President – Mike Loftus

Dear Members,

Welcome to Term 4. It doesn't seem that long ago that I was welcoming you all to the start of 2025 and we are now very close to the end of the year. This term always seems to be a sprint to the finishing line and then mad celebrations.

Recently, I have been a little distracted as my wife (Tina) and I moved house and life has been quite hectic. Thankfully, we have settled in quite well and I can concentrate on the busy end of term for U3A Sunshine Coast.

As well as all the usual occurrences, we are busy planning for 2026 when we will celebrate our 40th Anniversary and host the Network Conference. There are going to be opportunities for all members to participate in these celebrations and further details will be provided at the start of Term 1 2026.

On the subject of the Network Conference, we are responsible for certain costs and as such we are looking for sponsors. If you have any contacts through relatives or friends that might be in a position to assist us in any way then please contact our Treasurer, Karen Martin for further details.

treasurer@u3asunshine.org.au

As in my previous newsletter, I would like to reiterate that we are always searching for new tutors. We never have a problem in getting new members and our membership rate sits comfortably around the 2150 mark. However, future attrition and survey data indicates that we will be desperately in need of new tutors. If you have any special interest then please consider being a tutor, coordinator, or facilitator of that area of interest you have. Courses can be whole days, short term i.e. 4 weeks, termly, semester based or for the whole year (4 terms). We can provide assistance with venues and with course content and materials. If you don't feel capable then perhaps you know of a friend or relative who might step into the breach. Please contact myself if you are interested or know of someone who might be.

president@u3asunshine.org.au

Our Treasurer, Karen Martin, has indicated that she will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM in April 2026. Disappointing as this is, we need to find a replacement for Karen. We are hoping that any members with book keeping and/or accountancy experience might consider nominating for the position. The Executive would like to appoint someone in an "Acting" position for the start of 2026. They can work with Karen for the whole of Term 1 and then be officially appointed at the AGM in April. If you would like further information then please contact Karen by email at

treasurer@u3asunshine.org.au

Karen has been an outstanding member of the Management Committee and has handled her portfolio in such an excellent manner. She has set up systems and a support team. that will enable her replacement to step in in a very easy manner. She will be sorely missed.

That is all from me for now. I would like to leave you with the famous quote from JF Kennedy

"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

TERM DATES FOR 2026

2026 TERM DATES		
TERMS	OPENS	CLOSES
FIRST	2 February	28 March
SECOND	27 April	20 June
THIRD	20 July	12 September
FOURTH	12 October	5 December

Treasurer – Karen Martin

We have had the usual number of enrolments at this time of year, so all expenses are being comfortably met. We have had another GST Tax bill of $2,200 which was paid in September, this should be our last until December. As the year comes to an end the number of enrolments will dwindle as courses complete for the year. We have had a few glitches with PayPal not updating our member database, but the reason for this has been identified. If you believe you have paid and your profile has not updated it is easy for me to check our PayPal account to confirm this and then update the database.

Secretary – Brian Wells

U3A has had a productive quarter, focusing heavily on enhancing support for our educators. We successfully established a Tutors Advisory Group, aiming to improve the experience for both current and future tutors, with benefits expected to be seen leading into the New Year.
The highlight of the last quarter was the highly successful "Not Hard Quiz – Strikes Again" trivia afternoon held on August 31st, which generated lots of fun and plenty of smiles, thank you also to a wonderful group of volunteers for helping on the day.
We are planning a strong finish to the year, and 2026 is already looking very busy as course nominations are starting to come in. Finally, a huge thank you goes to Jennifer Strike and Carolyn Sax, and their incredible volunteers, who ensure the U3A office operations keep ticking over smoothly with very little fanfare.

Tutor & Course Coordinator – Helen Sava

U3A Sunshine has commenced Term 4. Many courses have continued and we have seen some interesting new ones appear. A new Current Affairs Group still start and continue in 2026. Double Yoga (Chair & Floor) using armless chairs has commenced, going through to next year. Theatre Shakespeare may do a presentation at Term's end if sufficient enrolment. A large number of 2025 courses have already indicated returning next year, so please watch our Website and Facebook pages.

Equipment Officer – John Oakhill

There has made significant progress in optimising U3A facilities and equipment. The Tutorial Room now features working HDMI video following cable replacement and fixes to a damaged wall socket. Laptops are being regularly updated, and the Lecture Room layout has also been successfully rearranged. Efforts to clear storage areas continue, resulting in the disposal of two boot loads of e-waste, including a broken projector and obsolete PA systems which were operating on frequencies illegal since 2015. Items held by the Choir and Music Makers in Building K have also been assessed and cleared where appropriate. Finally, members are strongly advised to update their U3A email password promptly for security.

Systems Officer – Grant Matthews

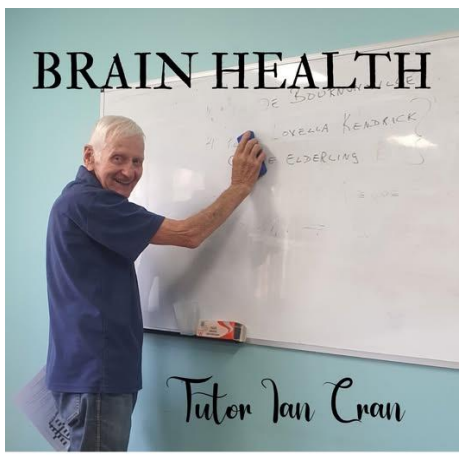
We are currently making a few changes to our management system to assist members enrolling in courses and joining/renewing membership with U3A Sunshine Coast. Term 4 is now commencing and during this time we will be busy with our tutors setting up courses for the 2026 year with renewing courses and some new courses which we hope will satisfy your mental and physical being going into the new year. Memberships for next year will be available online from Monday 1 December 2025.

Dates to Remember

Tutors and Volunteers Luncheon 30th November
End of term 4, 6th December
Start of term 1, 2nd February 2026.

A FEW PHOTOS FROM THINGS THAT OCCURRED IN TERM
(go to our Facebook page to read more on these stories and so much more!!!)

Bushwalking Group 1 recently enjoyed a wonderful day out in beautiful Brisbane! to complete the Four Bridges Walk



After 14 years and more than 800 classes in the Bribie Room at Caloundra Library, veteran tutor and Life Member of U3A, Ian Cran, cleaned the whiteboard for the final time

Memorandum of Understanding signing between Healthy Ageing Partnership (HAP) and U3A Sunshine Coast and UniSC

Congratulations to our U3A Theatre Players! Our talented U3A Theatre Players took to the stage at Noosa Arts Theatre for the Shorts on Stage production

Social Media

If you have any photos, articles about your classes, book reviews, or restaurant recommendations you would like featured on our Facebook page, please send them to social@u3asunshine.org.au
We would love to share them, these posts are always popular and receive plenty of views!

Facebook Link

Instagram Link

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