



MAY 2018 * Sharing our knowledge, skills and experience in a friendly convivial way *

MAY JABBERFEST

VIVID FESTIVAL SYDNEY 2017 - A VISUAL PRESENTATION BY KEVIN DIXON

For the past 10 years, structures around Sydney have been lit up as part of the VIVID Festival Sydney. The Festival is held over three weeks from mid-May to the end of the first week in June. Last year, I visited Sydney, staying at the Youth Hostel, The Rocks for two nights taking in the sights around Circular Quay, especially the Opera House and Taronga Zoo.

I will present a Slide Show comprising some forty slides showing some of the dazzling displays on the Opera House, the Art Museum, Circular Quay and the brilliantly lit sculptures at Taronga Zoo. The theme for last year's Light Show was Nautical. *Kevin Dixon*



A fabulous light show from our photographer extraordinaire - not to be missed.

[New Life Church Centre, 152 Arthur Street Grafton at 10.00am 9 April 2018.](#)

WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUS OUTING

Every Wednesday the Grafton Community Bus takes a group of independent Seniors to lunch at one of the many Clubs, Pubs & Cafes in the local area & out of town.

Commencing around 12.00 noon, the bus collects people from their homes in Grafton, Junction Hill & South Grafton before heading off to a reasonably priced venue for a meal.

After lunch we go for a sightseeing drive, then call in somewhere for an ice cream, before dropping everyone home around 4.30pm. Cost is a donation of \$5.00 per person to cover the expense of the bus plus the price of your meal. If you're interested or would like to learn more contact John Pullinger 6642 4542 or Keith Rogan 6643-3391.

GRAFTON BRIDGE PROJECT TOUR

The tour is scheduled for 12:30pm on 17 May 2018. Meet at Grafton Sailing Club. Further details will be announced at May Jabberfest. Any enquiries contact Mary Lou Brown 6644 5167.

APRIL JABBERFEST WRAP

Chair for the April meeting Bruce Carle opened proceedings in the absence of President David, currently overseas, with a few puzzling posers just to set the mood. Alysan Pender then provided an update on alterations to meeting times necessitated by the Dance Academy, located upstairs from the U3A rooms, that creates a disconcerting noise level making concentration a little difficult at times. Brian Carter recounted two short stories:

- the first being on the gathering of history by a Roman Centurion named Josephus who had been commissioned by the then Emperor to document the spread of the new Christian religion from its beginnings to the point some fifty years after the Crucifixion, which had seen this new religion spreading somewhat rapidly through the Middle East and the roman Empire.
- the second was of a man who runs marathons and whose best time is just thirty minutes behind the world record. The unusual fact behind his efforts is that he, from start to finish, is accompanied by his profoundly disabled son who he pushes the whole distance in a wheel chair. Absolutely inspiring from a boy EFG who is only able to communicate by pressing his head on a button on the wheelchair to generate a message and for the message he gave saying to his father "I want to run" and to the father who makes it all come true.

After our morning tea break Bruce introduced Peter Borrelli, who at the last minute had stepped in for the scheduled speaker, from the company building the new Grafton road bridge. Peter provided a comprehensive overview of the construction, illustrating his talk with slides, and of a few of the problems facing the builders. In particular, the pouring of concrete and the problem with the heat that arises when the concrete is mixed necessitating much of the pouring to be undertaken at night and in the early mornings when temperatures are somewhat cooler. At times, they resort to adding ice to the mix to reduce the temperature spike. A very interesting model of one of the pylons was passed around for members to inspect and Peter explained how the bridge decking would be put in place with each segment being progressively extended from each pylon and counterbalanced. Many questions were raised and answered and we were informed that indeed we would be able to join in a conducted tour at a time to be arranged, probably during May.

Peter was asked to nominate a number for the lucky door prize and this was taken out by Dorothy Hillis. Peter was, in appreciation, then presented with a small gift emanating from the Mens Shed. *Brian Carter*

MORNING TEA ROSTERS

14 May

Libby Notaras Colleen & Peter Smyth

15 June

Ann Reeve Lenore Pattison Jeanette Pulford

Many thanks to all those members who volunteered. Anyone who cannot make it on their rostered day, please ring me on 6644 5167. *Mary Lou Brown*

THE GREAT DEBATE

MILLENNIALS v CENTENNIALS

Was life better 50 years ago?

