



# eNews

## June 2026

Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning



### From the President Des Taylor

Hello all.

We now start our last month in both Adelaide and Creek Streets.

In Term 3 all classes will be at Level 3, 288 Edward Street.

But first ...

#### Big thanks!

Last week was Volunteers Week, so today I would like to thank all of our Volunteers. U3A could not exist without you!



#### 288 Edward Street

Geyer-Valmont are currently finishing the fit-out at Edward Street. It should be complete by the



We have removed a wall to make a larger kitchen/lunch area and have split the former hairdressing training room into two classrooms.

time you read this eNews. There is still much work to do to complete the technology installation and plan the transition to the new venue.

Lyndall Beattie, our Office Manager, and I will be doing a walkthrough on Monday 8 June to see the renovations firsthand.

We are quite excited to see the transformation. We plan to include some images in the next eNews. More information:

[New Premises Update](#)

#### Goodbye to Adelaide and Creek Streets

Enjoy your last month at our current venues. The official opening at Edward Street will be on **Saturday September 5** after we have settled in.

#### University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology

... are continuing to offer interesting presentations. Details on the next page.

#### Remembering Coral

Now, some sad news. One of our most popular Tutors, Coral Johnson, has died. Coral has taught at U3A Brisbane for many years.



Her French classes and Arab/Israeli History classes were always well attended.

When I was tutoring in Adelaide Street, I would often arrive to hear Coral leading the singing, in – French, of course – of *Dites Moi* from *South Pacific*. Every time I hear it, I think of Coral. It always made me smile.

I think Coral made many of us smile over the years. She will be sadly missed.

Her 2026 class has written a beautiful tribute to her. See it on page 3 in this newsletter.

Regards, Des

# UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

## Special presentation – the transmission of infectious diseases

Professor Kirsty Short with Dr Yanshan Zhu

**Friday 12 June 2026 1.15pm.**

**U3A City Campus 232 Adelaide St. Room 18.**

Professor Short is a basic and translational scientist with extensive expertise in virology and immunology.

She has used the mechanistic aspects of basic science research to focus on translational solutions with regard to pandemic preparedness, namely for influenza virus and SARS-CoV-2.

This talk traces the evolving understanding of how infectious diseases are transmitted, from early theories of miasma – where illness was attributed to "bad air" – to the paradigm-shifting recognition

of microbial pathogens and person-to-person spread.

It explores key historical milestones that reshaped the field. These include the establishment of germ theory, advances in epidemiology and the identification of specific transmission routes such as airborne, droplet and contact pathways. The presentation then moves to contemporary approaches, highlighting how modern technologies and controlled human challenge studies have refined our understanding of transmission dynamics, infectious dose and host susceptibility.



[Register for this Event](#)

## University of Technology (QUT)

### Reflecting, adapting and sharing what works

QUT have organised a series of FREE workshops. This is the third.

**Presenter:** Lakkhana Perera

**When:** Friday 12 June 9:30am – 11:00am

**Where:** U3A City Campus, 232 Adelaide St.

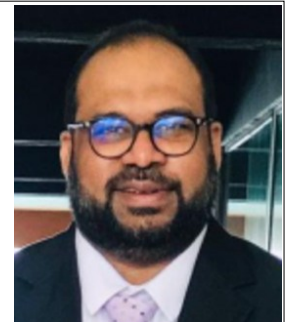
**Capacity:** 16

Learn something interesting.

Share your own experiences.

Hear how others approach daily life.

Meet new people in a friendly setting.



[Register for this Event](#)

## University of Queensland (UQ)

### Memoir and biography: Evidence of a life – or publicity for it?

In a world where everyone is crafting a version of themselves – online, on stage and everywhere in between – how do we tell what's real?

The first UQ event for this year will be presented by Emeritus Professor Richard Fotheringham, following a light lunch.

This talk dives into the messy, very modern tension between authenticity and performance by exploring two remarkable entertainers whose lives were shaped as much by myth-making as by music.

Jenny Howard meticulously engineered her public persona, while Joy Nichols left behind unpublished memoirs that reveal a far more complicated truth than the one audiences adored.

Drawing on new research for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, this session unpacks how stories get written – and rewritten – and why

that matters in an era of curated feeds, personal branding, and digital self-mythology.

You'll also hear rare recordings from both singers, bringing their voices into today's conversation about identity, narrative and the stories we choose to believe.

