

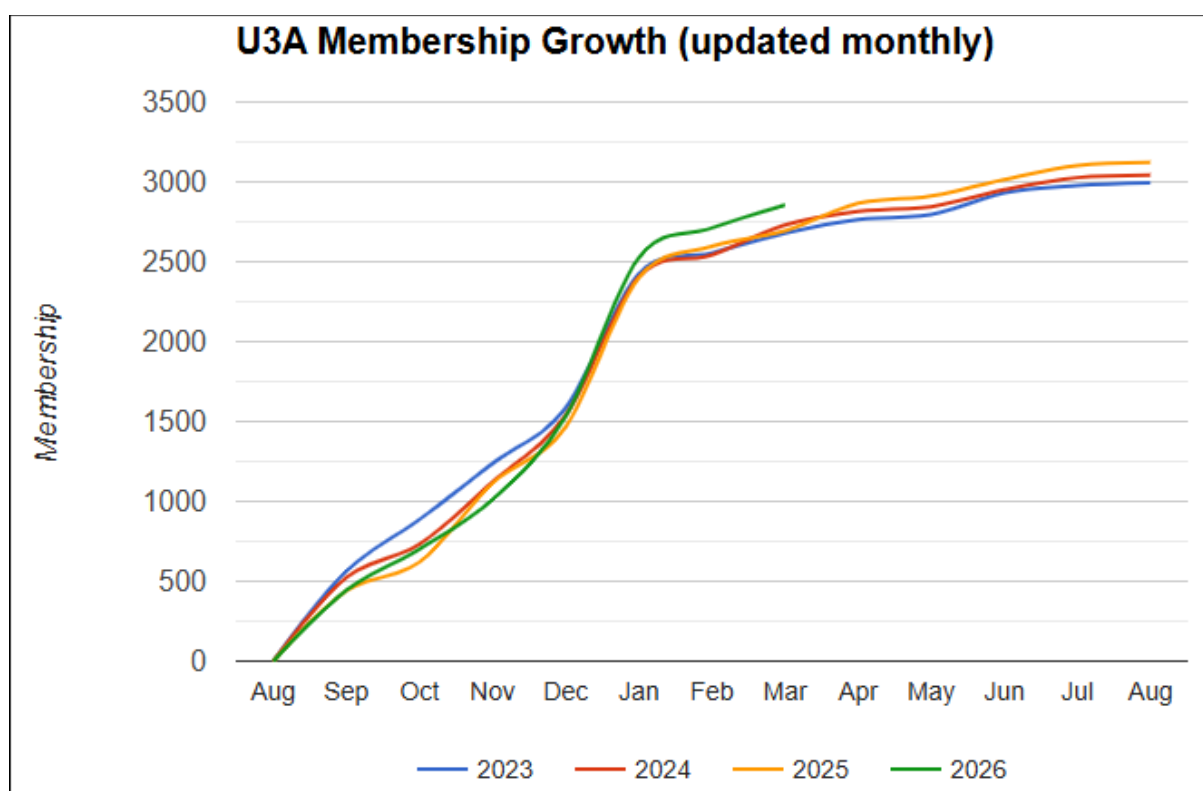
U3A Brisbane Annual Report 2025

2025 was an important planning year for U3A Brisbane. Several Major Projects needed to be planned and implemented if U3A Brisbane were to continue in the city. We had a new Strategic Plan 2025-2028 to implement and the lease on our main city venue at Adelaide St is due to finish in July 2026. After much discussion and extensive financial planning to ensure we would remain financially viable the Management Committee voted unanimously not to renew the lease on Adelaide St but to organise a new lease at 288 Edward St. We were ably assisted by our Pro Bono Lawyer Heather Sia who has checked each formal document before it was finalised. Our decision was also supported by our Membership and Revenue Metrics which are available to Management Committee members through automated real-time reports developed by our ICT Manager, Greg Taylor.

Membership

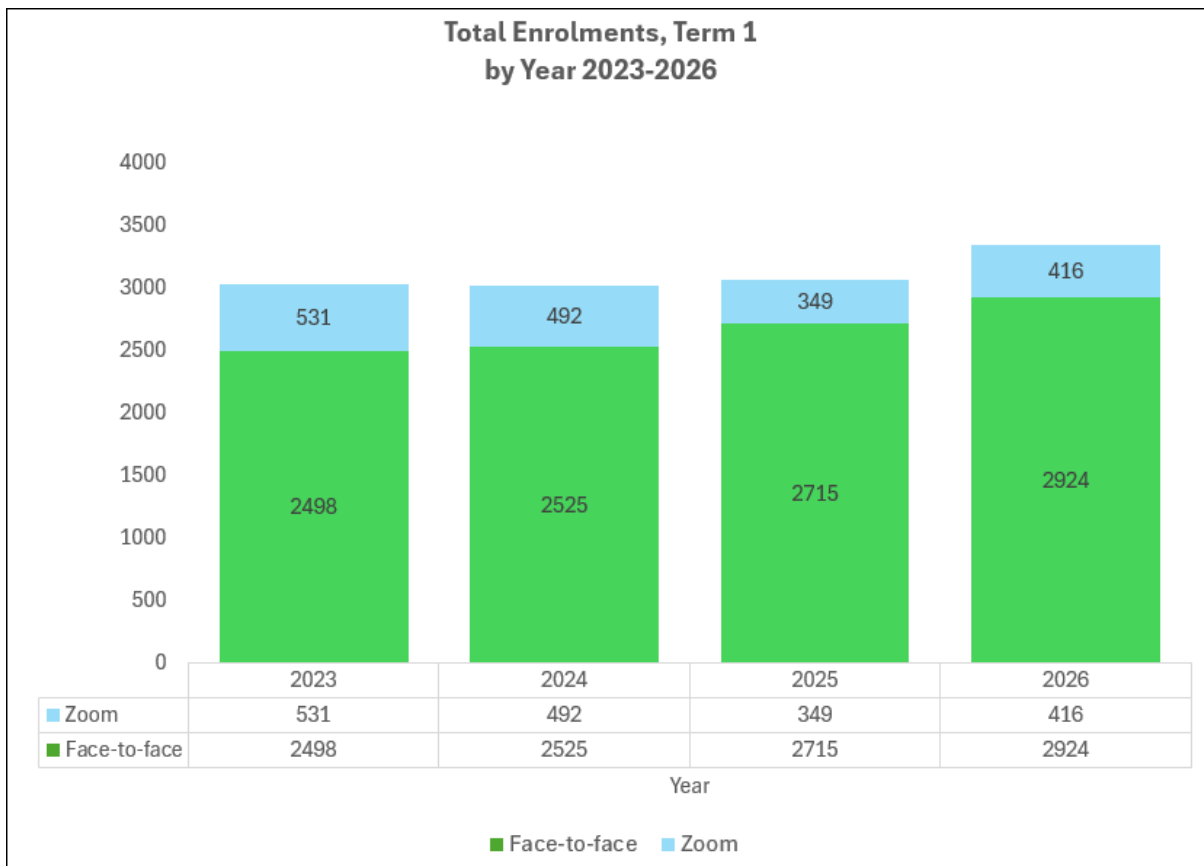
Our paid membership for 2025 was 3122. This was an increase in Membership and, as can be seen from the graph, our Membership is continuing to increase. The trajectory is positive. It is also pleasing to note that our renewal rate is 74% as of 13 April 2026.

We have 646 new members join us since 1 Sept 2025 and many of these have offered to Volunteer either as Tutors or to assist in the Office.



