



Editor's Notes: from Jean Smith

Who hasn't sat at the dinner table watching carefully to see whether a sibling was going to get a bigger piece of apple pie than you – and oh the recriminations if you thought it hadn't been divided fairly. These memories can last a lifetime.

I was reminded of this during the recent election campaign. Many of the claims to a bigger piece of pie were well founded, and carefully and courteously expressed – but there were also many which were associated with poor research, intemperate language and outright bad behaviour. And as I don't 'do' social media, what I saw and heard was just the tip of the iceberg. Coming to U3A and being absorbed in my current class was welcome respite.

A new government has been sworn in, and it is up to them to divide up the apple pie. I wonder if any of them are familiar with the rule our family adhered to: *The 'halfer' takes the small half.*

President's Message: from Greg Doolan



Here we are, halfway through Term 2 and, according to our records, members have been attending classes at a record rate which is pleasing to see as it means our class offerings are in line with our members' expectations. Of course, we can always do more to satisfy the demands of our ever-increasing membership so, as I have said many times in the past, if you have a talent or skills that you would like to share with others, contact our tutor liaison officer, Gail Hawkins, tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au, and offer your services. As many others have found, tutoring is a very satisfying pursuit. Not only are you passing on your knowledge, you will most likely find yourself amongst like-minded people who are thrilled to share your enthusiasm and who will spur you on to explore your passion even further. So – why not give it a go?

The U3A State Conference was held in Bundaberg on 16/17 May and I'm pleased to report it was a great success. This was the first time a state conference had

been held in a regional area and it was pleasing to see how many people decided it was worth the journey to this beautiful part of Queensland to see at first-hand how the U3A movement works. U3As from as far north as Townsville, south to the border and west to Roma attended the two-day event which incorporated the AGM for Network Queensland and an extended President's Council meeting to discuss issues that affect all U3As across the state and beyond. The Network Committee for 2019-20 was elected and I'm happy to announce I have retained the Marketing and Public Relations position, a role I have now held for five years.

Many subjects were discussed during two busy days, including recruitment of new tutors, promotion of membership growth, U3A trademark registration across Australia, awareness promotion and publicity (presented by myself) and an inspirational keynote speech by Rhonda Weston, President of U3A Toowoomba and a committee member of World U3A. She spoke of how her involvement with Toowoomba started and how she has immersed herself in volunteering in the years since.

All in all, this was a very informative and entertaining couple of days and well worth the drive up north to attend. I would encourage as many members as possible to attend these conferences as they are not only entertaining and informative, but are a great place to make new friends which helps engender a great sense of camaraderie between U3As across Queensland. Next year's conference will be hosted by U3A Redlands District in Cleveland, which is a little closer to home.

Winter School is rapidly approaching, and I would like to remind members that registration for this event opens on 9th June. If the past is anything to go by, book early to avoid disappointment, especially for the keynote address which normally books out in under two days. This will be another great year for Winter School, with in excess of 50 speakers presenting on a wide variety of subjects. Bookings open on 9th June, and can be made via this link: www.u3abrisbane.org.au .

Winter School 8th July - 12th July from Anne Douglas

Winter School is open to everyone and non-members are welcomed

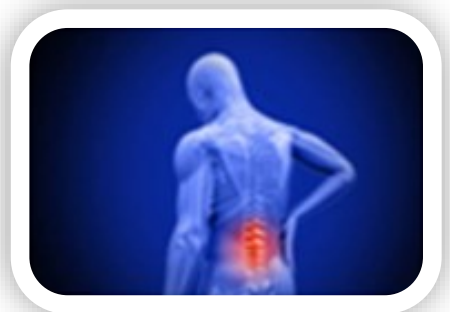
Please note bookings cannot be made until the program is posted on our website the weekend of the 9th June.

Not long to the start of our long-awaited Winter School and we are looking good with 57 speakers locked in. The program, as always, covers a wide range of subjects, with the key theme this year being the law. These include our Keynote Speaker Mr Alan MacSporran QC, Chairperson of the CCC, a man much in the news of late; Brian Herd on Family Law; The Honourable John Robertson in a session where attendees will have to decide on the penalty for a real court case; John Garner GU Forensic Scientist speaking on two local cases; Professor Gelber on Freedom of Speech laws; Professor Liivoja on International Law and Killer Robots, and finally Dr Kate Devitt on Law and Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Here is a taste of what else to come.

Let's Talk Lower Back Pain

Renee Weller and Tom Caitens - Healthy Connections Exercise Clinic - 9am Monday

More than 80% of the population will experience lower back pain at some point in their lives. Gain insight into factors that may be contributing to your pain and learn about simple strategies to decrease stress on the back to move more efficiently. This presentation aims to help people to understand their pain and to take individual steps to move and feel better. Tom is an accredited Clinical Exercise Physiologist with a passion for providing healthy lifestyle interventions to help people manage chronic pain. He has a special interest in gait and postural analysis, joint care and rehabilitation as well as balance and fall prevention. Renee prescribes innovative programs for muscular rehabilitation, incontinence, posture and chronic disease management.



The First Definitive Proof Showing Our Idea of Evolution and Heritability is Wrong

Dr Guy Barry - QIMR-Berghofer - 11am Tuesday



It is currently assumed, by the Modern Evolutionary Theory, that the inheritance of genetic variability occurs only through a random and slow process called Natural Selection. That is to say, mutations and adaptations randomly generated in the insular environments of the testes and ovaries (containing germ cells) are transmitted to the next generation and preferred through natural selection. However, it has been obvious for some time, and even to Charles Darwin, that a form of 'adaptive' evolution exists whereby most inheritance is far quicker. To date, no-one has ever shown how genetic information can flow from a somatic tissue

(e.g. the brain) to the germ cells and be passed onto offspring. This is what Dr Barry has recently proven. He has shown how this information is transmitted and his study will forever change how we understand evolution and heritability.

Dr Barry is the current Team head of Neurogenomics at QIMR and his group investigates genome-wide transcriptomic data to provide insight into how the human brain functions. For this it employs induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), next generation sequencing and advanced bioinformatic analyses. Recent innovations in iPSC technology has permitted an unprecedented view into the biology of human cellular function as many cell types can be derived from these 'stem' cells. Furthermore, the emergence of powerful bioinformatic capabilities has extraordinarily advanced the field of genomics.

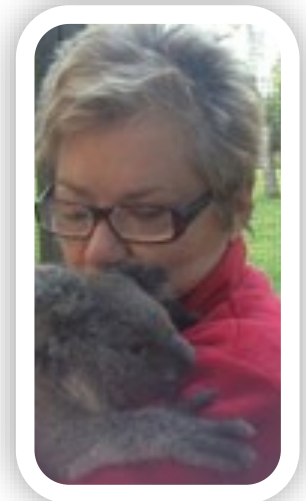
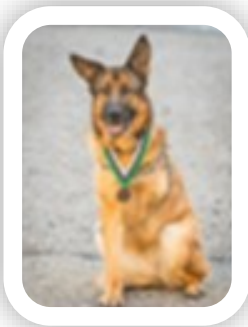


'What the Dickins'

Carmel Lafferty - 9am Thursday

Carmel's talk will look at the history of the Dickin Medal and of some of the many animals that have been awarded it. The PDSA Dickin Medal is the highest award any animal can receive whilst serving in military conflict. Recognised worldwide as the animals' Victoria Cross, it acknowledges outstanding acts of bravery or devotion to duty displayed by animals serving with the Armed Forces or Civil Defence units in any theatre of war anywhere. Recently Carmel's love of animals led her to present a talk on the Dickin Medal to her U3A History class and she will now share some of these heart-warming stories with us. Carmel spent many years working in

Banking and Local Government, and during this time volunteered with several organisations including the Koala Rehabilitation Centre at Mogill. Now retired, amongst other things, Carmel spends her time spoiling Nina their cat, volunteering with U3A, and still working with her much-loved koalas.



The Penal Settlement at Moreton Bay 1824-1839 - A Most Eligible Place

Dr Jennifer Harrison UQ - 11am Tuesday

The penal settlement at Moreton Bay was established in 1824 to house convicts already convicted in Great Britain who persisted in crime in the Sydney district. The settlement was active until late 1839 when it underwent three years of preparation for free settlers. During its years of development under eight commandants, nearly 3000 male and 144 female convicts resided at the outpost, guarded by almost 1000 soldiers. Monthly supply vessels from Port Jackson provided the only contact by carriage of



correspondence with Sydney officials who directed their progress, overseen by distant London civil servants. Despite all this supervision, the northern outpost developed its own character and provided the outline and buildings for the coming of white settlement in 1842.

How Does Your In-Car GPS Navigation Work?

Jim Hawker - 11am Wednesday

Through his extensive experience in both civilian and military mapping, Jim is well qualified to speak on the origins, evolution and current status of Australia's mapping systems. These contributed to modern navigation systems such as GPS, 'Google Maps' and in-car navigation. There was a great deal involved in this process, including a compatible state-wide survey, completion of the unique land parcel numbering system and adoption nationally of the new datum compatible with modern satellite positioning systems. If you have ever wondered how all these things came together Jim is your man.



Plastics in the Environment and the Circular Economy

Ass. Professor Bronwyn Laycock: Dow Centre for Sustainable Engineering Innovation and School of Chemical Engineering - 11am Tuesday



Current estimates set the global production of plastics at around 280 Mtpa. Much of this typically has a lifetime of hundreds of years. This can cause major environmental problems for wildlife and can create rafts of rubbish in our waterways and oceans. This is an important issue and Professor Laycock will outline a range of projects she and her team are working on in an effort to address some of the challenges around global sustainability and planetary boundaries such as nutrient recovery and efficient use, and sustainable materials for the circular economy, particularly bio-derived materials for packaging, film and other applications.

Professor Laycock is a polymer scientist with an interest in advanced materials for sustainability. She is currently working across a range of projects, including novel biopolymers and their composites, particularly waste-derived and the applications of these on controlled release formulations. Within the Dow Centre she is delivering the *Next-Generation Fertiliser program*, and has been instrumental in bringing the *Fight for Food Waste Transformation program* in the Fight Food Waste CRC to the Dow Centre.



International Law and 'Killer Robots': The State of the Debate and Ways Forward

Ass. Professor Rain Liivoja UQ - 1pm Tuesday

The idea of armed forces deploying weapon systems that operate without real-time supervision - sometimes called 'killer robots' - has sparked an intense ethical and legal debate. In August, a group of governmental experts will meet for the fifth time in Geneva to discuss the possible regulation of such autonomous weapon systems. This talk will trace the debate on autonomy in weapons, identify the key points of disagreement and canvass the prospects for international regulation. An Associate Professor at the TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland, Professor Liivoja also holds the title of Adjunct Professor of International Law at the University of Helsinki where he is affiliated with the Erik Castren Institute of International Law and Human Rights.



Protection of Endangered Wildlife in the Top End
Kate Heffernan - Australian Wildlife Conservancy - 1pm Tuesday



Good things are happening in the Top End and Kate is leading the way. The Australian mammal fauna has fared catastrophically since European settlement and some species have been forced to extinction. The work she is doing is important and her talk will outline the AWC's model for conservation, one that has a wider catalytic impact and operates within an accountability framework that is unique within the conservation sector. She will discuss fire, feral predators and the on-ground measures AWC is using. The Australian Wildlife Conservancy is the largest private (non-profit) owner of land for conservation in the world, protecting endangered wildlife across 4.85 million hectares.

Skin Cancer

Dr Sam Scuderi - 9am Wednesday

Skin cancers are the most common form of cancer in Australia, with 80 percent of new cancers found being skin cancers. In Australia, 2 out of 3 people will have skin cancer by the time they are 70. Once, all skin cancers were treated with surgery. We now have newer treatments that aim to treat skin cancers earlier, avoiding surgery. Most of the recent discoveries in skin cancers are around detecting them at the earliest possible time and the talk today will go into these newer detection methods. We will also explore the future of skin cancer treatment and early detection using artificial intelligence and other adjunct systems.

