



eNews
June 2024



Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning

From the (new) Editor

Bob Johnston

Dear U3A Members,

It is with some excitement that I step into the role of Editor, U3A eNews. I am relatively new to U3A, having recently retired to Brisbane after years of teaching Secondary Music in international schools in Singapore, China, and Vietnam. What draws me to U3A is the huge range of activities and classes on offer through our local chapter. I am also impressed with the ease of enrolling in and navigating the system.

In my new job, I aim to carry on the great work of previous editors in coordinating member contributions to promote the richness and inclusiveness of U3A activities, events, and classes. eNews is also an important vehicle for announcements, reminders, and notices. Going forward, I would love to hear from all those with ideas for developing the scope, content, and format of eNews to best engage and inform our readership.

With best regards,

Bob. editor@u3abrisbane.org.au



From the President

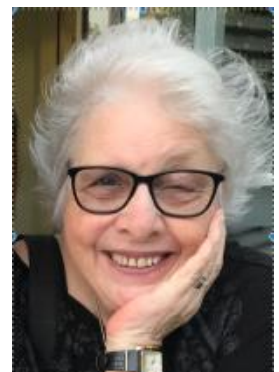
Deslyn Taylor

eNews Presidents Report June 2024

Welcome to our new eNews Editor. I'm looking forward to working with you Bob.

We are almost to the end of Term 2 - 3 weeks to go. I have enjoyed this term enormously. I visited some classes last Wednesday as I escorted a UQ student, Georgina, around our city venues. She is doing an assignment and hopes it will be discussed on ABC Radio. I'll let you all know if that happens so you can Tune in. We visited several classes – History where we were told about the Stuart Kings, then on to try our hand at Origami where I discovered that my Hand-Eye coordination leaves much to be desired. I thought it might have improved in the last 70 years but alas... We then tried Yoga, Politics and the Economy, Pencil Drawing and Memoir Writing. Special thank you to all the Tutors and class members who were so generous with their time and gracious in their welcome.

I have also done a talk on U3A at Aveo Taringa. They were very welcoming, and I even caught up with some of my previous U3A Tutors as well as members who had done a class with me some years ago. U3A often feels like family and this visit was a sort of family reunion.



Management Committee Update

- **Membership**

Our membership is gradually increasing but has not yet achieved pre-COVID levels and we ask you to help us to raise awareness of U3A in your community. So many people are not aware of the benefits that we offer. **Please collect a brochure or poster from the office and leave them where they may be found by others.**

- **Classes**

We have a wonderful array of classes, but we need more classes and more tutors. Remember if you are interested in/or have some expertise in a topic then please come and share it with a group of likeminded people either as a Tutor or a Facilitator.

Contact tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au if you are interested.

- **Future Planning**

We will need to consider accommodation for our Face to Face classes in the coming years and consider the expansion of our Zoom classes. The Management Committee is now working on this as our Adelaide St Venue Lease comes up for renewal early next year. We are also planning to upgrade our Strategic Plan later this year. Busy times ahead.

Last week was Volunteer Week and I was reminded again of how much U3A Brisbane owes to all the Volunteers that make it possible for us even to exist. Thank you all.

Enjoy your classes for the rest of Term 2. Look out for new classes in Term 3.

Regards

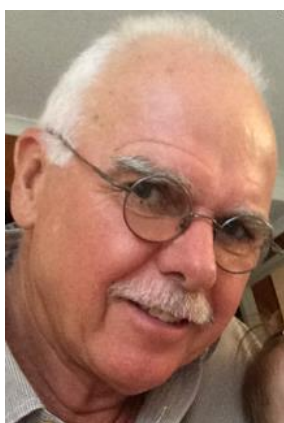
Des

[Special Online Presentations in June](#)

A Concise History of Modern Middle East Geo-Politics

Presenter: Roger Rusling

Date: Wednesday 12 June 11am – 12.30pm (via Zoom)



Roger's talk explores both the history of the various recent Middle East conflicts and includes current developments. It will explore and discuss the possible reasons for the apparently never-ending conflicts explaining both the changing alliances and enmities between not only the various sovereign countries involved but also the myriad of militant organisations that blight the region. The talk also includes the world's remote superpowers part in the Middle East conundrum and ongoing pain.

Captain Roger Rusling

Roger's 47-year nautical career has involved command and control of large container ships, offshore oil exploration, polar marine science, and marine piloting in the complex waters of the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait. After a routine career in container ships and the offshore oil industry Roger spent 2 years of specialist training for the command of a marine science vessel in Antarctic service and was subsequently offered the initial command of Australia's first true icebreaker, the "*RSV Aurora Australis*" working in Antarctic waters.

After leaving the "*Aurora Australis*" Roger made a career change and became a Great Barrier Reef marine pilot guiding over 980 large commercial ships through the reef, finishing as Chief Pilot modernising the recruiting, training, and checking of the pilot group.

Roger retired in 2013 after in effect changing from 'poacher to gamekeeper' while working as a regulator for the GBR pilotage industry with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in Canberra.

