



Editor's Notes from Jean Smith



One of the tasks on my *To Do* list today was to participate in U3A's AGM. It was clear that the last 2 years have been especially challenging for all our members, and particularly so for the Management Committee. U3A isn't a major commercial enterprise or government department able to utilise extensive resources – it is an organisation run by volunteers, which relies on the skills and goodwill of its members to survive. The reports presented today show just how well U3A has done this.

This month's *Meet the Tutor* features Ray Bricknell. Long-time members will remember Ray as a past President, and his key role in developing the strategy by which U3A acquired its own premises. Currently, Ray facilitates Zoom classes in Macroeconomics and Current Affairs, both of which have maintained a large following in spite of the pandemic.

President's Message from Des Taylor

Hello all,

I can't believe that it is Easter already. I hope you are all well and enjoying the Easter long weekend.

So much has happened during the last month and now we are about to reopen for Term 2.

COVID Restrictions

The government has eased their COVID restrictions further, however there are still warnings about a possible COVID spike after Easter and about a combination of COVID and the Flu which some have designated 'fluroma'. Because of this, even though restrictions are eased in general, the government is still maintaining their Vaccination plans for schools, airports, and high risk settings. This includes educational settings, especially places 'that a high number of vulnerable persons use or access' - namely us:

[Vaccination requirements for workers in high risk settings](#)



In addition, U3A Brisbane in Term 2 have reintroduced a number of classes that were previously too risky – Yoga, Recorder, Table Tennis, Mahjong, QiGong, Bridge, Scrabble to name a few.

Therefore, **we will maintain our Vaccination Policy for Term 2** and assess the risks again for Term 3. We will also maintain our COVID Safe plans and, even though no longer compulsory, we recommend that you carry a mask, N95 if possible, and wear it when in a congested area e.g. crowded lifts.

City Venues

City Venues will continue to run as in Term 1 with COVID Safe plans in place and our Vaccination Policy for face-to-face classes. Please use the [Member Dashboard](#) to check that you are enrolled in a class before coming. We have capacity limits in place and it may be that you cannot join. Also if coming to one of our city venues remember that the kitchens are still closed so please bring a drink and don't forget your mask for congested places.

Zoom Classes

There are 55 Zoom classes available. These are great if you don't want to spend time travelling or have mobility or health issues. Also remember they are available if you attempt to enrol in a class and the class is full. There may be a Zoom class available. They do not have the capacity limitations of Face-to-Face classes. I have enrolled in four. I could never find the time to do this many face-to-face classes, but it means that I have a class to look forward to on most days. You can also access Zoom classes from anywhere. It is quite fun to sit on your deck overlooking the sea on holiday and still take part in a Zoom class with your online friends.

I hope you enjoy Term 2. Remember to check [Member Dashboard](#) to ensure you are enrolled in your classes and have paid any class fees due.

Special Online Presentations in April and May from Mary Denver

You can book online for these events via the home page on the website, or via the link at the end of this item.

Wednesday 27 April, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm. Professor Jeffrey Soar, Chair of Human Centred Technology, USQ. *Personal assistive technologies: What's available for older people and how we can use them.*

Dr Jeffrey Soar has focussed much of his research on the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to health and independent living. Now approaching retirement himself, Jeff will explore with us the role of assistive technologies in the home for our personal needs, such as personal emergency alarms, fall detectors, even key safes, as well as apps and devices like a smart watch or smart phone.

With these we can combat social isolation, keep safe or provide a reminder or information service for medication regimes, instead of relying on Webster packs!

What's available, are there cybersecurity concerns, should we be worried about AI now or into the future, for ourselves and our loved ones?

Join Jeff in this lively presentation (being delivered via Zoom from Tufnell's, Brisbane who make some of

the devices) to learn more about enriching your quality of life with the right technologies, what's available, what to adopt, how to go about it and how not to be left behind.

Wednesday 4 May, 11:00am – 12.30 pm. Warren Ward, Assoc. Prof. Psychiatry, University of Queensland. *From Descartes to Derrida: A Fun Overview of Continental Philosophy.*

Warren Ward, Author of *Lovers of Philosophy: How the Intimate Lives of Seven Philosophers Shaped Modern Thought*, will take attendees on a whistle-stop tour of continental philosophy.

The talk will be fun, entertaining and understandable, interspersed with simple summaries and interesting anecdotes about continental philosophy's most influential philosophers (and their personal lives). The philosophers featured will include Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Foucault and Derrida.

