



**Editor's Notes:**  
from Jean Smith

U3A Brisbane offers a range of musical classes – musical appreciation, guitar, ukulele, hand-bell ringing – and many members participate in a variety of musical activities outside U3A. In these times, I find myself more than ever wanting to be calmed, exhilarated, comforted by music, and performers across the world are meeting this need. Whether it's Andrea Bocelli singing *Amazing Grace* outside Milan Cathedral, the *One World Together* concert that was streamed globally last weekend, or the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra live-streaming Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> *Symphony* – we are fortunate that there is still music all around us. And a personal favourite – the Couch Choir's performance of *Close to You*, brought to us by Brisbane's Astrid Jorgensen and her team. I can't believe its is barely 6 weeks since I first heard it. Seems like another world away.

These are dark days – but music does lighten the spirit.

**President's Message:**  
from Des Taylor

Welcome back!

I hope you are all well as we start Term 2 at U3A. I'm certainly looking forward to starting my new classes. I hope you are too. With more time available I have now enrolled in four.

The AGM was held on Zoom on 15th April and went very well. I would like to introduce the new Management Committee: Gabrielle Power-West (Vice-President), Lyndall Beattie (Treasurer), Martin Bridgstock (Secretary), Jim Ancliffe, Neil Brown, Mary Denver, Peter O'Loughlin and Marilyn Wagland. We are fortunate to have such a talented group of people on our Management Committee.



As you are aware, we no longer are able to offer face-to-face classes but our creative tutors have found other ways of running their classes - Zoom, email, discussion groups etc. We expect that we will need to continue with *Remote Learning* until we are given clearance by the government to cease social distancing measures for our age demographic. At present we are hoping for the best but we may not be able to resume normal classes until sometime in 2021.

We encourage all of our tutors and students to embrace *Remote Learning*. Even when we resume, we may still offer this in some classes in addition to our normal face-to-face mode. It would open our classes to a wider audience who are not geographically constrained and also make them available to others who are unable to travel. A chance for a chat and a coffee and a smiling face eases the isolation.

We are in negotiations about retaining our Adelaide St premises for as long as possible, with the expectation that we can return to normal classes very quickly as soon as this becomes feasible. Our Creek St premises are also dormant but can be put back into use at short notice.

We will update our website regularly and keep our members informed as changes occur. We hope you will support us at this time as we try to retain our current programme now and into the future.

Enjoy the challenge and remember that we are here to support you.

## **U3A Brisbane Transformed: from Greg Taylor, ICT Coordinator**

In just a few short weeks our U3A has transformed itself into an online learning powerhouse, thanks to the magnificent efforts of our tutors and members in embracing new technology. We have over 210 classes still running in some form, including 107 Zoom classes at the time of writing. We salute you all.

This new world opens up opportunities that previously weren't conceivable. Many of you will know friends and relatives living in regional areas where they don't have the benefit of a local U3A. But if they have a reasonable Internet connection they can join U3A Brisbane and enrol in our online classes. Let them know they too can now experience the joys of learning in a friendly environment. Of course they should enquire with the tutor first if they plan to join a specific class to ensure there are vacancies. Check our offerings either on the [Class Timetable](#) or the [Class Search](#) page.

Contact the office if you have questions about this new opportunity: [office@u3brisbane.org.au](mailto:office@u3brisbane.org.au)

If you are enrolled in a class that offers Zoom sessions but haven't yet attended one, the process is very simple. You don't need to obtain a Zoom account, just install the Zoom software on your PC, laptop, iPad, tablet or phone. The procedure is described on our [Attending Online Classes](#) page. Shortly before the online session the tutor will email you a link to join the session. Just click on the link and you will join the class. If you don't have a camera or microphone, or don't wish to use them, you can still observe the class on screen. Contact our IT help team if you need assistance: [help@u3brisbane.org.au](mailto:help@u3brisbane.org.au)

Tutors wishing to teach classes using Zoom, should consult our [Running Classes Online](#) page.

## Brisbane Facebook Page: from Greg Doolan, Publicity

We are living in unprecedented times and hopefully, all members are coping as well as can be expected during this phase of self-isolation. However, this can also be a time when we are encouraged to learn new ways of communicating with our friends as it is now more important than ever to stay mentally stimulated and socially engaged.

There are various options to keep in contact, and one great way of staying in touch is via the Brisbane Facebook page which now has a following in excess of 2700.