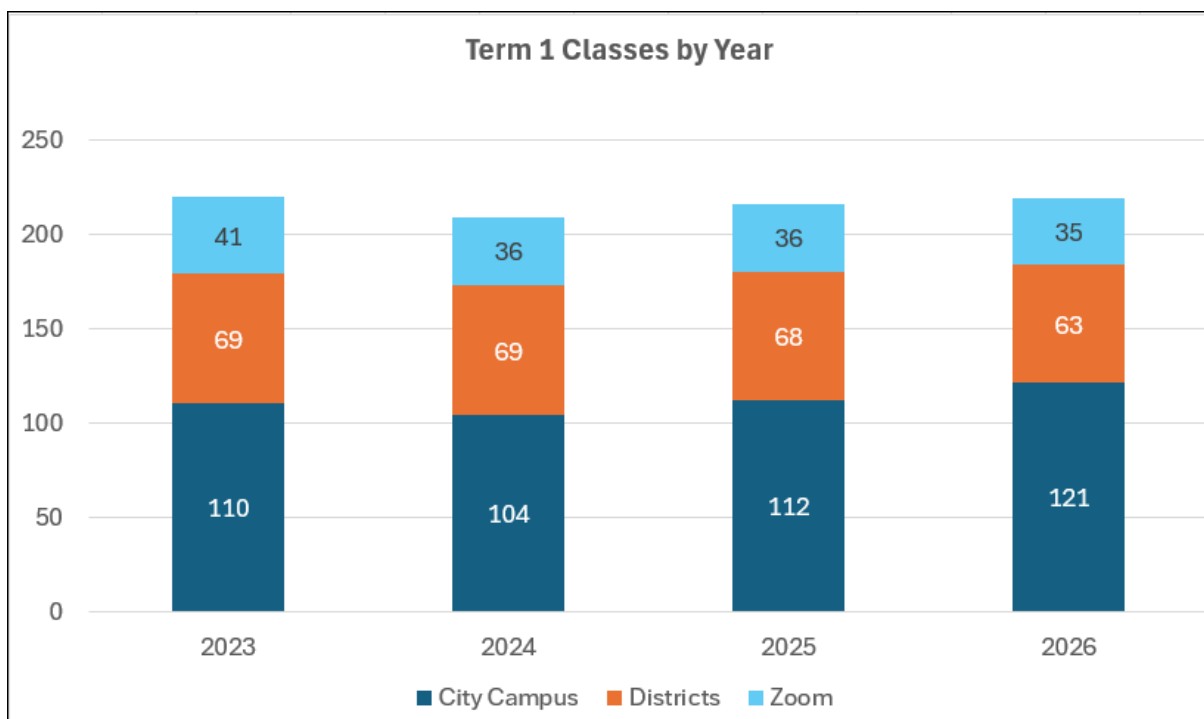
Enrolments

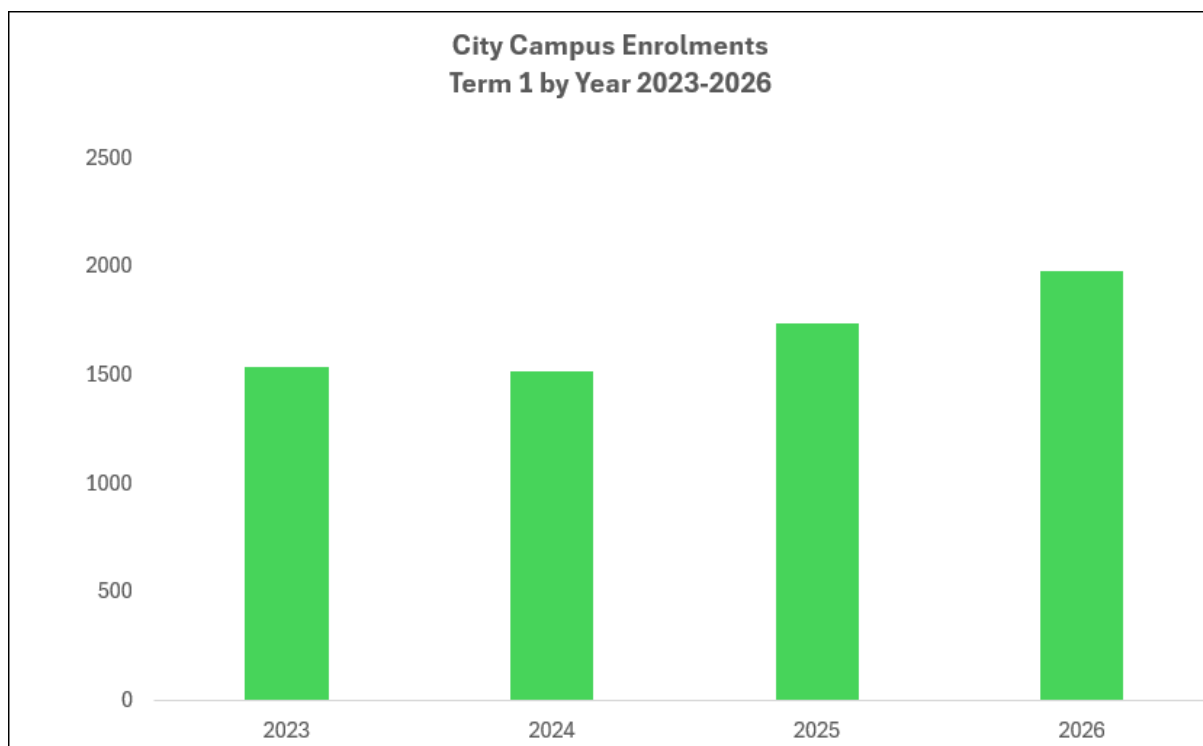
Our enrolments have followed a similar pattern to our Membership as would be expected. Enrolments have been consistent and gradually increasing. More classes are moving back to face-to-face, but we still have a number of Zoom classes.



