



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"

MAY 2015

JABBERFEST * 10.00AM – 11 MAY 2015

GUEST SPEAKER – SENIOR CONSTABLE DAVE FISH

SENIORS HOME SAFETY & COMMUNITY CONCERNS ABOUT THE DRUG "ICE"

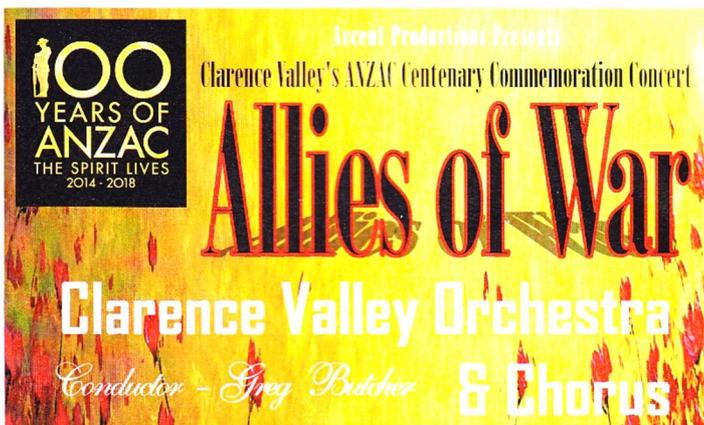
GRAFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – DUKE STREET GRAFTON

Our guest speaker this month is Senior Constable Dave Fish who has filled the role of Crime Prevention Officer for the past five years and has served in the NSW Police Force for the past twenty one years. His main focus will be on Seniors Home Safety, however, in light of recent community concerns he will also speak to us regarding the drug "Ice" (pictured), the use of which has escalated dramatically in recent times.



ALLIES OF WAR CONCERTS AT SARATON - A HUGE SUCCESS

On Sunday 19 April, some 70 musicians and choristers performed to two packed audiences at the Saraton Theatre, Grafton. These concerts, in honour of the Centenary of ANZAC day 1915, were a moving and uplifting occasion, and were enjoyed immensely by the audiences.



Fourteen members of the U3A choir Good Vibes were involved, comprising 2/3's of the female voices in the chorus! The ladies worked hard and rehearsed for 8 weeks to learn the challenging Requiem written by Conductor and organiser Greg Butcher. What a thrill to be involved in a "World Premiere performance". I am sure this work will be published and become a favourite for Anzac celebrations nationwide in the future.

In the second half of the concert, the orchestra and The Satin Bower Birds from Bellingen thrilled the audience with a "Concert party" to celebrate the amazing entertainers from World Wars 1 & 11; Colonel Bogey, Vera Lynn, Marlene Dietrich, Andrews Sisters

and a Salute to the Big Bands. The concert concluded with a medley of War Songs where the audience was encouraged to sing along with the performers. What a splendid buzz hearing the whole theatre "raising the roof" with song.

Grafton U3A members have so much talent and it is wonderful seeing a sample of this talent appreciated by so many of the Valley's citizens. *Helen Hearnshaw*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As I write this I am aware that I had to deliberately dress warmer this morning. My daily walk was accompanied by a brisk, cool wind, which encouraged faster walking to try to warm up. So I say it's time to get into singlets and have a jacket handy at all times. I do hope that you have all had your Flu' injection to provide protection from this potentially fatal illness and remember that people 65 years and over are entitled to receive it free of charge – I reckon this includes us!!! Call your medical clinic for an appointment as they are all conducting 'Fluvax' clinics at present.



I trust that you enjoyed Anzac Day as I certainly did. I started on Friday afternoon watching the riders and horses undertake the re-enactment from Copmanhurst to Grafton – what a sight. I knew some of the riders and it was lovely to watch them and others proudly taking part in this historic parade. Then came the Dawn Service at Memorial Park on Anzac morning at 6am and the very large crowd made the occasion most memorable. Later in the morning I attended the Prince Street march, which included the wonderful horses and riders and a huge number of school children in uniform.

Our own 'early' Anzac Day (Jabberfest) was a great success. As I said in my opening address, I was careful about not doing anything which could be considered disrespectful to our special soldiers. After confirmation from David Morgan that all was OK, I went ahead with the task of making 120 paper poppies and gathering items for the display in front of the lectern. I was so happy with the enthusiastic, respectful way members accepted and wore the poppies. I was also pleased and proud with the many compliments I received about the poppies and display. I now know for sure that it is acceptable to have an early Anzac Day celebration if it is done correctly. Thank you very much for your participation, respect and compliments. Of course the main feature of our Anzac Day was our guest speaker, David Morgan who provided a wonderful description of events at Anzac Cove on 25th April 1915. He also related the story of the formation and organising of the horse ride from Copmanhurst to Grafton. This will be a re-enactment of an event during WW1 when young men from this area joined the ride to Grafton to enlist and go 'somewhere' overseas – many never to return. David explained and wore the shirt, which will be worn by all riders on the day. He certainly succeeded in delivering a dignified and factual address covering a number of our darkest memories of the past. Many thanks David.

Maree Burrows

The following is an excerpt from the presentation by David Morgan at the Anzac tribute at April Jabberfest.

"The first Anzacs command and deserve the respect and remembrance of present and future generations of Australians, regardless of race, colour or creed. This year as in every year since 25th April 1915, New Zealanders and Australians at home and abroad will gather to commemorate not just the Anzacs who died on that day but every one of our service men and women who has died in war or as a result of it since. We will remember on that day those who fell in both World Wars, in the conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq since then and while on peacekeeping forces wherever they were.

But it was Gallipoli that gave us pride, not in war but in the knowledge that Australians and New Zealanders when put to the test would not fail. That spirit and tradition sustained our forces in many later battles and trials and in many ways sustain us now."



COURSE/INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Next meeting will be held on 26 May 2.00 – 4.00pm at the U3A Rooms Dougherty House. Our presenters this month will be Robyn & John Higham detailing their travels in Italy some eighteen months ago. Do come along for an entertaining afternoon. *Alysan Pender for the convenor Magda Mussared 6644 9309.*

COMPUTER NEWS

A new class is about to commence for users of Tablets and I Pads. Vacancies are limited, so if you are interested you are advised to speak with Don McLeod or Tom Dennis. The class will be held in the U3A room Prince Street on Thursdays from 2.00 – 4.00pm and will run for six weeks. *Tom Dennis*

HISTORY CLUB

A small group of members are enthusiastically recording their 'Life Story' with the help of Jeanette Calvi as tutor.

Peter Smyth has powered on with the 'Mapping Our Neighbourhood' theme and is recording small businesses on the Grafton side of the river. He has information on more than a hundred, including butchers, bakers and various others, such as a milk pasteurising plant and a peanut factory. He would be grateful for members help with further information and photos of small businesses at any time period in Grafton. Anyone who may be able to help, please leave name and phone number at May Jabberfest or contact Peter on 6644 1692.

Robyn Higham and team are continuing to collect information on the midwives,

nurses and private hospitals of Grafton and South Grafton. She is looking for information on Nurse Emily Reid (1930's – 1950's). Please leave name and phone number at May Jabberfest or contact Robyn.

We have now started the interviewing program and would appreciate members suggesting people to interview.

All members are very welcome to join in the History Club activities. We meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2-4 pm at U3A Rooms, Dougherty House, Prince Street, Grafton. Meeting dates for this month 5 & 19 May. *Nola Mackey.*

Enquiries Nancye Eggins 66424147 or Nola Mackey. 66449465



MENS SHED

Snippets from the Shed – Early days... The Shed soon settled into a smooth function with a steady increase in membership and a wide range of talents. Noteworthy was the building of rocking horses, which were raffled, raising of many thousands of dollars.



Photo shows one of many produced by our 'Horseketeers' *David Abrahams*



WOODWORK FOR WOMEN

Tutor Kevin Watkins has agreed to start another group in May. The course will commence on Tuesday 12th May and will run at the Men's Shed every Tuesday morning from 9.30 to 12.00 for about 6 weeks. Expressions of interest for enrolment will be taken at the May Jabberfest.

Please note that the aim of this group is to give participants the confidence and skills to use various woodworking tools and machines. Kevin, Bruce and a number of men from the shed have been very generous in giving their time and skills in support of this goal. But it becomes very difficult for the men when participants arrive with a fixed plan for a particular project, which requires one to one supervision. You will learn a lot more if every member of the class makes a similar item, and you will find the experience a lot more enjoyable if you are working together as a group. There will be room for discussion about the chosen project and its design and doubtless lots of opportunity for you to be creative as your project takes shape. Kevin and the other men have been so helpful and supportive of the Womens Woodwork groups over the past two years. By working together as a group on similar projects, the class should continue to be an enjoyable experience for all, both the tutors and the tutored. Enquiries to Alysan Pender, 66445397.

NORTHERN RIVERS TRANSPORT GUIDE

Brian Carter is expected to have additional copies of this publication available to members at May Jabberfest.

CLARENCE HEALTH SERVICE BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

I am the consumer representative on the Clarence Health Service Blood and Blood Products Committee. This committee, which meets monthly, has an overall role in ensuring that safe and efficient practices are followed in regards to the use of blood and blood products at Grafton and Maclean hospitals. One of the stated responsibilities of the committee is to engage with consumers and consumer groups, which is where I come in. All other members of the committee are medical people, including representatives of doctors, nurses and pathologists, and the Red Cross Blood Bank.

I would very much welcome the opportunity to speak with patients or carers about their experiences in receiving blood or blood products, so that I can better represent this group. Feedback will assist the committee in its ongoing role as stated above.

I am very grateful for the opportunity President Marie gave me to speak at Jabberfest, and to members who responded with information. I now welcome the opportunity to appeal for assistance from Jabber Journal readers - please contact me if you have received blood transfusions, or other blood products such as platelets or plasma, and are willing to talk about your experiences. I'd also appreciate if you could pass this information on to others you know who are or were patients receiving these products and who would be willing to talk to me about their experiences. *Mike Gillespie 6643 3332 or 0415991750.*

IN MEMORIAM

The death of U3A member Denis Lane-Mullins occurred on 29 April following a long illness. I saw him several times in the past few months with his lovely wife Denise and we enjoyed many chats during the course of his treatment. During his membership of U3A, he displayed an enthusiastic interest in computer classes conducted by Tom Dennis. He learnt a lot over the years but also contributed much. His enthusiasm and interest and without stress. Denis's funeral will be held in Sydney. Our thoughts and prayers are with Denise at this time. *Maree Burrows*

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

LI GARDEN LUNCHEON (RESCHEDULED)

VENUE: G. I. CHINESE RESTAURANT
LOCATION: ARMIDALE STREET SOUTH GRAFTON
DATE: SUNDAY 31 MAY 2015
TIME: 12 NOON
COST: \$21.80 FOR BANQUET LUNCH

Come and join us for an enjoyable social time. You will need to find your own way to the venue and pay for your own drinks. If you have not yet paid, please see me at May Jabberfest to do so. Fiona Duggan

TUTOR THE MONTH

JOAN INGRAM - MAHJONG

Joan Ingram has been a member of U3A for 10 years and has been co-ordinating Mahjong classes/groups for approx. 8 years. This group of people meet at the CWA Rooms on Wednesdays to enjoy this activity, the class is full to capacity. Joan always has a waiting list, a stipulation to ensure the players are able to enjoy the game without any difficulty caused by too many participants in limited space. Mahjong is regarded as an activity displaying skill, concentration and a great exercise for the mind. Recently, a second class commenced at U3A Rooms on Tuesdays and Joan was involved in the setting up and remains as an assistant along with other helpers. The fact that this group has been going for so long with much the same members, shows the dedication and stability instilled by her. Mahjong is certainly one of the 'mainstay' groups of Grafton U3A with a constant inquiry by members to 'get into' the group. Joan tells me that there are 2 players into their 90's playing Mahjong – one 90 and one 95. It seems that Mahjong may be a way of keeping a healthy mind AND body. Grafton U3A has a lot to thank Joan for and she is regarded as one of our 'Star Performers'. Many thanks Joan. *Maree Burrows*

A WORD OF THANKS

I would like to record my appreciation to David Abrahams for doing a wonderful job publishing the April Journal in my absence due to travel – Editor.

MORE ON MICROPHONES

As advised at last Jabberfest it is essential for members in the audience to use a microphone when asking questions of the guest speaker. We often have problems with microphones stopping when handed from one person to another and for some time the committee has complained about this and 'had words' on several occasions with Community Centre staff. We have, however, made a huge discovery – IT IS OUR FAULT!!!! After speaking to a staff member in an unemotional way and having things explained it is now quite plain that the users could be at fault – very innocently. It seems that what can occur very easily is for the ON/OFF/MUTE button to be moved as the microphone is passed from one to another. This has never been explained before but I am happy to accept it as a reason and give careful attention to the correct use. So we all need to remember to just be careful and that we keep fingers away from the operational buttons. Thanks for your co-operation. *Maree Burrows*

CLOSING DATE – 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 June edition is **Monday 25 May 2015.**

Editor Dennis Kelly thehifields@bigpond.com