



Editor's Notes

Jane Elliott



Following the excellent example set by former *eNews* editor Jean Smith, I have been asking U3A volunteers to allow me to publish short biographies in the “Meet our Volunteers” section. As you have seen in the last year, and will continue to see in coming months, we are privileged to have access to human resources of such quality. The expertise, experience and enthusiasm these people bring to U3A is truly impressive.

Sadly, one such volunteer recently passed away: vale Ray Bricknell. You will find a tribute to Ray, and another well-respected U3A member, Margaret Shepherd, in this edition of *eNews*.

President's Report

Gabrielle Power West

How time flies. Already we are in Week 7 of Term 2. The Term 3 class program will be with us before we know it.

When I attend my two classes each week on Floor 5 Adelaide Street, the difference I notice since 2023 has arrived and Covid restrictions have lifted, is in the foyer. There is so much happy chatter and always many members in the foyer enjoying the interaction with other members. There is a real buzz and that is one of the positive aspects of being a member of U3A.

As well as interaction between members before, during and after classes, the Social Team chaired by Heather Dowling has put together a great variety of activities for members covering the next several months. These events are an important part of the opportunities that U3A offers for members to be involved socially as well as enjoying the various experiences at the theatre, historical visits, dining events and the Arts. Thank you to these three members who have taken on the important role of organising events which are all outlined in this month's *eNews*. It is important that we take the opportunity to be involved in events such as these which encourage social interaction outside of classes.

As mentioned in last month's *eNews*, a major focus for 2023 is to increase the number of members back to pre-Covid membership numbers, so at the May meeting of the Management Committee, it was decided to establish a Marketing Sub-Committee. Two members of the Management Committee agreed to represent the Management Committee on the new Sub-Committee: Janet McKeon (Chairperson) and Deslyn Taylor (Sub-committee member).



Other members of U3A have also expressed an interest in being involved in marketing. These members have been approached to join the Sub-Committee. In the near future, the full composition of the Sub-Committee will be available.

Former President of the U3A Management Committee, Greg Doolan, has been in discussion with a representative of Radio 4EB in relation to promoting U3A membership through radio interviews on 4EB. The interviews will take place in the near future. Greg has also been the Publicity and Public Relations representative for U3A for the last number of years and his advocacy and expertise in this area have been much appreciated.

I have heard on the ABC News that Queensland has had more cases of influenza per head of population than NSW and Victoria over the past few weeks. There are also increases in the incidence of Covid and RSV in recent weeks. RSV used to be restricted to younger children but has now transferred to mature age groups as well. Take care and stay safe from these winter illnesses. Please keep up-to-date with Covid and 'flu vaccinations, and stay home if you are unwell.

Best wishes,
Gabrielle

Special Online Presentation in June

Mary Denver

Wednesday 14 June 11am-12:30pm. Paul Granville: *Degrees of Separation*

Register via website home page, or using link below.



In the early 20th century, Brisbane was a small city and there were only a few degrees of separation between all its residents. This presentation follows a trail of relationships between a number of people who lived on the inner south side, all drawn into the vortex of the First World War and the highly divisive conscription issue. You will meet the sensitive poet shocked by his experience as a stretcher bearer who subsequently changed his name twice, the rebel Anglican priest who founded his own religion, the stalwart peace campaigner attacked in a wild brawl at a public women's hearing; and the communist couple who had lived in a failed utopian paradise and subsequently joined the fight against conscription.

After a 42-year career in telecommunications engineering, Paul Granville, a member of U3A Brisbane, became interested in local history, and has now published over 80 blog posts based on original research delving into life in Brisbane's inner south side. Paul also volunteers as a guide for the National Trust at Wolston Farmhouse as well as for the Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery. He has given a number of public talks on various aspects of local history.



