

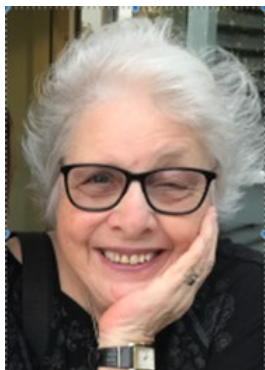


eNews

DECEMBER 2024

Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning

## From the President



**Deslyn Taylor**

Hello all

This is the last eNews for 2024. I hope you have enjoyed your classes this year and are enrolling in classes for 2025.

Enrolments opened on 24 November for 173 face-to-face classes and 36 Zoom classes. These include 23 new classes in Term 1.

Classes commence on 28 January 2025. Enrol early to ensure you have a place. It is always great to have something to look forward when the new year starts.

### Social Committee

Our Social Committee Coordinator, Heather Dowling, is stepping down. She took up the position in 2023 and immediately started organising an exciting program of events, outings and opportunities to meet new people.

This program has included everything from QPAC shows to pasta classes, train trips and of course *The Spirit of Christmas* at

the City Hall in December.

The Social Committee was inactive for three years because of COVID, before Heather volunteered to lift our spirits and organise social events again.

Thank you, Heather! You have been a one-woman dynamo for the past two years and we have appreciated this amazing effort. We wish you all the best, going forward.



However, we now have no one to organise social events in 2025. *Sister Act* at QPAC's Lyric Theatre on 12 March 2025 is Heather's last hurrah.

**We badly need a new Social Committee Coordinator and more people to join this Committee to support the Coordinator.**

**Please consider this and come forward.**

**The social side of U3A is very important and the events organised bring us so much joy.**

**If you are interested in becoming our Social Committee Coordinator, or if you would like to assist, please contact me immediately at [president@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:president@u3abrisbane.org.au)**

## Volunteers

I thank all who make U3A possible: Tutors, Office Volunteers, Members and particularly those who have taken on key management roles, such as Office Manager (Lyndall Beattie), ICT Manager (Greg Taylor), Tutor Liaison (Gail Hawkins), District Coordinators (Rod McClary, Bernadette Ketter, Pat Collins, and Chris Hobbs), eNews Editor (Josephine Brown), Social Events Coordinator (Heather Dowling) and our Grievance Officer (Rod McClary).

Thank you also to our amazing members for enrolling in classes, renewing your membership and staying with us even when we had to close because of Covid in 2020.

Thank you, too, to all the members of our wonderful Management Committee: John Galligan (Vice President), Joan Mackay (Treasurer), Sharon Rothwell (Assistant Treasurer), Rod McClary (Secretary), Cheryl Hadyn (University Liaison) and Sharyn Johns (Development Coordinator). The organisation could not run without you.

I particularly want to thank our Current Treasurer, Joan Mackay, who has held this demanding role for three years and is now stepping down. This role requires expertise and time. It is so important to U3A Brisbane to ensure that we have met all the criteria required by government agencies, and that our finances are managed professionally, and to recognised standards.

Joan has worked conscientiously for the past three years to ensure that U3A Brisbane has met these objectives. We are in a good position to continue. We wish you well, Joan, and thanks again.

part of our planning.

Enjoy the holidays and come back refreshed to begin 2025. Have a wonderful Christmas!

Regards, Des

## Management Committee Update

### Membership

Our current membership is 3265. We still need to keep growing so I ask you all to continue to help, by –

- collecting some posters from the office and placing them on notice boards
- leaving brochures where they might be picked up – and these too can be collected from the office
- talking to your friends about the benefits of joining U3A, particularly as enrolments for 2025 are now open. This is the time for a big push to increase membership.

### Classes

We have a wonderful array of classes **but we need more classes and more tutors.**

Remember, if you are interested in a topic or have some expertise in some area, then please come and share it with a group of like-minded people either as a Tutor or a Facilitator.

**Contact Gail Hawkins now by email at [tutors@ueabrisbane.org.au](mailto:tutors@ueabrisbane.org.au) so you can be included in classes for Term 1 2025.**

Being a Tutor at U3A is a wonderful experience!

### Strategic Plan

Thank you to the members who completed the Survey to share ideas with us as we work on our new Strategic Plan.

This will outline our goals for the next three years and your suggestions and insights will form

## Got a few friends?



Outgoing Social Committee Coordinator Heather Dowling has a suggestion:

### FORM A TEAM!

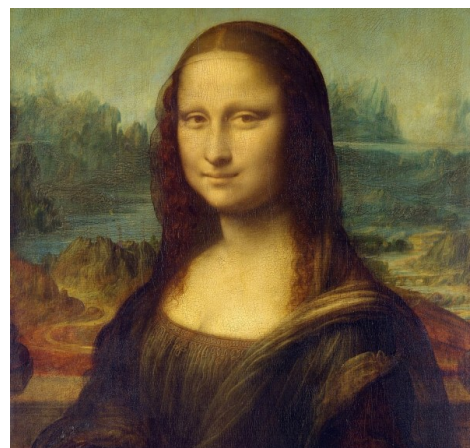
Share the organising of social outings. (We all know many hands make light work.)

For example,

- one person could organise theatre bookings
- another, trips outside Brisbane
- yet another, city activities such as Brisbane walking tours, visiting places of interest like the Barracks or the Commissariat Store, followed by tea/lunch, or taking the CityCat to New Farm and following the historic markers.

Talk to your friends now to ensure the good times keep rolling ...

... or they might stop!



## Sheila Mackay | Art History

Sheila McKay has run her extremely popular Art History class since 2016 and she currently runs two classes on Zoom every Monday, with 154 members enrolled in these.

The research and expertise she brings to her classes is outstanding and her Zoom classes have allowed so many participants to attend who otherwise could not join a physical class.

Sheila is taking time off in 2025 but expects to return in 2026.

### A note of thanks from her class

*Dear Sheila*

*We wish to thank you for your brilliant presentations and the knowledge you share with us each week.*

*We hope your break next year gives you time to rejuvenate and generate more wonderful information for us.*

*Do all that travel you yearn for, and come back to us refreshed and renewed.*

*All the best in 2025 and we hope to see you again in 2026 if not before.*

*– From your Art History Students 2024*

## Email Reliability Problems

Greg Taylor

There have been upheavals occurring with email services offered by some ISPs in Australia.

Last year, TPG Telecom and its subsidiaries (iiNet, Internode, AAPT, Ozemail, Powerup etc.) outsourced email to a third party, The Messaging Company (TMC), and subscribers have had to pay monthly for email since September this year.

Unfortunately, this changeover has been very badly managed.

TMC is owned by an Australian company called Atmail, which was bought out by a Norwegian company earlier this year, although the TMC office is still located in Brisbane.

Optus has also outsourced email handling to Atmail, although no announcement has been made to subscribers.

It is not yet clear whether Optus customers will be asked to pay for email in future, but they have stopped issuing new optusnet.com.au addresses.

BigPond have also stopped issuing email accounts to new customers, and Telstra's long-term email strategy remains unclear.

TMC's reputation has taken a battering due to poor service, poor support and demands for more money.

Since the beginning of November, they have blocked delivery of bulk email from U3A Brisbane. This impacts about 180 of our members who use TMC or Optus.

This is a clumsy approach whereby they classify incoming email as spam, based not on content but on the number of emails sent. No other email provider does this.

Attempts to resolve this problem with them have been unsuccessful to date.

Transactional emails to members from Tutors or the office are not affected by this problem. It is only bulk emails such as monthly eNews.

### What you can do

Hosting your email with your internet service provider (ISP) or with TMC is no longer a good strategy.

It makes it very difficult to easily change to a better plan from another NBN or mobile provider, and indications are that many such services will no longer be offered by ISPs in future.

The alternative is to obtain an



extra email address from an independent free provider (e.g., Google Gmail, Microsoft Outlook.com, Apple iCloud).

**U3A Brisbane recommends that members consider this.**

If you have questions or need any further advice please contact: [help@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:help@u3abrisbane.org.au)

We all have email addresses registered with many suppliers of products and services (Council rates, energy suppliers, banks, insurance, mobile phone etc.).

It is necessary to compile a list of such suppliers since they will all need to be notified of your new email address.

The process can be tedious, so it is worth planning ahead and changing progressively.

**If you do change your email address, don't forget to notify U3A Brisbane office:** [mail@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:mail@u3abrisbane.org.au)

## New Classes for Term 1, 2025

The following list includes all new classes for Term 1 that had vacancies at the time of publication.

### B52 Successful Ageing (face-to-face)

**Tutor: Christiana Chau (City Campus, Tue 11:00 a.m.)**

A group discussion that shares our knowledge, personal life experiences and opinions with others; of issues, or events with a



general objective of understanding and promoting our health and wellbeing in facing life changes. We adopt a holistic approach in exploring the

challenges as we age, based on scientific evidence-based findings and from different cultural perspectives – the Western and traditional Chinese philosophies.