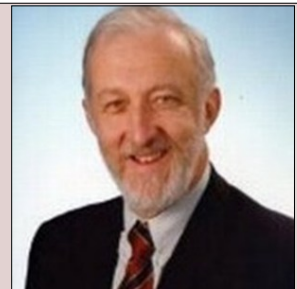
**When:** Wednesday 10 June

**Where:** UQ Atrium, 308 Queen Street.

**Time:** 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm.

**Cost:** \$35 (includes lunch).

Professor Fotheringham will start his presentation at 1:30pm.



**Book through UQ:** [Register and Pay](#)

## Remembering Coral Johnson, Tutor extraordinaire

When Coral retired from teaching in Queensland high schools, she went overseas and set up a school of English at the Seventh Day Adventist Study Centre in Jerusalem, and ran it from 2000 to 2006.

On her return to Australia, Gordon Hill (studying Introductory French) introduced her to U3A. It was the last day of term in 2008. The tutor had recently given notice, but the class still went ahead.

Coral recalled: "I asked the students what they had been learning and the lesson was able to continue."

She joined U3A and continued teaching the Introductory French class the following year. This grew to three classes: the Introductory and two continuing French classes.

She explained her four criteria to students: pronunciation, comprehension, fluency and, most importantly, fun.

"It is gratifying to hear students' improvement in all criteria, especially when they have learned new songs or poems," she said.

After Coral presented *The Background to the Arab-Israeli Dispute* at a Winter School, U3A asked her to extend the topic to a term course. It became a two-term course. Then she added *Poetry Appreciation* to U3A's list of classes.

"I consider it a privilege to be a tutor at U3A. As well as meeting intelligent, considerate people, there are no exams to mark", Coral said.



### Her 2026 French class loved her, and wrote this tribute:

"Coral will be fondly remembered as a sweet lady who loved telling amusing anecdotes about her travels in France. She was particularly passionate about French films and movie stars.

"Coral aimed for perfection in her language teaching. An example of this was her insistence on the precise placing of the tongue when speaking in order to achieve the correct French pronunciation. Difficult to do for some.

"Coral was totally committed to teaching French and obviously enjoyed it, but like all students the class loved getting her off track and on to one of her stories.

"We will all miss Coral and her stories now."

## GO YOUR OWN WAY

A theatrical version of Fleetwood Mac's material, NOT the original

7 p.m. **Thursday 11 June**

Concert Hall, QPAC

Duration TBC

Tickets: \$75

Contact U3A: Ph. 3236 3055

Direct from London's West End, *Go Your Own Way* is a spellbinding theatrical celebration of **Fleetwood Mac**.

Paying homage to the *Rumours* era – the band's most commercially



*The West End smash hit arrives in Australia*

successful and artistically volatile period – the show brings the drama and the music to life with stunning authenticity.

Experience all the classic hits including *Dreams*, *Don't Stop*, *Everywhere*, *Songbird* and *The Chain* in a night of pure nostalgia.

Only  
**\$75!**

## Tutor profile: Chris Davidson

I joined U3A in about 2013, when I'd been retired for several years after a long career in public affairs across a variety of non-profit organisations, and formative experience as a young journalist in radio and newspapers.

Just pre-U3A, I tried out a variety of activities including cycling with mates (remember the book *Middle Aged Men in Lycra*? That wasn't us!) socialising at the Men's Shed, and volunteering at a Lifeline bookshop and Greenslopes Hospital. I'm glad I had that range of experiences.

But now I'm well and truly into my third age, I've settled on U3A and Council-tai-chi-in-the-park as my activities of choice.

The first classes I took at U3A were to improve my computing skills. My first tutor was the indefatigable Nobby who doubled as a Spanish tutor, which was impressive, I thought. Despite his and other folks' efforts, I still struggle with IT, and I envy their gift.

I then started working my way through the most interesting U3A offerings in the U3A agenda, always a rich selection.

To embrace the variety, I usually spent only one term in each class, although I dallied longer in some such as Philosophy with Lindsay, Buddhism with Doug and Science with Marty, all good stuff.

Today, I still find it exciting to receive Gail's notification for the next term to see what new classes are on offer.

When classes were cancelled because of COVID, U3A's leaders introduced Zoom as a way of continuing classes on-line while we were all in isolation. I liked the Zoom option and I've embraced it since then.

I've always been a keen reader, particularly of non-fiction about how the world works and why. During COVID, I read *Sapiens* by Israeli historian Yuval Harari. I learned a lot and I thought it would be great to share it with other people.

I decided to try tutoring at U3A by coordinating a Zoom class where participants read one serious



book in stages over a 10-week term, and meet fortnightly online to share their insights.

I started the class Term 3, 2020, and *Sapiens* was our first book – a good choice. *Sapiens* is still prominent on the shelves of our local bookshops.