The main focus of our Facebook page is to inform members of events and happenings within our U3A, to enlighten and inform with posts of interesting items of news from various organisations that are relevant to our age demographic and to entertain with various light-hearted items that, hopefully, will bring a smile during these difficult times.

In addition to the above, we are adding a little flavour to the mix in the form of 'armchair travel'. This has come about because at this time of the year quite a few members, the writer included, often take advantage of the northern summer to travel to the northern hemisphere, either to visit friends or family or to just soak up the culture and sights of another country. Unfortunately, that is not an option this year.

With this in mind, we recently posted a virtual tour of some of the most famous museums in the world such as the Louvre, Tate Modern and the British Museum. This idea of virtual travel proved to be extremely popular, with many favourable comments being posted. Encouraged by this success, the plan is to continue with this theme and the next presentation is a virtual tour of some of the famous gardens of the world.

If you have any interesting items you think should be shared with other members or might just brighten up someone's day, please send to: [publicity@u3brisbane.org.au](mailto:publicity@u3brisbane.org.au) and they will be included in our Facebook offerings. The Brisbane Facebook page can be accessed as follows:

[www.facebook.com/www.u3brisbane.org.au/](https://www.facebook.com/www.u3brisbane.org.au/)

## Remembering Ros Gresshoff: from Yvonne McGann and Georgia Cumming

One of our U3A stalwarts, Ros Gresshoff, passed away earlier this month. Ros worked in the office some time ago, was a past member of the Winter School committee and was the Coordinator of the much-loved Classic Movies class after Frank Callinan had to step down from the role. Of late, she was a member of the Mindfulness and Metta for Elders class. Ros was a very enthusiastic, friendly, happy and committed member of U3A Brisbane. Our sincere sympathy goes to her husband, Peter, and her friends and class members. Vale, Ros.

## Office News: from Yvonne McGann

Please note that the office email is read every day by Yvonne McGann who is accessing them from home. She asks that members not leave phone messages as the phones are unattended.

## Medical review changes for drivers over 75: forwarded by the Office

Senior Queenslanders are being supported to stay at home with the Queensland Government changing its medical certificate requirements for drivers 75 and over.

Two changes have been made and will be in place from 10 April 2020:

- Medical certificates to drive that expired after 29 January 2020 will be considered valid until 6 months after the COVID-19 emergency ends.
- During the COVID-19 emergency period, drivers aged 75 or over won't be committing an offence if they are driving without holding a valid medical certificate.

Drivers who are 75 years or older **and** have an 'M' condition on their driver licence will need to call us on 13 23 80 or email [medcert@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:medcert@tmr.qld.gov.au) to have their current medical certificate extended.

The changes to medical certificate requirements will help reduce the chance of exposure for some of our more vulnerable community members.

If you have a condition that worsens, or if you develop a new permanent or long-term condition that is likely to affect your ability to drive safely, you **must** notify us immediately and you **must not** drive until you are reassessed by a doctor and have a new medical certificate issued.

If you are unwell, or have health concerns, you are still encouraged to contact your GP or health professional. Everyone in the community is encouraged to relay this information to older friends and relatives to help ease their concerns.

For more information, visit: <https://www.qld.gov.au/seniors/transport/senior-drivers/safe-driving>

## Member Support Group News: from Robyn Bunting

One of the most valuable benefits U3A provides to members is the opportunity for social interaction. A lot of us live alone. The current suspension of classes has meant we are deprived of our fellow members' company and conversation.

So, a few dedicated members are establishing a service where you can contact us or we can contact you to chat about how you are faring. Feel free to get in touch by emailing us at: [membersupport@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:membersupport@u3abrisbane.org.au)

## Logan District News: from Anita Pope

Self-Isolation – Missing friends, and social contact? We would all love to get back together, and this is exactly what this virus wants. Try a new way to keep up with your groups and deny the virus the chance to spread.

My craft group can't sit around the table sharing our projects but we are emailing each other with friendly updates, and are still offering support even if at this time it is only emotional support. It is important to not drop off the radar and keep touch even in this limited way.

