

**U3A REDLANDS DISTRICT INC.**  
**MINUTES OF THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2024**  
**AT THE REDLANDS RESEARCH FACILITY, DELANCEY ST, CLEVELAND**

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- 1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES** – Janese Lowe, President, U3A Redlands, opened the meeting at 9.30am and welcomed U3A members and distinguished guests: Mayor Cr Jos Mitchell (Patron); Mr Henry Pike MP, (Member for Bowman); Ms Amanda Stoker MP (Member for Oodgeroo); Mr Tony Christinson (Board Chairman, DSC); Mr Thomas Jithin (CEO, DSC); Mr Doug Alexander (President, Redland Museum); Mrs Robyn Robinson (President, RDCOTA); Mr Leonard McKeown (Executive Principal, Cleveland District State High School); Mr Shane Holborn (Manager, Redlands Research Facility); and U3AR Life Members: Mrs Iris Murray, Mrs Margaret Ward, Mrs Laraine Gon Chee and Mrs Julie Porteous (also Past-President).

**ATTENDANCE** – 41 members and 11 guests – [as noted in the Attendance Sheet]. A copy of the Annual Report had been provided to all attendees and will be published on the U3AR website.

**APOLOGIES** – Mr Russell Field MP (Member for Capalaba); Cr Julie Talty (Deputy Mayor); Cr Wendy Bolgary, Cr Shane Rendalls, Cr Rowanne McKenzie, Cr Peter Mitchell, Cr Jason Colley, Cr Paul Colle, Cr Tracey Huges; Cr Paul Bishop, Michael Choi (Hub 68), Mrs Rhonda Weston AM (President U3A Network Qld); Mr Keith Mole (Honorary Solicitor); Ms Michelle Ossipow (Gambling Community Benefit Fund) and U3AR members Mrs Debra Barker (Past President), Mr John Barker, Mrs Heidi Kirsch, Mrs Denise Lee, Mr Paul Foster, Mrs Maureen Foster, Mrs Gloria Claus, Mr Greg Doolan, Mr John Moss, Mrs Nicole West, Mrs Joan Johnstone, Mr Don Loch, Mrs Gay Clark, Mr Rob Clark and Mrs Jennifer Brew.

- 2 PRESENTATION OF MINUTES OF AGM 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023** – These Minutes had been posted on the U3AR website, as well as being included in the Annual Report (pages 5-10). There were no questions raised or discussion regarding the Minutes.

**Moved: Janese Lowe & Seconded: Liz Sanderson:**

- **That the Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of U3A Redlands held on 4 December 2023 be received and accepted.**

**All in favour – CARRIED**

**3. REPORTS**

**3.1 President's Report – Janese Lowe** – The President's Annual Report was included in the Annual Report (pages 11-14), and this was presented by Janese. The significant highlights included:

- Open Day was held in January at the Cleveland Assembly Hall, Smith Street, Cleveland. The hall, while adequate for the event, was not air-conditioned and the day was very hot. An air-conditioned venue has been booked for the 2025 Open Day.
- Membership for the year (1,238) was down slightly on the previous year, probably due to the increase in membership fees. There will be a concerted effort in 2025 to increase membership.
- Over 70 tutors conducted in excess of 80 classes a week at over 30 different community venues. We are greatly appreciative of the dedication of these tutors who clocked up over 5,700 hours. Ten of our long-term tutors will retire at the end of the year and the contributions of these wonderful people were formally recognised at a recent event.
- During the year, a record number of 15 community and fundraising events were arranged. This is a remarkable achievement particularly by our Events Co-ordinator, Brenda Hazlewood, and also the many volunteers who assisted.

Of particular note, in partnership with RPAC, a U3AR Showcase event was conducted at RPAC as part of Seniors Month. This was a wonderful success and a similar partnership for Seniors Month 2025 is being considered.

- The valuable assistance provided by the Denise Lee (Newsletter Editor); Diane Van (MyU3A database expert); and Paul Claus (Honorary Auditor).
- The strong positive relationships with other local organisations dedicated to serving the needs and interests of seniors, notably the Redland Seniors Network, RDCOTA, the Donald Simpson Centre, Star Community Services, and Volunteering Redlands.
- This year has been an extremely busy one for the Office administration. Special thanks go to our Office Administrator (Julie-Anne Morris), the Office Coordinator (Deb Mitchell), and the band of dedicated office volunteers. In addition to all the normal administrative tasks, they have done an incredible job archiving, culling, and preparing everything for us to vacate the school office by December 12 to allow asbestos removal during the school holidays.
- After 26 years at the Cleveland District State High School, our office will be moving as of 12 December to temporary accommodation at the Redlands Research Facility until our new building is finished. We are indebted to the generous support of the School's Principals over that period, and also to the Research Facility's Manager.
- Unfortunately, construction of the new building was paused in August as we worked to raise additional funds. However, our new State member for Oodgeroo, Amanda Stoker MP, has pledged to support funds to enable the completion of our building project, hopefully by the end of the Term 1 in 2025.

The building is about 70% complete, and this has been achieved with the help of grant funding from the Redland City Council, the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, the Redland Foundation and the Redlands RSL Community Grants. In addition, our own members have shown tremendous support for the building project through donations and support through raffles and fund-raising events.

- Appreciation to the retiring Committee members and particularly to the members who are not standing for re-election, namely, Kaylene Lawson, Jeanette Hynes and Brenda Hazelwood.
- In summary, 2024 has been a highly positive and incredibly busy year. 2025 promises to be one of achievement with the completion of the new building and the many opportunities this new facility will offer.

There were no questions raised regarding the President's Report which was received with acclamation.

**Moved: Janese Lowe & Seconded: Ian McFadzen:**

- **That the President's Report be adopted.**

**All in favour – CARRIED**

**3.2 Treasurer's Report – Charles de Wet** – In presenting the Treasurer's Report, Charles thanked Janese for her continued assistance and her tireless leadership. He also thanked Paul Claus, the Honorary Auditor, for his services and assistance with the preparation of the financial statements; Diane Van for her computer assistance and training; and Julie-Anne Morris and the office volunteers for their assistance throughout the year. In addition, Charles noted:

- that the 2023/24 financial year again proved to be an interesting one. The building project continued to be a challenge and he thanked all those who had assisted in the various fund-raising activities throughout the year.
- the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2024 which were appended to the Annual Report (15-27).
- the Financial Statements which show an operating result of over \$16k compared to a \$5k loss last year. / Total 2024 Surplus (includ. Bldg Proj Inc) \$227k / Total 2023 Loss \$5k.
- the income from contributions has increased significantly due to the membership fee increase from 1 January. This was despite a small decrease in membership numbers.
- the operating expenses for the year reduced by \$K10 compared to the previous year and the reasons for this were noted as indicated in the Financial Statements.

In summary, Charles said that U3AR is in a sound financial position and that moving into our own premises during the coming year should help to increase our membership numbers and improve our operations.

There being no questions - **Moved: Charles de Wet & Seconded: Julie Porteous:**

- **That the Treasurer's reports, including the audited accounts for the financial year 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024 be accepted into the records.** **All in favour – CARRIED.**

**3.3 Appointment of auditor for 2024** – Charles advised that Paul Claus CPA, had generously agreed to again undertake the role of Honorary Auditor for the financial year 2024/25.

**Moved: Charles de Wet & Seconded: John Burt:**

- **That Paul Claus be appointed as Honorary Auditor for 2024/25.** **All in favour. CARRIED.**

**3.4 Tutor Liaison Officer's Report** – Mary Smith presented the Tutor Liaison Officer's Annual report which was included in the Annual Report (page 28). The significant highlights included:

- The great commitment of the tutors and coordinators in conducting the wide range of classes offered. These bring new knowledge, experiences and joy to our members.
- There were almost 90 classes running during 2024. Many of these (including French, German, Dance, Cycling, Art, Patchwork/Quilting, Rambling) have been long-running, but there have been new ones (including History through the Ages, Wine for Fun and the return of Italian). Some classes were held weekly, fortnightly or monthly; while others were short-term.
- A number of tutors are retiring at the end of the year mainly due to their age, some over 90. These include Roy Evans, Michael Hubert, Sylvia Bridge, Terry Murray, Ray Roth, Ian McFadzen, Carolyn West, Bev Gilbert-Bailey, Ken Busfield and Anne Odgers. The commitment of these tutors and their leadership over the years is greatly appreciated.
- Tutors were involved in the many fund-raising and entertainment events organised by U3AR during the year as mentioned by Janese. Of particular importance to tutors were the Open Day in January attended by tutors of more than 50 classes; the Tutor Forum in April; and the recent Tutor/Volunteer Christmas party.
- Rather than having the Open Day and Tutor Forum on separate dates in 2025, it is planned to hold them on the same day, 17 January. This is not a new idea, and it was successful some years ago.

In concluding her report, Mary again thanked all tutors for their commitment and leadership during the year; and also thanked Janese, other Committee members and Julie-Anne Morris and Diane Van for their help and support.

**Moved: Janese Lowe & Seconded: Liz Sanderson:**

- **That the Tutor Liaison Officer's Report for 2024 be adopted.** **All in favour. CARRIED.**

**4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RETIRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS** – Janese acknowledged retiring Committee members Brenda Hazlewood, Kaylene Lawson and Jeanette Hynes. She noted the contributions of each of the retiring members, as contained in her report, and a token of appreciation was presented to them, as well as to our Honorary Auditor, Paul Claus.

**5. PATRON & MAYORAL ADDRESS** – Janese introduced our Patron, Cr Jos Mitchell, Mayor, Redland City Council and invited her to take the Chair. Cr Mitchell:

- Acknowledged the President, Janese Lowe, the distinguished visitors present and members. She noted the commitment and dedication of all those who contribute so much to our Redlands Coast community.

