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U3A Cygnet Program

Term 2, 2026

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

Current members

You only need to let us know if you wish to change your choice of classes or your contact details.

New Members can choose to join U3A in one of three ways:

- Register, pay by card, and choose classes on-line at <https://www.u3acygnet.au/membership/> (our preferred method).
- or post to Box 216 Cygnet 7112 - Registration forms are on last pages.
- If you are unable to register/pay online or by post, contact [the membership coordinator](#) 0407 187 300

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

U3A Cygnet thanks 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

www.u3acygnet.au

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Registration and Booking online or the form on last pages

Most classes are held at:

- [Community Health Centre, 1 Frederick Street Cygnet](#)
 - [Enjoy.Church, 8 Mary Street Cygnet](#)

(These links go to Google Maps)

IMPORTANT- choosing your classes

- **Our program, membership applications and class enrolments** are available at www.u3acygnet.au. Printed copies are at Cygnet Library and Cygnet Community Health Centre
- **Current members – in terms 2 & 3 you only need to let us know if you wish to change your choice of classes or your contact details.**
- **Garden & Gourmet** is hibernating for the winter months, but we still have vacancies in many other classes. **Places in small classes are limited so be quick.**
- **The [Member Portal](#) makes everything easier for members and for us.** If you need assistance to join the Portal, call the Membership coordinator. and we will set it up for you.
- **Have your contact details changed?** Update them via the Member Portal, or [email us](#)

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	In recess this term
Ladies Who Lunch*	As notified in term breaks		
Men's Forum*	2 nd Sunday of the month except Christmas break	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.

Committee

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Elaine Reeves	Chairperson; Garden & Gourmet, Smorgasbord	0427 172 179	chairperson@u3acygnet.au
Glenn Sanders	Secretary, Public Officer, Technology	0428 444 812	secretary@u3acygnet.au
Ann Cocker	Treasurer	0401 846 461	treasurer@u3acygnet.au
Suzanne Brown	Publicity	0421 931 902	suzannebrown39@gmail.com
June Cunningham	Membership, computer system	0407 187 300	u3amembership@u3acygnet.au
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

1. Introduction

Welcome to our program for term 2, 2026.

Our principles

U3A Cygnet is a non-profit co-operative 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.**

Communications

We publish a program three times a year. Printed copies are available at the 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.

New members

If you'd like to join U3A Cygnet, please join online at u3acygnet.au/membership, or fill out the registration form at the end of this Program. If you wish to come to a few sessions as a guest while you sound us out, contact our [Membership Secretary](#).

You can join U3A at any time of the year

***Do I need to book my place in a class? Yes.
Class booking/enrolling system – please read carefully!***

- **All our classes have limited numbers, except for Smorgasbord.**
When numbers are limited, members need to commit to regular attendance. If there are no vacancies you can join on a waiting list.
- **Smorgasbord:** 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.
- **Class enrolments last all year;** you do not have to re-enrol in classes each term, just let us know of changes.
- **Monthly classes continue through the year,** even between terms.

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 on page 3 of this Program, or on our [website](#).

2. 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 if you are likely to attend <i>any</i> talks. You don't need to attend every week, and you don't need to tell us in advance before coming to any session.
10 June	<p>Affordable adventure travelling – John Diment</p> <p>Share in John's experience in enjoying affordable, adventurous travels around the world. Using a range of tools and resources like Airbnb and online flight booking websites, we will find ways to get to unusual places cost-effectively, with interesting stopovers as part of the journey. Mobile phone apps translate to and from English, making ordering food and organising transport easier. Banking is easier and international eSIMs give you affordable phone calls. We'll hear about some of John's visits to interesting places around the world.</p>
17 June	<p>Botany design in fabric - Deborah Wace</p> <p>Deborah is a fabric designer, ecological activist, plant advocate, professional printmaker, and sometime singer, now living in Cygnet. Her highly detailed and intimate artwork creates a window into the botany of Tasmanian wild plant communities. She will show images and speak about her advocacy work to protect threatened species. As part of her presentation, we are invited to walk to her studio at Lymington Road to see more of her work and where she conducts classes and workshops in a range of printing techniques.</p>
24 June	<p>Self-Awareness without ideology – Greg Jemsek</p> <p>Can we become better human beings without embracing an ideology? Ideologies exist within philosophies, religions, or self-help approaches and often promise personal growth, mental clarity and spiritual fulfilment. This session explores how following an ideology can impact our awareness and growth. Does it accelerate it? Deter it?</p>
1 July	<p>Natural darkness – Sharolyn Anderson</p> <p>Light pollution is increasingly recognised as a threat to human health, wellbeing, and ecosystem functioning. Night skies (natural darkness) are the natural resource impacted by light pollution. Effective stewardship of night skies is a challenging problem at the nexus of science, policy, communication, coalition building, monitoring and enforcement. We will look at the importance of night skies and define light pollution, then discuss its impacts on human health, wildlife, and ecosystems. We'll finish with mitigation strategies at different scales and practical actions you can take to reduce light pollution.</p>
<p>Smorgasbord continues on the next page</p>	

8 July	<p>Research that makes a difference – Kathy Buttigieg</p> <p>Kathy is research coordinator at the Menzies Centre. She will look at how research evidence moves beyond academic publications to influence clinical practice, public health programs and the lives of participants and communities. Clinical trials do more than test new ideas — they can change everyday health behaviours and improve real-world outcomes. The Menzies Institute for Medical Research conducts community-focused health research and we will explore how two completed clinical trials were planned, coordinated and delivered in real settings. And how this led to meaningful changes in health behaviour and real improvements in outcomes.</p>
15 July	<p>Is science its own worst enemy? – Glenn Sanders</p> <p>We will look at scientific methodology, how our understanding of it has changed dramatically over the last century, and how its very language is a threat. The approach is not helped by issues around replication, publishing, funding, spectacular frauds, and well organised attacks by industry and governments.</p>
22 July	<p>Protest songs - music as a force for justice – June Cunningham</p> <p>Can music bring about social change? From its roots in early working songs and spirituals, we will look at the development of what we think of as protest music today, and its role 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>
29 July	<p>Hadrian's Wall – Bill Leonard</p> <p>This talk will focus on why the Romans began building this barrier almost 2000 years ago, the materials and building methods and the daily life of the inhabitants living close to the wall. The talk will also cover walking along the wall, which usually takes five to eight days.</p>
5 August	<p>Tracing property history to enhance your family history – Malcolm Ward</p> <p>As well as discussing family history research, this session will be one for local history buffs and even curious neighbours. Using websites and databases, we will look into the history of homes and properties and their ownership, using examples to decode information and give us valuable details about fences, roads, buildings and sometimes even sketches of a historic property. What is a deposited deed? What might I find in Tas Archives? All these resources contribute to a fuller picture of personal stories and local history.</p>
12 August	<p>My Home Town</p> <p>Two of our members will tell us about the town where they grew up.</p>

3. 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 Arts and Crafts group)
When	Wednesdays, weekly, 1.30 – 4.00
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4.
Leader	Pauline Rix
Note:	If you were enrolled in this class last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend.

4. 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	If you were enrolled in this class last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend.

5. 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 readings.	
Book Club (Themes) - monthly	
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 2 Themes will be Gothic Literature, Actors in Film & TV, Something Irish, and a Korean Book. Why not suggest a theme yourself?
When	1.30 – 4.00 on the fourth Monday of every month (no stopping for term breaks)
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4
Leader	Lyn Glover, 0477 550 171
Note:	If you were enrolled in this class last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend.
Reading Group (Specific books) - monthly	
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 (no stopping for term breaks)
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4
Leader	Sue White
Note:	If you were enrolled in this class last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend.

6. 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 a best-selling novel, or memoirs for your descendants to read? 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: Open to all members so that aspirant writers can exchange written work and receive constructive, encouraging critiques from fellow writers.</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 (0403 620 703)</p> <p>Weekly: Ian Hampson (0403 620 703)</p>
Note:	<p>If you were enrolled in one of these classes last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend.</p>

7. Family History

What	<p>A small group of genealogy tragnics meets monthly 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.</p> <p>If you are new to the field, consider our Beginners class, where we will provide pointers on how best to start.</p>
When	First Monday of each month. 1.30 - 4.00
Where	Community Health Centre , 1 Frederick Street, room 4
Leader	June Cunningham 0407 187 300
Note	<p>If you were enrolled in this class last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend.</p>

8. Family History for Beginners

What	You're desperate to find your family history, there's so much advice on the internet, but you don't know how to get started? 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 hear about each other's discoveries and share experience as you go. We will have internet access in the class for short video tutorials and demonstrations. 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, June Cunningham
Note	If you were enrolled in this class last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend..

9. 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, 6297 8240
Note:	If you were enrolled in this class last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend.

10. 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 6297 8240
Note	If you were enrolled in this class last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend.

11. 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	Glenn Sanders 0428 444 812
Note	If you were enrolled in this class last term, there is no need to re-enrol. Please email us if you can no longer attend.

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12. Holiday Activities – Ladies Who Lunch

What	Ladies Who Lunch is an opportunity for members to enjoy social gatherings during the Term breaks. Gatherings 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. An Event invitation will be sent by email.
Where	Venues vary
Facilitator	Elaine Reeves 0427 172 179