

Editor's Notes:
from Jean Smith



You would be correct in wondering why I have included a picture of Aspley in eNews. Not the most attractive of outlooks, but it forms part of my morning walk. Experts tell us that a daily walk – preferably in the morning – provides significant health benefits. If that is true, I should be very, very healthy as, for the last 25 years, I have been leaving home just before 6.00 am for my morning constitutional. It's also a great opportunity for practising mindfulness – focussing on what I can see, hear, feel, smell.

No two days are the same. The distant Mt Glorious is sometimes swathed in cloud; at other times the air is so clear you can almost count individual trees. If I am lucky I might spot a pair of black cockatoos overhead, slowly flapping their wings en route to an unknown destination.

But the main benefit of my daily walk has been the 'thinking time' it has given me. During the 'juggling years', it was when I planned school-run logistics or compiled menus and shopping lists. The hurly-burly of these years has passed, but this time is still precious. This is when I dream up ideas for the Editor's Notes, and as the time for publication approaches, mentally draft the text so that when I sit down at the computer, it just happens! Now that I have committed this to print, I can start thinking about the April eNews!

President's Notes:
from Greg Doolan

Over a number of years, U3A Brisbane has expanded its digital presence exponentially and this is now set to take another step forward with the imminent introduction of contactless payment machines for class fees in both our Adelaide and Creek Street premises. The roll-out of this equipment may take a little time as it involves more than just plugging in and switching on the machines. The process is being planned by our IT specialist Greg Taylor, Office Manager Yvonne McGann and our senior office volunteers.

I am delighted to announce that the purchase of these machines was made possible by a donation from one of our members who wishes to remain anonymous. A letter from the donor accompanying their donation is included in this edition of eNews and I would like to draw attention to a particular paragraph as it is both humbling and pleasing to see what others think of our efforts to make U3A Brisbane such a professional organisation: *"As a business person of many years, I can share with you that I have never seen a volunteer organisation run as professionally as our U3A. The facilities provided, the range of courses offered, computer resources, the devotion and passion of the volunteers, all these would be considered second to none in the business world. That is if such a company existed today in the business world!"*



Note it will still be possible to make class payments in cash – whatever suits you best.

On a sad note, I was recently advised of the passing of Dorothy Buch. Dorothy was a long-time U3A member who first became involved in card-making classes in 1998. She continued this involvement until her retirement from U3A in 2014, by which time she was well into her 80s. She loved her association with U3A – as her family say, it kept her sharp and active for many years. Dorothy's contribution to the life of U3A was treasured by many.

I would like to remind members that the U3A Brisbane AGM is just around the corner. This meeting is to be held on Wednesday 17th April at 10am preceded by the Noteholders AGM at 9am. We encourage members to attend and hear about U3A Brisbane's very successful year. This is your opportunity to see how our U3A is run, so please attend if you can. The formal Notice of Meeting and Management Committee nomination forms will be in the Term 2 Class Schedule to be released on 24th March.

I hope everyone is continuing to enjoy their Term 1 class choices as much as I'm enjoying mine.

U3A Brisbane Member Honoured in Lord Mayor's Australia Day Achievement Awards : Ronald Baker

Ron Baker, a member of Chris (Nobby) Hobbs' Android & IT Group, received an Achievement Award in this year's Lord Mayor's Australia Day awards. The citation states: 'Over the past 30 years, Ronald has made an outstanding contribution to the Brisbane community, especially in Coorparoo and the surrounding suburbs.

As a retired architect, Ronald has actively championed the preservation and appreciation of buildings on Brisbane's southside

by leading groups such as the Coorparoo and Districts Heritage Group, whose mission it is to record and preserve the history of the local area. Recently, Ronald was re-elected as president of this group, volunteering his time to organise the bi-monthly meetings, as well as arranging the guest speakers who attend.

Since the 1980s, Ronald has also volunteered his time at a large number of community organisations including as president of the Coorparoo School of Arts, and also the Stones Corner Rotary Club, Architects Small Practice Group, National Trust of Australia (East Brisbane Branch), Coorparoo Community Association and the Royal Institute of Architects (Queensland Chapter). According to his peers, none of these organisations would be as successful as they are today without the application of Ronald's personal drive and friendly personality."

This article was inadvertently omitted from last month's eNews. (Ed.)



Ron Baker

Winter School 8-12 July from Anne Douglass

For the uninitiated, Winter School is held annually in the second week of the mid-year term break and consists of a week of specially invited speakers from universities and specialty groups. Winter School is open to everyone and non-members are welcomed. Presentation topics are generally not found in our term curriculum and are designed to inform, entertain and generally broaden our horizons. With around 55 speakers taking part there is plenty to choose from. If you are a new member and would like to know more, please go to our website and click on Winter School to view last year's program.

Plans for Winter School 2019 are now well underway and this year it will run from Monday 8th July to Friday 12th July, so please put these dates into your diaries. Bookings will open when the program is posted on our website the weekend of the 9th June, four weeks prior to the start of Winter School

To whet your appetite here is a taste of what's to come:

Sentencing and the Law from the other side of the Bench by recently retired, The Honourable Judge John Robertson.

The Brain Unlocked - Retrain Your Brain from Professor Selena Bartlett QUT.

Secret Women's Business - Feminine Hygiene in the Middle Ages from Rosalie Gilbert.

World's Top Ten Breakthroughs in Quantum Physics from Professor Andrew White UQ - Andrew and his team were honoured to be included in this very prestigious list

We try to keep the program varied and the calibre of our speakers high, and judging by last year's attendance figures we are managing to do this as the numbers are increasing annually.

We will keep you posted with developments via eNews and Facebook and speakers will be profiled as we draw closer to the start time.

If anyone has come across an interesting speaker for Winter School, we would love to hear from you. We can be contacted via winterschool@u3abrisbane.org.au.

Please note bookings cannot be made until the program is posted on our website the weekend of 9th June.

Office News

from Yvonne McGann

One of the few downsides to the ever-expanding number of people attending U3A classes is that corridors outside classrooms are becoming congested with people waiting to get into their room before the previous class has left. This makes the changeover difficult, especially for incoming tutors who may need a few extra minutes to set up the room to their satisfaction.

We know it gets a bit crowded at times, but it would make easier for everyone if you could you wait in the foyer until the previous class has vacated the room.

Member Donation to U3A

Fellow members

I wanted to share with you news of the donation I have recently made to U3A to enable them to purchase four tap & go terminals. These will allow more efficient processing of members' current class payments, for those that wish to use this facility. Cash will still be accepted.

I have been a member of U3A for several years, attended many courses and even conducted some. During this time, I've had a chance to observe how the place is run. As a business person of many years, I can share with you that I have never seen a volunteer organisation run as professionally as our U3A. The facilities provided, the range of courses offered, computer resources, the devotion and passion of the volunteers, all these would be considered second to none in the business world. That is if such a company existed today in the business world!

Speaking to many overseas friends about U3A, they envy us.

I am not sure if you are aware that U3A is a totally self-funded volunteer-run organisation that receives no subsidies or financial support whatsoever from governments. It is for this reason I felt I wanted to give something back. I asked U3A what was on their wish list of projects and I was able to help with this one. I asked for my donation to remain anonymous but that I be allowed to share news of it in this issue of eNews to make members aware that such a donation is possible and welcomed.

I think U3A is a shy organisation...they hide their light under a bushel. This letter and my donation are small attempts to thank them and shine the light.

Most sincerely

Anonymous Donor

NBN Information Sessions from Greg Taylor

A planned presentation on the NBN for the U3A Brisbane IT Group on 9th March has booked out, so we are planning to run some weekday sessions so that other U3A members can find out more about how the NBN rollout might affect them. These sessions will answer such questions as:

- What is involved in connecting?
- How do I choose a plan?
- Is connection mandatory?
- How will it affect my home phone?
- What will it cost?
- Are there alternatives?



There will be two sessions in March at **232 Adelaide St** as follows. The same information will be presented at each session so choose the day that suits you best:

Wednesday 13th March 2pm — Greg Taylor

Friday 15th March 2pm — Chris (Nobby) Hobbs

We expect these sessions will fill rapidly, so we will run additional sessions in April and later if needed.

You can book through the U3A website: [Make a Booking](#)

Computer Section News: from Gwenn Ball

I am pleased to say that two popular topics, **MS Excel** and **MS Word**, which were missing from the Term 1 Computer Lab will be back in Term 2 on Fridays. Come and master the new features of **MS Word**, and learn to create all sorts of documents, or master **MS Excel** and to create basic spreadsheets and use formulas for tracking expenses.

These two courses will provide you with all the essentials!

Logan District News: from Marg Ancliffe

Term 1 is well underway and running smoothly, and the new Etymology class is proving popular. Unfortunately, some classes are full to capacity. As our membership continues to grow, we are always on the lookout for anyone who would like to tutor a new class. If interested, please contact me via the Logan District web page:

<https://www.u3abrisbane.org.au/index.php/groups/logan-district>

Look out for the three new classes beginning in Term 2:

Golf Croquet – join a very friendly (but competitive) group to learn the intricacies of playing croquet. There will be a half hour lesson followed by a game. This includes a break for morning tea, a time to chat and get to

know people.

Walking for pleasure. This is a new group for those of us who are not fit but enjoy a gentle walk on flat ground and a good chat.

Canasta – This has always been a very popular card game. Our new class is suitable for beginners and more advanced players. A good time is guaranteed.

Northern District News:

from Rod McLary

2019 has started well - thank you to the tutors who again are offering their classes. Thank you too to Tom Burnard who is offering a new class in Family History, and taking it to a new level by looking how your history can be converted to a visual medium.

Some of the classes have vacancies and you are welcome to contact the relevant tutor and ask whether you can join them. Classes with vacancies include the Croquet class, the Mahjong class and the Games class at the Chermside Library. The class tutors would welcome your enquiry.

Northside classes cover a wide spectrum of topics so there is certainly to be one which matches your interests. Check on the U3A Brisbane website under Northside to see the full list.

We are always keen to find new tutors so if you have a background in a particular subject or are passionate about an area of interest, please contact me.

Social Committee News:

from Libby Eichmann

New Chairperson for Social Committee needed

Helen Dubois has retired from the position of Chairperson for the Social Committee and we are looking for someone to take on this role in 2019. If you are interested, please phone the Creek Street office on 3236 3055 and ask that your details be passed on to either Alannah Gaffney or Angela Butler.

To book for the following events: Ph: U3A office 32363055

Booked-out events are advertised as a reminder of dates and times. Note that you can ask to be put onto a wait list so that, should a member cancelling their booking, the ticket can be offered to someone on the list. However, this does not apply to QPAC events. Tickets for all events can be picked up from the Creek Street office.

Margaret Olley Arts Centre: The Margaret Olley Arts Centre (MOAC) celebrates the career, life and legacy of its namesake, Margaret Olley – Australia's most celebrated painter of still life and interiors.

Lunch: included, at Murwillumbah Services Club

Pick up: Roma Street station opposite police station at 7.30 am; Macgregor Park and Ride, Kessels Rd. at 8 am.

DATE: 20th March 2019

COST: \$50

CLOSING DATE: 13 March 2019 (booked out)

Senior Moments: With hilarious comedy sketches and brilliantly witty songs, *Senior Moments* is a comedy revue with fun and laughs and performers who are old enough to know better, all making merry fun of the trials and tribulations of growing old disgracefully. *Senior Moments* is a seriously funny revue for slightly "old people".

(That's you. Be honest!)

DATE: Friday 10th May, 2019 at 1pm.

COST: \$55

CLOSING DATE: 22 March 2019 (tickets still available)

The Book of Mormon: The Book of Mormon is a musical comedy. First staged in 2011, the play makes light of various Mormon beliefs and practices, but ultimately endorses the positive power of love and service. The script, lyrics, and music were written by Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, and Matt Stone.

DATE: Sunday, May 5th, 2019 at 1pm.

COST: \$120 - Tickets on sale from Monday 10th September 2018

CLOSING DATE: 1st February, 2019 (1 ticket unsold)

Lifelong Learning Summer School, Sunday 18 August – Saturday 31 August 2019, Girton College, University of Cambridge, UK.

Last year our Vice President and Winter School Coordinator, Marilyn Wagland, joined peers from around the world to participate in Girton College's Lifelong Learning Summer School. A truly memorable experience, and one she will be sharing with us early next term.

To quote Nick Godfrey, Director of Girton's Summer Programmes, 'Going into its seventh year, this summer school enables participants to take academic courses for the love of learning, live and take meals in the College, and have a pretty full and exciting social programme to get the most out of being in Cambridge. In sum it is a fantastic opportunity to spend one or two weeks experiencing the highlights of Cambridge college life in the company of other lifelong learners from around the world!

More information is available on Girton's website at: <http://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/summer-programmes/lifelong>.



2019 U3A China Tour



China's Cradle of Civilisation

Tour Outline: Fly into Nanjing to enjoy an exciting time with Nanjing U3A before taking a fast train to Kaifeng, one of the ancient capitals of China, then onto Anyang to visit the 1000BC tomb and Luoyang to see famous Buddhist caves and Shaolin Temple (above right)

Then visit the 2000 year old site of the cave dwellers in western Henan Province (above left) before returning to Zhengzhou to complete the tour

Dates: 13 October 2019 to 27 October 2019

Price: Land content price is \$3,350 twin share, single accommodation \$3,900, (includes meals)

The cost of international flights, visa, travel insurance, etc are **NOT** included.

In addition: The 2018 U3A Silk Road tour can be repeated if enough people are interested. Please contact me for details.

Register: For a detailed itinerary contact BRYAN ILES, tutor of Experiencing China Brisbane U3A

Email: bryaniles@bigpond.com; Tel: 07 33433141; Mobile 0418986027;

Post: 57 Crewe Street, Mount Gravatt East, Qld 4122