Warren Ward, a popular workshop presenter at Brisbane's Avid Reader bookstore, is Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Queensland. He won the New Philosopher Writer's Award in 2016 and 2019, and his latest book, *Lovers of Philosophy*, is fast climbing up the local bestseller lists. Listeners to ABC RN may have heard his recent interview on *The Philosopher's Zone*.

[Book here for the above events](#)

Remembering Lloyd Hamilton from Janis Boyd

It is with sadness that I reflect on the passing of Lloyd and the contribution that he has made for 18 years to U3A students of *Palmistry* and *Contemporary Issues*.

Lloyd had exuberance for life and a passion for engaging people in projects that challenged their viewpoints and established beliefs.

His classes attracted people from all walks of life and inspired personal, valued contributions to the unorthodox field of Palmistry. As he interpreted individual palms and prompted self-realization, knowledge and understanding blossomed. It was a thought-provoking experience to part of his classes. There are many former students of these classes who will remember him with fondness, and as a person who was dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of those who had the pleasure of meeting him.

Lloyd will be remembered as someone who lived with heart; took time to listen; had a sense of humour and had a sense of self.

...and from Krystyna Soler

I have been a member of Lloyd's *Contemporary Issues* class for several years and had the greatest respect for him and the important and dedicated work he did for U3A. He brought people together to experience informative speakers, and to discuss interesting and current topics in his very popular group. He was a scholar and a true gentleman and will be greatly missed.

Annual General Meeting 2022 from Deslyn Taylor, President

On Wednesday 13th April we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM). There were 2 major proposals agreed to this year:

1. That the Membership Fee be raised to \$45. This Fee has not been raised for many years and will not come into effect until members pay annual fees for 2023.
2. That we adopt a new Constitution that will recognise the changes that have occurred in the last 12 years e.g., in technology and the new laws brought in for Incorporated Associations such as U3A Brisbane which come in in 2022.

We also farewelled two of the long-standing members of our Management Committee – Lyndall Beattie and Peter O’Loughlin. Lyndall has been our Treasurer for the last 3 years and has done an amazing job in difficult times. Decisions about reorganising our Property Debt in 2019 saved us a huge amount in future interest and under her guidance we are now debt free for the first time in 8 years. Thanks for everything, Lyndall.

Peter O’Loughlin has been a member of the Management Committee for many years and was part of the team who helped set up Adelaide St. He has always been someone to rely on and who could be counted on if something needed to be done. Thanks for everything Peter.

All documents and reports relating to the AGM can be found on our [News page](#) on the website.

Office News From Yvonne McGann, Office Manager

On Wednesday 6th April, thirteen members of the office staff attended a First Aid/CPR course. The course was run by Australia Wide First Aid and our trainer, Stephen, was excellent.

Before the face-to-face course, all participants had to successfully undergo an online component which was quite comprehensive. Those of us who had attended the course last year only needed to do the CPR section (two hours), while the remainder had to do the full four-hour course.

This is another example of the dedication of our office volunteers who not only come in every week, but also devote hours of their holidays to ensuring the safety of our members.

City Campus News from Gail Hawkins, Tutor Liaison

I am pleased that although we have been through some difficult and trying times, we still have people that are prepared to offer their services to tutor face-to-face classes. Without our tutors we wouldn’t have a U3A, but just as important are our members who enrol in their classes. In the past, a common complaint has been that people can’t enrol in the class of their choice as the class is showing “Full”. We unfortunately now have a situation where tutors, new and established, are having to cancel their classes due to lack of participation. Think of the times when members have wanted to learn a language, put pen to paper to write their family history or learn to play cards or board games – the list is extensive. Well, now is the time to have a look at our Class Schedule and make Term 2 the time to take the challenge to

learn something new. For tutors that have cancelled a class, we will work hard to encourage members to return to try again. So, it is important not only that members support our existing tutors but that they also give encouragement to new tutors to ensure that their classes succeed.

Following are some (but not all) of the face-to-face classes that are still open for Term 2 enrolments. Contact the relevant tutor regarding Zoom class availability:

Monday

K24 – Biography: How to Read and Write a Biography – A rewarding course for the novice as well as those with some previous writing skills.

