



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"

SEPTEMBER 2015

JABBERFEST – 10AM 14 SEPTEMBER
GRAFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE DUKE STREET



GUEST SPEAKER – PAUL JONES – WIRES SNAKE WRANGLER

Our guest speaker and Grafton U3A member was born in Casino where he completed a motor mechanic apprenticeship after which he relocated and worked in New Zealand and later in Sydney. It was during the latter sojourn that he developed an interest in the ambulance service where he also worked on a voluntary basis becoming an 'honorary bearer'. He subsequently completed his training and served in Grafton as an ambo for 27 years before early retirement some 21 years ago due to a fall. He developed an interest in reptiles again serving intermittently in rescue missions for the local branch of the NSW Wildlife Information Rescue and Information Service (WIRES) before joining the local branch of the organisation. Do join us for what should be an entertaining and educational session on the activities of the WIRES organisation.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 10 AUGUST 2015

Held in conjunction with the Annual general Meeting, a Special general Meeting approved two resolutions relating to life membership and non-profit status of our registered association.

The Annual General Meeting followed and was highlighted by President Maree's report, which focussed on the many and varied activities for the preceding year. She took the opportunity to congratulate David Abrahams on his Senior of the Year Award. The financial report was then accepted, Warren Morrow was re-appointed auditor and a new committee was elected. Details of the composition of the new committee are set out below:

President:	Maree BURROWS
Vice – president:	David ABRAHAMS
Treasurer:	Bruce CARLE
Secretary:	Carole CAIRNS
Committee:	Mary-Lou BROWN, Pat CONNOLLY, Fiona DUGGAN, Dennis KELLY, Alysan PENDER, Nick REEVE, David THOMPSON

We offer best wishes to the committee for the year ahead.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER... Dear Members



From
Maree Burrows – President

Many thanks to all who attended our AGM held in conjunction with the August Jabberfest. All went well with the re-election of all but one of the existing Committee and we take pleasure in welcoming David Thompson as the new member of the committee to fill the vacancy. Grafton U3A continues to grow with a current membership of 338 while Jabberfest continues to draw a good attendance with around one hundred attendees each month. 2015 is quickly getting away as always seems to happen at this time of year. We have already made a booking for Christmas Lunch at South Grafton Ex-Servicemens Club for 1st. Monday in December - more details in the Jabber Journal at a later date. As I said at August Jabberfest, it was good to look back over the activities of the past year and reflect on the variety of our guest speakers and we continue to seek out suitable presenters on topics of relevance or interest to our members. Many of you are also members of other groups/clubs where you may encounter speakers who we have not had but you think may be of interest. If so, we would like to hear from you.

AUGUST JABBERFEST – KEVIN DIXON – ANTARCTICA, THE WHITE CONTINENT

President Maree introduced Kevin Dixon who showed some wonderful photos from a three and a half weeks trip there in 1999. In all he took approximately 1,500 photographs and being the days before digital photography the cost was enormous. The tour party comprising 36 adventurers from all over the world and a Russian crew departed the Falkland Islands on a Russian ship – Professor Multanovskiy. The ship sailed to the western side of Antarctica Peninsular on to Lemaire Passage and the Bay of Icebergs before continuing the voyage to the eastern side of the Antarctica Peninsular to Coronation Island, Deception Island, South Orkney Islands and South Georgia Islands.

In his presentation, Kevin displayed many spectacular images from his trip with subjects ranging from glaciers, icebergs and mountain slopes to wildlife photographs of penguins, seals, whales and albatross. Kevin also displayed images of Port Lockroy – Britain's most southerly base. The base includes a post office which offers mailing services. Included in the presentation was a photo of a plaque erected on the grave of the famous British explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton located at Grytviken, South Georgia – an abandoned whaling station. Another photo showed members of the group swimming in freezing waters. A number of Kevin's photos have won both national and international competitions. At the conclusion of a fascinating address and display Kevin was thanked by Maree and given a gift created by the artisans at the Mens shed in appreciation. *Peter Smyth.*

Editor's note – *My thanks to Peter Smyth for taking on the role of scribe at the August Jabberfest in my absence.*

IN MEMORIAM

GOODBYE CARMEL

We recently said goodbye to Carmel Clemson, a keen U3A member who involved herself in activities during her many years as a member. I remember Carmel mostly for her efforts at U3A Rooms when we used to have 'Open House' on Thursdays. Carmel was always there to welcome visitors and make them a 'cuppa'. We will miss Carmel. Our condolences and prayers go to her family and many friends. A card has been sent to Carmel's family on behalf of U3A members. Maree Burrows

CONDOLENCE

We offer sincere condolences to Janet Rae as her mother Ruth Rae died recently. Janet is a great supporter of our choir, Good Vibes, and assists Helen Hearnshaw to achieve the top results and quality sounds from the group. Janet also keeps things together if Helen has to be away for any reason. We send you, your father and sisters our sincere wishes at this difficult time Janet and thank you for your support for U3A. Maree Burrows



COURSE/INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Next meeting will be Tuesday 22 September at 2.00pm at the U3A Rooms Dougherty House. Alysian Pender will be relating her experiences travelling through Turkey in 2013. Enquiries to Magda Mussared 6644 9309.



SCRABBLE

The group meets on Monday afternoons at the U3A rooms and new participants are always welcome. However, our group numbers are quite low at the moment, and sometimes a meeting is cancelled due to insufficient players being available. If you would like to attend the group, please contact Vanda Geremia (66427880) or Alysian Pender (66445397) to ascertain the next Monday we will be playing. *Alysian Pender*



CANASTA - NEW

The group meets each Thursday morning from 9.30 to 11.30am at the South Services Club in the same room and time as the 500 Card group. New members are welcome. Enquiries to Gwen Rudder 66423177.

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

The initial meeting of the group was held on Thursday afternoon 27 August 2015. A deal of time was spent discussing details of conducting the group as it is a first. Lots of lively discussion and suggestions came up with what we expect to be the perfect plan for what should be a great group. A lovely afternoon was had by all with general chit-chat shared with lovely company. Our next meeting will be held at the U3A rooms on Thursday 24 Sept and thereafter the fourth Thursday of each month. *Maree Burrows*



COMPUTER AND TABLET COURSES

Final call for this year

U3A members wishing to undertake a computer or tablet course this year should register with Don McLeod or Tom Dennis.

The computer course will firstly cover e-Mails and Word, and then members will concentrate on how to manage and manipulate their photos.

The tablet Class will be directed towards people with their own iPads, but we also want to help those who have other makes of Tablets such as Samsung and Androids.

Don and Tom would like to have a discussion with any members who are proficient in using Samsung and/or Android tablets. If you are able to assist, please contact either Don or I. *Tom Dennis*

Don email: don@mcleod-family.net
phone: 66423 325

Tom email: motned31@gmail.com
phone 0419683 000

TUTOR OF THE MONTH

We do not have an article about a specific tutor this month but instead would like to draw your attention to the list of tutors/group leaders that we have in Grafton U3A. Their names are available in the list of classes/courses, which is published regularly in the Jabber Journal. A reminder that these members contribute so much in time, effort and dedication. Some conduct classes weekly others monthly while some activities happen less regularly and are arranged as required. If you are interested in any of the classes/courses listed, just ring the tutor - I know you will receive a friendly response. *Maree Burrows*





WHAT DO YOU SAY? Let's DO LUNCH!!

WHERE: ROYAL HOTEL
RYAN STREET
SOUTH GRAFTON

DATE: SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

TIME: HIGH NOON

I shall collect names at Jabberfest for catering purposes. *Fiona Duggan*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

For members still wishing to be involved in this worthy cause that members have supported over a number of years, a limited supply of boxes will be available from a desk at September Jabberfest.



A representative of OCC will be in attendance at October Jabberfest to collect the filled boxes.



CRAFT MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Janet Rae has a supply of crafty items available to members who would like them free of charge.

Items available include:

- ✓ Buttons of all shapes colours & sizes
- ✓ Zippers
- ✓ Reels of cotton
- ✓ Fabrics
- ✓ Crochet cotton for dollies etc.
- ✓ Pins
- ✓ Books on knitting, crocheting and other crafts including knitting patterns etc.



Please contact Janet direct on 0422520725 or email softly34@gmail.com or Helen Hearnshaw on 66425073.

N.B. As well as the above donation from Janet she also contributed a considerable amount of wool to 'Wraps with Love' which is supported by U3A. Many thanks Janet for thinking of others at this difficult time. *Maree Burrows*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS – OVERDUE FINAL REMINDER

Members who remain un-financial at the end of September will no longer be eligible to attend activities including Jabberfest as they will no longer be covered by insurance. In the event that you wish to discontinue membership, a call to that effect to Carole Cairns 6642 4615 would be appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new member Malvena Dick. We trust that you enjoy your association with Grafton U3A and take the opportunity to avail of the various courses/interest groups on offer.

EDITOR CONTACT / 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 September edition is **Monday 28 September 2015**. Editor Dennis Kelly thehifields@bigpond.com