### E15 What is Social Justice – why do we need it more than ever? (face-to-face)

**Tutor: Lawrence di Bartolo (Northside, Wed 12:30pm)**

Currently, many developed nations, including Australia, are experiencing a growing sense of dissatisfaction in democratic institutions meeting citizens'

needs. Note, for example, the rise of Trump in the USA. John Rawls developed a theory of government based on democratic ideals underlain by what he termed 'Social' Justice - As Fairness.

However, the Rawlsian concept of social justice has not translated into reality. Some theorists state, 'Rawls simply asks too much of us'. This course will explain Rawls's famous theory in everyday language so that you may be able to decide if he does indeed ask too much of us. Venue: Grange Library

**B51 HERstory Adventure, Art and Science (Face-to-face)**  
**Tutor: Jill Don (Westside, Fri 11:00 a.m.)**

In times past, societal roles and beliefs usually defined a woman's connection with plants. Through private networks, determination and persistence, many created new roles as travellers, collectors, artists and scientists. We will travel through British India, the Amazon, Queensland's Brigalow Belt, the orchid fields of Victoria, and closer to home, our Botanic Gardens. Venue: Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens

**J66 Indonesian Language for Beginners (Face-to-face)**  
**Tutor: David Truman (City Campus, Tue 11:15 a.m.)**

You've never studied Bahasa Indonesia, the language of our nearest large neighbour? For the first time, here is a class for beginners in Indonesian, offered in Brisbane CBD. David will provide notes electronically and by short handouts.

**H46 The Wisdom of Ancient Egypt (Zoom)**  
**Tutor: Meredith Murray (Online, Thu 1:45 p.m.)**

We invite you to take a journey to Ancient Egypt, examining the interconnectedness of life, philosophy and spirituality

through the lens of Ma'at, which emphasises harmony and order. By connecting architectural landmarks, wisdom texts, and influential figures, we illuminate philosophical inquiries that resonate in today's world. Our emphasis on recent archaeological findings and primary sources serves as a gateway to understanding ancient religious practices and societal structures, allowing for reflection on the lasting legacy of Egyptian thought and its ties to Western philosophy.

**A09 Modern Arts and Crafts (Face-to-face)**  
**Tutor: Edwina Tam (Logan District, Wed 12:30 p.m.)**

Embark on a creative adventure with a group of like-minded people and immerse yourself in the world of arts and crafts. Discover your artistic side and explore various projects and mediums including decoupage, macrame, floral collages, shadow boxes, glue gun arts and much more. Materials are provided at cost, from \$5.00, but varies with the craft. Venue: Logan Central Library

**L15 Literature with Friends (Zoom)**  
**Tutor: Deslyn Taylor (Online, Thu 9:00 a.m.)**

We will begin 2025 with Tan Twan Eng's *The House of Doors*, set in the 1920s British colony of the Federated Malay States. The novel was long-listed for the 2023 Booker Prize and listed among notable fiction works in 2023 by *The Washington Post* and *The Financial Times*. We will follow this with a brief look at Somerset Maugham's *The Casuarina Tree*, which is a set of short stories based on his stay in the area during the 1920s.

**J63 Russian Language for Beginners (Face-to-face)**  
**Tutor: Vera Kochnieff (City Campus, Wed 10:00 a.m.)**

This is a course for absolute beginners with no experience of the language. It will focus on pronunciation and practising very simple sentences over the term. Keep the brain active by learning to speak a new language in a small but friendly environment.

**J54 Mandarin for Beginners (Face-to-face)**  
**Tutor: Fay Lee (City Campus, Tue 1:00 p.m.)**

This class is for beginners, using the text book *Chinese Made Easy 1*.

**J48 Latin for Beginners (Face-to-face)**  
**Tutor: Jeffrey Kernot (City Campus, Fri 11:30 a.m.)**

This course is for those with no background in Latin, or who met it long ago. It comprises an introduction to Latin grammar, reading Latin stories, and learning about these remarkable people from long ago. There will be a text book purchase required, for about \$60 new, but used copies are available.

**J45 Latin – Advanced – Grammar and Translation (Face-to-face)**  
**Tutor: Paul York (City Campus, Fri 10:30 a.m.)**

This class focuses on translating the Latin works of such well-known classical authors as Cicero, Pliny the Younger, Seneca, Caesar and others not so well-known. A prerequisite is having completed the U3A Level 3 Latin course or being familiar with basic Latin grammar, up to the standard of Book 2 of Paterson & MacNaughton. Some advanced grammar and syntax will be studied from time to time, as prompted by the translation work.

#### **J44 Chinese – Mandarin, Level 4 (Zoom)**

**Tutor: Joe Smith (Online, Thu 10:00 a.m.)**

This is a year-long course for those continuing from last year, or who have studied some Chinese before. There is only one Zoom login for the whole year. Each class is recorded, so you don't have to worry about missing any. 1200-word vocabulary.

#### **P03 Learn ON1 Photo RAW the best Post Processor program. (face-to-face)**

**Tutor: Richard Egglefield (City Campus, Tue 1:00pm)**

ON1 Photo RAW is a Photo Manager and non-distractive Photo Editor. The program is dedicated to enhancing your photography and managing your photos. ON1 Photo Raw performs better than both Photoshop and Lightroom. It's cheaper as well; buy it outright. Course will give you the skills and knowledge to use ON1 Photo Raw to let you become the best photographer you can be. This in-depth U3A course on ON1 Photo RAW will teach you to master ON1 powerful features. The extensive course notes, slides and hands-on practice will let you understand how to manage and develop your photos to look just like the scene you saw when you captured your photo.

#### **J40 Learn Chinese, Explore China Easy Travel Mandarin and Cultural Journey (face-to-face)**

**Tutor: Nia (Lara) Xiao (City Campus, Tue 1:15pm)**

Language is the gateway to understanding the world, and in this course, we invite you to embark on a journey of discovery. This fun and engaging course is designed specifically for seniors in Australia who want to learn simple Mandarin. You will gain essential conversational skills while exploring practical language lessons and fascinating

aspects of Chinese culture, such as traditional festivals, mythical legends, and idioms. We look forward to sharing this enriching cultural experience with you, offering unique insights into China that may enhance your travels and deepen your connection with its rich heritage.

#### **M16 Singing for Fun (face-to-face)**

**Tutor: Grace Lam (City Campus, Tue 10:45am)**

Have you always wanted to sing without making the commitment to a formal choir? Would you enjoy singing with others in a relaxed setting? Singing for Fun is all about meeting other people who love to sing and have a good time. No experience is needed and no auditions are required. Music therapy has been scientifically proven to help with memory, cognitive function and lessen the impact of depression and anxiety. Sessions are facilitated by Grace who plays the ukulele and is accompanied by William on the harmonica. Song sheets will be emailed to members to print and bring to class. Come and join us. Everyone is welcome!

#### **S20 Plastics: Our Friend or Enemy? (face-to-face)**

**Tutor: Graeme George (City Campus, Thu 11:00am)**

The way that plastics are used and discarded has always been of concern, but lately the problems of ocean pollution and the prevalence of microplastics have received close attention. To understand these issues it is valuable to know the composition and properties of the different plastics that are used for good, as well as those that end up as pollution, since this provides a guide to how societal problems may be solved in a balanced way. No prerequisite knowledge of chemistry or polymers is needed, and concepts will be introduced

within an intuitive framework.

#### **L14 The Poetry of Gwen Harwood (Zoom)**

**Tutor: Judith Keller (online, Wed 1:30 pm)**

Gwen Harwood (1920-1995) grew up in Taringa and then later moved to Hobart. She is a celebrated Australian poet, publishing more than 420 works. One reviewer has described Gwen as a "virtuoso poet who stirs and sometimes stuns the heart, and always interests the mind." In this class we will briefly explore Gwen's life and a selection of her poems. Equal focus will be placed on reading a selection of poems by contemporary Australian women poets who have been shortlisted or published online by *Island* magazine in relation to the annual Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize established in her name.

#### **A07 Art of Origami (face-to-face)**

**Tutor: Lynette Duffy (City Campus, Fri 9:00 a.m.)**

Wednesday's and Friday's course content are identical. This is a hands-on class. Each term you will begin crafting simple pieces, then as your skills develop, progress to more detailed models. Origami develops patience; respect for yourself and the delicate paper; enhances hand-eye coordination; tactile/ fine motor skills; space/volume awareness; focus/concentration and engages the left and right hemispheres of your brain. This class is suitable for members beginning their origami journey and for those who want to grow their skills to continue each term. Please read the supplementary information for further important details.

### M14 Classical Music Unveiled, A Journey through Genres and Eras (face-to-face)

Tutor: Barbara Levien (City Campus, Tue 12:30pm)

Join us for an enlightening journey through the rich tapestry of classical music, spanning from the Renaissance to contemporary compositions. This course offers attendees an exploration of various genres, including Baroque, Classical, Romantic and the Modern eras. Through guided listening sessions, engaging discussions and multimedia resources, participants will deepen their understanding of historical context, key composers and stylistic elements. By examining the evolution of musical forms and expressions, attendees will broaden their appreciation for classical music's

influence on culture and society.

### X27 Further Australian Public Policy and Contemporary Issues (face-to-face)

Tutor: Prue Brown (City Campus, Tue 1:00 p.m.)

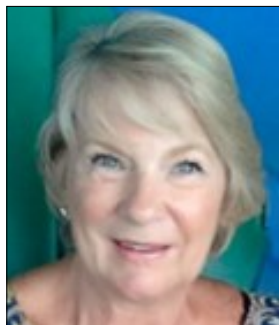
Note: to enrol, you should have completed X09: Australian public policy and contemporary issues. In this course we will explore further public policy theories and how they can help us to understand contemporary issues in Australia that are of interest to the class. We will look at the very influential theory of institutionalism and its variants as well as theories of policy change such as the multiple streams framework and incrementalism.

### U06 Spiritual Psychology (face-to-face)

Tutor: Barbara Kiao (City Campus, Tue 9:45 a.m.)

Spiritual Psychology delves into the intersection of spirituality and psychology, exploring how beliefs, values, and consciousness impact human behaviour and wellbeing. Integrating principles from various spiritual traditions with modern psychological theories, it seeks to foster self-awareness, inner growth and holistic healing. Through practices like mindfulness, meditation and self-reflection, individuals learn to navigate life's challenges with greater resilience, compassion and authenticity.

## Tutor Liaison Officer



### Gail Hawkins

Congratulations to our new Term 4 tutors, who have successfully completed their first term at U3A.

I'm pleased to say they are looking forward to continuing their classes in the new year.

Tutors are the backbone of our business, and some have been

with us now for more than 20 years.

That's longer than most people spend *in one job* throughout their working career!

### Great support for new tutors

Not being sure of class sizes or knowing how the equipment works could be daunting experiences for a new tutor.

But thanks to our helpful office staff and our supportive members, tutors can see that we work in a friendly and professional environment.

### Make new friends, too!

I believe it is more than a teaching role; groups often meet after class for a coffee or lunch, and strong friendships are formed.

### What knowledge can YOU share?

We are always on the lookout for new tutors. Word-of-mouth is the best recommendation.

So if you know of anyone who has a passion or keen interest in a subject matter that they would like to share, I would love to hear from them.

Language tutors are always in demand, as are Current Affairs, History.

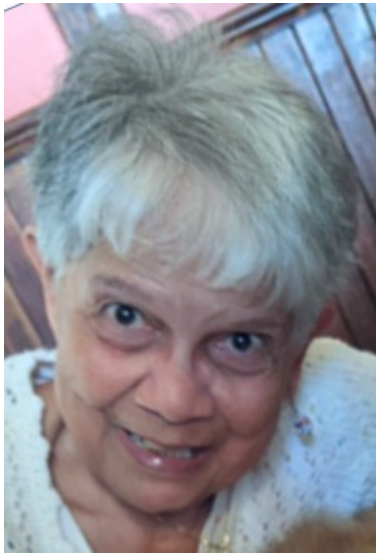
We haven't had a Craft Group or Genealogy class at City Campus for quite some time, so if you are interested, please contact me on [tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au).

As we come to the end of 2024, I wish all U3A tutors, staff and members a merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

— Gail

*“The best thing a human being can do is to help another human being know more.”*

— Charlie Munger



### Heather Dowling

Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway (QPSR), 2 Nov 2024

What a hectic day! It was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the QPSR, and they had a special cake to celebrate. We each received a piece. On this lovely sunny day, we munched our way through a shared morning tea in the park at Swanbank Station.

We had a carriage to ourselves and so could mingle with the other members, and heard a private talk from the conductor.

The journey lasted about an hour and a quarter. The expertise of the volunteer driver, as he manoeuvred the engine around to attach it to the other end to return to the station, was excellent.

At the Stony Creek Brewing Company, Ipswich, we were given a room to ourselves. It was a simple lunch with some of the group participating in the beer-tasting.

Then our coach picked us up again and we were soon back at Roma Street Station.

Enjoy The Spirit of Christmas on 20 December at the Lyric.



#### A note from Heather

*It is with great sadness that I have resigned as Social Co-ordinator as I feel that I can no longer handle the role.*

*I have enjoyed meeting all of you at each trip. You will never forget my warning, "if you don't wear a badge, it will cost you 10 cents". Please give your support to the new Co-ordinator! One day, no doubt, I will see you again at one of the outings.*

**Have a wonderful 2025!**

**— Heather**



## From Districts Manager



Rod McLary

### DISTRICT NEWS

In the Northside District, one of our tutors is returning with a new Discussion Group.

The topic in Term 1 is 'What is Social Justice? Why do we need it more than ever?'

Facilitator is Lawrence di Bartolo, who has previously facilitated a number of discussion groups, all looking at critical issues in today's world.

For a full description, please refer to the Term 1 Class Schedule.

The class will be on Wednesdays at 12.30 pm at the Grange Library.

The popular **Historical Walking Tour** with Brett Lee will return in Term 1 with two tours: the first on Wednesday **5 February** and the second on **26 February**.

The walks provide an ideal opportunity to learn more about the history of Brisbane.

Full details in the Class Schedule.

Another walk but of a very different kind will also be offered in Term 1.

The title of the walk is **Herstory: Adventure, Art and Science**, which looks at the role

of women as travellers, artists, collectors and scientists through their connections with plants.

Our guide will be Jill Don, and the walk will be at the Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens on Friday **7 March**, the day before International Women's Day.

Also returning in Term 1 is **Electric Vehicles 101** – Everything you need to know.

Tutor Phil Browne will offer the class each two months.

The dates for Term 1 are still to

be confirmed but will be advised through the eNews and in Class Search on our website.

As we begin our last week of Term 4, I would like to thank all the tutors in the City Precinct, Northside and Westside Districts for their sterling work through 2024.

And I look forward to working with you in 2025.

—Rod McLary  
Districts Manager

## Handel's Messiah, anyone?



### THE QUEENSLAND CHOIR sings HANDEL'S MESSIAH on December 8, 2024

#### Details:

Join the Queensland Choir –

- for just three weeks of rehearsals
- to take part in Brisbane Sings Messiah
- conducted by Kevin Power OAM
- Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m.
- in Brisbane City Hall.

#### Are you time-poor?

Do you wish to sing in a performance of Handel's great masterpiece, but don't have the time to commit to singing with the choir throughout the year? This biennial performance provides an exciting opportunity for you.

#### Registration

Join us for this exciting event. Registrations are accepted on a first-in, first-served basis and close once soprano, tenor and bass lists are full.

We have sufficient altos at this time. Interested singers should contact the choir now.

To register, see <https://qldchoir.com/joinusformessiah>

#### Questions?

Please contact [bsm@qldchoir.com](mailto:bsm@qldchoir.com)

#### Get tickets here

Tickets for the performance available via <https://4mbs.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/140687>





## Around the traps

with Linda

Hello everyone,

There is no theatre profile this month as I have other information for you.

Early December is a busy time when I gather details of all the plays and synopses from all the playhouses for the upcoming 2025 season, and put them into a calendar format with the synopses behind it.

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of this in January, please email me at [u3a.auslan@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.auslan@gmail.com) in January, and I will send it to you.

## Musicals in 2025

Next year, with the Savoyards' two musicals, *Come From Away* and *Hello Dolly*, I will probably be taking my group to *Hello Dolly*, so I can buy tickets for you too.

If you can arrange a group of 10+, tickets will be even cheaper.

Another one that I will put on next year is the **Shakespeare Festival**, run by Radio 4MBS.

I went to their 18<sup>th</sup> festival this year and it was very enjoyable for the reasonable cost of \$23!

## Ipswich Little Theatre

This wonderful theatre does things a little differently and I don't want you to miss out.

Their plays for the whole year are on sale NOW!

Please note that the matinees are the first to go.

If you are an Ipswich local, it may be easier to purchase an evening ticket.

Some groups have already bought their season's worth of tickets at the launch.

So if your group wishes to go, and you can afford to pay for everyone (sort of like a subscription) right now, please look below and do so.

For individuals, fear not! If you look at the play you are interested in – say, at the beginning of the last week of the previous play – I am assured that you will find tickets.

Or you can do as the groups do, and purchase it as if for a subscription.

