



Editor's Notes: from Jean Smith

Passionate and *privileged* are two words which are used with gay abandon these days, no matter how serious or trivial the matter may be. Consequently, I try to avoid using them. But I did find myself using them more than once during the U3A Winter School week. I attended the Keynote Address on the workings of the Crime and Corruption Commission, a presentation on music and Shakespeare, and one delivered by a social historian introducing us to the history of Rhodesia between 1939 and 1966 through a work of historical fiction. What a privilege it was to listen to these passionate speakers talking so knowledgeably and entertainingly about their area of expertise. I am sure those who attended other presentations would agree that in this context, the use of *privilege* and *passionate* was not a case of resorting to clichés, but rather the well-deserved use of appropriate expressions.

President's Message: from Greg Doolan



And the year just keeps rocketing along! Term 3 is now well underway with most classes full of happy students making the most of what we have on offer at our U3A. I, for one, was very happy to be back in my chosen classes which I doubt is something I would not have said all those years ago in primary school when terms were too long and holidays too short. Amazing how one's perception changes over the years!

Winter School is now behind us and what a fantastic week that was. It's hard to believe we cracked another record, but this event just keeps getting better every year. I said this last year and I'll say it again – how are we going to beat this in 2020? However, from what I've already seen, the organising committee have some great ideas for next year. I won't mention anything further about Winter School as

the organising committee has included a full report in this edition of e-News.

Members attending classes in Room 18 will have noticed that from 29th July they have been able to pay their class fees by credit/debit cards with 'tap and go'. This was a trial in preparation for expanding the use of this technology to the other Adelaide Street classrooms from Monday 5th August. Following much hard work and research by our IT specialist, Greg Taylor, Treasurer Lyndall Beattie, and Office Manager Yvonne McGann, we are confident this new facility will be well accepted by members. Of course, if you choose to pay by cash, that is still your choice, but contactless payment does offer an alternative way of paying your class fees. The installation of the technology was made possible by a recent anonymous donation.

For those who frequent the Creek Street rooms, you may have noticed a change in the quality of the air-conditioning. Over the term break, a major upgrade to the system was undertaken and this should prove invaluable when the warmer weather arrives later in the year. A big thank you must go to our property maintenance manager, Peter O'Loughlin, who oversaw the installation and ensured it was carried out during the break to avoid any disruption to classes or office staff. Thank you also to our secretary, Simon Wood, for the time he spent negotiating the necessary paperwork with the building's Body Corporate. A job very well done, gentlemen.

The Management Committee now has a full complement of members with popular German tutor, David Cusack agreeing to join the committee to fill a casual vacancy.

We believe David will be a great asset to the committee due to his corporate experience, especially in the field of Workplace Health & Safety. Welcome David, we hope you enjoy the experience of helping run one of the biggest and best U3As in the world!

As you would be aware, we have some very popular classes, especially languages, that often fill rather quickly. We know this can be disappointing to those who wish to join that class but, please don't despair. Quite often people initially join a class and find it is not for them or others may decide to travel through the term. So, keep in contact with the tutor as you still may be able to join the class of your choice through these vacancies.

Finally, I recently had a request from one of our members who has temporarily joined the Newcastle upon Tyne U3A while visiting the UK, that I contact its Chair to share information that may be beneficial to both parties. Well, I did make contact and discovered one very interesting fact that, whether you are in Australia or the UK, and no matter what size your U3A (Newcastle has 400 members) the challenges are almost identical. I have invited the Chair of Newcastle U3A, Catherine Stevenson, to visit us if she happens to be in Brisbane and I intend visiting Newcastle on Tyne while touring England and Scotland next July.

Until next time, keep enjoying your classes everyone.



Winter School 8th July - 12th July from Marilyn Wagland



The recent successful Winter School was the culmination of the organisation and planning of the 2019 committee. The Keynote Address by Alan MacSporran QC was very special as we learnt about the man and the organisation that attempts to keep Queensland corruption free. Hearing about the processes in place and how they operate in an organisation we generally hear little about in an excellent presentation was a wonderful start to an intellectually stimulating and socially enjoyable week.

We are grateful to the marvellous speakers who so generously gave their time to present. Their enthusiasm and knowledge are soaked up by our audience of lifelong learners who feel fortunate to be privy to the latest research or in-depth knowledge on such a range of subjects.

Equally the week couldn't succeed without the many volunteers who keep the show on the road – the monitors, the money collectors, the greeters, the office staff and, behind the scenes Yvonne McGann who spends the week at Creek St, and the IT team of Greg Taylor, Deslyn Taylor and Chris Hobbs who ensure the IT and AV runs professionally for our guests. So much organisation is required to make an event appear to run seamlessly and that is what our myriad of volunteers did this year.

Of course, the major workload is carried throughout the year by the marvellous Winter School Committee. My thanks to a great team – Anne Douglass, Kate O'Loughlin, Eve McCormack, Mary-Anne Scott, Rod McLary and Carmel Lafferty for a job well done.

Anne Douglass is retiring from the committee after 12 years of dedicated service to Winter School, having grown it from a small, internally staffed event to the large and successful occasion it is today. Her passion and commitment to Winter School have been unwavering and the whole of U3A Brisbane commends her on her exemplary effort over such a long period. Well done, Anne and thank you.

The 2020 committee is looking for a couple of new recruits. If you enjoy researching to find new speakers and are prepared to coordinate their visit and/or you enjoy writing, we have a place for you. Writing the program is a big job but it can be done from home over several weeks. It is a very important part of Winter School. If you think you could fulfil these positions, contact Marilyn at waglandm@gmail.com

It is gratifying that you, our members, are so appreciative of Winter School and support it so enthusiastically. You were great this year. We had very few problems when considering that more than 2000 people have to congregate and pass through our rooms. It gets crowded at peak times so your patience, and the graciousness of the two groups on learning that their speaker was a 'no show' were appreciated. Also, thank you, Marty for so ably stepping in to conduct one of those sessions.

