

JABBERFEST – 10:00AM 8 MARCH 2021 NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE – ARTHUR STREET GRAFTON

SESSION 1

History of the Clarence – The Lollbacks

Nancy Eggins will take us on a little venture into the history of the Clarence and of one particular family among the many of the early European migrants to New South Wales in the 1850s.



Memories of..... Washing Days

"In the corner of the yard was the wash-house with a galvanized tub with poss stick for washing, a bench for scrubbing and a set-pot built into the wall. This was for boiling the clothes. It had an open fire underneath and we would carry a shovelful of burning coals from the fire to get it going. Clothes washing was a very hard task and took up the whole day. Without fail, every Monday was washing day." **From "Remembering the past"** What are your memories of washing day in your house? Your grandmother's house? Your neighbour's house? Do you remember any funny incidents associated with wash day? Did you swing on the Hills Hoist and get into trouble? What job did you help with? Did your Mum have Reckitt's blue bags for the whites? Was the wash house on the verandah? Did you have a mangle over cement wash troughs? A copper for heating water?



At our next Jabberfest we are looking to hear your short personal memories of washing day. You can write them down to be read out, or included in JJ over the next few months. We all have memories which are very different from today's wash days. If you have any washday paraphernalia, feel free to bring it along for display.

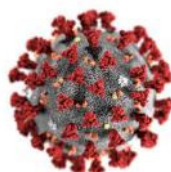
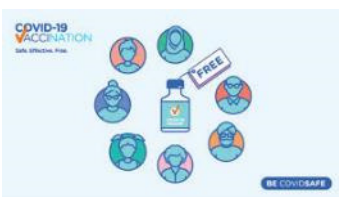
SESSION 2 - GUEST SPEAKER

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS * Information Session * Q & A - not to be missed!!!

Mr Dan Madden, Director Grafton Base Hospital will be our very important Guest Speaker at the March Jabberfest meeting.

Vaccinations for COVID-19 will have hopefully commenced by the end of February for front line workers, nurses, emergency responders etc (Group 1a). Dan Madden will provide us up-to-date information about vaccinations for the Groups 1b (over 70's), and 2a (50 – 70's) for all Clarence Valley residents. Where, when and how! PFIZER or AstraZeneca? Vaccination certificate?

Our March 8th meeting is most important to all our members so we encourage as many as possible to attend. Come armed with questions as we are sure Dan Madden will be able to provide the most recent information and advice. Members can research the Australian Govt. web site: health.gov.au/initiative-and-progress/covid-19-vaccines for up-to-date information prior to the meeting.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good morning everyone.



Here we are at the start of a new U3A year of programmes and I am pleased to say that, so far, things seem to be going well, after the disastrous year that was 2020.

Our first Jabberfest for nearly a year, held earlier in February, was well received by all who attended. It was just wonderful to walk into the New Life Church Centre and see so many smiling faces, all pleased to be back amongst so many familiar, smiling others. It had been organised within 3 weeks' notice, leaving us with a number of guest speaker options, all of whom were unavailable at such short notice. Fortunately for us, Kevin came through with a presentation on a subject dear to his heart – his collection of Australian comics. It was an address that was most informative and entertaining, taking

all of us back to earlier days. A lovely, relaxed way to start the year. Thanks, Kevin – well done.

Of course, with all the COVID regulations in place, it wasn't quite the same as previous Jabberfests - no morning tea, no mingling, no shaking hands, not too much standing around for a chat. I am hopeful that as the regulations ease, we will be able to reintroduce morning tea as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will have packets of biscuits available for you and you are welcome to bring your own hot or cold drink to enjoy during the mid-morning break. We will be better informed about the vaccine rollout after our March Jabberfest, when Dan Madden, the Executive Officer of Grafton Base Hospital will be the guest speaker.

Our regular programme of courses and groups is also rolling out easily with the majority now up and running in a Covid safe environment. Please remember to sign the Covid Registration book whenever you visit the U3A rooms or Mens Shed, maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres at all times, and be aware of the maximum permitted capacity of each location you attend. For those of you meeting in external venues such as the CWA rooms, private homes or even a park, there should always be a register or form to sign for Covid records in addition to our usual attendance sheet.

One more thing – after a year of paying for every purchase with your card, please try to remember to bring some coins along when you attend Jabberfest or one of our groups. Also, please try to find your NAME TAGS for wearing at both Jabberfest and groups. Prior to our enforced break, you were all so good. Now, looking around the room at Jabberfest, a lot of members are now so bad. Good luck with the search.

I'll look forward to seeing you all soon (with or without your name tag!)

Alysan Pender

COVID-19 REGULATIONS

Please be aware that, while Covid restrictions are slowly easing, we must still remain Covid aware when attending any of our groups or Jabberfest.

* **LIMIT OF 6 MEMBERS** at a time in the lobby of the New Life Centre.

* **COVID-19 REGISTER** please complete the Register (name and phone number or email address) on arrival at the Registration Desk at Jabberfest or at any course or interest group.

* **MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL DISTANCE** of 1.5 metres between participants.

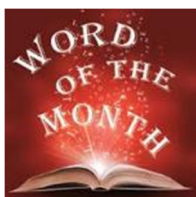
* **HAND SANITISER** will be available near the entry. Please use it on arrival.

