



Editor's Notes from Jean Smith

January, named after Janus, the Roman god of doors, is the door into the new year. Janus is also called 'the two-faced god', as he represents all beginnings and is able to see the past and the future.

Looking back, Janus would have seen a year which none of us foresaw. I wonder what Janus can see ahead for us? In my case, I have the luxury



of seeing the future more clearly – not due to newly acquired supernatural powers, but to cataract surgery!

It looks as if January 2021 is going to mark the cautious start of a more 'normal' year,

as indicated by the resumption of Face-to-Face classes. Let's hope when we look back on 2021 we are not disappointed.



President's Message from Des Taylor

Welcome to 2021. The future looks brighter. With the Government understanding more about managing COVID outbreaks and the possibility of a vaccine as early as February we can hope to resume many of our normal activities although we will still need to follow government and medical recommendations carefully in order to stay safe.

U3A Brisbane will reopen its city venues this year and **face-to-face classes will resume on Wednesday 27th January** in both the city and Districts.

Online classes will continue and resume at the same time. Offering Online as well as face-to-face classes give our members more choice and we expect this to continue into the future with many members preferring online to face-to-face classes particularly if they have health or mobility issues.



We have developed a COVID Safe plan for our face-to-face classes. This has been done with advice from our Medical Advisors. A great deal of work has gone into making these classes as safe as possible and we have instituted a number of changes to ensure this:

- Class Fees for City Campus face-to-face classes should be paid upfront for the term before the start of classes and [paid online](#) if at all possible. A voluntary recommended fee of \$25 for online classes would also be appreciated. Handling cash increases risk and all of our plans are designed to avoid risk where possible and any chance of congestion. We hope that members can maintain the 1.5m distance at all times. You should also carry a mask and wear it if the distance cannot be maintained.
- The room capacity in city venues has been carefully considered and class sizes limited as a result. District face-to-face classes also follow a COVID Safe Plan.
- We are using [our QR Code system](#) to record attendances. This is becoming standard across Australia with many Restaurants, Coffee shops etc. using this method and governments making it mandatory in some places. Help will be available if you are unsure or do not have an appropriate phone. You must know your U3A number before coming to class.
- If you do not know your U3A Membership Number, then click on the Member Dashboard on the website. Click on "Forgotten Membership Number" and enter your U3A email address and your Membership Number will be emailed to you.

Please also use the [Member Dashboard](#) to **check that you are enrolled in the correct classes and check which room has been allocated and where it is located**. There is a link to the room layout on the Member Dashboard and you can see exactly where you have to go so there will be no need for delay and less chance of congestion. You can also see the day and time for your classes, whether you have paid your class fees or not, and your recent Payment History.

I have been pleased to see so many members renewing memberships and enrolling in classes and it is wonderful to see many classes that could not operate online resuming this year.

Welcome back everyone. I hope you enjoy the classes, challenge your mind and make new friends or renew old friendships.

Enjoy life. Stay Safe.

Vale Donal O'Sullivan - Sudoku Tutor from Yvonne McGann

We were saddened to hear that Donal O'Sullivan passed away recently after a short illness. Donal was an enthusiastic advocate of Sudoku and was keen to teach U3A Brisbane members how to participate. When members progressed from his Beginners' class, he even started a new one at a more advanced level, coming into the city two mornings each week.

Donal was a lovely man and we, in the office, were always happy to see him and to help in any way he needed. Our condolences go to Donal's family and friends.

Southside News from Pat Collins

X14 Enhancing your presentations



Want to know how to become a confident presenter and make your presentations interesting? In only 7 weeks Dr Vicki Roberts will provide you with the tips and tricks that will allow you to confidently present to any audience size on any topic.

Course venue: Sunnybank Hills library

Start date: Monday 1st February at 11:30. [Enrolments welcome](#)

R02 A Panorama of Major World Views - vacancies

If you are looking for a course that will both enlighten and challenge you, Dr Wayne Weiler has vacancies in his program, **R02 A Panorama of Major World Views**, face-to-face at Carindale library. In this course, Wayne will guide you in an examination of the major Political, Religious and Philosophical beliefs that have framed our modern world. You will examine the concept of God, humanity and the foundations of civilization. Term 1 will be looking at the religion of Islam - its History, Beliefs and its place in the world today.

