



Campus Communiqué

Date: 6 February 2026

www.u3aredcliffe.org.au
07 3284 2687

Edition No. 612

Diary dates

Saturday 21 March	Annual General Meeting
Thursday 2 April	Term 1 finishes
Monday 8—Saturday 13 June	Exploring the Hunter Valley and Hawkesbury Regions Tour

From the President

Term 1 has commenced

It was all hands on deck last Tuesday 27 January, as classes commenced for 2026. Welcome back everyone. I hope that you enjoy your U3A Redcliffe experience this year.

The first two weeks have been really busy. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Welcome to a number of new members who have joined us this year.

Thank you on Australia Day

On the Australia Day holiday lots was happening at the U3A campus. A small team of workers made the final preparations for the commencement of classes.

- Seven locking hasps and staples were installed by John Northcott on all segments of the two Margaret Ball Rooms' compactus, thus ensuring that the resources of each course were secure. Keys for these new locks were tagged and labelled.
- Course sign-on sheets were printed and readied.
- Rooms were readied.

If you attended, thank you.

Campus Issues

Unfortunately, our internet failed just as the new term commenced. It has taken a fortnight to diagnose the issue and be issued with a new modem, for which we were required to pay. The outage at times disrupted our ability to print documents and Course Handbooks and interfered with our access to manage our database.

A couple of members put in many long hours in order to have the system operating again.

A special thank you

Alan Reeves, a committee member of the Redcliffe Computer Club, gave over three hours of his time during the Australia Day holiday to come on campus to explore the options to put our IT systems back into operation after the failure of our internet modem.



After being told by our internet provider that our modem was working perfectly, Alan, after conducting many tests, was able to conclude that the modem was faulty.

Thank you, Alan for your commitment to this task and for giving of your time on a public holiday. Bookings for this tour are steadily taking place.

Exploring The Hunter Valley Hawkesbury Regions!

With U3A Redcliffe Inc



Printed copies of the itinerary and booking forms are available from the campus office.

U3A members may certainly book with family members or friends who are not members of U3A Redcliffe.

Have you completed an entry?

Check out the quiz buried in the kitchen slide-show. Among the slides are pictures of 12 capital cities from around the globe, identified by a hashtag number in the top right-hand corner of the image. Name all the capital cities on an entry form found near the Suggestion Box (on the eastern wall) and place the completed form into the Suggestion Box. The winner will be the first correct entry received and will be announced in a forthcoming issue of the *Campus Communiqué*.

Total membership is currently 1,547

Enjoy U3A. Enjoy learning, enjoy meeting others, enjoy having fun.

Russell Hopkins

From the Secretary

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of U3A Redcliffe Inc. will be held at the campus on Saturday 21 March, commencing at 10:00 am.

Nomination forms for the office bearer positions and Management Committee members will be available to all members on Wednesday 11 February.

The process of nomination and voting procedures will be communicated to you in the coming weeks.

We shall also be informing you of any special resolutions that will be considered at the AGM.

Please consider nominating for one of the positions. Our organisation cannot function without an effective Management Committee.

Nominations for Life Membership

Under its constitution, the Management Committee of U3A Redcliffe Inc. 'may appoint Life Members as deemed fit'.

As a guideline for the Committee, those appointed to life membership will have made over a sustained period of time, an ongoing and outstanding contribution to the organisation through one or more voluntary roles within U3A Redcliffe Inc.



If you and a fellow member wish to nominate another member for life membership, please put together your wishes, with reasons why, sign the document and leave it at the Office for placement in the Secretary's pigeon hole by Wednesday 18 February. The nominations will be considered at the February Management Committee meeting.

Life Members will be announced, and will receive a Life Membership badge, at the annual general meeting on Saturday 21 March.

Pamela Sealy

From the Vice President

New Policy: Dogs on Campus

U3A Redcliffe has adopted a new Dogs on Campus Policy and Procedure to help ensure our learning environment remains safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

The policy recognises the important role of accredited assistance dogs, which are welcome on campus (including inside buildings and classrooms) in line with Queensland and Commonwealth law. Assistance dogs must be clearly identifiable, well-behaved and under the handler's control at all times.



For the comfort, safety and wellbeing of all members, pet dogs are not permitted inside U3A buildings or classrooms, and are generally not permitted in outdoor classes. This reflects health, safety, hygiene and accessibility considerations, including the needs of members who may have allergies, phobias or cultural concerns relating to dogs.

The policy also sets out clear responsibilities for dog handlers, health and hygiene expectations, and a process for requesting approval in exceptional circumstances.

Members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the full policy, which is available on the U3A from the office. If you have any questions, please contact the Management Committee.

A gentle reminder: Staying informed helps everyone 😊

Our U3A is run by volunteers who genuinely want to make your experience enjoyable, welcoming and fair for all members. To help classes run smoothly each year, we share important information in several ways:

- ✉ Regular emails to all members
- 📄 Information in our printed Communiques
- 🔔 Fortnightly renewal reminders from early October
- 📅 Clear advice about renewing before the end of the year to retain your place in classes

Despite these reminders, each year some members miss the renewal deadline and then find their favourite class is full with a waiting list in place. This can be understandably disappointing.

