



Editor's Notes from Jane Elliott



U3A members had their 15 minutes of fame recently when several events coincided: the Brisbane Portrait Prize, the portraiture class exhibition at the New Farm Library, Mental Health Week, Carers Week and Seniors month. Class tutor, Carol Owens explains.

Australian Traffic Network reporter, Bradley Hunter, inspired a new Brisbane art competition when ABC Radio Brisbane Mornings host, Rebecca Levingston, initiated The Bradley this year in concert with the Brisbane Portrait Prize.

Brisbane hears Bradley Hunter daily on the airwaves and some of ABC 612 Radio's most creative listeners rose to the challenge to take the city's affection for the traffic reporter to another level. Dozens of portraits of the knockabout Aussie radio personality were submitted as part of The Bradley, Brisbane's newest portrait competition.

The ABC team was impressed with the calibre of entries. "Discovering the creative, mindful and talented people of our city has been so soothing for me among the challenging news of the world," Rebecca Levingston said.

As usual, U3A students were in the thick of it, and invited Brad to the Creative Portraiture class in the current Jacaranda purple wonderland of New Farm Park. We were really motivated when Brad modelled for the class, and were delighted that Rebecca and her team came to sit and draw alongside us. It was also a first time experience for many of us to be interviewed for the ABC broadcasts. It was a good reminder to take advantage of opportunities that come our way, as we learnt so much from it. We were delighted to share the fun with the ABC team and within our U3A community of practising artists.

While congratulations go to Andrew Weil, the inaugural winner of the competition, the U3A class felt they won some 'brownie points' with five of U3A's emerging artists selected to participate in the pop up exhibition at the ABC Studio foyer for two weeks from 22 October. These artists were Ann Seery, Carmel McCormack, Anne Visona, Jenny Wilson and Janet Mogridge. We were delighted to hear that Janet Mogridge was one of nine finalists invited to attend an ABC studio gathering at which the announcement of the winner was made.

The spirit of the pop up artistic event provided us with an opportunity to widen our horizons and to be actively engaged in a new challenge.



Brad the Traffic Guy with Carol Owens' class in New Farm Park



U3A class member Janet Mogridge with her portrait of Brad at ABC Studios

You can hear the ABC Interviews with Carol and other class members on U3A's News page:
www.u3abrisbane.org.au/news

President's Message from Des Taylor

Hello all

Hard to believe we are almost half way through Term 4. The months fly by so quickly if you are busy and engaged in activities that are both enjoyable and challenging. This term U3A Brisbane opened the kitchens and the foyers in both our Creek Street and Adelaide Street premises and it almost feels like 'old times'. There have been 9 new classes added in Terms 3 and 4 this year and we currently offer 209 classes in total. Choosing which class to take is a little like when you were small and were trying to choose a toy in a toy store – so difficult but also wonderful.



Membership

Our main focus at the moment is to increase our membership as numbers are much lower than they were pre-Covid. Most of our new members have always come to us through 'word of mouth' and I ask all members now to tell their friends about U3A Brisbane and invite them to join us. We have produced some coloured brochures that are now available at both our Creek Street and Adelaide Street premises. I ask that you collect one and hand it to a friend or share it with a group. I was grateful to receive some ideas from members after our previous eNews and we are eager to hear of any more ideas you may have to help increase membership.

Volunteers

U3A Brisbane is completely run by volunteers. We rely on the generosity of our volunteers to join our Management Committee, support our Technology, work in our venues, organise timetables, tutor our classes, organise presentations and arrange social activities. We have been very fortunate to have had a wonderful group of volunteers through the years and this has allowed us to offer so much to our members. However, some are moving on after years of effort. Please consider what you could contribute in the future:

Do you have knowledge or expertise in a particular area? Could you be a Tutor?

Do you have an IT background? Could you help maintain our equipment or run a class in this area?

Do you enjoy the theatre, art galleries, bus trips, dinners or other social gatherings? Could you form a new social committee with some of your friends?

Could you help out in the office?

Remember the variety of classes that are offered, the management structure and the wonderful opportunities made available whether they be interesting presentations or social outings to e.g. QPAC all depend on a group of volunteers working behind the scenes.

Member Survey on Future Technology classes

Please complete our survey on page 6 to help us plan future classes.

I hope you enjoy the rest of 2022. Stay well. Stay safe.

