



Editor's Notes: from Jean Smith

Winter School! Hurrah! Off to the ski slopes! Après-ski entertainment here we come!

I don't need to tell you that U3A's Winter School is a very different kettle of fish. Casual passers-by going along Adelaide St may wonder why there all these older citizens about – and why do they suddenly disappear into a building near Anzac Square? They are, of course, en route to some of the 50+ sessions of interesting, challenging and entertaining material which has been sourced by U3A's Winter School Committee. If it is anything like last year, there will be a real buzz around Floor 5 of 232 Adelaide Street, as there will be at the Queensland Art Gallery which is hosting a couple of sessions, and at the State Library where Alan MacSparran's is delivering the Keynote Address on Crime and Corruption in the Sunshine State. I am very much looking forward to hearing one of Brisbane's leading legal figures talking about things which affect us all.

My thanks to all involved in organising this year's Winter School. No skiing, but definitely a highlight of my Brisbane winter.

President's Message: from Greg Doolan



Here we are in early July and that can mean only one thing – this year's Winter School is just about here and although it doesn't commence until 8th July, it is already a runaway success. Bookings opened on the 9th June and within 24 hours there were already in excess of 2,200 bookings, with quite a number of sessions booking out completely and waiting lists of those hoping a space becomes available.

This is a phenomenal result, beating the opening bookings of last year by at least a couple of hundred – testament to the popularity of what is our premier event of the year. There are still some limited spaces available in a number of sessions, so check out the program on the website: www.u3abrisbane.org.au/index.php/winter-school



I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the position of tutors in our organisation as there appears to be some confusion in this regard. Firstly, tutors who don't attend any other class are treated as honorary members and are not required to pay the annual membership fee. However, if that tutor then decides to attend another class, they must pay their membership fee of \$40 before attending that class. The so-called position of Assistant Tutor also requires some clarification. Officially, this position doesn't exist within U3A Brisbane, but we certainly don't object to anyone assisting tutors and using that title. If this applies to you and whatever title you wish to use, you must be a financial member and also pay the required \$5 per class, including the one where you use the title Assistant Tutor. I hope this clears up any confusion.

There is also another delicate matter I would like to address and that is the behaviour of people while on the premises or attending classes at any U3A Brisbane venues. From time to time, situations involving unseemly behaviour come to the attention of the Management Committee and, although not a common occurrence, it is still something that members should be conscious of at all times. It must be remembered we are all volunteers and have joined our U3A to learn something and, most importantly, enjoy ourselves in a friendly and happy environment with like-minded people. Please show due respect to everyone you come in contact with at all times, especially our office volunteers. They do a fantastic job as the heart of our operation and make our organisation run like a well-oiled machine. All it takes is a smile and a "Thank you" to make their day. If you are not aware, U3A Brisbane operates under a Code of Conduct and I would encourage all members to familiarise themselves with this document which is available on the homepage of our website: www.u3abrisbane.org.au/

I do hope you all enjoy your choices at Winter School as the organising committee have managed to bring together a great batch of speakers this year.

Winter School 8th July - 12th July from Anne Douglas

Winter School is almost upon us and we have an amazing line up of fifty-seven speakers for you. There are still a few spots available in some sessions if you hurry.

Our first suggestion involves International Law and Killer Robots and the plethora of legal and ethical challenges our scientists, world leaders and legal minds will face in future conflicts. Autonomous vehicles, drones, aircraft, submarines and robots are on the drawing board now, so this is going happen quicker than any of us realise. We are fortunate to have Professor Rain Liivoja to take us through this minefield.

International Law and 'Killer Robots' Professor Rain Liivoja UQ - 1pm Tuesday

The idea of armed forces deploying weapon systems that operate without real-time supervision – sometimes called 'killer robots' – has sparked an intense ethical and legal debate. In August Professor Liivoja will join a group of government experts who will meet for the fifth time in Geneva to discuss the possible regulation of such autonomous weapon systems. This talk will trace the debate on autonomy in weapons, identify the key points of disagreement and canvass the prospects for international regulation. Rain is an Associate Professor at the TC Beirne School of Law at The University of Queensland. He also holds the title of Adjunct Professor of International Law at the University of Helsinki, where he is affiliated with the Erik Castren Institute of International Law and Human Rights.



