



## Editor's Notes from Jean Smith



As some of you are aware my husband has been in poor health in recent years, and I'm finding it increasingly difficult to get everything done 'within agreed timeframes' as project managers would say! Accordingly, it is time for me to pass eNews on to a new editor.

If you are interested in taking on this role, please get in touch with the U3A President by email : [president@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:president@u3abrisbane.org.au). You will find a description of what is involved below in this newsletter. It's an interesting role which is ably supported by area coordinators and Management Committee members, and has given me great satisfaction over the past five years.

On a lighter note –

A chance meeting between a U3A member and our patron, Sallyanne Atkinson, AO, led to her agreeing to share with us her view of the importance of continued learning as we age. See her thoughts further below.

## President's Message from Des Taylor

Our wonderful eNews Editor, Jean Smith, is retiring as editor after doing a wonderful job for the last 5 years. Thank you, Jean. Thank you too for your willingness to help with other editing assignments particularly the new Constitution which was completed this year. You will be missed.



### Term 3

**Enrolments for Term 3 will open on the 12<sup>th</sup> June.**

There are current government warnings as we move into the Flu season and Covid is still with us, although not getting as much attention from the media. However, the government is [now easing restrictions](#) further for unvaccinated people and we will follow this direction. Therefore, **U3A Brisbane will retain our Vaccination Policy for Term 3 but it will only apply to indoor classes**. This means that you

will need to be vaccinated to enrol in any of our indoor face-to-face classes and show proof of vaccination if requested, but you are **not** required to be vaccinated to enrol and take part in any of our **outdoor** classes or activities.

- **To remain safe keep up to date with Covid boosters as they become available.**
- **Get your [free flu injection](#)**

### **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 50 Zoom classes available in Term 3. Remember they are available if you attempt to enrol in a class and the class is full. There may be a Zoom class available. Location or Room capacity are no longer a problem in these classes.

Remember also to check the **Zoom presentations** that are available each month to members. There is no charge. You can read about these and enrol for one on the front page of our [website](#). I recently listened to one of these in the car on a road trip in NSW. Wonderful technology. We are no longer tethered to one place.

Make sure you enrol early for Term 3 face-to-face classes to ensure you don't miss out and to check Zoom offerings if you do.

Enjoy Term 3 as I certainly hope to do and remember to pay your fees upfront. We rely on these to stay economically viable.

Stay Safe and remember to carry a mask just in case and wear it if needed.

### **From our Patron Sallyanne Atkinson**



When I was asked to be Patron of U3A Brisbane all those years ago I was honoured and delighted, because I knew what a significant organisation U3A was and how much it had contributed to the Brisbane community.

Now that I'm in my 80<sup>th</sup> year, I'm even more aware of its importance...and even more enthusiastic about being involved in a way that I haven't been.

Part of the role of a Patron is to promote the organisation, and in doing that I have heard great stories of the joyful experiences people have had. In some cases, they have even been life-changing!

Now that my life is less busy than it once was, I'm looking forward to continuing my learning in areas of interest and exploring new ones.

It used to be accepted wisdom that brain cells deteriorated as we got older. But now the Queensland Brain Institute, whose Advisory Board I am on, has shown that new brain cells are formed every day, the science of neurogenesis. But we do need to keep stimulating those brain cells.

We know that more of us are living longer. Centenarians are the nation's fastest-growing demographic. There are more than 6000 people aged 100 in Australia today and it's predicted there'll be 40,000 by 2060.

In the last two years U3A has had to make many changes – Zoom meetings, remote learning, whole new ways of doing things. Our members have shown that as you get older you can still be adaptable. Being adaptable is an important factor in being productive. So, we'll not only live longer, we'll also live productively.

I'm looking forward to learning more and making new friends – two of the major contributors to living well as we live longer.

### Volunteer Needed - eNews Editor from Des Taylor

Following Jean Smith's retirement, we have a need for a volunteer editor for our monthly eNews. The U3A Brisbane eNews Editor should understand our goals and ethos and ensure that our eNews represents these. The Editor manages and edits the content before submitting the final version to our IT Manager for formatting and distribution to members. The Editor needs good skills in MS Word and needs sound judgement and decision-making skills which are necessary when selecting/accepting content. If you are interested in this role please contact: [president@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:president@u3abrisbane.org.au).

