



# 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"

**JULY 2015**

## 'enova' Northern Rivers Renewable Energy

Australia's first **Community Owned Renewable Energy Retailer**

Presentation by Alison Crook AO and Steve Harris

**JABBERFEST \* 10.00AM – 13 JULY 2015**

**GRAFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – DUKE STREET GRAFTON**

Enova Energy (Enova), which launches this month, is Australia's first Community Owned Renewable Energy Retailer. The company has been established to offer the Northern Rivers community the opportunity to shift from a fossil fuel economy to one with a vision to progressively:

- Reduce the carbon footprint
- Produce locally the energy that we consume
- Accelerate the move to a more energy efficient system implementing new techniques as they become available
- Provide benefits to all socio-economic groups
- Deliver excellent customer service
- Create employment opportunities in the community

Our speakers on this most interesting topic are Alison Crook AO and Steve Harris, Chair and Chief Executive Officer/Co-Founder respectively of the company.

### **ALISON CROOK AO**

B.A.(Hons) M.B.A. Dip.Lib Dip. Ed. Hon. D.Univ Hon.D.Litt. FALIA FAICD FIPAA

Now involved in establishing Enova Community Energy Ltd - Australia's first community-owned energy retailer – Alison has had an interesting and varied career. She has managed to fit in such diverse roles as: tutor in philosophy (Flinders Uni), Australian Volunteer International in PNG, community liaison officer in Gunpowder (NW Qld), State Librarian (NSW), Director General State & Regional Development (NSW), Exec Dir Operations Serco Asia Pacific & MD Serco Transport Services, and Deputy Vice Chancellor Resources Monash University. Along the way she has been named as Australian Business Woman of the Year, and Australian Business Leader of the Year (Professions), been awarded an AO for services to public administration and a Centenary Medal for services to business. She has served on some 17 boards in both private and public sectors including IBM Australia, Lend Lease Corporate Financial Services,



St James Ethics Centre and Australian Volunteers International.

Alison has now returned to her family's roots and the environment she loves in the Northern Rivers region and is pursuing her passion: to protect that environment for future generations.

### **STEVE HARRIS**

With over 40 years in many sectors of the energy industry, Steve heads up the trading arm of Enova. Previously a senior manager in Origin Energy, his experience includes a number of successful mergers and acquisitions, and managing relationships during the process. Steve headed up Origin's Environmental team which established Australia's first and most successful Green Power program with over 500,000 customers. During his career, Steve developed a strong passion for environmental issues and a desire to help tackle climate change.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



It is always good to say 'THANK YOU' when deserved and on 22 June your committee did so by organising a morning tea gathering to say a big thank you to our tutors and course leaders. As I said at the morning tea, U3A just would not function without their dedication. The event consisted of morning tea on arrival accompanied by much happy chatter followed by the somewhat 'formal' feature of the function when I presented each tutor/leader with a certificate acknowledging their contribution – a great morning. Thanks to Bruce Carle who organised the catering with South Services Club.

It seems that microphone use needs another comment this month. Following June Jabberfest I was informed that at times I could not be heard clearly. If this problem is evident at future gatherings, please do let me know so that I can correct the situation. At July Jabberfest there will be two speakers working together so they will each require a microphone. An additional microphone will be hired for use at question time with Fiona

Duggan making it available to members who have questions of our speakers.

A busy month coming up for Grafton with the renowned July Race Carnival bringing lots of visitors and cash to our community. If you are a racegoer, I hope you have a wonderful time, but remember Jabberfest on 13 July.

Maree Burrows

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## JUNE JABBERFEST – “SUPPORT FOR SENIORS WISHING TO REMAIN IN THEIR OWN HOME”

The guest speakers at June Jabberfest were Kerrie Birch and Karen Waterhouse from Clarence Valley Council Care and Support Services. Commencing operations some twenty years ago in the Clarence Valley with two programs the service now covering an area from Grafton to the Queensland border has grown to a staff of 90 and in excess of 900 clients. The presentation by Kerrie and Karen provided members with full details including costs, access and eligibility of the following principal services available to members that are offered by the Council:

- ◆ Home Care Packages
- ◆ Support in the home
- ◆ Community Options Program
- ◆ Regional Integrated Support Program
- ◆ Social Support

A wealth of information is available at [www.myagedcare.com.au](http://www.myagedcare.com.au). Following the conclusion of the presentation, Kerrie and Karen responded to a series of questions from members before President Maree thanked them and provided them with gifts crafted by members of the Mens Shed. Prior to closing the meeting President Maree took the opportunity on behalf of members to congratulate and offer best wishes to Gloria Caldwell on the occasion of her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday – well done Gloria!!

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

With the Annual General Meeting (AGM) coming up next month (see attached notices), it is almost time to elect a new committee to manage Grafton U3A for the next twelve months. We are fortunate to have a band of men and women on committee who are practical, dedicated and friendly people who do a very good job and hopefully the majority will nominate for re-election in August. Membership of the committee is not an onerous task but is very fulfilling with each member having a set area of responsibility. The AGM provides an opportunity for all U3A members to make a difference by nominating for Committee.

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## NEW MEMBERS

This month we welcome David Watkins, Una Stone, Heli Brecht, Joy Beech, Teena Sydenham and Maree McKenzie. We trust that you enjoy your association with Grafton U3A and take the opportunity to avail of the various courses/interest groups offered.

On behalf of President Maree, apologies to David Watkins and Una Stone for not being welcomed at June Jabberfest.

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## MEMBERSHIP – IMPORTANT!

Enclosed with your journal, for those members yet to pay their annual subs, is a renewal notice (attached to email) for your attention. Your response will be welcomed. If you wish to discontinue membership, a call to Carole Cairns 6642 4615 or a note to that effect would be appreciated - thanks.



## COURSES/INTEREST GROUPS UPDTE

### ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

At our June meeting Mike Gillespie recounted details of his travel experiences from Paris to Rome travelling via Avignon and the French Riviera; followed by several days in Tuscany and Umbria in Italy, sightseeing in Rome and a visit to Pompeii - a fascinating journey. Our July meeting is set down for 28 July with Carole Cairns presenting reminiscences of her travels to Sri Lanka. Have you had a travel adventure that you would like to share with other members? If so, please contact the convenor Magda Mussared 66449309.

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### BUSHWALKING

The walk set down for June has been postponed to Monday 27 July 2015. Our destination is Gibraltar Range NP for the loop walk of medium difficulty with a distance of approximately 7 – 8 kms through a delightfully diverse landscape, home for equally diverse birds. Meet at McDonald's car park at 7.45am for carpooling and 8am departure. Names can be added to sheet at Jabberfest or given to Peter Mears on 6643 5748. *Barbara Fahey*

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### MENS SHED – Snippets from the shed

The Rotunda at Pioneer Park was built in 2009 by the Grafton U3A Men's Shed upon the creation of the park celebrating the Sesquicentenary of Local Government It is the centrepiece of this lovely historical area. The leadership of Frank Heppell assured the project would be an outstanding sample of the skills of our members.



### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – NEW INTEREST GROUP

As announced at June Jabberfest we are looking for expressions of interest for a new group to be called "Looking into Unsolved Mysteries". The proposed routine is to read at least a chapter of a book at each meeting then discuss and write notes. By the end of the book, there should be lots of discussion to be had to attempt to solve the mystery where others have failed!!! I suggest starting with an old classic like 'Jack the Ripper' then working up to modern mysteries like the disappearance of the Malaysian Airliner. If you are interested in taking part in this group, please call MAREE BURROWS on 66421640 or Email at [magar1@inet.net.au](mailto:magar1@inet.net.au)

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### TUTOR OF THE MONTH – HELEN HEARNshaw – GOOD VIBES CHOIR CONDUCTOR

I joined Grafton U3A in early 2006 in order to join up with Good Vibes choir. Even though I considered herself a musician, I had never really had any opportunity to sing – and in fact considered that I was unable to sing! In my early years as a U3A member, I ran an Aquarobics class at my heated pool at Glenugie. This was very popular and great fun. Unfortunately, when I moved to town this group disbanded. I was also involved with the running of the Tai Chi group with Nancye Eggins when leader Vreni could no longer attend. But the choir has remained my main interest. Elaine Taubman was the founding conductor with Trish Miller doing the accompanying. As many of you know, Elaine was a very experienced soloist and conductor. Three years ago Elaine decided to leave Grafton to be with her family further north. She told the choir of her departure almost a year in advance, and during that year tried to mentor members of the choir to conduct some of the songs in preparation for her departure. None of the mentored five wanted to take over the job, so a list of possibilities was put together from the community. One person was agreeable but by the beginning of the New Year, the choir no longer had conductor or accompanist! As I had really enjoyed singing, she determined the choir would survive – and survive it did. After some weeks Janet Rae, a possible accompanist, gave the choir a one month trial. The choir has been so lucky that Janet has agreed to stay on as accompanist. With me learning the ropes of conducting and Janet the ropes of accompanying, the choir has gone from strength to strength and meets at the Clarence Valley Conservatorium on Mondays at 1 pm till 2.30 pm. They sing a variety of genre of songs, some unaccompanied, some unison, but mostly in 2 or 3 parts. It's obviously an advantage to be able to read music, but they do warm up exercises to help develop good technique and learn the parts separately. Some members record their parts on mobile phones to practise at home. The choir is all female at the moment. It would be wonderful to have some men involved with the choir, but we would have to have a separate repertoire and maybe initially a separate rehearsal time for the men and some of the women. The men would learn tenor and base parts not just the melody. The choir has been singing at Pan Nights at the CV Con, at Shopping World, at aged care facilities, and just recently were invited to sing at the Lower River Eisteddfod. This was a wonderful experience, and members received some very positive feedback about their "very competitive" performance. These recitals are of course in addition to those at U3A gatherings.

## RESOURCES – AVAILABLE FOR LOAN TO MEMBERS

A selection of courses from The Great Courses are available for loan to members on a monthly basis. The only exceptions are courses that are currently running or new acquisitions that are yet to be undertaken as a course. All course materials are held by Course Coordinator Alysán Pender and any member is welcome to borrow a course by contacting her on 6644 5397. Please note that Alysán will be unavailable until the end of July. Details of the courses are set out below:

COURSE NAME	MATERIALS	LECTURER
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WORLD	6 DVDs	Professor Peter Stearns
A HISTORY OF IMPRESSIONISM – FROM MONET TO VAN GOGH	6 DVDs	Professor Richard Brettell
CHINA, INDIA AND THE U.S. – THE FUTURE OF ECONOMIC SUPREMACY	3 DVDs	Professor Peter Rodriguez
CLASSIC MYTHOLOGY	3 DVDs 1 Guidebook	Professor Elizabeth Vandiver
EXPERIENCING HUBBLE – UNDERSTANDING THE GREATEST IMAGES OF THE UNIVERSE	2 DVDs 1 Guidebook	Professor David M Meyer
FROM MONET TO VAN GOGH – A HISTORY OF IMPRESSIONISM	4 DVDs 1 Guidebook	Professor Richard Brettell
MUSEUM MASTERPIECES – THE LOUVRE	2 DVDs 1 Guidebook	Professor Richard Brettell
OPTIMISING BRAIN FITNESS	2 DVDs 1 Guidebook	Professor Richard Restak
QUANTUM MECHANICS *	4 DVDs 1 Guidebook	Professor Benjamin Schumacher
THE GREAT TOURS – GREECE AND TURKEY: FROM ATHENS TO ISTANBUL	6 DVDs 1 Guidebook	Professor John R Hale
THE 30 GREATEST ORCHESTRAL WORKS	3 DVDs 1 Transcript	Professor Robert Greenberg
THE WORLD'S GREATEST GEOLOGICAL WONDERS – 36 SPECTACULAR SIGHTS	6 DVDs 1 Guidebook	Professor Michael E Wyssession
JOSEPH CAMPBELL AND THE POWER OF MYTH A journey into mankind's search for meaning	4DVDs 6 Videos	Bill Moyers

\*On loan from Vicki de Vaurno.

## A TOUCH OF HUMOUR

It is important for all men to remember that, as women grow older, it becomes harder for them to maintain the same quality of housekeeping as when they were younger. When this becomes apparent, try not to yell at them. Some are over sensitive, and there's nothing worse than an over sensitive woman.

My name is Keith. Let me relate how I handled this situation with my wife, Dawn. When I retired a few years ago, it became necessary for Dawn to get a full-time job, along with her part-time job, both for extra income and for the health benefits that we needed.

Shortly after she started working, I noticed she was beginning to show her age. I usually get home from the golf club about the same time she gets home from work. Although she knows how hungry I am, she almost always says she has to rest for half an hour or so before she starts dinner. I don't yell at her. Instead, I tell her to take her time and just wake me when she gets dinner on the table. I generally have lunch in the Grill at the golf club, so eating out is not an option for us in the evening. I'm ready for some home-cooked food when I walk through that door. She used to do the dishes as soon as we finished eating but now it's not unusual for them to sit on the table for several hours after dinner. I do what I can by diplomatically reminding her several times each evening that they won't clean themselves. I know she really appreciates this, as it does seem to motivate her to get them done before she goes to bed.

Another symptom of ageing is complaining, I think for example, she will say that it is difficult for her to find time to pay the monthly bills during her lunch hour, but chaps, we take them for better or worse, so I just smile and offer encouragement. I tell her to stretch it out over two, or even three days. That way, she won't have to rush so much. I also remind her that missing lunch completely now and then would help her figure. I like to think tact is one of my strong points.

When doing simple jobs, she seems to think she needs more rest periods. She had to take a break when she was only half-finished mowing the lawn. I tried not to make a scene. I'm a fair man. I told her to fix herself a nice big cold glass of freshly squeezed orange juice, then just relax for a while. And, as long as she is making one for herself, she might as well make one for me too.

I know that I probably look like a saint in the way I support Dawn. I'm not saying that showing this much patience and consideration is easy. Many men would find it difficult if not impossible. Nobody knows better than I do how frustrating women get as they get older. However, chaps, even if you just use a little more tact and less criticism of your ageing wife as a result of reading this article, I will consider that writing it was well worthwhile. After all, we are put on this earth to help each other.

*Keith died suddenly of a perforated rectum after publishing this letter. The police report says he was found with a Callaway extra-long 50-inch Big Bertha Driver II golf club jammed up his rear end, with barely 5 inches of grip showing. A sledge hammer was laying nearby. His wife, Dawn, was arrested and charged with murder. The all-woman jury took only 9 minutes to find her "Not Guilty", accepting her defence that Keith, somehow without looking, accidentally sat down on his golf club. Contributed by Rita Bullen*

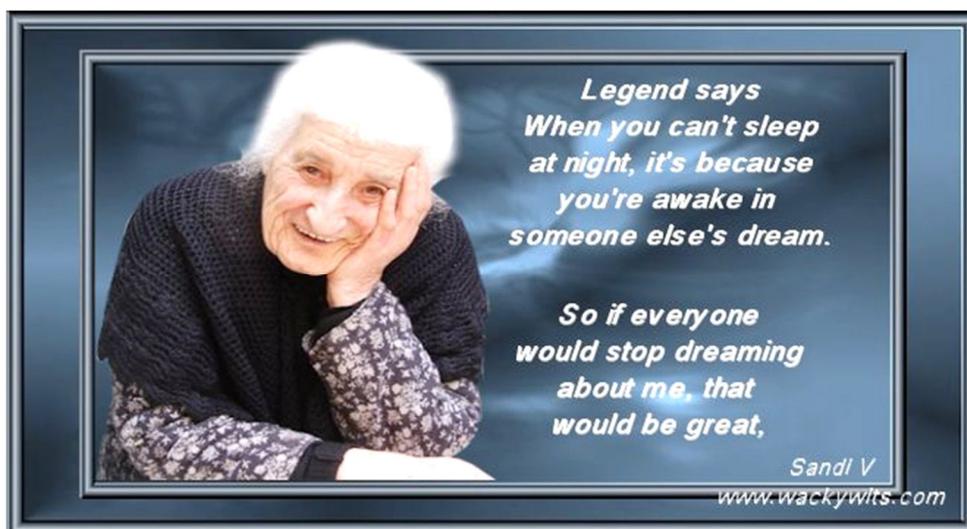
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## CLOSING DATE

