



Editor's Notes from Jean Smith



I started putting this edition of the ENews together last Sunday morning when it was still raining. Everything was damp, the pool had been overflowing for days and my garden was promising there would be lots to do once the 'weather event' passed.

In fact, it was ideal weather for doing some serious work! And when I tired of that, I caught up on some reading ahead for my U3A classes. I'm one of the lucky ones – no damage here at home, and I was able to while away the wet hours very profitably. As I've said before, what would I do without U3A!

In this month's *Meet the Tutor*, we meet Chris (Nobby) Hobbs whom I first met some years ago when I was still in the workforce. You never know who you'll bump into at U3A. Nobby tutors Spanish and Computing classes, and is also the Co-ordinator for the Wynnum district.

President's Message from Des Taylor

Hello all,

I hope you have survived our recent weather event and have not lost any treasured possessions. Once again, we have had to close U3A face-to-face classes for another week because of floods and consequent transport problems. Thankfully our Zoom classes have continued normally.

On the positive side the Omicron crisis has diminished and restrictions are being reduced. Masks are no longer mandated from 6pm Friday 4th March, but are strongly recommended especially for vulnerable members. The mask recommended is N95. These provide the highest level of protection. If you are in a congested area or are concerned then wear your mask for added protection.

Our Vaccination Policy is working well with 2207 members having confirmed their vaccination. We will maintain this policy in Term 2 on the advice of our Medical Advisors.



Term 2 Possibilities

We now look forward to Term 2 where restrictions will be further reduced. Most classes, except Choir and energetic exercise indoors, will be welcomed back. Some old favourites that will be returning, depending on Tutor availability, include:-

- Any classes that run using cards, as long as hands are sanitised frequently (e.g. Canasta or 500 could return)
- Gentle exercise classes.e.g. Fitness through Origami, Qi Gong)
- Music - Recorder Groups etc.
- Classes with special requirements e.g. double length for movies, can be organised on request.

Currently some things are unchanged

Remember to show the green tick on the *Check In Qld* app at City Campus venues to verify that you are vaccinated as you enter. Also scan the U3A QR Code to record attendance at all venues..

We will still maintain our [COVID Safe plans](#) and therefore the kitchens will remain closed, classes will still have staggered start times etc. Our COVID Safe plans have been updated to reflect these changes. This is now the third year of various upheavals. Through all of these, most members have stayed the course. We ask you now to please continue to stay with us - pay your membership fees and, if you are still concerned about face-to-face classes, then try a Zoom class. Remember we are always happy to help if you need us.

U3A has the same expenses that we incurred before COVID and we rely on our membership and class fees to help us meet these commitments. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2022, now is the time. We can see a lessening of restrictions and our way forward is becoming clearer, but we need your support to still be here into the future.

Stay safe, Des.

Remembering Anna Blake from Martha Kartanos and Mary Calder

Our dear co-worker, Anna Blake, passed away on 19th February this year.

We both worked with Anna in the U3A office on Mondays and we were good mates. Anna had worked in the U3A office for almost ten years and was Westside coordinator for much of that time. She was invaluable – a calm, kind and patient co-worker with a sharp and slightly wicked sense of humour. For much of her time with U3A, Anna lived with several major health problems, but she never complained. Her death at this time came as a great shock to her fellow Monday morning workers as she had been in the office by 8am as usual a few days before she died.

Anna has left a big hole in the office and in our hearts.

Meet the Tutor — Chris (Nobby) Hobbs

Chris Hobbs, Spanish and Computer tutor, and Wynnum District Co-ordinator, is better known as Nobby. The name was originally acquired at school, and it stuck. When he first started in U3A there was another Chris in one of the classes or meetings he attended, so to avoid confusion he said “Call me Nobby” – and that has been his name in u3A ever since.



Nobby grew up in Queanbeyan NSW. At that time, around 30% of its residents were post-war migrants who had come to work on the Snowy Mountains Scheme, and had limited or no English. It offended his childish bigotry that they spoke their own language in the street, so he promised himself that if ever he went to another country, he would become fluent in its language.

Originally trained as an accountant, Nobby joined the Federal Department of Trade and together with his wife, Mary, spent 7 years on overseas postings, five of them in Spain and Mexico. They became quite fluent Spanish speakers – of the 10 individuals/families who went to Mexico with them, they were the only ones to become fluent and that took them 18 months. Their kids' first language was Spanish.

Nobby resigned from the Public Service in 1978 and moved to the Sunshine Coast where he went through a number of careers. He went back to TAFE in the 90's to update his Accountancy qualifications, and found he hated it – but loved computers, so acquired Computing qualifications.

As Nobby continues, "In 2000 I was working part-time both teaching Spanish to private students and teaching computers with Drake Employment (to Telstra, Queensland Rail, and others).

"We had heard about U3A while on the Sunshine Coast, so I started teaching Spanish at U3A around 2001. Mary and I also attended a U3A Spanish conversation class as students as we planned to walk the famous Camino in 2003 (which we did). By 2004 I was teaching at least two Spanish classes at U3A (advanced and basic).

"I don't remember exactly when I started teaching computer subjects at U3A, but I think it was around 2009. I have taught a variety of topics such as Online Banking, Alternative Programs, Computing, and now I have two classes – Comprehensive Computers, and Androids & IT.

"Covid has certainly changed my classes as they are now all Zoom. None of my students are keen to return to F2F classes as it involves dressing up, travelling, having shorter classes, plus going through all the hassles of the mandates (both U3A and government).

"I don't want to pat myself on the back, but I would think that my classes have had a huge impact on hundreds of students. That would apply especially to the various computer classes. I am confident that many, many of those students have managed to conquer their absolute fear and become successful computer users. I suspect that most of the students in the Spanish classes don't have a strong desire to become fluent – it is more an interest, a hobby, a "maybe I'll get to South America someday" attitude. But they keep coming back so there must be something there."

Mobile Phone Matters from Greg Taylor

Mobile phones have become ubiquitous, and almost indispensable, and the "smart phones" that essentially replaced the old "Nokia-style" phones around 2007 have an enormous range of apps available that can perform such tasks as paying your bills, online shopping, checking bin day, checking best fuel prices, replacing some of the plastic in your wallet, or calling an Uber. You can now record your attendance at a U3A class using your phone.

Currently 93% of U3A Brisbane members have provided a mobile phone number to U3A. This is important

since we use mobile numbers with our *Emergency Alert* system to quickly get a text message to members. Most of you would have received such a message last week if you attend face-to-face classes. If you aren't sure if you have provided your mobile number to U3A, please go to [Member Dashboard](#). Near the top of the page you will see a notification about your mobile phone status.

Models

The latest model phones can be very expensive. But many of the big name models that were first released a few years ago at \$1000+ prices can now be obtained on sites such as eBay at very reasonable cost. For example an iPhone 7, first released in 2016, can be obtained for \$300-\$400 brand new. In the Android world, there are many competitors to the big name brands offering models at more reasonable prices.



You don't miss many features with an older phone and they can usually run the latest operating system version. A 32GB model is quite sufficient to store a large number of apps, but if you want to store many photos and videos you may need more storage. It's best to buy outright an "unlocked" model that enables you to choose your own provider, rather than be bound by a monthly repayment charge that costs a fortune over the life of the contract. You should ensure that the phone model has NFC (Near Field Communication) capability if you wish to use it in situations where you would otherwise use a touch-and-go plastic card. Essentially NFC replicates the smart chip embedded in a plastic card. Most phones manufactured since about 2015 would have NFC.

Plans

There is no need to pay \$50 a month or more for a mobile plan with Telstra, Optus, Vodafone etc. Plans with unlimited calls and text are available from other providers for as little as \$10 per month with 2GB monthly data cap, or \$120 a year with 60GB annual cap. That may not seem a lot of data, but if you turn WiFi on you can use your home NBN service for phone data, or U3A's WiFi while at City Campus. Free WiFi is available at many other locations but make sure the service requires a password otherwise the connection will be insecure and unencrypted. You are best to avoid use of sensitive applications like banking when using a free WiFi service. In summary, you don't need a big data cap if you mainly use WiFi for Internet connection on the phone. If you are out-of-range of 4G you can even make phone calls if you have access to WiFi (requires a Setting change). The data cap only applies to downloads and uploads you make while on 4G/5G networks.



It's not necessary to buy a smart phone if you only want to use it for calls and SMS. Nokia-style "simple" phones are still available for under \$100 and work well with the plans mentioned above. In fact a simple phone with a \$10 plan is a lot cheaper than a landline phone service and has the advantage of portability.

If you have any questions about these matters, please contact : help@u3abrisbane.org.au

Questions can also be directed to Nobby Hobbs, particularly about alternative Android models: nobbyh2@gmail.com

L09 Writing Tips

from Mandy Farley

We look forward to our Tuesday meetings where our writing efforts are encouraged by our tutor, Yvonne Pick.

Recently, Yvonne suggested we use our 'word of the week', *librocubicularist*, in either a short story or a poem. The word is not common, very rarely used and proved quite a challenge. Despite this, I managed to create what I think is a humorous poem:

Librocubicularist (*One who reads in bed*)

I could well be described as a librocubicularist,
Guilty of reading in bed, until time for breakfast.
As a young child when time came for lights out,
I would patiently wait until no one was about.