Paul Granville

[Register for this Event](#)

From the Office

Yvonne McGann

Term 2 will finish on Friday 23 June and Term 3 will start on Monday 10 July. During the holidays, our premises at both 232 Adelaide St and 97 Creek Street will be closed. However, phone messages can be left on our office number 3236 3055 or send an email to mail@u3abrisbane.org.au. Phone messages and emails will be attended to.

We, the office volunteers, hope you enjoy the rest of this term and the holidays.

Promoting U3A to the Brisbane Community

Deslyn Taylor



U3A appears to be the best kept secret in Brisbane. Many people have not heard of it and others are vaguely aware but don't know how wonderful it is. The Management Committee of U3A Brisbane are keen to change this. With this in mind, we are creating a new PowerPoint Presentation which we hope will showcase our U3A. I have started work on this but we have very few current photographs that illustrate the opportunities we offer.

If you attend a class or are a tutor I would welcome some photographs to illustrate what our U3A can offer.

Some ideas might be:

- to show the wonderful camaraderie and friendship opportunities – groups having fun and sharing time together
- to illustrate different classes and activities. We have many but no way to show others what is available.
- to give an idea of the possibilities created by our Social Team – theatre, trips, cooking classes etc

If you take part in any U3A activity or class or just share a coffee please remember to take a photo and send it to me at: dtaylor@u3abrisbane.org.au

Furthermore, any short comments of about 25 words or less that tell what you have gained by being a U3A member would also be appreciated. I would like to include some member comments as well as activity photographs.

Meet our Volunteers

Martin Gellender (Tutor)



My introduction to U3A began with my retirement in late 2012, when I was made redundant (along with many others) from the Queensland public service. I had originally trained in Physics and Chemistry, and had become an energy specialist, dealing with everything from coal-fired power stations to the efficiency of refrigerators. My last role was managing a program which funded start-up companies to develop energy-efficient technologies.

Although I had expected to be made redundant, finding myself retired was a shock. When I flicked through my diary, all the pages were blank. I needed to find something productive to do. I remembered with great fondness my time at university many years before, and thought that maybe I should go back to do another degree. But a quick search revealed that the cost would be quite high for something I would be doing solely for personal interest, rather than to advance my career. This somehow led me to U3A. I thought that U3A could provide the intellectual stimulation I sought, and a way to share the knowledge and some interesting experiences that I had gained over the years. So, I proposed to teach a course on "Energy technology" at U3A, and this was included in the Schedule of Classes for Term 4 of 2012. I now realise Term 4 is probably not the best time to start a new course: I did not receive a single enquiry or enrolment for the course! The following January, I received a call from U3A, asking if I would like to offer the course again in Term 1. However, in view of the response the previous term, it was clear that my earlier proposal was off the mark. The topic

seemed too narrow, and most people probably didn't understand what "Energy technology" referred to (pretty much everything about how we use energy). I decided to offer a course called "Science and the Big Issues of Our Time". The course would cover aspects of science that have shaped our lives and that impact on the social, ethical and economic issues that we face today. In truth, the course mainly covers questions that have interested and intrigued me for decades, and for which I have strived to find answers that make sense to me. The course was listed and, within days, 14 people had enrolled in the class. The number has gradually grown over the years, and the class moved from the initial small classroom at U3A's Creek Street premises to the largest classroom at Adelaide Street.

In 2020, the Covid pandemic hit. For one term the class stopped, although I continued to send out notes for classes that weren't held. During this time, I managed to get a webcam (which wasn't easy, as there was a scramble for computer equipment so that people could work from home) and then continued the class online via Zoom. I didn't find this as satisfying as face-to-face classes, but it was much better than nothing. It allowed the class to continue in another form, and to sustain interest.

With the prospect of returning to face-to-face classes, I surveyed the class about whether they preferred to attend in person or online. I was surprised that half preferred to continue online, while the other half much preferred to come to class. So, when U3A reopened its doors, I continued the class as a hybrid, with me sitting by the laptop computer in front of the classroom while simultaneously Zooming the class. This feels a bit like juggling balls, addressing two audiences while coping with the occasional technical glitches, but overall it works pretty well.

Around the same time as I began teaching the Science class, I started attending Ray Bricknell's Macroeconomic class, and I stayed with that class until recently, when Ray decided that advancing age and health issues made it too difficult for him to continue. Ray's decision turned out to be prescient, as he passed away soon after. He will be missed by the many students who attended his classes over the last 15 years. I have also taken the U3A Geology course taught by Cec Murray, a former work colleague. My wife and I took the course "Experiencing China", taught by Bryan Iles, and joined a two-week tour of China organised by Bryan. I currently attend "Australia's future: Challenges and Opportunities" taught by David Nelson, a former fellow student in Ray's Macroeconomics class, and "World History – famous people, places and events" taught by Dalys Murray.

Tutors Wanted

U3A depends on its volunteer tutors in order to fulfill its primary objective of *Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning*. If you have experience in, or a passion for, a particular area of knowledge and can volunteer some time we would love to hear from you. Recently, members have expressed interest in some topics that we don't currently offer, namely *Chess*, *Bridge*, *Greek* and *Portuguese*. If you have any relevant expertise, please contact Gail Hawkins: tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au

Vale Ray Bricknell from Rob Hill

Ray Bricknell died on 8 May following a fall at his home a few days earlier. Ray has made a lasting impression on U3A Brisbane having served three terms as President, conducted two large classes for over ten years and been a stalwart of our Association since becoming a member in 2007. His service was recognised with a Life Membership some years ago. We should be thankful for his great contributions and mark his memory in a meaningful way.

As a young man, Ray fought his way to success through study. He won a position at the Officers Training College, achieved university degrees and served in the Army to the rank of Major. He resigned to commence a project management business and achieved great success in that field.

Ray's organizational and business expertise were brought to U3A at a critical time in 2008 when rental costs of CBD premises had reached prohibitive levels. Ray supervised a shift to South Brisbane and later led U3A to purchase the Creek Street premises. That involved raising \$900,000 in interest-bearing notes from U3A members which has since been repaid. His enthusiasm and leadership led to reorganisation of management, a new constitution, beginnings of digital

management tools and recruitment of tutors. From 2011, when U3A came back to the CBD, membership increased by over 40%. Ray also consulted on premises arrangements since and has been a valuable source of advice to the Management Committee.

Ray's wife, Helen, has penned her reflections on the role of U3A Brisbane in Ray's life and they follow.

From the time Ray was introduced to U3A, he quickly became very enthusiastic about the organization. He joined classes in computer studies and then ran classes in Current Affairs and Macroeconomics, his longterm interests. His in-depth analysis of current affairs and leadership of group discussions was very popular.

Ray, Rob Hill, and the committee at the time, were very much the driving force behind the purchase of the U3A premises in Creek Street, and this has placed the organization on a very sound financial footing. I believe that there are not many U3A organizations around the world that have managed to achieve what they did.

Ray was involved in many volunteer organizations during his lifetime, but I think U3A quickly became a favourite, because he felt it filled an important need for retirees. It proved to be extremely important to him personally during Covid-19 because, at that time, the Parkinson's disease that he had been suffering from since 2012 had caused his mobility to deteriorate significantly, and he was only able to travel to Brisbane by train with great difficulty. When the online classes were introduced by Greg and Deslyn Taylor, they were quickly and kindly able to teach him the use of Zoom, and Ray was able to continue his classes online, so this became almost a lifeline for him. It prompted him to continue his reading and research, to write his papers and prepare for his classes, and it was an interest for him for which I was immensely grateful. He was preparing for classes on the morning of his serious fall. Ray was not a man to complain about his health, and he was never grumpy, but I think the classes were a great boon to him. He seemed to always be in good spirits on a Tuesday!

