



This news bulletin is designed to keep you in the loop regarding news and activities for the current month. Further information can be obtained from our biannual Newsletter or from our website [www.u3apinerivers.org.au](http://www.u3apinerivers.org.au).

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

To our members – new and old



On behalf of the Committee, I am delighted to welcome our new members to U3A Pine Rivers. We are thrilled to have you join our organisation and look forward to getting to know you, hearing your ideas, and working together toward our shared goals.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our returning members for renewing your membership. Your continued support, involvement, and commitment are truly appreciated.



## Reflecting on 2025

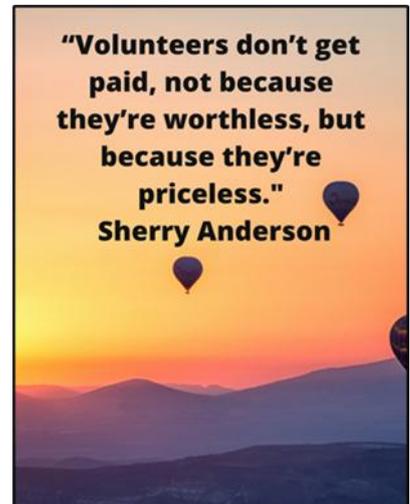


As another semester and year comes to a close, I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who have kept the centre running throughout the year. Without their support and efforts, we would not be able to function.

Many thanks to the Tutors and Group Leaders who have selflessly given of their time and skills to lead and coordinate their individual groups.

I would like to especially thank Bronwen Winn who has been my mentor and conscience throughout my first year as President. Her support has been very much appreciated.

“In The Loop” has been published almost every month and has been an important source of updated information and general news and features for all members. Joy Royce deserves our thanks and appreciation for the work she puts in to produce this essential resource.



## Our library is for you

Most members will be aware that there is a library at the U3A Centre with a variety of books. These are donated by members, for members. Did you know there are also magazines and jigsaw puzzles?

Members can borrow these items and are not required to return them. You may keep or share any book, magazine, or jigsaw, but of course you can also return them for others to enjoy.



If you are decluttering over the Christmas break, you may find magazines you have finished with. Consider donating them to U3A. Our members have a range of interests, so a variety of magazine topics is good for everyone.

## Thank you for your generosity

Thank you to the generous members who donated food items for a Christmas lunch that Pine Rivers Care Network will distribute to 250 needy families or singles.

Your thoughtfulness will make a difference to families at Christmas.



## Membership renewals for 2026

Your current U3A Pine Rivers membership expires on 31 December 2025. Membership renewal for 2026 is now open.

You have received an email from Member Wizard with your invoice.



- **Ordinary Membership Renewal is \$30**
- **Affiliate Membership Renewal is \$15**
  - You must renew with your primary U3A before renewing your affiliate membership with us. You need to provide proof of your 2026 membership from your other U3A before we can take payment.
  - Either show your badge or receipt to reception or email a photo of your 2026 badge or receipt to [membership@u3apinerivers.org.au](mailto:membership@u3apinerivers.org.au).
- Payment by cash and card can be made at reception at the U3A Centre.
- Online payment can be made by EFT or card. See the [Payments](#) page on our website for further details.
- No new membership card will be issued. Please retain your “forever” plastic membership card, and please wear it when attending U3A Pine Rivers classes and activities.

## Semester 1 2026 Newsletter

Mid-December, you will receive, by email or post, the **Semester 1 January to June 2026 Newsletter**. There are new classes to consider joining. U3A is the perfect opportunity to discover a new interest or skill.

Semester 2 Newsletter will be sent in mid-June, so keep this one in a safe place until your new one arrives. If you receive the Newsletter by email, create a special U3A folder and move the email into the folder to make it easier to refer to at any time.

You can also open the Newsletters and issues of *In the Loop* from the **Documents** folder in your Member Portal, and on the U3A Pine Rivers website. <https://u3apinerivers.org.au/news>



## Additional parking at U3A Centre



The barrier to the grassed area adjacent to the parking area near Anzac Avenue, has been removed. Members may now park on the grassed area if the carpark is full.

**Please note:** parking is at your own risk. The surface is unsealed, so may not be suitable in rainy weather.



## Stationery supplies for tutors

Over the past year, the Admin Room behind reception has transitioned into a dedicated space for meetings, financial activities, and membership processing.

To make sure everyone still has easy access to stationery supplies, a new stationery cupboard has been set up next to the black & white printer. This cupboard contains items commonly required by tutors and members.

Please ask the receptionist if you require anything else, including colour photocopies (20c per page).



We're looking for donations of spare notebooks and notepads. As we don't generate as much scrap paper as we used to, these items will be really helpful for both admin tasks and classroom activities. If you have any spare, please drop them off at reception.

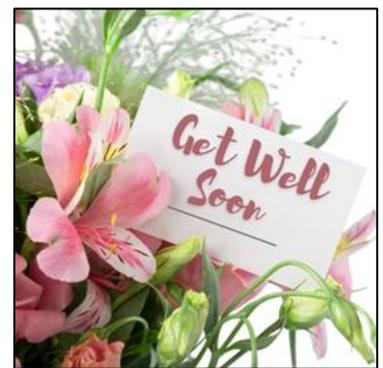
Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

## Thinking of our members



To members having a birthday in December or January, best wishes on your special day.

We are thinking of you while you work your way back to health.



To all our members, I wish for you a happy and joyful Christmas season. My hope is that you will enjoy this season with family and friends and that 2026 will be everything you hope for.

*Greg Weekes – President*



# ACTIVITIES

## Important dates

Class Christmas parties

Dec 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Last day for 2025

U3A closed for 4 weeks

U3A closed for 4 weeks

Jan 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Classes start for 2026.

Welcome back!

## Coach trips

### PARLIAMENT HOUSE HIGH TEA



Members enjoyed an informative, and delicious, trip to Parliament House on Tuesday 11 November for a high tea and tour.



## Theatre Outings

### MJ: the Musical



Centred around the making of his 1992 *Dangerous World Tour*, **MJ the Musical** goes beyond the singular moves and signature sound of the star, offering a rare look at the creative mind and collaborative spirit that catapulted Michael Jackson into legendary status.

**Wednesday 6 May 2026**

**1:00 pm**

**Lyric Theatre at QPAC**

Ticket cost: Members - **\$110**. Payment Code: **TH5-2025** is due in **March 2026**.

To book tickets, and for all Theatre Outing enquiries, call or text **Angela** or email [theatre@u3apinerivers.org.au](mailto:theatre@u3apinerivers.org.au).

*NOTE: from 10 November until classes finish this year, Angela will only be available by email.*

## Caravan & Camping

Twenty-three campers and four dogs enjoyed and shared camaraderie, stories, tips and advice, equipment, lunches, dinners, happy hours, kayaking, card games, boules, table tennis, walks, rides, swims, water aerobics, Christmas carols and more, during our 4-5 day November get-together at Rivershore Resort, Diddillibah. The weather was beautiful and there were a lot of laughs and fun had by all.



If you are interested in joining the U3A C&CG please email Penny at [camping@u3apinerivers.org.au](mailto:camping@u3apinerivers.org.au)



## Happy Wanderers

With some travel time remaining before the end of the year, two members of Happy Wanderers travelled to O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, courtesy of Coolum Bus Tours. The location is spectacular, the access road is interesting, and the birdlife is a joy to see. Definitely a "Bucket List" destination.



For information about Happy Wanderers, contact **Sue Collett**.

## Tech Help Mondays

Would you like some help with your phone, tablet or laptop?



Greg Weekes is offering to assist members with their tech challenges. You can usually catch Greg at the Centre on Mondays and he may be available at other times. Contact **Greg**, if you cannot come to the Centre on a Monday.

Help from tech savvy members on other days would also be great. Are you willing to assist members to gain confidence with their devices?

## Avoid perfumed products

As we all know, things change as we get older. One of these things is our sense of smell, and many mature people start to experience sensitivity to fragrances. For most people this is a mild discomfort (watery eyes, sneezing etc) but for others it can cause more concerning reactions including dizziness, breathlessness or triggering migraines and asthma.

Considering these possible health impacts, we kindly ask all members to be mindful of the wellbeing of others. Please refrain from using perfumed products when attending U3A classes and activities.



# CLASS NOTICES

## Classes – January 2026

The Newsletter Semester 1 (Jan – Jun 2026) with class information has been finalised. This Newsletter will be distributed via email and mail in early December. We will be offering eight new classes when we open in the New Year. Here are details of a few of them.

