



Editor's Notes from Jane Elliott



With the Class Schedule for Term 1 2023 newly released there is plenty to celebrate about membership of U3A. If you needed confirmation of the effectiveness of the U3A concept, a recent article from *The Times*, accessed by U3A tutor, Ray Bricknell, can provide it. The Chinese government wants its 267 million seniors to embrace ongoing learning.

President Xi Jinping has launched a National University for the Aged, amid fears in Beijing that China is destined to become a "super-aged" society.

The university, set up within the state-run Open University of China, comes after more than seven years of efforts to establish a nationwide education system for the elderly that offers both online and offline courses. It also comes a month after Mr Xi demanded that China

"implement a national strategy to actively cope with ageing".

Last year, there were more than 267 million people in China who were at least 60, nearly a fifth of the population, compared with 263 million children aged up to 15. The gap is certain to widen, as the country is grappling with falling birth rates, and it is feared that 20 percent of the population will be 65 or older in 2035, making China a "super-aged" society.

The Open University has 339,000 courses for the elderly, including using medicines safely, nutrition, fitness and civil law, as well as more conventional courses such as painting, cooking and computer skills. Jiang Hong, party chief of the Open University in the northeast city of Dandong, said "Elderly education is a product of our country becoming an ageing society." The new university was "a new enterprise full of hope".

U3A in Brisbane is also an enterprise "full of hope" for our own active and healthy futures.

President's Message from Des Taylor

Hello again

U3A classes finish December 9, and enrolments are already open for Term 1 2023. Time passes so quickly.

Membership

Our focus is still to increase our membership as numbers remain much lower than they were pre-Covid. Most new members have come to us through word of mouth, so I ask all members to tell their friends about U3A Brisbane and invite them to join us. We have produced coloured brochures that are now available at both our Creek and Adelaide Street premises. Please collect one and hand it to a friend or share it with a group. We also have posters available and it would be wonderful if you could put these on public noticeboards. We are eager to hear of any more ideas you may have to help increase membership.



Collect Brochures and Poster this week—Help Us to Grow

Tutors Needed

While we have a wonderful group of volunteer Tutors we need more, particularly in some areas.

There have been requests for more Science-based and Technology courses. We have the results of our Technology Survey and indications of where members' interests lie. If you have some knowledge in these areas, please consider presenting a class either face-to-face or on Zoom.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Stay well and stay safe as together we look forward to 2023 and hope that it will be a good year for all of us.

Coralwatch Presentation, 23 November

A wonderful face-to-face presentation from the University of Queensland's CoralWatch group was held last week at our Adelaide Street premises. [CoralWatch](#) is a not-for-profit citizen science program working with volunteers worldwide to increase understanding of coral reefs, coral bleaching and climate change. The relevance of the presentation has been highlighted by UNESCO's recent recommendation that the Great Barrier Reef be added to the list of endangered World Heritage sites.

U3A members were enthusiastic and engaged, especially in the practical exercise where they used the material discussed in the presentation to identify the health of corals from photographs.



From the Office Yvonne McGann

With last classes for Term 4 on Friday 9 December and the first classes for Term 1 2023 on Monday 23 January, the 97 Creek Street office will close for the holiday period. Please note that the office will also be closed, with no classes, on Australia Day, 26 January.

Messages can be left on the phone (3236 3055) and they will be answered as soon as possible. Emails to mail@u3abrisbane.org.au will also be attended to.

Volunteers staffing the office wish all our members a wonderful Christmas season and look forward to seeing you in Term 1.

Term 1 2023 — Enrol Now

Classes are filling quickly for Term 1. Please visit the [website home page](#) for information on how to enrol in a new class, or continue an existing class. Class fees where applicable should be paid before classes start in January 2023.

Membership Renewal for the 2023 calendar year is due by end of December 2022. Go to the [Member Payment](#) page to pay your subscription online or via bank transfer.

Special Online Presentations

Mary Denver

We look forward to next year's online presentation series, beginning in February 2023. We hope you will join us!

Vale Jean Blake Carmel Lafferty

Jean Blake was a U3A Brisbane member for many years. Jean tutored members in the U3A Budding Artist Group on a Tuesday in Creek Street and was an active member of Rob Hill's Modern History course from its inception in 2013, including via Zoom during Covid. She made many interesting presentations to the class on a variety of subjects. Jean was very supportive of Rob and all the class members, and was especially appreciative of the research work done by those who gave presentations. Jean was an avid traveller, a member of other organisations, and was a life member of the Watercolour Society of Queensland.

The Budding Artist course members provided the following tribute.

Jean became aware that the Budding Artists were struggling without a tutor and volunteered her time for an hour each Friday after her History class. She said she would teach watercolours as this was the most difficult medium and, if we could manage this, we could manage anything. We gratefully accepted and so began some lovely years with Jean imparting her wisdom and considerable skill in watercolour painting.

Jean would rush into the classroom on Fridays before her Modern History class began, set us the weekly challenge, and then disappear to her class. The challenge could be a photograph, a still life, or one of her or someone else's paintings. We would enter the room with some trepidation as the challenge usually looked very complicated. Jean would say that we weren't going to learn anything without being challenged. Each subject was designed to teach a particular skill: colour mixing; perspective; limited palette; painting people, trees, or waves; and so on. Jean would reappear at 11 am and very tactfully and kindly give us advice on how to proceed or improve what we had attempted. She would sometimes give a quick lesson, such as how to paint a tree, and we would attempt to copy her.

Covid provided another challenge and classes in town stopped. But when we were not in lockdown, a small group of us started meeting in a park near to Jean's home. Jean would arrive with bags of equipment and set up just as she had done in the classroom. These gatherings were peaceful and relaxed, and we survived the cold of windy winter days with the assistance of a nearby coffee shop.