Location: Carindale library, Westfield Carindale shopping centre

Start date: Wednesday 27 January 2021, start time 12:30 pm for 1hr, 15 min. [Enrolments welcome.](#)

Wynnum News from Chris (Nobby) Hobbs

The Wynnum Craft Group (A65) has decided to discontinue their activity as a U3A group. They will, however, continue to meet as a private, social group. Enquiries can be made via the [Wynnum District page](#) on the website..

Skilled Volunteers Wanted from Greg Taylor

Computer And Audiovisual Support

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers with technical skills to assist in supporting equipment used in our classrooms. If you have experience in maintaining Windows PCs, laptops, networking or audiovisual equipment we would like to hear from you. Appropriate training can be provided.

Graphics Design

We are also seeking volunteers who have graphics design experience to assist with future projects in both electronic and hard copy media.

For more information: ict@u3abrisbane.org.au

U3A – A Tutor's Perspective

A Different Sort of University: how an old dog learnt new tricks

from Roger Scott

Roger Scott, together with his wife Ann, are the co-tutors of the African history courses which have been offered at U3A since 2019.

Roger first became interested in African studies in the 1960s and spent some time in Uganda where he completed fieldwork for his thesis on the development of their trade unions. His subsequent academic career took him to Sydney, Belfast, Canberra – and finally, Brisbane where he held senior roles in educational and public administration at the University of Queensland, QUT and the Queensland State Government.

This article originally appeared in the public policy journal *Pearls and Irritations* and subsequently on the TJ Ryan Foundation website. [Read Roger's account](#) of his post-retirement return to education – the U3A experience.

U3A Pencil and Charcoal Portraiture Class

from Carol Owens



It was a merry and memorable time

First-time curators Ann Seery and Kay Lester worked with a team of U3A classmates to set up the Pencil and Charcoal Portraiture Class's inaugural exhibition at New Farm Library.

The exhibition of drawings by 10 students runs from **December to March**, with a changeover of artists/drawings mid-January. Currently there are 22 drawings exhibited.

It is the first time that many of our emerging artists (now referring to ourselves as 'Pencilers') have framed and hung their work in a public space. The exhibitions have been very appreciated by the librarians and locals.

What a brave and rewarding adventure into a new phase of creativity.

Curator Ann, 'Ladder Girl' Kay

Correction from Editor eNews

Unfortunately, December 2020's eNews incorrectly attributed Sandy Lee's journey into pencil portraiture and her drawing of a mature woman to Anne Visona, the November feature artist. Apologies to Sandy and Anne.



Sandy Lee. *Portrait of a Mature Woman*

Consultation Opportunity — Centre-Based Respite from Mary Denver

You may remember mention of this in the November eNews. COTA (Council of The Ageing) is still seeking input to their vision for Centre-Based Respite. As noted then, many of us may wish to access some form of respite care. This is an opportunity to become involved in planning a service which would benefit all.

Interested?

Please contact Karen Wilson, Project Officer, COTA Queensland, email: karen.wilson@cotaqld.org.au or call **07 3316 2912** for further details



A Brisbane North PHN,
COTA Queensland
and
healthy@home
consortium initiative

IMAGINE

THE FUTURE FOR CENTRE-BASED RESPITE

Share your dream for how centre-based respite support could look in the future

We want to hear from you if you are:

- Passionate about supporting healthy ageing in the community
- A current participant in community-based respite activities, a carer, family member or friend
- An interested citizen



Hosted Conversation
Small groups (4-8 people) over morning or afternoon tea. We'll come to you!
Available from late-January to mid-February 2021



Online Workshop
A highly engaging Zoom workshop to be held in mid-February 2021





Contact Karen Wilson, COTA Queensland,
karen.wilson@cotaqld.org.au or
07 3316 2912 for further details

healthy@home is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. Visit www.health.gov.au for more information.