### Fun with Acrylics - 2026



Beginner–friendly acrylic class. All levels welcome. Come and enjoy the social activity of acrylics.

**Monthly 1st, 3rd week of month on Monday 12.00 – 2.00 PM**

**U3A Pine Rivers Centre - Classroom 4**

**Starting 2 Feb 2026**

**Cost: \$7.00 per class**

**Tutor/Leader: GEOFF Foley**

### History of Contemporary Music



The History is told in a series of concerts and films featuring music from all eras, including Rock and Roll, Jazz, Progressive, Folk, and everything in between.

**Monthly 2nd, 4th week of month on Tuesday 12.30 – 2.00 PM**

**U3A Pine Rivers Centre – Classroom 4**

**Ongoing from 13 Jan 2026.**

**Tutor / Leader: KEN Passmore**

### History: The Black Death

#### History: The Black Death: New Lessons from Recent Research.



This lecture shares **new information about recent scientific discoveries** that shed more light on that 14<sup>th</sup> century pandemic known as the Black Death (or the Great Mortality). It also discusses what the world's struggles with COVID-19 have so far revealed about pandemics. In this class we use video lectures and discussions.

**Weekly on Wednesday 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

**U3A Pine Rivers Centre - Classroom 1**

**Ongoing from 14 Jan 2026.**

**Tutor / Leader: TONY Nobbs**



## History of World Cinema

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9:30 am - second and fourth **Monday** of the month.

Contact **John Targuse**.



### 8 December - **CAROL FOR ANOTHER CHRISTMAS (1964)**

A modern version of 'Christmas Carol' where a star-studded cast, led by Sterling Hayden, takes us through the horrors of the Second World War, and on to a post-apocalyptic world with a crazed and power-hungry leader (Peter Sellers at his best). Created by Rod Serling, and commissioned by the United Nations.

## Thank you Marieke

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Watercolour Workshop tutor, **Marieke Kleynhans**, who has been tutoring three different classes in the magical art of watercolours.

Marieke and her partner have some increasing commitments at work and on their house, which means she sadly has had to withdraw from tutoring. Marieke will keep in touch and may be able to run some one-off workshops in the future.

We must also congratulate her on the publication of her first book, "Watercolour Wellness". We wish her all the best in her endeavours; she will be missed. Please contact her if you would like a copy of her book - [watercolourwellness@gmail.com](mailto:watercolourwellness@gmail.com)

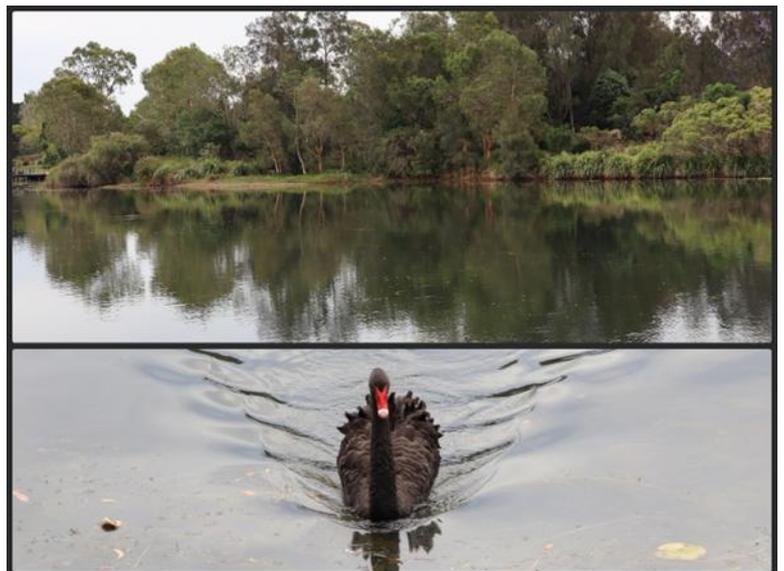
## Photographic and Social Club

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In October, the Photographic and Social Club enjoyed an excursion to Lake Eden in North Lakes where we photographed a variety of wildlife including turtles, water dragons, swans and other birdlife.