After Covid, we returned to class but, alas, Jean's History class continued only on Zoom, so we saw her less frequently. She started sending us work to do through our online group with instructions and, when she could, she would come to class all bundled up with equipment that she carried on the bus.

When Jean became ill, she started to pack in more tips and advice that she wanted us to have. Then when

she could not come into town anymore, she continued to send us homework via our online group and to post comments on our efforts. At her last lesson with us, she gave us all a tube of ultramarine paint, one of the most commonly used paints in the watercolour palette, and one of the ingredients for her favourite grey. Her last painting assignment for us was a photograph of a beautiful sunset sent a few days before she died. When we ask for help from other students, "Jean says" usually precedes the information requested. We have a list of "Jean says" advice that we treasure.

It was a privilege to have Jean as our teacher and, as Karla wrote after the news of her death, it is "sad, but now she rests in peace without pain. We were lucky she shared her knowledge of watercolour painting with us, and while we continue to paint her spirit lives on."

Jean was a good friend to many. She will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her U3A friends.



Jean with the Budding Artist class

Why you should use a Digital Wallet from Greg Taylor

Most modern Apple and Android phones include a Digital Wallet app. This enables you to simply add a debit or credit card to the wallet and tap the phone itself on a merchant's EFT terminal. The phone includes a "Near Field Communication" feature which emulates the chip on a physical card. The transaction is secured by biometric identification, typically a fingerprint or face recognition (with PIN as a backup). If you lose a physical card, anyone can use it until you cancel it, but clearly a phone is more secure.

A major advantage is that a Digital Wallet does not transmit your card details to the merchant terminal. Instead it uses a cryptographic token to process the transaction. This in itself is a good reason to use a digital wallet in preference to a physical card. In future you will be able to add additional documents to your digital wallet, e.g. your driver's licence.

Next year, U3A Brisbane will be investigating alternative means of making online payments using Apple Pay and Google Pay via digital wallets on either phones or tablets. You may have already seen these

payment options offered by some online stores. This offers a huge advantage over methods that require the entry of card details on an online form. If you pay online using a device with a digital wallet and authorise Apple Pay or Google Pay as the method of payment, the transaction is processed automatically using the cryptographic token generated by the digital wallet. A quick, easy and secure method of payment.

Meet our Volunteers

Margaret Hill, Tutor

I came to Brisbane in the early 1960's and Australia has been kind to me. It gave me the opportunity to move from school teaching to tutoring in the English Department of Queensland University while studying for a Master of Literature degree. Some years later, having completed a postgraduate Social Work degree, I worked as a counsellor with Relationships Australia. This was a wonderful training ground and when we moved away from Brisbane in 1989 I set up my own practice in couple counselling.



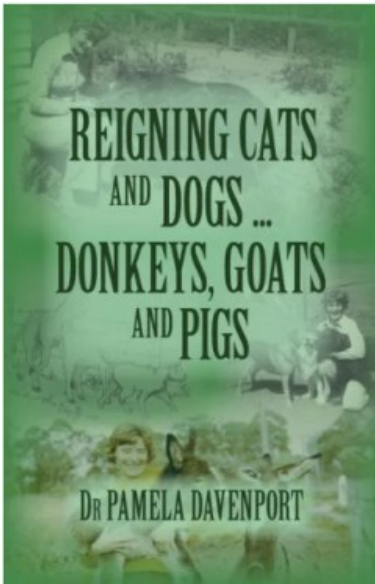
It is hard to believe this will be my eighth year of teaching 'Literature in Context'. I joined U3A in 2010 as a student and a little later as a tutor as well. The timing was right. We had returned to Brisbane and had found an apartment to rent in Southbank, unaware that it was practically next door to the then Vulture Street campus. Like many who find the term "retiree" perplexing, I felt at a loss as to where and how to give my life new direction. I did not have far to look.

It is difficult to write about U3A without sounding over-enthusiastic, but it is, in fact, a marvellous place. As a student I chose an eclectic mix of subjects: Old English and conversational French came first, there was a flirtation with Bridge, and then I joined a Japanese class for several years.

By this time I had been accepted as a volunteer tutor of English. I wanted to give something back to the organisation and have never regretted taking on this commitment. Compared to classes in schools or even at university, U3A classes are a dream. Everyone is friendly, supportive, appreciative and, above all, motivated. Calling the subject "Literature in Context" allows us to study a well-written text while exploring its social, historical and political context. I am not skilled in IT and am able to offer a Zoom class (and two during Covid restrictions) through the generosity and expertise of David and Deslyn, class members who drive it for me. Because both my Zoom and on-campus class are interactive, I keep the numbers low enough to allow for discussion and interaction. This touches on a dilemma: even allowing for natural attrition, there are more people wanting to join than the class can accommodate. I know that a priority for the committee is the need for more tutors.

U3A has become much more than a place of learning to me. It is an important part of my life: a source of friendship, discussion and fun. I know that I am far from alone in saying this.

Book by former U3A tutor



Former U3A tutor of Ancient History and Archaeology courses from 2006 to 2018, Dr Pamela Davenport, has just launched her new book, *Reigning cats and dogs... donkeys, goats and pigs*. The book outlines Pamela's philosophy of the treatment of animals, tells stories sad and amusing, gives some tips for avoiding animal illnesses, and explains the mythology associated with the names she gave her pets. It is illustrated with photographs and cartoons.

Anyone interested in purchasing a copy (\$15 + \$2.20 postage), please contact Pamela via the following email address:

nicholasdennis@hotmail.com.

U3A Social Events from Angela Butler

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 17 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 are available for collection from the U3A Admin Office (97 Creek Street). Please ensure that you collect your tickets before the end of term (9 December).

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.**

