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Edition No. 619
15 May 2026

Campus Communiqué

Diary dates

26 June: End Term 1	10 July: Volunteers Luncheon	13 July: Start Term 3
10 August: Show Day	5 October: King's Birthday	

From the President



U3A Queensland Network State Conference

Di Pelin (President), Ruth Northcott (Treasurer, and Secretary of the U3A Queensland Network), Pamela Sealy (Vice President) and Jean Calvert (Committee Member) attended the annual state conference of the U3A Queensland Network hosted by Sunshine Coast U3A at Sippy Downs on the 12, 13 and 14 May.

These events allow Redcliffe U3A to network and gather new ideas for assisting our members in their personal quest for mental, physical and social stimulation in the U3A environment.

Putting our Stamp on the Redcliffe Campus

Over the last six months or so members may have noted seeing more of our members' art and craft work being displayed at the campus entrance.

As we have visited other U3As, we have been met with a broad display of the incredible arts and crafts that their members have created. There is little doubt that the facility reflects who they are and all of the activities they provide.

We have a lease on our building for another eight years. Maybe, it is time to bring some of our own uniqueness to the building with fun and colour and display the incredible talent that is hiding behind our closed doors.

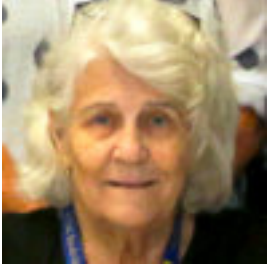
If you have some ideas, don't hesitate to put them in writing and pop them in the Suggestion Box.

Collection of Membership Milestone Certificates/Badges

Many members, who were awarded ten or twenty years continuous membership certificates/badges at the AGM on 22 March still have to pick up these items from the office. Could you please do so as soon as possible.

Di Pelin

From the Vice-President



Our volunteers: the heart of U3A Redcliffe

It is widely recognised that without volunteers, U3A organisations across Australia simply would not function as they do today. Volunteers are truly the lifeblood of our organisation.

At U3A Redcliffe, volunteers generously share their time, skills, and experience across many areas—governance, administration, course coordination, tutoring, IT support, special programs, and even our working bee teams. Together, they ensure the smooth operation of a not-for-profit organisation that provides affordable educational and social opportunities for seniors.

These contributions do more than keep things running—they help foster social connection, ongoing learning, and a strong sense of purpose for our members.

There are far too many volunteers to name individually—but you know who you are. Your dedication is what makes U3A Redcliffe what it is today.

Why do people volunteer?

This question has come into focus recently, prompting reflection on what truly drives people to give their time so generously. Some of the reasons may include:

- Strengthening community connections and social cohesion
- Supporting services that may not otherwise be available
- Enhancing personal wellbeing, reducing isolation, and building self-esteem

While all of these are important, one quality stands out above the rest—**empathy**.

Our volunteers step forward with a genuine desire to help others. They bring with them not just practical skills such as communication, teamwork, and organisation, but also **commitment, professionalism, creativity, and compassion**.


A Gentle Reminder

Our volunteers are the reason U3A Redcliffe continues to thrive.

They keep our doors open, our programs running, and our community connected.

Please remember to treat all volunteers with the **respect and appreciation they deserve**.

Pamela Sealy



Gertie's Giggles

- The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally poured gin in the steam iron.
- I reckon that the people who make fitted sheets should sit down with people who make mattresses and get on the same page. Because making a bed shouldn't be like putting a swimming cap over a fridge

image from pngtree.com

From the Secretary



Parking

I have chatted with the folk at the Council service desk and just want to pass on what I was told about parking around the U3A campus.

As we know, parking regulation is now automated through a camera attached to a vehicle, which keeps track of the number plates of cars parked in Council car parks, etc. The zones surrounding U3A are generally three-hour parking zones, but with the new system you can no longer move your car to a different bay in the same car park and have your three hours start again. This means that we are effectively limited to three hours parking per day in the one car park. The fine if you are caught out is quite substantial.

I was advised that in our 'back' car park, up behind the Cultural Centre, there are quite a few unlimited parking bays which do not have any signs indicating a time limit. This is the case for all bays down the edge of the Centre, and west of the exit drive. These are effectively all day parking bays, but of course they are popular and often full.

The best advice is to ensure, if possible, that you do not remain on campus to the point where you will exceed the three hours (or whatever time limit the signage indicates for the spot you are in). But if you need to, perhaps try the unlimited bays in the 'back' car park, or out on the street, if you need extra time. Just make sure you check the signage for your bay, to be sure.

Membership

Our membership currently stands at 1,653.

Steve Wilson

From the Course Coordination Team

An enjoyable experience

It was delightful for one member of our team to hear students in the Singing with Gusto class having a sing-along in the kitchen area before their weekly class on Tuesday this week. It was a feel-good experience.