At that time, my teaching experience had been confined to tutoring marketing students at QUT, so I went into the tutoring role at U3A with nothing but a vision and a book. If I was starting out again, I would spend longer preparing for the role.

The U3A website says: *As a tutor, you have the unique*

*opportunity to share your passion and expertise with a diverse group of lifelong learners.* That's certainly proved to be true.

But, when I started, I was big on passion but short on expertise, so it was more challenging than I expected. However, with advice from other tutors (including Greg on the IT front), and support from class members, my *Sharing Books Better Read in Company* class is now a going concern. But I know the process needs work so I will take next term off to review my techniques and take the class to a new level.

I can see why using Zoom isn't for everyone, or for every type of class. It would be hard to learn to play Canasta on Zoom! Opportunities to socialise are very limited on Zoom. But it's convenient to join from home if we can't make it into the city or if we're overseas.

I've also observed that, if the class is small, say 6-8 people, it's amazing how companionable those rows of faces ranked across the screen can become over time. We may not recognise each other if we pass in the supermarket, but online a rewarding kinship can develop.

On the other hand, the often-uncertain combination of Zoom, PowerPoint and Windows linking us together can be terrifying for the lone tutor, and disappointing for any class member whose NBN is down that day.

I look forward to continuing my U3A journey.

It might even keep me mentally fit long enough to stay well beyond the end of my third age.

## QSO JUNE CONCERTS

### Morning Masterworks 3 – Beethoven & Dvořák

Date: **Friday, 12 June 2026**, 11:30am  
Venue: Concert Hall, QPAC  
Duration: About 1 hour 30 minutes, no interval

Start your Friday with a touch of classical brilliance with this Morning Masterworks concert. Two towering masterpieces, each with its own voice.

Dvořák once doubted the cello's power to lead an orchestra, until he composed a concerto that defied all expectations.

Lyrical, radiant, and full of emotional depth, it is now widely regarded as the greatest ever piece written for the instrument.

Cellist Ivan Karizna brings it to life with passion and precision, under the baton of Chief Conductor Umberto Clerici.

Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 follows, a work Wagner once described as "the apotheosis of the dance".

With rhythm as its driving force, this iconic symphony moves from the majestic nobility of its first movement to a finale of exhilarating power.

*\*Tickets are very limited for this concert.*

#### Program / Details

DVOŘÁK - *Cello Concerto Op.104*  
BEETHOVEN - *Symphony No.7*

**Conductor:** Umberto Clerici **Soloist:** Ivan Karizna, cello

**Tickets:** From \$99 (normal adult price \$119 per person), \$88 Concession.  
Order: [sales@qso.com.au](mailto:sales@qso.com.au), 07 3833 5054

### Studio Sessions – Chamber Players 2

Date: **Sunday, 21 June 2026**, 3pm  
Venue: QSO Studio, South Bank  
Duration: About 1 hour 30 minutes, no interval

Chamber Players offer a wonderful opportunity to hear and get to know the members of the QSO on a more individual level.

Enjoy hand-picked chamber repertoire by a small group of our musicians as they introduce and share personal connections to each piece while you relax into a delightful Sunday afternoon concert in the QSO home studio.

#### Program / Details

ROUSSEL - *Serenade for Flute, String Trio and Harp, Op. 30*

BERNARDO ALVIZ - *Decisión y Escarmiento*  
BERNARDO ALVIZ - *Elegia y Brillo Para Dos*  
GEORGE BENJAMIN - *Viola, Viola*  
STEVE REICH - *Clapping Music*  
CAGE - *Living Room Music*  
ARVO PÄRT - *Fratres*

**Musicians:** Emily Granger, Phoebe Russell, Mia Stanton, Nat Low, Alison Mitchell, Nicole Greentree, Hyung Suk Bae, Sonia Wilson, Bernard Hoey, Justin Bullock, Gregory MacNamara, Bernard Hoey, Rebecca Seymour

**Tickets:** Adult from \$88, Concession from \$78.  
Order: [sales@qso.com.au](mailto:sales@qso.com.au), 07 3833 5054

### QSO – Rising Stars

Date: **Friday, 26 June 2026, 7.30pm**  
Venue: Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University  
Duration: About 1 hour 30 minutes

A stage for tomorrow's most exciting performers.

2024 Lev Vlassenko Winner Reuben Tsang brings elegance and clarity to Mozart's Piano Concerto No.23, before Jake Lyle (baritone) and Rebecca Goobanko (soprano) take the stage for a selection of operatic favourites from Mozart, Rossini and Lehár.