At our November meeting, we shared our 10 best photos from the outing, and enjoyed an interesting presentation on sports photography.

At our December get-together, we will share our five favourite photos and a Christmas morning tea.



*Photos taken by Mary-Jane Scott at Lake Eden*

Contact **Mary-Jane Scott**

## Knitters Circle



Members of the **Knitters Circle** class have been busy knitting and crocheting items for the St Vincents' Hospital Auxiliary Christmas market to be held in December.

## Sew Handy

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the **Sew Handy** class.

Coasters and patchwork Christmas trees in festive fabrics were the latest projects. Great job everyone!

Contact Joy Royce.



## Picture these classes!



*Strong People Stay Young - 3*



*Watercolour Workshop*



*Tuesday Trivia*



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## PAYMENTS

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### HOW TO MAKE ONLINE PAYMENTS TO U3A PINE RIVERS

#### EFT through your bank



Direct EFT payments into the U3A Pine Rivers bank account may be made through your online banking site.

In the **Reference** box, the following information is required.

- Payment Code for the Activity: for example MB, TH1 or TRP1
- Surname (and first name or initial if it fits)
- Membership Number

#### U3A Pine Rivers banking details are:

Account Name: U3A Pine Rivers Inc.  
Bank: Heritage  
BSB: 638-070  
Account No: 11284854

In addition, an email detailing your name and membership number **MUST** be sent to [treasurer@u3apinerivers.org.au](mailto:treasurer@u3apinerivers.org.au)

#### Online Card payment



Enter your credit/debit card details online at

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML3PF5JRGVQET/checkout/TYFQUN2HWEQZBUV5ZEHK2UE4>

You will need to enter your card details, as well as your name and contact details. Your receipt will be promptly sent to the email address you enter. For a renewal, bring your receipt to Reception to collect your membership badge. In the Comment box at the end, you can also request the badge be posted to you.

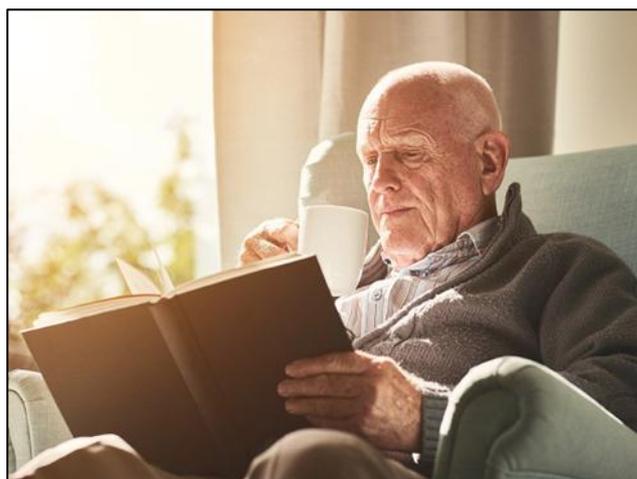
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## WELLBEING

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### 7 things reading does to the heart

1. **Expands Empathy:** Reading broadens our understanding of others' experiences, fostering empathy and compassion.
2. **Kindles Imagination:** Reading ignites our imagination, inspiring creativity and new perspectives.
3. **Fosters Connection:** Reading creates a sense of community, linking us to authors, characters and fellow readers.
4. **Calms the Mind:** Reading reduces stress and anxiety, providing a peaceful escape.
5. **Nourishes Curiosity:** Reading satisfies our curiosity, encouraging us to explore new ideas and topics.
6. **Heals and Comforts:** Reading offers solace in difficult times, providing comfort and healing.
7. **Enlarges Perspective:** Reading widens our worldview, challenging our assumptions and biases. By reading, our hearts become more empathetic, imaginative, connected, peaceful, curious, comforted, and open-minded.



## Christmas in and around Brisbane

Looking for some Christmas inspiration? You may not be aware of some of these festive activities around Brisbane.

