



NEWSLETTER

15 December 2021



Double COVID vaxx mandatory for U3A Ipswich

It is now mandatory to be double vaccinated against coronavirus in order to enjoy your U3A Ipswich & West Moreton Inc membership.

The Management Committee has approved a COVID vaccination policy which is of immediate effect and which is on our website. The policy is based on advice from Queensland Health, Queensland Police and a template policy prepared by a Queens Counsel at the request of U3A Network Queensland on behalf of its members.

U3A Ipswich is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its members, volunteers, tutors and visitors. The demographic of our membership is older members of our community but who may be at more risk than the general population. This is a significant consideration when assessing risk in offering face-to-face group sessions and meetings.

U3A Ipswich is required to keep its premises safe and minimise the risk of infection and transmission of coronavirus.

The Management Committee of U3A Ipswich has determined that in the best interests of our wider community and the safety of our members, all members and tutors eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations who wish to continue to physically attend U3A Ipswich classes must be fully vaccinated or have an acceptable medical exemption registered on the Australian Immunisation Register.

The following conditions of entry to classes, meetings or premises apply with immediate effect:

1. all attendees must comply with our COVID Safe Plan which is on our website; and
2. those who are eligible for a COVID vaccination must be fully (double) vaccinated; and
3. evidence of the COVID vaccination status must be provided.

There are two ways to show proof of your vaccination:

1. your digital certificate which shows proof of your COVID vaccinations that you can add to a digital wallet
2. your immunisation history statement which lists your COVID vaccinations and all other vaccinations.

According to the Australian Government, you are considered fully vaccinated if you have completed a course of a TGA-approved vaccine.

U3A Ipswich will not keep a record of the details of a member's vaccination certificate. U3A Ipswich needs only to see evidence of the vaccinations and that is required only once. No further proof will be required. Our Online Member Services portal on our website will have the facility to click on one of two options: Fully Vaccinated or Not Fully Vaccinated. That member's status will then be flagged and all tutors will have access to the status of members attending their class. Those members will then be required to provide proof of vaccination at the first class which they attend.

Members unable to provide verification of their fully vaccinated status or medical exemption will not be allowed to attend classes.

Members may show proof of vaccination status by either a physical printout of the vaccination certificate available through Medicare on the MyGov website; or by photographing that certificate and uploading it onto their mobile phone; or a digital certificate linked to the 'Check in Queensland' app on their mobile phone.

There are two documents that show your vaccination status:

1) the immunisation history statement which shows all the immunisations you've had that are on the Australian Immunisation Register, including COVID vaccinations;

2) the COVID digital certificate which shows your COVID vaccinations. Once you've had all required doses of an approved vaccine, you can download a digital certificate from MyGov and use this digital certificate as proof of your COVID vaccinations.

An **online tool** makes it easy to get proof of your vaccinations. If you have a MyGov account linked to Medicare, you can easily access your immunisation history statement or digital certificate and either print the certificate or statement, or download it to your mobile phone.

Simply login to **MyGov**, click on '**Medicare**' under 'Services', go to 'Proof of vaccinations', click on 'View history', select the document you want to view then choose to:

1) view 'COVID-19 digital certificate (PDF)' which allows you to download your certificate, which you can then save, email or print

2) 'share with check in app' to share your digital certificate with any state-based check-in apps

3) 'view immunisation history statement' to download your statement which you can then save, email or print.

If you're still unsure call the **Australian Immunisation Register** on 1800 653 809 and ask them to send your statement to you.

Tutors who are not double vaccinated will not be allowed to continue taking classes until fully vaccinated.

If you are unsure if being vaccinated is safe for you or are unsure which vaccine to get you should seek professional medical advice. But please get vaccinated if you have not yet done so.

Failure to be fully vaccinated will mean not only exclusion from U3A activities but also prohibit you visiting hospitals, residential aged care facilities, disability accommodation, prisons, hotels, pubs, clubs, taverns, bars, restaurants, cafes, nightclubs, live music venues, concerts, theatres, cinemas, sporting stadiums, theme parks, festivals, art galleries, museum, and libraries.

Even if you are vaccinated, there is a continuing risk you may still get or spread coronavirus. This means risk mitigations continue:

- members who have provided a legitimate medical exemption must wear a mask at each and every class they attend for the duration of the class and when entering U3A premises for any reason
- physical distancing
- good hygiene
- use masks and gloves as appropriate
- and do not attend if unwell.

Where a member who chooses not to present either a double vaccination or medical exemption certificate and considers resigning their membership our Refund Policy, found on our website, will apply.



Have you renewed your membership?

If you have not yet renewed your membership, and would like to continue with classes you have enjoyed in the past year, it is advisable to do so before the start of next term, 24 January 2022.

If you wait until the last minute you do run the risk of the class filling up with new members as our Online Member Services portal on our website facilitates that whenever there is a vacancy in a class. Renewing your membership is easy online and you can pay utilising the eWay payment facility or make a direct deposit into our Bendigo bank

account. Payment via cash or cheque can be made when the office is open. Don't forget that our office in U3A House in Booval is now closed for the December holidays and will open from 24 January with most classes resuming from 31 January 2022.

Some new classes for 2022

Please regularly check our website for the list of classes which will be offered in 2022. There are some changes, some classes not continuing, some changing format and some new classes offered.

Dr John Price's Understanding Climate Change has now been re-named 'Climate Change – Understanding the Science' and it will move into U3A House in Booval.

Unfortunately the Chair Yoga class offered by Sandra Kovac will not be offered in the first term next year but Mary Davidson's 'Movement to Music' class will be back in Terms 2 and 3, during the cooler months.

And we have another history class being offered – this one titled 'Australian History and its Exceptionalism'. Tutor Graham Blackman has conducted this class previously with U3A Toowoomba. Graham focuses on the people in our history and the ways they have often been acknowledged, you will find many interesting surprises in Graham's presentation.

Another new class in the history category also comes with a twist. This is not HISTory but HERstory – remarkable women in our history who deserve to be better known. New member Colleen Evatt, a retired teacher, will be presenting this one in Term 2. Colleen will also be offering a Philosophy class. This might take some of the pressure off Eric Boel's very popular Philosophy classes, now called Philosophy with Eric' and Colleen suggests her class may be a good introduction to philosophy for those intrigued but not yet conversant. Philosophy with Colleen commences in Term 1.

And Ryle Moldrich will be offering something a bit different – an 'Everyday Communication' class.



U3A Ipswich's 30th anniversary

U3A Ipswich turns 30 in 2023 so to mark the occasion we hope to publish a full history of U3A Ipswich to be made available during the course of 2023. A number of people have already indicated their interest in being involved so we hope to hold a meeting of interested members in January or February next year. Further details will be sent to you all but if you would like now to signal your interest we are already compiling a list of interested members so please email us at contact@u3aipswich.org.au marked 'For Attention: President'. Ideally, at this first

meeting we will establish an organising committee and start allocating the roles which such a project will require.

Results of Open Day

Our initial review of Open Day has highlighted strengths and weaknesses.

Firstly, thank you to all the tutors who attended – a full house and that was much appreciated by members and visitors. Thank you also to all the volunteers, including all of the Management Committee, who helped with the set-up, the procedures and the clean-up.

Subject to further analysis it seems that we had 60 people through the door, compared with 64 last year when we were still in COVID 'bubblewrap'.

We signed up 20 new members and 24 members renewed on the day. Interestingly however, we had three new members sign up online before Open Day and many renewals have this year been online.

It is evident to us that the ability to renew and join online, and to pay online, should impact how we structure future open days. Our Membership Officer Karen Doolan will be offering some suggestions at our next Management Committee meeting.

A very useful addition to our day was the work of Mary Stenton as a 'Roving Suggestions Officer'. So, thanks to Mary we are likely in future to include tables and chairs for members and visitors to relax at with their tea and biscuits; a Pilates for Seniors has been requested; should a tutor not be able to be there, the course table could contain a website description of the course and a member attending that course could be asked to stand in for the tutor.

Ideas and suggestions are always welcomed for further discussion.

Induction day

A reminder that our annual induction day for volunteers and tutors will be Tuesday, 25 January 2022. This induction day will cover issues which tutors should know and keep in mind and useful information and guidance for volunteers and it will also include fire safety drills required by Glebe Road Uniting Church.



Theatre nights and bus trips

Our Events Sub-Committee (Jill Gibson, Amanda Schloss and Karen Doolan) will soon be providing further information on the first of our theatre nights. We have a block booking for two of the performances being offered next year by Ipswich Little Theatre at the Incinerator Theatre. The first performance is 'The Games People Play – A Season of One-Act Plays'. These evenings are very enjoyable and generally include pre-show drinks and a light supper either at interval or after the show. More details on that early next year when we start selling tickets.

Our first bus trip next year will be to Bribie Island with a choice of a river boat ride exploring the area with a guided tour, or we spend the day looking at various island sites (for those who don't like being on the water) from the local museum to Butterfly House, op shops and parklands. A fish and chips lunch or salads and wraps and a morning or afternoon tea would be included.

Prepare to hear more from our Events Sub-Committee or email your interest now to Karen Doolan at membership@u3aipswich.org.au.

We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Festive Season and New Year.

Management Committee

15 December 2021

Ian Muil, President; Robyn Hargreaves, Secretary; Sue Mundt, Treasurer; Karen Doolan, Membership Officer; Amanda Schloss, Tutor Coordinator; Jill Gibson, Volunteer Coordinator; Lorraine Owens.

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