



Ipswich & West Moreton Inc.

THE NEWS ~ February 2021

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...from the President

Our Open Day this year was very different to Open Day 2020. Open Day 2020, of course, was before COVID-19. Yet Open Day this year was very successful. The organisation behind it was seamless, faultless – thanks to Management Committee members



and volunteers. Because we had to control the numbers in the hall we asked members not to renew at Open Day but to renew online or to visit U3A House to do so. That worked well.

The weather was also kinder to us and it seems that those who attended Open Day did so with the intention of joining. We welcomed 26 new members on Open Day compared with 34 last year – a small drop but far less than we expected given COVID.

Budgeted membership revenue for financial 2021 is \$13,000 taking into account the reduced membership renewal fee, a likely drop in renewals and a likely drop in new members.

However, as at January 21 membership income was \$11,700 and we are quietly confident that membership renewals and new members over the next few months will see us meet, if not exceed budget.

The Management Committee distributed flyers promoting Open Day throughout greater Ipswich – delivering bundles to the Queens Park

Information Centre, the Croquet Club in Queens Park, many retirement villages, bowls, sports and services clubs, the Men's Shed in Bundamba, the Ipswich Historical Society, hairdressers, doctors rooms, our State and Federal Members of Parliament and many venues in Rosewood and Redbank.

We distributed digital flyers to many community organisations, to every Ipswich City councillor, and to organisations such as Zonta, Rotary, Apex. When flyers were dropped off at the offices of the Member for Blair, Shayne Neumann, his office offered to print 1,000 of the flyers at no cost to us – an offer we were delighted to accept.

We also sought publicity in a range of local media – print, radio and digital and The Queensland Times published an article promoting Open Day – see further on.

The Management Committee has now decided that, given our new calendar membership year and the pending implementation of our new membership portal on our website, Open Day will now be held later in November or early December.

*Keep well
Ian Muir*

AGM: 19 March

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Church Hall and Overflow on March 19, 2021 at 10am. The Fellowship Centre is booked out every Friday this year.

An agenda will later be sent to all financial members as well as our audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2020.

All positions on the Management Committee will be declared vacant at the AGM. Nomination forms are available on our website and must be with the Secretary by 5pm on March 5. The full list of nominations will be posted on our website on March 12.

Should there be no nominations for one of the three dedicated positions, president, secretary and treasurer, or less than seven nominations for the committee, nominations will be called from the floor.

Class cancellation

The Zumba and other activities class has been cancelled.

Ipswich City Council grant to U3A Ipswich – how cool is that!

Around the middle of last year the Kindy Group which leased part of U3A House from Glebe Road Uniting Church advised that following the COVID shutdown they would not be resuming their activities and the Church thus made available to U3A the vacated space.

We knew immediately how we could use this available space – for a computer lab. However, one issue loomed which would effectively prevent us from using it – it was unbearably hot during the summer months.

So we applied for a grant under the Ipswich City Council's 'Repair & Replacement' fund designed to support the local economy suffering under COVID-19 lock-down regulations. We applied for funds for an air-conditioning unit and a television screen and for an electrical contractor to install the unit.

We were thrilled to be advised towards the end of last year that we had been successful and late last year a reverse-cycle air-conditioning system and smart television screen were installed in our new computer lab.

Membership reminder and carers

Those who were financial members throughout 2020 are reminded that they can still renew their membership at the discounted rate of \$45 for calendar 2021. This can be done by bank transfer or by visiting the office at U3A House in Booval. The membership renewal forms are on our website – www.u3aipswich.org.au

For those members who require or prefer a carer accompany them to classes our policy covers that.

Our policy states: 'A private carer (spouse or family member) accompanying a full member with impairment or special needs must: become an Associate Member (non-participating) or Full Member (fully able to participate) of U3A Ipswich & West Moreton; and be present throughout every U3A class or activity, which the full member with impairment is attending. A professional carer accompanying a full member with impairment or special needs must: provide proof of their insurance cover (Certificate of Currency showing professional and public liability insurance); and be present throughout every U3A class or activity, which the full member with impairment is attending.' The annual associate membership fee is \$10.



Here are a very cool-looking computer tutor Geoff Mayhew and some of his students. Just visible on the wall is a poster acknowledging the grant from the Ipswich City Council.

Computer classes were thus able to continue into December and commenced again from mid-January – in air conditioned comfort.

We have acknowledged Ipswich City Council's grant program for these items with a laminated poster attached to the wall in the lab and we have posted a similar acknowledgement on our Facebook site. But it is appropriate that we now inform our wider membership of this grant and what it has meant for our members.

Call for volunteers

U3A Ipswich & West Moreton relies totally on volunteers. If it were not for those willing to give up some of their time we would have no committee, no tutors, no desk volunteers – and no U3A.

We have a small band of dedicated volunteers who look after the office but we need more. At the moment, if anyone is unable to attend on their rostered day, we have no back-up, resulting in closure of the office that day.

So, are you willing to help? Any time you can give us is welcome whether it be once a week, once a fortnight, once a month or on a casual basis, filling in for someone who is ill or on holidays. Training will be given by Management Committee member and Volunteer Coordinator Yvonne James so you will not be thrown into the deep end. Tasks are mainly answering the phone, checking messages, receipting fees and being available for member enquiries. You do not need to have any prior experience working in an office and you do not need to use a computer – a relief for some, perhaps.

If you can help in any way, please email Yvonne James at membership@u3aipswich.org.au or contact@u3aipswich.org.au

Ipswich Library responds to U3A request

Towards the end of last year a member informed us of his dismay that language resources appeared to have been cleared off the shelves of Ipswich Library.

The president consequently wrote to the library seeking clarification.

Here is the response of Sue Cicolini, ICC Library Content Development & Fulfilment Coordinator:

“Thank you for your query regarding the foreign language audio learning CDs and related texts. Your feedback around the foreign language collection is appreciated. All library collections are regularly reviewed against our collection profile in areas such as circulation, condition, relevance and currency. Such measures help us to develop and maintain relevant, dynamic and interesting content appealing to our customers. This was also an important step in our transition to the new library space.

“When reviewed, the foreign language collection of resources was found to be aged and include outdated formats such as cassettes. In addition, circulation of all items in this collection statistically reported as very low. We continue to investigate and consider alternative updated resources in this subject area including those which would provide the audio experience you are seeking.

“Foreign language resources can now be found in the Learning & Employment section of our collection. Our online streaming service Kanopy also has some relevant content accessible from our virtual branch or the catalogue. An example of this can be found at <https://ipswich.kanopy.com/>

“Customer suggestions provide us with valuable input to developing an active collection across the service. Please be assured that there is an opportunity for you and your colleagues at U3A to provide suggestions to the library for the purchase of resources that will suit your language learning needs. This can be done via the ‘Suggest a Purchase’ form on the library website <https://www.ipswichlibraries>

“This enables relevant and accurate resources in preferred formats to be considered if available from suppliers. It also offers the possibility for enhanced learning experience; for example, you may discover items in a format with a higher level of interactivity than previously available.”

Dementia support

The University of Tasmania’s Wicking Dementia Research & Education Centre offers a free online course on ‘Understanding Dementia.’ The course focuses on brain diseases that cause dementia, how these brain changes result in cognitive, behavioural and other symptoms, and the latest evidence about what constitutes high quality care.

The course is open to everyone and is free. Enrolments are now open for ‘Understanding Dementia’ starting on February 16. The course runs for seven weeks and takes three hours a week, day or night, using a smart phone, tablet or computer. It is free and a personalised certificate on completion will be issued.

Click here and follow the prompts to sign up and enrol at mooc.utas.edu.au

Follow us on Facebook

The U3A Ipswich is a private group where only U3A members can see who is in the group and what they post. Engage with other members with similar interests and goals, share your experiences or discover what others in our U3A community are enjoying. Have a good idea for a new class or activity within a group? Get feedback and maybe you'll start a movement! We are a community - join in now!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.u3aipswich.org.au/>

The U3A Ipswich Team

2019/20 Management Committee

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|---|------------------|
| President | Ian Muil |
| Vice-President & Acting Treasurer | Karen Doolan |
| Secretary | Robyn Hargreaves |
| Special Projects | Norah Blunden |
| Volunteer Co-ordinator & Membership Officer | Yvonne James |
| Tutor Coordinator | Amanda Schloss |

Support Services

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|------------------------|--------------|
| Booval Campus Manager | Geoff Mayhew |
| Woodend Campus Manager | Eric Boel |
| Website Administration | Laurie Zaat |