

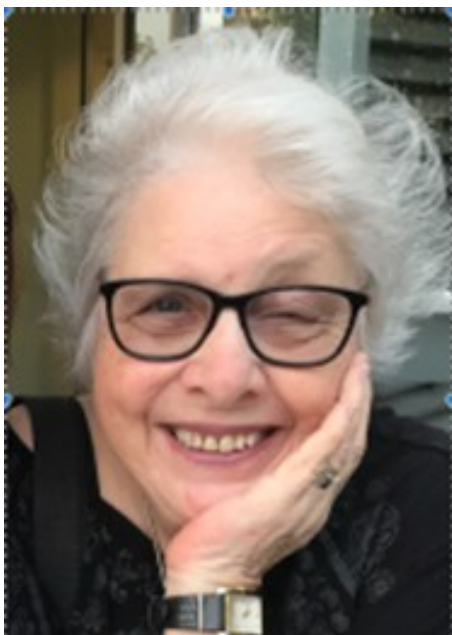


eNews

NOVEMBER 2025

Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning

President's Report



Des Taylor

Hello all

I hope you are enjoying your classes and activities this Term.

However, the end of the year is fast approaching.

Term 4 ends on **Friday 12 December** and enrolments for Term 1 in 2026 will open on **30 November**.

Popular classes fill quickly.

Some new and exciting classes will be on offer, so be ready to enrol early.

Members

We currently have more than 3100 members and we hope our membership will continue to grow.

Please help this happen by collecting brochures from the office and leaving them where they may be picked up, and by telling your friends about us.

There are so many benefits about joining U3A Brisbane: a wonderful array of classes and the chance to make new friends and perhaps share a coffee after class or a meal at the end of term.

Members also have opportunities to attend presentations – perhaps with wine and cheese or afternoon tea, together with a talk from emeritus professors from the University of Queensland, or at one of our venues in the city from QUT and other interesting speakers.

These presentations in the city venues are free of charge for members.

Classes and Tutors

We are also interested in expanding our subject offerings.

Do YOU have some expertise in an area and would like to share your knowledge with a like-minded group of people, either as a Tutor or a Facilitator?

If so, please contact Gail Hawkins so that your class/group can be included in our offerings when enrolments open at the end of November. Email Gail: tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au

Update: U3A Brisbane moving forward

Venues

The fitout company has been selected for our Edward Street Premises – the same company that we used 10 years ago for Adelaide Street.

We look forward to working with them again.

The timeline and tasks that will need to be organised to ensure a smooth move can now be done with some certainty.

Our Creek Street premises are still on the market. We will keep you informed about progress.

University of Queensland (UQ)

We are meeting with staff from UQ in November to plan our collaboration for 2026.

If there are any topics or areas you would be particularly interested in, please let me know.

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

See page 2 for details of the next QUT Workshop on 14 November: *A Global Garden Journey: Exploring the Art of World Gardens*

We are continuing our discussions with QUT and hope to offer more interesting opportunities in the new year.

Take care,

–Des

A Global Garden Journey: Exploring the Art of World Gardens

Date: Friday 14 November 2025, 9:30am-10:30am

Presenter: Anqi

Venue: City Campus, 232 Adelaide St.



Image attribution: Wikipedia

This QUT Workshop invites you on a delightful journey through the world's most beautiful gardens. In this relaxing one-hour session, we'll explore iconic garden styles from around the globe, from the poetic elegance of Chinese classical gardens to the Zen tranquility of Japanese rock gardens; from the grand symmetry of French Versailles to the romantic naturalism of English cottage gardens; from the terraced beauty of Italian Renaissance gardens to the serene oasis of Islamic paradise gardens.

Through stunning imagery, engaging narration, and fascinating cultural stories, you'll discover how different civilisations have blended philosophy, art, and nature to create distinctive landscape designs. Whether

you're a gardening enthusiast or simply curious about world cultures, this course offers a gateway to beauty and serenity.

[Register for this Event](#)

From Rod McLary Districts Manager



Electric Vehicles 101

This class returns in November following a short break. The next class will be held on Wednesday 12 November at 10.30am.

Learn everything that the tutor, **Phil Browne**, wishes he had known before buying an EV.

Topics include:

- characteristics of EVs
- how to charge your EV, including from home solar
- cost to buy an EV (some near \$30,000)

- cheap to run and service
- powering appliances, your home or the electricity grid from your EV
- how to locate chargers on road trips
- cables and plugs
- where to find accurate information about EVs
- plus view some EVs charging and talk to EV owners.



For more information including the location of the class, check the U3A website Class Search – **class S01**.

Georgia Cummings: Becoming a U3A Tutor

I joined U3A in the winter term of 2014. Dropping into Creek Street campus to register, I found the volunteers warm, friendly and welcoming.

I sat down with the class timetable and found a class that appealed to me: *Ovid's Metamorphosis*. The tutor was Victoria Bladen, a lecturer in English and Humanities at UQ. She sounded interesting, and I was looking forward to my first class. Unfortunately, her work commitments meant she could not attend the class, so it became just a reading of *Metamorphosis* among the members. This was not really what I was looking for, so I decided to go back to the class schedule.

I then enrolled in *Blogging 101*, which I really enjoyed. We worked as a class of about six or seven in the computer lab at Creek Street, and our tutor was amazing. She was young and in between jobs, so had volunteered to tutor this class.

One day after class I read a note on the tearoom noticeboard asking for members who were interested in becoming tutors, and I left a message for the organiser.

Gail Hawkins, the city campus class coordinator, invited me to sit down with her and talk through my ideas about a possible class. She suggested I write a short outline for the next eNews and for the noticeboard, to see if there was any interest. I made myself a cup of tea, and sat down to write up my outline.

I went back to Gail and then met Mary Calder. We talked about my proposed class, which I called *The Art of Ageing*. They were enthusiastic and I began to feel excited about the prospect.



I was extremely nervous at my first class and I used notes to keep my focus. I was also not too familiar with the audiovisual set-up, and called on Greg Taylor when I encountered problems with cables being moved or unplugged in those early classes.

My first class had five enrolments, but with each term the number grew. Today, I generally have 40 enrolments each term. Some of my original class members remain, and each term I meet new people looking to explore the practice of mindfulness or insight meditation.

When I joined U3A, I was recovering from a major depressive episode following some big life transitions, and was working with a clinical psychologist. I was practising mindfulness meditation and self-compassion as part of my therapy and found it very helpful. This experience inspired me to include some of what I was learning into my class *The Art of Ageing*.

At the end of those early classes we would have a short meditation, and over time members told me they found the

meditation and metta practice was very supportive.

In those earlier years I also held a couple of workshops at U3A, including a Death Cafe and a Day of Recollection, and in 2016 I was invited to present at the U3A Winter School.

As time went on, I decided to change the format of my class and focus more deeply on mindfulness and metta practice. I also wanted to include the broader topics of neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, music, relationships, literature and different faith traditions, as well as our current world environment as they related to our meditation practice.

I really like to encourage class discussion as this helps us all to connect and share common bonds as well as differences. The weekly class email, which goes out before each class, becomes the basis for our discussions, and everyone tells me they enjoy this email greatly.

This format has been successful, and members sit for 40 minutes meditation following our discussions. Occasionally I use some interactive work in break-out groups, as my class members tell me they find this really enjoyable.

Finally, I invite other members to think about taking up the role of Tutor. The benefits are enormous as you will make new and interesting friends. Your subject matter will give you a focus as you prepare your weekly classes, and in addition the research and planning that you undertake is beneficial for your brain and your wellbeing. We all need to have connection with others in order to flourish. What better way than to offer your skills and life experience to your friends at U3A?

Warmest wishes, Georgia

U3A Creative Portraiture Class

Our class meets in the great outdoors of New Farm Park and we hold two exhibitions each year in the New Farm Library!

We reckon that it's just like having an early Christmas on the day of installing the exhibition. We never know what portraits will be delivered by our pencilers and painters.

It's a feast for the eyes as we lay out the unwrapped offerings provided by many of the 27 class members. We get so excited – and then there's the debate and decisions of what goes where on the walls and cabinets.

Carmel McCormack (nicknamed Ladder Girl) and her assistant Kay Lester are seasoned curators who have the added skills of being fit, agile and ladder-able. (See photo below, right.)

The other curators filled up the glass cabinets with examples of the portraits completed from the portraiture exercises that we have experimented with. We use both live models and reference photos at our classes.

Our exhibition runs **from October to 27 November**.



Above: Curators in the line-up (from front): Sandy Dunstan, Christine Kenyon, Ann Seery, Kay Lester, Carmel McCormack, Carol Owens (Tutor)



QPAC EVENT

PRETTY WOMAN THE MUSICAL

Musical

Pretty Woman: The Musical

From 5 October 2025
Lyric Theatre

Mitchell (*Kinky Boots*, *Legally Blonde*, *Hairspray*), an electrifying original score by Grammy® winner Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance (*Summer of '69*, *Heaven*), and a book by the movie's legendary director Garry Marshall and screenwriter J.F. Lawton, this sensation brings a Hollywood classic to life like never before.

Vivian and Edward are unlikely soulmates who overcome all odds to find each other – and themselves.

Brought to life by a powerhouse creative team representing the best of music, Hollywood, and Broadway, *Pretty Woman: The Musical* is a guaranteed big night out that will lift your spirits and light up your heart.

Wed 19 Nov 2025

1-3:30pm incl. interval

Lyric Theatre, QPAC

Tickets: \$97 conc.

Head to Hollywood with the dazzling stage adaptation of one of the most beloved romantic

comedies of all time – *Pretty Woman: The Musical*.

Bursting with glamour, charm and all the iconic moments you know and love, this joyous musical hit will premiere at QPAC's Lyric Theatre this October.

Featuring direction and choreography by two-time Tony Award® winner Jerry



QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Mahler Nine

Season Finale

Just a small handful of works are strong enough to dominate an entire concert program.

Mahler's Symphony No. 9 is one, and Umberto Clerici will stand at the helm of the Queensland

Symphony Orchestra when he conducts this life-affirming work.

Mahler wrote his symphony in the solitude of a mountain cabin.

He contemplated existential questions, and composed music about the richness of life before death.

From its warm and pastoral beginnings, this turn-of-the-century work dances between turbulence and joy; grief and acceptance.

Take the journey with the QSO, and together we'll venture towards the bittersweet

conclusion of Mahler's memorable Ninth.

28 November 2025 – 7:30 PM

29 November 2025 – 7:30 PM

Concert Hall, QPAC

Tickets from: Adult \$90
Concession \$85

C-Reserve

To order please call 3833 5054
or email sales@qso.com.au

WHAT HAS BRISBANE U3A ORGANISED FOR YOU FOR NOVEMBER?



- 12 Nov – Electric vehicles
- Thu 13 Nov – Under a Modern Sun

- Fri 14 Nov – Under a Modern Sun
- Fri 14 Nov – Global Garden Journey
- Wed 19 Nov – Pretty Woman
- Sat 23 Nov – Under a Modern Sun
- Ends Thu 27 Nov – U3A Portraiture exhibition

- Fri 28 Nov – Mahler Nine
- Sat 29 Nov – Mahler Nine
- Sun 30 Nov – Enrolments open for Term 1, 2026
- Fri 12 Dec – Term 4 ends



U3A gallery tour – *Under a Modern Sun*

Join fellow art lovers on a special U3A tour of the *Under a Modern Sun* exhibition Queensland Art Gallery (QAG) Southbank.

Under a Modern Sun showcases the work of Queensland artists and those working in the state in the middle decades of the twentieth century.

The display includes artworks by renowned Brisbane-based painters Vida Lahey and William Bustard and luminaries from the

regions, including Kenneth Macquenn and Joe Rootsey.

The exhibition explores connections between these artists and others, such as Sidney Nolan and Max Dupain, who travelled to Queensland to explore its histories and subject matter and, in doing so, contributed to the development of a modernist sensibility here.

[More Information](#)

Three dates are offered:

- Thursday 13 November – Amanda Roan will act as host

(tour will be conducted by a rostered guide)

- Friday 14 November, Sheila Mackay host
- Sunday 23 November, Amanda Roan host.

The tours will start at 10:15 am and take approximately 45 minutes. Please meet your guide at the information desk at the front entrance to QAG.

[Register for this Event](#)

To manage space, your editor has put Dec theatre info on this page, and Nov on the next page. (Yeah, I know. Cart before horse.)

DECEMBER 2025

Beenleigh Theatre 3807 3922 beenleightheatregroup.com	<i>& Juliet</i>	Matinee: 6, 13 7:30pm: 5, 6, 12, 13	Adults \$35 Conc/Child \$30
Ipswich Little Theatre 3812 2389 ilt.org.au	<i>Waiting For God</i>	Matinee: 6 7:30: 5 & 6	Adults \$25 Conc. \$21
Nash Theatre New Farm 0418 719 300 Nashtheatre.com	Agatha Christie's <i>The Mousetrap</i>	Matinee: 6 7:30pm: 5 & 6	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20 Grp 20% off
St. Luke's Theatre 0493 778 379 Stluketheatre.asn.au	<i>Sense & Sensibility</i>	Matinee: 6 7:30pm 5 & 6	Adults \$28 Conc. \$22 Group \$20



AROUND THE TRAPS WITH LINDA

Exciting news for the lovers of The Mousetrap

Playhouse at Redcliffe. They are up and running again in their new location: Sutton Centre Building, 157 Sutton Street, Redcliffe.

They had a short two-weekend play on in October and now, in November, they are having an *80s Icons Cabaret*.

If you've been to their cabarets

before, you'll know what a blast they are, with everyone sitting at tables just like the old cabarets!

BYO drinks and nibbles. Tea/ coffee/soft drinks on sale.

Here is the link to their website: <https://www.mousetraptheatre.asn.au/coming-shows.html>

** Beenleigh Theatre has the following Content Warning:

This production contains strong language, homophobic language, derogatory language, mature themes such as sex, abuse, sexual violence, physical violence, gun violence, body shaming, references to eating disorders, vomit, murder, and suicide.

NOVEMBER 2025

Beenleigh Theatre **NOTE 3807 3922 BELOW beenleightheatregroup.com	<i>& Juliet</i>	Matinee: 29 7:30pm: 28, 29	Adults \$35 Conc/Child \$30
Centenary Theatre Chelmer 0435 591 720 NB centenarytheatre.com.au	<i>Holmes & Watson</i>	Matinee: 8, 9, 16, 23 7:30pm: 1, 7, 14, 15, 21, 22	Adults \$27 Conc. \$24 Group \$20 Child \$17
Growl Theatre 0438 548 426 boxoffice@growltheatre.com.au	<i>The Foreigner</i>	Matinee: 2, 8 7:30pm: 1, 7, 8	Adult \$20 Conc. \$17
Ipswich Little Theatre 3812 2389 ilt.org.au	<i>Waiting For God</i> (Nov/Dec)	Matinee: 23, 30 7:30: 21, 22, 28, 29 — Gala night on 22(5&6/12)	Adults \$25 Conc. \$21
Mercury Theatre, RSL Hall, Manly mercurytheatrewynnum.com.au	<i>A Doll's House</i>	Matinee: 16, 23, 30 7:30pm: 15, 22, 29	\$25
Nash Theatre New Farm 0418 719 300 Nashtheatre.com	<i>The Mousetrap</i> Agatha Christie (Nov/Dec)	Matinee: 22 & 29 7:30pm: 21, 22, 28, 29 (5&6/12)	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20 Grp 20% off
St. Luke's Theatre 0493 778 379 Stlukestheatre.asn.au	<i>Sense & Sensibility</i>	Matinee: 22, 29(6/12) PM 21, 22, 28, 29 (5/6/12)	Adults \$28 Conc. \$22 Group \$20
Sunnybank Theatre 3345 3964 sunnybanktheatre.com.au	<i>Red Riding Hood (Hood vs Hood)</i> Pantomime	Matinee: 8, 15, 16, 22 7:30pm: 7, 8, 15, 21, 22	Adults \$28 Conc. \$26
The Mousetrap Theatre info@mousetraptheatre.asn.au	<i>Mirandolina</i>	2:30pm: 2 7:30pm: 1	Adults \$25 Conc. \$20 Student \$15
Villanova Players info@villanovaplayers.com 0423 920 832	<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Matinee: 8, 9, 15, 16 7:30pm: 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16	Adult \$30 Conc. \$25 Group \$20

Please note that details of all plays mentioned are correct at the time of printing, but do check with the website or contact the theatre before booking.



U3A's German Advanced Class (J75) class members were very lucky to have a visit from Regina of Schnucki's Dirndl und Lederhosen recently. Regina spoke about her personal journey from Germany to Brisbane and the founding of the business. They even learnt the correct way to tie the dirndl sash. Plus she brought gebäck! The class loved it! Vielen Dank, Regina!

Outdoor classes

Looking for an outdoor class?

There are three options in the Northside district – *Lawn Bowls* and two classes at different locations in *Croquet*.

All three offer exercise, an opportunity to learn a new skill and to meet other people.

Check the website – Class Search/Northside – for full details of the classes.

A heads-up from Dulcie Carey about Nature shows on TV

If you have internet connection on your TV, did you know there are FREE shows available on Channels 5107 and 5117?

[More information](#)

Premium wildlife content is now streaming FREE on select platforms.

Currently available on MyFree DIRECTV, DISH, Sling Freestream, Samsung TV Plus, LG Channels, Vidaa Free etc. Happy viewing!



Published by: U3A Brisbane, 97 Creek Street, Brisbane 4000
 Phone: (07) 3236 3055 | u3abrisbane.org.au | mail@u3abrisbane.org.au