



U3A
Brisbane

eNews
July 2024



Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning

From the Editor

Bob Johnston

Dear U3A Members,

Welcome to our bumper July edition of eNews. In these pages we feature –

- ✦ U3A President, Des Taylor, reports on Channel 9 News' filming of U3A classes.
- ✦ Our Secretary, Rod McClary, advertises a vacancy within U3A.
- ✦ Gail Hawkins profiles some exciting Term 3 course offerings, still available to members.
- ✦ Registration details for Zoom presentations by Indigenous Affairs/History experts.
- ✦ Heather Dowling provides details for our September visit to beautiful Mount Tamborine.
- ✦ **NEW!** - 'Around the Traps with Linda' - what's up and what's on in Community Theatre.
- ✦ Greg Taylor's AI Update includes audio of the 'Ballad of U3A Brisbane', created by AI. Enjoy!
- ✦ Your editor reflects on a recent (very enjoyable) U3A experience.
- ✦ The well loved Annual University Queensland Alumni Book Fair and how we can all help.



Hoping everyone finds something of interest in this edition, life changing even!

With best regards,

Bob. editor@u3abrisbane.org.au

From the President

Deslyn Taylor

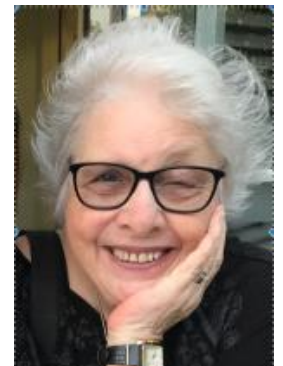
Hello All

We have reached the end of Term 2 and are halfway through the year. I hope you have enjoyed your classes and have some new ideas and skills as a result. It amazes me to find the different ideas and perspectives that I have after listening to other class members and my tutors.

There are 11 new classes in Term 3 ranging from Chair Meditation and Mindfulness to Mathematics. Other classes include Languages, Poetry, new computer classes and one on the Cost of Living.

Channel 9 Visit

On Wednesday 19 June Channel 9 with Bruce Paige visited us. Bruce is doing a segment for the Channel 9 News on how to keep your mind active by learning new things. They were concentrating on learning a language and targeted Lily Buttigieg's Spanish class, but while at Adelaide St they also visited Bruce Holdsworth's class, Politics and the Economy.



Bruce Paige sat in as a student in both classes. Lily was interviewed and they also interviewed 2 members from Bruce's class and me.

The segment is expected to air on the 5th July which is a Friday night. They will notify me when the date and time are finalised and we'll put the details on our website.

Management Committee Update

- **Membership**

As you know we are trying to increase Membership as a matter of urgency given the tight economic climate and the rising prices for everything. We had approximately 4000 members before COVID. Our current year Membership is likely to be around 3000. If you could collect some brochures and posters from the Office when you return to class and talk to your friends about the benefits of joining U3A then we might at least get over 3000 by September when the new Membership year starts. Remember we're aiming to be as close to 4000 as possible and sooner rather than later.

- **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 like-minded people either as a Tutor or a Facilitator. Being a Tutor at U3A is a wonderful experience. 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 and with this in mind, we have set up a group to research possibilities. It is coordinated by our Development Coordinator, Sharyn Johns. Sharyn is a current member of the Management Committee and has extensive research and analytical skills. If you have real estate, insurance, accounting or property valuation experience and skills and would like to be part of this group please contact me president@u3abrisbane.org.au

Remember to enrol in your classes for Term 3. Enjoy the rest of the holiday.

Regards,

Des

From the Secretary

Rod McLary

Grievance Officer – Expressions of Interest

Currently acting in the role of Grievance Officer for U3A Brisbane, I have recently been appointed U3A Brisbane Secretary. Consequently, the Management Committee is now calling for Expressions of Interest for the former position.

The Grievance Officer is responsible for managing complaints or grievances in accordance with the U3A Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures. The person will also work closely with the Secretary and Management Committee in the resolution of any complaint or grievance.

