



Past, Present and the Future

50 Years of U3A

U3A Queensland State Conference 2023
Hosted by U3A Rockhampton



Network Victoria
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



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Welcome address
Graeme Innes, Chancellor CQU

Organisational Participation and Leadership

The Scout Mindset by Julia Galef

Soldier mindset- protect yourself and attack.

Emotional mindsets- change the way we feel eg proud not ashamed of beliefs

Scout mindset- confront the truth and have the good sense to admit you were wrong.

Eg Kodak camera company not moving with change around them





Professor Francois VELLAS
President AIUTA
“U3A in the Beginning and our Future”



Professor Maria CHESTER
Secretary General AIUTA
“U3A Today”



50 year history of U3A

- AIUTA is in 79 countries.
- All continents bar Antarctica.
- 10 million senior students.

3 types of U3As:

- Inside universities
- Linked with universities
- China- retired public servants
(provided by government)

- Spoke about AIUTA activities this year.
- Portugal is developing an academy focussed on How to teach teachers.
- AIUTA research projects:
 - a) Silk Road Archaeological and Silk. Tourism focussed visiting U3As along the way.
 - b) World Senior Tourism Congress

I argued a 4th type! – independent, volunteer based



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Cliff PICTON
Co-founder of U3A in Australia
“U3A arrives in Australia”

Cliff (was employed at COTA) had attended gerontology conference overseas and came together with Jill Thompson, Ann White and Jack McDonald

Inserted an ad in CAE mag and were overwhelmed with response to their meeting.

Within a couple of weeks these u3As were established: **Melbourne City, Hawthorn, Monash and Ringwood**

Then **Kooyong** in conjunction with Vision Australia.



Jim HALES
U3A Sunshine Coast
“Early History of U3A Network Queensland”

COTA supported.
Focus on governance, insurance and copyright, website, newsletter, state level representation. 35/36 U3As in Qld
Links with u3aonline strong.



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Claire BLAKE
(QIMR) Berghofer Medical Research

“Where is Medical Research taking us?”

Inspiring and hopeful!!

Lifelab quarterly magazine

<https://www.qimrberghofer.edu.au/news/lifelab/>

Amazing research- impossible for me to capture.

Showed mini brains in petri dishes used for experiments on getting drugs across the blood-brain barrier

Hookworms being used to find a cure for asthma

<https://www.qimrberghofer.edu.au/tax-appeal-2/>



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Dr Eddy ROCCATI
Wicking Dementia Centre
University of Tasmania

***“Continuous Learning and
the positive effects on the
Brain”***

Eddy is currently investigating the cognitive benefits of later life education, on aspects of thinking and memory (cognition) and the blood-based biomarkers that hold clues for an individual's risk of dementia.



Dr Anthony LYNHAM
Associate Professor University of
Queensland Medical School

“Our Future in Energy”

- Spoke about future energy resources. Hydrogen on the way in Qld.
- 25% of worlds natural gas through Gladstone Ports.
- 75 % of metallurgical coal (called coking coal or black coal)- used for steel making.
- Said it was safe for the environment.
- Infrastructure for renewables.- width of wires holding things back – can be wide at production end but narrow at user end.



Colin MADDOCKS
Advocate with EveryAGE Counts
“Age Friendly Communities”

<https://www.everyagecounts.org.au/>

The EveryAGE Counts campaign vision is ‘a society where every person is valued, connected and respected regardless of age and health’.



Josephine REOCH
Organ Donation Specialist Nurse
“Spare Parts for the Human Body”

My heart will go on, and on, and on... The Fourth Age.





Ritesh CHUGH
Associate Professor CQUniversity
Melbourne

“Social Media Impacts on the Third Age”

Ritesh is an Associate Professor in Information and Communication Technologies at CQUniversity’s School of Engineering and Technology. Based in Melbourne

His research focuses on the social role of emerging information systems and their influence on humans and organisations in real-world settings.

Eg ChatGPT

U3A talk and a new U3A??





Michael COWLING
Associate Professor CQUniversity
Brisbane

“Future technologies and the Third Age”

10 tips for 2023 techs

Eliminate or embrace.

Which sounds more like U3A to you?

