



# JABBER JOURNAL

GRAFTON U3A INC. (UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)

PO Box 688 Grafton NSW 2460

[www.grafton.u3anet.org.au](http://www.grafton.u3anet.org.au)

"Sharing our knowledge, skills and experience in a friendly convivial way"

NOVEMBER 2017

## NOVEMBER JABBERFEST

### GUEST PRESENTER - TODD WALSH aka "LOBSTER MAN" "CONSERVATION OF THE GIANT FRESHWATER LOBSTER"

NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE - ARTHUR STREET GRAFTON 10.00AM - 13 NOVEMBER 2017



Our guest presenter Todd Walsh was born and bred in the North West area of Tasmania where he spent 40 of his 50 years before initially relocating to far north Queensland, then central Victoria and currently Northern New South Wales. He worked in Aquaculture all around Australia for a decade up until 1996 before falling into conservation of lobsters by accident. For the past twenty years he has been the figurehead, so to speak, for the lobster protection movement – hence the nickname. The Giant Freshwater Lobster is a highly politicised animal as it lives in the heavily timbered areas of Tasmania which has a long history of forest conflicts.

In Tasmania Todd has been known as the Lobster Man for some twenty years but is pretty much unknown on the mainland. He grew up catching and eating lobsters as did his father, grandfather and great grandfather. Having some Tasmanian aboriginal blood helps to explain his generational connection to the bush. The Tasmanian Giant Freshwater Lobster is basically the world's largest yabby growing to a maximum of 6 kilograms. Todd has devoted the past twenty years to the conservation of the Giant Freshwater Lobster and its associated habitats. It has been a rocky road to say the least!



## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON -

**Date:** Monday 27 November 2017  
**Where:** Grafton District Services Club, Mary Street Grafton  
**Time:** 12 noon.  
**Cost:** \$26.00 per person



**PLEASE NOTE: TICKETS FOR THE LUNCHEON MUST BE BOOKED AND PAID FOR AT NOVEMBER JABBERFEST. THEY CANNOT BE PURCHASED ON THE DAY OF THE LUNCHEON**

### Details:

There will be two courses with tea and coffee available. The bar will be open for you to purchase your own drinks.

Do get your thinking caps on for your "Best Dressed" Christmas outfit. There has been a high standard set in past years. Enquiries – Carole Cairns 662 4615 or Alysian Pender 6644 5397



## OCTOBER JABBERFEST WRAP

In the absence of our President, the meeting was opened by Alysyan Pender as a Special General Meeting to discuss the motion to increase the term of office for the executive members of the committee from three to six years. The motion was accepted by a large majority of the members with only three dissenting votes and the Special Meeting was then closed.

Following the usual course/group updates and morning tea, Alysyan introduced our guest speaker Helen Tucker who entertained members with her life experiences in music. Beginning as a 5yo when she was introduced to the ukulele with a natural progressions through the years, learning the guitar, singing songs written by her father and ultimately taking up the cello and becoming a music teacher, which remains her profession today. Throughout her presentation, Helen entertained us playing the instruments and singing her father's songs. She spoke of her connection with the Clarence Valley Orchestra and Chorus from its formation in 2014 under the inspirational leadership of Greg Butcher and of the twice a year concerts with the emphasis on both themes of the ANZAC and the PROMS.

A film clip of one of the Proms concerts, featuring the Sailors Hornpipe, rounded out Helen's presentation with a reminder to book early for tickets to the Proms concert featuring David Helfgott at the Saraton Theatre that promises to be a sell-out. A concert definitely not to be missed.

At September Jabberfest Maree Burrows presented a display of blankets created by the members of Wraps with Love. However, due to time constraints she was unable to speak on the subject. She gave a short presentation providing details of the work undertaken by the ladies who create the Wraps. She also acknowledged the Mens Shed which has over the years donated funds for the purchase of wool. The lucky door prize of a clock made at the Mens Shed was won by none other than our Chair – Alysyan Pender who, in gratefully acknowledging the clock, noted that it the first time she had won anything.

*Brian Carter*

---

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT....Dear Members



With Jacaranda just around the corner, you are probably like me and wondering where has the year gone? The committee has been busy arranging the Christmas luncheon to be held at the Grafton District Services Club on 27 November so tickets and monies will need to be finalized by November Jabberfest as tickets cannot be purchased on the day of the event.

I have the privilege of escorting Jacaranda's Matron of Honour Patty Hewitt (U3A's nominee) onto the stage at the Jacaranda Queen Crowning (see page 3)

on Jacaranda Saturday and briefly speaking about U3A.

Many thanks to those who supported the Christmas Shoeboxes as this is the only present that many children in over 100 countries will ever receive in their lifetime, something many of our own children and grandchildren often do not appreciate.

Mary Lou Brown has maintained the very high standard of speakers that we have enjoyed during the year and those booked for next year appear to be equally entertaining.

If you receive your Jabber Journal by post (snail mail) and are having trouble receiving it on time be aware that Australia Post has told us that unless we pay an extra 54c per letter then the mail is classed as low priority and may take up to 10 days to be delivered.as it is processed via Sydney then back to Casino for sorting before returning to Grafton (even local mail).

It is exciting to hear that the Men's Shed improvements are progressing rapidly and that they have been very active with a number of projects.

I look forward to seeing members at the next Jabberfest.

*David Thompson*

*Phone - 6644 778*

## JACARANDA FESTIVAL MATRON OF HONOUR

### PATTY HEWITT

We wish Patty a wonderful week as she undertakes her role as Matron of Honour of the Jacaranda Festival. Patty is pictured below with escort President David Thompson ready to go on stage at the Queen crowning ceremony.



*Photo courtesy of Carole Cairns*



## MORNING TEA ROSTER

### 13 NOVEMBER

Una Stone - Eric Schaeffer  
Sue Hereford-Ashley

## COURSES/INTEREST GROUPS

### ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Our next Armchair Travel group will be held on Tuesday, 28 November. Debbie Handley will be reminiscing about her recent trip though Ecuador. This will be our final Armchair Travel gathering for 2017. For all enquiries contact Magda Mussared – 6644 9309.

### “INDISPENSABLE ARITHMETIC”

**Q9.** In multiplying a certain number by 9, the digits “carried” are successively 7, 3, 0, 8, 1, 2, 5. What is the number which was multiplied by 9?

**Q10.** £5 18s 6d is divided among 17 children, no coin less than 3d being used, but each child under 10 years of age getting 3d less than the others. How many children under 10?

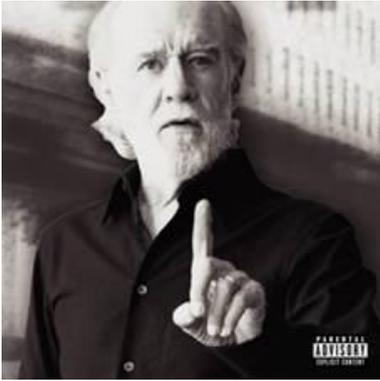
**Answers Q7 – £281 5s      Q8 – 10 2/3 weeks**

### A TOUCH OF HUMOUR

Have you ever been guilty of looking at others your own age and thinking I can't look that old? Well.....My name is Alice Smith and I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his dental degree, which bore his full name. Suddenly I remembered a tall handsome dark haired boy with the same name had been in my secondary school class some 30 odd years ago. Could he be the same guy that I had a secret crush on way back then? Upon seeing him however, I quickly discarded any such thought as this balding grey haired with the deeply lined face was far too old to have been my classmate. After he examined my teeth I asked him if he had attended Morgan Park Secondary School. “Ys, yes I did – I'm a Morganer!” he beamed with pride. “When did you leave to go to college?” I asked. He answered “in 1965. Why do you ask?” “You were in my class” I exclaimed. He looked at me closely then the ugly, old, bald, wrinkled, grey haired decrepit bastard asked “What did you teach?”

### WELCOME TO COMMITTEE

We extend congratulations and a warm welcome to Nancye Eggins who has agreed to fill the casual committee vacancy caused by the resignation of Lorraine Goodbar.



*Isn't it amazing that George Carlin - comedian of the 70's and 80's - could write something so very eloquent...and so very appropriate.*

***A Message by George Carlin:***

*The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider Freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.*

*We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.*

*We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.*

*These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete.*

*Remember; spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.*

*Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.*

*Remember, to say, 'I love you' to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. An embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you.*

*Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak! And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.*

***AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:***

*Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.*  
Contributed by Peter Smyth

---

---

**MEMBERS – PLEASE NOTE**

**JABBERFEST ON 13 NOVEMBER WILL BE OUR FINAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR. OUR FIRST MEETING IN 2018 WILL BE HELD AT 10AM ON 12 FEBRUARY AT THE NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE, ARTHUR STREET GRAFTON**

---

---

**EDITOR CONTACT**

Contributions to the Jabber Journal are welcome. We reserve the right to edit or refuse material submitted for publication. Closing date for the December edition is **Monday 27 November 2017**

Editor Dennis Kelly [thehifields@bigpond.com](mailto:thehifields@bigpond.com)