



NEWS UPDATE FOR U3A IPSWICH MEMBERS

Here is some update news covering our governance, administration, classes and activities. Don't forget to keep in touch with U3A Ipswich activities on our Facebook and website pages.

Our Policies and By-Laws

Now that members have endorsed an amended Constitution, in line with the new Associations Incorporation Act, your Management Committee has been busy reviewing all of our policies and our By-Laws to ensure they align with our Constitution (which is awaiting formal approval by the Office of Fair Trading) and better reflect our operational practices.

All of these will be uploaded onto our website and available to the general public as well as our members. Two new policies, Privacy and Refunds, have already been uploaded. They were created as a requirement of eWAY which we have adopted for online payments by credit card in our Online Member Services (OMS) on our website.

Founded in Australia in 1998 and now owned by an American company, eWAY is a global payment provider. The company processes secure credit card payments for merchants. eWAY is linked to all major Australian banks and New Zealand banks and has expanded into Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia. eWAY secures customer and credit card data with military-grade software and servers, and uses the highest level of encryption available.

Over the next few weeks you will find the following being uploaded to our website: By-Laws, Complaints & Grievances Policy, Codes of Conduct for members and Management Committee, Disabilities Access, Handbook for Tutors, and the Handbook for Volunteers.

Updated forms will also be uploaded to make it easy for members to print directly from the website. The Management Committee is now working on our Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024, the previous Strategic Plan having expired at the end of 2020.

Management Committee

We are keen to fill the following roles on the Management Committee and ask members to seriously consider volunteering. New members need not take on a specific functional role but the positions we would like to have filled are Venue Officer, Functions Officer and Publicity & Communications Officer.

Unfortunately, we recently accepted the resignation from the Management Committee of Sandra Harvey who recognised that compelling personal priorities meant she would not be able to devote the attention to the Management Committee that she would like to. We are sorry to lose Sandra as she made significant and welcome contributions to debate around the Committee table.

Likewise, Figlia DiDio decided not join the Management Committee but offered to continue with her role as Volunteer Coordinator, an offer the Management Committee was very pleased to accept.

Figlia provides regular reports to the Management Committee to ensure we retain the necessary communication channel. Anyone who has recently been to U3A House will see what a positive influence Figlia's presence is making, especially with her tasteful decorating of U3A House. And thanks to our past Volunteer Coordinator Yvonne James who handed over an extremely efficient volunteer management programme, Figlia was able to hit the ground running after Yvonne's comprehensive and well thought out handover programme.

We are very well served by both Geoff Mayhew and Laurie Zaat in terms of IT infrastructure. It is prudent, however, for us to have some form of back-up so if you have an IT background and would be prepared to learn something about our systems and be our back-up (no meetings to attend, no reports to write) please call or text me or email our office.

U3A House office

In line with the Queensland school calendar our office at U3A House in Booval will be closed from June 28 to July 12. Please check the website to see if your classes continue during the school break as some do.

Keep well

Ian Muil
0414 969 648
President

Class News

'Visual Art and the Christian Church through the Centuries' is an exciting new class beginning on July 13. The course covers the history of Eastern and Western churches through the centuries with many forms of visual art and reference books available. The course Tutor is the Rev Dr Geraldine Wheeler, a former member of U3A Ipswich. The venue will be the Glebe Road Uniting Church hall in Booval. The classes will be on Tuesday afternoons from 1pm to 3pm.

Dr Geraldine Wheeler BA, BD, MTh, MEd, PhD is an artist and retired Uniting Church minister; one of the founders of the ecumenical artist group Visionaries. Geraldine has maintained an art practice for most of her life, along with a passion for liturgy and worship. Dr Wheeler took early retirement to write her PhD thesis which was on visual art and the Reformed Tradition. When she became minister of the Merthyr Uniting Church in New Farm in 1997 she planned to do something to link visual artists with the congregation as New Farm is home to several art galleries. Dr Wheeler served the Uniting Church in placements at Iona, West Mackay, Wolston, Nambour and Merthyr, and she coordinates the ecumenical group of artists known as Visionaries.

Please let us know if you would be interested in this exciting new course by phoning the office or emailing tutors@u3aipswich.org.au

Computer classes: 'Tune Up Your Computer' course with Geoff Mayhew on Wednesdays 9am-12 noon is running now until the end of July. Over time computers slow down and need tuning up to regain their youthful zest. This is a one-day hands-on workshop, where you can bring along your Windows laptops (but not Apple Macs) and under Geoff's supervision you will learn how to perform a series of 'Technician's Tweaks' to get your computer running nice and fast again. If you have only a desktop computer you are welcome to bring it in or you can use one of our computers to see how it's done.

Geoff is also recommencing his '**Computers, Cloud & Confusion**' and '**Computer Tips & Tricks**' classes on Wednesdays. Please phone the office or email tutors@u3aipswich.org.au.

Laurie Zaat is still holding his '**Basic PC**' and '**Apple To The Core**' classes on Mondays in July. Check our website for details or phone the office or email tutors@u3aipswich.org.au.

'**Sudoku for Beginners to Experts**' with Colin James, utilising the resources of You Tube, will start in Term 3 at Woodend from 11am to 12 mid-day on the first and third Fridays of the month. The maximum number of attendees is 12 so register early on the Online Member Services (OMS) on our website, or phone the office or email tutors@u3aipswich.org.au.

Climate Change with Tutor Dr John Price – this revised, informative and topical class, beginning in Term 3, follows a Q & A format but also gives you the basics to understand how scientists from across the globe and over many decades have come up with facts about why it is happening, how bad it may get and what to do about it. So if you want to know:

- do scientists agree on climate change?
- what's the greenhouse effect and is the ozone hole causing climate change?
- what's the difference between climate change and global warming?
- how do we know what temperature levels were thousands of years ago?
- is it too late?
- are ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica melting?
- if all this ice melts what happen to Earth's rotation?
- what is the global view on coal as a fuel?
- is a 100% renewable energy system realistic and is large battery storage realistic?
- why is the Australian government out of step?

Register now online through the Online Member Services (OMS) on the U3A website to get into this important science class.

Think about this: Ilke van der Hoeven's **Meditation** class offers what followers have known for thousands of years – it improves quality of life. If you're undecided why not join the class then meditate on it. Every Friday at 1pm at Shalom House in our Booval campus. Sign up using the Online Member Service portal on our website.

Changing our Tune? There will be a meeting of interested members on Saturday, July 17 at 9am to discuss how to change the format of the Singalong Group. The group is keen for anyone who enjoys singing and wants to have lots of fun to attend. Please just turn up to U3A House in Booval on the day. If you have any questions please email tutors@u3aipswich.org.au.

Thank you to Trevor Johnson who has taken over as Tutor of the **French Conversation** class. Because the Barry Jones Auditorium is now closed the class has been moved to the central room in U3A House at the Booval Campus.

Maria Stevenson's extremely popular **Science** classes will continue through the holidays but Maria is taking time out on July 19 and 26 with her classes then resuming on August 2.

History Tutor Steve Marriott has advised the Monday afternoon classes, **History Behind the Scenes**, will no longer be offered due to lack of numbers.

A note and a plea from Tutor Coordinator Amanda Schloss

“I would like to thank all those Tutors who have embraced the new website and are currently marking their rolls online. The response has been great and 33 out of 50 classes are being marked that way (Tutor Portal on the website) by Tutors. It's a great step forward and much appreciated. For those of you who wish to learn the system, or if you have any queries, I will be at U3A House in Booval on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday mornings. Please let me know on 0403 690 576 or email me if you are interested.”

Queen's Birthday Honours

On your behalf the Management Committee has sent congratulations to Rhonda Weston president of U3A Toowoomba for receiving the Order of the Medal of Australia (AM) for her work in the Toowoomba community, with specific reference to her work with U3A. Wendy Sanders, president of U3A Caboolture, received the Order of Australia (OAM) for her contributions to cycling but also with reference to her work with U3A. And Martin White of U3A Bribie Island received the OAM for his contributions over many years to music and astronomy but also with reference to his work with U3A in services to the community.

We wish you all good health and fulfilling membership.

Your Management Committee:

(Ian Muil, Robyn Hargreaves, Karen Doolan, Amanda Schloss, Sue Mundt, Lorraine Owens.)