



Editor's Notes: from Jean Smith



I am not one of society's *creatives* . I can play the piano – but not very well. I wouldn't know how to begin to paint a water-colour. And as for creative writing – for me it's a bit like drawing hens' teeth . Consequently I have great admiration for those who have the ability and commitment to engage in the arts, and are brave enough to submit their efforts to an audience.

Included in this month's eNews are reports from two classes (U3A Poetry Group and U3A Portraiture Class) whose members have not allowed the pandemic to interrupt their creative endeavours. There are some very talented poets and artists amongst our members, and I hope you will get as much enjoyment from their efforts as I have.



President's Message: from Des Taylor

As we approach Term 4 COVID is still with us, but the outlook especially in Queensland is a little brighter. The Government is easing restrictions but we should all remember that we are a vulnerable group and Government advice is aimed at the general population. We need to be more cautious.

Social Activities

Please be aware that any social activities organised outside formal classes are not authorised U3A activities. They will not be covered by U3A's public liability insurance. If you are out and about you should make sure that you comply with all COVID Safe rules as outlined by the Queensland government.

The public health rules to maintain include:

- Physical distancing
- 4 square metres per person when indoors
- Hand hygiene
- Respiratory hygiene
- Frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection

Please acquaint yourself with the [current Qld restrictions](#).



Note: *Physical Distancing* means staying 1.5 m away from any other person (no physical contact) and *Hand Hygiene* means using hand sanitiser frequently. (Bring your own - don't share.) Remember, sharing anything, including cars, increases the risk, as does the use of Public Transport or Public Toilets etc. This is the new normal for us at the moment and should apply to all of our activities.

Term 4 Classes

There is some good news for U3A members. We are now offering some Face-to-Face classes in the Districts. These classes will comply with our U3A COVID Safe Plans. The following face-to-face classes will be available in Term 4 (as at time of writing):

Wynnum

Friday, A17 Penmanship 12.00 – 2.00

Logan

Monday, B112 Tai Chi for Seniors 9.00 – 10.30

Tuesday, B91 Advanced Tai Chi 10.00 – 11.00

Tuesday, L66 Creative Writing 10.00 – 11.30

Wednesday, X83 Travellers Group 10.00 – 11.30

Thursday, B108 Chi Kung 9.00 am – 11.30

Thursday, M08 Ukelele Singalong 9.30 – 11.30

Friday, M29 Guitar Group 12.00 – 1.30

Northside

Wednesday, B111 Croquet for Seniors 9.00 – 10.30

Friday, A83 Pencil and Charcoal Portraiture 12.00 – 2.30

City Precinct

L07 Book Discussion Group Friday 9.30 – 11.00

Members attending face-to-face classes are advised that tutors have been provided with QR Code Sheets so that members can register their attendance in class using a phone. Please see our [QR Code page](#) for more information.

The Adelaide and Creek Street rooms will remain closed for the rest of the year as indoor restrictions remain in place. City Classes will continue online, including **8 new Zoom classes**.

Membership

Remember [Membership fees](#) can be paid online now and will 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.

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 and Donations](#) can also be paid online.

The future is now looking a little brighter. If we maintain the distancing and hygiene rules recommended, we may not only avoid COVID19 but also other ailments such as the 'flu. We will have learnt a valuable lesson for the future from 2020.

If you have any questions or comments please send to: feedback@u3abrisbane.org.au

Stay safe.

Two Special Complementary Online Events: from Sheila Mackay, Art History Tutor

Thursday 8 October at 6.00 pm

U3A Brisbane has received an invitation from Dee Rennie, Development Manager – Queensland College of Art and Griffith Film School, to join renowned journalist Kerry O'Brien and celebrated Indigenous author Bruce Pascoe as part of Griffith's 'A better future for all' series. In what promises to be a fascinating conversation they will explore the way Bruce's critically acclaimed book *Dark Emu: Black Seeds: Agriculture or Accident?*¹ challenges conventional thinking about the First Australians as hunter gatherers. This is a free online event at 6pm on 8 October and bookings can be made at:

<https://betterfuture.griffith.edu.au/bruce-pascoe/>

Monday 12 October at 10.00 am

Complementing the Griffith Film School presentation, Martin Bridgstock, Griffith University academic and member of the U3A Management Committee, will present a critique of '*Dark Emu: Black Seeds: Agriculture or Accident*'. Martin's research has uncovered some interesting facts which readers of this controversial novel will enjoy hearing.

If you wish to participate, you will need to go onto the U3A website to book, as per link below. A link for the Zoom session will then be sent to you before the session is due to begin.

[Book here](#)

Remembering Dr Wilfred (Bill) Richards: 1917 -- 2020 from Ray Bricknell

Many U3A Brisbane members knew and respected Bill Richards, who died peacefully at the Villa Maria Residential Aged Care facility in the early hours of Sunday 13 September.

The volunteer office staff of U3A Brisbane put on a 100th birthday party in the Adelaide Street premises for Bill in December 2017, and it was a very happy occasion for Bill and the almost 100 U3A members who attended. Indeed, for most of us it was probably the only 100th birthday celebration we will ever attend. On that occasion, whilst enjoying a glass of bubbly, Bill told us how, after graduating as a doctor, he arrived a day late at the military hospital to which he was posted and, as punishment, the Commanding Officer assigned him to the psychiatric ward – where he found his calling.

Bill practiced psychiatry in Townsville for more than half a century and was the only psychiatrist north of Brisbane for many years. He was appointed Director of Psychiatric Services in North Queensland, and also ran a private consultancy. Towards the end of this career, he specialised in medico-legal (forensic) psychiatry, and continued practicing until well into his eighties. He was also a champion chess player. Those who attended classes with him will remember Bill as a very intelligent, knowledgeable, articulate person, with a vast knowledge of history and a great memory. One cannot live to 102 without being courageous and a battler.

At 101 Bill fell and broke his hip, and whereas most of us would probably have given up at that point, Bill endured eight weeks bed-bound in hospital, religiously did his exercises in bed, and eventually managed to walk well enough to return to his West End apartment, where he lived independently. Amazingly, before the first broken hip Bill walked with his wheelie-walker from West End to U3A Brisbane two or three times a week to attend classes (he said U3A gave him a new lease on life), but a second fall saw him hospitalised again. After recovering a second time, he relocated to Villa Maria, where he walked for exercise every day behind his wheelie-walker.

Bill was still participating in the U3A Brisbane Macroeconomics class via Zoom until a few weeks before

he died, and was still taking an interest in the world and could conduct a sensible conversation about world affairs right up until a few days before he finally succumbed to the forces of nature. He will be sadly missed by those of us who knew him well.

Remembering Eileen Sullivan: from Logan U3A Creative Writing Class

It is with great sadness that the Creative Writing Class of Logan U3A has seen the passing of our tutor Eileen Sullivan. Eileen started our group at the Beenleigh Neighbourhood Centre in February 2016. People have come and gone over the years and at the moment there are just four of us, but we a great group.

Some of us had joined the class to be able to write our own history in an innovative manner. That, however, quickly went by the wayside as we rose to the challenges of completing the homework Eileen set us each week. Try writing 500 words about a photo of an old brown suitcase. If that was not challenging enough, she said she needed *two* different short stories about the suitcase. We can still hear her chuckling at our moans and groans.

Eileen was a very private person, but we were fully aware that the cancer she had thought she had beaten had returned with a vengeance. We also felt for her when her only daughter died last year. We supported her as much as possible and greatly admired her inner strength. She never lost her sense of humour.

My fellow class members have added their individual memories. Dan wrote, "From my first contact with Eileen, I knew that her U3A classes would be enjoyable. Anybody that had an email address called 'eileen8allthe pies' definitely had a great sense of humour and Eileen had that even when things were quite grim in her life. There was also no evidence at all that Eileen ever indulged in eating pies! She was always so positive and encouraging even when our "homework" had obviously been rushed with our last-minute efforts. Eileen was a warm, compassionate and stimulating presence in our class and she will be sorely missed."

Margaret noted, "If I ever published a book it would be dedicated to Eileen. As I continue to write short stories and work on a longer piece, I often hear her voice in my head, advising me on how to make the most of my efforts. I was literally quivering in my boots when I first had to read a completed story out loud, as I had never before had the courage to let anyone share my writing. With Eileen's encouragement and constructive critique, I soon overcome my fears and as my confidence grew, so did my writing skills, thanks to her tutelage. I will always be grateful for her encouragement, feedback and dedication to her students."

Melissa reiterated the sentiments of her class-mates: "Eileen taught me to do better and to do more. I learned so much since starting the class and because of Eileen, I have opened up even more."

I (Valerie) look back at the efforts to write twenty years ago, and the improvements I have made since then. Everything the others have said, is ditto for me. Thank you so much Eileen. Gone but not forgotten.

Australia Post Seniors Pen Pal Club Program: From Diane Arapovic

Australia Post has launched the Seniors Pen Pal Club program 'to bring back the joy of letter writing and spark connections between seniors' groups in Australia'.

The program is designed for those associated with an organisation that caters to over 55s. Information on how you or your U3A group can get involved can be found at:

<https://auspost.com.au/about-us/supporting-communities/senior-pen-pal-club>

Lockdown Lyrics: from Dallas Elvery and the U3A Poetry Group 2020

Away with 'hurry-scurry', and in with 'topsy-turvy'. A truly wacky Covid-induced upside-downing of our universes. I hear you ask – 'Will things ever be the same again?'

Members of the U3A L75 poetry group decided to capture their feelings and experiences during the early months of Covid-19, a time of upheaval for many, a time of grief for many.