Diary dates

Friday 26 June: Term 2 finishes

Looking to the future

Changes are coming in the near future to the Course Handbook and its appearance. Stay tuned!

Reminders

As a new term commences, members are reminded that:

- (a) Your U3A membership badge must be worn while you are on campus. In case of an emergency, we need to be able to identify members immediately.

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(b) If you need to advise an absence, please speak with the Course Coordination team at the front next to the Registration Desk, or email coursesandtutors.redcliffe@gmail.com.

Course waiting lists

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

As we are now in week four, members of our team are removing students who have not regularly been attending weekly classes. This will give members from the waiting list the opportunity to be enrolled.

A Disappointing reminder

After several incidents, it is timely for us to remind members that the Course Coordination Team volunteers will not tolerate any kind of verbal abuse and disrespectful behaviour from any member of U3A.

We all deserve to come to U3A to learn, be happy, enjoy ourselves and have a good time.

Course Coordination Team

Petra Lyons, Russell Hopkins, Steve McGahey, Teresa Dugic, and Cheryl Verdon

Meet the Management Committee



Our new committee was chosen at the Annual General Meeting on 21 March. They are:

Top row, left to right: Ray Chapman (Committee member), Teresa Dugic (Course Coordination Team representative), Ruth Northcott (Treasurer), Steve Wilson (Secretary), Barbara Cooper (Committee member), Greg McGrath (Committee member), Elle Frawley (Committee Member)

Bottom row, left to right: Jean Calvert (Committee Member), June Greenwood (Committee Member), Pamela Sealy (Vice President), Di Pelin (President)

What's happening on campus

Movies and More

Angela and John Le Mare will be reaching a significant milestone with their *Movies and More* class, when they show their 100th movie next Thursday, when they will show *Suffragette*.

Each class enjoys a tutorial on different aspects of, and the people involved in, movie making, followed by a film. These works are drawn from a variety of genres, periods of time, and countries. Sub-titles are turned on if available.

Congratulations to John and Angela for all their hard work in running this stimulating and enjoyable class.

Floristry

Every second Thursday the Floristry students learn how to produce beautiful flower arrangements.

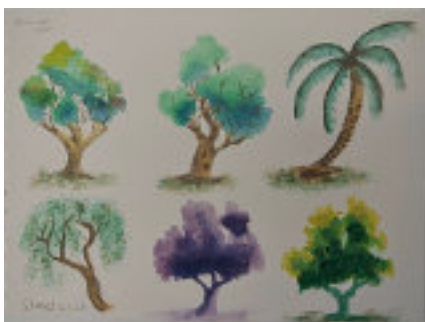
Led by Tutor Debrah Malone, they enjoy the experience of working with beautiful flowers and scented leaves like Lemon Myrtle and Bribie Pine.

They produced Orchid Table Arrangements in their first class and Bright Bouquets in the second, making the flowers stand up on their own by straussing the stems!



Painting and Drawing

The Thursday afternoon *Painting and Drawing* class recently followed different watercolour techniques for painting trees. With students ranging from experienced artists to beginners, it is interesting to see how one subject differs from person to person.



What is happening in your classes?

With so many classes and so many members, you can help others understand what you do at U3A Redcliffe. Please send a brief story and some pictures to editor@u3aredcliffe.org.au.

Technology news

New Be Connected courses

This month our friends at Be Connected are sharing smartphone lessons designed to help beginners—and anyone wanting a refresher—to feel more confident using their phone.



The courses start at the very beginning and show you how to set up your phone, adjust security and privacy, and make customisations so it works the way you want it to. They also explore handy features like taking photos, making video calls, downloading useful apps, and explain what people mean by ‘the cloud’.

These new lessons are ideal for beginners and anyone looking to refresh their skills to get more out of their smartphone.

[Click here to go to the lessons for Android phones](#)

[Click here to go to the lessons for iPhones](#)

Free online presentations in May

No matter your skill level, *Be Connected*'s online presentations provide step-by-step guidance to help you build your online safety skills and confidence using technology and the internet.

Can you spot a scam?

Learn how to spot scams, avoid the latest Tax and Medicare frauds, and stay safe online with practical tips and trusted support.

Tuesday 19 May at 10am AEST [Click here to register](#)

Staying safe on Facebook

Build confidence using Facebook while protecting your privacy and spotting common scams.

Thursday 21 May at 3pm AEST [Click here to register](#)

Visit our the *Be Connected* website to see the full range of presentation topics and dates up until June 2026.

If you cannot make a date or want a quick refresher there are summary sheets on each presentation which can be downloaded from the *Be Connected* website.

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 Communiqué 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.