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U3A Cygnet Program

Term 1, 2026

Term 1	2 March to 8 May
Term 2	9 June to 14 August
Term 3	14 September to 20 November
Monthly Classes	9 February to 18 December or as advised

What is U3A?	We are a cooperative learning group for retired and semi-retired people. We hold talks, and have range of classes, interest groups and social activities – see page 4 for more about us. Our program and membership applications are available at www.u3acygnet.au. Printed copies will be at the Community Health Centre and the Cygnet Library.
Most classes are held at	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Health Centre, 1 Frederick Street Cygnet• Enjoy.Church, 8 Mary Street Cygnet (These links go to Google Maps)
Do you wish to join?	Join online or in person. See page 2. If you wish to come to a few sessions as a guest while you sound us out, contact our Membership Secretary .
Already a member?	Renew for 2026 now and choose your classes – see pages 2 and 3.

U3A Cygnet acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Melukerde. We pay our respects to elders past and present.

We thank Minister Eric Abetz, MHA for Franklin, for his support in printing this program.

University of the Third Age, Cygnet PO Box 216 Cygnet Tasmania 7112

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1. 2026 membership -join or renew

You can join or renew your membership and choose your classes online. This makes it easier for us; just follow the two steps below.

If you are unable to work online, please complete the application forms at the end of this printed program, and attend our Registration Day, on Wednesday 18 February at Enjoy.Church, 8 Mary St, 10am to noon.

Step 1 - Renew your annual membership or join now!

Current members

- Renew & pay via the Renewal email that has been sent to you. Or..
- Renew via the Member Portal by selecting “Pay outstanding invoices”

**New Members: Join U3A online and pay by card,
at <https://www.u3acygnet.au/membership/> (our preferred method).**

Step 2 - see next page - Choose your classes and enrol in them

2. Choosing Classes

After you have joined /renewed and paid your membership, you need to enrol in your chosen classes

- **Via the Classes page on the website, <https://www.u3acygnet.au/classes/>**
- **or through your [Member Portal](#), where the full program is displayed**
- **or by attending Registration Day**

- **Your class enrolment covers the full year**
- **For classes with limited numbers**, we ask you to commit to regular attendance. The online registration process will show you whether there are vacancies – if not, you can join a waiting list.
- **Smorgasbord and Garden & Gourmet**: any member can attend any session. But **we ask you to please tick the box / enrol if you are likely to attend any sessions** - it helps with our administration and communications. You don't need to attend every week, and you don't have to tell us in advance before you come to any session.

3. Program at a Glance

A Smorgasbord of Talks	Wednesdays	10.00 – 12.15	Enjoy.Church , weekly
Art Group - painting*	Wednesdays	1.30 – 4.00	Health Centre , room 4, weekly
Arts and Crafts*	Thursdays	1.30 - 4.00	Health Centre , room 4 weekly
Book Club (themes)*	4th Monday of the month	1.30 - 4.00	Health Centre , room 4, Jan-Nov
Book Reading Group (specific books)*	3 rd Monday of the month	1.30 – 4.00	Health Centre , room 4, Jan-Nov
Creative Writing for All (two groups)*	Tuesdays	10.00 – 12.00	Health Centre , room 4, weekly
	Last Friday of the month	10.00 - 12.30	Health Centre , room 4 monthly
Family History*	1st Monday of the month	1.30 – 4.00	Health Centre , Room 4, Feb-Dec
Family History for Beginners *	2 nd Monday of the month	1.30 - 4.00	Health Centre , Room 4, Mar-Nov
Garden & Gourmet	Thursdays	10.00 – 12.00	Varies, see program
Ladies Who Lunch*	As notified in term breaks		
Men's Forum*	2 nd Sunday of the month February to December	2.00 – 4-ish	David Fletcher's house, Garden Island Creek
Play Reading*	Tuesdays	1.30 – 4.00	Health Centre , room 4, weekly
Science Discussion*	2 nd Thursday of the month	10.00 – 12.00	Health Centre , Room 4, Mar-Dec

*Numbers are limited for these classes. If they are full you can join the waiting list.

Our full program is available at www.u3acygnet.au

Printed copies will be at The Community Health Centre and the Cygnet Library

4. More about U3A Cygnet

Our principles

U3A Cygnet is a co-operative non-profit learning community for retired and semi-retired people, run by volunteers. We encourage the informal pursuit of learning and the opportunity to acquire new skills and experiences in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. ***There are no entry qualifications, assessments or awards.***

Cost

\$50 Annual Membership allows attendance at any number of weekly and monthly courses that **calendar** year (subject to class number limitations).

Social activities such as luncheons and excursions **may** involve an extra cost.

Non-Members coming as guests are asked to make a \$2.00 contribution per session.

Communications

We publish a program three times a year. Printed copies are available the Cygnet Library and Cygnet Community Health Centre.

On our [website](#) you can see the program and enrol in your choice of classes. You can also join or renew your membership, including secure payment, and download the program and other documents about U3A.

We use email to keep members up to date with news, items of interest, and forthcoming events, plus any last-minute changes to the Program.

Questions, suggestions, comments

Whether you are a member or not, we'd love to hear from you! Feel free to use any of the contact details below, or on our [website](#).

5. Committee

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Elaine Reeves	Chairperson, Garden & Gourmet, Smorgasbord	0427 172 179	elainereeves17@gmail.com
Glenn Sanders	Secretary, Technology	0428 444 812	sandersinfo@gmail.com
Ann Cocker	Treasurer, Public Officer	0401 846 461	Anncocker48@gmail.com
Suzanne Brown	Publicity	0421 931 902	suzannebrown39@gmail.com
June Cunningham	Membership	0407 187 300	junecunningham@gmail.com
Catriona Fletcher	Catering	6297 8240	celfletcher48@gmail.com
Christine Kinnear	General Committee	0419 858 233	christine.kinnear935@gmail.com
Bill Leonard	General committee	0427 700 316	wleonard336@gmail.com

6. A Smorgasbord of Talks

What	A series of interesting, stimulating talks on a wide variety of topics, with plenty of opportunity to discuss and ask questions, and a tea-break for socialising.
When	10.00 – 12.15 Wednesdays, weekly
Where	Enjoy.Church , 8 Mary St, next to the Port Hole Cafe (carpark at rear)
Leader	Bill Leonard
Note	Please book online or use the form at the back of this program if you are likely to attend any sessions - it helps with our administration and communications. You don't need to attend every week, and you don't need to tell us in advance before you come to any session.
4 March	<p>My time working with RV Investigator – Don McKenzie <i>Investigator</i> arrived in Hobart in 2014. It is an advanced ocean research vessel, supporting Australia's atmospheric, oceanographic, biological and geoscience research from the tropical north to the Antarctic ice-edge. Don will talk about working with Investigator and her crew on land and sea during his career with the CSIRO.</p>
11 March	<p>Have you ever wondered? – Lyn Glover This talk is a mini version of some of the topics that are presented by Smorgasbord speakers. It will feature short segments from history, archaeology, art, architecture and science in answer to some of these questions and others: What are two Belgian lions doing in Australia? Whatever happened to Thera? What makes a great portrait?</p>
18 March	<p>My home town – Len Crocombe and Suzanne Brown In this session Len talks about growing up in Dandenong in Victoria. Having previously told us about her own history in Hatfield, UK, Suzanne looks at Hatfield's history and its links with royalty.</p>
25 March	<p>Protest songs: music as a force for justice – June Cunningham Can music bring about social change? We will look at the role music and musicians have played in opposing war and fighting for social justice and peace. How effective was the protest movement of the 1960s and is there an equivalent today? There will be lots of good music in this presentation, some humour, and lots to ponder.</p>
1 April	<p>When the bridge came down – Bill Lawson In 1975, Bill Lawson was a young engineer working in the bridge construction section of the Department of Main Roads, when the Tasman Bridge was knocked down by MV Lake Illawarra. Bill found himself centre of the disaster that night, but will also talk about the new technology, the disputes between the state and federal governments, building the Bowen bridge, and his role in construction of the repaired bridge.</p>
8 April	<p>No session [Easter break]</p>
15 April	<p>John Glover's house – Jane Deeth In 2016, Patterdale, the Georgian home of colonial artist John Glover, almost collapsed – as it had almost done decades before. Why did this happen? How was it saved? And was this journey in blood, paint, bricks and mortar worth the effort?</p>
Smorgasbord continues on the next page	

Smorgasbord continued

22 April	The value of nature and the nature of value – Paul Sutton Nature underpins our economy, delivering immense value at no cost: clean water from healthy watersheds, flood protection worth far more than harvested timber, and countless other services. Paul reveals why these benefits must be counted in national economic statistics. Today's policies ignore them, driving the loss of trillions of dollars in ecosystem services. By recognising natural capital and its life-sustaining, non-market benefits, we can redefine economic progress, inform smarter decisions, and build an economy that truly supports life and a better future.
29 April	Reconstructing the lives of women in antiquity – Jayne Knight Jayne will explore how we can uncover information about women's lives in classical antiquity. It is not a straightforward task, as the case of Cleopatra VII shows – what we know about her life has been shaped by ancient propaganda and cultural biases. She was often represented as a conniving seductress, but the events of her life suggest she was a shrewd politician who navigated internal strife and increasing Roman dominance with remarkable skill.
6 May	Tropics to winter in Moscow – Julia Durnin Between 2001 and 2006 Julia was a citizen of the world. Her then husband's job first took her to Dili in Timor, where she saw some of the rebuilding of the city after the departure of Indonesia. Quite a contrast to Moscow in winter, where she did not quite master the language but did become adept at the Metro. Stays in Lebanon, Turkey and Zimbabwe were to follow.

7. Art Group

What	This group is not restricted to any type of art but includes painting mediums such as watercolours, acrylics and pastel. It is an opportunity to socialize, learn and share experiences with other potential artists in an informal setting . It is not formally tutored, but Pauline will give guidance, particularly to beginners. (See also our Arts and Crafts group)
When	Wednesdays, weekly, 1.30 – 4.00
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4.
Leader	Pauline Rix
Note:	This class has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.

8. Arts and Crafts

What	Whether your passion is drawing, collage, hand-carving, paper or fabric crafts, or something else, bring your project and materials and join with others to socialise, learn and share experiences. Physical space is limited so your project needs to be portable and self-contained. There is no tutor, but everyone tends to help each other. (See also our Art group, which focuses on painting)
When	Thursday afternoons, 1.30 - 4.00
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4.
Tutor	This group is self-tutored
Note	This class has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.

9. Book Groups

Book Clubs are more than just talking about books - they are also places to socialise, talk about life, and make friends. Reading is a solitary pursuit, so meeting to talk about books is really special - book clubs are as much about the people as the books. We all have different tastes, often disagree about a book, but we love robust discussions about our books.

Book Club (Themes)

What	After all these years we still enjoy our Thematic Approach, where each member brings a book to share. We then offer recommendations based on our recent reading. Term 1 themes include Buildings, Siblings and Gothic Literature.
When	1.30 – 4.00 on the fourth Monday of every month from February to November (no stopping for term breaks)
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4
Leader	Lyn Glover
Note:	This class has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.

Reading Group (Specific books)

What	Our books are chosen by Libraries Tasmania. There is always one of us who has not read the book, but it does not matter, as we listen with interest to all the comments. Afterwards we discuss what we have recently been reading.
When	1.30 – 4.00 on the third Monday of each month from February to November (no stopping for term breaks)
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4
Leader	Sue White
Note:	This class has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.

10. Creative Writing for All

What	<p>There are two Creative Writing groups:</p> <p>Weekly on Tuesday Morning: Have you dreamed of writing the perfect short story, or memoirs to add to your family tree for your descendants to read? Is there a best-selling novel in you? Do you just want to write to kick start your creative processes? Or if you'd just like to have a go, in a friendly, supportive, and informative group, join this weekly session to share writing techniques and tips; you may even overcome writer's block! <i>Everyone is a beginner so don't hold back.</i></p> <p>Last Friday Morning of the Month: This session is open to all members so that aspirant writers can exchange written work and receive constructive, encouraging critiques from fellow members.</p>
When	<p>Weekly: 10.00 -12.00 on Tuesdays</p> <p>Monthly: 10.00 -12.30 on the last Friday of each month (starting on Friday 28 March)</p>
Where	<p>Weekly: Community Health Centre, 1 Frederick Street, room 4.</p> <p>Monthly: Community Health Centre, 1 Frederick Street, room 4</p>
Leaders / Tutors	<p>Monthly: Ian Hampson</p> <p>Weekly: Ian Hampson</p>
Note:	<p>This class has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.</p>

11. Family History

What	A small group of genealogy tragic meet to share experiences, discuss techniques and generally learn from each other. This is an interest group, not a course, and is intended for those with experience in genealogy, using computer technology. If you are new to the field, consider our Beginners class , where we will provide pointers on how best to start.
When	First Monday of each month. 1.30 - 4.00
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4
Leader	June Cunningham
Note	<p>This class has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.</p>

12. Family History for Beginners

What	This is not a formally structured course, but members of our Family History group will lead you to good resources and guide you as you start your research. Informal discussions will mean you can share experience as you go. You will need to have basic computer skills and access to the internet, as on-line searching is essential. (See also our Family History group)
When	Second Monday of each month from March -1.30 to 4.00
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4,
Leaders	Lyn Glover
Note	<p>This class has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.</p>

13. Garden & Gourmet

What	Visits, talks and workshops on gardens and food, with plenty of opportunity of look, discuss and ask. You don't have to attend every session.
When	When 10am to noon Thursdays each week.
Where	See below, and the links to Google Maps for each session.
Leader	Elaine Reeves 0427 172 179
Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit to Phoenix Castle on April 9 costs \$10, which is payable on the day. There is no need to let organisers know if you are coming to a garden or not. If you can, please share rides to garden visits – parking can be a problem if 20 cars arrive at once. Use your own discretion if weather is bad. On the actual day, we have no means contacting everyone. In the main, we are a hardy bunch and have enjoyed gardens in appalling weather. Please bring your own mug for morning tea.
5 March	<p>Gascoigne garden, Glen Huon</p> <p>Tracey Gascoigne and her partner moved from Perth, Western Australia and settled here in 2018. Just shy of 3 acres, the property faces north and most of it is on a gentle slope. Gardening and building projects with recycled materials are hobbies that merged in a very rustic style. There is an area of raised beds, no-dig gardens, a poly tunnel, food forest and cottage flowers. Sharing the garden are 40 plus bantam chickens, three ducks, three sheep, four guinea fowls and a dog!</p> <p>Address: 20 Seventh Day Road, Glen Huon. Parking available opposite the property.</p> <p>U3A facilitator Jan Marciano</p>
12 March	<p>Males garden, Cygnet</p> <p>There was an area of established English trees and conifers, when Samantha and her partner bought this seven-acre property seven years ago. Since then they have created a series of enclosed gardens around the house, including a courtyard, vegetable area and fruit orchard, all protected from wallabies and possums. About half an acre is now cultivated. They also have chickens and sheep.</p> <p>Address: 7724 Channel Highway, Cygnet</p> <p>U3A facilitator Wendy Barker</p>
19 March	<p>Frog Fields, Kettering</p> <p>Over twenty years ,the 3.5 acre property has been transformed into a peaceful oasis. It is dotted with seats, bridges and sculptures created by the owners, including bespoke metal gates and a resident dragon. Edible produce and cottage gardens are full of annuals and perennials. Near the creek line, where there is a platypus, Tasmanian natives surround a bush hut. A Japanese tea house overlooks a dam filled with lilies.</p> <p>Plants and produce for sale – bring cash.</p> <p>Address: 86 Saddle Road, Kettering</p> <p>U3A facilitator Jan Marciano</p>
<i>Garden & Gourmet continues on the next page</i>	

Garden & Gourmet continued

26 March	<p>Firetail Garden, Kettering</p> <p>Ruth Downham has a life-long passion for gardening, a certificate in horticulture and an artist's eye, which have all gone into Firetail Garden over the past twelve years. Starting out as a private garden to provide food and pleasure for the house, Ruth then began a business propagating and selling dahlias. There is a wonderful selection of fruit trees, a fantastic circular vegetable and berry cage as well as many beds dedicated to dahlias, daffodils and other flowering plants.</p> <p>Address: 196 Saddle Road, Kettering</p> <p>U3A facilitator Tanya Lawson</p>
2 April	<p>No garden visit before Good Friday</p>
9 April	<p>Phoenix Castle, Geeveston</p> <p>Artists Francis Shepherd and Christina Kent are working on their biggest project. Castle Phoenix stands at 17 metres high and has four levels, one below ground. They are covering the rooftops and inside with tiles and mosaics. Surrounding the castle are sculpture gardens and a lake. Colourful flowers abound. The sculptures use glass bottles, steel and concrete. Sculptures are also being covered in mosaics. Entry on the day is \$10 per person for the garden, and \$10 more if you want to see inside the castle. All paid on the day.</p> <p>Address: 336 Arve Road, Geeveston</p> <p>U3A facilitator Jan Marciano</p>
16 April	<p>A food garden, Cygnet</p> <p>Only the big trees (including a blackwood) and a hedge were here when Linda Champine and Nick Weetman moved to this half-acre block six years ago. Now it is proof you can feed a family on a small block without looking the least like a farm. Grandchildren, fruit and nut trees, herbs, vegetables, flowers and chooks all find space in this packed garden with lots of secret spaces.</p> <p>Address: 12 Garthfield Ave, Cygnet. Park on street near the art gallery, or go into the oval via Guys Road, from where you can drive towards Garthfield Ave, park and then walk across the road.</p> <p>U3A facilitator Elaine Reeves</p>
23 April	<p>Bishop Garden Nichols Rivulet</p> <p>Ten years ago Mandie and Derrick started with a blank canvas. They wanted a park-like garden. This has certainly been achieved with beautiful silver birch, cherry birch, liquid amber, golden elms, Japanese maples and many other deciduous trees. Lots of garden art also adds to the interest in this garden.</p> <p>Address: 1 Joes Road, Nicholls Rivulet</p> <p>U3A facilitator Wendy Barker</p>

Garden & Gourmet continues on the next page

Garden & Gourmet continued

30 April	<p>Hill House garden, Cygnet</p> <p>A lone hydrangea was the only plant besides gorse on this property when John Diment and Elizabeth Haworth started gardening thirteen years ago. Now it includes a formal garden area, vegetable garden, a peony patch, a rose garden, a medieval garden, a Leucadendron and protea area and lots of rocks. Perhaps it was over ambitious for a couple who do not want to devote all their time to the garden.</p> <p>Address: 185 Jetty Road, Cygnet. At the top of the drive, turn to the left of the first house you see and park near the second house or along the drive.</p> <p>U3A facilitator Elaine Reeves</p>
7 May	<p>Crocombe garden, Deep Bay</p> <p>In the 1980s Valda Marchant established this large garden with sweeping lawns. After purchasing the property in 2003, Ann Crocombe, with a little help from her husband, Len, converted it to a cottage garden intermingled with fruit trees and Australian natives. There are three netted vegetable patches attached to a chook shed with doors to each patch, allowing the chooks to graze each patch during different seasons.</p> <p>Address: 6615 Channel Highway, Deep Bay</p> <p>U3A facilitator Wendy Barker</p>

14. Men's Forum

What	The Men's forum meets to socialize and discuss topics of interest, relevance or concern.
When	2.00 – 4.00, second Sunday of each month except during the Christmas break
Where	David Fletcher's house, Garden Island Creek
Facilitator	David Fletcher
Note:	This forum has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.

15. Play Reading

What	Drama, Comedy, Mystery, Crime – we do it all! Come to the U3A Cygnet Play Reading group and spend a couple of hours experiencing the joys and sorrows of other lives, lived in other places and at other times. You don't have to have great acting skills – just be able to read, enjoy being entertained and love laughing. Beginners welcome.
When	Tuesdays, 1.30 - 4.00, weekly
Where	Community Health Centre, 1 Frederick Street, room 4.
Leader	Catriona Fletcher
Note	This class has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.

16. Science Discussion Group

What	An opportunity to learn, share and discuss issues across all branches of science. Members will take turns to offer topics – perhaps something from the news or a journal, or a video on the internet, then it's open for discussion and debate.
When	Second Thursday of the month, March to December, 10.00 to 12.00
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4,
Facilitator	Cooperatively run by the members; facilitator is Glenn Sanders
Note	This class has limited numbers. If you wish to enrol, please commit to attend regularly.

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17. Holiday Activities

a) Holiday Drop-in

What	Looking for something to do during the term breaks? Why not take a breather with other U3A members of like mind, and put the world to rights over a cup of tea or coffee, a biscuit and company. During the holiday breaks we will be “at home” for members at the Cygnet Community Health Centre on Tuesday afternoons. Come and meet U3A friends and make new ones in an unstructured setting.
When	If there is sufficient interest, drop-in will be held on Tuesday afternoons during term breaks (except for the Christmas – New Year period) any time between 2.00 and 4.00. Come and go as you please.
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4
Facilitator	Catriona Fletcher 6297 8240
Note:	No need to book!

b) Ladies Who Lunch

What	Ladies Who Lunch is an opportunity for members to enjoy social gatherings during the Term breaks. Meetings are held at interesting venues in our region, sources of good food and convivial surroundings. When we are planning an outing we will send out an event invitation. Places are limited, so book promptly by responding to the invitation.
When	In term breaks. The convenor will contact those who have registered interest
Where	Venues vary
Facilitator	A different facilitator each event. Details will be in the invitation emails.