I am still disappointed that we have people who book and don't attend sessions, thus preventing others from attending. Many of you phoned in to notify us, sometimes in time to let those on the waiting list know and sometimes too late. The Queensland Ballet class always has several booked who don't attend on the day which is a great shame. However, the positives of Winter School far outweigh the negatives. Thank you again to our members who so enthusiastically support this event and to the many volunteers who allow the week to run so smoothly. It is, truly, a job well done.

Office News from Yvonne Mc Gann

Current Flu Season

The season for flu and other unpleasant viruses is well underway, and several U3A members have been quite poorly.

Please, if you are suffering from flu – or even suspect you may be developing flu-type symptoms – please do not come into U3A until you are well.

Tutors, if possible, please let your students and the Office know if you are unable to take your classes.

Exhibition Public Holidays: Brisbane and Logan District

Note that there will be no Adelaide and Creek Street classes on Wednesday 14th August as it is the Exhibition Public Holiday.

The Public Holiday for the Logan district will be Monday 12th August. Please ask your tutor if classes will be held on that day.

City News from Yvonne McGann

Weekly General Knowledge Trivia.

Just a Just a reminder that the Trivia class is on this term on Thursday at 10.45 at Adelaide Street. Please contact the tutor, Juanita Peters on 0466 418 693 or at juanitap38@gmail.com, if you would like to join.

Logan District News from Martin Bridgstock

Logan courses are well under way for this third term of 2019. In addition, two events are coming soon which may interest you. The first is the **Open Day**. This is a chance to meet tutors and talk about courses. If you have a friend who is thinking about joining U3A, do encourage them to come to this event. The exact details are:

OPEN DAY: Wednesday 25th September 10 a.m. to noon, at St Mark's Church Hall, Winnetts Road, Daisy Hill.

The other event is **Logan Loves Seniors**, on Tuesday 20 August 2019, 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at Logan Entertainment Centre. There will be several dozen stalls relevant to seniors, and we have booked one for U3A. The event is great fun, and you are welcome to drop in to our stall and say hello.

Oh, one other thing. The Logan subcommittee has a number of jobs which need doing regularly. They are not onerous, but we would like to invite anyone interested to contact us, so that we can involve more people in the actual running of the U3A Brisbane, Logan district.

IT Group News from Diane Arapovic

August meeting: Cloud Storage and Sharing Services

Date: Saturday 10 August, 10am-12noon

Venue: U3A Brisbane, 5th floor, 232 Adelaide St (on Saturdays enter from Creek St atrium). **Cost:** \$5

Presenter: Greg Taylor

We will be looking at Cloud Storage and Sharing Services, mainly using Google Drive.

[Book Here](#)



Bookings for events please phone – U3A Creek St office 3236 3055

Booked out events are advertised as a reminder of dates and times. Also, members can be put onto a wait list so that when members cancel their attendance, this event can be offered to the members who are on the wait list. However, **this does not apply to QPAC events.**

QPAC Backstage Tours

Date: Friday 30th August 2019 at 10.30 am. Meeting point for tour at QPAC Café (directly opposite main foyer entrance to Lyric Theatre and concert hall)

Bookings Close – 23rd August 2019

Cost: \$20, Concession Cost: \$19

A glimpse behind the scenes and an insight into what it takes to present productions on stage.

Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Caboolture

Date: - Wednesday, 11th September, 2019:

Bookings Close: 4th September 2019

Cost: \$45

Bus departs: 8.30 am at Kessels Rd. Macgregor, Stop 59 on Garden City Side and 9.00 am at Roma Street outside transit centre, opposite Police Headquarters.

Guided tour of the medieval, Edwardian and Victorian stained glass in Abbey church, followed by a self-guided tour of the Abbey museum. Morning tea and lunch included. A presentation after lunch – I Love the Knight Life. Note – vegetarians can be catered for, but not gluten-free.

Muriel's Wedding

Date: Wednesday, 9th October, 2019, 1pm at QPAC Lyric Theatre

Bookings close: 2nd August 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.

Mary Valley Rattler

Date: Wednesday 30th October 2019

Bookings close: 23rd October 2019

Cost: \$88

Bus departs: 7.30 am at Kessels Rd, Stop 59 on Garden City side and 8.00 am at Roma Street, outside transit centre, opposite police headquarters. Return at 5.30 pm at Roma Street and 6.00pm at Kessels Rd.

Experience Queensland's scenic Mary Valley on the historic Rattler diesel steam locomotive. Marvel at the restored Gympie Station and enjoy delicious dishes at Platform No. 1 Cafe. Admire the region's gorgeous landscape of valleys and waterways, including the Yabba, Kandanga and Amamoor Creeks, and watch for a variety of birds in a lush forest reserve.

Chicago

Date: Wednesday 6th November 2019, 1pm at Lyric Theatre, QPAC

Bookings close: 28th August 2019

Cost: \$90; Concession cost: \$70

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.

Brisbane City Cruise and Lunch

Date: Monday 25th November 2019, at 10.15 am Jetty A (in front of Wheel of Brisbane, Southbank.)

Cost: \$55

Bookings close: 18th November 2019

Complementary morning tea, guided tour and complementary drink on return included. Lunch is at Breakfast Creek Hotel which involves a walk of approximately 8 minutes from the landing site. A menu and pre-order form will be given to members for lunch order.