



**President's
Report**

Welcome to a new academic year – parents and grand-parents are cheering for the start of the new school term and so are all of us at U3A Redlands. We have a lot to celebrate – whether we are starting new classes or activities or meeting up with friends from on-going 2025 classes. We hope to have a happy and healthy year of connections and learning.

Another big-ticket item for January - U3A Redlands have successfully moved into the new building which has been dubbed "*The Cottage*" – so our office staff and volunteers are cheering too. Huge thanks to our Administrator, Julie-Anne Morris, and Office Coordinator, Deb Mitchell and the team of office volunteers for their efforts - the move was completed in time to open the doors for the start of this first term on 27 January. It was a big job, done very efficiently – it is this behind-the-scenes activity that makes our organisation work so well.

We now have classrooms in our own building and the roster system for booking is being managed by Julie-Anne. There may still be some issues to be sorted out regarding grounds and building access for classes outside our usual office hours, but Julie-Anne is working on that. So, for those interested in using a classroom please call the office in opening hours Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12 noon during school terms for detailed information.



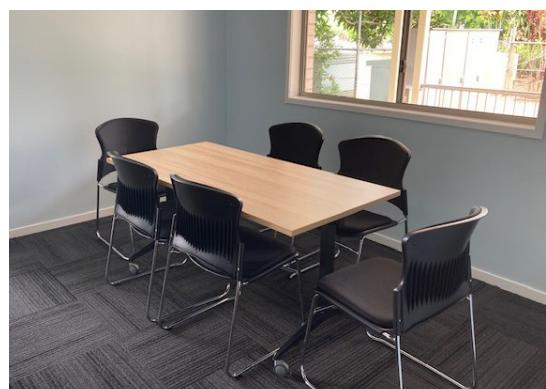
Reception

The other good news is that office furniture has arrived so classes, volunteers and visitors will be accommodated comfortably. Our thanks to Liz Jeffs for bringing in her picnic chairs for our use in the interim and delivering the tables and barbecues, donations from Port of Brisbane Rotary. The temporary furniture allowed us to set up the office before the school year started.



Large Meeting Room

There will be purchases of other equipment and furnishings as the needs are identified. Janese Lowe and the Building Committee are still working on the finishing touches, inside and out, and planning the Official Opening to the building in March, on a date to be announced.



Small Meeting Room

Also worth celebrating is our first event for 2026, the U3A Redlands Open Day, and it was a great success judging by the numbers of people who came to the Birkdale Sporting Club on Friday 16 January. It was an immense effort by Mary Smith, our Tutor Liaison Officer, by the office staff and volunteers to prepare for the day, and by tutors and volunteers who manned the information tables, sold raffle tickets, and took enquiries and registrations at the event.

There was a very good turn-out of tutors for the Tutor Forum in the afternoon following the Open Day event. The Forum included well-received information sessions for the tutors and coordinators who give so much of their time to make their classes and activities positive.

Thanks also to John Burt, photographer, and the Ukelele Group.



Tutors and Assistants



The Tutor Forum

Access to "The Cottage"

Understanding the requirements for entering the grounds to this Delancey Street Qld Government Research Facility property is an important issue for all U3A Redlands members and visitors. Discussions have also been held with the Redland City Council to check the legalities of turning into the wire gate entry nearest to the new building, known as Gate 2, to distinguish it from the main entry gate, Gate 1.

It is **strongly recommended that we use only left-hand turns in and out of Gate 2** due to the poor visibility of on-coming traffic from the cemetery end of Delancey Street. We encourage our members to come into the office – but we want everyone to stay safe so please factor that in when planning your journey.

We have been asked by Research Facility Management to ensure our members and guests use only Gate 2 to enter and leave the grounds, and not to drive through the Research Facility site. We are required to park either in front of our building or, if that area is full, to park on the grass area beside our building and shed. Our Gate 2 will be open for all scheduled office hours and any scheduled class hours that go beyond the office hours. We are keeping Research Facility Management informed of our on-site activities.

As you can see there is a lot to learn for all of us about our new environment so please be patient with the changes as they occur. If you have any questions or concerns, please check with the office team or any of the Committee and we will do our very best to get answers to you – it is a new phase for us all – but what a wonderful start to the year.

Liz Sanderson (President)

Finally settling down to my vegan, gluten free, soy free, antibiotics free, raw, non GMO, organic, fat free, low carb meal!



Ed



Alternate routes for entering the cottage

U-turn may be performed behind the cemetery.



Gates 1 and 2 (our gate)



From Writing for Pleasure.

The Pen is mightier than the Sword...

With weather being a much-discussed topic of the moment, our writer Tricia has given us an insight into her experience:

Tricia Ketteringham

The Weather Report.

Not a cloud in blue sky
no leaf stirs on trees
as I walk to the park
sun's rays stroke my knees

sun warm on bare arms
no hat on my head
my face glows with pleasure
the winter is dead

at threatening rumble
I look to the sky
for the squadron of fighters
I think will fly by

black boiling thunderclouds
swirl into view
and streaks of white lightning
flash threateningly too

a blast of wild wind roars
it snatches the trees
they dance a mad tango
stripped bare of their leaves

rain falls in torrents
I feel quite distraught
and wish I had heeded

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Colin Sutcliffe OAM



Colin Sutcliffe (Col) OAM, has been named Citizen of the Year at the 2026 Redlands Coast Australia Day Awards. The award was presented by Redlands Coast Mayor Jos Mitchell in recognition of Col's remarkable contribution to the community, particularly in supporting seniors and championing affordable housing initiatives.

Col has long been a driving force in organisations such as Rotary, STAR Community Services, and Mangrove Housing, working tirelessly on projects that benefit all residents through community programmes and housing solutions. His leadership has played a pivotal role in both national and local education and advisory panels, further cementing his legacy of service.

Since retiring, Col has remained an active member of U3A Redlands, where he has contributed as a presenter, led the Life Matters group and chaired the U3A Redlands 25th Anniversary Exhibit Committee. His ongoing dedication has had a lasting impact on the region's seniors and broader community wellbeing.

The Redlands Coast Australia Day Awards celebrate the outstanding efforts of individuals and groups who selflessly enhance the quality of life in the community. In 2026, a total of 176 recipients were recognised across eight categories, representing both local and island communities. Their achievements highlight the spirit of generosity and commitment that defines Redlands Coast.



Life Matters

PROGRAM FOR TERM 1, 2026

Mondays 9.00 for 9.30 am

In 2026, U3A Redlands District *Life Matters* will be held
in the Events Room, Redlands Coast Museum, Smith Street, Cleveland
... same times, same format ...
come along and bring your friends, family and neighbours
to be challenged, informed, entertained and enlightened
by a range of Guest Speakers and Presentations.
... cost \$6.00 per session ...

Feb 09 ***Cobb & Co, the Staging Post and the Thomson Belle***
Richard KINNON, Outback Pioneer, Longreach
Introduced by Col SUTCLIFFE OAM
For decades, the Kinnon family have been graziers with sheep and cattle stations near Longreach. Richard and Marisse Kinnon brought up their three children here. Those children are now adults and have little ones of their own. With drought an ever-present challenge in this wide, brown land, the Kinnons founded their tourism enterprise in 2006 to supplement their grazing income. Starting with the Cobb & Co stagecoach, they discovered a passion for sharing the local heritage with visitors. The rest, as they say, is history. The tourism enterprise grew into today's Outback Pioneers – a winner of multiple tourism awards for holidays, accommodation and experiences. Richard will share a yarn or two about Nogo Station and his experiences.

Feb 16 **The Perilous Journey of Two Paintings**
Helen CHANDLER, Researcher, Historian and Storyteller
Introduced by Liz JEFFS
Helen will share the story of 2 Paintings that came into her possession and share their journey through war torn Europe. This is more than a travelogue ... she reveals who had possession of them and how they journeyed as well as who painted them. Helen will give an insight into how they came into her possession in Australia. You will also get a chance to examine them and the subject during this insightful and interesting story.

Feb 23 **Downsizing: Options for Seniors**
Carol ROBERTS, Accountant, Retired Financial Adviser
Introduced by Gail SCHURER
Carol will discuss the costs of the various accommodation options Seniors may look at: staying in their Own Home, Strata, Retirement Village, Over 50s community, and will provide tips. You might wish to bring along family and friends to this most informative session, especially if you or friends are considering downsizing.

Mar 02 **Sweet Potatoes and Norfolk Island**
Paul OATES, Traveller and Author
Introduced by Brian HEDGES
Paul will share with us the surprising journey of sweet potatoes — from ancient staple to modern culinary star. Explore their history, nutrition, and cultural stories, and discover why this humble root continues to inspire cooks, growers, and food lovers. Paul will also share Norfolk Island with its dramatic history, vibrant culture, and striking natural beauty. From lush landscapes to enduring traditions, gain fresh insight into what makes this remote Pacific gem unforgettable and unlike anywhere else. Will golden sweet potatoes meet the wild, ocean-kissed beauty of Norfolk Island? Maybe or maybe not. Come along to find out.



Excel Spreadsheets

The course will be commencing in Term 2.

It will start with the basics, building to completion of a comprehensive family budget.

