



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 2017

SEPTEMBER JABBERFEST

GUEST PRESENTER – LOIS ROBINSON

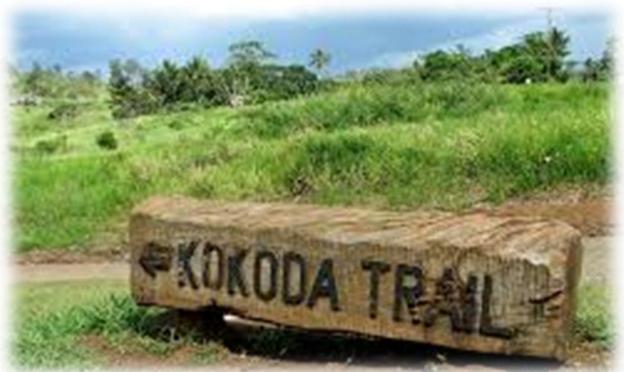
WALKING THE KOKODA TRAIL

NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE - ARTHUR STREET GRAFTON 10.00AM - 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

Lois, by her own admission, is a self-professed crazy woman who has changed from a person who hated exercise and sport and did nothing physical to becoming a personal trainer, specialising in exercise for seniors. She has completed numerous charity walks – Byron to Ballina (3), Moonee to Coffs (2) and Brooms Head to Yamba (3). In 2014, Lois completed the "Kokoda Challenge" a non-stop 96 kilometre trek through the Gold Coast hinterland that turned out to be the pre cursor to the real thing. In April 2015, accompanied by her son, she set off for New Guinea, survived and will recount her experience of a lifetime trekking the 96 kilometre Kokoda Trail.



Soon to be a great grandmother, Lois is a grandmother of five, mother of three and wife to Peter who she sees little of as she still works in real estate, is a Weight Watchers coach, an authorised marriage and funeral celebrant as well as a personal trainer. Busy is what she likes to be and she is a firm believer that the body can do whatever the mind wants to do if you prepare correctly. Her philosophy is "use it or lose it".



SUPPLEMENTARY SPEAKER AT SEPTEMBER JABBERFEST – DAVID ABRAHAMS CLARENCE RIVER ODYSSEY – MIGHTY RIVER SYSTEM - A HISTORY

In 1946, my brother John and his good friend Ric Mulhearn set out from Buccarumbi in a fairly lightweight Canadian Style Canoe heading for Lilydale. They lost the canoe and most of their supplies at the New Zealand Falls above Jackadgery and walked out with hastily acquired knowledge about the mighty Nymboida River and the equipment required to enjoy the experience.



Over many years following, John and his family and friends have traversed the great waterway on many occasions. I have also accompanied him on many trips as well as with my own friends. Pictured is the starting five (John's sons, Steve and Alex on right) just about to walk to the very source of the Nymboida near Dorrigo in 2013. From there they hiked and clambered down steep terrain to Platypus Flat where their canoes awaited them to commence paddling all the way to Main Beach at Yamba. They were joined at different points by other paddlers from previous trips and the 355 km Odyssey trip raised \$25,000 for worthwhile charities. Later this

month, the same team are reprising the Odyssey but commencing at the source of the Clarence at Boonoo Boonoo near Tenterfield. Details and some great photographs are available on the website – Clarence River Odyssey. I will be presenting a brief historical slide show and talking about our many great trips on the Mighty River System at the September Jabberfest. *David Abrahams*

"WRAP WITH LOVE" DISPLAY AT SEPTEMBER JABBERFEST

Members may recall seeing a "Wrap with Love" display some years ago, however, we may now have many newer members to whom the organisation is not known. In a nutshell, it is all about people caring about people with volunteers providing warm wraps to needy people both in Australia and around the world. At September Jabberfest Maree Burrows will speak briefly, prior to the morning tea break, about the organisation and how it works. During the tea break there will be a display of rugs and wraps and Maree will be happy to provide details/instructions to anyone interested in becoming involved.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Grafton U3A members have supported this organisation for the past few years. At September Jabberfest, a representative will give a short presentation covering details of the project providing shoeboxes of gifts to children living in poverty. Boxes will be available to members at the September Jabberfest with details of suitable items for inclusion. The boxes will need to be returned in October to the collection point advised by the speaker.

As per the Grafton U3A Inc. Constitution, the Committee wish to advise the following:

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of Grafton U3A Inc.,

to be held at 10am New Life Church, Grafton, on 9th October 2017

To vote on the Motion moved by Bruce Carle:

Special Resolution for change to the constitution.

I propose that the word three be changed to six in the category of

15. Composition and membership of committee

(5) Each member of the committee is, subject to this constitution, to hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's election, but is eligible for re-election, except that Office Bearers are not eligible for any position they have occupied for the immediate three previous consecutive years.

Rationale:

Sometimes three years is insufficient time for a person holding one office bearer's position to understand an association and propose to make changes to endeavour them to be able to move forward for the future?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT...Dear Members



What a fascinating presentation by Robyn Higham. Compiled over three years with many photographic images this report on the midwives of the Grafton area was extremely fascinating. I know that as I drive around Grafton and South Grafton, I can still recognize several of the houses where these midwives lived and a number of our U3A members were born. The book is available from Robyn for \$20.00.

Kevin Dixon then proceeded to share his experience of bringing up Donna (a Labrador) which certainly was extremely fascinating and entertaining. For those with children or grandchildren, who throw everything on the floor maybe the ideal

solution would be to buy a young Labrador and put him in the children's room. They would soon learn to pick up everything or see it demolished.

Thank you to Vanda for volunteering to join the new committee. Unfortunately, Lorraine has who also joined the committee has decided to resign already due to other commitments so we are still looking for a replacement. The New Life Church has proven to be a very suitable venue, although we are still having some minor problems to sort out – mainly to do with morning tea.

The Christmas luncheon will be held on 27 November 2017 at the Grafton District Services Club again so please mark this date in your diary. I look forward to seeing you at the next Jabberfest.

David Thompson

Phone – 6644 7782

AUGUST JABBERFEST WRAP

President David welcomed members to August Jabberfest which also incorporates the Annual General Meeting. As they are retiring from the committee for the upcoming year, Gladys Andersen and Fiona Duggan were called to the rostrum and were presented with gifts in thanks for their service to the committee over the past years. Honorary auditor Warren Morrow then chaired the Annual General Meeting attended by 79 members. Following approval of the minutes of the 2016 AGM, the President's Report and Financial Report the election of office bearers and committee resulted in the following appointments:

<u>President:</u>	David Thompson	<u>Vice-President:</u>	Alysan Pender
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Carole Cairns	<u>Secretary:</u>	Bruce Carle

Committee members:

Mary Lou Brown Brian Carter Pat Connolly Vonda Geremia
Dennis Kelly, Nick Reeve, Lorraine Goodbar (since resigned)

Following the traditional cuppa, we were entertained by our two guest speakers/members.

ROBYN HIGHAM * Midwives – Early days of the Clarence

Robyn, a member of the History Club within U3A, had her interest in the topic awakened when her husband John pointed out a South Grafton house where he was born after which they visited the house, meeting the owners and seeing the area that had been used as the Maternity Hospital. As Nola Mackey the convenor of the History Club had encouraged club members to document any local histories, Robyn then decided to set off on her journey to research the women who were midwives in the early days of the Clarence River. The Grafton Historical Society provided a start point for Robyn by providing a Midwives folder containing a few names and private hospitals together with sketchy stories on a number of the midwives. Following a request to members of U3A born in Grafton to share information on their birth certificates to assist in her quest, an overwhelming response provided sufficient material enabling Robyn to piece together an amazing jigsaw of a group of incredible women who went out – often on foot or on horseback to homes to deliver babies. She expressed her gratitude to those members. Robyn enquiries focussed on stories of 32 of the local midwives in Grafton and South Grafton which at the time were separate municipalities as well as identifying many of the private maternity hospitals used by the midwives. Robyn was excited by the fact that a number of them are still standing such as in Grafton, *Park View* in Prince Street, *Kinnaird* in Queen Street and in South Grafton *Euleen* at 47 Bligh Street, *The Pines* at 129 Bent Street and *Tara* at 133 Bent Street.

Between 1900 and 1930, an increasing number of women trained in hospital as nurses. On completion of their training they could proudly use the post nominal ATNA (Australian Trained Nurses Association) that provided additional public recognition. Although *Clarence House* was built as a general hospital in South Grafton in 1904 and then *Runnymede* opened in Grafton in 1910, women still preferred a midwife to deliver their babies in the comfort of their own homes, where possible. Private maternity hospitals in general were phased out after World War II and many were then utilised for returned soldiers who came back wounded or ill. Local mothers were then left no alternative than to go to *Runnymede* in Fitzroy Street, which became a maternity hospital.

Robyn's journey of discovery also had many frustrations with insufficient information available on several of the midwives. In addition, a number of the old buildings had disappeared. The midwives of Grafton and South Grafton still hold very fond memories for many people with the best remembered being Nurse McKnight – Bacon Street, Nurse Waugh – Cambridge Street, Nurse Ormond – Bligh and later Cambridge Streets and Nurse Grant in Bent Street. At the conclusion of her address Robyn was thanked for a fascinating insight into the Early Midwives.

KEVIN DIXON * Bringing up Donna (His 7th Pet Labrador)

After 40 years of bringing up Labradors, Kevin firstly took us on his sometimes stressful journey of bringing up his 7th Pet Labrador (or should that be surviving your pet Labrador). By use of photos, Kevin recounted tales of Doona through the antics, mischief and havoc from a cute puppy to Destructo (sometimes Cyclone) through to a lovable and obedient Donna.

*** My Best Wildlife/Scenic Photographic Images from around the World**

Kevin, whose wildlife photographs have won national and international competitions, presented 60 of his best wildlife and scenic photographic images from Antarctica, Kenya, Japan, China, Alaska, Canada and Australia. The audience was invited to sit back, relax and enjoy the images to the accompaniment of Louis Armstrong and "What A Wonderful World." Kevin was thanked by President David for his two presentations – the first an entertaining look at the wonderful world of the Labrador and the second a pictorial journey around our wonderful world.

COURSES/INTEREST GROUPS

SNIPPETS FROM THE MENS SHED

(Figure 1) shows Shed members recovering after the morning break - in the background can be seen the nucleus of our great new kitchen facility awaiting completion with timber cupboard doors and drawer fronts in production at the shed under control by Kevin Watkins, who has been the major mover in our renovations.

The Spiro Clock (figure 2) recognises the rather unique and remarkable association with the Notaras Mill and family. Each segment is of differing timbers described near numbers. On the left side can be seen teeth, which are on an old circular saw from the mill. Master Craftsman Greg Ryan



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

designed the clock and assembled the finished product with wood turning by our resident lathe master Rudi Mandelc. Warren Moss brought his considerable skills producing the numbers and engraving the showpiece. *David Abrahams*

GRANT

We have just received \$9,000 from Clarence Valley Club Grants to go towards construction of a disabled access ramp at the Men's Shed. This welcome project will be undertaken ASAP with assistance from within our own ranks and will complete the next stage of the planned development of our recreation and office area. We recognise the great contribution by Bruce Carle in securing this very worthwhile assistance.

David Abrahams

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

At our most recent meeting, Mike Gillespie entertained with his tales and photos from his recent travels in Dubai and Ireland. Our next Armchair Travel group will meet on Tuesday 26 September. Alysian Pender will be speaking about 2 recent cruises - a P & O cruise from Fremantle to Indonesia and, in contrast to this, a river cruise in Russia. This will be a general video of the trip taken by the shipboard videographer (not the usual personal photographs). All welcome. *Alysian Pender*

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

Meeting on the last Thursday of each month at the U3A Rooms, our group discusses/reads/watches stories under the title of "Unsolved Mysteries. At present we are looking at all things "Bermuda Triangle" – a fascinating subject. New members are welcome to come along. If you are interested, ring me on 6642 1640. *Maree Burrows*

"INDISPENSABLE ARITHMETIC"

Q5. A number of persons are paid £13 19s 7d each out of 700 guineas and there is £8 1s 8d left over. Ascertain the number of persons.

Q6. A sum of £1807 17s 11½d is converted into half-pence, which are laid down flat in a straight line touching one another. If a half-penny is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, find the length of the line.

Answers Q3 – 40cwt Q4 – 1s 6d

EDITOR CONTACT

Contributions to the Jabber Journal are welcome. We reserve the right to edit or refuse material submitted for publication. Closing date for the October edition is Monday 25 September 2017
Editor Dennis Kelly thehifields@bigpond.com

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members Barry Tomlinson and Jean Hawken. We trust that you enjoy your association with Grafton U3A and take the opportunity to avail of the various courses/interest groups on offer.

NOTE FROM AGM

Did anyone detect the error with the financials at the AGM? Two pages the same setting out Income and Expenditure and details of Current Assets and the Bank Reconciliation not shown. If anyone would like a copy of the missing information, please contact Bruce on carle4@bugpond.net.au or phone/txt 0409225536 and he will arrange to provide a copy.