There is something really fascinating about whales and about how they communicate and Jennifer has the enviable job of researching the way they interact. She is going to show us how it all works and let us listen in to the amazing sounds they produce.

**What makes a Whale Song Catchy?
Dr Jennifer Allen - 1pm Tuesday**

What makes a hit song? We all know that humpback whales are famous for their intricate songs. Male whales in a population have been found to sing the same song at any one time, with this song ever-evolving and changing. Dr Allen's talk will explore this process, looking at which aspects of a whale's song may make it easier to learn, leading the phenomenon of population-wide cultural song learning. This is a scientific exploration of how they communicate.



Another interesting speaker is Dr Sandie Degnan who will unlock some of the secrets of genomes and the process of evolution.

**Animal Genomes as Time Travel Machines
Associate Professor Sandie Degnan UQ -11am Friday**



Genomes tell us a lot about the past, but can also give us inspiration for the future, by revealing secrets of how animals deal with the constant challenges thrown up by nature. Through the process of evolution, animals have had hundreds of millions of years to problem solve and, consequently, can do things that 'newcomer' humans can still only dream of doing. As we get better at interpreting what we find, decoding genomes will be like unlocking the instruction manuals to things we never imagined were possible. Using coral reef invertebrates from phyla that span the animal kingdom, Sandie studies these gene-environment interactions using genomic, molecular and cellular approaches combined with behavioural ecology in natural populations. She works mostly with embryonic and larval life history stages of indirect developers, as these are crucial to the survival and evolution of marine populations. When not immersed in the molecular or computer lab she is lucky enough to be immersed in the ocean, often in beautiful places. Sandie is an Associate Professor in the School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science at University of Queensland.

Australia is an arid country as we all know and scientists are now looking at ways and means that we can put to use some of the tough and resilient natural resources that abound in our country - plants and native grasses that have been mainly ignored in the past could be the ones that will lead us into a more sustainable future, so the work of Dr Annamalai is vital.

**Australian Native Grasses for Advanced Nanomaterials Applications Technology
Dr Pratheep K Annamalai - 11am Monday**

Spinifex grasses have been widely used by indigenous Australians for centuries and as our resources shrink, we must look to more natural options that do not require copious quantities of water and care. Dr Annamalai will shed light on some of these spiky grasses as a new and unique source of nanofibers for advanced material applications ranging from soft elastic rubbers to strong composites. His research targets how building blocks from plants and wastes can be derived and converted into value-added materials. Given the extremes of our climate and the vast number of unexplored resources, the importance of his work cannot be underestimated. Pratheep is a mid-career research fellow at the



We do have some extraordinary mammal fauna in the beautiful northern areas of our country and it is distressing to think that we could lose some of them. This is why the work of Kate Heffernan and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy is so important. Hear how Kate and Australian Wildlife Conservancy (non profit) are making a difference.

Protection of Endangered Wildlife in the Top End

Kate Heffernan - 1pm Tuesday



Yes - good things are happening in the Top End and Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is leading the way. The Australian mammal fauna has fared catastrophically since European settlement and some species have been forced to extinction. Kate's talk will outline AWC's model for conservation, one that has a wider catalytic impact and operates within an accountability framework that is unique within the conservation sector. She will discuss fire, feral predators and the on-ground measures AWC is using. It is the largest private, non-profit owner of

land for conservation in the world, protecting 4.85 million hectares.

Moreton Bay Koala Rescue Service is also doing great work with Brisbane's own wildlife. Mike Fowler is one of these volunteers and has got himself into some funny situations in the process.

Wildlife Rescue Stories

Mike Fowler - 1pm Friday

Mike is one of a number of people who answer the call when our native animals are in trouble. After they have been medically treated, they are housed in various cages at his home where he feeds and cares for them until they are ready to be released back into the wild again. There are strict guidelines involved, for instance koalas must be released within one kilometre of where they were originally found. Animal rescues can be tricky and he will share some of his more interesting stories with us.

The following Sessions still have spaces. Full details are available on our website:

9am Tuesday: Margery Meets Julian - A Medieval Mystical Adventure; **1pm Wednesday:** Brisbane's Art World ;

9am Thursday: Botanic Gardens; **11am Thursday:** A History from Early Convict Days; **9am Thursday:** 'What the Dickins'; **11am Thursday :**Australian History at the Cinema; **9am Friday:** The Bells of St Stephens.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – PLEASE BE PUNCTUAL FOR YOUR SESSIONS

As there are long waiting lists for most of the sessions and we allow people who have missed out on confirmed booking spots to wait in the hope of gaining a place, we would ask that all members who have confirmed bookings arrive no later than the allotted starting time. If you are not present by that time your seat could be re-allocated to someone on the waiting list. If you are held up and know you are going to be late, could you please ring us and we will make sure that your seat is saved for you.

**We hope you enjoy Winter School and ask that you be mindful of others.
If you are unable to attend please take the time to notify the office.**

DATE CLAIMER: Special event



An award-winning film from the 2019 SCINEMA Film Festival will be shown at U3A Brisbane on Thursday 15th August (during National Science Week). SCINEMA International Science Film Festival is the largest science film festival in the southern hemisphere; celebrating the power of moving image to tell stories about the world, how it works and our place in it. SCINEMA showcases science features, shorts, documentaries, animated and experimental films from filmmakers around the world.

This year, we will be showing a full-length feature documentary that won the Special Jury Award. The film, *The Most Unknown*, considers some of the key mysteries in science. In making the documentary, nine scientists were sent to extraordinary parts of the world to uncover unexpected answers to some of humanity's biggest questions: How did life begin? What is consciousness? How much do we really know? These are fundamental questions that have been pondered for centuries (and probably, much longer). The film may not provide definitive answers, but should give some fascinating insights.

The film will be shown during a one-off special event on Thursday 15th August at 2.00 to 4.00 in Room 16 at 232 Adelaide Street. The cost for the session is \$5. Further information is available on the [U3A Brisbane website](#), where members can book to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ron Baker



You may recall that earlier this year U3A member Ron Baker received an Achievement Award in this year's Lord Mayor's Australia Day awards. Ron's contribution to the Brisbane community, especially in Coorparoo and the surrounding suburbs, has been further recognised, with him being awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Northside District News from Rod McLary

The Northside District has a long-standing French language group. Sadly, the tutor died earlier this year. However, the class would very much like to continue and is seeking a new tutor - preferably a native French speaker. The class comprises 12 to 14 people, but the average attendance is around eight per week. They are of intermediate to advanced French speakers. The class meets in the Mitchelton Library on Tuesday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00 noon.

If you may be interested in tutoring this keen group, please contact me in the first instance at northside@u3abrisbane.org.au. I can then put you in touch with one of the class members who can provide detailed information.

City News from Robyn Bunting

Details of this new City Precinct class came to hand too late for it to be included in the printed Class Schedule: a walking group which takes place on Sundays, so a little different to the regular classroom offerings

A Walk On The Wild Side : Walking Group Leader: John Van Der Werff - 0414201947

Every Sunday morning 7 am – 9 am, starting Sunday 21st July. Meet up at South Brisbane Sailing Club Carpark (Hill End Terrace, West End).

10 min. break at halfway. Coffee after.

Social Committee News from Libby Eichmann and Alannah Gaffney

To book for the following events: Ph: U3A office 3236 3055

Booked-out events are advertised as a reminder of dates and times. Note that you can ask to be put onto a wait list so that, should a member cancelling their booking, the ticket can be offered to someone on the list. However, this does not apply to QPAC events.

New Events

QPAC Backstage Tour: Date: Friday 30th August 2019 at 10.30 am. Closing date: 23 August 2019

Cost: \$20, Concession Cost: \$19

Meeting point: QPAC Café (directly opposite main foyer entrance to Lyric Theatre and Concert Hall)

A glimpse behind the scenes and an insight into what it takes to present productions on stage.

Mary Valley Rattler: Date: Wednesday 30th October 2019. Closing date: 23rd October 2019

Cost: Senior: \$88.00

Departure: Bus departs at 7.30 am Kessels Rd., Macgregor (Stop 59 on Garden City side) and 8.00am Roma St. (Stop 125 outside Transit Centre, opposite Police Headquarters)

Return: 5.30 pm Roma St; 6:00 pm Kessels Rd.