## IPSWICH LITTLE THEATRE (ILT)

<https://www.ilt.org.au/>  
Program for 2025

### Season 1:

*Popcorn*, by Ben Elton  
26 Feb-15 Mar

Ben Elton's satirical take on Quentin Tarantino's movies and violence in the entertainment industry.

This is a dark comedy, smacking the audience in the face with dialogue and scenes that are

funny, yet disturbing.

**Season 2:**  
*The Perfect Murder*  
14-31 May

The 20-year marriage of Victor and Joan has reached crisis point. Victor decides there is only one way to get Joan out of his life forever, but he's about to get a nasty surprise...

**Season 3:**  
*Secret Bridesmaids' Business*,  
17 Sep-4 Oct

The night before Meg's wedding, she and her bridesmaids plan to kick up their heels as the hours before the big day tick down.

Marriage may be a wonderful thing, but after a night like this, well, could it really be worth it?

**Season 4:**  
*Waiting for God*  
19 Nov-6 Dec

A hilarious stage adaption of the BBC comedy series of the same name.

This will resonate with all who have faced the prospect of themselves or a family member making the change to life in a retirement facility.

**Tickets for all ILT 2025 shows will go on sale on Monday 9 December 2024 at 9.00 am.**  
[ilt.org.au](http://ilt.org.au)

**Tickets for the opening public night and the final Friday night of each show will be available at a discounted price.**

**Book for group nights by contacting Robyn Flashman 0477 771 016.**



## PLAYS – DECEMBER 2024

Centenary Theatre, Chelmer 0435 591 720 centenarytheatre.com.au	Agatha Christie's <i>Verdict</i>	2 pm: Dec. 6, 13 7:30pm: Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12	Adults \$27 Conc. \$24 Group \$27
Nash Theatre New Farm 0418 719 300 Nashtheatre.com	<i>Murder on the Nile</i>	7:30pm: Dec. 6, 7	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20 Grp 20% off
Ipswich Little Theatre 3812 2389 ilt.org.au	<i>Bondi Legal</i>	7:30pm: Dec. 6, 7	Adults \$25 Conc. \$21
Mousetrap Theatre Redcliffe 0417 759 868 mousetraptheatre.asn.au 474 Dcptn Bay Rd, Deception Bay	<i>Mousetrap Family Christmas Show</i> Table Seating	2:30pm: Dec. 1, 8 7:30pm: Dec. 6, 7	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20 Family 4 \$65 Member \$15
Beenleigh Theatre Group 3807 3922 info@beenleightheatregroup.com	<i>Strictly Ballroom, The Musical</i>	2pm: Dec. 7 7:30pm: Dec. 6, 7	Adult \$35 Conc \$30
Villanova Players, Seven Hills 0423 920 832 Villanovaplayers.com	<i>My Fair Lady, Musical</i>	2pm: Dec. 1, 7, 8 7:30pm: Dec. 6	Adult \$35 Conc. \$30

### Want to age with style? Me too!

The other day, I woke up during the ABC news, hearing that the oldest person in NSW, ballerina Eileen Kramer, had died at 110.

Not quite having gathered all my wits at that moment, I *think* I heard them quote Eileen on age.

"I've been 35 for quite some time," she said. I immediately resonated with this statement. That's my mental age, too.

Click on these links and read more, if you feel like being inspired:

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2024/nov/16/trailblazing-dancer-and-choreographer-eileen-kramer-dies-aged-110>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-15/nsw-dancer-dies-age-110-eileen-kramer/104608440>

— Josephine



### Northside portraiture class

Attached is a recent photo of our A83 Creative Portraiture Class (Brisbane North).

Members are shown in New Farm Park, sketching ABC Radio host Rebecca Levingstone.

"We attract a range of models. Let me know if you would like to be a model sometime," Tutor Carol Owens said.

"Surprisingly, after the initial shyness/anxiety, it's a really relaxing thing to do."

Carol added, "We all love U3A Brisbane because of the learning, connection and fun that we enjoy."

## Volunteer profile

### Lyndall Beattie

U3A Brisbane's office manager

I joined U3A Brisbane to satisfy my lifelong need for study and learning.

This began when I lived in a small country town – even before I started school! – when I would spend my mornings doing sums and words in a book that my mother had prepared for me.

I couldn't wait to start school, but I vividly remember my first day was such a disappointment: when I came home, I still could not read any book I wanted to!