Typically for this Covid-time, the book has been brought into being through emails and Zoom meetings. It brings together a wide range of responses that were penned between the beginning of the lockdowns, in late March 2020, through to July 2020. By July, there had been a considerable easing of restrictions in many states. Meanwhile, we are once again being stalked by this monster.

Lockdown, such a different time for many, evoked a great diversity of responses. Rapid changes in perception, accompanied with a good deal of emotional upheaval.

We hope you enjoy our jottings and musings. Perhaps in times to come, they may provide an opportunity to reflect on that time when the whole world paused.

If you would like to obtain a copy of *Lockdown Lyrics*, which also includes pre-Covid writings, in the first instance, please contact the Enews editor, at enews@u3abrisbane.org.au. The cost will be around \$7 or \$8, depending on the number being ordered.

Pandemic – Yvonne Pick

*Panic
And
Needless
Disaster
Emanates
Malevolently
Into Countries*

Class on Zoom – David Poole

*Our class now on Zoom
Which I see in my room
With all of my lovely old Stuff
Has quite a nice feel
And almost seems real
And there's no travel – (which can be tough).*

*But soon I do hope
That we will all get back
To our meeting in person in Town
And we'll share all our verse
Be it good, bad, or worse,
And stop from a further get-down!*

*So far as a poet
I've not had much luck
In finding a good rhyme for 'Covid'
All I can do is think of that old and
Revered Latin poet called 'Ovid'*

*But of him I know little because I made a switch
From Classics at my school to Science.
So farewell to Ovid – but there’s a new hitch
What on earth can I make rhyme with Science?*

*The water I’m getting in deepens each verse
Perhaps I’m not so much a Poet
But if you will all put up with this getting worse
I’ll keep in the Class – and drink to it!*

U3A Portraiture class members keep learning, connected and drawing! from Carol Owens and Maeve Cunningham

Maeve Cunningham, U3A student and emerging artist said, “COVID-19 emptied our U3A rooms and jolted us into a new order, but our Pencil and Charcoal Portraiture class tutor Carol Owens took us online via an email discussion group platform.

We all know how lucky we’ve been to get cheerful Friday emails from Carol with tips for music, relaxation, YouTube clips to watch and a drawing focus for the week. Thank you U3A and Carol!

Each week, or whenever we find time to draw, we fearlessly share our sketches online...and add snippets that let us get to know a little about each other. What fabulous encouragement this has been to keep us drawing and connected. We’ve had wrinkles, curly hair, blonde wispy hair, self-portraits, caps, lips, eyeglasses, expressions...you name it we draw it!

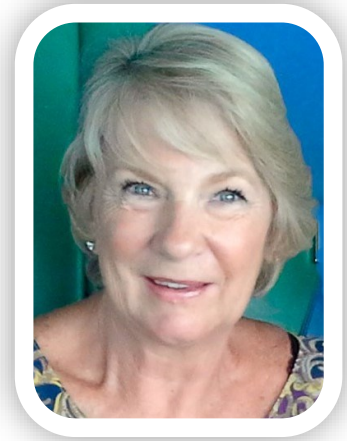
For our Term 3 finale Carol suggested a worthy subject - Doctor Jeanette Young, Queensland’s respected, hardworking, reassuring Chief Health Officer. Not only does she fit the bill for many of our weekly challenges so far, but we were excited about drawing a face we now know so well and associate with serious calmness and good sense. Please enjoy some of our Dr. J sketches until we all meet again...and maybe we can deck the Creek Street walls with our COVID-time artwork.”

Editor’s note: More sketches will be included in next month’s E-news



City News:
from Gail Hawkins
tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au

Although City Campus is still not able to offer face-to-face classes, where possible our tutors are continuing their classes by other means, mainly via Zoom or email. I am pleased to say that enrolments in the Term 4 classes have been strong, but there are still many classes that can accept additional students. In the past there have been complaints that language classes are not available as they show 'full'. This is an ideal opportunity to check out our language classes and contact the tutor as we have a number of classes that can still accept enrolments.



Listed below are classes that you may be interested in, but you need to contact the tutor to confirm availability:

Monday

- J190 Portuguese for Beginners & Intermediate
- J166 Mandarin Intermediate
- J136 English for Speakers of Other Languages

Tuesday

- J43 French
- L75 Poetry
- H10 Two Heroines in the Bible :Ruth & Esther
- L10 Literature Out of Africa
- F72 Sudoku
- F73 Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners
- J50 Thai for Beginners

Wednesday

- J37 Spanish Advanced & Intermediate Conversation
- E08 Arab-Israeli Dispute – Background
- J07 French – Fundamental Introduction

Thursday

- J101 Japanese – Upper Intermediate
- E36 Current World Affairs Affecting our Grandchildren
- J24 Italian – Intermediate
- H39 The Battle for Australia 1942-43
- J57 English for Speakers of Other Languages
- H41 The Burma Railway

Friday

- B72 Health and Medical Topics
- X11 Criminal Law