



## Editor's Notes: from Jean Smith

'How are you?' Acceptable responses to this question include 'Fine', 'Not bad', 'Can't complain'. But sometimes what I really want to say is 'I'm fed up with all of it, and I want my old life back again.' I don't think I am alone in this. A recent report on the ABC website noted *'there might be times you feel grief about COVID-19 very intensely, and times you don't feel it so much'*.

I felt it very intensely the other day. I inadvertently knocked off a phalaenopsis bud I had not noticed, and found myself mourning the flowers that would never bloom. The absurdity of the situation, especially against the current backdrop of real loss and real sadness, was not lost on me.

And so, I have renewed my determination to enjoy those things that have not been lost or changed. Gardening, a good book, a coffee catch-up with a friend – and, of course, U3A!

Two weeks ago, my second grand- daughter was born in Melbourne. Of course I would love to see her, but FaceTime is a wonderful way to meet her and enjoy the minutiae of her day.

So, when I am next asked how I am, I will truthfully reply, 'Not bad!'



## President's Message: from Des Taylor

Hello all.

I hope you are enjoying your Term 3 classes.

As I mentioned last month our tutors and their classes were surveyed to see if they would return to face-to-face classes in Term 4. The results of this survey indicated that the majority of tutors recognised that, with the current government rules regarding distancing and the current dangers associated with a return to the classroom, especially at the city campus, it is not possible to resume face-to-face classes in Creek or Adelaide Street this year. City campus classes will continue online for the rest of the year.

The Management Committee appreciates that this is not good news for many who value the social aspects of the city venues but social interaction is exactly what the government seeks to limit in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19.



However, we have devised some COVID Safe plans for indoor and outdoor classes for our **Districts** so some District classes can run if they comply with our COVID Safe plans. Some city classes that normally run in our city classrooms have also elected to become District classes in Term 4 to take advantage of this opportunity.

We have been guided by the government rules and the advice of our Medical Advisory Group in the creation of these COVID Safe plans and the current plans have been approved by our Medical Advisory Group. I realise that they will be quite strict and the classes that many of you enjoy such as cards, mahjong, dancing, singing will not be allowed under these plans but the health and in some cases even the survival of some of our members is at the forefront of our minds. The rising death toll of people in Victoria in our demographic has reminded us daily of the risk. We are lucky that there are many other options available to us.

The COVID Safe plans are [now available on our website](#). Every Member who is interested or who wishes to enrol in a District class should read these. We are also introducing a *new QR Code app* for mobile phones. We ask members attending face-to-face classes to assist tutors in maintaining accurate attendance rolls by using this new feature. It is easy to use and you will find more details later in this issue of eNews.

We need to remember that the restrictions that we are living with may be in place for some time and we need to learn how we can make the most of the opportunities available to us. I am very much enjoying the classes I am currently doing in Term 3 and look forward to continuing them in Term 4. Thank goodness for Zoom.

Thank you for your continued financial support. It allows us to continue and to maintain our city premises at least in the short term. Remember that [class fees, donations](#) and [Membership fees](#) can be paid online.

Remember Membership fees paid after 1st September cover you through to the end of 2021. Membership fees are still \$40. They will be increasingly important to us this year as not only will they support us financially, but will give us an indication of enrolments for 2021 and aid our planning which is difficult, given the uncertainty of the future when we are living with COVID 19.

If you have any questions or comments please send to: [feedback@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:feedback@u3abrisbane.org.au)

Stay safe and enjoy life. It is a gift.

## Special Zoom Events in September from Marilyn Wagland

The following guest lectures will be delivered via Zoom in September. If you wish to participate, you will need to go onto the U3A website to book. A link will then be sent to you before the session is due to begin. We thank our colleagues at U3A Redlands District for organizing the first two presentations.

### **Monday 7 September at 9.30am. Margaret Olley Centre**

Connect virtually to learn more about the Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre in Murwillumbra NSW. Ingrid Hedgcock, Curator of the Margaret Olley Art Centre, will discuss the gallery's unique collection of artworks by Margaret Olley and share insights into the re-creation of this Australian artist's famous home studio, comprising over 21,000 objects.

### **Monday 14 September at 9.30am. Donald Bradman Museum**

Social history is about our identity and in Australia, so much of it can be narrated through sport. The curator of the Donald Bradman Museum will discuss parts of the collection which dates back to 1750, tell stories and



anecdotes and of moments in history that mark who we are. During the presentation, he will talk about the museum, Don Bradman the man and some interesting occasions in the history of cricket.

#### **Thursday 24 September at 10.00am. Lost Brisbane**

Since the 1960s, Brisbane has undergone considerable change, with its city skyline dramatically altered as new buildings reach for the sky. Unfortunately, this progress has resulted in the loss of many of our fine buildings. Ron Baker, an esteemed and decorated retired heritage architect, will remind us of the long-lost buildings that once graced our city. How many lost buildings can you recall?

[Book online](#) on the U3A website to attend.

#### **Office News: from Yvonne McGann (Office Manager)**

Membership renewals for 2021 are now payable, and are still only \$40 per annum.

Paying online is a great help in streamlining our administration. Our online payment system has been in operation for seven years and is safe, secure and convenient. Just go to our website [www.u3abrisbane.org.au](http://www.u3abrisbane.org.au) and click on [Membership Renewal](#) on the lower menu. You will be asked for your membership number, surname and credit card number.

No password is required for this purpose. You can use only Visa or Mastercard as we cannot accept American Express for online payments. **If you have a PayPal account you can also pay by PayPal.** There is also an option to pay by Bank Transfer, whereby you will be provided with our account details.

