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Campus Communiqué

Edition No. 623

10 July 2026

Diary dates

10 July Volunteers Luncheon
5 October: King's Birthday

13 July: Start Term 3

13 August: Show Day

From the President

A Surprise Visit to Campus



There is nothing quite like enjoying a relaxing visit with friends at Mt Tamborine when an early Monday morning phone call changes your plans!

The call came from the office of the Honourable Emma Comer MP, Federal Member for Petrie. Emma apologised that she would be unable to attend our Volunteers' Lunch on Friday but advised that a representative would attend in her place. Then came the unexpected news: the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Richard Marles MP, would like to visit our campus on Tuesday to see our classes in action and meet some of our members.

With the campus closed for the semester break, this was certainly short notice.

The first call was to the ever-reliable Ruth Northcott to see if we could rally a few volunteers, as I wasn't sure I would make it back in time. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our organisation and our community, and we certainly didn't want to let it pass.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Elaine, Susan, Pamela, Ellie, Barb, Graham and Ruth, who answered the call so willingly. Their efforts to prepare the campus and ensure everything was ready at such short notice were greatly appreciated.

Emma arrived a little earlier to spend some time chatting with everyone before the Deputy Prime Minister's arrival. The visit itself was refreshingly informal, with no elaborate protocols or ceremony.

After the security team completed a routine check of the campus, Richard Marles walked through the front doors and immediately put everyone at ease. He was genuinely interested in our facilities and was quite surprised to learn that U3A Redcliffe has around 1,700 members. He had initially assumed that number represented the entire state rather than just our local organisation.

During the tour of the campus, Richard asked thoughtful questions about the wide variety of classes on offer, how they were run, who taught them and, with a smile, whether there were any exams! Afterwards, he joined us in the Margaret Ball Room for coffee and cake, where the conversation continued. He was particularly interested in the diverse backgrounds of our members and the

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remarkable range of subjects available. His curiosity was especially sparked when Traveller Tales was mentioned, leading to an engaging discussion.

Although the visit lasted only around half an hour, those who met Richard were left with a very positive impression. He spoke openly about being the 'black sheep' of a family of teachers and interacted with everyone in a relaxed, friendly manner, happily accepting some good-natured teasing about gaps in his own education.

As he departed, Richard reflected on the important role organisations like U3A play in supporting the mental, physical and social wellbeing of the community. On several occasions he commented that our campus felt like a 'joyous' place to be.

That is a wonderful compliment to every volunteer, tutor and member who contributes to making U3A Redcliffe such a welcoming and vibrant community. Congratulations to everyone who helps create the positive atmosphere we are all so proud of.



Returning to Term 3

We are welcoming 125 classes back to Term 3 commencing 13 July 2026 **but** have we fixed the air conditioning in cold rooms and is the dishwasher working.

1. The Dishwasher

You may note that it is not only the dishwasher that is not working but also one of the water taps.

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We have had the plumbers out to check out our problems on two separate occasions and now have a written report.

The problem is **not** the dishwasher, but the water pressure behind the wall that feeds into the dishwasher. Unfortunately, that decreased water pressure is most likely caused by old galvanised pipes coming from the floor above being damaged, or blocked in some way. The reason the second one works is because it is on a separate water line.

This problem is currently being capably managed by Barb Cooper, our Office Coordinator, in consultation with Council. It is a Council issue and not specifically a U3A issue.

We thank you for your patience while we deal with it.

2. The uneven distribution of temperature with the air conditioning

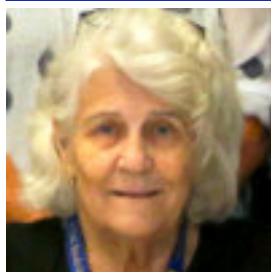
There is very little that can be done in an older renovated building to equalize the temperature throughout campus.

There are too many dependents other than the original design that serviced offices and not classrooms or where sensors are located in the building. These include the number of people occupying the rooms or building, individual's own internal thermostats (some people like the warmth, others like it cool), and the number of external glass windows, furniture etc.

Rug up for the cold and remember it is short lived. You will appreciate the cool in Summer.

Di Pelin

From the Vice-President



To everyone who attended the recent General Meeting to vote on the proposed Constitution changes, thank you for taking the time to participate in this important decision for U3A Redcliffe.

While only 25 of our 1,702 members were able to attend, the required quorum was achieved, allowing the meeting to proceed. Members asked a number of thoughtful questions before all three resolutions were carried. The meeting concluded with a pleasant morning tea and the opportunity for members to socialise.

Although classes paused during the term break, activity around the Campus certainly did not. Our volunteers continued working tirelessly to prepare for another successful term. Some of the many activities completed included:

- Organising the Trivia event and Volunteers Luncheon
- Conducting the General Meeting
- Holding meetings with volunteers, tutors and office bearers
- Conducting two open days for term 3 enrolments and new memberships
- Preparing the Campus for window tinting (special thanks to Trish Yann)
- Coordinating the installation of window tinting over three days
- Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister, and Federal Member for Petrie
- Preparing class lists and attendance sheets for term 3
- Updating the office team manuals

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- Updating the Course Coordination classes manual
- Processing prepayments and associated administration

The time committed by volunteers on campus to complete these activities exceeded **118 hours**.

In addition, volunteers spent an estimated **70 hours** working from home preparing reports, updating documents, developing handbooks and completing administrative tasks to ensure everything was ready for the commencement of term 3.

These figures are conservative estimates, as many of our volunteers simply do what needs to be done without keeping track of every hour. They also do not include the many hours contributed by our tutors preparing course material or by volunteers working independently on special projects.

When you consider the value of this contribution, it becomes clear that U3A Redcliffe could not operate without its dedicated volunteers. Their generosity, commitment and willingness to give their time enables more than 1,700 members to continue enjoying the wide range of educational and social opportunities our organisation provides.

To every volunteer—whether your contribution is highly visible or quietly undertaken behind the scenes—**THANK YOU**. Your dedication strengthens our organisation, supports our members, and helps make U3A Redcliffe the welcome community that it is.

Our volunteers truly are the heart of U3A Redcliffe. We celebrate your commitment and thank you for everything you do.

If you've ever considered becoming a volunteer, we'd love to hear from you. Even a few hours of your time can make a real difference to our U3A community.

Pamela Sealy

From the Secretary



Outcomes from the General Meeting on 2 July

This meeting was convened to enable members to consider changes to our Constitution recommended by the Management Committee. Members who attended passed each of the three special resolutions unanimously, meaning that each was declared by the President as carried.

The details of these changes were emailed to all members on June 17, and were also posted on the Noticeboard on campus on that date. The updated Constitution, now approved by members, must now be sent to the Qld Office of Fair Trading for formal registration. It often takes a few months for the changes to be registered. Once they are, the updated Constitution will be added to our website (the current Constitution can be found there already, under the 'Governance' tab).

While the general meeting achieved a quorum, it was a close thing—only 25 members turned up to participate and enable these improvements to be made to our rules (an attendance of 23

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was required for a quorum). As you can imagine, this level of attendance is quite disappointing when we now exceed 1700 members. At least the job got done, and a big thank-you to all who did attend to cast your votes.

The meeting included general business in which a variety of questions and answers were shared. One such question was about the limit a tutor may claim from U3A for the reimbursement of teaching materials purchased to support their classes. The answer to this question is: each Tutor may seek reimbursement for a maximum of \$50 per class per year. Requests that will exceed this threshold must be made to the Committee in advance of the purchase being made.

Steve Wilson

From the Course Coordination Team

Term 3

Term 3 will start next week on the 13. July 2026. We are all looking forward to come back to our Campus and enjoy a wonderful time together with other members in a nice and relaxed atmosphere.

Absences

You can report your absences for Term 3 until the 11 July 2026 online. After that date you can report to the Course Coordination Team at the Front Desk or forward an email to coursesandtutors@u3aredcliffe.org.au.

Diary dates

Monday 13 July 2026: Term 3 starts

Reminders

- Please wear your badge whilst on campus.
- Do not take any coffee and tea cups, including soft drinks, into your classroom.
 - Bottled water is accepted
- Switch off your mobile phones or put on silent.
- Report your absences.

Should you have any questions regarding your course please feel free to contact us at the Front Desk or send us an email: coursesandtutors@u3aredcliffe.org.au.

Course Coordination Team

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

New quiz for term 3

Name that tune!

There are 10 well-known songs embedded in the Term 3 slideshow.

You get a melody line, plus a cryptic hint, and all you need to do is identify the song. Even if you think you cannot read music, these melody lines are pretty simple. Plus, anyone versed in cryptic crosswords and/or music trivia may well be able to guess the song without the music.

Have a go. Entry forms are near the suggestion box, and correct entries will get an honourable mention in this publication.

Cath Voysey



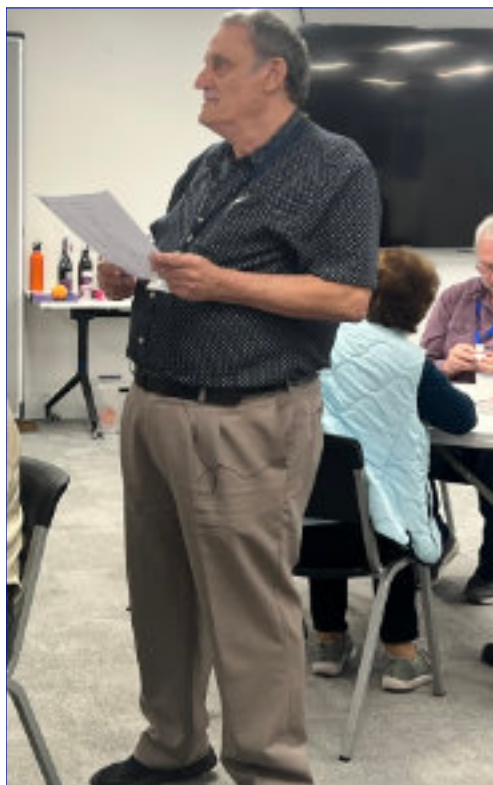
Term 2 Trivia

Trivia Master Dan Stalker again challenged 50 people (in 12 teams) with questions across a very wide range of topics.

There were laughs, frustrations and even exasperation at some point when people knew they knew the answer but couldn't recall!

Participants then enjoyed a light lunch together.

Congratulations to the three winning teams.



Quiz Master Dan Stalker



The winning team
Steve Baker, Deirdre Carty,
Gayl Pollard, Lee Chaney



The Runners Up
David McKean, Sharyn Reggars,
Lorna van Ingen, Barry Montague



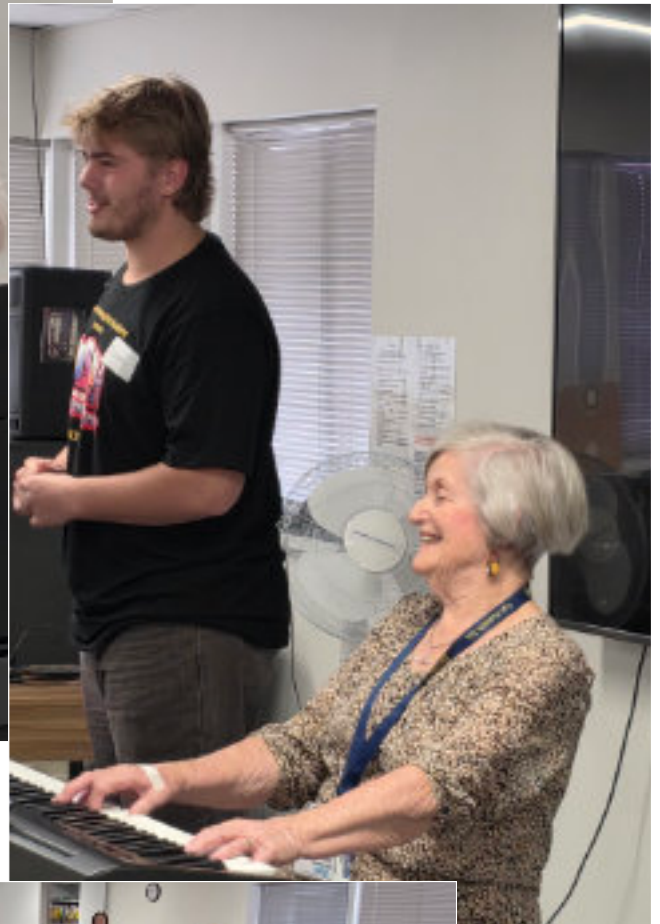
Winners of the Encouragement Award
Lewis Shotter, Elizabeth Shepherd,
Lenore McDonald

Singing for Pleasure

Singing for Pleasure ended term 2 with some hard work, while learning difficult pieces.

The choir also invited members to perform at an open mic and a number of members provided very entertaining performances. A special guest also attended. Thank you Jeremy and all the best for your upcoming show.

Singing for Pleasure look forward to learning more songs in term 3 under the baton of our tutor, Eunice.



Waldorf Geometric Drawing

Think back on your experience with geometry in primary school or high school; what do you remember? Most likely, your experience was full of a lot of calculations, proofs, and formulas. There probably wasn't a lot of colour or drawing involved, and we're guessing that overall it probably just felt like a lot of maths.

In Waldorf education, geometric drawing is bringing abstract ideas into tangible art. Students use compasses and straight edges to draw precise lines and curves, linking the logical laws of nature directly to their own creative experience. 'In geometry, beauty is not something added from the outside; it arises from the inner necessity and lawfulness of the forms themselves.'
(*Rudolf Steiner*)

With a circle, we start with a point, the centre. Nothing exists without a centre around which the circle revolves. Out of the oneness of the circle is born the 'other'. The circumference, when divided into six equal lengths, will support the centres of six circles of the same size as the original circle. (Archetypal Circle Pattern, or Seed of Life) Joining intersecting points we form lines. They in turn form shapes. With the delight of colour, we express the beauty of forms. In this class we are following the artistic processes of learning about geometry as taught in Waldorf (Steiner) schools around the world.

Mary-Lou McCrohon



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.

Beware of scams for online pokies and casino-style games

Our indefatigable IT guru, Ruth Northcott, has passed on some valuable information from Scamwatch.

What's happening

Scambling is a new kind of scam where scammers use illegal online pokies and casino-style games to steal your money or personal information.

Scammers promote these games through social media, messaging apps, websites and word of mouth. Don't assume they are safe because they look professional, familiar, have positive reviews or are referred by someone you know.

At first, you may be allowed to win small amounts, or you may hear about other players receiving big payouts. But when you try to withdraw your money, scammers may delay, make excuses, ask for more payments or disappear.

It's important to know that online casino-style gambling is illegal in Australia. If you choose to play, you are not protected.

Who's at risk?

Anyone can be targeted by scambling—even people who don't usually gamble.

Scammers may use bonuses, small early wins or referral rewards to make the game seem genuine and encourage referrals. Scambling can spread quickly through trusted networks, including family, friends and community groups.

Warning signs to look out for

- An online ad, post or message promoting an online casino-style game, often with sign-up bonuses, free credit or easy wins.
- You are told to buy credits using PayID, or to transfer money to different bank accounts using payment descriptions that are not genuine.
- The platform offers rewards for inviting other people to play.
- You are pressured to keep depositing small amounts to unlock winnings, verify your account, or qualify for a withdrawal.
- You are invited to use or rent your personal bank account to move money for a game, in exchange for commission or bonus credit.
- Customer support is unavailable, unresponsive, vague, or disappears when you ask to withdraw money.

What this may look like

These images on page 11 show screenshots of two typical scambling advertisements.

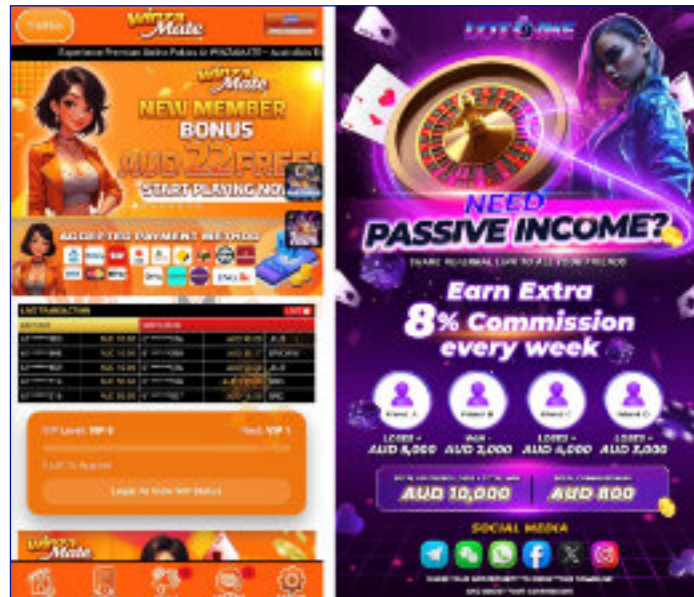
Visit Scamwatch to learn more about gambling and betting scams.

If you've been affected

- Stop sending money immediately.
- Contact your bank or payment provider as soon as possible.
- Change your passwords if you created an account or shared login details.
- Be alert to follow-up scams, including offers to recover your money for a fee.

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Making it harder for scammers

In response to the harm caused by scambling, the National Anti-Scam Centre is running a fusion cell focused on this issue.

The fusion cell brings together government, industry and other partners to improve coordination and awareness, build a clearer picture of scambling activity, and identify effective ways to disrupt it and reduce harm.

Report scambling to Scamwatch

You can help by reporting scambling to Scamwatch. First Nations consumers can also call the ACCC's First Nations Infoline on 1300 303 143. Together, we can make it harder for scammers to target Australian communities. Stay safe from scambling

Stay safe from scambling

STOP. Take a moment before signing up to any online pokies or casino-style games. Only provide identity documents when you have checked you are dealing with a regulated business in Australia.

Don't pay to unlock winnings, recover losses or prove your identity.

CHECK. Use the Australian Communications and Media Authority website to check if a gambling service is legal in Australia before you sign up or pay money.

PROTECT. Never allow your personal bank account to be used to move money for another person, business or game.

Don't use fake payment descriptions. This can make it harder for your bank to help keep you safe.

Think twice before encouraging others to play. You could be referring them to a scam.

To report scams and find more info go to [Scamwatch.gov.au](https://www.scamwatch.gov.au)



image from pngtree.com

Gertie's Giggles

- Jack is in court and after eight hours of trial he pleads guilty. The judge asks him why he didn't plead guilty at first and save the court all that time. Jack said, 'well I thought I was innocent until I heard all the evidence.'
- You want to know how to frighten the new generation? Just put them in a room with a landline, an analog watch, and a tv with no remote with instructions written in cursive writing

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.

Campus Communiqué Editor: Jennifer Booth (editor@u3aredcliffe.org.au)

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.

