



## Editor's Notes from Jean Smith



Life when I took on the role of Enews editor some four years ago was a busy mix of planning, doing, travelling etc. But we know what happened next!

The last 18 months have slipped quietly away: Mondays lightly morph into Sundays, weeks gradually work their way into another month – and as for 2021, not very different to last year.

Nowadays, life these days is a bit like a blancmange – bland, colourless, rather wobbly. Maintaining a routine of house, garden and physical health is a given, but doing things that contribute to my mental health is what energises me.

I've said it before – but it is worth repeating. U3A has been a godsend. Lectures that I *have* to do some pre-reading for; participating in discussions with experts in their particular fields; preparing my own presentation for Term 4. It all gives me a sense of purpose in these 'blancmange' days.

Thank you U3A!

## President's Message from Des Taylor

Hello all

We are now reaching the end of Term 3. It has been a difficult term. U3A Brisbane has only been able to open for 2 weeks so far, due to government capacity restrictions. Hopefully we will remain open for the next 3 weeks. (Term has been extended to 24th September.)

Term 4 classes will open for bookings on Sunday 12th September. With the increase in the number of people being fully vaccinated, it is hoped that there will be fewer lockdowns. It is expected that numbers in face-to-face classes will remain at 1 person per 2 square metres for the rest of this year. This limits our class sizes, so book a place early. If this changes, we will notify you.

There are many excellent classes both Zoom and Face-to-Face available. Once again, I find myself spoilt for choice and am struggling to see how many I can fit into my schedule. I'm particularly interested in a new class running on Monday afternoons, when John Mangan will be looking at contemporary economic issues facing Australia. John was lecturing at UQ last year and we are so lucky that he has offered to run a class for us.

### Class Fees

The Management Committee have spent some time considering our fees for Term 4, given the Lockdowns and restrictions in Term 3, but realising that we have considerable financial commitments which must be met if we are to continue. We thank all the members who paid their fees fully, even though they could not attend the number of classes expected. This has enabled us to meet our commitments to date. In Term 4 we want to keep faith with our members and do what we can to be fair, while continuing to meet our commitments. Therefore, in Term 4 we will ask for a **recommended** \$50 fee for the 10 week term for City Campus face-to-face classes rather than a set fee. This means that each member can alter the amount if they want to and pay what they consider fair.

We hope you will be generous with us when you make your decision. We rely on your Fees to survive.  
**You can now also renew your membership for 2022. It is still \$40 per year. Please renew now.**

I'm hopeful that 2022 will see fewer restrictions and gradually reach a situation where a high percentage of Australians are fully vaccinated and we will be able to experience more freedom - something to look forward to in the New Year.

Stay safe. Make the best of each day. Remember life is a gift.



## IMPORTANT REMINDER

**Bring your own water to classes.** The kitchens are not open at Creek or Adelaide St. U3A has a similar situation to a school and we must all **wear masks** correctly to stay safe. (See: [Qld Government Restrictions](#))

**The Check In Qld QR Code must be scanned** using the app on entry to all venues. This is a government directive to make contact tracing easier and to allow them to issue a warning if you have been in a COVID exposure site. This is in addition to your class attendance QR code. If you have a problem give your U3A number and Surname to the office and they will assist.

## Special Online Presentations in September from Marilyn Wagland

### Thursday 23 September 2.00 - 3.30. Frank Alpert and Ray Bricknell. What makes for a good retirement? Challenges and directions for retirement

Frank Alpert was formerly an Associate Professor in the University of Queensland's School of Business. This year, after a long and distinguished career, he found himself abruptly and unexpectedly retired. He had been working full time, and suddenly that stopped. For the first time, he had to think through questions such as: 'What makes for a good retirement? What do I do with all this time? How do I find meaning?'. Researching these questions, it seemed to him that most of the literature was about financial planning for retirement, until he found insights in the book, *How to Retire Happy, Wild and Free* by Ernie Zielinski. Zielinski argues that work not only provided structure to our lives but also provided us with an identity. Now in retirement we need to redefine that identity and create a new structure. Frank's presentation will summarise and discuss Zielinski's key ideas.

Joining Frank as a voice with long experience of retirement is Ray Bricknell, a former U3A President and tutor since 2010. Ray will share some of his experience from his 20+ years of retirement.

At the end of the presentations there will be time for questions and discussion.



### Wednesday 29 September 1.00 - 2.30. Russell Postle. The Royal Flying Doctor Service Queensland

Russell is a consultant with the accounting firm BDO, having served as a partner there until 2017. His passion though, is the Royal Flying Doctor Service. He was elected Chairman of RFDS (Qld) in 2019, having served on the Board since 1987.