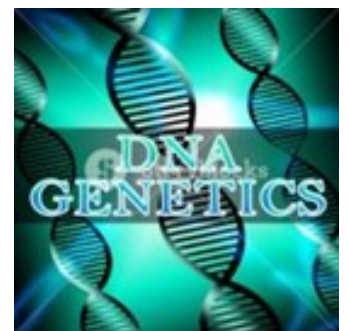


Dr Scuderi completed his medical degree at the University of Tasmania in 2007 followed by an internship at the Royal Hobart Hospital before moving to Brisbane in 2009. Prior to fellowship training in Dermatology, he completed rotations in general medicine, general surgery, emergency medicine and general practice. He completed his dermatology training in Queensland at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Queensland Institute of Dermatology, the Queensland Children's Hospital, Cairns Base Hospital and The Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Frontiers of Modern Genetics

Professor Peter Gresshoff UQ -1pm Tuesday

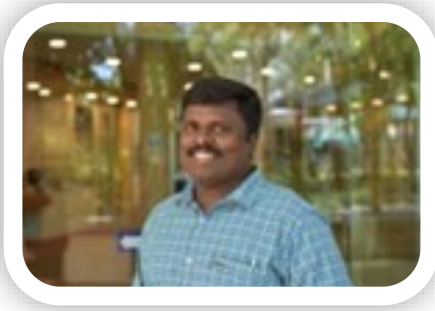
Genetics is the study of inheritance of traits. All organism types, from virus to human, have been analysed in detail for the mode of transmission of such genetic elements, called genes. The laws of Gregor Mendel, now over 150 years old, still apply in many situations. Modern technology has allowed the insight into *how* the transmitted genetic material, i.e. DNA, is controlled and expressed. Entire genomes of organisms have been sequenced to allow an information insight into the coding of genes. Costs of such WGS (whole genome sequencing) have dramatically decreased, permitting comparisons designed to find causative genes for common diseases and conditions in humans as well as agricultural species. This lecture will provide an up-to-date overview of current capabilities, new technology and associated findings in plants, animals and humans.



Australian Native and Arid Grasses for Advanced Nanomaterial Applications Technology

Dr Pratheep K Annamalai PhD - 11am Monday

Dr Annamalai will talk about Spinifex grasses (*Triodia genus*) which grow in extreme conditions of the continent and have been widely used in indigenous Australian practice. He will shed light on these spiky grasses as a new and unique source of nanofibers for advanced material applications, ranging from soft elastic rubbers to strong composites. His research targets how building blocks from plants and wastes can be derived and converted into value-added materials. This is important work, given the extremes of our climate and the vast numbers of yet unexplored resources, and has been known to our indigenous inhabitants for thousands of years.



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2019 U3A Network Conference, Bundaberg
from David Cusack and Irene Poh



Last month we attended the annual Queensland State Conference of the U3A Network which, this year, was hosted by the Bundaberg U3A. Thank you to U3A Brisbane who subsidised our registration fees.

We enjoy these events because they are a great opportunity to meet delegates from other U3As, hear their stories and learn about their subject offerings and how they operate. We also hear about projects the U3A Network is doing to keep U3As relevant, efficient and fun.

The other significant benefit of the conferences is that it provides a reason to explore the area of the host U3A. We hadn't spent much time at Bundaberg before, so it was a great opportunity to visit its attractions such as the Rum Distillery and Botanic Gardens, and see the Burnett River from the new river walk. We stayed on after the conference and visited the popular beach attractions of Bargara, Mon Repos, and 1770.

We are looking forward to the June 2020 conference being hosted by the Redlands U3A.

Congratulations

Congratulations to U3A Creative Writing Tutor Thea Biesheuvel who was recently in Hong Kong to receive her prize in the 2018 ProVerse poetry competition prize for her poem *Reformation*.



Thea in conversation with fellow poets at the ProVerse Poetry Award ceremony

Office News from Yvonne McGann

Flu Season

With the 2019 flu season well underway, may we suggest that you observe the following to help stop the spread of the virus:

1. Get a flu shot. The influenza vaccine is free for seniors aged 65 years and over.
2. Use the hand sanitisers at Creek St and Adelaide St.
3. If you have flu-like symptoms – runny nose or sneezing, cough or sore throat, fever and chills, headache body aches – **Please, Stay at Home!**

Mid-year Holiday Arrangements

The last day of classes for Term 2 will be Friday 28th June.

During the first week of the holidays (1st to 5th of July) our 97 Creek St office will be open from 9am till 12 noon. Our Adelaide St rooms will be closed.