Register via the button below, or from the website home page. You will receive a Zoom link prior to the meeting.

[Register for this Event](#)

Practical Usage of AI

Presenter: Greg Taylor

Date: Thursday 20 June 11am – 12.30pm (via Zoom)

Following John Crook's well-attended presentation in May on the history and development of AI, this month's presentation will explore how generative AI tools can be used in practice. AI tools are easy to use and don't require deep technical understanding. They can be used to generate text, images, music, and videos. AI is best used for creative applications, i.e. generating text and visual content that goes well beyond regurgitating known facts. The presentation will demonstrate how to use AI tools that are publicly available, mostly at no cost. In many cases, the tools can be used without requiring a login. This page on the U3A Brisbane website explains more:



[Introduction to AI \(Artificial Intelligence\)](#)

If there is sufficient interest from members, we will run more AI presentations in future months.

About Greg Taylor

Greg is U3A Brisbane's ICT Coordinator. He has extensive software development experience but, like many, is relatively new to AI. He has explored a number of different AI tools and believes that AI can be helpful to U3A members and tutors, especially as a creative tool. Register via the button below, or from the website home page. You will receive a Zoom link prior to the meeting.

[Register for this Event](#)

Events with UQ Alumni

U3A Brisbane has created an informal link with the University of Queensland Alumni with a view to cross promotion of each other's events. This University of Queensland Alumni Event is online.

Can you Separate The Art from The Artist?



Date: Thursday 27 June

Time: 5:30–6:30pm (AEST)

Event format: online

[Click here](#) for more information and to register



For all social event bookings, please contact the U3A office on 3236 3055. You can also drop by the office at 97 Creek St. You can keep up to date with the latest by visiting the [Social Events page](#), U3A website.

A DAY AT THE RACES!

Visit to Eagle Farm and Doomben Racecourses, Wednesday, 8th May 2024.

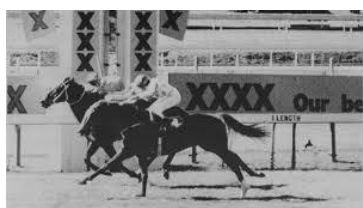
Our group of twelve met at Eagle Farm Racecourse, where parking had been arranged by our Guide. The Museum has many interesting items on display and one hour was hardly enough to do it justice. Everybody was intrigued by the Julius Totalizator, invented in 1913 by George Julius. It is the world's first automatic totalizator and regarded worldwide as a forerunner to the computer. George Julius was later knighted for his contribution to technology. The Totalizator on display was in use from 1947 to 1980.

Did You Know?

- In its earliest days, the centre of Eagle Farm racecourse was reserved for ordinary folk on their day out. Wealthier citizens sat under cover in the stands.
- Horses were often ridden by their owners from country Qld to the racecourse to participate in the races.
- The 600 metre straight at Doomben was used during WW2 for the Australian Airforce planes.
- American forces camped at Doomben and Eagle Farm racecourses.
- The Archive & Research Centre is open to the public and is managed by dedicated volunteers. The collection dates back 150 years.



The Fine Cotton Affair



Eagle Farm was the site for Australia's most infamous horse substitution scandal. On 18 August 1984, in the Commerce Novice (2nd division) Handicap over 1,500 meters, *Fine Cotton* (a very poorly performed racehorse) was substituted by a handy nag called *Bold Personality*. *Bold Personality* duly won following a very suspicious betting plunge. Unfortunately for the incompetent criminal syndicate behind the ring in, the paint used to transform *Bold Personality* into a *Fine Cotton* clone began to peel and run immediately after the race. Stewards and punters cried foul, all bets were off, and the matter finished up in the courts.

Between visits to the Museum and Archives, our group enjoyed lunch together. Those who had never been to a racecourse loved being so close to the beautiful horses in the mounting yard.

TINA!



Thank you to all members who have bought tickets to TINA – the Tina Turner musical (7th August 2024). Tickets were sold out in two days. While the seats are scattered about the stalls, they are great seats and excellent value. Tickets are now available for pick up at the U3A office in Creek Street.

FUTURE OUTINGS

In September we will be travelling to Tamborine, where we will visit [Gallery Walk](#) to shop and have morning tea. Included in the outing is a [Coffee Plantation Tour](#) and a luncheon at St Bernards and Yatala Pie Shop on the return journey. This is a long day but well worth it!

Later in the year, we will visit [Queensland Pioneer Railway](#), Swanbank (date to be confirmed).

NEW next MONTH!

Around The Traps with Linda Daniel

Calling all lovers of the theatre. Are you wanting to escape for an afternoon/evening? See a comedy, whodunit, musical, radio play, theatre dinner or drama locally at affordable prices? Keep an eye out in July's eNews for "Around the Traps" - more info then!

Published by:

U3A Brisbane

97 Creek St Brisbane 4000.

Phone: 3236 3055

u3abrisbane.org.au

mail@u3abrisbane.org.au