- 1. Streaming services. Britbox, Disney + etc**
- 2. Social media for special interest groups Reddit**
- 3. Driving assistance**
- 4. Ride share services Uber Pool**
- 5. Food delivery services**
- 6. Air Tasker**
- 7. Use these services: Fivver (website design, graphics, music, flyers etc); Freelancer (programming small apps etc)**
- 8. Health monitoring**
- 9. Smarthome**
- 10. Secure payment – smartdevices (phones) now sending tokens not credit card numbers**





Clair BECK
Client Support Manager Member Wizard

“Software to assist U3A’s manage their Organisation”

- Cloud-based
- 1x U3A in SA, 15 in Qld and now QLD Network
- Has a complete financial package in it.
- Uses STRIPE for online payments.
- The program can manage one-off events.
- Documents can be saved in it.
- SMS built in and credit can be purchased through them.
- Topic help- a big ? on top of each for admin and members
- Report types not as comprehensive but negotiable.
- Training and set up - free
- Can develop online marking if needed.

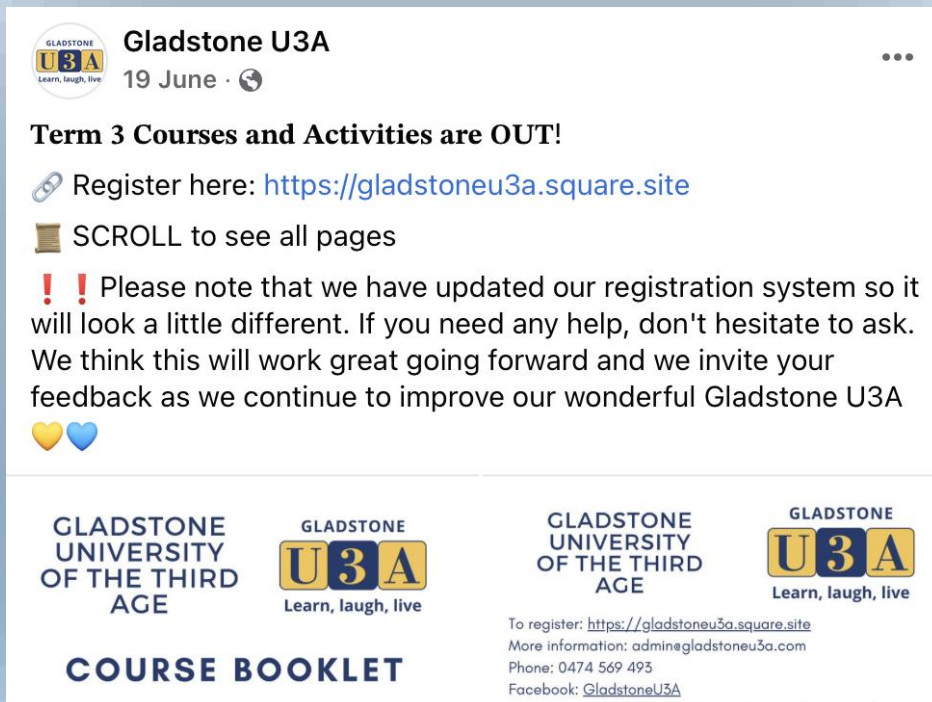




Steve FELIX
*Treasurer and IT Support
 at U3A Gladstone*

“Making the most of free or inexpensive Software in managing your U3A”

Using Facebook to manage U3A class bookings



Keir TIERNEY
*nbn Community Ambassador
 Queensland*

“Becoming digitally savvy, cyber safety aware, and confident online”

What is digital inclusion?

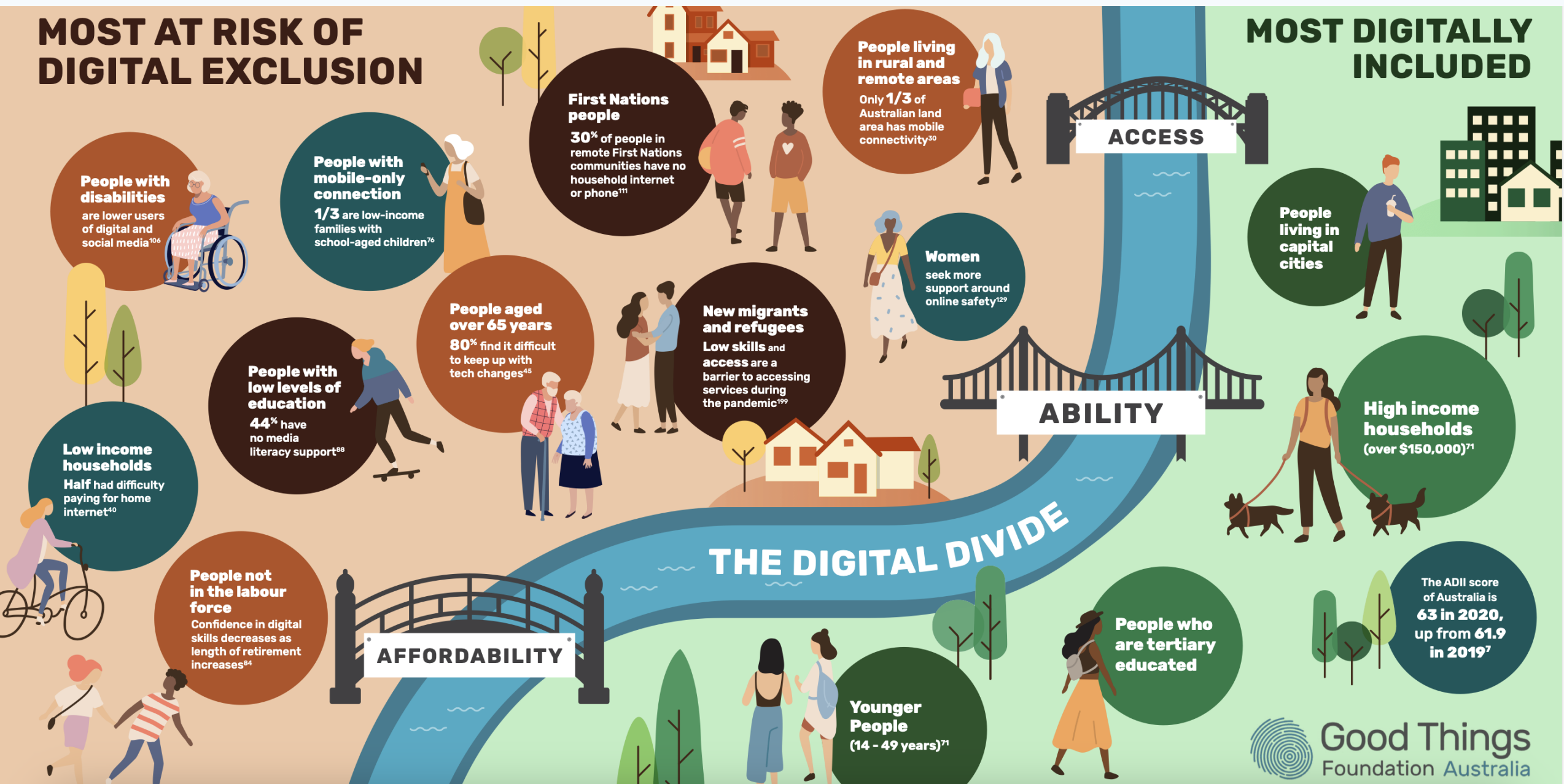
Good Things Foundations work – diagram on next page or on this [link](#)

OSCAR is nbn digital skills capability tool
<https://onlineskillscheck.com.au/>

Smarthome for seniors research
<https://intelligenthomesolutions.com.au>

MOST AT RISK OF DIGITAL EXCLUSION

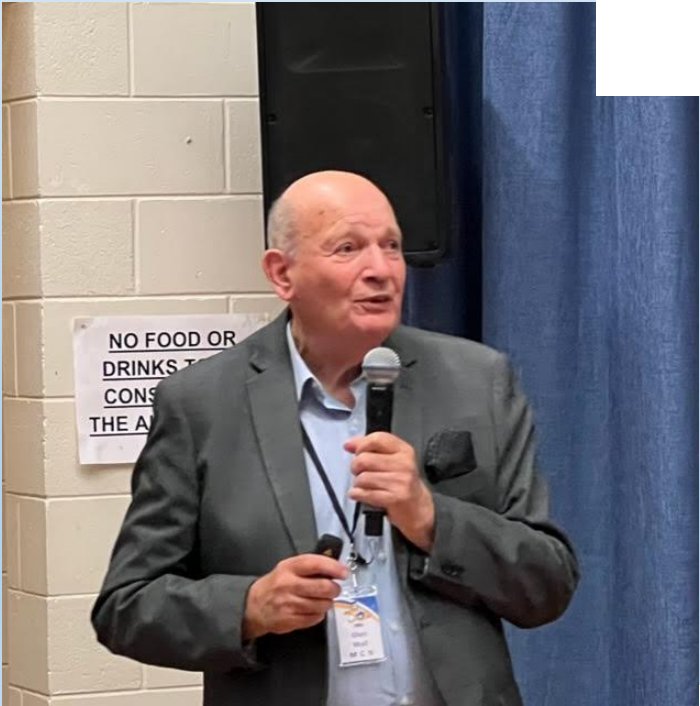
MOST DIGITALLY INCLUDED





Glen WALL

Chair of U3A Australia





2024

Victorian State Conference

Presented by U3A Network Victoria

Hosted by U3A Melbourne City

40 YEARS OF U3A IN AUSTRALIA