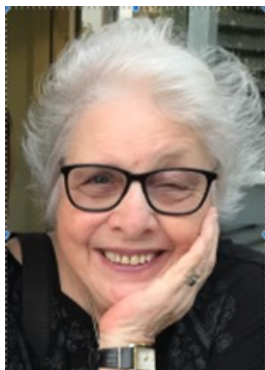




eNews
OCTOBER 2024

Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning

From the President



Deslyn Taylor

Hello all

Welcome back for Term 4. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and have returned refreshed and excited about your coming classes.

Thank you to all who attended our Open Day, especially the many tutors who came and either did presentations or made themselves available to discuss their classes.

A big thank-you also to Lyndall Beattie and her team of volunteers who organised the food and drinks. They were plentiful and enjoyed by all.

Finally, another big thank-you to our members who came to support and often brought a



PLEASE NOTE: U3A closes for the year on 6 December 2024

friend to introduce them to U3A.

We had nine new members join on the day which was very pleasing and three people approached about running new classes in 2025 – something to look forward to.

Management Committee Update

Membership

Our current membership is 3136 and there were 82 new members in September.

We need to keep growing so I ask you all to help –

- collect some posters from the office and place them on notice boards
- leave brochures (which can also be collected from the office) where they might be picked up.
- talk to your friends about the benefits of joining U3A.

Classes

We have a wonderful array of classes – but we need more classes and more tutors.

Remember, if you are interested in a topic or have some expertise in one, then please come and



share it with a group of like-minded people as a tutor or a facilitator.

Being a tutor at U3A is a wonderful experience.

Contact: tutors@u3abrisbane.org.au

Future Planning

Later this year we will update our Strategic Plan.

Please look at our [current plan](#) and think about how we can do better going forward.

Send your ideas and suggestions to president@u3abrisbane.org.au

More information about this will follow in the next eNews.

Regards, Des ■

U3A Social News



Heather Dowling,

pictured with her new best friend, a 14-month-old St Bernard

Mt Tamborine outing, 5 Sep 24

It was a long day! The coach was late due to traffic problems. It was quiet on the bus, perhaps everybody was snoozing.

Arriving at Gallery Walk, some members stretched their legs and walked to the rainforest. Unfortunately, they walked further than planned and ended

up at Curtis Falls: a LONG walk away. I was glad to see them again safe and sound.

Everybody else split up and went their own way at the Eagle Heights shops.

Our next stop was at the Tamborine Mountain Coffee Plantation which was interesting and educational. The plantation won the 2019 Golden Bean Award for Australian/New Zealand-grown Coffee (milk-based).

The skins of the dried fruit of coffee berries, rich in antioxidants, make cascara.

The seeds go through a process from raw to dried before being ready to grind. The pulper removes the skins and the remaining seeds are dried in a shed for up to 8 weeks.

We tasted single origin coffee: one from Colombia which was very strong, and one from Tamborine which was much weaker.

Lunch was next and we were entertained by two beautiful St Bernard dogs who live on the premises. It was a beautiful day and the view of the surrounding countryside was wonderful.

Finally, replete and glad to get on the coach again, we arrived at

the Yatala Pie Shop to buy a pie for dinner – as if we needed more food. Once more, there was quiet on the bus as our driver negotiated the traffic and got us safely back to Brisbane.

Next outing: Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway (QPSR)



This will be our last outing in 2024, and I hope it will attract a few more men!

Date: Saturday, 26 October 2024

To: Swanbank, Ipswich

Pick up: 9.30 a.m. at Roma Street Coach Terminal, opposite Platform 10.

Return: 3.30 p.m. at Roma St

Coach capacity: 20

Cost: \$67.00

Description: Our coach leaves Roma Street at 9.30 a.m. for Swanbank to catch the 11.00 a.m. QPSR scenic train.

Volunteers who love their work organise the rail trip and maintain the lines and trains.

Journey back in time behind Bubba, the little blue locomotive, "The Swanbank Collier", departing from Swanbank Station at 11.00 a.m. It has beautifully restored heritage timber carriages from as early as 1885.

From Swanbank Station the route follows the lake back through old coal-mining sites, lush bushland and along the base of Castle Hill.



Mr Tony Williams, owner of the Tamborine Mountain Coffee Plantation, with U3A members

Bubba turns around at Racecourse before returning to Swanbank, through paddocks of horses and past quaint miners' cottages dating back to the 1860s. The turn-around process will be exciting to see.

