



eNews

March 2026

Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning



From the President Des Taylor

We are now well into Term 1 and I hope you are enjoying your classes.

Big thanks to Tutors

I thank our Tutors, all of whom are volunteers who share their time and knowledge so generously with our members.

Preparing weekly classes can be time-consuming.

Tutors, did you know that, instead of printing notes you can send PDFs to your class through the website?

The Forum is also available to share videos and links etc. Using these facilities may reduce your workload.

U3A on the move

Our plans for 2026 are moving forward. Our customised fitout of the new premises will commence shortly. As soon as Term 2 finishes on 26 June, we will start moving into our new venue at Edward Street in the week starting 29 June.

I'll be calling on members to volunteer to help at that time so **please mark the date in your calendar** and watch the eNews for further details.

We will have removalists to move furniture etc so no heavy work is needed but help in having them put things in the right place needs supervision.

Your space, at last!

Also, we will have a **Members' lounge** for the first time. I want this to be as beautiful and as welcoming as possible.

This is YOUR space, so if you have an eye for beauty and would enjoy being part of the set-up, I'm inviting you to [contact me](#).

We intend to take furniture from our current venues both Adelaide and Creek Streets.

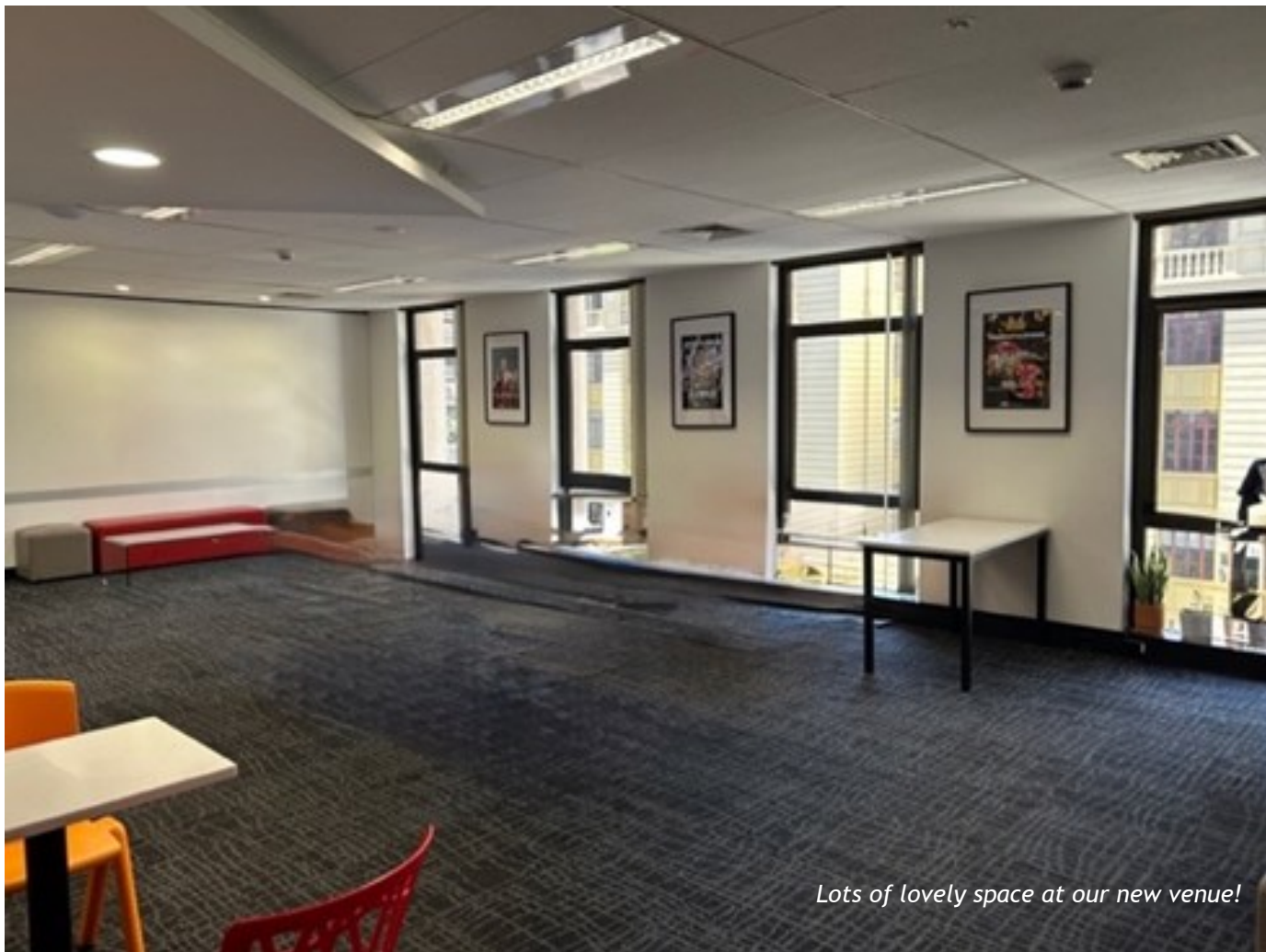
NOTICE OF 40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE BRISBANE INCORPORATED