Y03 – Early Buddha Dhamma – What the Buddha taught, the original teachings of Gotama

E02 – Current Events – A group discussion of current events. Come and share your knowledge and opinions with others and make friends along the way

Tuesday

Y11 – Psychology, Exploring Contemporary Topics – Peter O'Reilly tutored in Psychology at university and is keen to share his knowledge and have member participation to identify the topics and questions that occupy our minds and popular culture.

A26 – Art Discussion Club: An Introduction – Discuss and interpret contemporary and postmodern artworks, using different methods of understanding art. No experience in interpreting art is required, just a willingness to look at the details and share your thoughts.

L09 – Tips on Writing Short Fiction Stories and Poems – Learn how to become a confident writer. Class participation and discussion time on favourite authors and poets.

F72 – Sudoku – Known as the thinking person's logical puzzle, learn to solve challenging puzzles.

Wednesday

F16 – Bridge for Beginners – An excellent opportunity to learn how to play bridge which is considered the most exciting of all card games. Wherever you go in the world, if you can play bridge, you will always be able to join a group to play cards and make friends.

K06 – Getting Started on your Memoir – We all have interesting stories and if you yearn to record yours, this support group will help you get started.

J218 – Spanish (Continuing) – Not a Beginners class. If you want to improve your Spanish language skills, then enrol in this class

Thursday

J56 – Auslan 4 Seniors, Beginners – You will benefit best from this class if you come with a friend so that you can practice what you are taught together.

A21 – Art: Exploring Colour through Art & Meditation – Relax and rejuvenate with this inspirational course that explores the mind-body-soul connection with the colour spectrum.

H39 – The Battle for Australia 1942-43 – This class offers an analysis of the causes, course and consequences of the Kokoda Track campaign.

H41 – The Burma Railway – Learn more about the circumstances in which Australians came to be prisoners of war from 1942-45 and their involvement as labourers for the construction of the Railway.

F20 – Scrabble – Exercise your brain and have a morning with a happy group of people playing Scrabble. Contact the tutor to enrol in this class.

Please remember that you need to either enrol online or contact the tutor if you are interested in joining any of our classes.

Northside and City Precinct District News from Rod McLary

After a delayed start to Term 1 this year and then a missing week, it is reassuring to now be facing Term 2 with some confidence for a full term.

The tutors in both districts have done a great job in keeping their classes active – and I am sure the members appreciate their work.

Most of the classes from 2021 continued into 2022, but there were a couple that did not.

Maria Brunetto, one of the Northside tutors, decided to retire after a number of years providing classes in Conversational Italian. Hers was a popular class and all the members enjoyed her easy style and pleasant nature – and her knowledge of Italy and its language and culture. Another of our popular Italian tutors – Remo Boccabella – also concluded his work this year. He has been suffering some health issues and found that he could not continue in 2022. Thank you to both Maria and Remo for all they have done.

One of U3A Brisbane's long-time members, Dormei Leung, has now moved to Sydney. Dormei originally conducted the Thursday walking group on the Northside, and subsequently set up a new group on Sunday mornings. Marlene and Roy Fennell now conduct the Thursday group and as I have been on some of their walks, I can vouch for the quality of the walk and the company. The Sunday group will be looked after by Rhonwen Searle in the short-term while we look for a new leader.

To provide some balance to the classes not continuing, we have a new class in Term 2 in the City Precinct – *Learning the Recorder* with Marion McLaughlin. And in Term 3, a new walking group with a difference – Exploring the Botanic Gardens, with Jill Don. Most of these will take place at the Mt Cooth-tha Gardens, but a couple will be at the City Botanic Gardens and elsewhere.

U3A Brisbane has been invited to attend a Neighbourhood Day at the Mitchelton Campus of the Churches of Christ, on 25 May 2022. If anyone is in the area then, please drop in.

Meet the Tutor – Ray Bricknell



Ray Bricknell, tutor of the Macroeconomics and Current Affairs classes has been a member of U3A since 2007, and has the honour of being our association's first Life Member. He came across U3A by chance at an open day at the Beenleigh Library where U3A had a stand, and signed up for an Excel class which, at that time, was held in U3A's Edward St CBD premises.