Enjoy your own morning tea while enjoying the passing countryside. Please bring a little something to share with other members.

The coach will be waiting to drive us to Stony Creek Brewing for lunch and beer tasting.

Thanks to Lynette Duffy, our Origami Tutor, for suggesting this trip.

Next-year outing: *Sister Act*, a divine musical comedy

If you enjoyed the *Sister Act* movies, you will also enjoy the Brisbane stage production in March 2025.

With Motown-inspired music from Alan Menken, the mishaps and “nuns on the run” is a happy story of finding your voice and singing out with your sisters.

QPAC likes us to reserve theatre tickets early if we want



reasonable seats. (2025 diaries are already available.)

Date: Wednesday, 12 March 2025

Time: 1.00 p.m.

Place: QPAQ Lyric Theatre

Just 12 tickets available.

Price: \$70.00 concession; \$100 adult.

Please let the U3A office know (ph. 3236 3055) whether you want concession or non-concession tickets when you book or pay for tickets.

Closing: Friday, 29 November

Performing: Casey Donovan as Deloris Van Cartier, Genevieve Lemon as Mother Superior and Rhonda Burchmore as Sister Mary Lazarus. ■

From Wynnum Coordinator, Chris Hobbs (aka Nobby)

One item of interest NOT SPECIFICALLY FROM WYNNUM:

Redlands U3A Pickleball Club has invited our members to several events during October.

The games will be FREE and you can attend one or all.

Specific dates can be obtained from the Secretary, Denyse Corner

Redlands Pickleball Club

secretary@redlandspickleballclub.com

0403 539 304



From Northside Coordinator



Rod McLary

Electric Vehicles 101

Phil Browne is presenting his class again this term on **Tuesday**

15 October.

Details of the time and venue are in the class description.

During the session, Phil will cover topics like –

- the characteristics of EVs
- how to charge your EV, including from home solar
- plug types and cables
- improved battery tech
- cost to buy an EV (some less than \$35,000 drive-away)
- many others.

You will learn all you need to know about EVs.

For an entertaining and informative session, come along on 15 October to Gasworks. ■

**Do you know ...
... where cascara comes from?**



It comes from the skins of the dried fruit of coffee berries, which are rich in antioxidants.

Around the traps



with Linda

Hello everyone,

Although October offers slim pickings, November has many coming on board so keep a lookout below.

Profile: Sunnybank Theatre Group since 1965

This theatre's members are very lucky in having their own

building. As it is high-set, they have installed a 2-person lift for those who can't do the stairs, which makes it very easy to get to and from the toilets during interval.

In this building, they have classes for children, people with disabilities and seniors alike as well as some fantastic plays and musicals.

At the end of the year, there is always a pantomime for both children and adults to enjoy.

The Seniors Group also puts one or two plays on too. Being very proactive, they're usually full.

We have never been disappointed by any play, and I have patronised this theatre and the others for 25 years.

For one weekend each August, Sunnybank Theatre joins other theatres for a One-Act Play Festival and there is also judging of the playhouses.

Please note that all plays below are correct at the time of printing.

But still, it's wise to check with the website or contact the theatre before booking.

See you around the traps!

Linda

PLAYS – OCTOBER 2024

Centenary Theatre, Chelmer 0435 591 720 centenarytheatre.com.au	Mephisto & Pheles	2 pm: 6 th 13 th 7:30pm: 4 th , 5 th 11 th 12 th	Adults \$27 Conc. \$24 Group \$27
Ipswich Little Theatre 3812 2389 ilt.org.au	Clue: On Stage	SOLD OUT	Adults \$25 Conc. \$21
Growl Theatre, Windsor 0438 548 426 growltheatre.org.au	The Book of Will	2 pm: 20 th , 27 th 7:30pm: 19 th , 25 th , 26 th	Adult \$20 Conc. \$17 6+ \$15
Mousetrap Theatre, Redcliffe 0439 954 719 Info@mousetraptheatre.asn.au	Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play	2pm: 6 th 7:30pm: 4 th , 5 th	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20 Child \$15
Beenleigh Theatre Group 3807 3922 info@beenleightheatregroup.com	Chess The Musical	2pm: 5 th 12 th 7:30pm: 4 th 5 th 11 th 12 th	Adult \$35 Conc \$30
Mercury Theatre, Manly Via website or mercurywynnum@gmail.com	Scotland Road	2.00pm: 3 rd & 17 th 7:30pm: 1 st , 2 nd , 8 th , 9 th , 15 th , 16 th	Flat price: \$25
Growl Theatre, Windsor 0438 548 426 growltheatre.org.au	The Book of Will	2 pm: 20 th , 27 th 7:30pm: 25 th , 26 th	Adult \$20 Conc. \$17 6+ \$15

PLAYS – NOVEMBER 2024

<p>Growl Theatre, Windsor 0438 548 426 growltheatre.org.au</p>	<p>The Book of Will</p>	<p>2 pm: 3rd, 9th 7:30pm: 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th</p>	<p>Adult \$20 Conc. \$17 6+ \$15</p>
<p>Villanova Players, 7Hills 0423 920 832 Villanovaplayers.com</p>	<p>Failure: A True Love Story</p>	<p>2pm: 9th, 10th 7:30pm: 8th, 9th</p>	<p>Adult \$25 Conc. \$25 Group \$22.70</p>
<p>Mercury Theatre, Manly Via website or Mercurywynnum@gmail.com</p>	<p>Scotland Road</p>	<p>2.00pm: 3rd & 17th 7:30pm: 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th</p>	<p>Flat price: \$25</p>
<p>Sunnybank Theatre 3345 3964 sunnybanktheatre.com.au</p>	<p>I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</p>	<p>2:00pm: 9th, 16th, 17th 7:30pm: 8th, 9th, 16th, 22nd</p>	<p>Adults \$28 Conc. \$26</p>
<p>St. Luke's Theatre, Ekibin 0493 778 379 Stluketheatre.asn.au</p>	<p>Christmas Belles</p>	<p>2:00pm: 16th, 23rd, 30th 7:30pm: 15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th</p>	<p>Adults \$28 Conc. \$22 Group \$20</p>
<p>Centenary Theatre, Chelmer 0435 591 720 centenarytheatre.com.au</p>	<p>Agatha Christie's Verdict</p>	<p>2:00pm: 17th, 23rd, 24th 7:30pm: 9th, 15th, 16th, 22nd, 29th, 30th</p>	<p>Adults \$27 Conc. \$24 Group \$27</p>
<p>Ipswich Little Theatre 3812 2389 ilt.org.au</p>	<p>Bondi Legal</p>	<p>2:00pm: 24th 8PM 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th</p>	<p>Adults \$25 Conc. \$21</p>
<p>Nash Theatre, New Farm 0418 719 300 Nashtheatre.com</p>	<p>Murder on the Nile</p>	<p>2:30pm: 23rd 7:30pm: 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th</p>	<p>Adult \$25 Conc. \$20 Grp 20% off</p>

Profile: U3A President Deslyn Taylor

When I retired in 2010, I made a list. Not a bucket list, really, but a “What can I do with the rest of my life?” list.

I thought of all the things I would like to try. Some I had dabbled in but hadn’t had the time to pursue. They included:

- play the guitar
- play bridge
- photography
- painting (pictures, not houses)
- reading
- golf
- walking
- history.

After I retired, my husband was worried about how I would fill in my day.

He bought me a bass guitar for Christmas that year. This led to us joining the local neighbourhood band, No Strings Attached. I was off and running with my list.

But for many of the things I wanted to pursue, I needed to learn new skills and fortunately I found U3A.

My first classes in 2011 were Anyone can paint and draw, and Bridge. They were a bit daunting at first, but were the beginning of a wonderful journey.

I continued my art for many years and particularly want to thank Rosemary Schucraft for her enormous patience and encouragement, all the wonderful people I met in the classes, and later Geraint who taught me drawing, on Zoom.

Learning Bridge also opened new windows. After a few terms at U3A we joined a bridge club, another adventure.

U3A has provided so many opportunities for me to expand my mind through literature (thank you, Margaret) and art



history with Sheila.

I’ve done courses in photography and history. I have learnt so much.

I’ve also had the opportunity to tutor classes in iPad and iPhone, giving me the very rewarding experience of sharing my knowledge and experience with others.

I have been very lucky. I met Greg just after my 17th birthday and we’re still together with three wonderful children and two grandchildren who are a continual source of delight and keep me up to date with their world.