It was difficult to find something communal for mahjong, but one of our group (let's call her Carolyn) found an online game that four of us could log into together. There are teething problems getting started, not the least of

which is the 30 seconds you get for your turn as I often need a little longer, but we have found we can make conference calls on our mobiles and speak to each other while we play. This helps tremendously. The App was a little tricky to work around to get us started, but if anyone else is interested it is called redmahjong and it works well on mobiles. You register yourself and create a user name and you will need to find out the user names of your other three players. You then push a button to invite them to play and an invite is sent to them. Wonderful what technology can do!

## **Scinema International Science Film Festival: from Marty Gellender**

In previous years, I have organised special classes at U3A to screen award-winning films from the Scinema International Science Film festival, and these screenings were well-attended. While the films all relate to some aspect of science, they are very much geared to the general public. The films are generally entertaining, as well as educational. The films vary in duration from a few minutes to an hour or more.

Since our activities are now largely restricted to what we can do online, U3A members will be pleased to know that Scinema films from previous years can now be freely accessed online, via the following link:

[Past Scinema Films](#)

## **Computer Section News: from Gwenn Ball**

Due to the cancellation of the tutor's European travel plans, we are able to offer three new online classes:

- Photoshop for Beginners and Advanced Students
- Introduction to Music and Video Streaming Services
- Introduction to Voice over the Internet

These classes are now available for enrolment, either by contacting the tutor, Ben Lindeboom, directly by email : [ben.lindeboom@aapt.net.au](mailto:ben.lindeboom@aapt.net.au), or mobile phone: 0435 269 255, or through the U3A website.

## **Class notes: From the Editor**

Please let other U3A members know what your class is up to by emailing the Editor at :  
[enews@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:enews@u3abrisbane.org.au)

## **Digital Photography from Mike Bryan**

This is to advise you of the goings-on of Digital Photography at 2 pm on Fridays. We are basically continuing as per normal and are having our weekly get-together by email, exchanging photos and ideas and comments as per usual. The class is very enthusiastic and shows no signs of disintegration.

## **Internet French from Debra McPhee**

I've been an Internet junkie since the 1990s, so it was a no-brainer to facilitate French via Internet and to move to classes with Zoom. Zoom is an online communication tool that allows people to talk with each other and see each other. I have used Zoom for some time as a participant mostly as a student in language classes. Hosting is a totally different thing. There is a lot to learn with different features. It's very rare for me to be in a situation

where I think my stomach is going to implode, but the first weeks of Zoom lessons certainly did that.

I've settled into it more now thanks to our super supportive, patient, and friendly group. And now we have not one but two Zoom classes each week.

The host's computer screen can be shared, allowing everybody to watch a video, sing along with a song, read a poem, anything that the host can see on the screen.

One of Zoom's superpowers is to mute everyone; the host chooses whom to unmute. A tutor's dream come true!

I like to dress up when I go into my classes and I've tried to stick to this routine because it's good to have a little bit of structure. Of course, for better or worse, while on Zoom, nobody sees what's below the waist. I take advantage of this, except I'm a bit of a shoe tragic so instead of wearing my beautiful shoes, I'm going to French Internet barefoot.

## Ancient Greek: from Ann Scott

The March edition of e-News included a tribute to Emeritus Professor Bob Milns, former Professor of Classics and Ancient History at UQ, and sometime U3A Ancient Greek tutor, who died earlier this year.

For 10 years Ann Scott (Co-Tutor of the African History class) edited a journal called *Nova* for the University of Queensland Alumni Friends of Antiquity (a Classics support group). Below is a link to a special issue she produced as a guest editor as a tribute to Bob which his friends, both classicists and non-classicists alike, may like to read.

[Nova Special Tribute Issue](#)

## A last word from the Editor:

Jean Smith

And, finally, for a bit of light relief, I have selected some lines from a poem Anne Hetherington sent me:

*Remember when...*

*Mum used to cut windsor sausage, chop eggs, and spread butter on bread on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.*

*Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember anyone getting E. coli.*

*Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in a creek, the pond or at the beach instead of a pristine chlorinated pool (which we didn't have anyway).... no beach closures then either.*

*.... does anyone remember feeding on antibiotics every few weeks? And what about getting that cut fixed with Dettol and a band aid instead of three visits to the doctor?*

*We played "King of the Castle" on piles of dirt or gravel left on vacant building sites and when we got hurt, mum pulled out the 2/6p bottle of iodine and then we got our backside spanked.*

*Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of antibiotics and then mum calls the lawyer to sue the contractor*

*for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.*

*How did we ever survive?*