During the second week of the holidays (8th to 12th July) our annual Winter School will be held in our rooms at 232 Adelaide St.

Term 3 classes resume on Monday 15th July.

Logan District News from Martin Bridgstock

Logan District is putting on a number of new courses over the next few terms. It is thrilling to see the course in Etymology (which is about words, not bugs) has grown to maximum size in a single term.

There is plenty of interest in the Logan Sing and Play Music Group, so it will become a reality in Term 3. Anyone who can play an instrument or sing a note will be welcome to come along and make music on Thursday afternoons at 1.30. The more the merrier! You may end up being so glad you did. We plan to have a few sessions before the official starting date, in fact one is fixed for 13th June. So, if you're interested, contact Jean at 0400 787298 right away.

Oh, an important request. As you all probably know, in Logan we normally rely on the generosity of libraries, community centres and the like for our rooms. Please help them by returning the room, at the end of your sessions, to exactly the same condition as when you entered.

IT Group News from Diane Arapovic

June meeting: Beginners Introduction to LINUX

Date: Saturday 8 June, 10am-12noon

Venue: U3A Brisbane, 5th floor 232 Adelaide St (on Saturdays enter from Creek St atrium)

Cost: \$5

Presenter: Terry Schuster

Linux is a free, open source computer operating system which drives Android devices such as mobile phones, most internet-of-things devices, and even super-computers. This presentation is a beginners introduction to Linux, and Linux-based computer operating systems which can be used instead of Windows 10 for everyday tasks. A special focus will be on PORTABLE Linux adaptations which can be run from USB flash drives without affecting the host operating system.

Learning about Linux can open up a whole new avenue of experience and freedom in the use of a computer and one may discover an inner geek or nerd that one was unaware of! No previous specific computer knowledge is necessary, just a willingness to try things out.



Social Committee News from Libby Eichmann

Upcoming Events

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.

Beenleigh Artisan Distillery. Date: June 28th 2019. Closing date June 21st 2019.

Cost: \$55

Departure: Bus departs **8.45 am from Roma St** (Stop 125, outside Transit Centre and opposite Police Headquarters) and **9.15 am from Kessels Rd., Macgregor** (at Stop 59 on Garden City side).

Includes visit to the Kingston Butter Factory, an Arts and Crafts display and buffet lunch. Enclosed shoes are to be worn for the distillery site visit.

Xmas in July. Date: July 31st 2019. Closing date July 24th 2019

Cost: \$57

Departure: Bus departs **8.30 am from Roma St** (Stop 125, outside Transit Centre and opposite Police Headquarters) and **9.00 am from Kessels Rd., Macgregor** (at Stop 59 on Garden City side).

Enjoy a four-course meal and delicious wines at St Bernard's Hotel, Tamborine Mountain. This event is always popular, so book early. A 49-seater bus has been booked for this event.

New Events

Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology, Caboolture. Date: September 11th 2019. Closing date September 4th 2019

Cost: \$45

Departure: Bus departs at 8.30 am Kessels Rd., Macgregor (Stop 59 on Garden City side) **and 9.00am Roma St.** (Stop 125 outside Transit Centre, opposite Police Headquarters)

A guided tour of the Abbey church featuring the medieval, Edwardian and Victorian stained glass, followed by a self-guided tour of the Abbey Museum Archaeological Gallery – a journey through the history of humankind. After lunch, *I Love the Knight Life* – a presentation of life in the Middle Ages. Morning tea and a two-course lunch included. Please note, vegetarians can be catered for, but NOT gluten free.

Muriel's Wedding. Date: Wednesday, 9th October, 2019, 1pm at QPAC Lyric Theatre. Closing date: 3rd July 2019

Cost: \$90, no concession available

Duration: 2 hours and 44 minutes (includes interval, subject to change without notice)

One of the most loved and hilarious Aussie films comes to life on stage in *Muriel's Wedding the Musical*. New song by Kate Miller-Heidke and Keir Nuttall, plus all your favourite ABBA hits.

Chicago: Date: Wednesday 6th November 2019, 1pm at QPAC Lyric Theatre. Closing date: 28th August 2019

Cost: Concession \$70, Full \$90

Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes (includes interval, subject to change without notice)

A true New York City Institution, *Chicago* has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz.