



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"

NOVEMBER 2014

JABBERFEST * 10.00AM – 10 NOVEMBER

GUEST SPEAKER - ROBERT HOILES – DEPARTMENT OF FAIR TRADING

GRAFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – DUKE STREET GRAFTON

DO YOU KNOW YOUR SHOPPING RIGHTS OR WHAT A SCAM IS?

- You purchase goods and services all the time but do you know what your rights and responsibilities are?
- What do you do if you buy something and it doesn't work when you take it home?
- Has someone offered you something that was 'too good to be true'? - you're probably being scammed!!
- Fair Trading can help you!



Come and hear our guest speaker Robert Hoiles explain to you your consumer rights when shopping and how not to be cheated or ripped off by scams. Robert is the community liaison coordinator - North with the Department of Fair Trading covering the area bounded by Macksville, Tweed Heads and Moree in the west. He has been



with Fair Trading for the past seventeen years, having lived in Coffs Harbour for twenty five years after relocating from Sydney. Robert enjoys talking to people about their rights and responsibilities and seeing them empowered to obtain their consumer rights and make informed decisions with consumer purchases.

Fair trading administers approximately forty one pieces of legislation including...

scam awareness and protection	consumer rights/responsibilities	consumer protection agency
product safety	residential tenancy	motor vehicle dealers/repairers
home building/renovation	strata schemes	residential parks
retirement villages	incorporated associations	funeral plans

Thought for the day

"Life" is like a hot bath, it feels good while you're in it, but the longer you stay in, the more wrinkled you become."

IN THIS ISSUE	November Jabberfest	Thought for the day
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Thank you – Wraps with love	New member update	Morning tea roster
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



What a treat it was to hear and see at the same time – Ron Bell – usually we just hear his lovely voice on the radio. It's always good to put a face with a voice. I do hope that you all enjoyed his very interesting stories gathered over his considerable time in broadcasting.

The end of the year is fast approaching with only 2 more get-togethers to go. Of course, December will be our Xmas lunch at South Grafton Services Club on Monday 8 December and it is hoped that many can come to what is always an enjoyable function. Fiona is putting a lot of work into arranging this day. There will be a two course traditional Xmas meal including tea/coffee. A limited supply of juice will be served on the tables and bar service will be available for other drinks. Your entry ticket will be numbered and will be used to draw prizes during the lunch. Our wonderful choir "Good Vibes" will again entertain us. I look forward to seeing you there – remember there is a lift for safe

transfer to the first floor where the lunch will be held. Again we will be having the best dressed Christmas outfit competition – very successful last year.

Maree Burrows

OCTOBER JABBERFEST WRAP

President Maree opened proceedings with a warm welcome to new members. She then referred to the presentation at September Jabberfest from members and guest speakers Magda and Stan Mussared and the lasting impression left upon those in attendance. An update on happenings with courses and interest groups included expressions of interest in forming a Chess group, another course of Woodwork for Women will recommence shortly and Mahjong for Beginners on Tuesdays is seeking new members. The recent visit to Madden's Dairy, followed by luncheon at the Lawrence Tavern, was most enlightening and a great day was had by those in attendance. Vice President David Abrahams was congratulated on his recent award as Northern Rivers Senior Volunteer of the Year. He also presented Maree with a \$500 donation from the Mens Shed for Wraps with Love for which she is the local representative. Maree then provided a brief overview of the work undertaken by the ladies for the Wraps for Love movement in Grafton.

Following morning tea, President Maree introduced guest speaker Ron Bell, radio station manager for 2GF and FM104.7 in Grafton and 2HC in Coffs Harbour who has been involved in the radio industry for forty three years. Ron provided details of the history of 2GF which was officially opened on 15 December 1933 becoming the 63rd station licensed to broadcast, the 51st commercial radio station and the first station between Newcastle and Brisbane. The initial studio/transmitter for 2GF was located on the corner of Turf & Arthur Streets which at the time was located on the outskirts of the city but is now part of the Clarence Village. Radios at that time cost between 7-75 Pounds. FM 104.7 went to air in November 1997 and the 2GF translator on FM 103.9 was activated in 2002. 2GF provides community service announcements equating to \$300,000 of free air time annually. Currently in Australia, there are in excess of 300 commercial radio stations (200AM and 100FM) and 95 ABC stations (60AM and 35FM). These figures do not include translators that would account for another 100 the majority of which simulcast programs being transmitted on AM radio. In addition there are approximately 100 community radio stations operating throughout Australia. Worldwide, there are approximately 18,000 radio stations and 1.3 billion receivers. In a number of African nations, wind up or solar powered radios are in use due to the lack of electricity. Ron has interviewed four Prime Ministers of Australia during his career as well as Dame Quentin Bryce, former Governor General of Australia, one of the most intelligent people he has interviewed. Ron has also written and published three books – the history of 2GF, a compendium of jokes and a family history. He also noted that Jack Davey is the all-time high performer in radio with five million listeners and that 2UE is the oldest commercial radio station in Australia. Following his presentation Ron took questions from the floor before being thanked by President Maree. The meeting was then closed. *Peter Smyth*

COURSES/INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE

BUSHWALKING

The next outing of the Bushwalkers will be on Wednesday 5 November 2014 to walk to Anvil rock in the Gibraltar National park.

The walk is rated as easy with some uphill sections and a total of 5 kilometres. We hope to see Waratahs, birds, wild flowers, and lunch by the creek. Bring easy shoes, hat, morning tea, packed lunch and good humour. MEET AT MCDONALDS CARPARK AT 7.45 AM FOR CARPOOL. Contact Peter Mears 6643 5748.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Date: Monday December 8th 2014
Where: South Grafton Services Club
Time: 12 noon.
Cost: \$25.00
Mark your diary now!



The luncheon comprises two courses with tea and coffee available. The bar will be open for purchase of your own drinks.

Names and money will be collected at **November** Jabberfest. Get your thinking caps on for "Best Dressed" Christmas outfit. A high standard was set last year. *Fiona Duggan*



On behalf of the Grafton U3A committee and members I wish to extend sincere condolences to David Abrahams on the death of his sister Judy.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

10 November * Jabberfest – Gtn Community Centre
11 November * Remembrance Day
17 November * U3A committee meeting
08 December * U3A Christmas luncheon

THANK YOU SO MUCH

Those who attended Oct. Jabberfest will have witnessed the presentation of a cheque for \$500 to me for use in my work with 'Wraps with Love'. My sister Alma Bailey and I have been coordinators for this organization for many years distributing wool/picking up completed rugs or completed squares that have been assembled by others into rugs. The rugs are then transported to Sydney by Bloomers



Transport (free of charge) to be stored in a warehouse for shipment to the needy all over the world (including Australia). This cheque was presented by Mens

Shed – so not only are these men a very clever lot creating/mending just about anything – they also have kind hearts. Thank you Mens Shed members from Maree and Alma. If you are interested in assisting in this work or just knowing about it, ring me on 66421640.

Maree Burrows

NEW MEMBER UPDATE



We welcome new members Bev Smith, Joy Henderson and Denise Ireland. We trust that you enjoy your association with Grafton U3A and avail of the courses/interest groups available.

MORNING TEA ROSTER

10 November

Brenda Howe * Annette & Graham Hicks
Thank you to our volunteers.

2014/15 COMMITTEE

Maree Burrows	President	6642 1640
David Abrahams	Vice President	6642 2540
Carole Cairns	Secretary	6642 4615
Bruce Carle	Treasurer	6642 7122
Mary-Lou Brown		6644 5167
Pat Connolly		6642 6695
Fiona Duggan		6649 3202
Jan Jackson		6642 2108
Dennis Kelly		6644 7944
Alysan Pender		6644 5397
Nick Reeve		6642 5367

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR

Where are my keys – has this happened to you?

Several days ago, as I left a meeting, I desperately gave myself a personal search. I was looking for my keys. They were not in my pockets. A quick search in the meeting room revealed nothing.

Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the car park. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving the keys in the ignition. The theory is the ignition is the best place not to lose them. His theory is that the car will be stolen.

As I scanned the car park I came to a terrifying conclusion! His theory was right. The car park was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen.

Then I made the most difficult call of all. "Hello my love", I stammered; I always call him "my love" in times like these. "I left my keys in the car, and it has been stolen."

There was a period of silence. I thought the call had disconnected, but then I heard his voice. He barked, "I dropped you off!" Now it was my time to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me." He retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince this policeman I have not stolen your bloody car." This is what they call, "the Golden Years!"

Contributed by Rita Bullen



THE HISTORY OF 'APRONS'

I don't think our kids know what an apron is.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few and because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons required less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying a child's tears and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. When the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the autumn, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER:

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

The Government would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron but love...



CLOSING DATE – EDITOR CONTACT

Contributions to the Jabber Journal are always welcome. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for publication. **Closing date for the December edition is Monday 24 November 2014.**

Editor: Dennis Kelly thehifields@bigpond.com