

About Plett u3a

History

The 'University of the Third Age – Plettenberg Bay' was founded by Amelia White and the inaugural meeting took place on the 26th February 2004.

Previously Plettonians belonged to the Knysna U3A branch. However, Plett members found the 60 km round trip to/from Knysna taxing, both physically and financially. The Knysna U3A committee encouraged the Plettenberg Bay members to form their own U3A branch – which is what happened. The original Plettenberg Bay U3A constitution was the same as that of the Knysna U3A. The committee of Knysna U3A generously donated money to get the new Plett branch started and allowed Plett u3a to retain a projector and white board.

When Knysna U3A started their branch in 2001 they offered five courses, which grew to 22 by 2004. At startup in 2004 Plett had 14 interest groups, which grew to 18 during the first year. These met monthly and included three language groups (German, French and Italian), birding, ecology and wildlife, beginners' bridge, beginners' chess, beginners' painting, common medical conditions, armchair travel, non-fiction book club, art movie film club and hiking (Plett Plodders, subsequently renamed Panter's Hiking Group or Plett Panter's, which is now independent of Plett u3a).

When the Plett u3a branch was created 175 members were transferred from Knysna U3A. By March 2004 Plett u3a had 224 members. Membership numbers grew to 344 by November in the same year and to 410 by the end of 2006 and remained at the 400 level for many years. The Covid lockdown of 2020-2022 resulted in a drop of membership numbers.

Objectives

In terms of the constitution (as revised in 2023) the objectives of Plett u3a are:

To promote lifelong learning for all ages, in particular older people and those retired from full time work, by providing stimulating programmes conducive to learning and social interaction through a voluntary self-help community in which all members enjoy equal status.

Membership

Membership is open to all, without educational or age requirements.

Capitalisation of U3A

Internationally and nationally the abbreviation for University of the Third Age organisations is U3A. Accordingly, abbreviations used in this context are capitalised.

As Plett u3a has been granted use of the licensed UK u3a logo we have undertaken to comply with their usage guidelines, therefore our official abbreviated name is not capitalised.