



Editor's Notes from Jane Elliott



When I first heard of U3A, I had to do some quick research to find out the meaning of “third age”. I found, as members would know, that this refers to active retirement, the age after youth and work within or outside the home. Given my background, I can't help making a comparison with Shakespeare's seven ages: the infant, the whining schoolboy, the lover, the soldier, the justice, the old man, and finally second childhood “sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything”. It seems the U3A philosophy helps to stave off the final stage by promoting Shakespeare's fifth age, the revered sage, and replacing the sixth stage, the old man or woman comically reduced in physical and social stature, with over 55's who, as our website states, are “highly educated, widely travelled and who have a longer life expectancy than ever before”. What a welcome progression!

President's Message from Des Taylor

City Venues

City venues are continuing to run with COVID Safe plans in place and our Vaccination Policy for Face-to-Face classes. We had hoped to gradually ease restrictions in Term 3, and the foyers in the city venues are again available; however, the kitchens will still be closed until the current 'flu season is over. You will be notified when they reopen and, until then, please bring a drink and don't forget your mask for congested places. There are still both Covid and 'flu in the community and we encourage all members to get their flu shot and any boosters that are available.



Please use the Member Dashboard to check that you are enrolled in a class before coming. There are capacity limits in place depending on type of class, tutors' wishes and available space in the allocated room. It may be that you cannot join because the class is at capacity for one of these reasons.

Zoom Fees

With many students opting for Zoom or hybrid classes and our expenses increasing, the \$25 Zoom fee will

no longer be voluntary in Term 4. We are very grateful to the 75% of Zoom students who have voluntarily paid their \$25 in Term 3 and in previous terms. It has made an enormous difference to our financial survival.

Monthly Zoom Presentations

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](#). Remember to check your [Member Dashboard](#) frequently: it will show you any presentations in which you have enrolled as well as your normal classes. There have been some truly excellent presentations so far this year, with some having a waiting list even though our Zoom licence allows 100 members to participate.

Renewal Time

It is almost time to renew your U3A Membership. At the 2022 AGM, a proposal was put forward to raise the Membership Fee to \$45. This was passed with 97% For and 3% Against. As with everything else, our costs have risen. This small rise will help us to meet those increased costs. Your Membership Fee gives you not only access to our extensive class offerings both face-to-face and online, but also to a series of excellent online presentations every month at no extra charge, and you remain part of our U3A Community, a community which extends worldwide.

Thanks to all members who have paid their class fees for Term 3. We rely on these to pay our bills. We would not be able to continue without your generous support.

Stay safe, and remember to carry a mask and wear it if needed.

Deslyn Taylor
President

Special Online Presentations in August from Mary Denver

You can book online for these events via the [home page](#) on the website, or via the button at the end of this item.

Wednesday 17 August, 11.00am-12.30 pm. Keir Tierney, NBN Community Ambassador QLD: *Scam awareness and online safety.*



Join us and Keir Tierney from NBN to find out how to protect yourself and your private information from scammers. Anyone can fall victim to a scam because scammers are professional criminals.

This session will help to educate people about the types of tricks and scams being used and how to avoid common traps. The talk will cover online and phone scams, password management, social media safety and also digital legacy considerations. Keir will brief us on cyber safety and security, specifically on identifying scams that are becoming more and more sophisticated and devious. The scammer's objective is to extract personal data that can be used to their financial advantage.

The session will also discuss your “digital legacy”. You can help your loved ones by planning what will happen to your digital presence after you pass away. We accumulate a lot of assets throughout our lives. Most people ensure that their precious items like houses, cars, finances and possessions are left to children and loved ones via a will. But, even though it may be our most enduring legacy, few of us actually spend time planning for our digital presence after we die.

Wednesday 31 August, 11:00am-12:30pm. Macular Disease Foundation Australia: *Age-related Macular Degeneration*



Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of blindness in Australia. 1 in 7 Australians over the age of 50 have some sign of the disease.