In an extremely close contest, the seniors team of Adrian Van Ash, Kevin Dixon, Dorothy Hillis and Brian Carter emerged triumphant after arguing that life now is indeed better than fifty years ago.



Congratulations to both teams for a well-attended successful Seniors Week event.

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FOR 8 WEEKS FROM 7 - MIDNIGHT
Grafton Sports Centre

Come along and support our youth.
A wide variety of roles available
from basketball coaching to helping with
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ENQUIRIES - PAT CONNOLLY 66426695

COURSE/INTEREST GROUP NEWS

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL will be moving to the 4th Monday afternoon of the month from our next meeting in May. The time will be changing too – back to the later time of 2.00 to 4.00 pm. So – our next meeting will be held on Monday, 28th May at 2.00 pm. Alysian Pender will be speaking of her travels through Southern Italy & Sicily. (Yes, this was to be our topic in March, but the meeting failed to reach a quorum).

Please try to come along and attend this most enjoyable group – a great opportunity to talk about your travel adventures, whether in Australia or overseas. All welcome. Enquiries to Magda Mussared, ph 66449309

COMPUTERS – Members wishing to attend a class for iPad users should contact Tom Dennis 6642 2502. Please note this will be the final opportunity this financial year.

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES – Unfortunately there was a mix-up with the day for this course, which caused confusion for the March class. The group meets on the last Thursday of each month at U3A rooms at 1pm – which has changed from 2pm, due to the noise from upstairs. Our most recent meeting on Thursday 26 April provided a great experience looking at myths and legends from Ireland. We welcomed one new member (Ann). New members are most welcome -just turn up or ring me on 6642 1640. *Maree Burrows*

THE MAGIC PUDDING



Albert – the Magic Puddin’ is getting restless! He can’t wait until June 18th to entertain us all!

Magic Puddin’: Eat away, chew away, munch and bolt and guzzle,
Never leave the table till you’re full up to the guzzle

Bill Barnacle: You’ll enjoy this puddin’.
It’s a cut-an’-come-again puddin’
A steak-an-kidney puddin’

Sam Sawnoff: It’s an apple-dumpling Puddin’
And a plum-duff Puddin’
It’s a Magic Puddin’

Story Teller: So Bunyip Bluegum joined Bill Barnacle and Sam Sawnoff to become a member of the Noble Society of Puddin’ Owners.

Another small taste to whet your appetite for our performance of The Magic Pudding, by Norman Lindsay. The performances will be at our Jabberfest meeting, beginning on June 18th and concluding on the July 9th meeting. *Kevin Dixon*

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

One of the more recently formed groups, they have been working away for some time now. An item composed by group member Bill Greenlees follows for your enjoyment.

COSMIC QUESTIONS

I wander outside to take in the night sky,
Oh, what a magnificent sight it is that strikes my eye
You would think that looking out at night things would be dark and black,
Not so when you look up there, where are all those things at?
They say it's a million km to just the nearest star,
I shudder in sheer amazement that I can see that far
All those glittering stars up there are part of the universe,
They all shot out from a big explosion, I wonder which ones got there first
And it's not all stars there's other things too,
Comets, meteors, gases and dust, to mention just a few
In fact, there's so much going on up there it's hard to understand,
Black holes, worm holes, dark matter, it's getting out of hand
It might be all right for those scientist guys for them it's only a game,
But for you and I trying to comprehend it only causes pain
And anyhow do they really know? I think their thoughts are in disarray
Because some deal in relativity while others go the quantum way
If you're troubled by these terms in that you're not alone,
And if it's answers that you seek you won't find them on your phone
There are some books that you can get if you're that way inclined,
Careful though how you go because it can blow your mind
There's two things you need to know about it's based on time and space,
If you can figure those two out you're really on the pace
They also differ in their thoughts about when time began,
Some say in a finite universe it started with the Big Bang
Others take a different line they say the universe is infinite,
That means it has **no** beginning and of course no end to it
If there was no beginning how could anything get started at all?
And where would we fit into it? that's a pretty important call
If it started with the Big Bang that gives us a bit to go on,
But something had to exist in order to explode, where did that something come from?
Here is where it gets confusing because if the scientists can't agree,
How then are we expected to know? Don't ask me
I've tried to work it out before and my brain decided to hide,
Oh, it just gives me a headache I'm going back inside

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 June 2018 edition is **Friday 25 May 2018**.
Editor - Dennis Kelly - thehifields@bigpond.com

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Due to the unavailability of President David, the President's Letter has been omitted from this edition.