Necessary skills include – active listening; objective thinking, decisiveness, empathy, and report-writing.

If this is a role you would like, and you have the necessary skills, please send your expression of interest to secretary@u3abrisbane.org.au

For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Rod at the above address.



City Precinct, Northside and Westside Districts

Rod McLary, Districts Manager

Some members – particularly newer members – may not be aware of the range of classes available in our Districts. While the majority of our classes will always be held in our city campus rooms, the districts supplement these by offering classes closer to where members live.

U3A has six districts – Southside, Logan, Northside, Westside, Wynnum and City Precinct. In term 3, there will be 65 classes held across the districts. The classes are broad in topic and include health and wellbeing, lifestyle, book clubs, cinema groups, card and board games, lawn bowls, croquet, geography and history.

So, as we begin our term break and plan which classes we will attend in term 3, have a look at the range of district classes. There may be one being held just up the road.

Northern District

The popular class – **Electric Vehicles 101** – will return in term 3. The class will be held once each month during the term. The first session will be on Monday 15 July. Please note that, due to development in the local area, the venue previously used is no longer available. The new venue will be Gasworks Plaza Shopping Centre – full details are in the class description.

There are vacancies in the discussion group – *Cost of Living – a Personal Problem or a Societal Issue*. The class is held at the Grange Library on Wednesdays at 12.30pm starting on 17 July. This is a problem [or an issue] which affects most of us and the class promises lively discussions.



City Campus News

Gail Hawkins (Tutor Liaison)

Great Learning Opportunities!

The following is a selection only, of some face-to-face classes that still have vacancies in Term 3. Check your [Class Schedule](#) to see a complete list of all classes. Tutors I'm sure, would love to hear from you.

Monday

F64 - Canasta

Some knowledge of Canasta is necessary, an opportunity to improve your playing skills in a friendly and supportive environment.

B39 - Medical and Health

The tutor is a retired medical practitioner, and each week will discuss a medical topic of choice or as nominated by class members. Individual medical advice will not be given.

F01 – Introduction to Bridge

If you have never played bridge but think you would like to learn, then this is an opportunity to have the basics of the game explained in this two weeks Introduction to Bridge on 8th and 15th July.

Tuesday

K08 – Basic Writing

Have fun in writing, learn the basics of plot and character development - you may be surprised at what hidden writing talents you have.

J42 – Bahasa Indonesia Intermediate

Conversation practice and grammar for people with some knowledge of the Indonesian language, this could make your next trip to our neighbouring country more fulfilling being able to communicate with the locals.

Wednesday

M12 – Famous Operas

Watch and discuss a famous opera of the 19th century each week, if you love opera and would like to understand the story line better, then you will enjoy this class.

M09 – Recorder Class for New Players

This is a beginner's class for anyone that would like to play a recorder. All you need is your own recorder and they are not expensive, then you can look forward to making music.

H31 – 100 Wonders of the World

This class delves into the history and locations of past civilizations on all seven continents. Currently, only 30% of these remarkable sites have been visited. The class engages in open discussions and examines places where students and tutor have resided or journeyed to. New members are welcomed.

Thursday

H39 – The Battle for Australia 1942 – 43

This course offers an analysis of the causes, course and consequences of the Kokoda Track campaign, including strategy and tactics surrounding it.

J57 – English for Speakers of other Languages

Do you have a friend or relative that struggles with the English language, then this is an ideal opportunity for them to learn to speak and write English in a friendly, happy environment.

We have 33 Zoom classes, and many don't have the time or the room size constraints that face-to-face classes have, so I suggest if you are interested in joining a zoom class, either enrol or contact the tutor. There is a wide variety of classes to choose from.

Gail Hawkins
Tutor Liaison Officer
City Campus

Special Online Presentations in July

Australia's Ancient Past

Presenter: June Phillips

Date: Wednesday 17 July 11am – 12.30pm (via Zoom)



The first *Homo Sapiens* came out of Africa, but there is no universal agreement as to when this occurred. Analysis of modern human genomes reveals that humans interbred with Neanderthals resulting in the DNA of all modern humans outside of Africa containing between 1.5 and 2.1 percent DNA of Neanderthal origin. The Neanderthal marker is present in Australia's First Nations people. Numerous DNA analyses support the idea that Australia's First Nations people were part of an early wave of human expansion out of Africa, before the subsequent wave that established Europeans and Asians. Australia's Aboriginal people are the planet's most ancient non-African people. Many archaeological sites across Australia show occupation from at least 50,000 years and some amazing examples of ancient rock art. The remains of "Mungo Lady" and "Mungo Man" have been dated to around 42,000 years. The

Wallace line is an imaginary divider used to mark the difference between animal species found in Australia and Papua New Guinea and those of Southeast Asia. South and east of the Wallace line marsupials and monotremes dominate, whereas placental mammals such as apes, tigers, elephants, monkeys, and rhinoceroses dominate north and west of it.

About June Phillips

I was raised on a sheep and cattle property near the town of Dalby on the Darling Downs. I studied Arts and Law at the University of Queensland, was admitted to the Queensland bar on 16 December 1976 and practised at the private bar for several years. In 1981/82 I took my two sons to London while I completed a master's degree in law at the University College London. I lectured in law at the Queensland Institute of Technology (now Queensland University of Technology) and then at the law school of University of Queensland for some years.

In the late 80's, I joined the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions as a prosecutor and remained with the CDPP in various roles, working at different times in Brisbane, Adelaide and Sydney until I retired in December 2010.

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](#)

Treaties, Politics, and Agreement making with Indigenous peoples in Australia

Presenter: David Allinson

Date: Wednesday 31 July 11am – 12:30pm. (via Zoom)



In this seminar you will gain key insights into the history, and current situation, of treaty-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This seminar will explore some of the key historical moments since settlement, as well as providing an update on the current state of the Path to Treaty legislation in Queensland, which is expected to be an issue at the upcoming election. No prior knowledge is assumed, and all questions are welcome.

About David Allinson

David Allinson is an Australian lawyer, academic, and corporate affairs professional. He has led national and state-wide Reconciliation activities, including as Chair of *Reconciliation Queensland*. As CEO of *Uphold and Recognise*, he contributed to the *Uluru Statement From the Heart*, which generated the national conversation around the 'Indigenous Voice to Parliament'. He has advised various non-profit boards on Indigenous matters in governance and strategy. The best job he's ever had was working for an Aboriginal corporate in Kununurra, in remote Western Australia. He now lives in Brisbane with his wife and daughter, Dorothy (Dottie).

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](#)

Coming up next month:

Can you spot a Scam? Sharyn Johns, Thursday 15 August (Zoom)

Minds and Machines: The Great Debate on Artificial Intelligence. John Crook, Friday 23 August (Face-to-face)



"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

Alvin Toffler ('Future Shock', pub. 1970.)

AI Update

Greg Taylor



Artificial Intelligence is here, it's free and it is very easy to use. We had a lively Zoom session in June, and many U3A members are now starting to realise just how amazing the AI tools actually are. A good example is this musical ballad created entirely by Suno AI: [U3A Brisbane Ballad](#)

The U3A Brisbane website now has an AI Information page, linked from the home page, which contains much useful information about how you can use AI. This page will be updated as new information comes to hand:

[Introduction to AI](#)

There will be another AI information session in August. Details to come.

We would love to hear about your creative usage of AI. There is now an AI category in our Discussion Forum. The forum is private to U3A members and information about how to use it is available here: [U3A Discussion Forum](#)

You are invited to tell us about your experiences with AI through the forum. Only a few tutors are currently using the forum to enable class members to discuss course subject matter. If tutors wish to have a forum category for their class, please make contact. Any queries about AI or the Forum may be sent to: help@u3abrisbane.org.au

iPads and iPhones

Bob Johnston

Ever felt frustrated by your phone's apparently random quirks, glitches and malfunctions? This could be for you.

Des Taylor's 'How to Make the Most of iPads and iPhones' (C11) was my first ever U3A Zoom class. I've owned an iPhone for 3 years, so what more is there for me to learn, right? Plenty, it turned out.

Des' well structured lessons took us through basic features and essentials such as security and app management. An important starting point was the thorough exploration of the settings app (our device's engine room), where we discovered answers to thorny questions such as -

'How can I manage all those loud and intrusive notifications?'

Now we know.

In subsequent lessons, Des explored more advanced features such as Notes, Apple Wallet, Scanning and Spotlight. I liked the way Des paced the lessons to cater for both beginners and advanced users. One class member, Sam, had this to say -

"I enrolled in this class expecting to pick-up just a thing or two about iOS devices and have a lovely, gentle introduction to U3A. It has turned out to be quite different. Every week I have found out multiple things that I now see as indispensable. Why didn't I know this stuff?"

Des' class is just one of many U3A classes (both Zoom and face-to-face) that explore tech matters and issues across all types of devices including Androids, IOS and PCs. Check out the [U3A Class Search Page](#) and tick the technology box in the search column. Don't be dismayed if your preferred class is currently fully subscribed. Most of these classes repeat from one term to the next. For good reasons, they are highly popular.

Bob. editor@u3abrisbane.org.au



Alumni Book Fair: A Treasure Trove for Book Lovers

The University of Queensland (UQ) Alumni Book Fair is a cherished Brisbane tradition and a beacon for book enthusiasts, drawing crowds to its annual preloved book sale. People travel from near and far to indulge in the rich array of literature on offer. This event is more than just a sale; it's a celebration of the written word and a vital fundraiser that supports various university initiatives, student scholarships, and projects.

The UQ Alumni Book Fair provides an opportunity for book lovers to browse through thousands of pre-loved books, spanning every conceivable genre and interest. The book browser will find for sale rare first editions and vintage classics, contemporary bestsellers, art books, travel stories and guides, gardening, cooking, self help, psychology and academic texts and more. There's something for everyone at the fair.

A Call for Book Donations

The success of the Book Fair hinges on the generosity of donors who contribute their books. The fair is constantly on the lookout for people who have valued books they no longer need. Whether you have a collection of novels, a stack of textbooks, travel, cooking, gardening books or even a library of specialized volumes, your contributions are invaluable. Donating books not only supports a good cause but also ensures that these treasures are passed on to new readers who will cherish them.

Seeking Donors

If you have books that you'd like to donate, the University of Queensland Alumni team would love to hear from you. Your contributions help make the fair a rich and diverse source of knowledge and joy for many. Donations are accepted year-round, and all types of books are welcome.

How to Donate

To donate your books, simply contact Book Fair Donations on **07 33463166**. We are passionate about making sure your contributions find the right place at the fair and help support the university's broader educational goals.

U3A Social Events

Heather Dowling

This year, you will have noticed that the costs of outings and trips have increased. Whilst I have tried to keep the costs down, it has not always been possible. Hence, there is usually only one coach trip each term. The coach is usually a 49-seater and we need to fill it. Each trip considers the interests of both female and male members. It is a way to leave the city and enjoy what Qld has to offer.



Mt Tamborine Trip – Thursday 5 September

The next trip is to Tamborine, which we probably know quite well. Can one tire of the endless beauty of the mountains?



Giant Strangler Fig

If you don't want to explore the interesting shops of Gallery Walk, think about an easy rainforest walk nearby. From the German Cuckoo Clock Nest on Long Road, turn left at the roundabout intersection. It's a 5 min walk away to Wongawallen Road. This will take you to the Tamborine Mountain Distillery.

OR turn right at the roundabout along Wongawallen Road. Eight mins away is Tamborine Mountain Heritage Centre and Tamborine Mountain Creative Arts. A few steps further along is a rainforest walk to the Giant Strangler Fig where you can enjoy your own picnic morning tea.

Details

- DATE:** Thursday, 5th September 2024
- PICK-UP:** 8.30 a.m. at Roma Street
- COST:** \$85.00. Book through U3A Creek St office in person or by phone 3236 3055.

The Schedule

- 10.00 a.m. -** Drop off at Gallery Walk - free time to browse, have Morning Tea (at your own cost), browse the shops or do the rainforest walk
- 11.15 a.m. -** Depart for Coffee Plantation tour.
- 12.45 p.m. -** Depart Coffee Plantation for Lunch at St Bernard's
- 2.30 p.m. -** Arrive Tamborine taking a scenic drive the back way to the Yatala Pie Shop and an opportunity to buy pie for dinner! Leaving Yatala we head for Roma Street, arriving back approximately 4.45 p.m.



Hello Everyone!

Welcome to your segment for local theatre groups around the areas. I run a club within my retirement village. I thought to myself, this might be good for the Members of U3A where the local theatres, and Savoyards (= QPAC productions), are much more affordable!

Each month, I will list the plays for that month and the next, with relevant details. If your local theatre is missing, let me know. Any queries, please contact me u3a.auslan@gmail.com. I will also write about one playhouse each month. And so away we go!

Linda

JULY

*Sunnybank Theatre Tel. 3345 3964 sunnybanktheatre.com.au	<u>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</u>	14.00 6 th , 13 th , 14 th 19.30 5 th , 6 th , 13 th , 19 th , 20 th	Adults \$28 Conc. \$26
Centenary Theatre Chelmer Tel. 0435 591 720 centenarytheatre.com.au	<u>The Thrill Of Love</u>	14.00 28 th 19.30 20 th , 26 th , 27 th	Adults \$27 Conc \$24
Act One Theatre Strathpine Tel. 0458 579 269 act1theatre.com.au	<u>A True Blue</u>	14.00 14 th , 21 st 19.30 12 th , 13 th , 19 th , 20 th , 26 th , 27 th	Adults \$25 Conc \$20
Savoyards Lindum Tel. 3893 4321 savoyards.com.au	<u>Shrek</u>	13.30 6 th 19.30 6 th	Adults \$52 Conc \$48 Group \$46

AUGUST

Sunnybank Theatre Tel. 3345 3964 sunnybanktheatre.com.au	<u>How The Other Half Live</u>	14.00 31 st 19.30 30 th , 31 st	Adults \$28 Conc. \$26
St. Luke's Theatre Tel. 0493 778 379 stlukestheatre.asn.au	<u>Pride & Prejudice</u>	14.00 24 th , 31 st 19.30 23 rd , 24 th , 30 th , 31 st	Adults \$28 Conc \$22 Group \$20
*Centenary Theatre Chelmer Tel. 0435 591 720 centenarytheatre.com.au	<u>The Thrill Of Love</u>	14.00 3 rd , 4 th , 11 th 19.30 2 nd , 9 th , 10 th	Adults \$27 Conc \$24
Ipswich Little Theatre Tel. 3812 2389 ilt.org.au	<u>One Act Play Festival</u>	14.00 9 th , 10 th , 11 th 19.30 9 th , 10 th , 11 th	Adults \$52 Conc \$48 Group \$46
Nash Theatre New Farm Tel. 0418 719 300 nashtheatre.com	<u>The (Female) Odd Couple</u>	14.00 31 st 19.30 23 rd , 24 th , 30 th , 31 st * There will be a preview on the 16 th . Opening Night is on the 17 th . See website for cost and times.	Adults \$25 Conc \$20 Group -20%

*Toilets outside, long iron staircase or hill. Unsuitable for unsteady walkers or dicky tickers.



Sunnybank Theatre. Brisbane.



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