



Editor's Notes

Jane Elliott



After enjoying more than 20 months in the role, I am resigning as Editor of the Brisbane U3A eNews. If you have good knowledge of MS Word, can proofread carefully and ensure format is consistent, then you have the skills necessary to be the eNews editor. You do need to understand U3A's goals and ethos, and ensure that the eNews represents these. The Editor manages and edits the content before submitting the final version to the U3A IT Manager for formatting and distribution to members. It's an interesting role which is ably supported by area coordinators and Management Committee members. If you are interested in taking on this role, please get in touch with the U3A President by email:

president@u3abrisbane.org.au.

President's Report

Gabrielle Power West

Term 1 has now concluded and each of you will be enjoying the Easter holiday break with its time for family gatherings as well as catching up with friends. It is also that time to enjoy Easter eggs and hot cross buns, which have been around for many weeks now. We will miss them come post Easter.

You will all have received the Term 2 Class Schedule emailed on 17 March. Once again there is a wide selection of very interesting classes, both face-to-face and by Zoom, whichever presentation type best suits your interests and needs. Remember to register for the classes of your choice.



On Tuesday 19 March, 30 U3A members and friends enjoyed a very interesting visit to Rosewood for morning tea and then on to Gatton, for the major focus of our bus trip. We visited Pohlman's Nursery which is close to Gatton and this proved to be a very interesting experience. We were taken on a mini train ride around the extensive nursery with a full commentary from one of the owners. I was very surprised to learn and observe that the nursery has 40 acres being used to cultivate an extensive range of plants, shrubs, and trees at all stages of development. Currently, Pohlman's Nursery provides employment for 210 employees and, at busy periods, up to 240 employees. No doubt this level of employment by a single employer would be much appreciated by residents of Gatton. Two of the bigger customers of the nursery are Coles and Woolworths. Many members of our group took advantage of the opportunity to select and purchase any number of plants which could be accommodated in the luggage compartment for the journey back to Brisbane. Following the visit to the

nursery we drove into Gatton and enjoyed a tasty lunch at one of the Gatton hotels. Thank you once again to Heather Dowling for sourcing and organising yet another interesting and enjoyable day trip for U3A Members and their friends.

The two special events held to recognise Anne Collins' 100 years were both very successful. The event held on Anne's actual birthday was a luncheon for relatives and friends at Barko and Co on the river at New Farm. A morning tea was also held for Anne at Marco Polo close to the Adelaide Street premises of U3A. It was obvious that Anne really enjoyed both celebrations on reaching 100 years. Thank you to Chris Deeming for organising these two events.

I would like to make special mention of appreciation from U3A members for the great work that Jane Elliott has done as Editor of eNews for the past 20 months. Thank you, Jane, we all appreciate your contribution during your time as Editor. Best wishes for your future directions.

The Annual General Meeting of The University of the Third Age Brisbane Inc. will be held online at 10am on Wednesday 10 April 2024 as a Zoom meeting. Attendees must [register for the meeting](#) using the link on the U3A Brisbane website home page. You will be sent instructions by email about how to join the meeting.

This is my final contribution to the eNews publication as President. I have been very impressed by the voluntary contributions made by many members involved in U3A. The success of U3A depends very much on the expertise and generosity of our volunteer tutors who contribute a great deal of time and effort to develop and present the incredible variety of learning opportunities for members. There are also many other volunteers assisting with the daily organisation of classes at U3A venues. U3A benefits from the work Greg Taylor does in IT management. As well, U3A benefits from Yvonne McGann's expertise in organising the main office. There are many other volunteers who also support U3A and without these volunteers U3A would not operate.

Thank you to each of you. U3A would not be able to function without your contribution and commitment.

Best wishes for the future.

Gabrielle

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE BRISBANE INCORPORATED

The Annual General Meeting of The University of the Third Age Brisbane Inc. will be held online at 10.00 am on Wednesday 10 April 2024 as a Zoom meeting.

Attendees must register for the meeting using the link on the [U3A Brisbane website](#) home page. You will be sent instructions by email a few days before the meeting about how to join on Zoom.

AGM documents, including the Annual Financial Report, are available on the [News page](#) of the website.

Mary Denver
Secretary



U3A Qld Conference

Greg Doolan

The forthcoming U3A Network Queensland 2024 conference will be held 28-30 May in Beaudesert.

Registrations are now open on the Network website:

<https://u3aqld.au/registrations-for-network-conference-now-open/>



City Campus News

Gail Hawkins (Tutor Liaison)



In Term 2 we are fortunate to have a number of new tutors and new classes to offer our members. I would like to welcome our new tutors and hope that they enjoy the experience and meet new friends along the way.

Listed below are the new classes for Term 2. Some have received good registrations, while others have been a little slow to get enrolments. If you are interested in any of these classes, please remember you must contact the tutor to enrol - you cannot turn up at the office on the day and expect to be accepted.

Monday

B39 Medical and Health – Facilitator is a retired medical practitioner, and each week will discuss a medical topic, e.g. cancer, heart attack, blood pressure, stroke and other topics as nominated by members. This is a general class and individual medical advice cannot be given.

H11 The Kennedys - The Promise and the Tragedy of the 1960's – The course will focus on the Kennedy family and their times. It is set against the backdrop of Cold War tensions, the bitterly fought campaign for civil rights for African Americans, the threat posed by organised crime and the concern over entrenched poverty.

We have 9:00am (C126) 10:45am (C31) and 12:30pm (C120) *Adobe Photoshop Elements* classes. You can start at the beginner's class and progress through to the advanced level. Learn how to organise enhance, copy, merge, enlarge and print your digital snapshots.

Tuesday

N01 Video making for Beginners - This class was a late addition to the Schedule so it may have been missed in earlier class searches. Learn how to turn your pictures and videos into movies. All you need is a phone with a camera and a computer: the tutor will supply you with the software (free) and show you how to use it. This is a double class so gives you time to start producing your own movie.

J42 Indonesian – Bahasa Indonesia Intermediate Conversation practice and grammar for people with some Indonesian language.

X10 Ireland and the Irish – Watch films on Irish myth, fantasy, politics and public strife from Great Famine to Northern Ireland trouble and the peace agreement.

X07 Chinese Calligraphy for Beginners – Introducing five Chinese calligraphy scripts.

Wednesday

C10 You don't Need your Grandchildren to Understand your Computer – learn how to set up and use email accounts, understand tools like Skype and Zoom, and how to search for information and use popular websites. This is a great

opportunity to become computer savvy.

B40 Yoga for Everyone – Enjoy the benefits of improving and maintaining mobility, balance, and flexibility. Learn breathing techniques that help with relaxation and at the same time improve your concentration. The tutor is a highly qualified yoga teacher.

M12 Famous Operas – If you love opera and want to understand the storyline better, this class is for you. The facilitator has had a passion for classical music and 19th century opera since the 1960's and he is keen to share his love of opera.

M09 Recorder Class for New Players – This is an ideal class for anyone who would like to play a recorder.

Thursday

F20 Scrabble – Exercise your brain and join this friendly group. As it is a double class, you get to play several games.

P04 Photography: from Beginner to Accomplished Photographer – The facilitator has over 60 years' experience in photography. Join this class and you will go from a beginner or enthusiast to a skilled and confident photographer.

J57 English for Speakers of Other Languages – If you wish to improve your English speaking and reading and improve your conversational skills, then this course would suit you.

Friday

L06 Reading 19th Century Novels – Class will read and discuss the “best” novels of the 19th Century.

B34 Strategies for Healthy Living – The tutor is well qualified to help class members improve their health and wellbeing and to improve their lifestyle.

Northside District News

Rod McLary

Northside has a new class starting in Term 2: *Yoga for Everyone*. The class will be led by Marta who is an experienced and qualified Yoga instructor; and will be held at 11.00am on Fridays in the hall at the Anglican Church, Clayfield. There are vacancies in the class so please consider whether it is something you would like to do. The location of this class has been changed from the previously advertised venue.

The Discussion Group is returning and the subject in Term 2 is “*Gendered Violence in Australia*”. This is, perhaps, a controversial topic, but also one which impacts either directly or indirectly on all of us. If you are interested in joining the group, please note that it starts in the second week of term.

Also, the class *Electric Vehicles 101* will return in Term 2 on the first day of term 15 April. Again, there are vacancies so please attend to find out all you need to know about electric vehicles. There will be monthly classes (all stand-alone) throughout the term and dates will be listed in the eNews. The classes will also be listed in the Class Search function on the U3A website.

Westside District News

Rod McLary

To celebrate Queensland Day on 6 June, two special guided walks through the Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha will be held at 10:00am and 12:00pm. Called *Quintessentially Queensland*, the walks will look specifically at the food and ornamental plants that typify Queensland. Both walks will be followed by morning tea and an opportunity to relax and converse with the other participants.

Portrait Class

Carol Owens

In Term 1 2024, our class of 24 emerging artists has gone from strength to strength in developing drawing skills, experimenting with media and getting the likeness of our portrait muses.



In 2020, when Covid complicated our lives and wellbeing, we adapted by moving our weekly class from the Creek Street rooms and began meeting in New Farm Park once a fortnight. It was a good outcome of those turbulent times as we like drawing in the beautiful park environment and find it so much better.

We like to challenge ourselves and each year we hold two exhibitions at New Farm Library with the next one on from 4 April to 7 May.

Participant John Moller enjoys drawing family, friends and famous people. "This is my drawing of my father-in-law who was a great inspiration for me to create and keep learning. He was a very intelligent, caring and tolerant man and always curious," John said.

John's father-in-law sounds a bit like all of us from U3A!

Meet our Volunteers

Greg Taylor (ICT Coordinator)

I joined U3A Brisbane in 2011. My wife, Deslyn, and I had both recently retired and we enrolled in a Bridge class at the then U3A premises in South Brisbane. When U3A moved to Creek St in mid-2011 I took an interest in the membership administration tools being used and thought that it was time for U3A to move to an interactive online system. The Committee agreed so I commenced a software development project with assistance from David Gemmell. There were then no commercial systems available that would manage membership and classes so I developed a system from scratch. The initial stage went online in mid-2012 and that project has occupied me for the last 12 years with continual improvements and enhancements.



My first career was as a biochemist working in a lab, but I was attracted to computers and did further studies in computer science. From 1972 I worked almost exclusively in IT, mostly in medical-related organisations, as a programmer, systems analyst and IT manager. I also did some part-time lecturing in computing at QUT. I was always interested in learning new subjects, and at various times did additional studies in economics, business and law. That background has been important since IT work transcends the technological aspects and often requires a deep understanding of business and commerce. The Internet arrived in the mid-1990s and that changed everything, offering huge new challenges and opportunities. It has since become an indispensable part of daily life, helped in no small part by the development of mobile devices. However, I have been disappointed with certain developments that have enabled large corporations to exploit personal information for profit. Social media in particular, while offering new ways of communicating, has also become a tool for exploitation and the spreading of misinformation and scams.

I have had a number of hobbies over the years, including photography, electronics, amateur radio and aviation. I gained a private pilot's licence in 1978 and enjoyed flying to various parts of Australia, including a memorable trip to the Birdsville Races in the early 1990s. I have now retired from flying but continue my interest by using a very realistic flight simulator, running on a personal computer of course!

At U3A I have been a tutor in several IT subjects, including Imaging, Robotics, Cloud Storage and even Coding for Seniors. In addition to developing U3A's website and database systems, I have also been responsible for installing and maintaining PCs and laptops in the classrooms and U3A offices, apart from the computer lab which was ably managed by Keith Catts. Recently, this work has become too onerous and we have now outsourced the hardware maintenance to a commercial IT Support organisation.

I have enjoyed volunteering at U3A for so many years. I served on the Management Committee from 2014 to 2020 and have worked closely with our very capable office volunteers and tutors who have all helped to make U3A Brisbane the highly efficient operation it is today.

U3A Social Events

Heather Dowling



For all social event bookings, please contact the U3A office on 3236 3055, or visit the 97 Creek St office. You can keep up to date with the latest Social Events on the U3A Website:

<https://www.u3abrisbane.org.au/groups/social-group>

A Day at the Races

Date:	Wednesday 8 May 2024
Location:	Eagle Farm and Doomben racecourses
Duration:	9:30am to 2:30pm
Cost:	\$20
Availability:	20 places

Attendees will need to find their own way to Eagle Farm (230 Lancaster Road, Ascot). Carpooling is suggested. There is parking on the infield carpark which is accessed from Nudgee Road (turn left at Woolworths and go through the tunnel into the stable area and carpark).

This is an historical outing, not one revolving around horseracing; however, there is racing at Eagle Farm on the day and attendees would be welcome to enter the races when the tour finishes (2:00-2:30pm). Entry is free.

Settlers came from all walks of life to live in Queensland in 1825 and, having left comfortable homes and lifestyle, found themselves in a “bare” country. Some of the richer settlers decided to open Eagle Farm as a place for social activities. It was established as Eagle Farm Racecourse in 1863. Doomben as a racecourse was established in 1933.

The tour starts at the **Queensland Horse Racing Museum** at 10:00am. Lunch is at 11:45am, and a table will be reserved at *Gallopers Sports Club* for U3A members – lunch at own cost. At 1:00pm, the tour continues at the *Library and Racing Archive*. There is parking near the library, accessed through Gate 4 or 5 at the intersection of Hampden and Onslow Streets.



Thank you to Ms Diane Arapovic for suggesting the visit to the museum and archives. It promises to be an educational day.

Past Event: Tour of Pohlman's Nursery, Adare, 19 March



Jordan Pohlman, grandson of John and Val Pohlman who established the nursery in 1976, drove us in the train around the nursery. The premises consists of 300 acres, of which only 40 are used. Water comes from the Redbank Creek but the nursery uses recycled water as much as possible. They use plastic houses from Spain rather than glasshouses. They grow vegetables from overseas stock and poinsettias from Holland and have established good relationships with overseas companies. It was very interesting to see how the rolling equipment almost has a mind of its own when moving in and out of the greenhouses. We were given plants as a thank you for the visit, and these were raffled off to members.



Published by:

U3A Brisbane

97 Creek St Brisbane 4000.

Phone: 3236 3055

u3abrisbane.org.au

mail@u3abrisbane.org.au