



## Editor's Notes from Jean Smith

I met some friends for coffee in the city last week. We have known each other since October 2006. How can I be so precise about the date? Theirs were the smiling faces which greeted me when I walked into my first-ever U3A class. I hadn't seen them since March, for obvious reasons, and meeting them again was as if one of the missing pieces in the jigsaw puzzle of my life had been found. I found another missing piece when I enrolled in a face-to-face class for next term.



Zoom has filled some gaps – but it's rather like listening to a CD when what you really want is the live concert experience.

With life gradually returning to 'normal', let's hope we don't have too many 'missing pieces' next year.



## President's Message from Des Taylor

What a year it has been! 2020 has been a year with great tragedies and stressful experiences. We saw the alarming death rates with COVID19 and we all experienced lockdowns for different periods of time. Our lives and interactions with friends and even family were forced to change as we tapped elbows instead of giving hugs and learned the value of a good supply of toilet paper! There were no excursions, theatres, restaurants or travel. U3A closed its doors in the city on the 13th March and they have not yet reopened.

But through the dark times there has been much light. Our classes have continued, with many tutors taking on the challenge, turning to online classes and learning technology skills that they never expected to need. Members generously donated money to help us continue on, despite having no income. Our members continued to enrol, often in multiple classes, to stay in contact with their classmates and tutors. The U3A community of scholars weathered the



storm together.

We now near the end of 2020 and look forward with hope and relief to 2021. U3A will open again for face-to-face classes in both Creek and Adelaide Streets in January. Many classes that have not been feasible in online form will again be offered. Our successful Zoom classes will continue, with some tutors offering both Face-to-Face and Zoom classes. Many classes in the Districts are running and more will be added in 2021.

Enrolments are now open and I would encourage you to enrol in one or more of our many interesting classes. There will be some changes in the city venues because we must have COVID Safe rules and so we will ask anyone attending classes to read these carefully and comply with them.

Payment for city campus classes, both Face-to-Face and Zoom, will be online if at all possible as this is much safer in a COVID world and should be organised before the start of term. The cost for Face-to-Face classes will be changed to a single upfront payment per term, but still at the rate of \$5 per class. Zoom classes organised through the City Campus have a voluntary, recommended fee of \$25 per term.

**No class fees can be accepted until January 2021. Our payment system is currently being updated to cater for upfront payments.**

For anyone who has any questions about the new rules or plans for 2021, there is an online Q&A Session organised for Tuesday 15th December at 2pm. There is more information below..

I'm looking forward to the future. We may still have to take great care with COVID-safe behaviour, but we can start to move back to a more normal way of life and enjoy the company of others while expanding our minds with new learning experiences. I hope to meet some of you at U3A or online in the new year.

If you have any questions or comments, please send to: [feedback@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:feedback@u3abrisbane.org.au)

Stay safe and have a wonderful Christmas.

Regards, Des.

## **Special Online Event** from Management Committee

### **Tuesday 15th December at 2.00pm. Online Q&A Session for Members**

Neil Brown, Chair of U3A's COVID Committee, will host this *Zoom* session. The purpose of the session is to explain to members the COVID precautions to be put in place in returning to face-to-face classes in Brisbane City Campus rooms in 2021, including class fees and the continuing use of Zoom classes. A number of email queries have been received from members regarding these classes and these queries will be discussed for everyone's benefit. If there are excess bookings, a further session will be scheduled in January.

[Make a Booking](#)

## Office News

from Yvonne McGann

Our office at 97 Creek St is currently closed. However, you can contact us via email ([mail@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:mail@u3abrisbane.org.au)) or by phone (0479 146 843).

Membership renewal (still \$40) is available [online via our website](#).

**Upfront payments for class fees (City Campus only) will be able to be made via our website from January 1st. Please do not pay before that.**

For those who wish to pay in person, our office at 97 Creek St will be open from 9am till 12 noon Monday 18th January till Friday 22nd January.

We wish all our members a very happy holiday season and hope that 2021 is peaceful and calm.

## City Campus News

from Gail Hawkins

[tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au)

At last, tutors who have been hanging out waiting for face-to-face classes to resume in the City, have something to look forward to as we head into the New Year. It is an understatement to say that this has been a difficult and challenging year and I doubt if anyone will be sorry to see the end of 2020.

Term 1, 2021 will offer members a variety of classes both in the City classrooms and via Zoom. Unfortunately, there are still restrictions in place that prevent some classes from operating – hopefully we will have a relaxation of regulations in the New Year that will enable all of our tutors to again resume classes.

I welcome the new tutors that have joined our team and are offering classes in Term 1. With support from our members the new tutors, I am sure, will enjoy the tutoring experience and friendships that are offered.

Below are some of the new classes or classes that are returning after a break. Please contact the tutor to enrol if any of these courses interest you. The Term 1 Class Schedule which sets out the full list of classes can be viewed online [in PDF form](#) or in searchable form under [Class Search](#).