The AGM of the University of the Third Age Brisbane Inc. will be held online at **10.00 am on Wednesday 15 April 2026** as a Zoom meeting.

Attendees must [register for the meeting](#), using the link on the U3A Brisbane website home page.

You will be sent instructions later by email about how to join the meeting.



Lots of lovely space at our new venue!

Certainly, the long benches in the foyer at Adelaide Street will come with us, and other items if they are in good condition and suitable.

The task:

- arranging furniture from our current venues
- suggesting new purchases if required
- organising wall hangings, paintings etc throughout the venue etc.

Let me know if you are willing to help.

U3A Brisbane 40 year Anniversary

This year U3A Brisbane will be celebrating 40 years since our founding in 1986.

At this year's U3A Network Conference on the Sunshine Coast we will be celebrating this milestone with U3A Sunshine Coast who were formed in the same year. If you are interested in attending, see the notice on p4.

1986 - 40 years ago... memories and a year of beginnings in Brisbane!

- The Gateway Bridge was officially opened.
- Toowong Village opened
- The Brisbane Entertainment Centre opened, with its inaugural show featuring ice skaters Torvill and Dean.
- U3A Brisbane founded.

Term 2 coming up

Enjoy the rest of the Term and watch for Term 2 enrolments, opening on Sunday 22 March.

Popular classes fill early!

Regards,
— Des Taylor

From the Secretary

Rod McLary

As you saw on page 1, the AGM of U3A Brisbane will be held at **10.00 am on Wednesday 15 April 2026** by Zoom. Please [register to attend](#).

These positions automatically become vacant on the Management Committee at the AGM:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Up to six Committee Members.

How about YOU?

Would you like to take an active role in the management of U3A? Please consider nominating for a position.

Or, do you know someone who would be interested? Please nominate them.

(The person you nominate must consent to the nomination.)

How to nominate

The [Nomination form](#) is now available online. You will need to authenticate that you are a U3A Brisbane member.

A nominator and a seconder are required for each position.

Nomination forms will also be available in hard copy from the reception desks at both Adelaide and Creek Streets. These forms may be left at either desk.



All nominations must reach the Secretary by **5.00 pm Wednesday 1st April 2026**.

Please contact me by email at this address if you have any questions about this process:

secretary@u3abrisbanel.org.au

– Rod McLary,
Secretary, U3A Brisbane

AGM AGENDA

- Apologies
- President's opening remarks
- Confirmation of minutes of 2025 AGM of U3A Brisbane Inc.
- Business arising from the minutes of the 2025 AGM (if any)
- President's report
- Treasurer's report and presentation of audited financial statements of income and expenditure, assets and liabilities for the calendar year 2025
- Auditor's report – presentation of the audited statement to the meeting for adoption
- Appointment of Auditor
- Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2026/27 – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to six (6) Committee Members
- Questions from the floor
- Close.

Be a volunteer? But what's in it for ME?

For a start, it benefits your health.

MENTAL HEALTH: Volunteering is linked to reduced symptoms of depression, anxiety and stress by providing a sense of purpose and achievement.

INCREASED HAPPINESS AND LIFE

SATISFACTION: The act of helping others releases endorphins, creating a "helper's high" and boosting overall life satisfaction.

BETTER PHYSICAL HEALTH: Volunteers often have lower mortality rates, lower risk of high blood pressure and greater physical mobility due to the active nature of many roles. (NSW Government)

Tribute to the late Wendy Collins, U3A Tutor

Sara Montrose

With deep sadness we remember Wendy Collins, who passed away on 17 December 2025.