Please Note: laptop with Microsoft Office installed is a **must**.

Venue and Time: to be announced

For more information:-

Contact Alex on 0410 542 035



LAST CHANCE!!!

Get in now - before cut-off date of 9 February to join other beginners in learning how to play bowls.

WHERE: Cleveland Bowls Club
64 Middle St, Cleveland

WHEN: 7 March to 11 April
Saturday Morning

COST: \$60 for the six weeks. If a participant subsequently joins Cleveland Bowls Club, \$50 will be deducted from first year club fee.

CONTACT: Bob Wood on **0481 336 814** or bwood_4161@yahoo.com.au



Armchair Travellers

Refer to the January newsletter Page 3 for details of the topic—Corsica and Scandinavia - for 5 February.

The topic for 5 March is from Anne McBurnie and Francis Gosling presenting Peru.

The meetings are still at The Uniting Church Hall, Passage St. Cleveland on the first Thursday of the Month for a 9:30 start.



U3A Singers Return

This popular singing group is open to anyone who loves to sing, perform and enjoy all aspects of vocal music. The group meets every Saturday morning from 9.00am to 11.00am at the Redlands Coast Museum, 60 Smith Street, Cleveland. Membership of the Redlands Coast Museum is a requirement of joining this group, but there are no other fees. Please direct any enquiries to:

Russell on 0435 266 309

Enrolment in this group is now open.

AUSLAN(Australian Sign Language)

Do you know someone who can teach AUSLAN? Several members would be interested in learning.

Contact: Tutor Liaison Officer

0404 460 251



NEW PUBLIC SPEAKING COURSE

A 6-week course in Public Speaking will start on Friday afternoons, 1.30 – 3pm, hopefully in mid-February in the new U3A building.

Object:

- To gain confidence when speaking in public
- To gain some handy tips to use when speaking in public
- To meet new, interesting people and hear what they have to say
- You'll have the opportunity to practise different scenarios.
- You'll learn strategies for successfully getting to the point.
- You'll have more confidence to have your say.
- Handy Forum hints will focus on meeting procedure, eg Chairman's role.

The Course includes:

- Dealing with nerves
- Spontaneous speaking
- Speech Preparation, Compilation
- Presentation, Delivery, Voice Production and Articulation
- Special Occasion Speeches

Contact: Pam Tranter to find out more and register your interest.

Email: pamtranter46@outlook.com or

Phone: 0408 550 435.

Community Donation

U3A Redlands would like to thank the Rotary Club of Port of Brisbane for the donation of the following items: 3 folding tables, 2 BBQs, large pop-up tent, adjustable lectern, 12 plastic chairs, 2 traffic cones and assorted disposable items excess to their requirements. Thank you Rotary. They will be used well.

NEW

CPR Awareness Training



For **\$7.00** (*paid prior to attending the session*) U3A Redlands Members can learn the life saving techniques of CPR. This fee can be paid online after enrolment or via EFT to:

BSB: 124025

ACC: 10545277

Reference: Your SURNAME and "CPR"

Alternatively contact the office on 3821 3888 to pay via credit card.

In Term 1 2026, there are two separate sessions available. *You only need to attend one class.*

Tuesday, 11 February

Thursday, 17 March

The CPR Awareness Training session lasts for 90 minutes and you get to take home the Handy Hints booklet with you.

This class will be held in The large meeting room at the new U3A Office at the Redlands Research Facility in Delancey Street, Cleveland.

From the Editor

Showcasing a group: each month I'm hoping to showcase a group (See Page 8, a sample) in the Newsletter. In doing so I will contact the tutor beforehand and visit the group in class, take photos and collect information.

Newsletter Articles

Please send all articles straight to my Redlands U3A address:

lurline.s13@gmail.com



Showcasing Mahjong

Are you looking for fun with great company? Then this is the class for you. This group tutored by Barbara Sampson, meets every Monday in the Alexandra Hills Community Hall, 8:30 - 10:30.

This is an amazing game which is very good for the brain.

Beginners and experienced players are welcome in a friendly atmosphere.

If the Monday Mahjong doesn't suit, there are four other groups on other days.



Peggy Watt With Rose Reidlinger

Peggy came to Australia from Rabaul, New Britain, PNG, about ten years ago. She studied for a certificate in Early Learning in Child Care where she worked until retirement in 2024.

She married Ian Watt, a neighbour of Rose who helped Peggy through all the paper work for obtaining permanent residency, acquired in 2019.

Peggy, a regular member of U3A Redlands Thorneside Mahjong group, tutored by Rose, received her citizenship award, Australia Day 2026.

Congratulations Peggy! A New Australian!

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