In this session, you will learn:

- What AMD is
- How to identify your risk factors
- How you can control your risk factors
- What signs and symptoms to look out for
- How to reduce your risk or slow progression through lifestyle and nutritional changes

[Book Here for any of the above events](#)

Coming up in September (these events will be available for booking in the September eNews):

14 September — *Senior drivers: what you need to know about Medical Certificates and keeping safe on the roads*

28 September — Qld Brain Institute (QBI UQ) — *Parkinson's and Dementia research progress*

Meet our Volunteers



Yvonne McGann (Office Manager and Tutor)

Soon after I joined U3A Brisbane, I began working in the office one shift each week and eventually became Office Manager. In this role I am responsible for the smooth running of the office. Helping me are Day Leaders and office staff. We assist tutors and members with enrolments, enquiries etc. I have been Office Manager for about nine years and, for two years, I was a member of the Management Committee.

Although I was trained as a French/Latin teacher, the majority of my teaching

career was spent teaching Mathematics. In the years before I retired, I felt that I would like to do some Latin again. After an internet search, I found U3A Brisbane. Since I didn't know how much Latin I had remembered, I enrolled in two classes with the wonderful Ness Claus. Luckily, the Latin came back to me quite quickly and I really enjoyed studying it again. When there appeared to be a shortage of Latin tutors, I took on a class. This has now developed into my tutoring four Latin classes at present.

U3A Brisbane is such a great organisation: encouraging people to continue on their life-long educational journey.

Sheila Mackay (Tutor)



I have been the tutor of U3A Brisbane's Monday Art History Class for the last six years. I was introduced to the idea of being a tutor by Rosemarie Schukraft who was a fellow guide at the Queensland Art Gallery, a tutor at U3A, and very encouraging.

Art History was initially my 'side gig'. I worked in international business conferences and publishing, which saw me living in Sydney, Singapore, Toronto and London, but also travelling widely within each of the regions. Whenever I travelled for work I would try to pop into the local art gallery: it brought a moment of peace in a whirlwind life and offered some cultural insights into the communities I met. After all, art is a mirror of society and the times in which we live. When I took a break from work to have my second child in 2000, I went back to university and studied Art History (BA then MA) in the UK. After returning to Australia I became a Volunteer Art Guide at QAGOMA in 2012. GOMA currently has an exhibition by Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota titled "The Soul Trembles" which is well worth a visit.

My first Art History class started in 2016 in Creek Street with a few stalwart art enthusiasts, many of whom have been with the group for six years now. The group has grown over the years and, when we moved to Adelaide Street, it became two classes of 50 each. When Covid hit in early 2020 I switched to Zoom. Those Zoom classes gave us all a sense of normality and continuity as we continued our Monday mornings without missing a beat. While the chats before class and the experiences shared kept us all sane, looking at art can itself be so very engaging and relaxing. As restrictions eased we managed to meet up for tours around various shows, with the highlights being the MET Masterpieces exhibition last year and the recent APT10. Four volunteers took on the logistical challenge of organising the groups (thank you Frances, Margot, Trish and Lesley – we couldn't have done it without you!).

We now have 160 students between the two classes, so I think I will be running these sessions via Zoom for the foreseeable future. We kicked off with Western Art (Early Renaissance) but more recently did a Survey Course of World Art. This current term is Women Artists from the Renaissance to the Present Day and sees five fellow students joining me to present classes. This is working very well and everyone is enjoying the contributions being made. I am hoping that we will be able to do more of this next year for those who wish to have a go at sharing their appreciation of art.

It was Oscar Wilde who said 'Art Provides the language we need to appreciate life' and I think that is certainly true for many of us in this group.

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 14th September 2022, 1:30pm, QPAC – Concert Hall



Bookings have closed. If you have booked for this event, tickets will be issued shortly, and an email will be sent to you when the tickets are available for collection.

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 17th 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 17th 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: 12th 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.**