After I had my family of four children (as though I had nothing else to do) I decided to enrol in an external, part-time accounting degree that took six years to complete.

I must have been addicted to study as I went on to complete a CPA designation and two masters degrees in Accounting and Business Law.

A variety of jobs later, when my family had grown up, I found that my Scottish ancestry allowed me to get a visa to work in the UK, where I did contract work for the next couple of years.

This was a great experience: I worked during the week and did weekend day-trips to Scotland, France, Netherlands and Belgium.

Long weekends found me venturing further into Europe.

I was excited that I would experience a white Christmas in Austria, but there was a heatwave that year and I had to wait till Germany on the way back to see snow.

The people on the tour were amazed to see a few of us Aussies running around in a snowstorm and loving it.

Looking back, I realised that many of the jobs I had were connected to education and learning in some way, and I still like reading books

I moved from interstate to the Gold Coast where I worked for the next few years.

At this time I started to plan my retirement and what I would do.

Part of my plan was to attend classes at a U3A, and to get fit after years sitting behind a desk.

After retirement, I moved to Brisbane to enjoy a big city experience.

I started volunteering at a few different places and events over the years.

I now limit myself to volunteering at a large hospital in a variety of different positions, and at U3A Brisbane where I started by attending classes, and then became a volunteer in the office.

Later, I became the U3A Treasurer and was part of the committee that navigated the difficulties the Covid epidemic presented.

I have recently taken over the office manager role and am working with a great group of dedicated volunteers.

Being part of U3A Brisbane, I have found that as well as the continuing learning aspect it provides to its members, it also provides another very important aspect: the social friendship interaction that is vital to our overall wellbeing.



*This friendly face in our front office belongs to Office Manager Lyndall Beattie*

## Tribute to the late U3A tutor, Marian Elcock

U3A Brisbane has hosted some unusual classes. One was Bell Ringing, which Marian Elcock (pictured, right) started in U3A Brisbane's Logan District in 2016.

Sadly, Marian passed away in November. Her pupils remember her fondly. They say she was passionately enthusiastic about the bells, and that her love of music and determination to master challenging pieces were an inspiration to all.

She lived in Springwood and joined Logan District U3A to learn the guitar, later becoming an enthusiastic recorder player in Howard Newell's Recorder class before starting her own Bell Ringing class.

Marion first encountered bells in 1986 at Noora Ku Neena, a huge Queensland Girl Guides Inter-national camp at Greenbank, where 5000 Guides from all over the world enjoyed activities and happy campfire singalongs.

Marian loved singing Guides songs both here and in England, which she visited often, at camps, canal trips, singing wherever they went.

"Guides songs are so joyful and positive," she said.

English Guides at the camp had a display that inspired her to buy a set of children's handbells for her Brownies group in Rochedale.

She taught the children to ring so successfully that in 1988 they represented Queensland at Encore, the Australian Guides Association National Festival in Sydney.



Marian loved her involvement with 7- to 10-year-old Brownies, and even travelled by ferry to Russell Island for one of her groups.

In 1986 Marian bought the full set of 24 traditional handbells that U3A students and other groups rang. The bells were not new, which saved thousands of dollars.

To save air freight, they divided up the set among three Queensland families, who added the bells to their luggage.

Once home, Marian immediately started forming groups locally.

Her friend Dorami, who shares

Marian's passion, tells how they rang bells with the Guides' Nostalgia choir and at camps, "making a joyful sound".

The Guides movement was a huge part of Marian's life and she

worked at grassroots level, district organisation, and on the State Council.

She joined Guides projects in several other countries to build cheap laminate homes for the poor in Al Cabana, Mexico, to make a pilgrimage to the grave of Lord Baden Powell in Kenya, to go on an African safari, and to visit Switzerland and India.

Her husband, Joe, told her to enjoy life while she could, as "you never know what lies ahead".

At Marian's funeral, Joe played a glorious video he had filmed, showing part of a 1986 bell ringing performance at a festival in Launceston, Tasmania, where Marian was doing what she loved, surrounded by scores of performers.

The sight and sound of those bells ringing in harmony was a perfect introduction to the service.

Those who knew Marian will remember her with pleasure for the music she brought into their lives, her kindness, and her beautiful nature.

We at U3A will certainly miss her.

Published by: U3A Brisbane  
97 Creek Street, Brisbane 4000  
Phone: (07) 3236 3055  
[u3abrisbane.org.au](http://u3abrisbane.org.au)  
[mail@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:mail@u3abrisbane.org.au)