasks such as checking the mail, updating noticeboards, and answering phone calls. As part of a team, I welcome prospective members and guide them through the process of joining classes. Registration time can be quite hectic, and I've been actively involved for years. I became a member of U3A TTG ten years ago, and this marks my sixth year of volunteering. I initially started walking on Friday mornings but soon realized I needed to improve my fitness level to keep up with the group.

Currently, I participate in both the Gardening and Creative Writing groups, both of which I love.

In the past, I have enjoyed various activities, including Geology, Singing with the Stars, Opera, Tai Chi, and Meditation. I particularly loved a cooking class several years ago, where the facilitator prepared a recipe for us to sample. I also appreciate the occasional one-off classes that are offered.

My passion lies in helping others and building friendships with fellow members. Learning new skills or exploring different subjects really exercises the mind! My love for music, ranging from rock and roll to opera, has been nurtured through these classes. The community is supportive; people check in on you, ask how you're doing, and many friendships extend beyond U3A. All volunteers work together to make TTG U3A a successful organisation.

Tess Anthony - U3A SA Representative, Committee Member

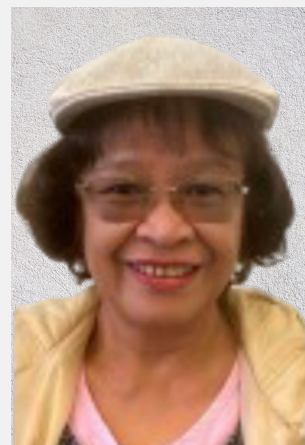
My current volunteer position at U3A TTG is as a member of the Management Committee and my role on the committee is U3A South Australia Representative. I joined in 2017 and have proudly been a member for eight years now.

As a committee member and delegate to U3A SA, I have the opportunity to be part of an international organization that supports retirees and seniors in actively enjoying and embracing the relaxation that comes with aging. I'm able to listen, share, and contribute to the seamless operation of our local U3A and its member organizations across South Australia.

The courses that I joined were Gardening, Yoga, Tai Chi and Line Dancing all of which I have thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from.

I also appreciate the chance to stay physically active, which I believe is very beneficial for my 'golden years'. Overall, joining U3A has been the best decision I've made since retiring after 28 years in the community services industry.

What I love most about U3A, is the socialising aspect, both within and outside our classes, as well as my involvement on the committee. I have really enjoyed the friendships we developed over the years, and for me that is priceless.



Lorraine Watts - Group Leader



I first became a member of U3A TTG approximately 14 years ago. Initially, I enrolled in a Computer Class for one term, followed by an Art Class that took place in the kitchen, which now serves as the office. About a year later, I initiated a Card Making class that has been thriving, with everyone actively participating. I have a passion for crafts of all kinds!

I also joined Indoor Bias Bowls at the Lutheran Village in Hope Valley. After a year, when their leader had to step down, I volunteered to handle the paperwork, but they appointed me as the Leader instead. I have been in this role for over 10 years now. The group is wonderful, and I truly appreciate all the support they provide.

The previous term, I took on the role of Art Teacher in Room 3. While they certainly keep me busy they are a wonderful group of individuals. They are all easy to get along with, which makes teaching the classes enjoyable and effortless. However, I'm not sure I appreciate hearing all the sad reasons why they can't attend every Tuesday and Thursday. While I dislike the waiting list, I strive to accommodate everyone as best as I can.

When I'm not at U3A, I train my Rough Collie, Louie, who is 2 1/2 years old. He keeps me active with Agility and Obedience Classes. I also enjoy watching the Adelaide 36ers basketball team. In fact, I played basketball from the age of 13 until I turned 60, and I even coached both junior and senior teas and participated in masters basketball. Keeping active in our senior years is vital!