So many opportunities and experiences: a career in teaching, working in mathematics and then computing, and finishing as ICT Director of Stuartholme School.

I haven’t travelled as much as some but have great memories: midnight supper at the Moulin Rouge in Paris, bouillabaisse on the waterfront at Marseille, a visit to the catacombs in Rome, many adventures in the UK and Ireland, riding an elephant in Thailand ... the list goes on.

I have done a tandem skydive and fallen through a cloud to see the earth open up, with the sun shining on it like a magical carpet.

Now I have the privilege of being President of U3A Brisbane.

As A B Facey once said, a fortunate life, indeed. ■

Mother tongue

Did your family have a great stock of special words and phrases?

Please send them in so we can all enjoy them. Here are some from my family:

- You sound like a broken record
- She kept it up like a birthday
- Don’t be a knucklehead/nincompoop/pill/pain in the neck
- He wasn’t even a man’s bootlace
- Not for all the tea in China
- It’s raining cats and dogs
- Wish in one hand and spit in the other, and see which one gets full first
- You’d think she came from moneyed people!
- It’s no good saying *sorry* when the damage is done
- She just likes the sound of her own voice
- She looked like two pennorth of gawd-help-us
- Better than a whack in the billy with a dead fish/poke in the eye with a burnt stick
- Wouldn’t it make the angels weep?
- Blind Freddy on a galloping horse could see that/would be glad to see it
- Bob’s yer uncle and Charlie’s yer aunt
- What do you think this is? Bush Week?
- We haven’t got shares in the county council
- Tight as a fish’s bum, and that’s water-tight. ■

Profile: Newsletter editor Josephine Brown



“Hey! Let’s join U3A and learn how to play the ukulele,” a friend suggested, back in 2009.

“Nah. Don’t think so,” I said. But she just tightened the thumb-screws of friendship, so I bought my first uke and met the inspiring tutor and uke-collector Garold Simmers.

He taught us how to play chords, and we quickly discovered that you can’t play only chords forever. You have to SING along with the chords.

This was a revelation to me! Having a voice like a bee in a bottle, I had been a confirmed non-singer. Amazingly, this doesn’t matter. I even found myself singing solo, on occasions. With a mic! Then I joined a ukulele band and had even more fun. U3A changed my life!

Having discovered U3A, I signed up for more useful courses: MS

Word, MS Publisher, French, Family History, among others.

Anne Douglas tapped me on the shoulder in 2011 to edit a book of stories about U3A members who grew up during World War II. *Jitterbugging at City Hall* was the result, and I believe every copy was sold. It wasn’t surprising.

Everyone has a fascinating life story, whether they realise it or not. Maybe it’s time for another book, by Boomer members ...

My background is in words and music. Started paid work as a secretary and can now claim my most useless skill is the ability to write Pitman’s shorthand. Belatedly realised I was an editor.

However, I needed proper qualifications, so, as a mature-aged student, I studied journalism via distance education through the University of Southern Queensland.

Worked as a journalist, then as a copywriter, now as a freelance editor and writer.

Studied piano when young and, strangely, liked it and kept it up. Gained my Associate in Music, Australia (AMusA) diploma for musical performance and music

theory. I love to accompany singers and instrumentalists.

Played for congregational singing for many years but currently I’m on an open-ended sabbatical from this. Have organised numerous fundraising events involving music.

Recently, a friend and I collected a group of “pianistas” – people who simply like to play the piano but are rarely asked to do so. We entertain each other once a month.

Words, and the stories they tell, also entertain me, whether writing them, hearing them or editing them.

My husband and I belong to a monthly group that meets to tell stories on a given theme. My stories mostly end up as personal vignettes – the basis of a future memoir, perhaps.

And now I have the enjoyable task of managing the production of the U3A eNews and editing the contents to make sure they’re as clear and engaging as a reader could wish.

I’d welcome your suggestions or contributions for content, if you feel like sharing. ■

UQ–Tweed Valley connection

We have been working with the University of Queensland to raise awareness of U3A Brisbane, and to attract more tutors for the future. The discussions are ongoing.

UQ are interested in connecting with the broader community. Our aims are similar – lifelong learning.



They are promoting a weekend in the beautiful Tweed Valley (see above) with many activities, and have forwarded the invitation to us.

Here is the link, if you are interested.

[Explore gems of The Tweed on an exclusive UQ alumni weekend](#)

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