Since 2016, Wendy taught French classes continuously with Brisbane U3A and gave her last lesson about four weeks before she died.

She came to U3A with many years' experience as a high school teacher of French, German and ESL, having lived and worked in Australia and overseas.

Wendy was a charming, gregarious person with many friends, and was intensely interested in people and their stories. She was also very active, enjoying her daily gym classes.

She was extremely well organised and had a great eye for detail, as well as being very musical. She played guitar and piano and had a lovely singing voice.

Wendy loved the French language and culture and expanding her knowledge, but her passion was for teaching and for her students.

Teaching with U3A gave purpose and focus to her life. Her lessons were impeccably planned. She put a great deal of effort into ensuring that each lesson was interesting and relevant to her students, so her classes were very popular. Many of her students became good friends.

Despite being a computer Luddite and disliking remote teaching, she kept her French lessons going during Covid using Zoom, as she was determined not to disappoint her students.



Wendy loved to travel, especially overseas, where she could experience different cultures. For her, culture was not in museums or history books; it was in the street with the people.

She spoke French and German as well as her mother tongue, Hungarian.

Wendy touched many people in her life, and she leaves behind a community of friends, as well as a loving and supportive family.

As a teacher and a person, she was an inspiration to many people.

At this year's U3A Qld State Conference, U3A Brisbane and U3A Sunshine Coast will both be celebrating 40 years since we were founded in 1986. More information:

<https://u3aqld.au/network-conference2026/>

U3A Network
QUEENSLAND

State Conference 2026

12 - 14 May 2026

Hosted by:

U3A learn
laugh
live
Sunshine Coast

Beautiful Origami

In U3A's Origami classes, each term has a theme.

Term 1 is Easter (early April). Mother's Day occurs soon after in May.

During the first five weeks, traditional origami designs, such as the samurai helmet, the swan and the cup, are combined with practical designs like photo frames, envelopes, place cards and boxes, and decorative designs of mother duck and duckling, chicken and egg and finger puppets.

Week three had a mini-theme of a night out at a piano concert in our evening dress with attached corsage, carrying our basket.

The last five weeks of Term 1 will involve designs

that can be used to teach and entertain your grandchildren during the school holidays – drinking and flapping birds, fortune-teller and a geometric waterwheel – all of which actually move.

Then there are the egg cup, wall art, scissors holder and a composite design of a flower and leaf. Of course, you cannot have a term of origami without the paper crane, fantail crane and tato.

Tutor Lynette Duffy says: "Paper cranes are a symbol of longevity, peace, hope, healing and good fortune. Gifting them is a gesture of goodwill."

Here are some examples of beautiful works created in this class.



Profile: Tutor David Williams

Living the dream – thanks to U3A

Even though I spent all my working life in science, I have always maintained an enduring passion for history.

As a small boy I was enthralled by the stories of knights and King Arthur, heroic exploits of Biggles, the derring-do of the heroes of the war comics my Dad bought me, and moved by the tragedies of the Burke and Wills expedition and the Anzac landings. (Both grandfathers were with the Anzacs at Anzac Cove.)

History was ever-present in the boyhood games I played with my friends.

Imagine my disappointment when, as a 12-year-old, my father strongly advocated that I drop History and Geography to concentrate on science subjects, most notably Chemistry. In an age when you accepted without question your parents' advice, I reluctantly complied!

After graduating from Toowong High School, I studied Chemistry at the then-Queensland Institute of Technology, followed by further study at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK, and the University of Queensland, Biological Sciences Department.

Most of these studies were performed part-time while working at CSIRO (9 years) and then the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (42 years), both in the Agricultural Sector (including an enjoyable six years on the Atherton Tableland).

When I wasn't studying or in the laboratory, I relaxed by— you guessed it — reading history.

This interest (some would say *obsession*) was constantly reinforced by discussions of my family's service during WW2, mostly from a British viewpoint. Also, I've been lucky in meeting many people who have been affected by war, be it Vietnam, WW1, WW2 — even the Russian Civil War (a relative of my White Russian wife, Marina).

Their talks constantly provided valuable insights as these people generously opened up to me. To this day I am fascinated by the way so-called normal people coped with this most stressful of situations. But survive, they did!

You always ask yourself, *How would I have reacted in those situations?* Thankfully, it was something I never had to find out.

