



# 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"

AUGUST 2017

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## AUGUST JABBERFEST

**NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE - ARTHUR STREET GRAFTON  
10.00AM - 14 AUGUST 2017**

SPECIAL & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

followed by

GUEST PRESENTERS

**ROBYN HIGHAM**

- **MIDWIVES - EARLY DAYS OF THE CLARENCE**



Robyn will recount her mission identifying the network of midwives responsible for safely delivering thousands of Clarence babies from the early days of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century through to the post-war period.

**KEVIN DIXON**

- **BRINGING UP DONNA (His 7<sup>th</sup> pet Labrador)**



A lighted-hearted look at bringing up my latest chocolate Labrador 'Donna'. From a cute puppy to Destructo- (sometimes Cyclone) Donna through to a lovable and obedient Donna. Donna is my second chocolate Labrador but 7<sup>th</sup> in line of the Labradors that I have owned since I left home at age 22. 40 years of bringing up Labradors!

- **MY BEST WILDLIFE/SCENIC PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES FROM AROUND THE WORLD**



As a Wildlife photographer, I am will show a presentation of 60 of my BEST wildlife and scenic photographic images from around the world. Sit back and enjoy images from Antarctica, Kenya, Japan, China, Alaska, Canada and

Australia. Louis Armstrong summed it up beautifully in his song "What a Wonderful World".

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

This month has seen a big change in venue for Jabberfest with a move to the New Life Church Centre. The relocation came about as Clarence Valley Council is leasing the Community Centre to North Coast Primary Health Network to house the new Headspace Centre for youth mental health. With only two weeks' notice from Council it was a rush to locate a new venue. It was only on the Sunday preceding our meeting that our Treasurer Bruce Carle was able to obtain a copy of our Public Liability cover from Head Office as they were negotiating a new policy. After our initial meeting I am of the view that it will be a good venue and while we will have some teething troubles, it is likely to be an improvement on the Community Centre.



What a good speaker we had last meeting as Rev. Margaret Beach shared her spiritual walk of 800kms from France to the top of Spain over forty days. She captured our complete attention highlighting the lighter aspects and experiences of the journey and kept the

audience amused throughout her presentation.

Our next meeting will start with a Special Meeting to vote on a motion that committee members be allowed to serve six years and not just three as laid down at present in the Constitution. The Annual General Meeting will follow including the election of committee members. At present we have Gladys Andersen and Fiona Duggan (Special Events Coordinator) retiring so we need at least two or more new members to nominate for the vacancies on the committee.

Following morning tea we will have two U3A member speakers:-

- **Robin Higham** - speaking on Early Midwives of the Clarence. She will be taking orders after the meeting from anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the book (\$20).
- **Kevin Dixon** – two presentations – the first, titled “Bringing up Donna” – his 7<sup>th</sup> pet Labrador. The second, an audio visual presentation of 60 of his best wildlife and scenic photographic images from around the world.

I hope to see you all at the AGM, which is expected to be completed in a timely manner.

*David Thompson*

Phone – 6644 7782

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## JULY JABBERFEST WRAP

The July meeting was opened by committee member Pat Connolly and he then introduced President David who welcomed members to the New Life Church Centre - our new Jabberfest venue. He reminded members of the upcoming Annual general meeting in August and encouraged members to consider nominating for the vacant positions on the committee for the upcoming year. Bruce Carle then spoke briefly on housekeeping matters in the new venue. Social events coordinator Fiona Duggan spoke about the Christmas in July luncheon being held again at the Harwood Hilton in conjunction with Clarence River U3A at which there will be a competition for the best decorated hat. The event is set down for 23 July and all bookings must be finalised by 11 July. Brian Carter then amused the audience with a brace of funny stories before the meeting adjourned for morning tea.

Following the break Pat introduced our guest speaker Rev Margaret Beach, Rector of the Anglican parish of South Grafton on her experiences while walking the Camino Pilgrimage trail. The Camino de Santiago also known as Way of St James and St James Way is the name of any of the pilgrimage routes to the shrine of the apostle St James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia Spain, which marks the end of the pilgrimage and where tradition has it that the remains of the saint are buried. There is a special atmosphere in the plaza outside the Cathedral as people from across the world take their final steps to the tomb of St James. Many pilgrims follow the Camino routes as a form of spiritual path or retreat for spiritual growth. It is also popular with hiking and cycling groups as well as organised tours. Margaret with a small group of family and friends undertook the 790km journey commencing from Saint-Jean-Pied- de-Port in France travelling on average 20kms per day. She recounted the need to pack and travel light as a backpack must accommodate all clothing and ancillary equipment such as sleeping mask and ear plugs to combat snoring. A service is offered to transport backpacks from place to place each day (if required). Accommodation ranged from single rooms with up to 12 bunk beds to motels. Margaret brought along a range of items that accompanied her on the journey for use in recounting in an entertaining way some of the happenings and interactions with other pilgrims on the journey. She also had on display her official Pilgrim Record, which is a valuable document enabling access to accommodation provided by the Church, municipalities, associations or private individuals. Accommodation cost varies from a fixed price to a donation by pilgrims. The Record does not bestow a right to accommodation, which is on a first come first serve basis or booked ahead. Pilgrims are expected to behave respectfully to other pilgrims and accommodation hosts. In order to qualify for the Compostela, pilgrims must complete the last 100km on foot or 200km by bike or horseback. The walk represents different things for different people and it is a case of what works for each individual. At the conclusion of her presentation Margaret took several questions before being thanked for an interesting and entertaining address. The lucky door prize was won by David Morgan. The meeting was then closed.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Joan Mary Muir O.A.M.**

17<sup>th</sup> September 1920 – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017



Grafton recently farewelled long standing member Joan Muir O.A.M. Joan served in the Second World War and returned to Grafton in 1950. Together with her husband, the couple became a strong force in the provision of disability services in the region through Caringa over many years. She was awarded life membership of the Grafton RSL and Caringa and in 2002 was awarded an Order of Australia for her many years of dedicated duty to ex-service, service, disability and aged care organisations. On behalf of the committee and members, we offer her family our sincere condolences on her passing.



## CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCHEON – HARWOOD HOTEL

A beautiful sunny day and a very cheery atmosphere on Sunday saw Lower Clarence and Grafton members combine for a fun luncheon. David Morgan did an excellent job as the Emcee and *The Sassy Sisters* Ukulele group from Yamba entertained us between courses, joined by Robyn Adams and Vanda Geremia for the traditional *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer* and *Jingle Bells*. The correct answers to a few trivia questions were rewarded with small chocolate delights distributed by David Thompson.

The array of amazing Christmas hats, all very creative, added to the festive atmosphere. Maree Burrows won the best hat prize with a towering glitzy creation. Table group puzzles produced some quite outlandish but very funny responses. My sincere thanks to Carole Cairns for being "bus monitor", Mary-Lou Brown for coming early and helping decorate and sitting on the desk to check names and numbers, and David Thompson for assisting with prize giving. Robyn Adams (Lower Clarence) also for her support in assisting to judge the most creative answers and arranging for the Ukulele entertainment. See photos on following page. *Fiona Duggan*

## COURSES/INTEREST GROUPS

### ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Next meeting 2.00pm Tuesday 22 August at U3A Rooms. Our guest presenter will be Mike Gillespie recounting highlights of his travels earlier this year that encompassed Singapore, Dubai, Ireland and a European River Cruise. Enquiries to Magda Mussared 6644 9309.



## NEW MEMBERS



We welcome new members Mary Heldt, June Blackadder, Thomas Mills and Russell Irving. We trust that you enjoy your association with Grafton U3A and take the opportunity to avail of the various courses/interest groups on offer.

## "INDISPENSABLE ARITHMETIC"

- Q3.** Sugar is bought for £3 2s 6d per cwt. And sold again at 7½ d per lb. If the total profit is £15, how much sugar was sold?
- Q4.** A man buys 2 cwt. 1 qr. 17lbs of tea for £16 16s 3d. At what price per pound must he sell it in order to make a total gain of £3 7s 3d?

### Answers

**Q1. A=£400 B=£320 C=£128**

**Q2. £5038 12s**

## EDITOR CONTACT

Contributions to the Jabber Journal are always welcome. We reserve the right to edit or refuse material submitted for publication. Closing date for the September edition of the Journal is **Monday 28 August 2017**. Editor Dennis Kelly [thehifields@bigpond.com](mailto:thehifields@bigpond.com)

# CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCHEON

