

# U3A celebrates 15th birthday

A small group sat around the kitchen table in 1995 to plan the start of a U3A on the Hibiscus Coast.

U3A is derived from the words University of the Third Age and had its beginnings in France in the 1970s.

It is described as a university in the original sense of the word – a group of people learning for its own sake or following a particular activity. It has spread to many countries and there are thousands of members throughout the world.

The Hibiscus U3A club has grown from a small handful 15 years ago to 252 members today. A celebratory lunch was attended by 100 members.

“Our aim is to provide a dif-

ferent learning opportunity for the over-55 age group. We offer a choice of 22 discussion groups as well as a bi-monthly general meeting,” president Judy Lilley says.

U3A is a response to the idea that human life is divided into three periods.

Firstly there is childhood and schooling, second child-rearing and work, and third retirement or semi-retirement.

The third age provides an important opportunity for listening, learning, and understanding when middle-aged or older people can pursue the idea of a university as a community of those seeking a greater understanding of life.

Call Judy on (09) 424-3080.



**Third age:** U3A president Judy Lilley cuts the 15 years birthday cake accompanied by, from left: Foundation members Nonie Coates, Guido Marino and Judith Cliffe.