The program also features Alice Chance's bright and expressive *Colourburst*, Holly Harrison's high-energy *Fizzin' Fury*, and Dvořák's spirited *Scherzo capriccioso*.

With conductor Dane Lam at the podium, this concert is a showcase of Queensland's emerging talent.

#### Program / Details

ALICE CHANCE - *Colourburst*  
MOZART- *Dove sono and Hai gia vinta la causa* from *The Marriage of Figaro*  
MOZART - *Piano Concerto No.23*  
HOLLY HARRISON - *Fizzin' Fury*  
ROSSINI- *Dunque io son* from *The Barber of Seville*  
LEHÁR - *Love Unspoken* (Duet) from *The Merry Widow*  
DVOŘÁK- *Scherzo capriccioso, Op.66*  
**Conductor:** Dane Lam  
**Soloists:** Reuben Tsang, piano; Rebecca Goobanko, soprano; Jake Lyle, baritone

**Tickets:** From \$124 (normal Adult price \$145 - ARES), \$109 Concession.  
Order: [sales@qso.com.au](mailto:sales@qso.com.au), 07 3833 5054

## The benefits of engagement

One thing comes up repeatedly among happy retirees: curiosity.

They're still interested in things.

History talks. AI tools. Language classes. Genealogy research. Book clubs. Astronomy groups. Online courses.

Australians in their 70s are learning Italian before finally visiting Sicily.

Others are researching family trees so deeply they've essentially become unpaid detectives – uncovering long-lost relatives, century-old scandals and, quite unexpectedly, evidence that Aunt Agnes apparently had “strong Jamaican roots” despite spending 40 years insisting the family was aggressively Scottish.

The point isn't about becoming an expert, it's about staying engaged with the world instead of quietly retreating from it.

And maybe that's the real shift later in life.

You stop chasing urgency and start chasing meaning.

A garden bed. A camera. A guitar. A walking track at sunrise.

Small things, perhaps ... until you realise they've quietly made your days feel full again.

*Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.* – Mahatma Gandhi

– Sue Robb, U3A Brisbane Tutor

## YOUR PIX WANTED!

Did you have a good time as a participant in one of U3A's classes or social events?

How about you send us some pix to share?

Even better if they show bright smiley faces, please.

Please submit photos (jpg format preferably) from your U3A activities to [editor@u3abrisbane.org.au](mailto:editor@u3abrisbane.org.au) for inclusion in next month's eNews.



Pix might include coffee with friends after class, excursions, something you made in origami class, a picture of a group playing croquet or mahjong, etc.



## AROUND THE TRAPS WITH LINDA

Hello U3A Thespian Lovers

Please note that not all playhouses start at 2:30/7:30.

I have put some in bold that start at 2pm.

However, please check the timings yourself when booking.

The Mousetrap has advised me that there is a play on in June in their new playhouse, *Coven in Grey Street*, produced by another playhouse called Upstage Theatre Company.

I am awaiting details on how to find the bookings for this one.

If you are interested, please call me on my number below.

The Mousetrap have their own play in July – a modern adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* – see below. Their plays are always worth going to.

Enjoy the wonderful choices following!

*See you around the traps,*

*– Linda, 0418 459 227*

# JUNE 2026

THEATRE	PLAY	START	TICKETS
Act One Theatre, Strathpine 0458 579 269 <a href="http://Act1theatre.com.au">Act1theatre.com.au</a>	<i>BILLY LIAR</i>	<b>2:00pm:</b> 7, 14, 21 7:30pm: 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20
Centenary Theatre, Chelmer * 0435 591 720 <a href="http://Centenarytheatre.com.au">Centenarytheatre.com.au</a>	Coming July/Aug <i>Drowning Ophelia</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm	Adult \$28 Conc. \$25 Group \$22
Growl Theatre, Windsor 0439 954 719 <a href="http://Growltheatre.org.au">Growltheatre.org.au</a>	Coming August <i>Ravenscroft</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm	Adult \$28 Conc. \$25 10+ \$22
Mercury Theatre, Wynnum <a href="http://mercurytheatrewynnum.com">mercurytheatrewynnum.com</a>	Later in the year: <i>York Street</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm	Flat price \$25pp.
Nash Theatre, New Farm 0418 719 300 <a href="http://Nashtheatre.com">Nashtheatre.com</a>	Coming Aug <i>The Murder Room</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm	Adult \$28 Conc. \$23 Group \$18
Savoyards @ Iona Performing Arts 85 North Road Lindum <a href="mailto:bookings@savoyards.com.au">bookings@savoyards.com.au</a> 0401 565 439	<i>SISTER ACT</i>	1:30pm: 28 7:30pm: 27 July dates 4, 5, 11	Adult \$58 Conc \$52 10+ \$46
St Luke's Theatre, Yeronga 0493 778 379 <a href="http://Stlukestheatre.asn.au">Stlukestheatre.asn.au</a>	<i>ROPE</i>	2:30pm: 6, 13, 20 7:30pm: 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20	Adult \$28 Conc. \$22 Group \$20
Sunnybank Theatre 3345 3964 <a href="http://Sunnybanktheatre.com.au">Sunnybanktheatre.com.au</a>	See July	2:30pm: 7:30pm:	Adult \$28 Conc. \$26 Child \$17
The Mousetrap Theatre 0439 954 719 <a href="http://mousetraptheatre.asn.au">mousetraptheatre.asn.au</a>	<i>COVEN IN GREY STREET</i> by Up-stage Theatre	2:30pm: 14, 21 7:30pm 2, 13, 19, 20	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20
Phoenix Ensemble Beenleigh Showgrounds <a href="https://phoenixensemble.com.au/">https:// phoenixensemble.com.au/</a> <a href="mailto:hello@phoenixensemble.com.au">hello@phoenixensemble.com.au</a>	Coming August <i>She Loves Me</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm	Adult \$45 Conc \$38 Group 10+ \$33ea
Villanova Players, Seven Hills 0423 920 832 <a href="http://Villanovaplayers.com">Villanovaplayers.com</a>	Coming July <i>Blythe Spirit</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm	Adult \$30 Conc \$25 Group 10+ \$20

# JULY

THEATRE	PLAY	START	TICKETS
Act One Theatre, Strathpine 0458 579 269 <a href="http://Act1theatre.com.au">Act1theatre.com.au</a>	Next play August <i>The Opposite Sex</i>		Adult \$25 Conc. \$20
Centenary Theatre, Chelmer * 0435 591 720 <a href="http://Centenarytheatre.com.au">Centenarytheatre.com.au</a>	<i>DROWNING OPHELIA</i>	2:00pm: 18, 19, 26, (2/8) 7:30pm: 11, 17, 24, 25, 31 (1/8)	Adult \$28 Conc. \$25 Group \$22
Growl Theatre, Windsor 0439 954 719 <a href="http://Growltheatre.org.au">Growltheatre.org.au</a>	Coming August <i>Ravenscroft</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm:	Adult \$28 Conc. \$25 10+ \$22
Ipswich Little Theatre 3812 2389 <a href="http://ilt.org.au">ilt.org.au</a>	Coming Sep/Oct <i>The Pink Hammer</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm:	Adult \$25 Conc. \$21
Nash Theatre, New Farm 0418 719 300 <a href="http://Nashtheatre.com">Nashtheatre.com</a>	Coming Aug <i>The Murder Room</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm:	Adult \$28 Conc. \$23 Group \$18
St Luke's Theatre, Yeronga 0493 778 379 <a href="http://Stluketheatre.asn.au">Stluketheatre.asn.au</a>	Coming Aug/Sept Oscar Wilde's <i>An Ideal Husband</i>	2:30pm: 7:30pm	Adult \$28 Conc. \$22 Group \$20
Sunnybank Theatre 3345 3964 <a href="http://Sunnybanktheatre.com.au">Sunnybanktheatre.com.au</a>	<i>74 REDLAND GROVE MUSICAL</i>	2:30pm: 4, 11, 12, 18 7:30pm: 3, 4, 11, 17,18	Adult \$32 Conc. \$30 Child \$22
The Mousetrap Theatre 0439 954 719 <b>Selling Fast</b> <a href="http://mousetraptheatre.asn.au">mousetraptheatre.asn.au</a>	<i>ALICE IN WONDERLAND</i>	2:30pm: 2, 9, 16 7:30pm: 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, 15	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20 Child \$15
Phoenix Ensemble Beenleigh Showgrounds <a href="https://phoenixensemble.com.au/">https:// phoenixensemble.com.au/</a>	<i>ALICE BY HEART</i>	2:30pm: 9, 16, 23 7:30pm: 1, 2, 8, 9, 16, 22, 23	Adult \$45 Conc \$38 Group 10+ \$33ea
Villanova Players, Seven Hills 0423 920 832 <a href="http://Villanovaplayers.com">Villanovaplayers.com</a>	<i>BLYTHE SPIRIT</i>	<b>2:00pm:</b> 18, 19, 25, 26 7:30pm: 17, 18, 24, 25	Adult \$30 Conc \$25 Grp 10+ \$20

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