



JANUARY 2026

The Third Act

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[Courses](#)[Tutors](#)[Membership](#)[News & Media](#)[Contact](#)

President's Message

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2026 U3A Redlands Newsletter.

This is my first and as those who know me, I have a lot to say – but let's keep it simple and just give you some highlights.

For U3A Redlands 2025 in total has been a mammoth year in terms of achievements. The most notable of course is our "new home" in the grounds of the Qld DPI Redlands Research Facility in Delancey Street, Cleveland. The building interior is essentially completed with some further work on the surrounds which will be continued over the coming weeks. For this building and all it has to offer we have to give enormous thanks to Janese Lowe and the Building Committee who have spent some years planning, fundraising, and executing a project that will benefit U3A Redlands for decades to come. The official opening date of the building will be announced when final arrangements are made - possibly in March or early April, 2026.

In the meantime, the building will be open for business when the school term commences on Tuesday 27th January and Julie-Anne, our Office Administrator, opens the doors for business at 9.00am. Arrangements are underway for some U3A Redlands classes to be held in our new learning centre as the term progresses.

One major event for December 2025 was the U3A Redlands 27th Annual General Meeting held on 8th of December and this was well attended by our U3A Redlands members. This was an opportunity for attendees to hear the outgoing President's final report, the Treasurer's annual report, our Tutor Liaison's report and to meet the new management committee for 2026. This year the president of the Qld Network U3A, Rhonda Weston, addressed the meeting.

We farewelled Janese Lowe - her five years as President of U3A Redlands has shown us all what vision and determination, and hard work, can achieve.

Trevor Simmons, who has served as Secretary for three years, also retired - Trevor has given so many hours of his expertise to ensure the committee has approached all aspects of management with logic and legal reasoning.

Our Patron, Redlands City Council Mayor, Cr Jos Mitchell formalized the election of the new committee. So, meet your new U3A Redlands committee



Left to Right – Trish Winter, Yvonne Medhurst, Tauba Naftal, Ian Wallace, Debra Mitchell, Teresa Meyer, Liz Sanderson, Tony Maher, Mary Smith, Charles de Wet
Absent: Bruce Gilbert, Lurline Slater

So, the work for this new committee has already begun – you will see a reminder in this newsletter of the **2026 U3A Redlands Open Day on Friday 16 January**. See you all there.

As you can guess, while we have a lovely new building, we still have furnishings and equipment to purchase so fundraising is still a priority. Helping to manage U3A Redlands is very much like running a business and now owning premises also means additional costs - in utilities, improvements, ongoing maintenance and more - if you have ever built or bought a home you know that means adding features and facilities as time goes on – so the fundraising never stops. Our U3A Redlands wonderful community of volunteers teach, coordinate, bake, work in our office, sell raffle tickets and join us for classes and events – all these people make a huge difference in keeping this organisation running, and in ensuring that our members stay connected. I urge all those who can - to **put your hand up to help** when you see a shout out for an event needing assistance – indeed it is going to be a very busy 2026. So again – **Happy New Year!**

Liz Sanderson

Veranda
U3A Building



OPEN DAY 2026



**All welcome
Bring your Friends**

*Why not try something new
from our wide range of classes?*

**Refreshments available
Bring CASH for great
Raffle Prizes.**

DATE: Friday, 16 January 2026

**TIME: 9.00am – 11.30am
Tutor Forum – 12.15pm**

**VENUE: Birkdale Sports Club
Judy Holt Park
Holt Lane –off Randall Rd
Birkdale**



Australia Day January 26

Australia Day is the official national day of Australia. Observed annually on January 26, it marks the day Arthur Phillip, in charge of the First Fleet, raised the Union Flag of Great Britain, at Sydney Cove.

On Australia Day we reflect on our history, its highs and its lows. We respect the stories of others and we celebrate our nation, its achievements and, most of all, its people. It is about where we have come from, who we are as a nation and what we aspire to be.

January 26 is an important date in Australia's history that has evolved over time.



Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

U3A are rostered for the above event on the **1 March 2026** at Bunnings Victoria Point.

U3A need to have several helpers in place to attend a short Health and Safety Induction Class at Victoria Point Bunnings on a Saturday morning, usually 11.30am for 1 hour, to go over the setting up and safety aspects prior to our roster booking.

You will each receive your own copy [a few pages] of the points of the meeting to peruse. Questions will be most welcome.

These events are much sought after by other local groups and, I'm informed, earn about \$1000+ for our U3A funds.

Bunnings sometimes have short notice dates due to a group cancelling and may offer those to us which is why we would like to have a volunteer bank of Team Leaders and helpers to call upon.

Please let me know if you can volunteer as a Team leader/volunteer/helper for this event. Thank you.

Yvonne—Events Co-ordinator

Contact: yvonne@medhurst@gmail.com

Make a Difference to Our Community



Excel Spreadsheets

If there is sufficient interest, this course will be run in Term 2 for about ten weeks.

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

For more information:-

Contact Alex on 0410 542 035

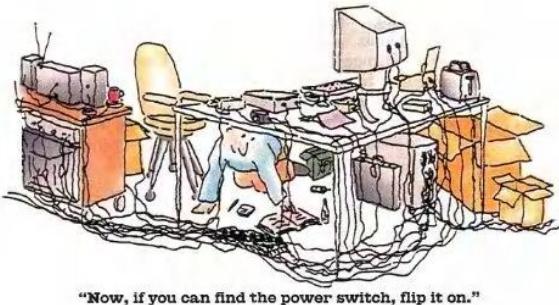
Gridlocked!

Energy costs going up - again - and the roll-out of smart meters have opened up a host of new tariff options. I'm talking about Time-of-Use and/or Demand tariffs. Are they really good for us? Do we, you, have to put up with that? What options are available?

Now there is a federal rebate for solar batteries available - you may get bombarded by offers to have them installed. Should you? Will it make sense for you? How safe are Lithium batteries really?

This 90 minute class will run 4-5 times per term. The first 2 classes will cover general ground to get you to understand the issues. In the last 2 or 3 classes we will evaluate individual power bills of attendees and work out what's the best way forward to, ideally, reducing your power bill to zero.

For more information, contact Michael on 0415 875 672.



Ed



Armchair

Travellers

Happy New Year to all our U3A Family. With a New year ahead I am endeavouring to present to you all some of the far flung places people have journeyed.

We start the year on 5th February with a travel to Corsica & Scandinavia.

Then each month to Peru, Australian ANZAC Memorials & Uluru.

Armchair Travel will have a stand at the U3A sign on day on the 16th January at Birkdale Sports Club, Holt Lane, Birkdale. (near the tip). We would love to meet you.



CORSICA



Scandinavia

Contact: John Kolcze and Jennifer Brew

0427 244 301



Public Speaking Course

If there's sufficient interest, a 6-week Public Speaking Course will be held in 2026, commencing in late February. Build confidence, improve your communication skills, and learn to speak with clarity and impact. Reserve your spot today!

Classes will be held from 1.00-2.30 (approximately) on a Tuesday or Wednesday or Friday.

For more information or to express interest,

Contact: Pam on 0408 550 435 or
Email: pamtranter46@outlook.com



Ukulele for Beginners

A 4-week beginners' course is being run on Tuesdays from 10 February. Students will learn to tune their ukulele, a simple strumming pattern and how to play some basic chords. They will then be able to play some simple songs and be encouraged to keep learning and practising.

Where: Birkdale Sports Club, Holt Lane, off Randall Road.

When: 10.30-11.15am - 10/2, 17/2, 24/2, 3/3.

Enquiries: Sue - 0402 969 853

CPR Awareness Training



Did you know that 76% of cardiac arrests occur in the home, and the most likely witness is a family member? In an emergency, every second counts.

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.*

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

Tuesday, 11 February
Thursday, 17 March

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



Building Sub-committee Dinner



L to R Charles De Wet, Debra Barker, Janese and Ian Lowe, Judith and George Chapman, Julie and Murray Porteous

On 30 December 2025, members and partners of the U3AR Building Sub-Committee enjoyed dinner at the Grand View Cleveland to celebrate the completion of the U3A Redlands Building. All that remains internally are the furnishings, telecommunications and other installations.



**NEW
SUBJECT
2026**

Australia - Privileged and Lucky but Vulnerable..... The Future?

In considering the future of Australia, some existing trends can be projected and their consequences identified. These will be combined with events (which are unknowable).

This subject is not designed to forecast the future of Australia, but rather to analyse and discuss those factors which are most likely to have an influence in shaping Australia's future.

The subject involves looking at factors which make Australia such a great place to live - and our sources of vulnerabilities. The subject will embrace changes in: climate, population, economics and finance, overseas trade, foreign policy, national security and political matters (here and overseas) and more.

We will have a segment on forecasting matters, and we'll start with the convict settlements and look at the subsequent factors in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries which together produce a very *lucky country*.

The approach will be wide ranging, without political alignment and with welcomed discussion. A thought provoking subject.

Program will run depending on numbers.