I would jump out of bed, switch back on the light,
Often caused my parents to fight.
"Turn off the lights" they would try to insist,
I will not, my dear parents, I am a librocubicularist.

U3A Social Events

from Angela Butler

For bookings, please contact the U3A office on **3236 3055**, or visit the 97 Creek St office. You can keep up to date with the latest 'SOCIAL EVENTS' on the U3A Website: <https://www.u3abrisbane.org.au>

9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL Wednesday 1 June 2022, 1.00 pm, QPAC – Concert Hall



A sensation on the West End and inspired by the hit film, the musical tells the story of Doralee, Violet and Judy, three enterprising workmates pushed to the edge by their mean-spirited boss Franklin Hart Jnr. Will the feisty trio manage to change the office culture to reach their full potential or will events unravel when the CEO pays an unexpected visit?

9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL features an all-star Australian cast including **Marina Prior** as smart & sassy career woman Violet Newstead, **Casey Donovan** as newly separated new recruit Judy Bernly, **Erin Clare** as bright & beautiful country gal Doralee Rhodes, **Eddie Perfect** as the controlling boss Franklin Hart Jnr. and featuring **Caroline O'Connor** as busy-body Roz Keith.

With a sparkling score by **Dolly Parton** and a book by the iconic movie's original screenwriter **Patricia Resnick**, **9 TO 5** is the quintessential feel-good show for the times. Full of mischief, laughter and affection, it's gold carat fun!

Date: Wednesday 1st June 2022, 1:00pm, QPAC—Lyric Theatre
Duration: 2 hrs 40 mins (includes interval, subject to change without notice)
Concession: \$69.00 **Full:** \$89.00. Maximum of 4 seats per member.
Bookings Close: 10th March, 2022

Manon - Queensland Ballet. Thursday 6th October 2022, 1:30pm, QPAC – Concert Hall



Journey from decadent 18th century Paris to sultry New Orleans with this blockbuster classical ballet about possession, desire, and the allure of wealth.

It is 1700s Paris and the beautiful Manon is on her way to enter a convent, when the old and wealthy Monsieur GM makes an intriguing offer for her hand to her brother Lescaut. Left outside while the arrangement is finalised, Manon meets and falls in love with the handsome Des Grieux and they flee Paris. Later found and tempted by Monsieur GM's extravagant wealth, she leaves with him as his courtesan, however all is not lost in this compelling love story, as Des Grieux will appear again...

From seduction, ambition, and greed to the persuasive power of love, this sumptuous story has been captivating audiences for more than two centuries.

To celebrate his decade of artistic directorship, Li Cunxin AO returns to the stage alongside his wife, former dancer and celebrated author, Mary Li.

Warning: This production is intended for mature audiences. It contains adult themes and sexually explicit content that some may find confronting.

Date: Thursday 6th October 2022, 1:30pm, QPAC – Concert Hall
Duration: 2 hrs 40 mins (includes interval, subject to change without notice)
Cost: \$69.00 Maximum of 4 seats per member.
Bookings Close: 2nd August, 2022

Please note the following for events held at QPAC:

- These events are **NOT** supervised by the U3A Social Committee
- **From Dec 17 2021, only fully vaccinated (or medically exempt) people (16+ years) are permitted to enter QPAC. Please ensure that you can provide proof of vaccination or medical exemption (preferably incorporated into the 'Check in Qld' app on your mobile phone)**
- Wearing of masks will be as directed by the Queensland Health Covid guidelines at the time of the performance. As a safeguard, **bring/wear your own mask with you to the theatre.**
- Depending on current Queensland Health guidelines QPAC's theatre capacities may vary and there may be patrons occupying the seats directly beside, behind or in front of you during a performance.
- **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.**

U3A Network Qld State Conference 2022 - Pine Rivers

8 June to 9 June 2022

Registration now open

To Register, go to the Conference website: www.u3aqlconference.org

Venue



The 2022 Conference will be held at North Lakes Hotel and Conference Centre, 22 Lakefield Dr, North Lakes QLD 4509 (see [map](#) for location).

Situated beside the picturesque Lake Eden, the hotel is just steps away from the tranquil lake. You can take a leisurely walk by the water's edge, or stroll down to the idyllic lakeside Town Park.

The venue offers free parking in their multi-level car park and is serviced by the hotel's lifts.

Public Transport: The hotel is 400m / 5-minute walk from the North Lakes (bus) Station.

Conference website: www.u3aqlconference.org

Other U3A Network Queensland News can be accessed here: [Network Qld News](#)