



JABBER JOURNAL

GRAFTON U3A INC. (UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)

PO Box 688 Grafton NSW 2460

www.grafton.u3anet.org.au

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

MARCH 2017

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JABBERFEST 13 MARCH 2017 GRAFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE GUEST PRESENTER – WENDY GIBBS "BENT BRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL"



Wendy Gibbs was born and raised in Liverpool, an outer suburb of Sydney and has always had an interest in writing and cars.

Her life, itself, has been a fairy tale so far. Wendy married at a young age and had two children by age 25, with the continuing aspirations of racing cars. Her

car of choice was a 1964 Austin Healey Sprite that was not historic when she commenced but was considered so by the time she finished.

Retiring from the 9 – 5 hum drum of office work in 2010, Wendy, with her husband, relocated to Grafton from where she pursued screenwriting as an interest and challenge. Studying on line, Wendy's first feature length screenplay was Girls' Torque – a fictional story of girls and car racing. Upon completion, she realized that the local Technical and Further Education Campus offered a Screen and Media Course. Wendy enrolled and excelled in all areas.

After joining a local Writers Group, Wendy met Rob Clague, a published author. Rob's book Whitefella Dreaming really captured a fabulous story. Wendy just had to adapt it into a screenplay. The second in Rob's series of books, Desert of the Mind, has now also been adapted to a screenplay by Wendy.



Wendy is presently working on a revision of Girls' Torque to reflect her life in motorsport. She also makes short documentaries and promotional films for local organisations, some of which can be viewed at Clarencechronicles.com. In her spare time, she organizes the Bent Bridge Film Festival that encourages film makers from the Clarence Valley and beyond to showcase their films.

EXCELLENT AUDIENCE AT FEBRUARY U3A JABBERFEST

An interested audience of over 100 Grafton U3A members gathered at the Community Centre, on Monday February 13, for the first 'Jabberfest' of the New Year.

The guest speaker was Roger Millard who, for over twenty years, worked with Captain Ron King to resurrect and build the Yamba Port on Goodwood Island. Ostensibly, his talk was about the history of the port, but Roger added an interesting preface about his own personal upbringing and experiences. He was born and educated in England and confesses that, as a young person, he had absolutely no interest in boats! His real interests were, and always have been, natural history, birdwatching and acting. In actual life he worked as a zookeeper, supervisor on a raspberry farm, mill hand, furniture auctioneer and an assistant land agent – a man of many parts! He met and married his wife, Jane, and migrated to Australia with his pregnant wife and son, James, in 1982. He worked with his father in law, Captain Ron King who ran a shipping agency and stevedoring company in Yamba, created because large shipping could no longer navigate the Clarence River as far as Grafton, which used to be the case.



The Yamba Port is actually at Goodwood Island, 10 km from the mouth of the Clarence. The wharf was constructed in 1969, when there was some hope for the construction of a direct rail link to the Tablelands, which, of course, never eventuated. The problem was developing sufficient cargo, both in and out, to make the port viable and this was gradually achieved, with cargo moving to and from Lord Howe Island, New Zealand, Noumea, South Korea, the Philippines and many other

destinations. In the meantime, the port had no facilities – just a 70 metre wharf, a caravan and a portable toilet! Infrastructure was gradually developed and arrangements were made to handle locally such things as health certificates, quarantine and Customs. A workforce needed to be recruited and a local Waterside Workers Union established. (There was never one strike action, despite these being rife on a national scale.) Over its period of operation, the Port of Yamba has handled over 400,000 tons of cargo from the tiny Goodwood Island wharf. Cargo has included cattle, sheep, camels, goats, timber, sugar, vehicles and many other products. One interesting, and difficult, consignment was four 97 ton generators and four 90 ton gas turbines from the now closed Koolkhan plant.

From 2005, the lack of dredging made navigation of larger ships difficult and dangerous and when the 'Island Trader', one of the most regular users of the port, was relocated to Port Macquarie, it signalled the end for the Port of Yamba.

Without proper dredging and a rail link inland, Roger suggests that there cannot be a future for the port. Roger is currently Administrator for the Grafton Anglican Cathedral.

A most interesting and informative talk. *Bob Cuming*

JABBERFEST MORNING TEA ROSTER

13 MARCH	Robyn Higham	John Higham	Lorraine Goodbar
10 APRIL	Yvonne Gillette	Val Wood	Roz Chessell
8 MAY	Colleen Smyth	Peter Smyth	Brenda Howe
19 JUNE	Una Stone	Eric Schaeffer	Sue Hereford-Ashley
10 JULY	Dot Mears	Cave Steiner	Fay Martin

Jabberfest coordinator Mary-Lou Brown can be contacted on 6644 5167

PRESIDENT'S LETTER... Dear Members



I presume, that like me, you are already wondering where the year has gone. It was good to see the increased attendance at our recent meeting with over 100 members being present to hear a very interesting talk by Roger Millard on the history of shipping in the Clarence in the last few decades and why it has almost faded away.

Following problems with the visibility of the screen, sound problems and poor lighting on the stage Treasurer Bruce Carle has contacted Council to ascertain if these issues can be rectified and they are looking into it.

A great meeting was held with all the group leaders at South Services Club and it was pleasing to hear their comments, which were very positive. Most groups were well supported while others are still able to accommodate extra members so please always contact the leaders before joining a new group.

The excursion and BBQ at Shannon Creek dam on Sunday 5 March looks like being a great social time with 25 members booking to attend.

I apologize for my mobile phone ringing during the February meeting as I had totally forgotten that it was switched on, but hopefully it won't happen again. I look forward to seeing you all at the next Jabberfest.

David Thompson

Phone – 6644 7782

COURSES AND GROUPS NEWS

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL – The next meeting of the group will be at 2.00pm on Tuesday 28 March at the U3A rooms. Alysyan Pender will recount details and highlights of her river cruise through Russia from St Petersburg to Moscow – a fascinating journey. All members are most welcome to attend.

We would love to hear about your travels, whether in Australia or overseas. Please contact Magda on 6644 9309 to discuss. *Alysyan Pender*

CHESS – This group will re-commence in April on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 9.00 – 11.00am in the U3A Rooms Dougherty House. There will be a sheet available for expressions of interest at March Jabberfest and please include your telephone number. Any questions should be directed to me on 6644 9309. *Stan Mussared.*

MAHJONG - Vacancies exist in both Tuesday and Wednesday groups. Please contact Ingrid Pollack on 6643 3880 or Mary Lou Brown on 6644 5167 if you are interested. *Alysyan Pender*

N.B. - Re the latest Courses & Groups List - several corrections required, alas. See insert.

Five Hundred & Canasta TIME - 9.00 to 11.30 am

Mahjong groups Names changed to Mahjong (Tuesday) and Mahjong (Wednesday)

Ukulele 2 DAY - 1st & 3rd Wednesday TIME - 2.30 to 3.30 pm

CRYPTOGRAM PUZZLE (for the puzzlers among us)

Cryptogram

G'A KU KP KZH RYHP AL IKBE ZVHM VCU AVWH UYKP G TV.

- QYLXXGM TGXXHW (name of the person who said it) Clue: X=L M=S

Answer next time

SNIPPETS FROM THE SHED – *David Abrahams*

Through the great work of Bruce Carle, a grant of \$18,000 is coming, which will go towards enhancing the recreation area. Improvements include new plaster walls and ceiling, vastly improved floor, storage and kitchen areas as well as a new glass shopfront. Disabled access is also on the agenda.

Linda Westmorland, former Arts Teacher at Grafton High has produced this rather marvellous mural of our 2016 Sheddors. The mural itself does not carry members names but they have been included on this photo, which can be seen on the lower left side of the adjoining photo, part of the Shed recreation area.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

MAR 3-12	SENIORS WEEK – NSW
MAR 13	JABBERFEST
MAR 20	COMMITTEE MEETING
MAR 27	JOURNAL CLOSE DATE
APR 10	JABBERFEST
APR 16	EASTER SUNDAY

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members Amanda Johnson, Carmell Chester, Helen Tucker, Karmen Ward, Colleen Herbert and Beryl Kneale. We trust that you enjoy your association with Grafton U3A and take the opportunity to avail of the various courses/interestgroups on offer.

LATERAL THINKING PUZZLE

THE MAN IN THE BAR I

A man walked into a bar and asked the barman for a glass of water. They had never met before. The barman pulled a gun and pointed it at the man. The man said "thank you" and walked out. Why should that be so?

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION – He was playing Monopoly.

SHINGLES - FREE VACCINE FOR PEOPLE AGED 70-79

Shingles is a painful blistering rash caused by the same virus as chickenpox and one in three people will develop it in their lifetime. The vaccine is available from your general practitioner FREE for all people aged 70 years with a five year catch up program for people aged 71-79 old until 31 October 2021.

NAME BADGES

Members are requested to wear their name badge when attending Jabberfest and courses/groups.



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 April edition of the Journal is **Monday 27 March 2017**. Editor Dennis Kelly thehifields@bigpond.com