



President's Message

From Janese Lowe

After weeks of storms and excessive heat, the committee and I had to decide which venue would be the most comfortable for members to attend this year's Tutor and Volunteers Christmas Barbecue on Friday 28 November.

When we also heard that connection of power to our new building was not possible by the event day, we decided to move to the Research Facility conference room, for a second year in a row.

Huge thanks to Facility Manager Shane Holborn, Trevor and Patricia Simmons and Ian Lowe for manning the barbecue.



Friday turned out to be a beautiful sunny day, but so very hot and humid and the crowd of party goers were very thankful to be in air-conditioned comfort or at least under cover.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the party, particularly when we had an impromptu performance by the 'Sea Shanties' group. It was a first for U3A Redlands to have its own 'flash mob' – noun: 'where people perform at a public gathering with a seemingly random act and then disperse'.

The final official event for the year is at the Redlands Research Facility Conference Room and will be our Annual General Meeting on 8 December from 9.30am when a new President and Committee will be elected for 2026.

All members are welcome, so if you haven't already, please RSVP to the office on 3821 3888.

At the culmination of my fifth year as President, I extend warmest wishes for a joyous Christmas season and a happy, safe and healthy new year.



Building Update

I received some very positive feedback from members as I led small tour groups through our new building at last Friday's Christmas party.

During November the kitchen bench tops and appliances were installed, floor coverings laid, a hearing loop installed as well as plumbing, electrical and painting trades' works were completed.

Once the power has been connected to the main grid, we just need to furnish the building ready to be open to the public by Tuesday 27 January 2026.

There are a few jobs externally that will happen early next year, including new bitumen and marked parking spaces immediately in front of the building.



Our long-term vision is finally a reality!



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



November 2025 Creative Arts Award

U3A Redlands District has enjoyed a long and positive relationship with Cleveland District State High School, having had our office on the school grounds for approximately 25 years. We were warmly welcomed by former Principal Paul Bancroft and, more recently, by Principal Leonard McKeown.

Over the years, we have collaborated on several intergenerational projects—such as a robotics showcase, tutor video project, and building model activities—which have been mutually enriching and strongly support our mission of Lifelong Learning.

It has also been tradition for U3A Redlands Presidents to attend school events and sponsor annual award programs. Most recently, we contributed \$300 towards the Outstanding Cultural Award at the November 2025 Creative Arts Awards.

Pictured below is the deserving recipient, Year 12 student Ben Eckersley, who excels across multiple creative arts subjects.



During the ceremony, Ben captivated the audience by painting a male figure on a blank canvas, beginning with the first note of the orchestral performance and completing the work as the final note was played.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed this innovative and inspiring display of creative talent.

Janese Lowe

Singers at Life Matters

Life Matters' final meeting for 2025 was a wonderful Christmas performance by the U3A Singers, accompanied by their tutor Cheryl Christie.



Cheryl has had a 60-year history teaching singing and has been a U3A Tutor for the last 15 years. Today's performance was Cheryl's last as a Tutor for U3A Redlands.

We have been so lucky to have had Cheryl's expertise and "We thank you for the music", U3A Redlands Singers.



After a lively medley of Christmas favourites, Cheryl invited members of the audience to become part of the choir, follow the song sheets and join in the singing.

Everyone really enjoyed the Australian Christmas songs, particularly the Aussie Jingle Bells with lots of bell ringing by all.

Let's hope we can find a new Tutor/Co-ordinator so this fun group can continue.

Life Matters Christmas Message



*To you,
Peace and Love and family and cheer
Then join us at Life Matters again next year*

In 2025 we were informed, amazed and entertained. We have an equally exciting program for you in 2026. **The first meeting is on Monday February 2.** The big news is we are changing our venue to the [Redlands Coast Museum](#).

2026 first session is on 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.

Can you help out?

Our door keepers, Wendy and Barry, who have done a sterling job collecting money and marking the roll each week, are retiring. If you can turn up Mondays at 9am, we'd love to hear from you. It's a great team who would happily step in if you're not available.

Other Term 1 topics announced in January.

Life Matters

Mondays 9:30 to 11:00

Redlands Coast Museum

Smith St Cleveland

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

Same time, same exciting program, new venue.

Worth getting up for.



Armchair Travellers

Well, we've now reached the end of another year of socialising with a cuppa and a chat after being entertained on a journey in some far flung corner of the world. Thank you Dave Paul on presenting your European trip, travelling by rail around Switzerland.



December meeting will be John & Val Burt's trip of 3 Days in Montecatini Terme, Tuscany, Italy.

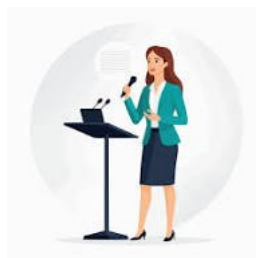
John and Val used Montecatini Terme as a base for exploring an interesting part of Italy. We stayed at a family owned and run hotel. They provided great breakfasts and evening meals. Most importantly they gave great advice on how to visit the neighbouring areas. From Montecatini Terme we visited Cinque Terre on a great day trip, Pisa and Luca by train, in addition to the sights in Montecatini Terme.

Join John on his trip to Montecatini Terme. Next year is shaping up already with presentations planned by Mats Andersson's Scandinavia & Corsica, Anne McBurnie & Francis Gosling's Peru, Col Sutcliffe's Australian ANZAC Memorials & Catherine Bishop's Road trip to Yulara & Back.

I would like to thank everyone who comes along each month to enjoy the travels together and the socialising. I would also like to thank Jennifer Brew who has been my offsider, Marge and Jamie who work their powers in the kitchen and Freda and Ann who have been the greeters at the door.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and will see you all again in 2026 on our next journeys together.

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



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



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

Contact: George 0432 975 825 or Email gechapman4164@gmail.com

Writing for Pleasure



The Pen is mightier than the Sword...
Some rhyming couplets from our writers:

Santa pushed and shoved some more
Too fat - he had to use the door (Tricia)

Summertime - the days are long,
The rain is heavy and the winds are strong.
(Helen)

The barbie crackles and hisses.
Guests arrive to a flurry of kisses. (Tony)

Christmas; time for the family to come over
New Year; time to become a world rover.
(Maureen)

Christmas baubles brightly decorating the tree
With names of those lost and loved for all to see. (Kathy)

This time of the year is about Xmas cheer
But spare some prayers for the victims of
the Hong Kong fire. (Joy)

Thoughts of loved ones; friends appear.
What gifts to give this time of year? (Anita).

*Peace and Love and holiday cheer.
Hold loved ones close this time of year.*



Playreading Group celebrating end of year at Café 63 Cleveland.

Margaret Daikan (co-ordinator) will extend a warm welcome to any new members who would like to join her group in 2026.

They meet once a month on the third Tuesday of the month at the Cleveland Library.

Margaret: 0481 188 800

Tutor and Volunteer Christmas BBQ

Around 100 people joined in the festive spirit at our Christmas Party on Friday 28 November. Although we had hoped to celebrate outside our new building, the lack of power connection and uncertain weather meant we once again set up in the air-conditioned conference room at the Redlands Research Centre.

After brief formalities, several retiring tutors and coordinators were acknowledged, and others received volunteer service longevity badges. The committee and volunteers were warmly thanked for preparing and serving a delicious selection of barbecue foods and salads—much appreciated on such a hot day and perfectly complemented by a range of cold, refreshing drinks.

Guests were pleasantly surprised when the Sea Shanties group launched into a lively, impromptu a cappella performance, which set a joyful tone for the afternoon.



The festivities continued with members catching up with friends and joining guided tours of our new building, located just 100 metres away. Judging by the enthusiastic feedback, our new U3A facility is sure to be well-loved and become a vibrant social hub for our community.



Make a Difference to Our Community



Help Needed

Cycling Co-ordinators

The co-ordinators of Easy Riders (Friday morning) and Friday Freewheelers are stepping down after many years of leading these groups, so we are looking for new volunteers who would be prepared to take on the roles of co-ordinating these groups.

If you are interested in doing so, please contact:

Tutor Liaison Officer on 0404 460 251.



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.



Wanted

Tutor

For

Basic Spanish

We currently have a class, "Spanish for Beginners", which will continue next year at a more advanced level.

As we have many enquiries from people wanting to learn Spanish from scratch, we would love someone to start a new "Spanish for Beginners" group next year.

If you, or someone you know, could fill this role, please contact:

Tutor Liaison Officer: 0404460251



Wanted

Tutor

for

U3A Singers

We are a friendly, diverse group who love to sing and would welcome anyone who loves music and is willing to take the reins by playing the keyboard and leading our group.

As well as the usual responsibilities of being a tutor with U3A, there is a certain amount of organisation accessing and preparing resources and being a contact point for performance requests, but we have people in the group who would be willing to help out with the various tasks.

It would be sad indeed if the group disbands. Each Saturday morning we leave our worries at the door and enjoy singing our hearts out. We'd love someone to help us continue.

We currently meet at **9 am on Saturday** mornings at **Star of the Sea Hall, Cleveland.**

The Current Tutor: 0418 190 401

A Great Way to Give Back and feel fulfilled

Fundraising Raffle Results

Thank you to all those U3A members who supported two separate raffles drawn in November.



Bayside Community Fund Community Raffle, sponsored by the Community Bank Victoria Point and Wynnum Manly branches of the Bendigo Bank, was drawn on November 17, 2025.

Here are the lucky winners:

1. \$15,000 Kathleen Turnbull	40767
2. \$3,000 Judy Yarrow	41591
3. \$2,000 Kelly Sweetman	37734
4. \$1,000 Charlotte Von Richter	36356
5. \$1,000 Scott Young	36159
6. \$1,000 Carly Kotynski	29211
7. \$1,000 Matt Thomson	30922
8. \$1,000 Jim Gilbert	19748
9. \$1,000 Timothy Playne	04412
10. \$1,000 TBC	22725
11. \$1,000 Belinda Spina	41886
12. \$1,000 Russel Hamlet	06247
13. \$1,000 Renae Haggitt	03617



Wellington Point Rotary Raffle

Raffle drawn 26 November 2025

1st 0153 Anabelle A

2nd 3826 Julia B.

3rd 7667 Reg C.

4th 5373 Michele M



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: Commencing 7 March 2026.

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.



Fundraising Update

Donations since August News

Thank you to the following groups:

Thurs Mahjong/Pat Simmons	\$ 50
Ramblers Group (Term 3)	\$ 116
Contemplative Meditation	\$ 300

Thank you to U3A members who supported our raffles.

RAFFLE FUNDRAISERS

Bendigo Community raised \$630
Wellington Point Rotary raised \$520

Thank you, members, for depositing your containers:

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE

During Sep to Nov a total of \$126.40 has been deposited into our Building Fund account from returned containers.

Quote **ID:C11396365 U3A Redlands** when returning containers.



Ed

New Electricity Tariffs Offering Greater Choice Through Smart Meters

Overview

Each year, electricity tariff pricing is updated, and smart meters now allow a variety of tariff options, giving you access to a broader range of energy plans. Smart meters record your electricity usage every 5–30 minutes, enabling Time of Use (ToU) and Time of Use Demand tariffs, which can offer cheaper rates during periods of lower demand.

Electricity tariffs can seem technical, so we've broken them down to help you make informed decisions about your electricity plan.

1. Types of Tariffs

Electricity tariffs are pricing structures retailers use to charge for electricity.

- **Flat Rate Tariff:** You pay the same price at any time of day. These tariffs are generally higher and suit households that use most appliances during peak periods. They are also the default or standing offer tariff for Queensland customers.
- **Controlled Load/Economy Tariff:** Supplies electricity to specific appliances on a separate circuit, requiring a licensed electrician. Ideal for appliances that don't need to run continuously, such as electric hot water systems or pool pumps. Controlled tariffs can still be used with smart meters but are usually not included in ToU plans.
- **Daily Supply Charge:** Covers network costs, solar schemes, wholesale electricity costs, environmental schemes, customer services, metering, and other adjustments. This charge applies to all customers regardless of usage.
- **Time of Use (ToU) Tariff:** Different prices apply at different times of day. Using appliances during off-peak or shoulder periods can lower your bill. Typical ToU time bands are:
 - Peak: 4 pm – 9 pm (highest price)
 - Off-Peak: 11 am – 4 pm (lowest price)
 - Shoulder/Night: 9 am – 11 am (mid-price)Consent is required to switch to a ToU plan.

Time of Use Demand Tariff: Offers the cheapest rates if you minimize usage during peak periods. Charges depend on both usage and the maximum demand during a 30-minute evening peak window. Avoid running multiple large appliances at the same time – “spread it, don't stack it.” *Not all retailers offer this tariff.*

2. Why More Tariffs?

New tariffs aim to make pricing fairer and more cost-reflective by encouraging electricity use when the network is less busy.

Advantages: Lower off-peak costs, fairer pricing, smart-meter tracking, and benefits for solar/battery users.

Disadvantages: Higher evening rates, fixed daily charges, and savings require adjusting usage habits.

3. How to Reduce Your Power Bill

- Check your current tariff on your electricity bill. You'll find it on the second page of your electricity bill.
 - Contact your retailer for better deals or consider switching tariffs.
 - Shift high-usage appliances to off-peak periods.
- Use www.energymadeeasy.gov.au to compare options using your National Metering Identifier (NMI) found on the first page of your electricity bill.
- Consume solar generation wisely and consider batteries.
- Upgrade to efficient appliances and reduce standby power.

Summary

Smart meters provide greater tariff options and potential savings. Understanding your tariff, monitoring usage, and adjusting habits to off-peak periods are key to lowering electricity costs.

For more information, contact: Ian Lowe – ianlowe007@gmail.com



**University of the Third Age
Redlands District Inc
27th Annual General
Meeting**

Members are invited to the U3A Redlands
**AGM on Monday 8 December 2025 at
9.30am**

Conference Room

DPI Redlands Research Facility

26-40 Delancey Street, Cleveland

Show your appreciation for retiring and
incoming committee members.

Light morning tea to follow

Please Ph Office 38213888

RSVP by 5 December

OPEN DAY 2026



**All welcome
Bring your friends**

*Why not try something new
from our wide range of classes?*
Refreshments available
Bring CASH for raffle
Great Prizes

DATE: Friday, 16 January 2026

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

**VENUE: Birkdale Sports Club
Judy Holt Park
Holt Lane
Birkdale**

U3A Redlands District Inc. 2025 Management Committee

President	Janese Lowe	president@u3aredlands.com.au
Vice President	Liz Sanderson	vicepresident@u3aredlands.com.au
Secretary	Trevor Simmons	secretary@u3aredlands.com.au
Treasurer	Charles De Wet	treasurer@u3aredlands.com.au
Tutor Liaison Officer	Mary Smith	tutorliaisonleisure@u3aredlands.com.au
Office Co-ordinator	Debra Mitchell	coordinator@u3aredlands.com.au
Events Co-ordinator	Yvonne Medhurst	events@u3aredlands.com.au
Publicity Officer	Nicole West	
Committee Member	Lorraine Coutts	
Committee Member	Tauba Naftal	
Committee Member	Trish Winter	
Newsletter Editor	Lurline Slater	newsletter@u3aredlands.com.au
Newsletter article cut-off	1 January 2026	
 3821 3888 Julie-Anne Morris		 PO Box 1231, Cleveland QLD 4163
 admin@u3aredlands.com.au		 www.u3aredlands.com.au
 Redlands Research Facility, Delancey Street, Cleveland		 U3A Redlands District