Classes and Tutors

In Term 1 2026 we had 219 active classes, 35 of which were on Zoom and 184 were face-to-face, with 157 Tutors. There is a pleasing trend in enrolments with Term 1 2026 showing a marked increase particularly in face-to-face classes in the City Campus.





At the time of writing this report there have been 49 new classes added this year and several new Tutors. We have a wonderful selection of classes, and I thank all of the Tutors who put so much time and energy into preparation and presentation.

Class Scheduling

The recruitment of new tutors and the allocation of classes to our classrooms and venues is the responsibility of the district coordinators. Gail Hawkins manages these tasks for general classes in the two, city campus venues, and does a magnificent job.

In the districts, our appreciation is owed to the district coordinators, capably overseen by Rod McClary, for the great job they do in allocating tutors to the various suburban venues, namely Bernadette Keller (Logan), Rod McClary (Westside, Northside and City Precinct), Pat Collins (Southside) and Chris Hobbs (Wynnum).

Class Sizes and changes

Class size depends on several factors and classes are marked as closed depending on these factors:

- Type of class e.g. lecture style, use of tables, or interactive etc.
- Current Room Capacity. Only 3 of our rooms to hold more than 30, and fewer with tables
- Prerequisites required e.g. continuing from previous term.
- Rolling class enrolments forward has not been a major factor in marking a class as closed when we have analysed the figures. The impact of rolling on closed classes currently affects only 8% of classes (10/120).

We have looked at possibilities that would ensure that members can find a class they would like to enrol in. An increased number of classes offering more choice is one option but a popular class with a popular tutor will always fill quickly, similarly to theatre tickets to a popular show. The solution is not simple.

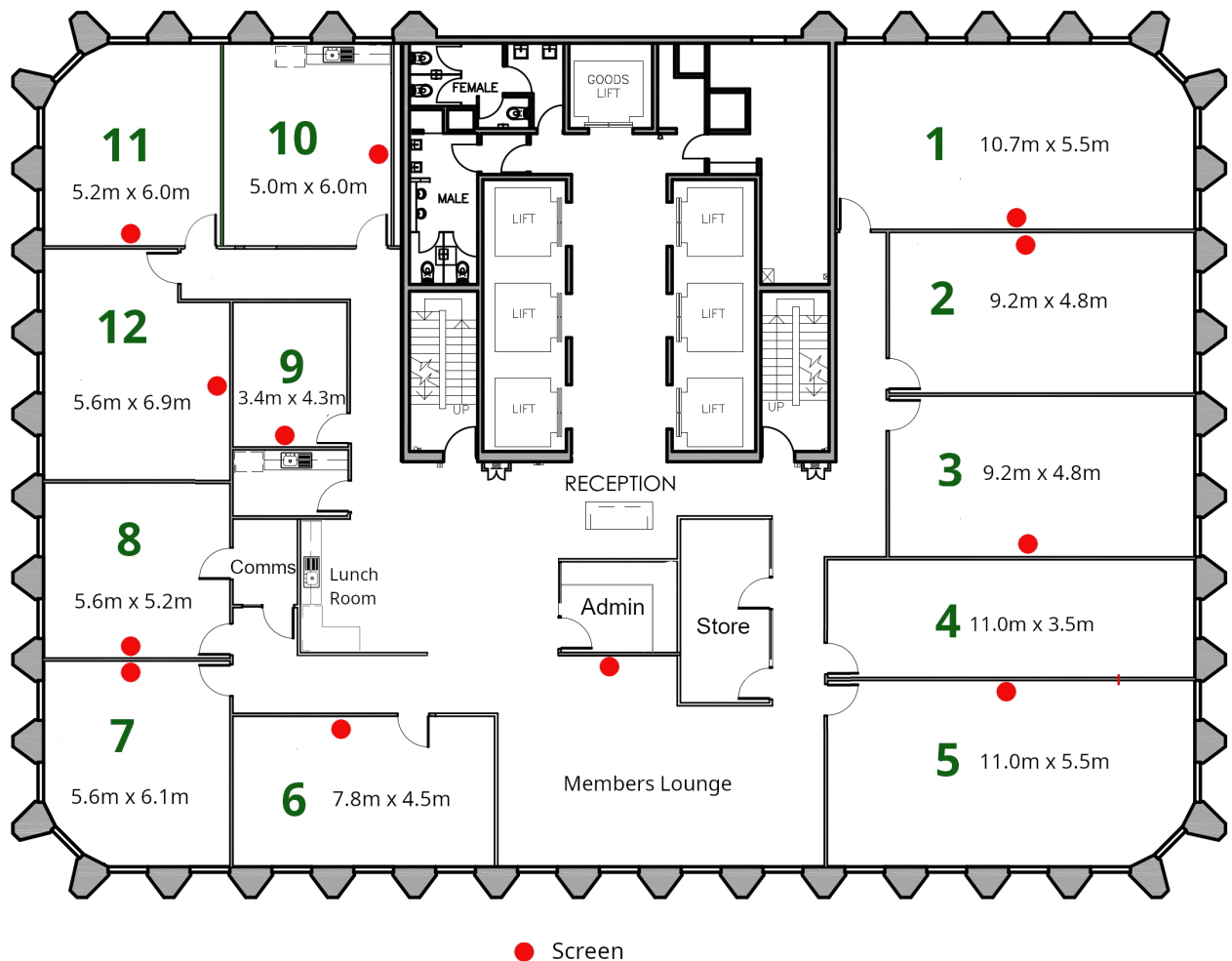
All of this will need to be considered when we move to our new venue in July 2026.

Accommodation

The planning in 2025 is now coming to fruition. Sharyn Johns has managed this process from the beginning including negotiations with Adelaide Street Management, finding our new premises, negotiating the Edward St lease and now the Fit-out with Geyer-Valmont who have been engaged to do the fitout of our new premises in 288 Edward St. This will start in May when the previous tenant moves out. Planning is well advanced to complete the move to the new premises but much yet needs to be done.

We have had discussions with the Adelaide St landlord, and we will have very little to do with regard to the 'make good' clause in our tenancy there. Our only requirement is to remove all movable furniture and equipment and anything attached to the walls. We are not required to fix any wall damage. A pleasing outcome.

Floor Plan, 288 Edward St



New Premises Key Features

- 12 classrooms
- Total area 688 sq.m. (Adelaide St by comparison is 391sq.m.)
- 25% more classroom space
- High speed Private Fibre Internet
- High speed Level 7 WiFi

Financial position

Our Treasurer, Lyndall Beattie, will shortly be giving an overview of our financial position.

Administration and IT

Thank you to all our Office Volunteers particularly the Day Leaders. We could not operate our venues in the city without you. We are sad to farewell Mary Anne Scott who has been a Day Leader for some years and has been a great support to our Office Manager, Lyndall Beattie. Mary Anne has also served on the Management Committee in previous years. We will miss her but wish her well in her future projects.

The ability to manage the Administration of U3A by volunteers both in our office and remotely is only possible because of our online Management System. Greg Taylor works constantly to ensure that this system adopts state-of-the-art database technology and security practices. He also manages the website and mailing lists and continues to improve our systems so that we can take advantage of the efficiencies possible by the clever use of technology.

Communications and Publicity

We rely mainly on electronic methods of communication with members, particularly via email. In the case of an emergency, we can send SMS messages to targeted groups through our Administration System.

Our popular monthly eNews is edited by Josephine Brown. Our thanks to Josephine. This is so important to U3A Brisbane as it has allowed us to retain contact with our members and update them on current changes and events each month. It includes current Social Event opportunities and other news. We also thank Greg Doolan who manages our Facebook page.

Our other main vehicle is the quarterly Class Schedule and our thanks to the tutors and to Class Schedule team (Mary Calder, Gail Hawkins and district coordinators) who help compile and check the data and to our IT Manager, Greg Taylor, who organizes the email distribution. The Class Schedule is available online or for download from the U3A Brisbane website.

The website is a particularly valuable information source, and members should check this site regularly for important announcements. Detailed information and instructions for using the current technology is also available here. Members can also check if they have paid class fees and obtain a list of their recent transactions. This is done through the Member Dashboard.

Management Committee

Thank you to the 2025/26 Management Committee, consisting of Sharyn Johns (Vice President), Lyndall Beattie (Treasurer), Rod McClary (Secretary), Greg Taylor, Cheryl Hayden and John Galligan. We are fortunate to have such excellent willing volunteers to step in when needed and ensure continuity which has been so necessary as we negotiated the many decisions that have been necessary in 2025 and are ongoing.

Each member has contributed to the successful management of U3A Brisbane. Sharyn has brilliantly managed all aspects of our change of venue. Some committee members have worn multiple hats - Rod McLary, our Secretary is also the District Coordinator and our Grievance Officer and still has found time to visit organisations to promote U3A and Lyndall Beattie combines two major roles Treasurer and Office Manager. Both Cheryl and John are also Tutors as well as contributing to the Management Committee and Greg Taylor as our ICT Manager manages our systems and website, supports all volunteers and Tutors and ensures that all hardware and communication systems are functioning.

Sadly, we will farewell John Galligan and Sharyn Johns this year.

John is our current representative on the Body Corporate at Creek St and has dealt with many of the building issues in both Adelaide and Creek St. for many years. John joined the Management Committee in 2022 has been a wonderful Management Committee member always supportive and willing. We'll miss you John but wish you all the best in the future.

Sharyn joined the Management Committee in 2024 and had an immediate impact. She was the lead in developing our new Strategic Plan in 2024 and represented us in lease negotiations with the Adelaide St landlord. When we decided not to renew, with 288 Edward St. Sharyn is currently managing the fit-out at our new venue with Geyer-Valmont. She has done an outstanding job, and we will miss her dedication and expertise. However, even though Sharyn is leaving the Management Committee she will continue managing the fit-out and see this key project to completion. All the best for your future projects, Sharyn.

This year I have been very fortunate with the excellent members who have come forward to manage U3A Brisbane but as eventually, some move on and who will take their place? We need members to consider volunteering for the Management Committee in the future. 2026 will be my last year as President. Others may also move on. We need to be sure that U3A Brisbane in our wonderful new venue has safe hands to continue.

Volunteers are also needed to fill other important roles particularly in the Office and other areas so please consider helping. It is a great organisation and benefits many.

Collaboration with the University of Queensland (UQ) and Qld University of Technology (QUT)

As part of our Strategic plan, we have formed arrangements with both the University of Queensland and with QUT. The aim was to gain access to possible new opportunities for our members. I have been ably supported in this by Cheryl Hayden and we have appointed Na (Lara) Xiao as our QUT Liaison representative. Na has done an excellent job with organising many presentations by QUT and opportunities to participate in projects, particularly in Urban Planning. These are ongoing and free of charge.

The connection to UQ has resulted in combined UQ/U3A events featuring talks by some of their very highly respected emeritus professors. The first featured Roly Sussex, the Emeritus Professor of Applied Language Studies at UQ, This was a great success and was followed by a talk on *'The True Impact of Vaccine Science'* by Emeritus Professor Paul Young. We are so lucky to have access to such brilliant speakers especially in a world with so much misinformation. This series will continue in 2026. UQ have also offered our members access to their Alumnae Travel Programme. A Trip to Italy was advertised in our last eNews.

Special Presentations

We are also running special face-to-face presentations in the city organised by our Secretary, Rod McLary. These are free to members and will also continue in 2026.

Social Committee

Our Social Committee Coordinator is Mark Brannigan. Mark has organised many opportunities for members to attend various events including QSO Concerts and various QPAC events. They are advertised in the eNews and on our website.

The year in Summary:

- We are in a good financial position and expect that 2026 will see continued improvement
- Membership and Enrolments are increasing.
- We have an increased number of classes.
- **We have signed a 10-year lease on a new Venue at Level 3, 288 Edward St which will secure U3A Brisbane into the future.**
- **We have put our Creek St venue on the market as our new venue is larger than our current venues combined. Money from the sale will be invested to secure our financial position going forward.**
- We are working with the University of Queensland and QUT to give our members more learning opportunities.

The Future

The Future looks exciting and secure.

Our members have been amazingly resilient and without your support U3A Brisbane would not have been able to continue.

You are amazing and I'm very proud of you all.

Thank you.

Deslyn Taylor
President
U3A Brisbane