



Editor's Notes from Jean Smith



I smile to myself when I hear political leaders claiming their party is 'a broad church'. I can't think of any party which is the perfect 'broad church' for me. This one is too narrow, that one too broad. There's always something that doesn't sit quite right with me. However, if you want to see a good example of a 'broad church', look no further than U3A. It's an international organisation. It meets in a variety of places (members' homes, outdoors, public libraries, church halls, parks, leased spaces and in the case of U3A Brisbane, its own building). Its membership brings with it wide-ranging lived experience and a commitment to keeping itself alert, both mentally and physically. Classes include film-making, history of theatre, languages, philosophical discussion, aquaerobics, walking, nature study: the list is endless and even includes whisky appreciation – offered by a Scottish U3A!

Yes, most of us have passed our 60th birthdays – but there is no upper age limit. We really are a broad church.

President's Message from Des Taylor

Hello all.

So hard to believe that another year is over and we are planning for 2022. 2021 has been a year of ups and downs or should I say "opens and closes". I want to thank all of our Tutors, members and Volunteers who have shown such resilience despite this. But, finally, our vaccination rates are improving and borders are reopening. It is the start of a new phase - 'living with COVID'.



Vaccination

Fully vaccinated people will again be able to travel and enjoy life without the severe restrictions that have been endured over the last 2 years. The Management Committee at U3A are still uncertain what the rules for unvaccinated people will be in 2022, particularly for face-to-face classes. We have contacted the Health Department and Government for detailed advice but currently the Management Committee has only the Government Roadmaps for information:

[Queensland Covid Safe Future](#) and [Queensland's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan To Unite Families](#)

We will be guided by the decisions of the Qld Government for an Association like ours and you will be notified when the position for U3A Brisbane is clarified. If you wish to give feedback on this issue please do so by replying to: feedback@u3abrisbane.org.au. We would appreciate it.

Class News

Enrolments for 2022 open on 28th November. At this stage the current capacity limitations will remain as will the other COVID Safe rules including the wearing of masks. This may change by next year. We will follow the Government directions and revise our COVID Safe plans accordingly. But remember to enrol early to ensure a place in the classes of your choice.

On the brighter side, some of the restrictions on our classes will be eased. We will allow double classes e.g. Movie and Art classes. Games involving washable pieces e.g. Chess, Mahjong, Scrabble will also be back if their Tutors are available. Other classes e.g. cards, choir, recorder will have to wait a little longer. We are being careful until we see how Queensland copes with open borders and the resulting increased risk.

2022 Fees

Class fees will remain at the normal rate of \$5 per week and \$8 for a double class. We will still retain the voluntary \$25 per term for Zoom classes. Please remember to pay your **Membership Fees (\$40) for 2022**. Our only income is from Membership and Class fees. You have been very generous in the past and I hope you will continue to be so in the future.

Current classes - Reminder

Currently we must all wear masks when attending U3A venues but may remove them when in class and sitting down. Remember to wear your mask correctly. It must cover your nose and mouth.

Remember to log in with the Government QR Code before you enter the U3A rooms. After you have entered you should use either the camera on your phone or a QR App to record your attendance in the class. Tutors also need to do this. The QR sheets for class attendance at City Campus are in the Foyer and also in the class rooms.

2022 is a new beginning. Hopefully there will be less disruption to our timetable. Keep a lookout for new classes on offer as some old favourites return and some new Tutors come on board.

Stay Safe. Enjoy every opportunity life offers.

Special Online Presentations in November from Marilyn Wagland

Thank you to our October speakers. In November, we are able to offer two more sessions for you.

**Friday 19 November 1.00pm. John Murray and Leslie Smith,
Australian Electric Vehicle Association.**

Coming Ready or Not! Electric Vehicles are Here to Stay





The session will be introduced by Dianne Tucker, Australian Conservation Foundation, Brisbane South & Logan Community Group.

Electric vehicles, from scooters to trucks and buses, are here now, and both the uptake and model availability is increasing rapidly.

So, what is this new technology, and what are these vehicles like to own? Why are electric vehicles starting to supplant more conventional vehicles and what may be the flow-ons for broader society?

Les and John have been keen early adopters of electric vehicles. Les has 9 years of owning an EV, and currently works in the burgeoning electric vehicle charging industry. John has been driving electric cars for the past 7 years. Les and John are keen to create greater understanding about the technology and its benefits beyond just transportation.

This fascinating session will include: currently available electric cars; comparative costs; charging; the coming use of battery power for home and vehicles; and much more.

There will be time for questions, so bring them along.

Thursday 25 November 1.00pm. Marilyn Woodward. DNA and Family History

If you've seen the advertisements and asked 'why would you take a DNA test', you may be interested.

If you are interested in your family history you may be interested.

If you have taken a test and don't know what to do now you may be interested.

Is a DNA test safe, how do you take a DNA test and how does it work?

How can it help with your family history? And what do I do now – I have 1000's of cousins!!

Join us on 25 Nov 2021 to get some of the answers to these questions and more.

Living in the ACT, Marilyn began her family history journey in 2010 and took her first DNA test in 2015. Since then, she has also taken a mitochondrial DNA test and manages a number of other relatives' DNA results.

In 2017 Marilyn attended a meeting to discuss the formation of a Special Interest Group (SIG) on DNA for the ACT Family History Group and since then has been one of its co- coordinators. The aim of the DNA SIG is to help members understand and interpret DNA results via education, support, and shared discussion. Marilyn is a former educator and also worked in the international student industry for many years. She now spends most of her time on the "ultimate puzzle" of her own genealogy and helping others with theirs.

[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. You can also register on the website home page.

Thank You to Pamela Davenport from Ronda Dove

We are sorry that Pamela's health is not allowing her to continue her Archaeology and Ancient History classes at U3A, where she has taught since 2005. All her former students are very grateful for her sessions and the detailed subject knowledge that she shared in her very enjoyable classes.

We studied Ancient Egypt, the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans and archaeology. Whatever our reason for enrolling, Pamela stimulated us all, keeping us engaged and amused. We know that Caligula was 'a very unpleasant character' and some other emperors were 'nasty pieces of work'! She showed great interest in all of us, and remembered our names and asked about our lives outside class. Classes were very friendly, reflecting Pamela's love of people. We renewed old friendships and made new ones and we all felt relaxed enough to make comments and discuss points that she made.

We were all impressed by Pamela's knowledge of her subject and the preparation she did for each lesson. We thoroughly enjoyed the slides and the stories of her travels. We felt we were lucky to attend classes with an archaeologist who had experience in the field, anecdotes to share and a network of experts to be consulted or invited to class as guest speakers. She has been an inspiring tutor, and has opened our eyes to many aspects of Ancient History and Archaeology. We now watch SBS archaeology programs with a better understanding, thanks to Pamela!

Pamela shared aspects of her life and her teaching career with us. She told us stories of her animals: Bacchus and Ariadne the goats, the sheep shorn by the New Zealand shearer, and Oliver the pig, everyone's favourite. Oliver started life as a little pig, and was supposed to stay that way but he Grew and Grew, until he ended up a Very Big Pig Indeed! He has now gone to live with one of Pamela's former students on a property outside Brisbane, where she can visit him and make sure he's happy. Recently he had to have his toenails trimmed. This involved giving him 40 Valium, an injection and the vet sitting on him to keep him still! This gives you some idea of Oliver's size and the anecdotes Pamela used to tell us at the start of class each week. It's no wonder we all enjoyed our time with her.

Recent class members have made these appreciative comments about Pamela's classes:

Pamela is passionate about history and made the class interesting. Barbara Fea

Pamela's love of ancient history is inspiring, and her love of teaching and her care for her students were obvious. Liz Ahrens.

Pamela's classes enabled us to enjoy our travels with more information and background. We even read 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey' because of her! Rob & Robyn Clarke.

A very heartfelt 'Thank you, Pamela', from all your former students.

Pencillers in the Park from Carol Owens

Spring has sprung and summer is on its way... Jacarandas and Poincianas bloom in New Farm and so are the University of the Third Age (U3A) Brisbane North District's Pencil and Charcoal Portraiture students who meet in New Farm Park a couple of times a month. These 24 students range from beginners to those with more experience in drawing portraits...and our creative skills thrive, despite the challenges that the Covid pandemic has thrown at us all.

The class is sharing their joy by exhibiting their drawings at the New Farm Library - from 14 October until 25 November.



Carol Owens, Tutor, said, *Due to COVID lockdowns and restrictions we decided it was time to explore outdoor drawing instead of relying on classrooms...U3A supported us to adapt quickly to using an email discussion group platform and we decided to gather in New Farm Park where we could keep our social distance and BYO equipment and chairs etc. to use. It has been a great way to connect and create in a safe environment. We now think of ourselves as 'Pencillers in the Park'. The New Farm Library exhibition is an opportunity for our class's emerging artists to get their work framed and hung in a public space. It has been a rewarding adventure into a new phase of creativity. Some of us are experimenting with colour nowadays, and we hope it brightens up our much-loved library. Previous exhibitions have been very well received by local residents.*

Exhibition Curators (front to back): Janet, Maeve, Kay, Ann, Carmel, Carol, Lorraine

Nadja Bielmeier, Librarian, New Farm Library said, *I've been here several years and never have I had so many conversations and compliments about the art we have shown, and I am sure if I asked my colleagues, they would say the same. I know some of your students were nervous about showing their work, but I am so thankful to them for sharing their beautiful art work with us all. We can see how much your skills have developed this year.*

German Books Wanted from Roger Jones

BBC *Talk German* book 1 and *Talk German* book 2 required. If anyone would like to give or sell any of these books for the good of other German students then please contact Roger Jones as below.

roger.jones7@bigpond.com or ring 0447 538 792.

Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) Conference from Mary Denver

Members may be interested in participating in an online tech conference for seniors that ASCCA is holding on Wednesday 10 November.

Note that the proceedings may include promotions that U3A Brisbane doesn't necessarily endorse.

Further information at ASCCA's website: www.ascca.org.au

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.

You can also keep up to date with the latest 'SOCIAL EVENTS' on the U3A Website:

www.u3abrisbane.org.au/groups/social-group

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2021

Date: Saturday 18th Dec 2021, 2:00pm, QPAC – Concert Hall



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

This event is fully booked, and tickets are available from the U3A Admin Office &/or have been mailed.

If you have opted to collect your tickets from the office, please ensure that you do that before Friday 10th December (last day of term).

An American in Paris—Wednesday 26th January 2022

The ravishing musical *An American in Paris* comes to QPAC for its keenly-awaited Australian premiere in January 2022. This Award-winning Broadway musical tells the entrancing story of a young American soldier and a beautiful French girl, set against the iconic backdrop of the most romantic city in the world. Inspired by the MGM film, acclaimed director and choreographer **Christopher Wheeldon** brings the enchantment and magic of Paris alive on stage with popular songs by **George and Ira Gershwin**, including "I Got Rhythm", "But Not For Me", "S Wonderful" and "They Can't Take That Away From Me".

This rhapsodic combination of classic score, timeless love story, exuberant dance and sumptuous design has captivated audiences and critics alike, with *The Wall Street Journal* declaring it "a masterpiece!"

Date: Wednesday 26th January 2022, 1:00pm, QPAC – Lyric Theatre

Duration: TBC (includes interval, subject to change without notice)

Cost: \$74.95 Maximum of 4 seats per member.

Bookings Close: 24th Nov 2021

Please note events held at QPAC are NOT supervised by the U3A Social Committee.

QUEENSLAND U3A ARTS COMPETITION

Don't put away your camera
or smartphone just yet!

**WE HAVE
GOOD NEWS**

The deadline for the photography section of
the Arts Competition is now
Friday 19 November 2021

LEARNING TO USE YOUR CAMERA

Now is your chance to showcase your talents. You
can use either your camera or smartphone to snap
whatever you want to enter the Queensland U3A
Arts Competition. Remember, there are cash prizes
to be won in addition to the kudos of showcasing
your talents.

So, get clicking!



Condition and entry forms are available at
www.u3aqlld.org.au/quac