### Special Online Presentations in June 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 15th June, 11:00am – 12.30pm. Loan Chow, Director of YHC Lawyers. Estate Planning in a time of Covid.** (This is a repeat of session held on 25th May)



In a global pandemic, Wills and Estates are front of mind. How do you ensure your loved ones are cared for in worst case scenarios?

How do you make sure that the right people are able to make decisions for you when you have lost your capacity?

How do you minimise the risk of your Will being disputed? What happens when someone passes away?

Even if you have all of this in place, people are needing to make different

decisions as the choices made pre-Covid may no longer be practical.

Loan Chow, Director of YHC Lawyers, will share her experiences and insights about:

- Wills gone wrong or no Will at all; Who can contest a Will
- Tips and traps about Enduring Powers of Attorney
- The importance of Advance Health Directives in Covid
- What happens when someone passes away

Join our education session where Loan Chow will highlight some key areas you might want to consider to protect your loved ones and some practical pathways that are available for families going through this process.

**Wednesday 22 June, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm. Genevieve Deaconos, Senior Development Executive for AWC, based in Queensland.**

***Australian Wildlife Conservancy – providing new hope for Australia’s wildlife***



*Australian Wildlife Conservancy* is the largest private owner and manager of land for conservation in Australia, protecting endangered wildlife across more than 6.5 million hectares in iconic regions such as the Kimberley, Cape York, Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre, and the Top End.

Learn how AWC is delivering practical, on-the-ground land management informed by world-class science, to ensure the effective conservation of all Australian native animal species and the habitats in which they live, and how you can help.

**Wednesday 6 July, 11.00 – 12.30 pm. Loan Chow, Director, YHC Lawyers.**

***Attorney or Executor? What should you do if someone loses capacity or passes away?***



If you were to pass away or become unable to make decisions about your health or finances, the financial and personal impact on your family could be significant. Emotions run high and family dynamics can be challenging.

By having a plan in place, you’ll be able to ensure family members are always looked after.

Loan Chow will share her experiences and insights about your responsibilities under an Enduring Power of Attorney, the importance of Advance Health Directives, and what happens when someone passes away. Will you need Probate? What if someone contests the Will?

Join our second Zoom session with Loan Chow who will highlight key areas you might want to consider for the protection of your loved ones and some practical pathways that are available for families.

Loan graduated from UQ with a dual degree in Law and Psychology, an unlikely combination at the time, but one which proved to be very useful in compassionately helping families navigate the law in sensitive and emotional circumstances.

**Wednesday 20 July, 11.00 – 12.30 pm. Warren McMillan , PICCA Chair.  
*The PICCA story – “from little things, big things grow”***



*PICCA's four original Directors, from left:  
Steve, Tiziana, Warren and Stephanie*

What do former Queensland public servants do when they retire? Well, in 2017 this group set up a small not-for-profit called *Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd.* (PiCCA for short.) At the heart of PiCCA are its 29 mostly retired members. They share a passion for empowering communities and changing lives, by improving education, health, livelihoods, food security and women's participation and safety around the world.

PiCCA finds local organisations in developing countries with wide community support and a clear purpose, then works with them to plan and deliver projects that address specific community needs. PiCCA'S members make all this happen by pooling financial contributions each year and by volunteering expertise and knowledge. This combination allows small resources to make big impacts.

In this visually exciting and heart-warming presentation, PiCCA Chair Warren McMillan will tell us the PiCCA story from its beginnings at a Brisbane kitchen table chat between newly retired government employees. Warren will take us on a journey of life-changing projects in Bangladesh, Bougainville, Eswatini, Nepal, The Congo, Vietnam and tell us about new projects in Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

For more information, go to [www.picca.org.au](http://www.picca.org.au)

[Book here for the above events](#)

### **Remembering Ian Thomson from Jane Lock**

Ian Thomson, (without a P as he was quick to point out!), died on Anzac Day, 2022 after a long struggle with multiple health issues.