My family and I feel blessed and very grateful for the fact that Ray was largely spared the debilitating effects that Parkinson's disease often causes in sufferers when he passed away peacefully. He was a wonderful husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, and we will all miss him enormously. Thank you to all who supported him.

Ray left this on the net: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/bspxy/nzaf/#p=4>

Some of his writings are here: <https://johnmenadue.com/author/ray-bricknell/>

Vale Margaret Shepherd

from Bruce Holdsworth

Margaret was an early member of my face-to-face class in Politics and the Economy, which began in 2015, and she joined my Zoom class in 2021. She took a keen interest in what was happening in the world, and was a good contributor to discussions. Recently she made a powerful statement to the Zoom class about the horrors of war and the need to avoid them. She was a kind, sociable and wise person, who will be much missed. Margaret was 97 and an inspiration to all who knew her.

U3A Network Qld Conference

Greg Doolan



The U3A Network Queensland State Conference 2023, hosted by U3A Rockhampton from 8-11 May 2023, was highly successful with about 190 participants celebrating 50 years of U3A worldwide. The Rockhampton organising team received well-deserved accolades for an impressive line-up of guest speakers and memorable events that made this conference an outstanding success.

The conference marked the 50th Anniversary of U3A worldwide and attracted international guest speakers including Professor Francois Vellas, President of AIUTA

(Association of International Universities of the Third Age), and Professor Maria Chester, Secretary General AIUTA (via video link).

To discover more about this momentous event, go to: <https://u3aqld.au/network-queensland-conference-a-great-success/>

U3A Social Events

Heather Dowling

For 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/groups/social-group>

Christmas in July at Bestbrook Mountain Resort



Date: Thursday, 13 July 2023
Duration: All day – approximately 8:00am to 4:00pm
Cost: \$80 (inclusive of bus trip, morning tea and a delicious *Christmas in July* lunch)
Bookings close: 22 June



Celebrate **Christmas in July** amongst the hills of the Great Dividing Range with scenic mountain views from **Bestbrook Mountain Resort**. Your ticket includes travelling west to Tregony, stopping on the way for morning tea, before arriving at Bestbrook where you will enjoy lunch with old-fashioned hospitality. There will be time before and after lunch to look around the property before leaving at 2.00 p.m. for our return to Brisbane.

Guests are welcome and you can bring up to 3 friends. Contact the office now to book.

There are two options for bus pickup:

- 8:00am in the coach terminal opposite platform 10 at Roma Street.

OR

- 8:20am at bus stop 59, Kessels Road, Macgregor.
(look for the *Greencross* Vet on the same side as the bus stop)



Please join us for Christmas in July and a great day out in this first U3A day trip for the year!

Learn to make pasta



Date: Thursday 29 June 2023, 2:00-4:00pm,
Salt Meats Cheese, 3b/63 Skyring Tce, Newstead
Cost: \$75
Bookings close: 22 June

Salt Meats Cheese in the Haven Building (close to ALDI) is a restaurant with a difference offering private cooking classes. It's a lot of fun mastering how to make fettuccine from scratch with guidance from SMC experts. You will also learn how to make a ricotta cream to fill cannoli shells. Why not join the group and ask your friends to come along too?

Before class starts, participants will be offered a welcome drink with pizza slices during the break. If this hasn't got your tastebuds tingling, before leaving you will dine on your hand made scrumptious fettuccine and cannolis and return home feeling replete and very pleased with yourself.

Moulin Rouge! The Musical

Wednesday 19 July 2023, 7:00pm, QPAC Lyric Theatre

Tickets are now available and have been mailed to members, or are available for collection from the U3A Creek St office, depending on the preference you selected.

MAMMA MIA! The Musical

Wednesday 6 September 2023, 1:00pm, QPAC Lyric Theatre

Tickets are now available and have been mailed to members, or are available for collection from the U3A Creek St office, depending on the preference you selected.

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