



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

DECEMBER 2025 🍁 TERM ONE 2026

University of the Third Age is now a global movement

🍁 Post Office Box 480, Clare, South Australia, 5453 🍁

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Dear Members,

Greetings from a peaceful hollow in downtown Clare enjoying a mild and moist start to summer.

So moist that there was a real risk our final Group Leader event for the year would be rained out but showers cleared early and by evening the garden was full of animated voices.

Now in its second year, this event is a pleasant way to end the U3A year. It is also a great opportunity to thank in more than words the committee members and group leaders who keep this organisation ticking.

For our 21st AGM back on the last day of October we kept up the winning theme of recent years: entertainment. Our guest speaker Ron Wurst brought along his partner in crime Sue and, with the aid of a box of props, they acted out various C.J. Dennis stories. Never was fair maiden in such rapt awe of her man than this Doreen listening breathlessly to The Bloke. Occasional forgotten lines just added to the fun.

Winner of the photography competition was art group leader Ann Foster who always supports this annual contest. Ann impressed judge Justin Brady with her photo taken at the Gerhard Ritter portrait workshop in June. A smiling Pauline Read and her artwork occupied the foreground while the rest of the class can be seen focused on their work in the background.

We officially farewelled Peter Wood, our treasurer for the past 12 years whose new green, green grass of home is the city parklands. (No, he's not sleeping rough but they are his nearest green space and will no doubt feature in his morning walks and bike rides.)

Despite finding us an excellent replacement, Peter will be greatly missed by Lower North committee and members. Peter will keep his local membership alive to act as State treasurer for U3A South Australia.

Although not all positions were filled at the elections we did have the pleasure of welcoming Grahame Ferguson and Renny Bradtke onto our small committee.

Usually new members join us in the role of 'committee person' as a first step before moving up the ranks. That option was not open this year so Grahame has moved straight in as treasurer, and Rennie is our new assistant secretary much to the delight of secretary Bonnie who has been managing it all herself for the last few years.

The AGM was topped off with an exceptional spread for afternoon tea to celebrate our 21st birthday. Best ever! Thanks to everyone who helped set up, pack away, or contribute in any way to its smooth running.

Now the U3A year is officially ended with this newsletter being the final act. Do take time to read it and get any late enrolment forms submitted. If you have a friend interested in joining, make sure they take advantage of the early bird rate by getting their forms and payment in before 1/1/2026.

The only thing which remains is to wish you all a wonderful holiday season. Take time to recuperate, relax with a good book, avoid argumentative relatives and, most importantly:

come back and see us in 2026,

Claire

2026 ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The New Year will see a few changes amongst the group leaders.

Graham Trengove will take over from Peter Wood as leader of the **Bridge** group.

Former **Scrabble** leader Carol Stewart will be farewelling U3A altogether. 'Time for something new,' she said. Carol started our Scrabble group in 2011 so we will consider her on long service leave. The group continues with Shirley Jenner at the helm.

Another old hand, Greta Handmer, is retiring from leading the **Cryptic Crossword 1** group. I am not sure if Greta started our Cryptics group. It has been on our program since 2007 and in the early days met at then-secretary Elaine Gardner's home with no leader listed in the newsletter. It then moved to the Domain and by 2010 Greta was listed as the group leader and by 2011 the group was meeting in Greta's home. So at least 15 years of service and before that serving on the committee: an awesome volunteer effort.

Somebody else who was around in those early days was Sue Mayfield teaching computing. That was a tough job as we had high standards with a set curriculum and especially printed text books. Not surprisingly Sue took a long break from group leading but last year she started Cryptics 2 and now will lead both groups. No changes to times and days but Cryptics 1 will move to a new venue (to be advised).

Well done to all those people: the ones who started things off in the very early days and those who have put up their hands to continue carrying the torch.

Group numbers fluctuate but most groups seem to be flourishing however I hear both book groups would welcome a few more enrolments.

Ian Stanley is still busy with the **Petanque** pistes, planning on a different playing surface for one. It is all in the name of their high stakes biannual competition with Gawler pétanque players. These players from Gawler are not just a fellow U3A group, but serious competitors. So far our group has held their own by winning home games but losing away matches. Unfortunately the last loss at Gawler was an absolute trouncing and Ian is determined that with more practice on a different surface we can lift our game. Good luck in the next match which will be hosted by us on our home ground.

Lunch Club numbers are building with new faces appearing regularly. Their final venue for the year was one of Katherine's favourites, Antidote in Clare.

This year the **Coffee and Chat Group** donated \$550 to the Blyth Progress Association for new banners.

NAME TAGS NOW FREE

U3A hard plastic name tags which were previously \$12 are now free on request.

You can choose between magnetic or pin backing. Replacement magnets available. Don't wear magnetic version if you have a heart pacemaker.

This change is to encourage badge wearing which helps create a better welcome for new members (and the memory-challenged like me). Instead of being presented to a room full of strangers and at best being offered a quick mass introduction, people can learn fellow members' names at their own pace.

I deliberately leave mine on while I go on to other events: it sparks a lot of conversations and is good marketing for U3A. After 21 years in Clare, people still haven't heard of U3A.

Get your request in as soon as possible because the order will only go to printers once a year to take advantage of bulk prices.

DATES FOR 2026

2026 has four 8/9-week terms divided by 2 or 3-week holiday breaks. If meeting outside these dates inform the secretary to protect group leader insurance.

Registration day Clare Town Hall _ Friday 5 Dec 2025

Deadline for \$25 early bird rate _ 31 December 2025

Final deadline \$35 enrolments/payment _ 16 January

Group Leaders Event _____ Wednesday 4 February

TERM 1: ____ Monday 9 February to Thursday 2 April

TERM 2: ____ Monday 27 April to Monday 29 June

TERM 3: ____ Monday 20 July to Friday 18 September

TERM 4: ____ Monday 12 October to Friday 4 December

Annual General Meeting: _____ Friday 30 October

Registration day for 2027: ____ Friday 4 December 2026

The wheels on the bus go round and round all through the town

It is still in the planning stage but we hear there will be a 12-seater community bus for local shoppers starting in March of next year.

This appears to be a project of the new Community Centre located in the Employment Directions premises (the former ETSA building at southern roundabout). An initiative led by Lucy Drummond has acquired State funding of \$110,000 p.a. to finance the Community Centre. Well done Lucy.

oOo

Everyone is in awe of the lion tamer in a cage with a group of lions: everyone except a school bus driver.

oOo

ENROL NOW FOR 2026

Enrolments do not carry on from one year to the next.* To ensure a place, submit enrolment slip and payment as soon as possible. Enrolments are processed on a first come first served basis. While some groups struggle for numbers, others fill quickly.

For those who like to do things in person, your best opportunity to submit enrolment forms and money before the early bird rate expired was our Registration Day which was **FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER**.

The only way to get cash payments in from now on will be at the counter of our bank, see below. Enrolment forms (but no cash) can go into the mail box on the U3A door in the Clare Town Hall foyer.

New members should fill out a New Members Enrolment Form available from our website or anyone on the committee.

Enrolment is not complete until both money and your course choices are received. Please list all your selected subjects ('same as last year' isn't enough).

(*If you paid \$35 to enrol in Term 4, that payment will cover you for 2026 but still submit paperwork.)

EARLY BIRDS SAVE \$10

The deadline for early bird payments changed to last day of previous year back in 2024. We think it worked well as everyone was encouraged to get their entries in while U3A activities were still running.

The annual subscription is \$35 with \$10 discount for payment by 31 December. Don't risk forgetting. Enrol and pay now for just \$25.

When the early bird rate expires, fees will be the full \$35 from 1 January 2026.

Payments can be made 4 ways:

- **Registration Day 5/12/2025.** Treasurer and/or Course Coordinator staff the Clerk's Office, Clare Town Hall from 9.30 to 12.30 (cash only) **or**
- post cheques made out to 'U3A Lower North Inc.' to PO Box 480, Clare, 5453; **or**
- pay online. (U3A Lower North Inc., No. 748828019; BSB 085 558. For ID use surname followed by initial, e.g. John Smith = smithj. Emails to u3alownorth@gmail.com).
- Take the above bank information into NAB and pay the cashier and notify us by phone or email.

FIND OUR FACES ON FACEBOOK

Search 'Facebook U3A Lower North or click on:

<https://www.facebook.com/p/U3A-Lower-North-61554482541210/>

NOT RECEIVING OUR EMAILS?

- Add eclair76@bigpond.com to your contacts or address book
- Check your junk/spam file as your server may be suspicious of group emails.
- If found, mark our emails as safe.

IS IT AGEIST WHEN WE SAY IT?

They may be jokes but the older I get the more I see their truth. Not funny yet: just wait.

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.

It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.

To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.

When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

I run like the winded.

I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.

When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminium can stuffed with celery?

I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.

When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."

Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.

RE-ENROL FOR 2026: DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR DETAILS?

RETURN enrolments ASAP: U3A office door box in Clare Town Hall, or P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453 (0407 224 317, asku3a@gmail.com). **Early bird rate \$25** by end of **2025**, **after that \$35**.

This is for existing members only. New members should complete a once-only New Members Enrolment Form (downloadable from website or on request).

Name: _____

I have changed my address/phone/email to: _____

Enrol me in: _____

Remove me from: _____

Newsletters by post [] or email []. **Payment** by cheque [] cash [] EFT [] PTO for all options .

All information kept in accordance with U3A Lower North Inc. privacy policy (see website).

2026: FIRST TERM ACTIVITIES

CLASS	LEADER	TIME	STARTS	VENUE
Art, Auburn	Ann Foster	Wed 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	11/2/2026	Auburn oval
Art, Burra	Ann Foster	2 nd Tue, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm	10/2/2026	Burra Shared Arts
Book Group 1	Hermann Weber	Alt Thu 10:30 am – 12 noon	19/2/2026	St Barnabas, Clare
Book Group 2	Kath Lock	Alt Thu 1.30 – 3 pm	12/2/2026	Clare Town Hall
Cards for Fun	Barb Snaddon	Tue 9.30 – 12 noon	10/2/2026	Tourism Centre
Coffee & Chat	Doreen Hill	Wed 10.30 am	11/2/2026	Various
Contract Bridge	Graham Trengove	Mon 1.30 – 4 pm	9/2/2026	Tourism Centre
Cryptic Crosswords 1	Sue Mayfield	Alt Thu 10 am	12/2/2026	To be advised
Cryptic Crosswords 2	Sue Mayfield	Alt. Wed 2 pm	18/2/2026	53 Norman Dr., Clare
Current Affairs	Quentin Fleming	Alt Thu 1.30 – 3 pm	19/2/2026	Clare Town Hall
Drumbeat	John Monten	Mon 10 – 11.30 am	9/2/2026	To be advised
Exercise I	Chris Roberts	Tue 9 – 10 am	10/2/2026	Lutheran Hall
Exercise 2 (seated)	Chris Roberts	Tue 10 – 11 am	10/2/2026	Lutheran Hall
Knit and Sew	Mary Clark	Tue 2 – 4 pm	10/2/2026	Clare Town Hall
Lunch Club	Katherine Stoddart	2 nd Fri 12.30 pm	13/2/2026	Various
Mah-jong, Auburn	Maria Barnes	Tue 2 – 4 pm	10/2/2026	Tennis clubrooms
Mah-jong, Clare	Pam Murray	Wed 2 – 4 pm	11/2/2026	Tourism Centre
Mah-jong (Western)	Katherine Stoddart	Fri 9.30 am – 12 noon	13/2/2026	Tourism Centre
Petanque	Ian Stanley	Tue 3 – 5 pm	10/2/2026	Melrose Park, Clare
Quilting	Kath Lock	Thu 10 am – 1 pm	12/2/2026	St Barnabas, Clare
Scrabble	Shirley Jenner	Mon 1:15 pm	9/2/2026	St Barnabas, Clare
Ukulele Beginners	Tamar & Steve Young	Mon 1.30 – 3.30 pm	9/2/2026	Clare Town Hall
Ukulele	Tamar & Steve Young	Thu 10 am – 12 noon	12/2/2026	Clare Town Hall
Ukulele	Tamar & Steve Young	Thu 1.30 – 3.30 pm	12/2/2026	Clare Town Hall