He joined U3A in 2009 and I first met him in a poetry appreciation class in 2010. His love of the English language was apparent from the start, though he was brought up in Wales and did his first years of Primary school through the medium of Welsh. This came in handy when, much later, we studied Dylan Thomas's play, "Under Milkwood" which was an all-time favourite.

Ian encouraged me to join the British History class which he attended straight after Poetry and thereafter we sat side by side through dozens of fascinating talks. He made regular contributions, especially delighting in topics to do with the Arts and Literature. I discovered he had been a professional actor in London and had then moved to Brisbane to be a lecturer in Theatre Arts at QUT.

When our poetry class ceased, Ian offered to share his lectures on the history of theatre, which he had given to his undergraduates. These, he reckoned, would fill in a couple of terms while we found something permanent to do together.

## Remembering Judy Russell from Anne Kirkwood and the Painting Practice Group



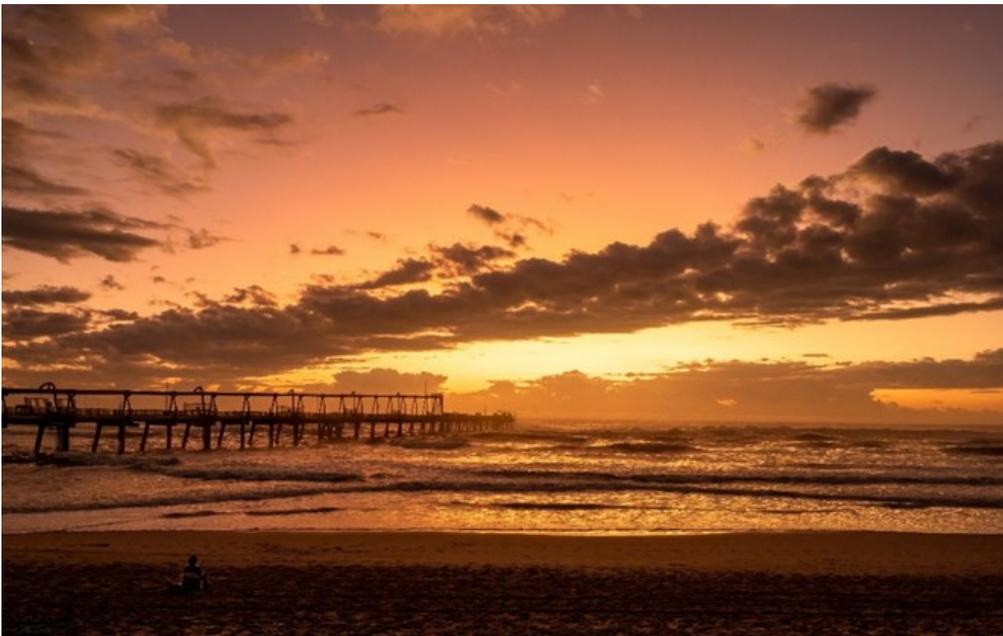
A sad farewell to Judy Russell who will be missed by many.

Judy was part of the U3A Admin Team and a member of the Painting Practice Group of which I am the tutor. She made us all laugh, and always had a joke and a hug to cheer us all.

She was a Facebook fan and sent out many cartoons and funny videos.

*"Live every moment, Laugh every day, Live beyond words"*

## Logan District News from Bernadette Ketter



This beautiful picture recently featured on the *Submit your Weather Photos and Videos* segment of the ABC 7pm News.

The photograph of the Southport Spit at sunrise was taken by Trevor Scott, tutor of the Logan District Camera Club. He and his Camera Club group had ventured out early for a photoshoot. It was worth the effort.

## Meet the Tutor — Rob Adamson

Rob Adamson is the tutor of U3A's Writing Family History class



'Soon after I retired in 2004, I joined university of the Third Age. I initially spent a year assisting with computer classes. It was a real eye-opener, especially the 'Computer Kindy' class, comprising elderly raw beginners. But we made good progress.

At the end of that year the U3A committee put out a list of topics they requested tutors to consider for 2005. One was 'Writing Family History', so I put my hand up – I could have a go at that. I'd previously written my Adamson Family History book, *Dunfermline to Down Under*, and was well into an account of our Feuerherdt family, emigrants to Adelaide from Prussia. Also, I'd been joint convenor of a Family History Writing group and competition at the Queensland Family History Society for a couple of years.

The first year of the Family History class was held at the Canegrowers' Building in Edward St and there were about 10 of us – I was the only man. We enjoyed each other's company and the stories we presented. After trying a weekly class, we decided to meet every two weeks, often enough to allow the creative spirit to be invoked.

By the following year, 2006, the group comprised a mix of men and women, telling stories of their forebears who came from South Africa, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Greece – and the Australian states. There were some real raconteurs among them. Brian wrote a hilarious piece about his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party in Coburg, Melbourne. His father was a night-watchman and worked in well with the local cops. So, they too were happily involved with Brian's party, which spilled over into most of the next day!

One lady wrote a delightful piece about her childhood experiences, the contrast in moving from sunny India to bleak, rationed, immediate post-war London. And the topic, *A Letter to Grandma*, evoked a range of humorous and poignant tales, as did *A Memorable Christmas* and *The Truth behind the Myth*. Another lady wrote several moving stories about her family's experiences in and escaping from the Exclusive Brethren.

Over the years, our classroom moved from Edward Street to South Brisbane, then Creek Street and now Adelaide Street. Technology too has changed, but the stories are as poignant and humorous as ever. The group's membership has turned over multiple times for various reasons, as people take a break from writing. But all have been complimentary about the discipline it imposes on them to write – and the appreciation of their families for these pieces about Grandma or Grandpa's times past. And the class is usually full!

(PS Brian has continued to entertain us with his family's antics over the years, and has combined his tales into a couple of serious books!)

## 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>

### **Girl from the North Country.**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 1:30pm, QPAC – Concert Hall**



A universal story about family and love, this award-winning Broadway musical features over 20 songs from legendary singer-songwriter Bob Dylan, including *Hurricane*, *Like a Rolling Stone*, *To Make You Feel My Love* and *Forever Young*, all beautifully reimagined as you've never heard them before.

Travel back to 1934 Minnesota, where a group of wanderers cross paths at a guesthouse. Standing at a turning point in their lives, they realise nothing is what it seems, but as they search for a future, and hide from the

past, they find themselves facing unspoken truths about the present

Written and directed by multi award-winner Conor McPherson (*The Weir*, *The Seafarer*), and starring stage and screen icon Lisa McCune, Peter Kowitz (*Janet King*) and Helpmann Award winners Peter Carroll, Helen Dallimore and Greg Stone.

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** The production contains some coarse language and sexual references, and is recommended for audiences aged 14 and over.

**Date:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 1:30pm, QPAC – Concert Hall  
**Duration:** 2 hrs 30 mins (includes interval, subject to change without notice)  
**Cost:** \$79.90 Maximum of 4 seats per member.  
**Bookings Close:** 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022

### **Manon - Queensland Ballet.**

**Thursday 6th October 2022, 1:30pm, QPAC – Concert Hall**



This event is fully booked - an email will be sent to you when the tickets are available for collection.

## Spirit of Christmas Concert 2022.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022, 2:00pm, QPAC – Concert Hall

QPAC's longest running event, *Spirit of Christmas* returns this December to the iconic QPAC Concert Hall.



Two of Australia's leading musical theatre stars will join a host of special guests in uplifting seasonal song and much-loved Christmas carols, beautifully supported by a full symphony orchestra, and the glorious voices of the **QPAC Chamber Choir**.

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

**Date:** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022, 2:00pm, QPAC – Concert Hall  
**Duration:** 1 hour and 20 min. (No interval, subject to change without notice)  
**Cost:** **Concession:** \$59.00; **Full:** \$69.00  
**Bookings:** 30 seats (Maximum of 4 seats per member)  
**Bookings Close:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 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.**