Attendee Limit: 40

Max. Seats per Member: 2

Experience Queensland's scenic Mary Valley on the historic Rattler diesel steam locomotive. Admire the region's gorgeous landscape of valleys and waterways, including the Yabba, Kandanga and Amamoor Creeks, and watch for a variety of birds in a lush forest reserve. Marvel at the restored Gympie Station and enjoy lunch at Platform No. 1 Café (alternate drop main meal with cake/slice for dessert plus tea/coffee.)

Train ride on M.V.Rattler 1.30 – 2.30, with comfort Stop on way home.

Brisbane City Cruise to Lunch. Date: Monday 25th November 2019. Closing date 21st November 2019

Cost: Seniors \$55.00

Boarding: 10.15 from Jetty A, in front of Wheel of Brisbane, Southbank ; departure 10.30 am

Return: Depart 1.15 pm from John Oxley Landing (and enjoy beverage on cruise back to Southbank , arr. 2.00 pm)

Attendee Limit: 30

Max. Seats per Member: 2

Cruise to John Oxley Landing, Newstead Park. Complementary morning tea, guided tour and complementary Drink on return trip included.

Arrive approximately 11.15 then 5 minute walk and 10 stairs to Breakfast Creek Hotel for lunch. We have been requested to pre-order lunch. Please peruse the menu below and inform the Office staff of your choice when

making your booking.

Brisbane City Cruise to Lunch: Breakfast Creek Hotel Set Menu.

LUNCH RUMP

Grain fed Rump served with coleslaw, tomato and Idaho potato topped with bacon sauce (your choice of mushroom, pepper, chilli or diane sauce)

Please note: this meal can be made gluten free if ordered with GF gravy

PANKO CALAMARI

Flash fried calamari rings served with garden salad and lime aioli dressing

MUSHROOM AND QUINOA CROQUETTE

Mushroom and quinoa encased with a potato mash. Lightly crumbed and flash fried with seasonal vegetables and a ricotta & sweet corn pumpkin flower

BEER BATTERED FLATHEAD

Crispy beer battered flathead fillets served with salad, chips and lime aioli

CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD

Crisp cos lettuce, bacon, croutons and shaved parmesan topped with a chicken breast & dressed with a cream Caesar dressing

***Please mention any dietary requirements to our staff so that we can cater to your needs*



10 MINUTE WALK TO THE BREAKFAST CREEK HOTEL

Previously Advertised Upcoming Events

Xmas in July. Date: July 31st 2019. Closing date July 24th 2019

Cost: \$57

Departure: Bus departs **8.30 am from Roma St** (Stop 125, outside Transit Centre and opposite Police Headquarters) and **9.00 am from Kessels Rd., Macgregor** (at Stop 59 on Garden City side).

Enjoy a four-course meal and delicious wines at St Bernard's Hotel, Tamborine Mountain. This event is always popular, so book early. A 49-seater bus has been booked for this event.

Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology, Caboolture. Date: September 11th 2019. Closing date September 4th 2019

Cost: \$45

Departure: Bus departs at **8.30 am Kessels Rd., Macgregor** (Stop 59 on Garden City side) and **9.00am Roma St.**

(Stop 125 outside Transit Centre, opposite Police Headquarters)

A guided tour of the Abbey church featuring the medieval, Edwardian and Victorian stained glass, followed by a self-guided tour of the Abbey Museum Archaeological Gallery – a journey through the history of humankind. After lunch, *I Love the Knight Life* – a presentation of life in the Middle Ages. Morning tea and a two-course lunch included. Please note, vegetarians can be catered for, but NOT gluten free.

Muriel's Wedding. Date: Wednesday, 9th October, 2019, 1pm at QPAC Lyric Theatre. Closing date: 2nd August 2019

Cost: \$90, no concession available

Duration: 2 hours and 44 minutes (includes interval, subject to change without notice)

One of the most loved and hilarious Aussie films comes to life on stage in *Muriel's Wedding the Musical*. New song by Kate Miller-Heidke and Keir Nuttall, plus all your favourite ABBA hits.

Chicago: Date: Wednesday 6th November 2019, 1pm at QPAC Lyric Theatre. Closing date: 28th August 2019

Cost: Concession \$70, Full \$90

Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes (includes interval, subject to change without notice)

A true New York City Institution, *Chicago* has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz.