

## Editor's Notes

Jane Elliott



After enjoying more than 20 months in the role, I am resigning as Editor of the Brisbane U3A eNews. If you have good knowledge of MS Word, can proofread carefully and ensure format is consistent, then you have the skills necessary to be the eNews editor. You do need to understand U3A's goals and ethos, and ensure that the eNews represents these. The Editor manages and edits the content before submitting the final version to the U3A IT Manager for formatting and distribution to members. It's an interesting role which is ably supported by area coordinators and Management Committee members. 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).

## President's Report

Gabrielle Power West

We are already halfway through Term 1 and, judging from the comments from members, together with the enthusiastic chatter in the foyer between classes, our members are enjoying their classes. I am sure that Marco Polo, the nearby Coffee Shop is also appreciative of the return of U3A classes and members.

There is a very important event coming up for one of our long-term members, Anne Collins who turns 100 years on March 1. Anne has been a member of U3A for many years and holds the honour of being one of our first members. To recognise this amazing milestone, Chris Deeming, Anne's tutor in the Photography class, has organised a print of Anne which has been hung recently in the foyer of the Adelaide St. premises and was featured in a February eNews article.



Two special events have been organised to celebrate Anne's milestone. The first event will be held on her birthday and involves the Photography Class Anne attends. This has been organised by class members under the leadership of class tutor Chris Deeming. Given there are many others connected to U3A who want to recognise Anne's special birthday, there is a second event organised by Chris Deeming: a gathering 11am-12noon, 21 March, at Marco Polo.

On **10 April 2024** the **Annual General Meeting of U3A** will be held via Zoom. **U3A depends entirely on its members' generosity and experience to fill all the important roles** that are necessary to ensure that U3A continues to provide the interesting range of classes and other events offered each term. U3A runs entirely as an **honorary and voluntary** organisation. When members join U3A a number indicate their interest in volunteering as tutors or office volunteers, and some volunteer to assist, for example, as accountants. U3A members have had experience in an incredible range of areas, professions, and organisations during their many years in the workplace.

Leading into the forthcoming AGM, U3A needs **members to volunteer** and share their professional experience from the workforce with all members, and to enable U3A to continue to offer their extensive programs and other events.

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THE FOLLOWING ROLES  
YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS ESSENTIAL

1. Member of the Management Committee of U3A
2. Editor of the monthly eNews
3. Organiser of the ePresentations

Information relating to each of these important volunteer roles can be obtained from the following personnel at U3A:

1. Management Committee of U3A –
  - a. President: [president@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:president@u3abrisbane.org.au)
  - b. Secretary: [secretary@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:secretary@u3abrisbane.org.au)
2. Editor of eNews: [editor@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:editor@u3abrisbane.org.au)
3. Organiser of ePresentations: [secretary@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:secretary@u3abrisbane.org.au)

Many members have nominated for the social event involving the bus trip to *Pohlmanns Nursery* at Gatton on 19 March. There are only a few places still available. If you are interested in being part of this event then you will need to access a ticket as soon as possible. Thank you to Heather Dowling for organising this interesting event.

The Class Schedule for Term 2 will be available on 17 March with numerous interesting classes available for members. Remember these classes are made available because of the voluntary involvement of U3A tutors and other volunteers involved with organising the program and being available at the offices in Creek and Adelaide Street venues to assist each day.

**Please remember that U3A depends entirely on volunteers** for all aspects of its operation, organisation, and delivery. Please consider joining the current volunteers to ensure U3A continues to provide the very important and worthwhile learning and social opportunities currently available.

Enjoy the remainder of Term 1 and your Easter vacation.

Best wishes,

*Gabrielle*

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## NOTICE OF 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE BRISBANE INCORPORATED

The Annual General Meeting of The University of the Third Age Brisbane Inc. will be held online at 10.00 am on Wednesday 10 April 2024 as a Zoom meeting.

Attendees must register for the meeting using the link on the [U3A Brisbane website](#) home page. You will be sent instructions by email about how to join the meeting.



## **BUSINESS:**

1. Apologies.
2. President's opening remarks.
3. Confirmation of minutes of 2023 AGM of U3A Brisbane Inc.
4. Business arising from the minutes of the 2023 AGM (if any).
5. President's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of audited financial statements of Income and Expenditure, Assets and Liabilities for the calendar year 2023.
7. Auditor's Report – presentation of the audited statement to the meeting for adoption.
8. Appointment of Auditor.
9. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2024/25 – President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to six (6) Committee Members .
10. Questions from the floor.
11. Close.

Mary Denver  
(Secretary)

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## **NOMINATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF U3A BRISBANE INC. FOR 2024**

The AGM of U3A Brisbane will be held at 10 am on Wednesday 10 April 2024 by Zoom.

These positions on the Management Committee automatically become vacant at the AGM:

### **President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Six (6) Committee Members**

Could members please forward nominations (2 nominations, that is a nominator and seconder are required for each position), **by email** to me at:

[secretary@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:secretary@u3abrisbane.org.au)

by 5pm **Wednesday 27th March 2023** (just before the Easter holiday):

The person you nominate must consent to the nomination. I will contact finalised nominees for a brief biography after this deadline.

Please contact me on the above email if you have any enquiries about this process.

Mary Denver  
Secretary  
U3A Brisbane



### New Events with UQ Alumni

U3A Brisbane has created an informal link with the University of Queensland Alumni with a view to cross promotion of each other's events. It is hoped that increasing access for our members to the UQ Alumni Community Programme will provide our members with opportunities to access UQ Events and, with UQ promoting U3A Brisbane events, raise our profile within the wider Brisbane community. We will advertise UQ Events in our eNews to bring them to the attention of members.

The first UQ Alumni event for 2024 is:

### 308 Queen Street Building and History tour

**When:** Tuesdays throughout 2024

**Cost:** Free event



Join UQ alum Dr Keith Treschman (BSc '71, BA '79) on monthly building tours to delve into the history of the 308 Queen Street building and uncover some of the unique and quirky discoveries from the restoration process. The university acquired this building and have done significant renovations. The building was formerly the National Bank and was added to the Queensland Heritage Register in October 1992.

Click on this link and select which tour you would like to join. Book early or you may miss out. [Register Here](#)

## U3A Qld Conference

### Greg Doolan

The forthcoming U3A Network Queensland 2024 conference will be held 28-30 May in Beaudesert.

Registrations are now open on the Network website:

<https://u3aqld.au/registrations-for-network-conference-now-open/>



## Meet our Volunteers

### Coral Johnson (Tutor)



*When I retired from teaching in Queensland high schools, I went overseas and set up a school of English at the Seventh Day Adventist Study Centre in Jerusalem, and ran it from 2000 to 2006. On my return from overseas, I was introduced to U3A by Gordon Hill who was in the Introductory French class. It was the last day of term in 2008 and, although the tutor had given notice, the class still took place. I asked the students what they had been learning and the lesson was able to continue.*

*I joined U3A and continued teaching the Introductory French class the following year. Eventually there were three French classes: the Introductory, and two continuing French classes. Students are told that there are four criteria: pronunciation, comprehension, fluency and, most importantly, fun. It is gratifying to hear students' improvement in all criteria, especially when they have learned new songs or poems.*

*After presenting The Background to the Arab-Israeli Dispute at a winter school, I was asked if the topic could be extended to a term course – of course it could! It is now a two-term course. Poetry Appreciation was added to the list of U3A classes after I returned from a stay on Lord Howe Island knowing “Sea Fever” was an appropriate poem with which to begin. Students suggest their own favourite poems but “Dulce et decorum est” is not to be read in the group. (It's not nice to see the teacher cry so it is recommended for personal reading – with a box of tissues handy.)*

*I consider it a privilege to be a tutor at U3A. As well as meeting intelligent, considerate people, there are no exams to mark.*

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## Vale Valerie Beaumont

### Dan Cooper (on behalf of Logan Creative Writing Class)

Every U3A group needs a Valerie Beaumont: someone who is welcoming, supportive, generous, consistent; someone to take up the slack, to fill in the gaps, to pull things together.

Valerie took on the organisational role in the Creative Writing class that no one else volunteered for after Eileen Sullivan sadly passed away. She did this cheerfully and willingly. Valerie was one of those people who are so essential in society, people who are the glue that keeps others together, and without exaggeration, enhances their lives just a little bit more.

I loved the way Valerie peppered our meetings with her stories about characters she had encountered as a parole board officer within the Queensland justice system. She would sometimes write about her rich experience during this period. Her stories were engaging, often funny, but always told with respect and compassion. She would have been no push-over, being more than aware of her parolees' lurks, but I believe she would have been always fair, reasonable and empathetic. I wish I could retell one of those stories now but they probably need Valerie's laconic retelling rather than a third-hand partial recall. These tales, along with her references to her childhood experiences and later family life, helped us all appreciate Valerie more fully.



*Logan Creative Writing Class wake for Valerie Beaumont.*

*Dan Cooper, Pam Russell, Marlene Wood, Margaret Fleet and Julieanne (Julez) Martini.*

*Photograph taken by Gwenda Vayro.*

## Vale June Anderson

### From Margaret Amos

June Anderson has been a member of U3A and the Wynnum Mahjong Group for many years. She attended when the group first met at the old library, the new library and finally at Fielders Club.

June became a tutor for the group and taught many of us how to play. She was a patient, kind teacher who believed in maintaining the integrity of the game. June passed on her love of mahjong to us all. She enjoyed the challenge of playing not only mahjong but cards and scrabble with other groups.

June was always a lady who enjoyed socialising with members. She hosted two Christmas events at her house for our group where she proudly showed all her collection of Christmas decorations which she had collected from around the world. She shared her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with the group by bringing a cake and supplying refreshments.

June has not enjoyed good health in the last year so was unable to attend classes. She was always keen to hear what was happening in the group. June passed away peacefully last week surrounded by family. She will be sadly missed by all our members but we will think of her often, especially on Wednesdays.

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## U3A Social Events

### Heather Dowling



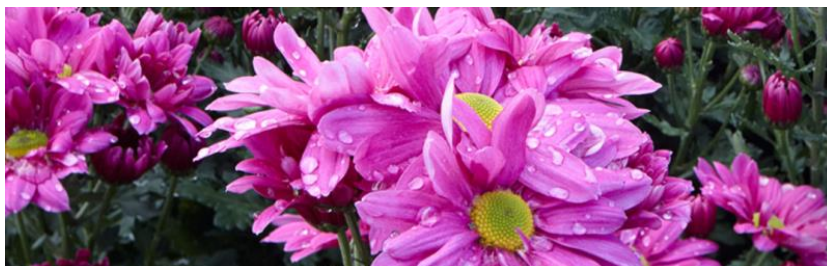
Well, here we are again for another year of learning, fun and frivolity! There are a few adjustments to the way the outings will be organised this year:

- there will be only one major outing per term.
- the meeting place for these outings will be at Roma Street, Platform 10.
- a coach accommodating 45-48 people will always be chartered, so there is plenty of space if you reserve early. This will give U3A members the best possible price for the trips.
- as always, unfortunately, if you cannot attend an outing due to illness etc., you will be required to find a replacement. Only in exceptional circumstances will the cost be refunded by U3A. This will be decided by the Treasurer and the Office Manager.
- if you ever feel at a loose end, there is always plenty to do on the social side; you can contact me at [social@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:social@u3abrisbane.org.au) if you want to lend a hand.

**For all social event 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/groups/social-group>

## Tour of Pohlman's Nursery, Adare

**Date:** Tuesday 19 March  
**Pick up:** 8.00am, Roma Street Coach Terminal, opposite Platform 10.  
**Return:** 4.00pm, to Roma Street  
**Cost:** \$72.00  
**Closing date:** book by Monday 11 March



Pohlman's Nursery is nestled amongst the gum trees, just outside of Gatton in the heart of the Lockyer Valley. After arriving at the nursery, we will split into two groups for an informative trip around the 60-acre nursery on the *Gum Tree Valley Express* to learn how they use cutting-edge technology and industry best practice to produce high quality plants.

While the first group is on the guided tractor train, the second group can look around the shop and stock up their plants. The train tour takes 30-40 minutes. The cost includes a stop at Rosewood for morning tea, and a two-course lunch at the Royal Gatton Hotel.

**HURRY, THERE ARE STILL SOME SEATS AVAILABLE – BOOKINGS CLOSE 12 MARCH**



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