Russell's talk will discuss John Flynn's concept of a "mantle of safety" for rural and remote Australia, the concept which underpins the work of the RFDS. He will look at how the organisation embraces changing health needs and technologies, and the fit between land-based services and the aviation model. The relationship between the RFDS and the broader community, whose donations allow the service to function, is crucial to its operations. The service derives financial and health services from all levels of government, and Russell will examine why a federated model works and the associated challenges. There will be a Q&A at the end of the session.

[Book Here](#) to register your interest in participating in these sessions. A link will be sent to you just prior to the start. Click on that link.

## Office News

from Yvonne McGann

During the holidays, from September 27th to October 5th, our 97 Creek St office will be unattended. You can still ring or email the office and all enquiries will be dealt with. Our office phone will be switched through to U3A's mobile.

Incidentally, if you have a friend who is interested in joining U3A Brisbane, now is a good time for them to join up. For \$40, membership will be valid for 5 terms - Term 4, 2021 and all of 2022.

## Logan News

from Bernadette Ketter

Covid has meant that we have to adapt and learn new ways. We use our phones more often than we used to and have learnt to use apps to sign in at every place we go. Whilst this is sometimes frustrating, we can also use technology to our advantage to overcome barriers. While many are disappointed that some classes can't continue due to Covid, there are still many classes on offer. Some of our tutors have successfully overcome some obstacles to still provide a full 10-week term of classes even when some of the venues in Logan have restricted class access to fortnightly. In these cases, some tutors have used Zoom to continue the classes on the alternate weeks so members still have a full term of classes. Other tutors of face-to-face classes have also used Zoom during lockdowns to allow their classes to continue or, if members find themselves in isolation, they can Zoom into their face-to-face class. Of course, not all classes can transition to Zoom.

While we are required to wear masks during classes, please be mindful that for some of us who have only a mild hearing loss, speaking through a mask can further compromise the listener's hearing ability. We use other cues for communication such as facial expressions and lip-reading which we don't realize we use until we wear masks and find it's difficult to understand what others are saying. Speaking a little louder than usual can help, as does always speaking in the direction of the person to whom you are speaking.

It is important to remember to check your emails before you attend classes. Tutors do their best to keep you up-to-date with changes imposed by venues, or the tutor may not be able to attend the class. Sometimes these changes happen at short notice. Another advantage of Covid, it has taught us to be patient and flexible.

I hope everyone enjoys their 4<sup>th</sup> term.

## U3A Social Events

from Angela Butler

For bookings, please contact the U3A office on 3236 3055, or visit the 97 Creek St office.

If you have any suggestions for trips that may be of interest, you can contact the Social Committee via email: [social@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:social@u3abrisbane.org.au).

You can also keep up to date with the latest '**SOCIAL EVENTS**' on the U3A Website: <https://www.u3abrisbane.org.au>

Booked-out events are advertised as a reminder of dates and times. Also, members can be added to a Wait list, so that if a vacancy arises, that place can then be offered to another member (however, this does not apply to QPAC events).

**Please note the following for events held at QPAC:**

These events are **NOT** supervised by the U3A Social Committee

***Please bring your own mask with you to the theatre - masks are mandatory for all patrons until otherwise advised.***

Further details re: capacity and mask wearing information can be found at:

<https://www.qpac.com.au/coronavirus-update>



Check In Qld

**For contact tracing purposes, QPAC uses the 'Check In Qld' app and encourages all patrons to download the app and fill out their details prior to attending performances at QPAC.**

Limit of two people per lift (unless you are part of the same group)

Foyer seating arranged to ensure 1.5m distancing, decreased capacities in foyers, allowing 1.5m distancing.

One-way traffic routing, with separate entry and exit points, in foyers and venues

Physical distancing markers at queuing areas such as Food and Beverage outlets and Box Office.

**If you are not comfortable with the above, QPAC events are not for you.**

**BOY SWALLOWS UNIVERSE**

**Date: 2:00pm Saturday 11th September 2021, QPAC - PLAYHOUSE THEATRE**

**This event is fully booked, and tickets have been dispatched.**

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**SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2021**

QPAC's longest running event *Spirit of Christmas* returns for its 37th year in the QPAC Concert Hall. Two of Australia's leading musical theatre stars will join a host of special guests in uplifting seasonal song, beautifully supported by a 54-piece symphony orchestra, and the glorious voices of the **QPAC Chamber Choir**.

A First Nations blessing and song will be delivered, with two of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music's musical theatre graduates also taking to the stage.

QPAC's ***Spirit of Christmas*** is a celebration of the true meaning of the festive season; an occasion to celebrate and reflect on the year that has passed and embrace the season's enduring message of Peace, Love and Joy.

**Date: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021, 2:00pm, QPAC – Concert Hall**

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

**Cost:** **Concession:** \$52.00 **Full:** \$62.00

**Bookings:** 20 seats (Maximum of 4 seats per member)

**Bookings Close:** 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021