



www.u3aredcliffe.org.au
07 3284 2687

Campus Communiqué

Edition No. 625

7 August 2026

Diary dates

10 August: Show Day **Campus closed**

5 October: King's Birthday

From the President



Whoopee! After months of frustration trying to identify the problem with our second dishwasher, it is finally fixed.

A huge thank you to **Barb Cooper**, whose persistence and determination in working with the plumbers got us back on track. There was a fair amount of creative problem-solving happening behind the scenes before we reached a successful outcome. Thank you, Barb!

Situations like this remind us just how much happens behind the scenes to keep U3A Redcliffe running smoothly.

As we approach our 40th anniversary, it's worth reflecting on how far we've come. U3A Redcliffe Inc. began in 1988 with just 65 members and 18 classes. Today, we have more than 1,750 members and offer 127 classes. This remarkable growth has only been possible because of the dedication of countless volunteers over the years—office bearers, tutors, office volunteers, committee members and the many members who contribute to making U3A the vibrant community it is today.

At present, a number of important 'backstage' projects are underway.

One is the ongoing work of keeping our IT systems, televisions and audiovisual equipment up to date and operating reliably—not to mention resolving the occasional issues created by well-intentioned members trying to 'fix' things themselves!

Another major project is capturing the wealth of knowledge that has accumulated over many years. We have all relied on people like Barb, Russell, Petra, Ruth and many others whose experience keeps everything running. But what happens when they are away—or eventually decide it's time to step back?

To ensure that knowledge isn't lost, we are documenting their expertise. Anyone who has ever written procedures or instruction manuals knows just how much work is involved in producing documents that are clear, practical and easy for others to follow.

[Continued on page 2 ...](#)

[... Continued from page 1](#)

Barb has been developing comprehensive manuals for our office volunteers. Ruth has produced Member Wizard and IT documentation that even I can follow! Pamela is compiling all of our Position Descriptions, while the Course Coordination Team is documenting its processes. Together, these resources will provide invaluable guidance for future volunteers.

As we document our procedures, we're also looking for ways to work more efficiently. A great example is the new Member Wizard process for compiling the Course Handbook, developed by Ruth and Susan Hearfield. It has significantly reduced the time needed to produce the handbook. As with any new process, we've learned valuable lessons that will make future editions even better.

Of course, documenting information is only part of the job. It also needs to be stored securely and be easily accessible to those who need it.

Once again, Ruth has come to the fore, and U3A Redcliffe now has a cloud-based storage system to safeguard these important resources.

Why is all of this so important?

We are all volunteers. We retired to enjoy life—whether that's travelling, spending time with family and friends, pursuing hobbies or simply settling down with a good book.

At the same time, none of us is getting any younger. Health issues, family commitments and life's unexpected challenges can arise at any time. By documenting our knowledge and systems now, we are ensuring that future volunteers have the information they need to continue building on what has already been achieved.

We do **not** want to lose the invaluable lessons learned over nearly 40 years.

On a personal note, I will be taking advantage of retirement myself and will be travelling for three weeks during August and September.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to everyone who works behind the scenes. Your dedication often goes unnoticed, but it is the foundation that keeps U3A Redcliffe running so successfully for all of our members.

Di Pelin

Happy Birthday!

Wishing all our members born in August a Very Happy Birthday
from all at U3A Redcliffe





What do you think about Zoom?

This week, something different. Some people know that I tutor a class each week, called Write Your Life Story. This term is the 41st consecutive term I have offered this class (that's over 10 years now, uninterrupted, since 2016).

In this time we have had one hundred different members take the class.

It is the only class that U3A Redcliffe offers on Zoom. We used to run it on campus, but when Covid came along we went onto Zoom to keep it going. And ever since, my class has voted to keep it that way! Why, I hear you ask??

Well, there are lots of advantages. Firstly, the way we run the class is easily adaptable to Zoom. Everyone is heard, is respectful, and takes turns to speak. We really don't run things any differently to the way we used to do on campus. It is a very enjoyable experience of learning and sharing, and Zoom is very easy to manage.

More importantly, it is convenient for everyone. You can participate from your computer, at home. No travel required in those cold winter months, and no parking problems. You can participate from your own, climate-controlled home—not too hot and not too cold—just right!

It is so convenient that we have had people continue to do the class while visiting interstate, and while overseas (I have tutored the class while interstate). Members have participated from hospital, and from aged care respite. The class is just a click away.

In this time, we have had 10 books published around people's life stories, so clearly our Zoom environment is no impediment to productivity!

I think it's a pity that we do not offer a few more classes on Zoom, enabling our members this choice for convenience, and taking pressure off precious classroom space on campus.

So, are you a tutor who would like to try something different? Or simply a member who would enjoy having a few more classes available more flexibly and conveniently? Why not think about it, and discuss the possibilities in your class?

Steve Wilson

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.

From the Course Coordination Team

Reminder: Show holiday

Please keep in mind that **U3A Redcliffe will be closed on Monday 10 August 2026** for the Brisbane Exhibition show holiday.

Attendance at Courses

Our team is currently in the process of checking the course attendance sheets.

Any member who has not attended on a regular basis will be withdrawn from courses. Members who have informed us of their absence(s) during the first three weeks of the term need not be concerned about possible withdrawal from their course(s).

A Small Peek Into the Future

Now that term 3 courses are up and running, members of the Course Coordination Team are planning for the final term of 2026. Possible new courses at this stage will be:

- The History of Country Music
- Introduction to Android Phones
- Rock 'N Roll Dance Basics
- Beyond the Manuscript
- Photography Beginners
- Intermediate Computer
- Cryptic Crosswords
- ABC for All, and
- You Be the Judge; Justice on Trial.

Direct Phone Number to the Course Coordination Team

If members or tutors wish to talk to a member of the Course Coordination Team, please call on **0436 845 462**. This number will be answered only during campus opening hours when a team member is present. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

We hope that you love U3A, love learning and love being together with like-minded people.

Course Coordination Team

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

From the Librarian



Here is a photo of the Main Library catalogued in the Dewey System. The Library is on the way to rooms 1 and 2.

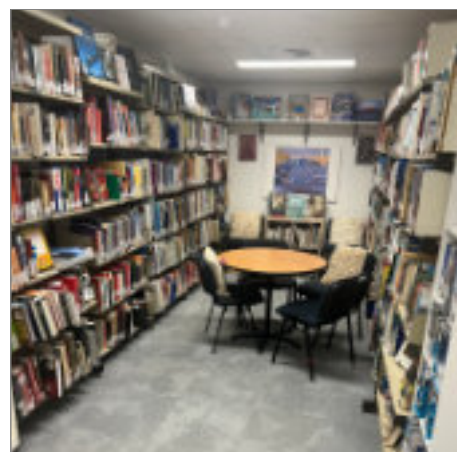
The books are carded and borrowed through the office staff. Books are returned to the office.

All displays come from this library.

Please come in and share all its delights!!!

Sharyn Reggars

Librarian



Position vacant: Social Events Coordinator!



Do you love bringing people together?

U3A is looking for an enthusiastic Social Events Coordinator to lead our social outings and events.

You'll have the support of an experienced backup team—you just need to enjoy organising, coordinating, and helping our members connect and have fun.

Interested? We'd love to hear from you!

Please contact us to find out more about this rewarding volunteer opportunity.

Applications can be in writing via email to u3a@u3aredcliffe.org.au or come in for a chat.

Please contact Barbara Cooper by 28 August 2026



A member's bouquet

Campus Communiqué does not usually publish letters, but this one received at the office recently has been passed on to share with all our members.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to all our wonderful U3A volunteers for turning up when you'd rather not, but do anyway. For providing us with a safe place to have fun, community, laughter, companionship and learning every day at U3A Redcliffe.

We are often told that we Elder ones in our society need to have positive creative activities and need to maintain our connections with each other so we can stay well.

That's exactly what the volunteers of U3A Redcliffe provide, without pay, and week after week. A great community outreach in service of others.

It could only happen because you turned up to offer your time and effort as volunteers and we are so very grateful.

So, once again Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

from a grateful member.

And 'thank you' to our lovely member who took the time to write these words of appreciation.

Jennifer Booth

Editor

Knitting news



Well Done to all the U3A Redcliffe knitters, experienced and aspiring!

I look at the quirky basket and wonder if I should replace it, but like all of us, not perfect, but strangely appealing! LOL

You lovely people are keeping me on my toes as I check the basket each week. You are an absolute power house!

We do not want knitting to become a lost art. It has many benefits, including relieving stress, improving the strength in your fingers and hands, not to mention great for brain health!

So, give it a go! This is about knitting a row, it is **NOT** about perfect knitting.

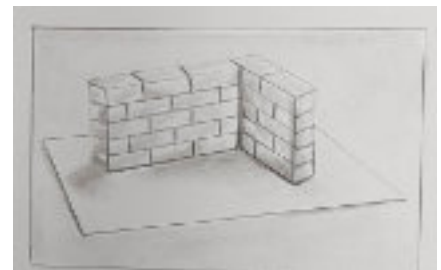
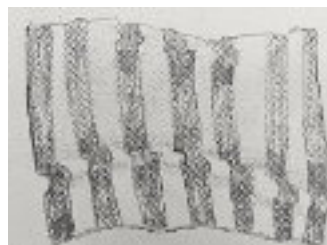
Sue Taylor

PS: I am recycling the wool so if it is not working for you can you leave a message at the office for 'Sue, Thursday Office Volunteer'. Thanks.

Class activities



Thursday afternoon's Painting and Drawing class produced some interesting optical illusions recently.



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.

Who can I turn to?

Staying safe online seems to get harder all the time. It is no longer just a case of ignoring a begging email from a fake Nigerian prince. These days scams are sophisticated and usually run by criminal organisations.

Fortunately there are some organisations Australians can rely on for accurate and up-to-date information.



IDCARE is Australia's national scam, identity and cyber support service.

You learn more about the organisation and its services at idcare.org

IDCARE reports it is seeing more cybercriminals using social media and gaming platforms to send messages that appear to come from existing friends.

These messages may ask you to:

- test a new game
- download a game mod
- open a link, or
- test an app someone has 'created'.

But hidden inside these applications can be malware designed to steal account information, take over online accounts, and in some cases, steal in-game assets.

Once an account is compromised, cybercriminals may use it to send the same malicious links to your friends, spreading the scam further.

Stay Safe

- Don't click unexpected links, even when they appear to come from a friend.
- Reach out to the friend another way before downloading anything.
- Use strong passwords and enable multi-factor authentication.
- Avoid risky or unverified game mod.

If you do find your account has been compromised

- determine all accounts the affected device has been linked to
- change all affected account passwords on another secured device, and
- if you haven't already, implement multi-factor authentication.

Superannuation scams

Between March 2025 and February 2026, IDCARE supported 3,097 clients with concerns relating to their superannuation. Of the clients, 12 per cent experienced financial loss, with total losses reaching \$29.2 million.

84 per cent of these losses resulted from victim-initiated withdrawals which highlights how scammers manipulate and pressure people into transferring their funds to them.

If something doesn't feel right, pause and seek support before taking action.

Call 1800 595 160

Visit www.idcare.org.

[Continued on page 8 ...](#)

... Continued from page 7



Scamwatch is run by the National Anti-Scam Centre to collect reports about scams to help them warn others and to take action to stop scams.

They also provide up-to-date information to help you spot and avoid scams.

The ScamWatch website www.scamwatch.gov.au/ provides a wealth of information about scams and how to avoid them. You can also send them a report if you think you have been targeted by scammers.

You can check your scam awareness by taking the [ScamWatch quiz](#):

The Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre leads the Australian Government's efforts to improve cyber security.



While much of the information on its website is quite technical and may not be particularly interesting for home users, its *Protect Yourself* page provides up-to-date

information we can all use to stay safe online:

www.cyber.gov.au/protect-yourself#online.

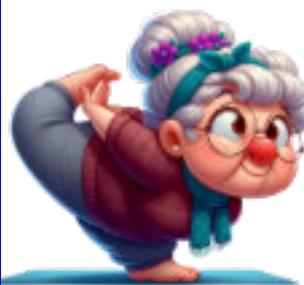


Be Connected provides free, easy-to-follow, short online courses developed specifically to help older Australians

build the digital skills and confidence they need to use everyday technology.

Visit the website—beconnected.esafety.gov.au/—and you are sure to find a topic that will interest, and help, you further develop your online skills.

Gertie's Giggles



- I had my patience tested recently. Apparently I'm **negative**!!
- If you are bored and want to have some fun go to your local shopping centre, sit on a seat and when someone sits down next to you stare straight ahead and say, ***Did you bring the money?!***
- Does refusing to go to the gym pass as resistance training?
- Sometimes I shock myself with the smart things I can say and do and then the next day I try to get out of my car with the seat belt still on.

(With sincere thanks to Lenore Woolich whose contributions keep us smiling .)

From the Concert Event Team

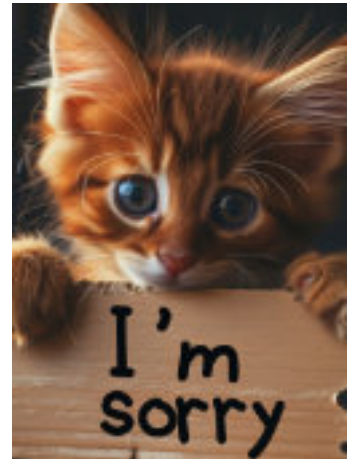
Thank you to those, who have secured their place on our performance list for the Seniors Concert.

We are now fully booked.

Those who need to send in USBs please do so BEFORE end of 1st week of September.

Those who need to supply song list NOW is this time ...

Concert Event Team



From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos and stories for the *Campus Communiqué* since I took over the role. I have had some very positive feedback from members who enjoy seeing what other classes are doing. Please, keep up the good work.

I hope I have not left anyone's contribution out. Unfortunately I have been plagued by Telstra outages over the past couple of weeks which have affected my email and both landline and mobile phones.

Absences from class

I'm afraid I do have a bit of a grumble. Every week I get at least one email from a member about their absence from class. **Please do not send these to me.**

I realise you may have my email address saved in your computer as 'U3A', so please check to whom you are sending your notification before you hit the 'Send' button. I suggest adding the correct email address, coursesandtutors@u3aredcliffe.org.au, to your email address book.

The following procedure for notifying absences is taken from the *Procedures Handbook* and is also on the 'How to Enrol' page of the website:

www.u3aredcliffe.org.au/how-to-enroll/#absences

Short-term absences

If a member is absent from class for one week, there is no need to inform the campus office.

Long-term absences

Absences of three consecutive weeks without notification to the Course Coordination Team means you may be removed from the course. This includes members who have prepaid for a class. There will be no refunds.

If you are aware of a long-term absence for a holiday, family matter and for medical reasons, please inform the Course Coordination Team by one of the following methods:

Any long-term absences for term 3 must be advised using one of the following methods.

1. **Tell the volunteer at the sign-on desk.** The sign-on desk volunteer will note your absence details into our 'black folder' OR
2. **Send an email** to coursesandtutors@u3aredcliffe.org.au OR
3. **Call the Course Coordination Team** directly on 0436 845 462. Please leave a message if your call is not answered.

Jennifer Booth

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.