However, it's important to know that:

Places cannot be held without renewal, and volunteers must follow the same fair process for everyone.

We kindly ask all members to:

- Take a few moments to read emails and newsletters
- Note key dates such as membership renewals
- Contact us early if you are unsure about any process

Most importantly, please remember that our office bearers, tutors and class coordinators are volunteers. They are here to help, not to be the target of frustration when deadlines are missed.

A little planning and a quick read of our updates helps ensure:

- ✓ You keep your place in your preferred class
- ✓ Classes remain fair and well-managed
- ✓ Our volunteers feel respected and supported

Thank you for your understanding and for helping keep U3A a friendly, respectful and enjoyable community for everyone.

Di Pelin

From the Course Coordination Team

Term 1, 2026

Term 1 is underway, bringing fresh opportunities to learn, connect and enjoy the many activities U3A has to offer. The beginning of the term has been extremely busy. Thanks for the cooperation and positive spirit of our members and the dedication of our volunteers and tutors.



Thank you

Thank you to those members who have surrendered their position in courses after they became aware that they were not able to attend on a regular basis, thus enabling other members on the waiting list to participate.

Change to course prepayments

At a recent meeting of the Management Committee, it was decided that members who prepay for a course will be subject to the same rule as those who pay by vouchers in regard to absences and removal from classes.

In essence, this means that, as from the commencement of Term 1 2026 students who fail to attend the first three classes of a course and have not advised the Course Coordination Team of

an absence, will be removed from that course. This will occur whether the payment is by class vouchers or by prepayment.

Planned absences from classes

If you plan to be absent from a class for more than one session, please notify the Course Coordination Team. You may wish to advise your tutor as a courtesy; however, it is not the tutor's responsibility to pass this information on.

If you do not attend a course for three weeks and have not communicated with the Course Coordination Team (sickness, holidays etc.) enrolment in that class will be suspended. A reminder that after next Friday 13 February, unexplained absences will be actioned.

If you are planning a long absence during Term 1 please do not enter it into the Member Portal. Please contact the Course Coordination Team, email: coursesandtutors.redcliffe@gmail.com.

Course waiting lists

The Course Coordination Team are regularly checking course waiting lists to move as many members to the enrolled class list as soon as possible.

Membership badges

A reminder to please wear your U3A membership badge when attending classes and activities. Badges help our volunteers quickly identify members in the event of an incident or emergency, ensuring support can be provided promptly. Thank you for helping us look after one another. This is a safety issue which is why we feel the need for constant reminders.

Course Co-ordination information desk

A member from the Course Co-ordination Team will now be sitting next to the registration desk on Monday to Thursday AM. This change will assist members who have any enquiries about enrolling in courses, advising absences or wanting to be placed on course waiting lists

Thank you

Thank you to those members who have surrendered their position in courses after they became aware that they were not able to attend on a regular basis, thus enabling other members on the waiting list to participate.

Change to course prepayments

At a recent meeting of the Management Committee, it was decided that members who prepay for a course will be subject to the same rule as those who pay by vouchers in regard to absences and removal from classes.

In essence, this means that, as from the commencement of Term 1 2026 students who fail to attend the first three classes of a course and have not advised the Course Coordination Team of an absence, will be removed from that course. This will occur whether the payment is by class vouchers or by prepayment.

Planned absences from classes

If you plan to be absent from a class for more than one session, please notify the Course Coordination Team. You may wish to advise your tutor as a courtesy; however, it is not the tutor's responsibility to pass this information on.

Invitation to participate in an academic study

U3A Redcliffe has received the following flyer from Monash University.

If you are interested in taking part in the survey please follow the information provided below. Please do not contact U3A about this.

Unfortunately the website address on the poster is hard to read. It is <https://tinyurl.com/mvpp34re>.



Tell us what you think about intergenerational connections and wellbeing!

Intergenerational connections, or interactions between people of different age groups, offer a range of social, emotional, and mental benefits for both younger and older generations. As societies become increasingly fragmented by age, fostering intergenerational relationships can strengthen communities and promote overall well-being. Help us understand how people of different ages connect and how these experiences influence wellbeing and attitudes toward older and younger adults.

We invite you to participate in a short, 20-minute online survey.

Access the Information Sheet via the link or QR code stated below!



If you are aged 18 years and above, you are invited to participate in the study via the link or QR code.
<https://tinyurl.com/mvpp34re>

MONASH HREC APPROVAL ID: 5000
Chief Investigator:
Dr Mizan Ahmad
Email: mizan.ahmad@monash.edu

Care and Concern

At times there is notification that a member has not been enjoying the best of health, perhaps with a hospital stay. On some occasions this has not been known until much later. If you know of a member who is not well, can you please contact the Care and Concern Coordinator, Jean Hunt, on 0432 107 261 and she will arrange for a card to be sent from U3A.

Contributions welcome

What is happening in your U3A class? If you have a story to tell and/or photos to share about your class's activities, other members would love to know about them.

Please contact Jennifer Booth: editor@u3aredcliffe.org.au

Campus Communique Editor: Jennifer Booth

The editor reserves the right to publish articles in any form.

The Campus Communiqué is published with the full approval of the Management Committee of U3A Redcliffe Inc.