Start Date: Wednesday, 28 January
(for 6 weeks)

Time: 9:30 – 11:30

Venue: Wellington Point Community Hall

Enquiries:

Text Doug Murphy 0402 845 925

Life Matters Footnote

On 9 February the presentation—*Cobb & Co the Staging Post and the Thomson Belle*—which was cancelled back in October, will be presented.

Check details in your October Newsletter.

NB The full program for February will be in the February Newsletter.



Cytogenetics.

Don't know what that is?

Here's your chance to find out.

This presentation by Cathy Mathieson -

Medical Laboratory Scientist, Registered

Nurse - is for people curious about DNA and chromosomes.

Chromosomal changes impact every area of medicine. Examples of these changes will be presented.

When: 2 February 2026

9:30–11:00

Where: **Redlands Coast Museum**

Smith St, Cleveland

Cost \$6 for presentation, tea and biscuits and a warm chat.



Lawn Bowls - Learn to Play

The Cleveland Lawn Bowls Club is again offering a 6-week course to U3A members, conducted by club coaches.

WHERE: Cleveland Bowls Club
64 Middle St, Cleveland

WHEN: **7 March to 11 April**

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 for more information.

Seniors Month Golf Day

It was a warm day, but not too hot. The day started with a burger and chips lunch provided by the club.

Then the golfers (31 in the field) set off, all in golf carts, on a mini shot-gun start (ie starting on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd holes simultaneously)

Everybody was back in the club house well before dark to enjoy the sumptuous spread of savouries and nibbles.

The prize giving then followed amidst much banter and camaraderie. First of all was the presentation of the U3A trophy to the winner and then very generous prizes to 6th place and a further ball run down.

Verdict? A good day, well organised.



Winner
Michael Driver

Runner-up
John McGillivray



Third
Charles De Wet



Rambling in the Redlands



The last 2025 walk for the *Rambling in the Redlands* group was held at the Squirrel Glider Conservation Area in Alexandra Hills, attracting the largest turnout of the year. Even more joined in for breakfast at the Alexandra Hills Hotel afterwards.

Garden Group



The Garden Group held their annual Christmas Party under the mango tree beside the U3A's new building making them the first group to use the building. It was a warm day and, being one of the first groups of Redlands U3A, memories were discussed while a few wines added to the merriment.

As member numbers are diminishing due to ageing, new members would be most welcome in 2026. The Garden Group will most likely be responsible for the landscaping around the new building.

They enjoy growing vegetables and herbs and having a yarn about their own gardens.

When: Every Mon and Wed 7:30-10:00am

Where: Delancey St – behind new building
Murray Porteous is the leader.



Kitchen

Wine for Fun—November



The November Wine for Fun meeting was a guest night, welcoming four visitors who enjoyed the evening and, we hope, learnt a few wine tips.

Wine for Fun—December



The December Wine for Fun meeting was our Christmas social and it was a perfect evening to socialise outside with a great group of people. Thanks to all who contributed, especially our hostess Michele and our food and wine expert Peter. We are all looking forward to WFF 2026.

Interested in joining a WFF Group?

Please enquire on Fri 16 Jan Open Day or at the office from Tue 27 Jan.

Thank You to Viet's Roll Restaurant Cleveland



For the last twelve months, Viet's Roll Vietnamese Restaurant has kindly hosted U3A Redlands 'Wine for Fun' (WFF) Group's monthly meetings.

In November, at WFF's last regular meeting for the year, Michele Cozzi presented proprietors Connie and Henry with a thank you gift from our very appreciative group.

We have sampled their food during our wine tastings and regularly stayed on for a meal after the meeting. The food is delicious.



When next in Cleveland

Why not try some authentic Vietnamese food at Viet's Roll Cleveland - near Coles at Cleveland Central!

History Through the Ages



This popular class will meet in 2026 at the Victoria Point Library on the first and third Monday of each month, commencing 2 February at 12:30pm.

The new tutor for 2026 is Helen Chandler (0474 054 407) who will be assisted by Pam Tranter OAM.



Helen Chandler – History Through the Ages 2026 New Tutor

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



A History of DNA

From Mendel's peas to gene therapy and more, learn about the birth and development of molecular biology and the ways in which it has transformed our lives - and continues to do so.

Dr George Chapman invites you to sign up for this class to reprise this popular series of 7 talks. The class is limited to 12 persons.

Commencing: February 4

When: Every Wednesday 9:30–11:30

Where: U3A Redlands Headquarters, 26-40 Delancey St, Cleveland

U3A Redlands District Inc. 2026 Management Committee

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