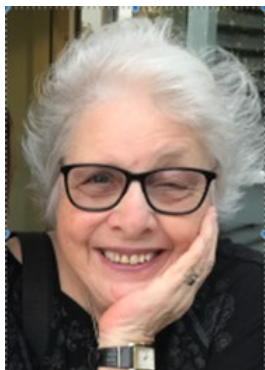




Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning

From the President



Deslyn Taylor

Welcome back! This is the first eNews for 2025. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas/New Year break and are revitalised and looking forward to 2025.

Classes commenced on 28 January. We have 29 new face-to-face classes and four new Zoom classes in Term 1.

Is your membership current? If not, click here now to [RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

Thanks to the unseen hands

A great deal of preparation and ongoing administration work ensured that we could open for Term 1.

I would especially like to thank our

volunteers who worked over the break to make this possible – particularly Lyndall Beattie, who took the office phone and laptop with her to Tasmania so she could answer your calls and emails, and Gail Hawkins, who once again did a wonderful job timetabling our city venue classes.

Our wonderful, dedicated Tutors, without whom we would not exist, have spent time preparing their classes for the new year.

Our Management Committee and ICT Manager have also continued through the break, running workshops, finalising our Strategic Plan and setting our financials up for 2025 to ensure all systems are ready for Term 1. We have a terrific team!

2025-2028 Strategic Plan

A generous group of leaders met at the end of 2024 to revise and update our Strategic Plan, setting targets for the next three years so that U3A Brisbane grows and thrives.

A big thank-you to this group, which consisted of members of our Management Committee and other volunteers with important roles:

- Sharyn Johns, Development Coordinator
- John Galligan, Vice-President and Buildings Management
- Rod McClary, Secretary
- Des Taylor, President

- Sharon Rothwell, Treasurer
- Cheryl Hayden, University Liaison
- Greg Taylor, ICT Manager
- Lyndall Beattie, Office Manager
- Mary Calder, Martha Kartanos, Mary -Anne Scott and Bev Phillips, Day Leaders.

The Strategic Plan is now available on our website [News page](#).

Part of what was recognised is the necessity for a leader to drive each section to ensure that our targets are met in a timely fashion.

Two important volunteer positions need to be filled as soon as possible to lead us in driving this plan forward over the next three years:

- [Lead - Membership - Role Description](#)
- [Lead - Classes and Tutors - Role Description](#)

We now call for volunteers to apply for these leadership positions. Applications close on 26 February.

Members filling these positions will be part of the new Management Committee that will come in at the next AGM in April.

(continues over)



Learn at your Leisure
No Assessment
Just Enjoy

REMEMBER TO

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

SO YOU CAN ENROL IN CLASSES IN 2025



From the President

(continued)

Social Committee

We said goodbye to Heather Dowling at the end of 2024 and we now

welcome our new Social Committee Coordinator, Mark Brannigan. Read more about Mark later in this issue.

Linda Daniel, who researches Brisbane's live theatre productions for "Around the Traps with Linda" in each eNews, will assist on the committee.

I look forward to a new and interesting Social Event Calendar for this year.

Enjoy your classes and all the best for 2025.

Regards,

Des

Special Zoom Presentation – Apple and Microsoft Office Applications in the Cloud

Wed 12 Feb 2025, 11am-12.30pm (Online via Zoom)
Presenters: Greg and Des Taylor

Did you know that you can create and open native Mac file formats on a Windows computer?

Did you know that you can create and open Microsoft 365 documents (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint) without having to pay an annual licence fee to Microsoft? (recently increased to \$159 per annum, or \$179 for family).

Do you sometimes need to email

large files and find the email rejected because of the file size?

U3A tutors and members who do class presentations on our City Campus classroom Windows laptops sometimes want to use a presentation file prepared in a native Apple format (e.g. Keynote or Pages).

These will not run on the Windows operating system.

However, it is possible to run them *inside a Windows browser*, provided the file has been uploaded to iCloud.

Likewise, it is possible to create and use Microsoft 365 applications (formerly called MS Office) through a browser. Similar services are offered by Google.

These applications use cloud services that are typically available free or at low cost and are easy to use.



We will explain what "the cloud" is and how to make use of the services available.

The presentation will also cover various techniques for sending large files to others via the Internet.

First, you need to ...

[Register for this Event](#)

Changing your membership details?

