



How awesome is that? U3A has been in existence locally for 30 years!!!

30 years ago local people (of whose identity we, unfortunately, are not aware) recognised the benefits the international movement of U3A could bring to our neck of the woods and took on the task of creating a local chapter. Keen to encourage lifelong learning for mainly retired members of the community, they decided to provide local ‘Third Agers’ with the opportunity to attend groups and courses offering subjects of interest. This enabled those who may not have had time or energy throughout their working lives to engage in further education, and in the process, connect with other like-minded people.

With U3A starting in France at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Toulouse in 1973, arriving in Melbourne in 1984 and since growing in each State, this international movement has certainly made its mark in Australia where it is now boasting more than 100,000 members nationally. For more information on U3A’s international and local history [click here](#).

What a wonderful achievement that should fill us all with pride!!!!



WHAT’S HAPPENING IN U3A:

Book Club: Sadly we have no news regarding a new startup of Book Club, formerly known as Reading for Pleasure. I’ve asked one of the former members of this group, Ray Keipert, to write a sentence or two on his experience. He reports: *“For some time Barbara Scott was the very committed convener of our monthly group, Reading for Pleasure. For discussion, we decided on a theme for each meeting some time in advance, eg. Women Writers or Science Fiction and then looked for a book in the various genres. This meant that each month most of the dozen or so participants found a different author, which gave a wonderful variety of stories for our reports. Each was happily discussed, often with a time limit to ensure everyone got a turn. A break for afternoon tea was always a pleasant interlude, occasionally leading to a swapping of books or a recommendation to follow a particular author.*



When travel commitments didn't allow Barbara to be there, Julia Darch stood in for her very efficiently and pleasantly. All in all it was an inspiring afternoon and it would be great if one of our U3A members - or a new member - would consider reorganising the group with a suggested name change to Discovering Books. If you were interested in taking on this challenge rest assured that you can have a different approach and choose a day and time to suit you. Anything is possible! Please contact our Program Co-ordinator, Ray Keipert on Lrkeipert@dodo.com.au or through our Myall U3A website.

Card Games: This group is going strong, with between 10 - 12 members attending fairly regularly. Quizzing some members I was told that they thoroughly enjoy learning or exercising their already existing skills with Canasta and its numerous variations as well as with Cribbage and other card games. On asking some of the members what they liked best about the group they declared that they very much enjoyed the social interaction, found the games they played stimulating and loved the fact that doing so kept their brains working. A new member noted that playing card games brought back pleasant memories as she'd enjoyed playing in her younger years and all members agreed that, as they gather on Friday afternoons, playing games provides a very nice end to the week.

DID YOU KNOW:

- **That we are planning an exciting visit to Maitland Goal?**

I asked Roger Digby, who's paid such a visit to give a short report on his experience. Here it is: "Have you ever been to prison? *A few years ago I visited Maitland Goal, fortunately not at the direction of a judge, but because I was curious to see what the inside of a prison was like. It is quite a spooky place, full of memories and stories of villains going back to 1848. It closed in 1998 and has remained unchanged ever since so it has a whole range of buildings from some of the original cells from 1848 through to a modern Visitor facility where prisoners could meet with family members on opposite sides of a security screen.*

It has housed many infamous villains over the years, one of the recent ones being mass murderer Ivan Milat. The guides are usually retired prison officers who served there who have a wealth of stories about what it was like.

I have learned two very important lessons in my life.

I don't remember the first one, but the second one is to write everything down.

It is a very interesting place to visit and certainly discourages you from taking up a life of crime. After your visit, returning home is a great pleasure!"

Check the side panel for the details of the Maitland Goal History Tour

Come on an exclusive...



Maitland Goal

When? 
Wednesday 26 July 2023

Where?
6/18 John St, East Maitland

Time?
11.AM - 12.30 PM

Cost?
\$ 21 p/p

Booking details...
Phone: 0431 523 093
Payment Deposit Details:
BSB: 932 000
ACC: 5000 40634
NAME: MyallU3A
REF: MGE + Your Last Name
(Maitland Goal Excursion)

Limited numbers!
Future Tours can be organised!

Be sure to register and make payment ASAP as we need to confirm attendance as soon as possible.

U3A CONTACT DETAILS
Web: www.myallu3a.org.au
Email: info@myallu3a.org.au

Post: P.O. Box 206
Tea Gardens NSW 2324
Phone: 0431523093