Although the office is unattended at present, we have an alternative phone number if you wish to contact the office: 0479 146 843.

If you know of anyone interested in joining U3A Brisbane, they can join now and their membership will be current to end of 2021.

#### **Remembering Michael Kelly, 18<sup>th</sup> May 1939 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020 from Ros Macdonald**

I have known Michael since Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006, when I turned up, very apprehensive I might add, to my first Latin class at U3A. It was in the Canegrowers' Building at 190 Edward Street. I have been a (not very good) student of his since then. At that time Michael was a tutor in classics at the University of Queensland. He had a PhD in classical poetry. There were three of us in the class – three women, all friends. The others have since moved on, and there have been many students who have come and gone in the meantime.

There are three of us now, and we have been together for some years. At the beginning of this year, as Michael had been quite unwell (although whenever you asked him about his health the answer was the same - 'good – in parts'), we stopped our weekly journeys into the city and met at his home in The Gap. When COVID19 struck, these visits stopped.

So, it was some time since I last had seen him. He will be sorely missed.

These are my recollections of Latin with Michael.

Michael was an upright Englishman. We discussed many matters of interest other than Latin in our weekly sessions, and were very comfortable with his idiom and little phrases – one I loved and have often repeated is ‘unlike the homelife of our own dear Queen’. He referred to others as ‘chaps’. His knowledge of Latin (and Greek) was, to his students, extraordinary, and he pushed his classes, giving us quite difficult work to translate. He used to tell us that he learnt his classics at the age of eleven at Bancroft’s, an English Public School. I confused its name once with Broadmoor, which did cause him to raise an eyebrow. He was very proud of his education there, and was horrified, as only an upright Englishman could be, when it became co-educational.

I only know snippets of his early life. He was in the RAF, as a fighter pilot, and entertained us with stories of his life then. One story that had me enthralled, was his experience during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. He and his fellow pilots were on continuous combat alert – sitting in a nuclear cage in Germany waiting for the apocalypse. He said he was terrified the whole time.

He was a marvellous teacher. I think I exasperated him at times - I could never scan properly (I still can’t) but I learnt a lot. He *always* had to correct my Latin, but it gave me a goal – mind you I still have not reached it, but at least I can read building inscriptions (well, some at least). I have loved his classes from the beginning. His austere exterior was really quite malleable, once I learnt how!

Because of him and his love of Latin, I have travelled to ancient times and heard and read of wondrous events. I have bookshelves full of Latin books and the works of great Latin authors. I still get my grammar mixed up and my vocabulary is absolutely dreadful, but there is a certain joy, far greater than crosswords or Sudoku can give, of having achieved something when, after having tried for hours to translate a passage, he agreed with my translation in class.

*Vale, Michael. Requiescas in pace*

**Brisbane City News**  
from Gail Hawkins  
[tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au)

Now that it has been confirmed there will be no face-to-face classes in the City Campus rooms in Term 4, we have more and more tutors offering their classes through Zoom or via email communications. When the Term 4 Class Schedule is released, I would recommend that members make prompt contact with tutors to enrol in classes of choice. As class numbers are not dictated by the room allocation, many tutors have increased their class sizes and can accommodate additional students.

For many, offering remote teaching has taken Tutors way out of their comfort zone and I am in awe of the perseverance, dedication and progress shown to ensure that classes can continue. It is unfortunate that some classes do not suit external teaching, and in those instances, classes have been made inactive, to be resumed when classrooms are again operational.

Even in these challenging times we welcome some new tutors offering classes in Term 4. It is certainly a different introduction to U3A, but I hope it is one they will enjoy, and our members make rewarding for them.

**IT Group News**  
from Diane Arapovic  
[itgroup@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:itgroup@u3abrisbane.org.au)

**September online meeting: Smartphones and Technology - A Brave new World**

Presenter: **Chris (Nobby) Hobbs**

Date: **Saturday 12th September** from 10.00am

Continuing on recent IT Group sessions, we will be looking at how to make the most of our smartphones and home computers during this time of change. Topics covered will include:

**Smartphones and computers** – what are they? What's available? How much?

- \* Using your smartphone and computer
- \* Is it safe? I've heard people have had money stolen. Don't they track everything I do?
- \* What's an app? What apps do I need on my phone or computer and how do I use them?

**Using technology:**

- \* Ordering online for home delivery
- \* Receiving bills online and paying online (moving away from paper)
- \* Using Zoom and/or telehealth consultations
- \* Downloading eBooks and films

[Book online on the U3A IT Group page](#) (click on Next Meeting).

## New QR Code System from Greg Taylor

Under COVID Safe rules, U3A Brisbane is required to keep accurate records of attendances at face-to-face meetings in case health authorities need it for contact tracing purposes. We are asking members who attend **face-to-face classes** in Term 4 to assist tutors by recording their own attendance in a contactless way.

**Here's how it works:**

1. Tutors will be provided with a sheet containing a QR Code (see below) specific for the class.
2. On entry, members will be asked to scan the code with their mobile phone. Our app will then ask you to enter your member number and surname. Your attendance will then be automatically entered into the class roll on our database.
3. If a fellow class member has no phone, you can assist them by entering their details on your phone.

QR Codes are becoming more common in cafes, restaurants and other public places as a means of recording your presence there. You simply point your phone camera at the code and it should show a link to our site. Touch that link and it will take you to our site. Some phones may not have this facility and in this case, you will need to download a *QR Scan app* from the phone's app store.

This code at right can be used to test your phone. It should return a green tick.

**Tutors:** We will provide more information to you in the next few weeks.

Contact [help@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:help@u3abrisbane.org.au) if you have any questions.

