

THE CONVEYOR

April 2024 | Issue 2



Autumn is here

Welcome to Term 2 at U3A Tea Tree Gully! We hope you had a rejuvenating break and are ready to tackle new challenges, make new connections, and discover exciting opportunities in your retirement. Whether you want to stay active, socialize, or keep learning, we provide a range of more than 80 courses designed to cater to your interests. It's time to step out of your comfort zone and focus on your personal development and enjoyment!



Term Dates for 2024

Term 2

Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July

Term 3

Monday 22 July to Friday 27 Sept

Term 4

Monday 14 Oct to Friday 6 Dec

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
12:00 - 1:15pm, in school terms

Exciting Volunteer Opportunities

We are a not-for-profit organization run entirely by committed volunteers who generously contribute their skills, knowledge, expertise, and life experiences. Our primary goal is to make a positive difference in the lives of seniors in our community.

At U3A TTG, teamwork is at the heart of everything we do. We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities, including leading a group, tutoring, office assistance, maintenance, cleaning and lots more. Volunteering with us provides individuals with the chance to make a meaningful contribution to society without the many constraints of formal obligations.

We encourage people who are enthusiastic about leading groups and have an interest in education, creativity, exercise, or social activities, irrespective of their educational background. If you are motivated to volunteer and put your hand up to manage a group in a supportive and relaxed manner, we would be delighted to have a conversation with you.

Our goal is to empower active retirees by providing opportunities to enhance their wellbeing, increase physical activity, find purpose in giving back to society, explore new interests, and share their expertise and interests for the benefit of others.



OUR NEW PRESIDENT



U3A HISTORY

The University of the Third Age (U3A) was founded in Toulouse, France in 1973 by Prof. Pierre Vellas, aiming to support individuals in their retirement years. In France, each U3A group is closely affiliated with a local university, a model that has been adopted throughout continental Europe.

In the early 1980s, the concept transitioned into a self-help organization in the United Kingdom.

In Australia, U3A was introduced in 1984 and has grown to include 250 branches and 100,000 members by 2023. These branches, located in urban, rural, and regional areas, follow the self-help approach from the UK, focusing on member-driven teaching and learning across various subjects.

Each U3A branch operates independently, offering classes and activities tailored to members' interests while keeping membership fees affordable for individuals who are approaching retirement and beyond.

Established in 1987, U3A Tea Tree Gully is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization that encourages skill-sharing and lifelong learning among active retirees and seniors. The organization's mission is to promote positive aging through educational, leisure, and social activities.

Greetings to all. I am excited to share a brief overview of my life with you and to encourage you to reach out about any matters of concern. I am from Italian heritage, born in Adelaide in 1952.

My father immigrated to Australia in 1949, followed by my mother in 1951. I am married to my beautiful wife, Margret, who is also a U3A Member and Group Leader, and runs a Wednesday afternoon class.

Professionally, I began my career with the Engineering and Water Supply (EWS) in 1975, where I served as a Supervisor, worked in the drafting office, and conducted fieldwork as a Turn Cock. In 1995, EWS was sold to a French company and I ceased my employment with them and took a retirement package.

Following this transition, I established a Drafting Company responsible for measuring drains for plumbers statewide until 1997. Subsequently, I embarked on freelance maintenance work for several building companies before securing a full-time position with a large Commercial Builder in 1999.

Over the years, I assumed various roles within the company, including Maintenance Coordinator, Site

Supervisor, Quality Control Manager, Estimator, and Project Supervisor until my departure in 2009.

I then joined Cox Constructions as a Project Supervisor until 2014 when I was recruited by another builder for a similar role until my retirement in January 2017.

After retirement, I became involved in U3A Tea Tree Gully, participating in various groups and eventually taking the role of Course Coordinator and House Services Officer in March 2017.

I am honoured to have recently been elected as the President of U3A TTG in March 2024. U3A TTG holds significant importance in my life, and I am committed to serve this great organisation with utmost dedication and effort.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the previous President, Kevin Neale, and his wife Linda for their invaluable contributions and friendship over the past five years.

As Robert Flaherty once said, "There's a saying among prospectors: Go out looking for one thing, and that's all you'll find."

Tony Mittiga
U3A TTG President

TESTIMONIALS

"Being involved with U3A for the last 2 years has been an amazing part of my later active years in life! ❤️"
- Leslie Watkins

"Newly retired & what to do?? Then came U3A with physical & mental activities, social interaction, fun & games. Thank you to the generous volunteers who have brightened my days."
- Colleen Braham

"Joining U3A TTG was the best decision I made after retiring 14 years ago. Plenty of courses to keep seniors busy!"
- Andrea Rutherford

U3A Tea Tree Gully thanks the City of Tea Tree Gully and Tony Zappia MP Federal Member for Makin for their continued support.

2024 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



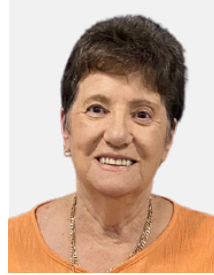
TONY MITTIGA
PRESIDENT &
HOUSE SERVICES <<<



TOM MITTIGA
VICE PRESIDENT &
TECHNICAL OFFICER <<<



DAVID JEFFS
TREASURER <<<



BARBARA SCHUMACHER
SECRETARY &
OFFICE MANAGER <<<



LUCI CAMPESTRE
COURSE COORDINATOR <<<



ANNETTE LATHAM
MARKETING &
CONVEYOR EDITOR <<<



WARWICK GROOBY
GRANTS OFFICER <<<



MIKE PRUS
MAINTENANCE MANAGER <<<



TESS ANTHONY
U3A STATE DELEGATE <<<



LAWRENCE FAHY
TECHNICAL SUPPORT
& MINUTE SECRETARY <<<



MARGARET THOMAS
RECORDS MANAGEMENT <<<

OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

Celebrating and honouring our wonderful volunteers!

Lucietta Campestre - Management Committee Member, Course Coordinator



My current volunteer role at U3A Tea Tree Gully is Course Coordinator and I have been doing this role for approximately 5 years.

I first became involved with U3A TTG after I retired in 2014. I first started playing Bridge and have also been involved with Italian, French, Line Dancing, Ballroom Dancing, Fitness and Flexibility, Wine Appreciation, Folk Dancing for Fun, Women Artists and More, Ukulele and Technology Today.

I enjoy the socialisation, feeling that I am making a contribution not just to U3A but to the wellbeing of others in their retirement years.

What do I love about U3A? Everything! I love the comradery, the variety of things that I can "try out", the fact that it keeps my brain active and helps me keep physically active.

I have learnt many new skills and I have made many friends through my association with U3A.

If anyone has any skills they would be willing to share as a Tutor, please contact me. U3A would not exist without our Tutors and Group Leaders who are willing to share their knowledge and experience for the benefit of others. And the rewards are very fulfilling!

Sue Green - Tutor for 'Acrylic Art'

My volunteer role is leader of the Acrylic Art class which I have been doing for approximately 6 years now.

I first became associated with U3A approximately 6 years ago when my husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and I had to move to Wynn Vale to get support from my family. Helping Hand provided a carer for my husband 3 hrs a week and I discovered U3A TTG and the art classes there. I had previously had private tuition in art, so within a short time I was invited to teach at U3A.

After a year I also started the Knitting and

Crochet Group, but unfortunately I got time poor and had to pass the Baton on to Andrea, but I like to pop in for a visit.

I love my art class because it is so rewarding seeing the group achieve great results with their artwork. At the moment we are exhibiting in the Tea Tree Library and I am immensely proud of each and every student.

I love U3A TTG because it gives every individual the chance to bloom and blossom. The great social interactions help keep the spirit of the U3A aflame. It encourages you in every way and form!



Margaret Thomas - Management Committee Member - Records Management



I volunteer with the enrolment process (along with others). With Linda Neale's help, I manage the yearly roll over process for the coming year and collect and store attendance sheets for each term. I also provide general assistance in the office, answering queries and as back up for Barb if needed.

My dear friend Barb Schumacher "talked me into" managing our last database. I took over in 2017 and have enjoyed every minute of it. My role has evolved and grown over the years.

I also currently attend the yoga class, line dancing class and a fitness class - all of which I enjoy immensely led with great group leaders.

I really enjoy my role in the office and being part of a tight knit group of volunteers. We could not function as an institution if these selfless people were not involved. Friendly, caring people!

What I love most about U3A TTG is the friendly 'hellos'. I also appreciate the way the office is so capably run by my friend Barb Schumacher.

I also appreciate that for some members, U3A is the only contact they may have in an isolated world.

Generally I could say that I look forward to my weekly contact with this wonderful organisation.