Contributions to the Jabber Journal are always welcome. We reserve the right to edit or refuse material submitted for publication. Closing date for August edition is **Monday 27 July 2015.**

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

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# GRAFTON U3A INC.

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special general Meeting of the members of Grafton U3A Inc. will be held at 10.15am on Monday 10 August 2015 at the Grafton Community Centre, Duke Street Grafton.

The Meeting will be for the purpose of considering, and if thought appropriate, passing the following two special resolutions:

"The category of **Life member** and its contents below be added as Item **13 Life Member to Part 2 - Membership** of our Constitution."

### **13 Life Member**

- (a) Any member may be elected as a Life Member in recognition of extensive years of outstanding community service to Grafton U3A Inc. without obligation to pay an annual membership fee.*
- (b) The name of any person proposed for honorary life membership must be nominated by two members of the organisation and submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Committee no later than 30 June in each year.*
- (c) Life members shall be members elected to membership for life without payment of the annual subscription. The Committee shall vote on any application for life membership by secret ballot or by show of hands (as decided prior to voting) at its July Committee meeting. A three quarter majority of those voting committee members present at such meeting shall be necessary to elect a member to life membership.*

*All following Items to be renumbered by 1.*

"The category of **Non-Profit** and its contents below be added as Item **42 Non-Profit to Part 5 - Miscellaneous** of our Constitution"

### **42 Non-Profit**

*The assets and income of the organisation shall be applied solely to further its objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation except as genuine compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.*

All following Items to be renumbered by 1.

Maree Burrows  
President

# GRAFTON U3A INC.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Thirteenth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Grafton U3A Inc. will be held at the conclusion of the Special General Meeting to be held at 10.15am on Monday 10 August 2015 at the Grafton Community Centre, Duke Street Grafton.

Any non-financial members may pay their subscription prior to the meeting. Members must be financial in order to qualify to vote at the meeting.

### AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- WELCOME & APOLOGIES
- MINUTES
  - Confirmation of minutes of AGM held 11 August 2014
  - Confirmation of minutes of SGM held 10 August 2015
- REPORTS
  - President
  - Treasurer
- ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Seven ordinary members of Committee
- APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR
- RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCOMING COMMITTEE
- PROPOSALS FOR ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR AHEAD

NOTE – If you are unable to attend and wish to appoint a proxy, the appropriate proxy form may be obtained from the Secretary.

The AGM is an important function and a chance for us to reflect and celebrate the good things we have achieved and the pleasant times we have shared together over the past year, as members of Grafton U3A. I do hope that you can join us.

Maree Burrows  
President

**GRAFTON U3A INC.**  
**Nomination for Committee**

(Two financial members to nominate)

We the undersigned, being financial members of the Grafton U3A Inc.,

wish to nominate .....  
(please print)

for the position of ..... on the committee of

Grafton U3A Inc. for the year 2015/16.

Name .....

Signed.....

Name.....

Signed.....

I declare that I am a financial member of Grafton U3A Inc. and am willing to accept the above nomination.

Signed.....

To be handed to the Secretary, Carole Cairns, or posted to The Secretary Grafton USA Inc., P.O. Box 688 Grafton. NSW 2460 **by Monday 3 August 2015.**