- It is exciting to see that the much-anticipated new premises for U3AR is so well advanced and that, with the commitment of funding from the State Government, it is hoped the completion date will be early in the new year. It will be wonderful when services can be run from this new home.
  - Noted that the Redland City Council is proud to be a partner with U3AR and is committed to providing much needed services to support senior citizens in our community. This includes support for activities in Seniors Month and other community-based activities. This support is very important when it is remembered that the percentage of residents aged over 65 in the Redlands region is greater than that in Brisbane or the rest of the State.
  - Noted that the Council is also committed to supporting a variety of groups and activities to help address issues involved with the increasing incidence of people living with dementia. It is important to ensure we have a dementia-friendly community. Many of the people involved with providing these services are volunteers.
  - Congratulated the outgoing Committee on what it has achieved over the past year.
  - Wished members of U3AR best wishes for the festive season and hoped the organisation will continue to grow and expand the concept of lifelong learning which is so important in our aging community.
6. **ALL POSITIONS DECLARED VACANT** – Cr Mitchell then declared all positions for the Management Committee vacant.
7. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE 2024-2025 YEAR** – Cr Mitchell proceeded to read out the nominees for each position on the new Management Committee. There being only one nomination for each position, the following persons were appointed unopposed:

**President**

Proposed by Charles de Wet and seconded by Trevor Simmons

**Janese Lowe**

**Vice President**

Proposed by Julie-Anne Morris and seconded by Janese Lowe

**Liz Sanderson**

**Secretary**

Proposed by Charles de Wet seconded by Janese Lowe

**Trevor Simmons**

**Treasurer**

Proposed by Trevor Simmons and seconded by Janese Lowe

**Charles de Wet**

**Tutor Liaison Officer**

Proposed by Trevor Simmons and seconded by Janese Lowe

**Mary Smith**

**Office Coordinator**

Proposed by Janese Lowe and seconded by Trevor Simmons

**Debra Mitchell**

**Management Committee Member (Events Coordinator)**

Proposed by Liz Sanderson and seconded by Deb Mitchell

**Yvonne Medhurst**

**Management Committee Member**

Proposed by Janese Lowe and seconded by Trevor Simmons

**Trish Winter**

**Management Committee Member**

Proposed by Janese Lowe and seconded by Trevor Simmons

**Taubha Naftal**

**Management Committee Member**

Proposed by Jeanette Hynes and seconded by Iris Murray

**Lorraine Coutts**

Cr Williams extended best wishes to the members of the incoming Committee. She invited the newly elected President to take the Chair.

**8. THE PRESIDENT TAKES THE CHAIR** – President, Janese Lowe, took the Chair and thanked Cr Mitchell for finalising the election.

Janese welcomed the new Committee members, and again thanked the retiring members.

**9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The *Writing for Pleasure* group run by Liz Jeffs is publishing a book of short articles written by the group's members on the topic "Shades of Redlands". It is currently with the printer and members will be advised when it is available.
- The 2025 State Conference will be held at Bribie Island from 6-8 May. She encouraged members to attend. More information will be circulated to members.
- U3AR Office will close for the year on Friday, 6 December and reopen on Tuesday, 28 January 2025 in its temporary accommodation at the Redlands Research Facility.
- The Open Day will be held from 9am – 12 noon on Friday, 17 January 2025 at the Birkdale Sports Club, Judy Holt Lane, Birkdale. This will be followed by the Tutor Forum in the afternoon.
- Members should check the January Newsletter and website for any News Updates that may affect the Open Day.

**10. VOTE OF THANKS** – In moving the Vote of Thanks, Liz Sanderson:

- Acknowledged the efforts of the many volunteers who have contributed so much to the on-going operation of U3AR.
- Noted the many fund-raising activities during the year to raise funds toward the completion of the new building. These events required a huge effort by many volunteers. However, the focus on fund-raising did not detract from our core business of providing the many classes, with some new ones, including on-line. Again, all of this has been achieved through the efforts of our wonderful tutors and the support of many volunteers.
- Acknowledged the leadership, dedication and huge work ethic of Janese in her role President. Janese has worked tirelessly during her term as President, particularly in making the U3AR Learning Centre a reality.
- Recognised:
  - the members of the outgoing Management Committee for their work over the past 12 months;
  - the support of our Patron and Mayor, Jos Mitchell, our local MPs, and all our Councillors;
  - the support of local organisations, particularly Cleveland District State High School, Redlands Research Facility, RPAC, RDCOTA, STAR, Redlands Museum and the Donald Simpson Centre; and
  - the many U3AR members who have contributed so much through tutoring and coordinating classes, organising events and helping to ensure the organisation's smooth operation.

The Vote of Thanks was carried with acclamation.

**11. CLOSURE & MORNING TEA**

In closing the meeting, Janese thanked everyone for their attention and wished them best wishes for a happy and healthy festive season. She declared the 2024 Annual General Meeting closed at 10.33am and invited all present to enjoy the morning tea.