Deslyn Taylor, President

Special Online Presentations in October from Mary Denver

You can book online for these events via the [home page](#) on the website, or:

[Book Here](#)

Wednesday 9 November, 11.00am-12.30pm. Tim Mathies and Matthew Hodge: Queensland Symphony Orchestra - 75 years of great music.

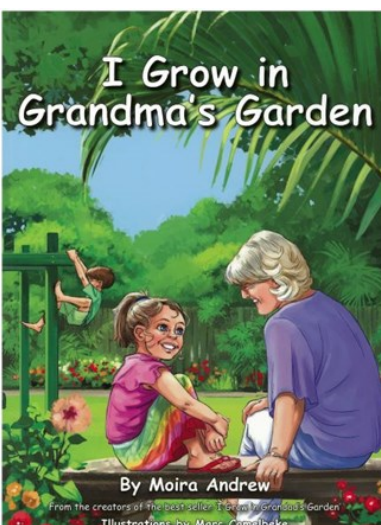


Music lovers among us may know that our Queensland Symphony Orchestra turned 75 this year! In this session, QSO's Director of Artistic Planning (Tim Matthies) and Director of Sales and Marketing (Matthew Hodge) will take you through some of the challenges they faced putting together an orchestra season through COVID, closed borders and floods. They will remind us how magnificently QSO members responded to the challenge, here in Brisbane and throughout the State. Tim and Matthew will also cover QSO's Health and Wellbeing program and its impact, before finishing with a guide to discovering classical music - because it's never too late to experience the wonders of great music for the first time! For more information about the QSO's 75th anniversary:

www.qso.com.au/about/happy-75th-birthday-qso

Tuesday 29 November, 11.00am-12.30pm. Brian and Moira Andrew:

I grow in Grandad's (and Grandma's) Garden



Popular Queensland authors and presenters, Brian and Moira Andrew, take a journey around their garden, in their well-known children's books. The books were initially written and lovingly illustrated for their grandchildren. To Brian and Moira's amazement, their garden philosophy has been welcomed by children AND adults – parents, teachers, grandparents and mental health care professionals in Australia and internationally – as a way to grow happy, confident and kind children, while increasing your own wellbeing. Brian and Moira hope this heart-warming presentation will leave you with a positive and uplifting message for the future.

www.livehappytogether.com.au

Special Face-to-face Events During November

These events are free of charge to members. Book on website or:

[Book Here](#)

Wednesday 23rd November 11:00am until 12:30pm, 232 Adelaide St.

University of Qld Coralwatch: *Coral Reefs and Climate Change, What Can I do?*



CoralWatch, a not-for-profit citizen science program at The University of Queensland, will present "*Coral Reefs and Climate Change, What Can I do?*".

The presentation will include coral biology, the importance of coral reefs, threats to coral reefs and how you can become a citizen scientist collecting valuable data on the reef. Rotating activities at the end will include a sustainability quiz and virtual reef monitoring

Thur 24th November 1:30pm to 2:45pm, 232 Adelaide St.

Ian Stewart, The Atomic School: *How the Universe is Made*

The Periodic Table

In this workshop you will discover the 92 different kinds of atoms which are the building blocks of the entire world as well as 26 synthetic ones that clever scientists have made in the lab. Each has its own personality, that is, its own unique set of properties. Scientists have sorted all atoms into a list, starting with the lightest, hydrogen, and going to the heaviest, uranium, then arranged them into the Periodic Table which has a special shape that I will explain. I call it the "Alphabet of the Universe" because its 92 atoms make up our entire physical Universe just as the letters of the alphabet make our words, sentences and books.

In later sessions we will use magnet-based models to make molecules containing hydrogen, carbon, oxygen and nitrogen atoms. They include H₂O, ammonia, NH₃, methane, CH₄, carbon dioxide, CO₂, amino acids and proteins. They are key to understanding our environment as well as all living things on earth. Some of these are even politically charged, so understanding the science behind them is helpful.

To find out more, visit the [Atomic School website](#).



Future Technology Classes — Member Survey

Des Taylor

U3A Brisbane is asking for your help and advice as we plan our future classes in Technology, which is now increasingly so much a part of our lives. Our brief survey asks you to tell us what equipment you are now using and what courses we can offer that you would be interested in doing. Please also consider if there is something else that you would like to learn that is not mentioned. There is an area at the bottom of the survey where you can type in your thoughts.