<b>Moonlight Cinema</b>  <b>9 – 13 December</b>	<p>This outdoor cinema event will be playing in Brisbane's Roma Street Parkland from Wednesday, November 26 until Sunday, February 15. Enjoy two weeks of beloved 'Christmas Favourites' in the lead up to Christmas, with classics such as <i>Home Alone</i>, <i>Love Actually</i> and <i>Elf</i> playing on several different dates.</p> <p><a href="#">Full program and tickets</a></p>	<p>Ticket prices vary from \$14.50 (general admission) to \$41.50 (gold class)</p>
<b>Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols</b>  <b>6 December</b>	<p>This world-class evening of entertainment features a spectacular line-up including Bluey &amp; Bingo, Dami Im, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Brisbane City Gospel Choir and more - all bringing the magic and spirit of Christmas to life.</p> <p>Held annually, the carols are hosted at Riverstage, with a simultaneous livestream event held at Roma Street Parkland.</p>	<p>\$7.50 - 13+ years \$5.00 – 6-12 years Riverstage <a href="#">Tickets</a> Roma Street Parklands – free but you must register for tickets. Parklands <a href="#">Tickets</a></p>
<b>Movie World White Christmas</b>  <b>11 – 23 December</b>	<p>Movie World's Main Street will be home to a Christmas wonderland, complete with dazzling light displays, artificial snowfall and a festive street parade.</p> <p>The event is 5:30 - 8:30pm and requires a special ticket. This does not include the day ticket for Movie World which can be purchased separately.</p> <p><a href="#">More information</a></p>	<p>Adult - \$89 Child (3-13) - \$69</p>
<b>Tiny Doors</b>  <b>From 1 December</b>	<p>Join the fun and discover the enchanting Christmas-themed tiny doors hidden around Brisbane City! Designed and created by local artist Mace Robertson, these whimsical doors bring festive cheer to life, perfect for a magical family outing.</p> <p>It appears there is a new one each day until 8 December. Maybe wait until then to venture into the City. <a href="#">Tiny Door locations</a></p>	<p>Free</p>
<b>Sono Lumo light show</b>  <b>10-14, 17-21 Dec</b>	<p>Set to an original soundtrack by iconic Brisbane musician and 'human sound machine' Tom Thum, three hero light shows each night will light up the facade of The Star Brisbane, featuring fireworks, video animation and even snow.</p> <p><a href="#">More information</a></p>	<p>Free 7:15pm, 8:15pm &amp; 9:15pm nightly</p>



## Recipe – Brie and cranberry smashed roast potatoes

Make Christmas lunch or dinner special with these roast potatoes.

### Ingredients:

- 24 baby or cocktail potatoes
- Extra virgin olive oil, to brush
- 125g wheel of brie, cut into 24 wedges
- 80g (1/4 cup) cranberry sauce
- Fresh thyme leaves, to serve

### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 220°C/200°C fan forced. Grease 24 holes of a 30ml (1 1/2 tbsp) mini muffin pan with olive oil.
2. Place the potatoes in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Cover and bring to the boil over medium-high heat. Uncover the pan and cook for 15 minutes or slightly longer depending on their size. The potatoes should be tender when pierced with a small sharp knife. Drain and set aside on a board to cool.
3. Place a potato in each prepared muffin pan hole. Use your thumb (or a spoon with a rounded end) to press down in the centre of each potato to make an indentation and form a tart shell shape. Brush the potatoes with olive oil, particularly around the rims. Season with salt.
4. Roast for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown. Set aside to cool slightly. Carefully lift out of the muffin pan and transfer to a baking tray.
5. Place a brie wedge in each potato shell. Top each with ½ tsp cranberry sauce. Roast for 5 minutes or until the brie has softened and potatoes are warm.
6. Season with freshly ground black pepper and sprinkle with thyme leaves. Serve warm.



## Just for fun



Who can resist seeing dogs being dogs?

Watch the **Top 10 Dogs Carrying Big Sticks.**

<https://youtu.be/dsBQ4IF7p64?si=IE3gPDL68Z2jAVKS>



With the timing of a professional comedian, this diminutive "little old lady" shines a very funny light on the foibles of aging, to the delight of an audience filled with senior-care experts.

<https://youtu.be/vPFCn3itBFE?si=84io53WTei0pCtin>



A live action performance of the famous "12 Days of Christmas" skit. Performed by United Student Ministries at Crossroads Bible Church

<https://youtu.be/XXtCSUqKNTk?si=BEI70-mfQ2P9X6Zw>

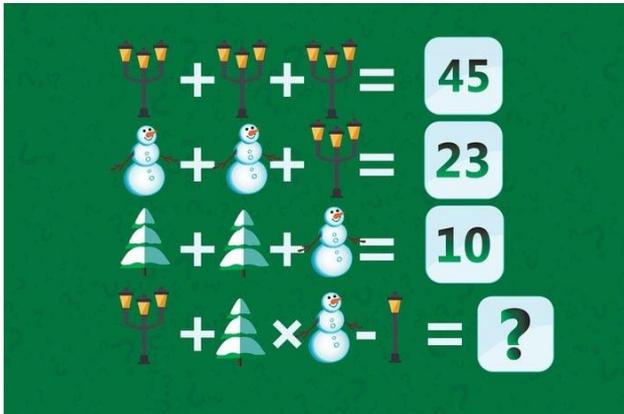


## Mental stimulation

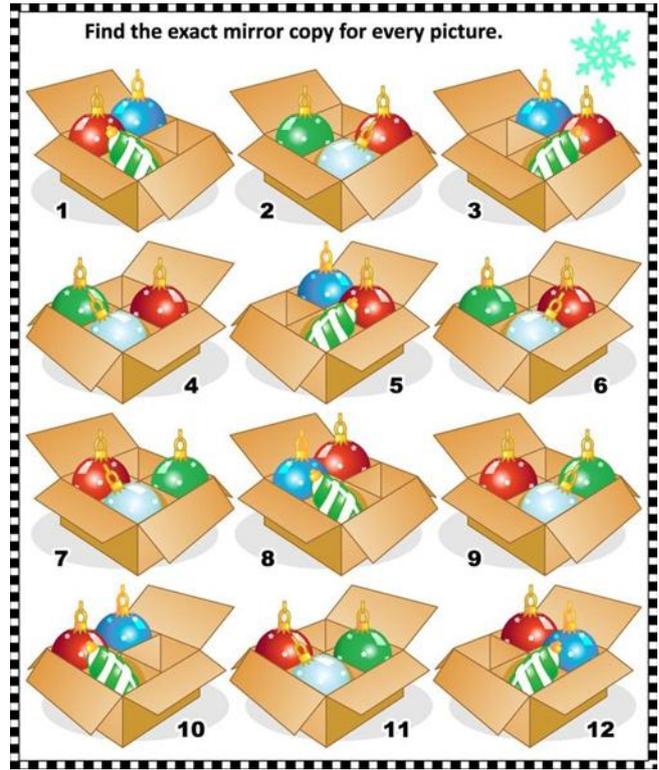
The answers to these puzzles will be in the February 2026 edition of *In the Loop*.

### Snowman Maths

Work out the value of each of the items in the equations, then solve the final equation.

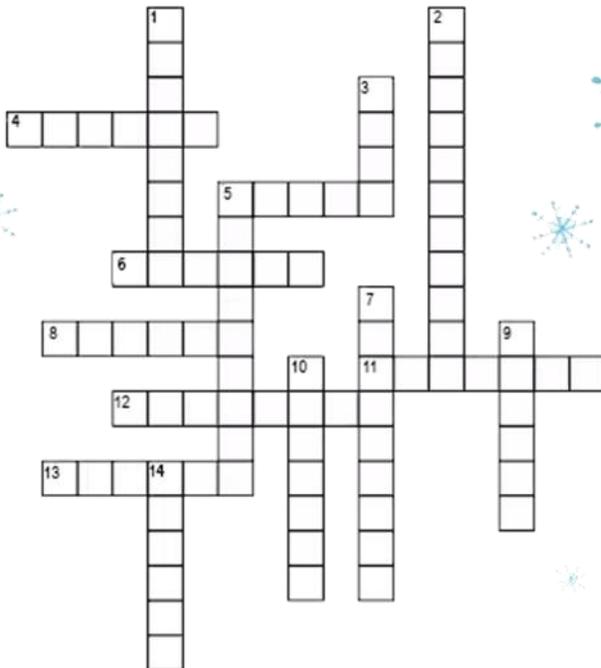


### Mirror Image



# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Complete the words in the crossword puzzle using the clues



#### ACROSS

4. A person who is mean-spirited
5. A joyful song
6. A Christmas drink made with eggs, cream and spices
8. A snowman who comes to life
11. Has a legendary red nose
12. Makes a Christmas tree more attractive
13. Forms when dripping water freezes

#### DOWN

1. Hung on a mantle
2. A cake made with molasses and ginger
3. A black or dark fuel
5. A hard candy with stripes
7. Location of Santa's workshop
9. Santa's mode of transport
10. Cheerful and celebratory
14. Left out for Rudolf



## Answers to November puzzles.

### Link words

All of the words that fit into the crossword puzzle are linked by the clue "CHESS". Using only the letters shown, complete the puzzle.

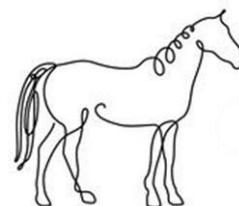
### Football maths

Look at the pictures on each line carefully, to work out the value of each one. Solve the last equation.

### Animal idioms

What are the meanings of these common sayings?

1. Wild goose chase – **pointless hunt**
2. Cry wolf – **false alarm**
3. Monkey business - **mischievous**
4. Cat got your tongue? – **staying silent**
5. Fish out of water - **uncomfortable**
6. Hold your horses - **wait**
7. When pigs fly - **never**
8. Red herring - **distraction**
9. Beat a dead horse – **waste effort**
10. Take the bull by the horns – **face the problem**
11. Lion's share – **biggest part**
12. White elephant – **useless thing**
13. Little bird told me – **secret source**
14. Barking up the wrong tree – **wrong guess**
15. Elephant in the room – **obvious problem**
16. Let the cat out of the bag – **reveal secret**
17. From the horse's mouth – **reliable source**
18. Kill two birds with one stone – **do two things at once**
19. Raining cats and dogs – **heavy rain**
20. Bull in a china shop – **clumsy person**



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# U3A PINE RIVERS DIRECTORY

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## U3A Pine Rivers Centre

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3880 6677



[admin@u3apinerivers.org.au](mailto:admin@u3apinerivers.org.au)



<https://u3apinerivers.org.au>



P O Box 507, Kallangur QLD 4503



1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur  
8:30 am – 1:00 pm Monday to Thursday  
8:30 am – 12:00 pm Friday

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## Venues

Locations where classes are regularly held:

U3A Pine Rivers Centre	1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur
Calala Drive Hall	25 Calala Drive, Strathpine
Ferny Districts Fishing Club	11 Cabrilla Street, Everton Hills
Kallangur Community Hall	1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur
King's Cottage	18 Dayboro Road, Petrie
Lawnton Community Centre	Cnr Todds Rd & Ellis St, Lawnton
Salvation Army	27-29 Lawnton Pocket Rd, Lawnton
Samford Bowls Club	Mt Samson Road, Samford
Strathpine Library	Station St & Gympie Rd, Strathpine

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## Important Volunteer Personnel

President	Greg Weekes	<a href="mailto:president@u3apinerivers.org.au">president@u3apinerivers.org.au</a>
Vice President	Ron Cooper	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@u3apinerivers.org.au">vicepresident@u3apinerivers.org.au</a>
Secretary	Diane Gregory	<a href="mailto:secretary@u3apinerivers.org.au">secretary@u3apinerivers.org.au</a>
Treasurer	Jenny Everson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@u3apinerivers.org.au">treasurer@u3apinerivers.org.au</a>
Committee member	Maria Adams	
Committee member	Kristy Allt	
Committee member	Claire Anderson	
Committee member	Laurel Boswell	
Committee member	Tony Nobbs	
Committee member	Ken Passmore	
Committee member	Margaret Weekes	
Course Coordinator	Tony Nobbs	<a href="mailto:courses@u3apinerivers.org.au">courses@u3apinerivers.org.au</a>
Membership Officers	Eileen Gardam Meryl Julum	<a href="mailto:membership@u3apinerivers.org.au">membership@u3apinerivers.org.au</a>
Welfare Support Officer	Chris Negline	





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Please send suggestions for interesting content for future editions of *In the Loop* to [update@u3apinerivers.org.au](mailto:update@u3apinerivers.org.au).

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Follow us on Facebook for information, timely updates, class changes, entertainment.



The deadline for the February *In the Loop* is Friday 23 January 2026.  
Send contributions to [update@u3apinerivers.org.au](mailto:update@u3apinerivers.org.au)

*Learning for leisure and pleasure for seniors*