Before he retired, Ray was a professional project manager, responsible for the delivery of major projects such as the development of the Marriott Surfers Paradise Resort. This experience was to stand him in good stead when, shortly after he had joined the association, U3A was about to be forced out of the Edward Street premises by a doubling of the rent from \$100,000 p.a. to an unaffordable \$200,000 – an enormous challenge to the association and its Management Committee. Although he had not been a member for long, Ray assumed the presidency in April 2008 and set about developing strategies to find suitable alternative premises to lease. He and the committee then had to arrange for their fit-out and simultaneously manage the refurbishment of the vacated premises. All of this was completed within time and budget. The 'new' premises were alongside South Bank station – a

location that challenged many members, and led to a 30% loss of membership. As the saying goes, 'every cloud has a silver lining', and the cloud that was the 2007/8 Global Financial Crisis created an opportunity for Ray to identify and secure premises at 97 Creek Street. Understandably, the Management Committee did not want to be faced again with escalating lease costs and the decision was made to raise \$900,000 of loan funds from members (via the U3A Brisbane Noteholders' Association), making U3A Brisbane the first U3A in the world to raise funds and buy its own premises. Ray's project management skills, reinforced by the supportive Management Committee, ensured that the fit-out of and relocation to the new premises in 2011 went smoothly. The final repayment to Noteholders was made on 2nd December 2019 (ahead of time), following the securing of a commercial loan from a bank at much lower interest rates.

As mentioned above, Ray has facilitated since 2010 two of the largest and most popular classes at U3A Brisbane - Current Affairs and Macroeconomics. Prior to the Covid-19 restrictions, the former attracted between fifty and sixty attending every week – limited only by room capacity, and the latter between 30 and 40.

With the discontinuance of face-to-face classes early in 2020, Ray has run both by Zoom. As Ray himself says, Covid/Zoom has saved the day for him. He is living with Parkinson's Disease and prior to the pandemic, was finding it increasingly difficult to come into the city to run classes in person, to the extent that he was about to stop. The large numbers of members attending his classes must be glad that he hasn't, and appreciate the opportunity for, as the Class Schedule states, 'intelligent, balanced discussion and debate such as is quite difficult to find elsewhere, providing real mental stimulation.'

(Editor's note: A detailed account of the purchase of U3a's Creek Street premises can be found in *Forever Learning: Celebrating Thirty Years of U3A Brisbane, 1986-2016*, by Ian Lipke and June Morris, Brisbane, U3A, 2016)

Creative Portraiture Class from Ann Seery

When Covid changed our world, I stumbled across a new activity. Walking in my local park, I noticed a group of people sketching. Stopping to chat, I quickly found I liked the people and the vibe. That's how I enrolled in an outdoor U3A portrait drawing class.



But I didn't know how to drive a pencil. I didn't do art in high school and life had been too busy to commit to hobbies. Could I learn to draw in my 70s? Yes, I could, because the class is a community of practice, willing to share skills, and guided by our inspirational tutor, Carol Owens. One topic was "Hands". At the time I was often visiting a nursing home. Old hands have more character so that's what I chose to draw. The group had already taught me about 2B and 6B pencils, shading, blending stumps, kneadable erasers, and much more. I drew a hand and then progressed to a face. I was hooked.

The drawing looks clumsy to me now, but it's a favourite because it reminds me of the start of a new passion.

Thank you U3A for providing the opportunity to continue to learn, thrive, be inspired and laugh with new friends.

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



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

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
- Please check the QPAC website in relation to Vaccine/Mask wearing requirements:
[Connecting safely at QPAC](#)
- As a safeguard, **bring/wear your own mask with you to the theatre.**

U3A Network Queensland Arts Competition



CATEGORIES FOR 2022: PAINTING & DRAWING



Artwork by Heather Grebert, U3A Redcliffe.



Art Rose:
<https://pixabay.com/images/id-5874473/>

Theme: 'spread your wings'
Transcend your horizons through art

FIRST PRIZE IN EACH CATEGORY: \$200.00
RUNNERS UP IN EACH CATEGORY: \$100.00

COMPETITION OPENS 1 MARCH 2022, CLOSES 29 MAY 2022
WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT NETWORK STATE CONFERENCE 8 JUNE 2022

Entry forms and conditions of entry available at:
u3aqlld.org.au or email competitions@u3aqlld.com.au

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.u3aqldconference.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.u3aqldconference.org

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

Neighbourhood and Care Army Connect Workers Initiative (NCAC)

In spite of being fully vaccinated against COVID 19, many U3A members still feel vulnerable and are reluctant to venture too far from home. The NCAC has been established by Volunteering Queensland in partnership with Care Army and the Queensland Government to identify any need for volunteers to deliver support services to vulnerable members of the community affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. It may be that you could benefit from their services, or you may wish to become a volunteer. For more information, click on the image below.

