



Enrolments for 2026 classes are open and filling fast.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



You must be a financial member to enrol in classes. You can renew by paying the invoice emailed to you, either by credit card or EFT or come into the office.

Your classes from 2025 will not be carried over into 2026. You must enrol for your 2026 classes. This includes new members who have joined recently.

Semester 2 Finishes this Friday 5 December

OFFICE OPEN

10am – 12pm Mon 8 - Thurs 11 December

OFFICE CLOSED:
Friday 12 Dec 2025 to
Monday 26 Jan 2026 inclusive

OFFICE REOPENS

9am – 1pm Tuesday 27 January 2026

Semester 1 Commences on Monday 2 February



Christmas Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the lucky members who won one of 12 prize draws in the Bumper Christmas Raffle drawn on 1 December. All winners have been notified by phone.

Joan McL, Robyn T, Yolanda L, Pauline C, Margaret C, Lizzie T, Rhonda C, Yolanda L, Susan W, Liz S, Leon T & Naomi W.

Thank you to all the members who donated goods for the raffle and bought tickets.

Thanks also to
Bunnings Southport and
Lux Hair Salon,
Australia Fair for
their generous
donations.



Acknowledgement: *The U3A Southport Newsletter is kindly printed by the office of ROB MOLHOEK M.P. Member for Southport.*



PRESIDENT'S/VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wendy Barker & Trish Darnedde



Dear Members,

As we celebrate the end of another wonderful year at U3A Southport, Trish and I want to send a huge, heartfelt thank you to all our incredible Tutors and Volunteers. What a year 2025 has been! The smiles, enthusiasm and energy you bring to our classes and activities have filled our community with joy. You have made such a positive difference to so many of our members, and we are truly grateful for the time, passion and friendship you give so generously.


To our amazing Volunteer Committee and Reception Team — you are the engine room of U3A Southport! Your hard work keeps everything running smoothly, and your dedication ensures our members always feel welcomed and supported. We simply couldn't do it without you.

As many of you know, we are busily working towards securing new premises for our growing community. In the meantime, we're pleased to share that we are expecting to remain at Australia Fair for the start of Semester 1, 2026, along with our other venues so don't worry it's just taking a little longer than we anticipated to find the best home for all of us. A big shout-out to our dedicated Subcommittee for their ongoing commitment and tireless work on this exciting project.

We are pleased to report that our Grant Application for 2 defibrillators from the Gold Coast City Council Discretionary Grants Program was successful, thank you to Councillor Brooke Patterson. One defibrillator will be installed at our Reception office in Australia Fair and the defibrillator at the Margaret St Hall will be replaced.

Proudly supported by



**Councillor
Brooke Patterson**
Division 6
 **CITY OF
GOLD COAST™**

What does your Membership Fee cover?

Besides your choice of around 70 classes:

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ❖ Room hire | ❖ Telephones | ❖ Website | ❖ Stationery & Consumables |
| ❖ Insurance | ❖ Internet | ❖ Music Licence | ❖ Expo Registration |
| ❖ Rates | ❖ Maintenance & Repairs | ❖ Postage | ❖ Subscriptions |
| ❖ Electricity | ❖ Member Wizard database | ❖ Equipment | |

Out and About

Look at this fantastic team of table tennis champions! While popping in to see them play, one of the ladies said—and I quote—*'When I come here every week to play table tennis, I feel 20 years younger.'* How wonderful to hear these words. A big thank you to Lesley for her coaching and coordinating of the table tennis sessions.



Thanks to Pat Jones, we had a last-minute sweep on the Melbourne Cup organised by our Receptionists, Julie and Karin. Lucky ticket in hand and winner's grin to match! Congratulations to Richard Cleave, our Armchair Travel Tutor, on taking out 1st prize. Therese Saville was 2nd and Casey H. 3rd.

As we wrap up 2025, Trish and I wish everyone a joyful, safe and relaxing festive season. Thank you for making this year so special — we can't wait to see what 2026 brings!

Warm regards,
Wendy Barker & Trish Darnedde
President & Vice-President



NEWS FROM CLASS CO-ORDINATOR

Lou Stevens

Well, another year is drawing to a close – a very successful year for growth in both membership and the variety of classes. I would personally like to thank all the Tutors for volunteering your time and expertise for our members' benefit.