### Monday:

- H11 - African History, The British in Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century - Zoom
- X13 – Native Title – Zoom
- J56 – Auslan 4 Seniors – Beginners
- J61 – Auslan 4 Seniors – Intermediate
- B20 – Nutrition – What does your Body Do with Food you Eat
- H12 – A History of Sex and Gender
- X11 – Criminal Law
- E14 – Mythbusters

### Tuesday:

- H10 – Two Heroines in the Bible – Ruth and Esther – Zoom
- J39 – Continuation of Italian for Beginners

J42 – Indonesian – Bahasa Indonesian for Beginners

H13 – History Through the Ages

**Thursday:**

E18 – Future Positioning of Australia in a Post COVID Global Economy (NEW)

A84 – Origami – Creative Fitness through Origami

X10 – Geography – Mapping and Sketching

J57 – English for Speakers of other Languages

**Friday:**

J65 – Spanish Language – Zoom

J62 – German Beginners - Zoom

## Northside News from Rod McLary

Now that U3A is returning to face-to-face classes, a number of classes on the Northside will also be recommencing in 2021. The classes are:

J163 – Italian – Continuing Students

E10 – The Nature and Theory of Crime

X101 – Northside Dinner Group

Details of these and all other Northside classes are updated on the U3A website. It is important to check the details of the class you are interested in to be sure there are vacancies.

We look forward to members coming back to the Northside classes.

## U3A Choir (M37) Conductor Search 2021 from Wendy McPherson

### U3A Choir (M37) Conductor Search 2021

We urgently need someone special to direct / accompany our U3A Choir Class in 2021. (This will not be for Term 1, but later, when U3A Management deems it safe for this class to recommence).

**WE ARE:** An enthusiastic, up to 40 strong mob of folk who love to sing together. Some don't read music, but all are keen & quick learners. Before our beloved Tutor / Conductor Margaret passed away earlier this year we were actually beginning to sound quite good !

**WE NEED A NEW CONDUCTOR:** We are hoping that amongst the super talented U3A Membership there is someone ready, willing and able to step into the role of our Tutor / Conductor. Or someone who knows someone who can help us .....!

**CHOIR CLASS DAY, TIME & ROOM** at 232 Adelaide St Brisbane are unknown at present: possibly Tuesdays or Fridays, 1.30pm – 2.30pm

**DATES:** During School Terms only

**PROVIDED:** Electronic Keyboard with stand, music stand, access to U3A Tutor Resources, copies of

previous repertoire & assistance from a Choir Administrator if required

**This position is Voluntary as are all U3A Tutor positions.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** If you can help our Choir Class keep making music together or know someone who can, please contact Wendy McPherson: email [wenandlendy@bigpond.com](mailto:wenandlendy@bigpond.com) or ring 0419 282 100. **Please** leave a message if I cannot take your call :)

**THANK YOU**

## Extension of the COVID-19 support line from Mary Denver

The Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, Richard Colbeck, has announced a \$2.5 million investment to extend and expand the Older Persons COVID-19 Support Line until **30 June 2021** to ensure senior Australians get the services and assistance they need during COVID-19.

Between 22 April and 23 October 2020, the support line received more than 5,000 inbound calls and provided more than 29,000 outbound calls. The top five reasons for calls included:

- wellbeing checks
- information about COVID-19
- advice to vulnerable people
- travel restrictions
- access to new, or queries about existing, home care services.

The support service is a joint initiative of COTA Australia, Dementia Australia, National Seniors Australia and the Older Persons Advocacy Network. The expansion of the service will also include support from the Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care (PICAC) Alliance.

Senior Australians who would like information and support are encouraged to contact the Older Persons COVID-19 Support Line on **1800 171 866**, Monday to Friday between 8:30am to 6pm AEDT (excluding public holidays).

## U3A Portraiture class members keep learning, connected and drawing! from Carol Owens and Anne Visona

After many years of randomly and with total abandon putting paint brush to canvas, I came to the conclusion that that form of creativity was not for me. I joined the U3A portrait drawing group having no previous tuition in pencil drawing, but with enthusiasm and the hope that I would learn to be more observant, and self-disciplined to work slowly and more precisely. I was surprised at how much I enjoyed the classes. There are many benefits to being part of this group. I have gained a great deal from the friendships of my tutor and classmates who are always willing to share their knowledge, talents and help when asked, AND we have fun! Many times, I have found another pair of eyes looking at my drawing will "see" where I need to change a feature to get a better likeness. During 2020, we have had a group email where we can download our drawings, encourage each other, ask for help, or simply just keep in touch. In

isolation I had more time to sit and just draw. While I missed the social contact with friends, the email contact has been wonderful. Drawing is, for me, an activity that is both stimulating and relaxing. This is a drawing of a mature stylish lady, looking ready for fun and adventure. While her face shows she is aging, she wears her wrinkles well. When I grow up, I want to be like her!



Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
to All