Moreover, my 11 years' service in Australia's Army Reserve has only heightened my curiosity in



peoples' coping mechanisms, as many of my instructors were Malayan Emergency and/or Vietnam veterans.

As my retirement loomed, a colleague (a Vietnam veteran) asked me if I had hobbies or skills that would provide fulfillment after work. "You will need something, as daytime television is deplorable!" he sagely announced.

I confessed I had absolutely no skills in woodworking (any self-respecting Men's Shed would quickly show me the door), art or mechanical prowess of any kind.

After hearing of my passion for history, he suggested U3A. So four years ago, I enrolled in two History classes H14 and 36, as well as three short-term History classes, several focussing on Australia's involvement in WW2, most notably the Burma Railway and the Kokoda Trail, delivered so expertly by Derek Cameron.

In fact, I have tried to replicate his professional and well-researched approach in all my talks. Before any cries of plagiarism, I found it necessary to imitate his rigorous method of historical research, as I found it completely different to the scientific research I was so used to.

Late last year, I gained such confidence in my chosen subject and, guided by the U3A History Tutors, I decided to become a Tutor for U3A; my subject: **Military History, A Personal View or Warring Relatives (H57)**. So far, it is going extremely well.

At last, after 60 years, I can announce I am a History teacher! You have no idea how good that makes me feel.

You may think I have no other hobbies other than history, but I absolutely love going to concerts with my youngest daughter.

We see everything from musicals (*Jesus Christ Superstar*, Michael Jackson, *A Night with Gene Kelly*), rock concerts (Metallica, Graham Nash, *Music of 1969*), and Pink Floyd with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, to name just a few recent concerts.

However, don't get the impression I have even a vestige of musical prowess. As my daughter unkindly points out, "You can't even clap in time!"

Finally, I thank my U3A Tutors and classmates who have made attendance at classes such an enjoyable experience, and a big thank you to the volunteers and office staff whose dedication makes these classes possible.

AROUND THE TRAPS WITH LINDA

Hello everyone!

Welcome to the 2026 season of (nearly) all plays around south-east Queensland.

Good times at Nash

Nash Theatre had a great start with their first event for the year, always a radio play. Preview Night (only \$15) was a full house, and we were entertained with three one-act plays, all about Sherlock Holmes. Indeed it's the first time they have so many actors on stage – a rare treat. With Nash, you can get a discounted meal at the Brunswick Hotel (some parking at the back in Kent Street). I had an enormous senior's chicken schnitzel for only \$14. Also at Nash, we



noticed that if you have a big group, catering for intermission seems to be organised. It's a great little theatre!

Let this be a lesson!

In my 15 years of organising plays for people, I recently missed out on one as tickets sold out quickly. **BOOK YOUR PLAYS ASAP!**

Plays coming up

Here are the plays for March. Hardly any plays for April, what with Easter and ANZAC weekends. However, Act One has their season of one-act plays early: i.e., in April, but there's nothing about them as yet, so there's just a notation in the March calendar below.

– Linda

MARCH 2026

THEATRE	PLAY	START	TICKETS
Act One Theatre, Strathpine 0458 579 269 Act1theatre.com.au	Season of One-Act Plays	10-19 APRIL (not March!)	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20
Centenary Theatre, Chelmer	<i>The Mirror Crack'd</i>	SOLD OUT	Adult \$27 Conc. \$24 Group \$20
Growl Theatre, Windsor 0439 954 719 Growltheatre.org.au	<i>Golf, Marriage and Other Murders</i>	2pm 7, 8, 14, 15 7:30pm 6, 7, 13, 14	Adult \$28 Conc. \$25 10+ \$22
Ipswich Little Theatre	<i>The Shawshank Redemption</i>	SOLD OUT	Adult \$25 Conc. \$21
Mercury Theatre, Wynnum mercurytheatrewynnum.com	<i>Amigos</i> , David Williamson	2pm 15, 22, 29 7:30pm 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28	Flat price \$25pp. Tables: 7x7, 2x10
Nash Theatre, New Farm 0418 719 300 Nashtheatre.com	<i>A Night of Sherlock H</i> Radio play	2:30pm 7 7:30pm 6, 7, 13, 14	Adult \$28 Conc. \$23 Group \$18
St Luke's Theatre, Yeronga 0493 778 379 Stluketheatre.asn.au	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> Shakespeare	2pm 14, 21, 28 7:30pm 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28	Adult \$28 Conc. \$22 Group \$20
Sunnybank Theatre 3345 3964 Sunnybanktheatre.com.au	<i>The Savannah Sipping Society</i> Comedy	2pm 7, 8, 14 7:30pm 7, 13, 14	Adult \$28 Conc. \$26 Child \$17
The Mousetrap Theatre 0439 954 719 mousetraptheatre.asn.au	<i>Inspector Drake & the Perfekt Crime</i> , Comedy	2:30pm 1 7:30pm	Adult \$28 Conc. \$22 Group \$20
Phoenix Ensemble Beenleigh Showgrounds phoenixensemble.com.au/	<i>Bonnie & Clyde</i>	2pm 7 7:30pm 6 & 7	Adult \$45 Conc \$38 Group 10+ \$330
Villanova Players, Seven Hills 0423 920 832 Villanovaplayers.com	<i>Almost Maine</i>	2pm 21, 22 7:30pm 20, 21	Adult \$25 Conc \$25 Group 10+ \$20

QSO CONCERTS, MARCH 2026

Maestro 1: Umberto's Mahler 5

Friday, 20 March 2026, 7.30pm
Saturday, 21 March 2026, 7.30pm

Concert Hall, QPAC (2 hours, including interval)

From darkness to blazing triumph, this is music at its most human. Haunted by a near-death experience, Mahler infused Symphony No.5 with his deepest hopes and contemplations. Beginning with a stark funeral march, the symphony moves through sorrow and calm before bursting into joyous, radiant life. A work of striking honesty, it seems to capture Mahler's soul itself. Chief Conductor Umberto Clerici leads Queensland Symphony Orchestra in this monumental work.

Mendelssohn - *Violin Concerto in E Minor*
Mahler *Symphony No.5*

Conductor: Umberto Clerici
Soloist: Sergej Krylov, violin

Tickets: from \$97.60 - \$145*

*Adult C-RES - A-RES seating, Concession also available.

QSO: Fauré's Requiem

Friday, 13 March 2026, 7.30pm
Saturday, 14 March 2026, 7.30pm

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University (1 hour and 30 minutes).

Unlike the fire and fury of traditional requiems, Fauré's is gentle, luminous, and deeply human.

Maria Grenfell - *Gaudete, Fanfare for brass*

Brahms - *Serenade No.2 in A, Op. 16*

Katy Abbott - *Fanfare for the Melancholy*

Conductor: Umberto Clerici; Soprano: Stacey Alleaume, baritone: Christopher Richardson, Brisbane Chamber Choir Collective

Tickets: from \$97.60 - \$145*

*Adult C-RES - A-RES seating, Concession also available.

More details can be found on the QSO website at <https://qso.com.au>



ABOVE: The Singing for fun group felt very blessed to be invited to sing at the Uniting Hongkongers in Sunnybank on Australia Day.

Here are the five members: Christine, Anthony, William, Grace and Hang. This photo was taken by the committee of Uniting Hongkongers before the group sang on stage. They had a lot of fun on the day.



ABOVE: This group's name is U3A-X30 – Affordable Adventure by using public transport, which now costs just 50c.

They enjoy friendship and freedom without the worry of driving.

The photo was taken at Manly on one of their outings.

The group meets once a month on the first Thursday to explore Brisbane landmarks and old towns.

Team leader Dormei Leung says, "Our March excursion will be Landsborough country town."

CREATIVE PORTRAITURE CLASS, CAROL OWENS

Our Creative Portraiture class enjoyed meeting and sketching Yvonne and Jack Webb in February.

It was a delight to meet Yvonne, a U3A Tutor of two classes – **How your gut controls your nutrition**, and **How to write a biography**.

It was lovely to meet Jack, too, and a treat to have a couple modelling for us.

Both Yvonne and Jack were



generous in sharing their time to model for our class, which meets in New Farm Park.

During the modelling session and over lunch, we got to know Yvonne and gained an understanding of the classes she tutors.

If you're wondering how these classes play out, we start by sketching for a block of time.

We break for lunch, and then throw down our work so we can see it from a distance, get some tips from others if we want it and check out their work too ... then back to work!

LEFT: Halftime throwdown. Class participants, from left to right: Kay, Sandy, Dona and Mariangela.

Happy Birthday Anne

Longstanding member Anne Collins celebrated her 102nd birthday with her U3A friends at Marco Polo last Thursday. We wish her all the best.



Happy Birthday Anne



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