Have you changed your email address, acquired a new phone number or moved house? You need to let us know so that we can stay in contact.

We've made it easy to do this yourself. Just open [Member Dashboard](#) and you'll see this green button below your name:

[Change Member Details](#)

Click on that to review or change your details. For security purposes, we will send you a verification code and you can then change your contact information. Please pay close attention to detail if entering a new email address. If you do change email, a confirmation message will be sent to your old and new addresses.

Alternatively, you can contact the office by phone 3236 3055, or email: mail@u3abrisbane.org.au



From the Secretary



Rod McLary

Honorary Life Membership

In December last year, one of our longest-standing members – and perhaps our oldest – was awarded Honorary Life Membership of U3A Brisbane. Anne Collins, at 100, is still attending the photography class tutored by Chris Deeming. She was presented with her life membership after the class and her family in Tasmania joined in on-line.

Anne will turn 101 in early March; to celebrate her birthday and to present her with her gold membership badge, a morning tea will be held at Marco Polo Kitchen on **Thursday 27 February at 11.00am**.

Members who'd like to share in Anne's celebrations are welcome to come along. Location: downstairs at 1 Anzac Square, Brisbane.

Annual General Meeting

U3A Brisbane will hold its AGM on **Wednesday 16 April at 10.00am** by Zoom. All management committee positions will be declared vacant. Further details about the AGM and how to attend will be provided closer to the

day. Meantime, I encourage you to consider joining the management committee, either in one of the executive positions or as a committee member. This is your a golden opportunity to be involved in an exciting year for U3A. Nominations for all committee positions will be called closer to the date of the AGM.

As mentioned elsewhere in this eNews, U3A has updated its Strategic Plan, and its implementation will be a major focus for the committee in 2025 and beyond.

Critical to the plan's implementation are two new volunteer positions. Both are advertised in this eNews. If you have the requisite skills and knowledge for either position, please apply.

From the Districts Manager

There are **34** new classes beginning in Term 1 – a significant number by any measure. Quite a few still have vacancies, so if you are looking for a new class, act now.

The best way to find a new class is go to "Class Search" on our home page, then click on 'Select NEW Classes only' and the list will appear. You'll immediately see all the details of the new classes and whether there are vacancies.

...

One of the new classes is **QAGOMA Arts Tours Asia Pacific Triennial 11**, bringing compelling new art to Brisbane. The Triennial is a gateway to the rapidly evolving artistic expression of Australia, Asia and the Pacific. The tours will be at 10:15-11:00 and will alternate between QAG and GOMA. Each tour is self-contained and, although the early dates are booked out, there are vacancies

in the later tours.

One of the Northern District's continuing classes, **B29 - Introduction to Lawn Bowls**, has vacancies. Lawn bowls is a low-impact, therapeutic exercise that can improve fitness, coordination and confidence. The Northern Suburbs Bowls Club is a very friendly and well-resourced club, located at 175 Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights. You would be most welcome to join the class. Full details in Class Search – Northside.

...

Another continuing class is **S01 - Electric Vehicles 101**, which will be run a number of times through the term. Notice will be given of forthcoming classes in the eNews.

...

Two of our long-standing tutors are stepping down from coordinating one of the most successful classes on the Northside. Marlene and Roy Fennell have coordinated the **Northside Walking Group** for as long as I have been District Coordinator – ten years – and Marlene has been a U3A member for almost 20 years.

The walks started 14 years ago with six walkers and have always been interesting and varied. The walkers have now visited 174 coffee shops! Both Roy and Marlene planned new walks every term. I have attended some of them and can attest to the camaraderie of the walkers and their enjoyment of the walks.

Both will be missed as tutors/coordinators but they are remaining as members of U3A and we can expect to see them in classes in the future. My best wishes to them both.

—Rod McLary

Tutor Liaison Officer



Gail Hawkins

In Term 1, 2025 we have a large number of new tutors; regular tutors are adding classes to their busy schedule; and tutors who are returning to class after a well-earned break.

So a big WELCOME to you all, and wishing you a successful and satisfying tutoring experience.

As I look at the Class Enrolment Reports, I see that some new classes have received high enrolment numbers while others have been a little slow.

If you're a new tutor, please don't get discouraged if you

haven't got the response you were hoping for. It's not unusual, especially if your subject matter is a little out of the ordinary.

You can look forward to higher enrolments in your second term.

Listed below are classes that still have availability.

Remember, you need to contact the tutor to get confirmation of your enrolment.

You may not just turn up to a class and expect to be accepted.

Still some places in these classes!

TUESDAY

J40 – Learn Chinese, Explore China, Easy Travel Mandarin, and Cultural Journey

This is a fun course where you will gain essential conversational skills while exploring fascinating aspects of Chinese culture.

WEDNESDAY

E07 – Climate Readings

This course will introduce a wide range of critical and positive

ideas to help you understand this important topic.

M12 – Famous Operas

If you love opera and want to understand the storyline better, then this class is for you.

E14 – Australian Political Institutions

Want to understand more about our political system? The tutor is a political science and economic graduate, so join and learn.

X13 – The Electric Car, Coming, Ready or Not

This is a six-week course. Gain a basic understanding and learn more about the technical and social aspects of the popular electric motor vehicle.

THURSDAY

S20 – Plastics: Our Friend or enemy?

We should all be aware of the way that plastics are used and discarded. Learn about the different plastics that are used for good, as well as those that pollute our oceans and shores.

Gail Hawkins

U3A President Des Taylor interviewed on 4BC

Des was interviewed by Sofie Formica on *4BC Afternoons* on Tuesday 28 January.

The 9-minute interview is about U3A Brisbane's many courses connecting seniors with lifelong learning, with particular emphasis on creative arts classes

and the social benefits of being part of the U3A community.

You can listen to the interview on U3A's News page: u3abrisbane.org.au/news

(Acknowledgment: 4BC Brisbane)



U3A Needs Your Help



Lyndall Beattie, Office Manager

U3A depends entirely on volunteers to manage the organisation, and a key part of our operation is the U3A administration office. We need more volunteers to help spread the workload. We have a range of responsibilities but key requirements are:

- experience in office admin, including online systems
- attention to detail

- ability to follow procedures
- friendly disposition.

The role typically requires half a day each week at either the Creek St or Adelaide St offices. Training is provided. Volunteer work is very satisfying and you'll meet a wide variety of people.

If you can help, contact Lyndall Beattie for more information: office@u3abrisbane.org.au

Meet Mark Brannigan: U3A's new Social Coordinator

I was born in Ipswich in 1960, started study in computer science in 1978 and graduated in 1980 with a B.Sc. I moved to Canberra for my first job, working for the Defence Department and what would become the ACT Government.

Next, I joined the then Department of Territories and Local Government, which involved looking after the Cocos/Manus/Christmas Islands as well as the Governor General.

I quite enjoyed Canberra (and some skiing) but it's not for everyone. Back in Brisbane again, I worked as a contract programmer/analyst then joined QCOM, a software house.

My background is English, Australian, Irish and German so I headed over to the UK when I got a bit bored with Brisbane.

The year was 1993 and it was a boom time from then until 2000, when the tech bubble burst.

In 1995, during my time in the UK, I married my Japanese wife, who was a travel agent.

I was very lucky as I had not planned to go there during the boom time –



just a fortunate accident. We had two lovely boys.

In 2000, we headed back to Brisbane and I worked for the NSW Police, Victorian Telstra and Tradelink. Following that I was a consultant until my type 2 diabetes got the better of me and I effectively retired at age 55.

After that I worked in less exciting roles for Scouts Queensland, Meals on Wheels and at the Ipswich Hospital on their records project.

I started going to the Men's Shed, bowling and continued to play tennis, as I had done since university.

in 2019 I separated from my wife and headed to Thailand, but Covid forced me to return.

After a trip to California to visit my elder son, my health improved again thanks to lots of walking over a two-week period.

I'm now thinking about returning to some type of paid work.

For relaxation, I play tennis, listen to music and follow hockey. I maintain an interest in computing and won a cyber-security scholarship and a Tafe Qld Scholarship.

My contact with U3A has mainly been via the online Chinese class, but I was also involved in the property sub-committee, drawing on my leasing experience with Scouts Queensland.

For my new role with U3A, I have several ideas from my time organising events for the Men's Shed plus other organisations I belong to.

One idea is to make more use of the Ipswich Civic Centre as it offers cheaper prices than QPAC and the productions are very good. We just need to arrange buses or carpooling to get there.

I can also see us benefiting from the huge range of smaller theatre events researched by Linda, plus tours with the Cross Country Tours, so there are plenty of social options for the enjoyment of U3A members.



Around the traps with Linda

Hello Thespian Lovers,

Welcome to a new season of fabulous plays.

Details of what's on and where, for February and March, are on the next two pages.

If your playhouse has no details, it's because they don't have anything on yet.

Theatre profiles will recommence in the next newsletter.

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

But please check with the website or contact the theatre group before booking.

**STOP PRESS! SAVOYARDS
season tickets are available
from now until 31 March!**

Just click on this URL:

[Savoyards Season Tickets](#)

THEATRE	PLAY	START	FEBRUARY 2025	TICKETS
Act One Theatre, Strathpine 0458 579 269 Act1theatre.com.au				
Beenleigh Theatre Group 3807 3922 beenleightheatregroup.com	<i>The Boy from Oz</i>	2pm 7:30	8, 15, 22 7, 8, 21, 22	Adult \$35 Conc. \$30
Centenary Theatre, Chelmer 0435 591 720 Centenarytheatre.com.au	<i>Veronica's Room</i> (thriller)	2pm 7:30pm	22, 23 15, 21, 28	Adults \$27 Conc. \$24 Group \$20
Growl Theatre, Windsor 0439 954 719 Growltheatre.org.au				
Ipswich Little Theatre 3812 2389 ilt.org.au	<i>Popcorn</i>	7:30pm	28	Adult \$25 Conc. \$21
Mercury Theatre Wynnum mercurytheatrewynnum.com				
Nash Theatre, New Farm 0418 719 300 Nashtheatre.com	<i>Gunsmoke</i> (radio play)	2pm 7:30pm	28 21, 22, 28	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20
St Luke's Theatre, Yeronga 0493 778 379 Stlukestheatre.asn.au				
Sunnybank Theatre 3345 3964 Sunnybanktheatre.com.au	<i>The Birthday Party</i>	7:30pm	28	Adult \$28 Conc. \$26
The Mousetrap Theatre 0439 954 719 mousetraptheatre.asn.au	(Moving to a new building)	(More info when to hand)		
Villanova Players, Seven Hills 0423 920 832 Villanovaplayers.com				

THEATRE	PLAY	START	MARCH 2025	TICKETS
Act One Theatre, Strathpine 0458 579 269 Act1theatre.com.au	<i>Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb</i>	2pm 7:30pm	23, 29 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20
Beenleigh Theatre Group 3807 3922 beenleightheatregroup.com				
Centenary Theatre, Chelmer 0435 591 720 Centenarytheatre.com.au	<i>Veronica's Room</i> (thriller)	2pm 7:30pm	2, 9 1, 7, 8	Adult \$27 Conc. \$24 Group \$20
Growl Theatre, Windsor 0439 954 719 Growltheatre.org.au	<i>It's My Party (and I'll Die if I Want to)</i>	2pm 7:30pm	15 1, 7, 8, 14, 15	Adult \$20 Conc. \$17 6+ \$15
Ipswich Little Theatre 3812 2389 ilt.org.au	<i>Popcorn</i>	7:30pm	28	Adult \$25 Conc. \$21
Mercury Theatre, Wynnum mercurytheatrewynnum.com	<i>Relatively Speaking</i>	?	7, 23 Bookings open on 7/3. No other info re matinees	Flat price \$25
Nash Theatre, New Farm 0418 719 300 Nashtheatre.com	<i>Gunsmoke</i> (radio play)	7:30pm	1, 7, 8, 14, 15	Adult \$25 Conc. \$20
St Luke's Theatre, Yeronga 0493 778 379 Stlukestheatre.asn.au	<i>The Haunted Through Lounge and Recessed Dining Nook at Farndale Castle</i>	2pm 7:30pm	15, 22, 29 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29	Adult \$28 Conc. \$22 Group \$20
Sunnybank Theatre 3345 3964 Sunnybanktheatre.com.au	<i>The Birthday Party</i>	2pm 7:30pm	1, 8, 9, 15 1, 8, 14, 15	Adult \$28 Conc. \$26
The Mousetrap Theatre 0439 954 719 mousetraptheatre.asn.au	(Moving to a new building)	(More info when to hand)		
Villanova Players, Seven Hills 0423 920 832 Villanovaplayers.com	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	2pm 7:30pm	8, 9, 15, 16 7, 8, 14, 15	Adult \$30 Conc. \$25 Group \$27

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