New Classes in 2026

♦ *IT Trouble Shooting*

♦ *Master Your Smartphone & Laptop*

Both of these classes are **one-on-one** giving you personalised help for the particular problems you may be experiencing with navigating your phone, laptop or tablet. **Individual appointments of 45 minutes or 60 minutes (depending on class chosen) must be made at Reception.**

♦ *Scrabble*

We are lucky to have an experienced scrabble player to help participants (a) build their scrabble skills and strategies, and (b) increase their enjoyment of scrabble. All levels of scrabble-playing experience and skills are welcome.

♦ *Humanities Lecture Series – 10 Sessions with a Variety of New Topics*

♦ *Woman In Art, Music & Literature*

♦ *Evolution of the Western Culture*

♦ *Spanish Intermediate*

♦ *Introduction to Line Dancing*

Venue or Schedule Changes

PLEASE ENSURE YOU CHECK LOCATION AND CLASS TIMES FOR 2026.

Due to a huge growth in membership, we have had to hire rooms at the Community Centre to accommodate larger class numbers.

Collect Your Membership Badge

If you have joined or renewed online it is imperative that you *collect your 2026 membership badge from Reception* at Australia Fair prior to commencement of your classes as you will be required to show your 2026 membership badge on entry.

Would you like to learn a new and exciting card game?



Keywild is a relatively new, exciting card game which combines Canasta, Bolivia, Samba, and Hand & Foot. You won't find any instructions online as the game was developed in northern Queensland some years ago. If you have played mahjong there are similarities with that as well.

The people who have learned to play Keywild are 'hooked' on the game and play as often as possible. We use 4-6 decks of cards per table and it can be played by 2, 3, 4, or 6 players.

At the moment, we have 1-2 tables playing, depending on the number of people playing on a particular day. Some of the people who have learned already had never played a card game and love it! The game is exciting, challenging and loads of fun. We would love to have you join us on *Thursdays 12pm-3pm downstairs at the Margaret St Hall.*

Margaret St Parking

Just a reminder to be mindful of the neighbours and to park legally in Margaret St and outside the hall. Parking Officers regularly patrol the area.

Mandatory Tutors' Meeting

All Tutors must attend the Tutors' Meeting:



**10am-11am Thursday 29th January
Southport Community Centre**



SOCIAL TRIPS

Jude Bowie & Wendy Barker

PHOTOS FROM OUR DAY TRIP TO THE CHRISTMAS MARKETS AT THE CAMEL FARM - HARRISVILLE, LAKE MOOGERAH, BOONAH SCENIC RIM ON 1ST NOVEMBER



Summerland Camel Farm and the Christmas markets were lovely! The weather gods were very kind to us – the only time it rained was while we were enjoying lunch at the Commercial Hotel in Boonah. A great outing! Special thanks for Rob & Dave, our bus drivers, for looking after everyone.



Look out for our
next trip in the
January/February newsletter!



WHAT'S ON IN SOUTHPORT?

Wed 3 December 10:00am to 1:00pm

Southport Community Centre

[Come and visit the U3A Southport stall.](#)



The **Jingle Bells - Christmas themed Seniors Lifestyle Expo - Southport** offers a unique and valuable opportunity exclusively tailored to over 55's and Seniors. With free admission, you can explore a wide range of local businesses and services all under one roof.

Whether you are interested in retirement living, travel packages, social outings, financial, health, mobility products, senior advocacy, NDIS services, home care, community projects, and many more specialised services, this expo provides a platform to ask questions, gather information, and make informed decisions about your future.

A great day out for all, come and join in the fun! Christmas treats and an assortment of festive delights will be served, along with tea, coffee and other delicious goodies! Plus, your chance to win one of many Christmas hampers and lucky door prizes!

Whether attending for personal exploration or on behalf of a loved one, you can expect to find valuable insights and resources. Talk directly to industry staff and small business owners. Find 'expo only' deals, and explore a huge variety of services all under one roof, saving you countless hours of research. Don't miss out on this chance to discover the ideal retirement and senior lifestyle enhancing solutions.

Celebrate the best NYE event on the Gold Coast!



Wed 31 Dec 2025 | 04:00 PM - 08:00 PM

**The Great Lawn, Broadwater Parklands,
Marine Parade, Southport**

Ring in the new year with an unforgettable family-friendly celebration by the sea!

An evening filled with entertainment, delicious food trucks and plenty of fun for the whole family. Little ones will love the free kids' activities, including bubble play, face painting, craft activities and roving stilt walkers, while adults can relax and soak up the live music and holiday vibes.

At 8pm, get your sparklers ready and enjoy a spectacular fireworks display over the Broadwater – the perfect way to welcome in the New Year!



KEEP ACTIVE OVER THE BREAK

Here are some ideas for exercising over the break?



Heart Foundation Walking Group Southport

7.30am-8.30am Tuesdays & Thursdays

Meet at the customer service desk on level 1, Australia Fair Shopping Centre. Free.

Aqua

- Thursday, 11 December 2025 | 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM
- Thursday, 29 January 2026 | 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

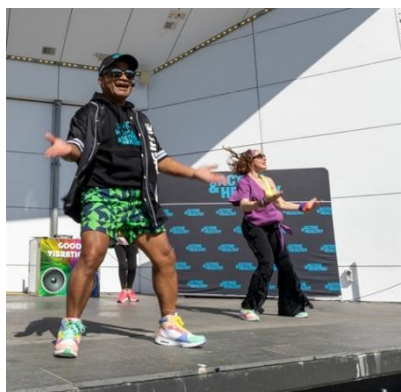
Aqua is an impact-free class designed to improve balance, agility, posture, flexibility and core strength. These entry-level classes at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in Southport, introduce beginners to base moves and fitness development activities in the water in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. Cost \$5.70. No bookings required.



Dance Exercise (Level 1 Beginners) Broadwater Parklands

- Thursday, 11 December 2025 | 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM
- Thursday, 15 January 2026 | 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM
- Thursday, 22 January 2026 | 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Dance Exercise for beginners is here! Classes focus on providing more support to newcomers or those who need the extra guidance. Very inclusive. Carers/support person welcome
Class is held on Thursdays at 8.30am in the Northern Pavilion, Broadwater Parklands. Level 2 classes held at 10am. Cost: School term: \$5 | School holidays: \$8



Yoga – Southport Community Centre

- Thursday, 11 December 2025 | 09:15 AM - 10:15 AM
- Thursday, 15 January 2026 | 09:15 AM - 10:15 AM
- Thursday, 22 January 2026 | 09:15 AM - 10:15 AM

These classes combine gentle stretching, light isometric strength training, long holds and a slower pace. You will leave feeling rejuvenated and restored. Cost \$5.



Checkout the [Active & Healthy Website](#) for more activities in your area.



QUEENSLAND SPECTACLE SUPPLY SCHEME

The Queensland Spectacle Supply Scheme (SSS) provides eligible residents with a pair of basic prescription spectacles every two years. To be eligible, you must hold a valid Australian Government concession card, such as a Pensioner Concession, Health Care, Seniors, or Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) card. The scheme is intended to provide cost-of-living relief and encourage people to get their eyes checked.

- **Eligibility:** You must be a Queensland resident holding a qualifying concession card.
- **Benefit:** You are entitled to one pair of basic prescription spectacles once every two years.
- **Cost:** The scheme covers the cost of basic prescription glasses, though this may not cover advanced options.
- **How to access:** Visit an optometrist who participates in the scheme and present your concession card. Below are some optometrists in the local area (a full list is available on the Queensland Health website – address below).

Location	Address	Phone	Admin Fee
EYEdear Optical	Shop 5/76 Scarborough St Southport	5531 0420	\$0
Vision Eye Health Southport Park	Southport Park Shopping Centre, Shop 25/163 Ferry Rd Southport	5528 2577	\$0
Vision Michael Hare Optometrist	17A Nerang Street Southport	5532 9566	\$25
Eyebright Optometry	Nerang Mall, Shop 26G New St Nerang	5527 3535	\$30
Matthew Senyard Optometrist	Nerang Fair Shopping Centre Shop 14/74-80 Beaudesert Nerang Rd Nerang	5596 1544	\$0
OPSM Helensvale Westfield	Westfield Helensvale, Shop 1015/1-29 Millaroo Dr Helensvale	5580 3550	\$0
Reel Optics	44/502 Hope Island Rd Helensvale	5529 7962	
The Optical Co Helensvale	Westfield Helensvale, Shop 1056/1-29 Millaroo Dr Helensvale	5556 0500	\$0
Ashmore Optical	Ashmore City Shopping Centre, Shop 26/206 Currumburra St Ashmore	5539 2702	\$20
Glenn Pearson Optometrist Ashmore	Ashmore Plaza, Shop 47/160 Cotlew St Ashmore	5597 2037	\$0
Vision Michael Hare Optometrist	Benowa Gardens Shopping Centre, Shop 26/203 Ashmore Rd Benowa	5597 0038	\$25
OPSM Runaway Bay	Runaway Bay Shopping Centre, Shop 55/10-12 Lae Dr Runaway Bay	5529 1166	\$0
The Optical Co Runaway Bay	Runaway Bay Shopping Centre, Shop 29/10-12 Lae Dr Runaway Bay	5537 3665	\$0

- **Not a substitute for eye exams:** The scheme is for spectacles only; Medicare does not cover prescription glasses, so the SSS helps fill this gap.
- **State government initiative:** This is a Queensland government initiative to help with eye health and cost of living pressures.
- **For more information:** You can call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) for general questions or (07) 3136 3636 for specific scheme inquiries. Website <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/spectacles>





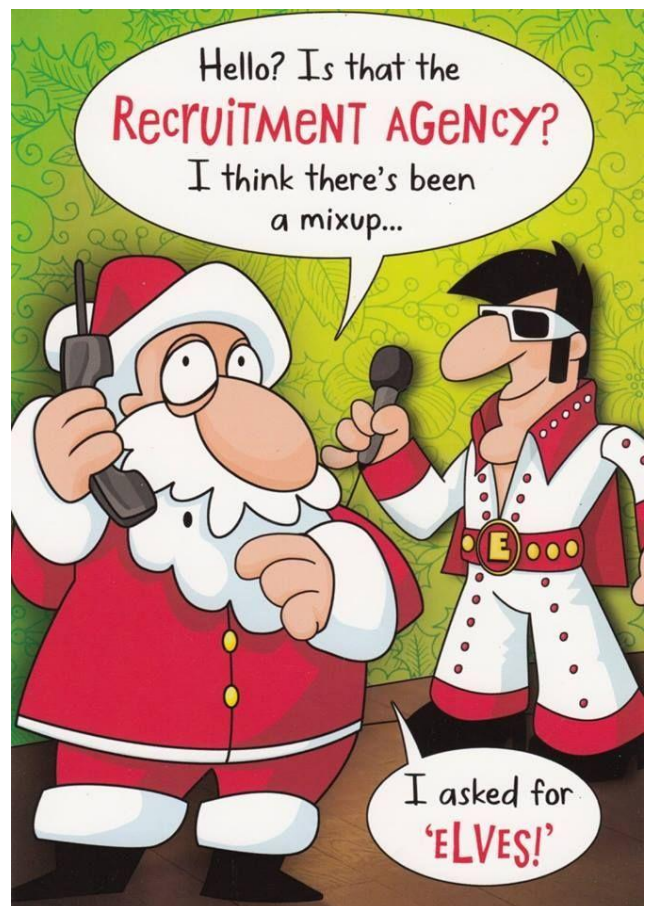
Looking for Affordable Christmas Presents?

Take a look at the wonderful display of original paintings, cards and artworks, handmade by U3A Southport members, for sale at Reception. We also have gift certificates available.



Members Noticeboard

We do have a Members' Noticeboard for your advertisements/notices in the corridor on the way to Reception. All notices must be dated and show your name and contact details. Notices will be removed after one month.



Original meaning of a deck of cards:

52 cards for 52 weeks in the year.

2 colours for day and night.

4 suits for the 4 seasons.

13 weeks per season.

12 count cards representing 12 months.

If we add each of the cards (ace+2+3 +7+8, etc) of the game we will get 365.

Jokers were used in leap year.



*Enjoy your holidays, safe travels,
and see you next year!*