[Complete our Survey](#)

Wynnum District

Chris (Nobby) Hobbs

The table tennis class which was scheduled for early October is now being offered from Wednesday 2 November. It is particularly geared towards beginners. If you are interested, please contact the tutor via: nobbyh2@gmail.com

Tutors Wanted

Tutors are the lifeblood of our organisation as without them we don't exist. We need more to help our U3A to grow and thrive into the future, so, if you have a passion for a particular subject or skill, let us know and we will try to match you with some likeminded people to form a new class. It doesn't matter what your passion is, all skills will be considered as we have members hungry for new experiences now. The format for new classes can be either face-to-face or online. Please contact our [Tutor Liaison Officer](#) if you can help.

Meet our Volunteers

Mary Denver, Secretary U3A Brisbane



As a member of U3A Brisbane since 2014, office volunteer, student and then tutor for 7 years, member of its Management Committee since March 2020 and now Secretary and Presentations Coordinator, I am a passionate supporter of U3A's lifelong learning goals. I particularly support its leading role in using technology to realise those goals.

My expertise includes leadership, management and governance as a former Policy Officer in the Queensland Government's Department of Multicultural Affairs and HR Director, Department of Premier and Cabinet, with a 22-year career in the State public sector. I am also a qualified trainer/assessor and put

these skills to good use as Capability Manager in various learning and development roles. My academic background is in Applied Linguistics (MA Applied Ling UQ) and I managed a parallel career in Australia and internationally as an ESL teacher and IELTS (International English Language Test) examiner, running my own face-to-face and IELTS Zoom coaching business, till the pandemic put a stop to that in 2020! I also took a long service break to teach at universities in Shanghai, China 2005-7, and volunteered with AVI (Australian Volunteers International) in 2013-14 in Jakarta, Indonesia, both amazing experiences. This teaching and learning experience has been useful in working with Greg Taylor to coordinate a successful calendar of Zoom presentations for U3A Brisbane this year. I have so enjoyed sharing this experience with our excellent presenters and interested members.

I have been a committed volunteer for 30+ years and member of several management committees of not-for-profit organisations, including Secretary of QPASTT (Qld Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma), Dress for Success, Alliance Francaise Brisbane and member of the Bolton-Clarke (aged care) Consumer Advisory Group this year. As a JP Qual (Justice of the Peace), I am very active these days in the JPs in the Community program at Stafford City, RBWH and the New Farm Library. I was a contributor to COTA Qld from 2015-20 as a peer educator and advocate in a range of programs aimed at the empowerment and improved quality of life for older people.

I have welcomed the opportunity as a member of our Management Committee to help steer our organisation through the challenges of COVID to its future direction, as we lead the way to new concepts and ways of working in life-long learning.

Reducing the size of PDFs for Emailing from Greg Taylor



This information will be of particular interest to tutors or class members who find that PDFs of their presentations are excessively large and too big for uploading to the U3A site or emailing direct. The solution is quite easy, and is described in this page on the U3A website:

[Reducing PDF File Sizes](#)

(The page is linked from the public [Tutors page](#) for future reference)

U3A Social Events from Angela Butler

As our President mentioned in last month's Newsletter, the Social Committee has been severely restricted over the past two years because of Covid regulations. Marianne Jones (Chair) and I will not be continuing with the committee in 2023. As such, anyone is interested in helping to 'get the Social Committee show on the road' again to form a new committee, then please come forward and contact Des Taylor - president@u3abrisbane.org.au

For 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>

Spirit of Christmas Concert 2022

Saturday 17th Dec 2022, 2:00pm, QPAC – Concert Hall



QPAC's longest running event, *Spirit of Christmas* returns this December to the iconic QPAC Concert Hall.

Two of Australia's leading musical theatre stars will join a host of special guests in uplifting seasonal song and much-loved Christmas carols, beautifully supported by a full symphony orchestra, and the glorious voices of the **QPAC Chamber Choir**.

QPAC's *Spirit of Christmas* is a celebration of the true meaning of the festive season; an occasion to rejoice and reflect on the year that has passed and embrace the season's enduring message of Peace, Love and Joy.

Date: Saturday 17th Dec 2022, 2:00pm, QPAC – Concert Hall

Duration: 1 hour and 20 min. (No interval, subject to change without notice)

This event is fully booked – the tickets will be available shortly; an email will be sent when the tickets are available for collection.

Please note the following for events held at QPAC:

- These events are **NOT** supervised by the U3A Social Committee
- Please check the QPAC website in relation to Vaccine/Mask wearing requirements:
[Connecting safely at QPAC](#)
- As a safeguard, **bring/wear your own mask with you to the theatre.**