

The U3A or University of the Third Age

This is the title adopted Internationally to describe groups of people who join together to experience the joy of learning. It is a self-help educational movement aimed at people in all walks of life and all age groups.

U3A is an association which embraces all kinds of knowledge and the term "third age" indicates the age of retirement, following the first stages of childhood and adolescence and the second age of vocational employment. U3A offers no degrees or diplomas nor do you require qualifications to join. There is no age limit and no pressure.

Guest Lecturers have practised a profession, craft, trade, lived overseas or travelled and are keen to share their knowledge and experiences with you. Learning in this University is purely for pleasure.

Why the Need for U3A?

Today in Australia, there is a significant and growing population of people who are not prepared to sit back and generally fade away.

We are constantly reminded that to remain healthy and active, it is essential to exercise the minds as well as the body, thus people find they can benefit considerably by teaching others the skills and experiences they have gained through their Lifetime.

By sharing skills and knowledge, U3A not only develops academic activities; it also encourages social and recreational activities.

These two tenets form the basis of U3A.

How did U3A Begin?

It was founded in Toulouse, France in 1972 to improve the quality of life for older people. The success of the French experiment led to the rapid spread of U3A to many other countries, particularly in continental Europe. An International Association of U3A was established by 1975 and now has about 100 member organisations.

In July 1981 the U3A concept was introduced to Britain through a group based at Cambridge University. Unlike the French which was based on prepackaged courses provided by the University, the British model adopted the idea of self-help or mutual aid learning groups - a kind of intellectual democracy in which there would be no distinction between teachers and taught. All U3A members participate, either by teaching, learning or assisting with planning and administration. This self-help approach reduces the need for dependence on outside resources.

U3A came to Australia in 1985 and to Darwin in 1989. It has spread rapidly through most Australian cities and regional centres.

Darwin U3A Inc. Has a Web page that is accessible via a web site, www.octa4.net.au/winners, and by following the links. A printable file of the current calendar can be downloaded.

The following is the page address:- <http://www.octa4.net.au/winners/U3A%20Darwin%20News.htm>, but as the page address can change, it would be easier to go to the web site and follow the links.



Detach and return to U3A Darwin Inc., PO Box 42451, Casuarina 0811, N.T. Or any meeting

U3A MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR _ _ _ _ _

Name _____

\$5 Single \$10 Organisation New Renewal

New members or change of Address Only



Address _____

Phone Number _____

Birth Month _____