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Tasmanian ambassadors and scholarship winners at the ALW launch with ALA President, Kathleen Priestly, and CEO Jenny Macaffer.

Celebrating Learning Together

“Wherever I go I am reminded of the lifelong possibility of opening our minds to new knowledge and different perspectives. To remain curious, open and capable of learning. And it’s never too late – we are never too old to continue learning”.

Attendees of the launch of Adult Learners Week 2025 on Monday 1 September were inspired by this video [message](#) sent by Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC Governor-General.

Ms Mostyn congratulated Adult Learning Australia (ALA) on the 30th anniversary of Adult Learners Week in 2025 and the focus on the “power and potential of accessible, inclusive adult learning and community education” and the “joy and purpose that comes from learning and being part of a community of learners”.

More than 140 people took part in the Adult Learners Week (ALW) launch either in person in Devonport, Tasmania, or online via the livestream, which can be viewed [here](#). The power of adult and community education was celebrated throughout the launch, which was a welcome reflection of this year’s special 30th anniversary Adult Learners Week theme – celebrating learning together.

As Skills and Training Minister, Andrew Giles, said in his video [message](#), this theme “highlights what makes learning so powerful. It is the way it brings people together, opens new possibilities, and helps us all grow

Minister Giles – who attended last year’s launch but was unable to attend this year due to Parliament sitting – said he and the Albanese Government understand “how transformative adult learning is in building skills, boosting confidence and strengthening connection to communities”.

This year’s launch began with a Welcome to Country delivered by proud trawlwoolway man Dave mangenner Gough, who spoke about the importance of education in the survival of his ancestors. Dave says he is a “learner every day and a teacher, you can never know everything. And as the world continues to change, we need to be continually learning”.

Acting as MC, Tasmanian radio host, Giovanna Simpson, welcomed attendees before ALA President, Kathleen Priestly, thanked Dave and acknowledged the “importance of thousands of years of First Nations learning and teaching that precedes all of us”.

(Story continues on p. 3)

Message from the CEO



This year, we placed a stronger focus on regional and rural areas, and it really paid off with great media coverage and interviews across these areas.

A huge congratulations to all the organisations, learners, and communities who participated in Adult Learners Week 2025: *Celebrating Learning Together!* This year's program was one of our most successful ever. With an incredible range of events listed on the ALW website, there was so much happening it was hard to keep up!

Although the Hon Andrew Giles, Minister for Skills and Training, was unable to attend the launch in person, we are grateful for his recorded video message, radio interviews, and the strong support we received from his team and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). Their contribution helped make ALW a fantastic celebration right across the country.

Our ALW Ambassadors did a remarkable job, every one of them secured media interviews, sharing their inspiring learning journeys and encouraging others to get involved.

As part of marking our special 30th anniversary, we introduced the new ALW Star Award, recognising outstanding individual adult learners who mentor other learners. Eight nominees were celebrated for their contributions. We also provided three ALW scholarships and six prizes supported by our Learning Changes Lives Foundation to help learners continue to study.

Our ALW Launch was hosted in Devonport, Tasmania. Thanks to the wonderful support of our President, Kathleen Priestly, Libraries Tasmania and a small local working group, we pulled together a fantastic celebration. The big plaza screen outside the paranple Centre played our ALW highlights reel, while Tasmanian-based ambassadors, award and scholarship recipients joined us.

We were honoured to have the Governor-General acknowledge ALW via video and appreciated the warm Welcome to Country from Dave mangenner Gough, who shared local Aboriginal language and culture with us as part of the ceremony.

Beyond ALW, ALA has also been actively engaged at a national level:

- John Sheen, ALA Vice President, and Amanda Martin from member organisation, The Zahra Foundation, joined me in attending a network event at Parliament House hosted by Minister Tanya Plibersek and Assistant Minister Ged Kearney
- I attended the launch of National Skills Week with Minister Giles in Canberra
- During ALW, I was also invited back to Parliament House for National TAFE Day and the TAFE Photographic Exhibition, where I met some talented young TAFE photographers.

And finally, on the international stage, ALA has been invited to represent Australia as the civil society representative at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning's Capacity Building [Workshop](#) in Shanghai. The October workshop will prepare for next year's Seventh International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VII). We look forward to sharing more about this soon.

Thank you to everyone who helped make ALW 2025 a success from organisers and educators to learners, ambassadors, and community partners. Together, we truly embodied the spirit of *celebrating learning together*.

Jenny Macaffer, CEO

ALW 2025 AMBASSADORS

Rohan Muthamala
TAS



Bridie Searle
NSW



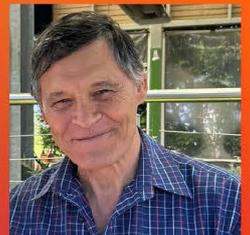
Faye Hodgetts
TAS



Jessica Hastings
VIC



Jeff Richardson
QLD



Adam Micklethwaite
WA



Andy Bartlett
TAS



Darren Finn
NSW



Rabi Aftab
SA



Jenna Eastwood
TAS



(story continued from p. 1)

Kathleen outlined the origins of Adult Learners Week, including the role of renowned British adult learning advocate, Sir Alan Tuckett, who gave his support to ALA in 1995 when the organisation called on the Australian Government to respond to UNESCO's "global call for governments to prioritise adult learning".

With an Australian Government grant, ALA ran a successful pilot Adult Learners Week in 1995, and this funding has been maintained ever since.

Each year, adult education providers nominate learners whose stories they believe could inspire others to start, re-start or continue learning to become Adult Learners Week ambassadors. These learners give media interviews and, if locally based, attend the Adult Learners Week launch.

A special guest at this year's event was 2023 ALW ambassador, Brendan Murray. A 57-year-old Palawa man and Aboriginal Student Engagement Officer at the University of Tasmania's Cradle Coast Campus, Brendan was raised in foster care and functionally illiterate until age 26.

Brendan spoke to attendees about how enrolling in an adult literacy class had changed his life, to the extent that he is now the first in his family to attend university. Brendan is studying a Bachelor of Arts with the goal of becoming a historian.

Brendan says he continues to share his story to inspire others, especially Aboriginal learners, to believe in their potential and embrace lifelong learning.

Of the 10 learners from across each State and Territory chosen to be 2025 ambassadors, four Tasmanians were

able to attend the launch. You can read the stories of all ten ambassadors [here](#).

Andrew Bartlett's journey hasn't been easy. But with determination, support from Avidity Training and Development and the completion of a Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability), Andy has turned his life around. In 2024, Andy won the Vocational Student of the Year at the Tasmanian Training Awards.

"When I started, I didn't even know how to use a laptop, that was a big wall for me. But I got through and kept getting heaps of support to learn, continue to learn and not give up." Andy told the launch that he is now teaching a cooking course too!

Jenna Eastwood struggled at school and lacked the confidence to consider doing more study after school. With support from a 26Ten Community Coordinator, Jenna began working one-on-one with an Adult Literacy Support Officer and volunteer tutors at Smithton library. This supportive, personalised approach helped Jenna build confidence and learn at her own pace.

"I started getting more confidence in myself, more self-respect and it made me feel a lot better about myself as a person. I can now do things that I could not have done back before I started adult learning."

At 45, Faye Hodgetts was offered a traineeship at Loaves and Fishes, a Tasmanian social enterprise organisation. After completing a Certificate III in Business, Faye transitioned into a paid role and has since progressed to become the State Operations Manager.

Faye told the launch that "adult education gave me



ALW Ambassador, Faye Hodgetts, with ALA President, Kathleen Priestly

huge confidence. I am generally a shy person and to take on such a big role I had to get out of my comfort zone. I had a lot of self-doubt, but adult learning gave me the confidence to go out and do the role”.

Rohan Muthamala, 55, arrived in Australia from Sri Lanka with his wife and daughter in 2023. Rohan has been an active member of the Welcome Cultural Services English Conversation Group at the Devonport Library. He has recently taken up the Intro to Computing course at TasTAFE.

Rohan talked about the importance of adult learning for health and wellbeing and a “better life. Every day, we want to move to a better life and for that you have to keep on learning”.

New 30th Anniversary STAR Award for an outstanding student mentor



To celebrate ALW’s 30th anniversary, a special STAR (Student Teaching And Relationship) Award was introduced, with a call out to providers to nominate adult learners who demonstrate exceptional commitment to mentoring fellow students. You can read about the people nominated [here](#).

At the launch, Steffi-Lee Frankland from Community College Northern Inland was announced as the winner. Steffi-Lee is pictured here with CCNI CEO Melanie Squires and Senior Campus Leader Tania Archer.

Steffi-Lee’s trainer said that “some people become quiet leaders in a learning environment, simply by how they show up for others. Steffi-Lee Frankland is one of those people”.

Two other students also stood out and were highly commended: ALW Ambassador, Faye Hodgetts, and Kaine Duggan from Chisholm Institute in Victoria.

Adult Learning Week Scholarships

The winners of Adult Learner Week Scholarships are also announced at each year’s launch. These \$1000 scholarships are awarded to outstanding adult learners to enable them to continue learning.

In 2025, there were 21 [nominations](#) from each State and Territory, with the \$1000 scholarships awarded to Ilya Myshkin (Burnie Library, Tasmania), Krystal Batiste (Diamond Valley Learning Centre, Victoria) and Teegan O’Farrell (STEPS Palmerston, Northern Territory).

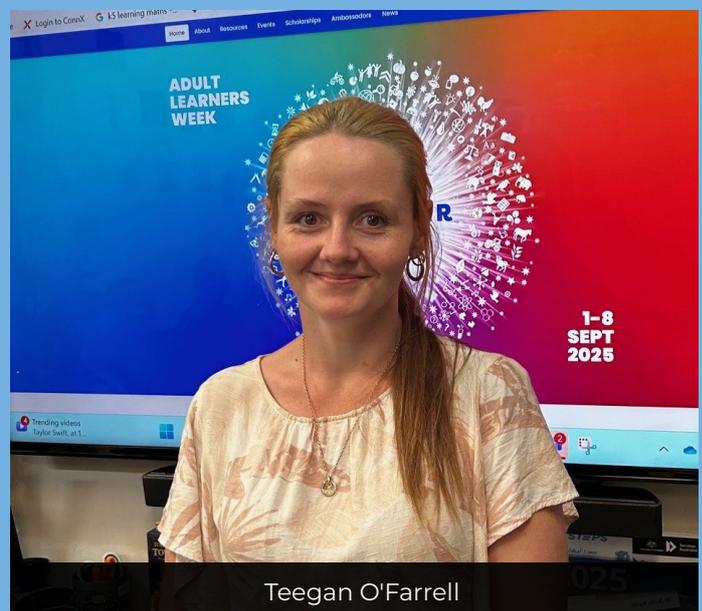
A further six adult learners received **Learning Changes Lives Foundation** prizes of \$500 to enable them to continue their learning journey.

Read more about all the winners later in this issue.

At the conclusion of the event, attendees were energised by an enthusiastic performance by the Drumettes, part of the [Drum Collective](#), before afternoon tea provided by social enterprise, [Loaves and Fishes Tasmania](#).

2025 Adult Learners Week Scholarship Winners

Meet the three outstanding adult learners who are this year's scholarship winners.



Teegan O'Farrell

Teegan O'Farrell, Northern Territory

When Teegan commenced studying at STEPS Palmerston, she lacked confidence and was very quiet and shy. Over time, however, she started to build confidence and to participate in classroom activities and form friendships.

Teegan's story is one of courage, growth, and ambition. Her connection to the program has not only helped her develop valuable skills but has also inspired those around her. She participates in all activities and supports her peers with computer tasks while staying on top of her own learning goals.

Her strong work ethic, time management, and motivation to build a better future for herself and her family make her a truly exceptional adult learner.

Ilya Myshkin, Tasmania

Ilya, 26, grew up in rural Russia, with his early schooling including a little English grammar and reading but minimal spoken English. The breakout of war between Russia and Ukraine led to Ilya moving to Burnie, Tasmania.

Ilya began the Burnie Library's English Conversation and then moved on to one-on-one tutoring through Libraries Tasmania's Adult Literacy Support Service. He still attends weekly sessions with his tutor, as well as continuing his ongoing studies at TasTAFE in Aged Care.

Ilya is a resilient learner who has faced many challenges, including leaving his family and home country. He has never given up and has remained focused on learning English. He regularly arrives at his tutoring sessions with a list of questions for his tutor from his additional study undertaken at home. His dedication to improve his life through adult learning is inspirational.

Krystal Batiste, Victoria

Krystal grew up in out of home care. Giving birth to her first child at 19, Krystal's battles with poor mental health, substance abuse disorder and unstable housing resulted in her daughter being removed from her care. This was the catalyst for Krystal getting sober, stable and working towards a brighter future for herself and her daughter.

Krystal was referred to the Reconnect Program at the Diamond Valley Learning Centre (DVLC) in May 2024. She came to the program with the goal of becoming a nurse. Krystal is an outstanding adult learner because of her extraordinary resilience, determination, and commitment to personal growth.

In March, Krystal commenced studying the Certificate III Individual Support (Ageing and Disability) at DVLC and is on track to soon complete her qualification.



Ilya Myshkin



Krystal Batiste

Learning Changes Lives Foundation Prizes



The [Learning Changes Lives Foundation](#) – ALA’s charitable organisation – supports the people who need it most to gain access to the life-changing capacity of education.

In 2025, six recipients received prizes funded by the Foundation during Adult Learners Week.

Tegan Case, Northern Territory

Tegan has dyslexia and struggled with reading and writing in school. Tegan started with the Young Mums Strong Mums program run by the Batchelor Institute and Palmerston Child and Family Centre earlier this year and is now also studying a Certificate III in Community Services. By engaging with the program, Tegan has started to believe in herself and believe what is capable of. She is getting her life together and being a good example for her one-year-old daughter.



Tegan Case

Ashlee Jensen – Queensland

Ashlee joined the SEE Programme at TAFE Queensland’s Logan Campus as an adult learner who wanted to improve her literacy and numeracy. Ashlee had to overcome obstacles that made it difficult for her to achieve a productive school education. However, she got to a point in her life where she realised that she had to turn her life around – and she now credits adult education with helping her do that. Ashlee is about to finish her SEE journey and now wants to continue studying to become a Youth Support Worker.



Ashlee Jensen

Monira Ghulami – Australian Capital Territory

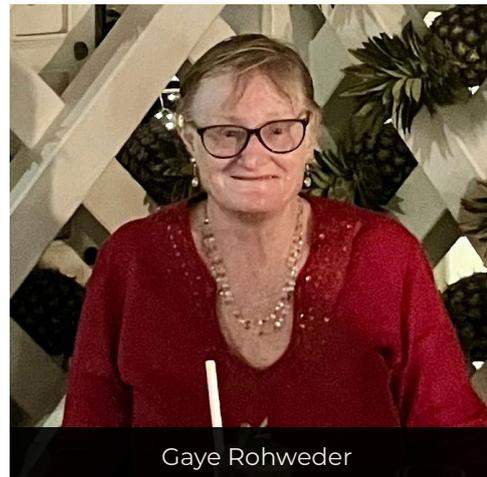
As soon as Monira joined MTC ACT Belconnen’s Digital Literacy and Job Search course earlier this year, she set about learning how to write a cover letter and search for jobs in Australia. Monira was determined to be able to support her two young children as a single mother, so she worked hard with her tutors to develop strong applications. And she did well, with her first applications leading to interviews and a job as a full-time professional tailor within two weeks. She is continuing her MTC training part time so that she can further improve her skills for better employment

“When I started, I didn’t even know how to use a laptop, that was a big wall for me. But I got through and kept getting heaps of support to learn, continue to learn and not give up.”

- Andrew Bartlett, ALW 2025 Ambassador

Gaye Rohweder – Queensland

Gaye first joined the Sunshine Coast Beerwah Read and Write for Life program, where she demonstrated a passion for learning until the program was interrupted by the pandemic. In August 2024, when a spot became available in the Caloundra class, Gaye gratefully accepted an invitation to participate. Gaye’s life story is marked by perseverance and inspiration. Through reading, writing, and speaking in class, she has found new ways to share her stories and connect with others. The program’s format plays a crucial role in her journey, offering support and empowering her personal growth each week.



Gaye Rohweder

Tiana Hokins – Tasmania

Adult learning has been a prominent theme throughout Tiana’s life – she has consistently been both a learner herself and someone who is dedicated to assisting other learners to thrive. As a Youth Development Coach in the Northern Territory, Tiana mentored young adults studying as adults. This also extended to roles in youth justice settings. After completing a Graduate Certificate in Emergency and Disaster Management and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Tiana is now employed as a Community Storm and Flood Resilience Planner with the Tasmanian State Emergency Services, while still studying to keep progressing in her career.



Tiana Hokins

Diane Hardlitschke – South Australia

Dianne, currently in the recovery phase of her journey from domestic violence, wanted to expand her knowledge and skills in areas such as healthy relationships, informed decision-making and future planning. When Dianne first joined Zahra Foundation classes, she was quiet and hesitant to connect with others. Over time, she has transformed into a confident and engaged participant and has now enrolled in further study at UniSA, a testament to her resilience, determination, and commitment to building a brighter future.



Diane Hardlitschke

Inspiring Others to Learn



Every Adult Learners Week, a small group of inspiring learners are chosen as Adult Learners Week Ambassadors. The stories of these learners – nominated by their learning providers - illustrate the many benefits of taking an adult education journey.

This year's Tasmanian ambassadors – Andrew Bartlett, Jenna Eastwood, Faye Hodgetts and Rohan Muthamala – spoke at the ALW launch (see Cover Story).

These are the other 2025 Ambassadors:

Jessica Hastings, Victoria

Jessica, 32, is a mum of four who, despite considerable responsibilities, enrolled in a pre-accredited health-based short course at Community College Gippsland (CCG). When that didn't lead to a job, she completed a pre-accredited aged care course, which led to a traineeship at a new aged care facility.

Jessica is now continuing her Certificate III studies in Individual Support part-time, while working three days a week at the facility.

Adam Micklethwaite, Western Australia

Adam, 39, was working as a tradesman when he was placed in a leadership role without any prior training. Wanting to back up his practical know-how with theory, he sought out formal study and completed his Diploma of Business online through North Metropolitan TAFE in WA. It was a way to put years of hands-on experience into context, sharpen his skills, and test his limits.

Not one to stop there, Adam is now enrolled in both the Diploma of Project Management and the Diploma of Leadership and Management, aiming to finish them by the end of the year. Balancing full-time work, study, and family life hasn't been easy, but it's strengthened his resilience and determination.

Darren Finn – New South Wales

Darren's journey is a powerful testament to the transformative impact of adult learning. A proud Kamilaroi man from rural NSW, Darren left school early. Without formal qualifications, he worked wherever he could, before successfully completing a Certificate IV in Community Services through face-to-face learning at Inverell Community College. With

support from staff and peers, Darren earned his first qualification, igniting a passion for helping others access education and employment.

Darren is now a Jobs Australia Enterprise Manager and a visible role model in Inverell. His next goal is to complete the Diploma of Leadership and Management, equipping him with new skills to lead community initiatives and continue inspiring others.



Adam Micklethwaite



Darren Finn

"Adult education gave me huge confidence. I am generally a shy person and to take on such a big role I had to get out of my comfort zone. I had a lot of self-doubt, but adult learning gave me the confidence to go out and do the role".

- Faye Hodgetts, ALW 2025 Ambassador

Rabia (Rabi) Aftab – South Australia

When Rabi arrived in Australia from Pakistan, she brought with her a psychology qualification and a passion to help others. However, despite self-funding her application, her overseas qualification wasn't recognised in Australia.

Determined not to give up, Rabi was supported by the Zahra Foundation and the Sliding Door Foundation to undertake further study in South Australia. She then successfully completed her Australian psychology degree. Her dedication didn't go unnoticed. Rabi was offered a paid facilitation role and has become a valued member of the organisation's senior leadership team, working in case management.



Rabia (Rabi) Aftab

Bridie Searle – New South Wales

At just 20, Bridie is the Founder of ReadySkills, where she teaches life skills and supports learners from diverse backgrounds. A hands-on learner herself, she credits the balance of theory and practice in her training for her success.

Bridie's journey began with a traineeship and a Certificate IV in Project Management Practice. With strong support from experienced mentors, she quickly gained respect in her field. In 2023, her achievements were recognised nationally when she was named both NSW Trainee of the Year and Australian Trainee of the Year.



Bridie Searle

Jeff Richardson – Queensland

Jeff is a proud Mandandanji man in his 70s whose life reflects strength, service, and a deep connection to community. He has long been a strong voice for Aboriginal people, working to improve health, wellbeing, and cultural outcomes.

Jeff left school early and learned through life and work. Later, he went on to complete several diplomas and worked as a Bringing Them Home counsellor supporting members of the Stolen Generations. Now retired, Jeff continues to value lifelong learning, storytelling, and the power of family and culture. He believes there are always new things to learn – at any age.



Jeff Richardson

Celebrating Learners and Learning – ALW Event Winners

CELEBRATE LEARNING TOGETHER 30 YEARS OF ALW



Every year, hundreds of events are held across Australia to celebrate Adult Learners Week. These are held in adult and community education centres, libraries, neighbourhood houses and community centres, TAFEs and community colleges and local councils.

The three awards for Best Adult Learners Week events this year were given to the **Shire of Harvey** in Western Australian, **Community College Northern Inland**, New South Wales, and **Murray ACE** in Victoria.

The **Shire of Harvey** ran a program of 30 events for 30 years of Adult Learners Week. These ranged across locations and included events around tech help, health and wellbeing, history, and community connections.

Community College Northern Inland celebrated Adult Learners Week across its Gunnedah and Inverell campus locations. On Tuesday, 2 September, Gunnedah students were encouraged over cake to have open conversations about adult learning, with many having great advice for others thinking of starting adult learning: “Give it a go, you would be surprised at how easy the process is”.

On Friday, the Inverell campus helped draw the Week to a close with a morning tea to #celebratelearningtogether. Winner of the ALW 30th anniversary STAR Award, Steff-Lee Frankland proudly showed off her certificate and there was great food to be enjoyed!

Murray ACE in the Victorian Mallee town of Swan Hill held an Open House each day during Adult Learners Week, encouraging everyone to come in and take a tour, meet tutors, check out the courses on offer and ask lots of questions.



Welcome to Adult Learners Week 2025 at the Shire of Harvey!

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Adult Learners Week - and we're celebrating with 30 fantastic opportunities to learn, connect, and explore right across the Shire of Harvey!

From 1 to 8 September, dive into a week of discovery with something for everyone - whether it's walking a local heritage trail, learning tech tips at your library, exploring creative crafts, trying out a new sport, or joining a social chat over coffee. It's never too late to learn something new, meet someone new, or see your community in a new light.

Check out what's happening in Australind, Harvey, Yarloop, Binningup and Brunswick - and join us in celebrating lifelong learning, local stories, and community spirit.

AUSTRALIND

1	AUSTRALIND JETTY - Enjoy a 30 minute return jetty walk.	187 Old Coast Road	Anytime
2	HERITAGE TRAIL - Find information plaques about early days of the area	Multiple locations around Australind	Anytime
3	PARK RUN - Join in a local run - all levels welcome	Ridley Park Foreshore	Saturday 8:00am
4	ST NICHOLAS CHURCH - Visit the tiny, 144 year old church	Paris Road	Anytime
5	LESCHENAULT PENINSULA CONSERVATION PARK - Enjoy walk trails and historical sites	Buffalo Road	Anytime
6	JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY BOARDWALK - Combine history with exercise and a picnic	Buffalo Road	Anytime
7	AUSTRALIND SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB - Things are happening here all the time	Mardo Avenue	Ph 97258998 for details
8	TECH CONNECT - Get one-on-one help with tech issues from library staff	Australind Library Mulgara Street	Monday 1pm - 4pm Friday 11am - 1pm
9	CREATIVE CONNECTIONS - Make something new in a relaxed atmosphere	Australind Library Mulgara Street	Ph 97874590 for details
10	JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - Make an appointment to get paperwork signed	Harvey Shire Office Mulgara street	Friday 12noon
11	MEN'S SHEDS - Social get-togethers for guys.	Leisure Drive	Ph 0455 778 766 (Aust) or 0428 174 839 (Har)
12	AQUA AEROBICS - A 45 minute low-intensity water workout at Leschenault Leisure Centre	Leisure Drive	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00am

BINNINGUP

13	BEACHCOMBING - What can you find as you walk along the beach at Binningup?	Beachfront Binningup	Anytime
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BRUNSWICK JUNCTION

14	COW ON THE CORNER - From the cow, explore the river walk, swimming hole and Community Resource Centre.	Southwest Highway	Anytime
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YARLOOP

15	YARLOOP COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE - Check out a range of activities	Anderson Street	Search "Yarloop CRC" on Facebook
16	COFFEE AND CHAT - Make friends and meet new people	Yarloop Library School Road	Thursday 9:30am



Member Round Up

Charles Darwin University (CDU) is delivering training in remote First Nations NT communities to increase the capacity of residents to meet the skills needs of their communities.

With Northern Territory Government funding, the program is being rolled out through seven remote community hubs that service more than 20 remote communities.

The training is based on the needs of each remote community, focusing on essential skills needed for current community-based projects and filling gaps across several industries including community services and building.

Skills taught range from mechanical maintenance, operating small plant and equipment, conducting earthworks and providing care for an aging population. Read more: <https://www.cdu.edu.au/news/empowering-remote-communities-through-skills-training>.

The **Wyndham Community and Education Centre** recently celebrated its 10th Wyndham Learning Festival, with more than 120 events held between 1 and 7 September. Held each year with the support of the Wyndham City Council, the Festival includes events and activities hosted by local community centres, libraries, universities and workplaces.

Wyndham is one of Australia's four UNESCO global [learning cities](#), along with Circular Head (Tasmania), Canning (Western Australia) and Melton in Victoria. Read more about the Festival here: <https://wynlearnfestival.org.au/about/>.



Community Colleges South Australia is holding its annual conference on 6 November, with the theme *Local Voices Building Collective Impact*.

The conference will bring together professionals, organisations and stakeholders to explore community development strategies, with a focus on strengthening local communities through collective action and collaboration.

Tickets: <https://communitycentressa.asn.au/tickets-available-for-2025-conference-local-voices-building-collective-impact/>.



Are you an ALA Member?

Becoming a member of Adult Learning Australia is a fantastic way to support lifelong and lifewife learning across Australia.

To find out more about all the benefits of a ALA membership, go to our website:

www.ala.asn.au/join-now

ACE Update



Adult Learning Australia CEO, Jenny Macaffer, and Vice President, John Sheen, caught up with long-time ALA supporters Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Social Services, and Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Social Services, at a recent ACOSS event in Canberra. Amanda Martin, CEO of ALA organisational member, the Zahra Foundation, was also in attendance.

Later, Jenny also connected with Skills and Training Minister, Andrew Giles, and SA Minister for Education, Skills and Training, Blair Boyer.



The **Strong & Resilient Communities (SARC)** grant program provides neighbourhood and community houses and centres (NCHCs) with access to up to \$15,000 to support the social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in their local communities. Applications are open until 5pm on 29 September. Find out more and apply here: <https://www.anhca.org/sarcgrant>.

Speaker proposals for the **TAFE Directors Australia 2026** Convention in Brisbane next May can be lodged until 15 October. Details are available at <https://tda.edu.au/tda-convention-2026/call-for-proposals/>.

State and Territory Training awards are currently being announced in the lead up to the Australian Awards being presented in Darwin on 5 December. Follow your local State or Territory Award social media accounts for all the results: [WA Training Awards](#), [Discover VET](#), [Skills for Queensland](#), [Victorian Training Awards](#), [ACT Government](#), [Skills NSW](#), [South Australian Skills Commission](#) and [NT Education and Training](#).

U3A Australia, the national body for the U3A movement in Australia, is celebrating its second birthday. In 2023, the national U3A Alliance Australia was incorporated as U3A Australia Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, registered under ASIC and the Australian Charities and Not for-Profits Commission. There are now 260 U3As across Australia with collective membership of over 100,000. <https://u3aaustralia.org.au/>.

QUEST

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jenny Macaffer

WRITER & EDITOR

Sophie Arnold comms@ala.asn.au

PRESIDENT

Kathleen Priestly (TAS)

VICE PRESIDENT

John Sheen (VIC)

SECRETARY

Isabel Osuna-Gatty (SA)

TREASURER

Dr Ron Wilson (VIC)

BOARD

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Fleur Lerwill (SA)

Dr Robyn Ober (NT)

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Tim Catteral (NSW)

Dr Piper Todd (VIC)

Christopher Ward (WA)

 Adult Learning Australia
Henderson House
45 Moreland St.
Footscray VIC 3011

 03 9689 8623

 ala.asn.au



Lifelong and lifewide
learning for all Australians