



SYDNEY U3A - Origin and Organisation

Introduction

University of the Third Age had its origins in Toulouse, France in February 1973 in association with the local university as a means of providing educational opportunities for retired people.

The idea spread to England in 1981 where it was first established in association with Cambridge University and soon spread with the formation of independent U3As in towns throughout the UK, based on the needs of the local communities.

The first U3A in Australia was founded in Melbourne in 1984, Adelaide, ACT and Perth in 1986, Brisbane in 1987 and in Sydney in 1988.

Sydney U3A was subsequently subdivided into seven regions to serve local interests. Each region selects its own committee and sends representatives to the Board of Management, which meets regularly the Central Office.

Office volunteers handle enquiries and applications and provide clerical services to the Executive and to the Regions. At present there are over 6000 members in Sydney U3A. All members may attend as many courses as they wish in any of the regions.

Guiding Principles

Sydney U3A aims to bring together people in retirement or semiretirement by providing affordable and intellectually stimulating experiences that engage the brain, encourage physical activity and promote healthy social relationships.

These experiences are gained through courses, and activities, delivered by a voluntary self-help community in which all members enjoy equal status.

Courses, Talks and Events

Courses, talks and events are conducted in a relaxed environment. They are stimulating and interesting across a wide variety of topics.

Course Books are published twice yearly containing in January and June.

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