* **WIPES** are available in the U3A rooms. Please use them to wipe your chair and table on conclusion of a group. The Church will be responsible for cleaning at conclusion of Jabberfest.

* **MORNING TEA** will not be served at Jabberfest at this stage. (BYO water if required)

If you are feeling unwell please do not attend a U3A function

FIONA DUGGAN - DISCOBOLUS



Each month there will be an unusual word that is real and has been or is still being used. Without reference to Google or a dictionary, your challenge is to work out a possible meaning and then use it in a sentence. The meaning will be published in the next Jabber Journal. **Last month's word MEGRIM** is an alternative word for a migraine. Migraine is a 13th century French word, which in the 15th century was corrupted to megrim.

FEBRUARY JABBERFEST WRAP

At long last we were able to bring to our members a Jabberfest on the 8th February, which despite a few little hiccups that no doubt occurred due to us not being completely on the ball, did not interfere with what was an extremely well received session. [So, o.k. we missed out on awarding a lucky door prize]. Pres. Alysan brought us all up to date as to where we are as an organisation and our responsibilities with regard to complying with the Covid restrictions, followed up by another very interesting Heads and Tails, conducted by Kevin Dixon on things topical to the 2021 year. Modesty forbids me to name the winner of the chocolates but they were very nice!



Kevin also took us on an historical journey into the Comics that were circulating in this Country over many years and displayed a very interesting selection from his own collection, explaining how many comics came and went throughout the years and how some have become collector's items, also, how many have appreciated in value and what factors contributed to these astounding values in many cases. So, we may not have had a morning tea break, but did we really miss it?

We can now look forward to the 8th March for what surely will be a very important presentation by Dan Madden Executive officer of the Grafton Hospital, who will address us all on the roll out of the Corona Vaccines. The hows, whens and wheres and who will be the first cabs off the rank, all happening in our district following the anticipated start of the jobs in Sydney expected late this month. A Jabberfest not to be missed !!!!!

Do look in the newspapers [Northern Rivers Times, The Independent and Daily Examiner online] for our meeting notices in the weeks prior to our next Jabberfest. *Brian Carter*

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP ABOUT TO LAPSE?

The Covid interruption to last year's activities has created confusion for many people regarding the status of their membership of U3A. Membership fees were due in July 2020, but since we were in lockdown some people didn't renew their membership, some did, some paid twice. The Committee decided to keep sending the Jabber Journal as a way of keeping in touch with everyone during the lockdown.

However, now that we are back in business, for those of you who haven't paid for the current financial year, your fees are due immediately. If your membership is not renewed by March Jabberfest, this edition of the Journal will be the last you will receive. If you are unsure of your membership status for the current year, please contact Carole or Bruce for clarification. If you paid your fees twice, you will be advised in June this year when fees for the 2021/22 financial year fall due.

Alysan Pender
President, Grafton U3A

COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE – ALYSAN PENDER

GOOD NEWS – After our very productive sign-up session at the February Jabberfest, a majority of our advertised groups are now up and running, many with some new numbers swelling the ranks of participants.

Alas, two groups have now gone into recess. They are **FIVE HUNDRED/ CANASTA & UNSOLVED MYSTERIES**. In regard to the latter convenor Maree Burrows wrote: 'I wish to advise U3A members that I have put the "Unsolved Mysteries" group on hold until further notice. There was not enough interest recently, which does not justify time and effort to prepare the content. Hopefully we will be able to start again at a later date if interest is shown.

The following groups have recommenced, and would welcome additional participants:

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL Held on the 4th Monday of the month from 2.00 to 4.00 pm at the U3A Rooms Dougherty House Probably the only group of people you will find who will be pleased to hear your travel stories. Leader: Magda Mussared 66449309. N.B. **At the upcoming meeting on Monday 22 March, Magda will be detailing a trip that she and Stan3 (the photographer) undertook through Holland a few years ago.**

BOOK CLUB – Leader: Mary Lou Brown 66445167. Held on the 3rd Monday of every month at the U3A rooms, Dougherty House from 2.00 to 4.00 pm.

CRAFT GROUP – Leader: Cheryle Hobbs 66447774. Held at the U3A rooms, Dougherty House from 9.00 to 12.15 on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING A GROUP, PLEASE CONTACT GROUP LEADER FIRST.

POSITION VACANT

The recent resignation of a committee member has created a casual vacancy that we are seeking to fill. The duties of a committee member are not particularly onerous and should you be interested in serving on the committee or have any questions regarding the position, please contact our Secretary Carole Cairns. *Alysan Pender*

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Heads up for a "Teddy Bears Picnic" in May. Date and park venue will be available in the April Jabber Journal. So, pull out those old teddies to compete for a prize on the day. *Vanda Geremia*

REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD

For those who qualify for the card, just a reminder that applications can now be made for the 2021 card through Service NSW. You will need your driver licence and pension card and the process takes a matter of minutes.

GET CONNECTED @ CLARENCE VALLEY LIBRARIES

Our Get Connected Program for 2021 is delivering free one-on-one digital help to seniors twice a week at Grafton Library. Library members over the age of 50 can also borrow an iPad (with data) for free. Give your local library a call.

EDITOR CONTACT

Contributions to the Jabber Journal are welcome, however, we reserve the right to edit or refuse material submitted for publication. Closing date for the April 2021 edition of the Journal is **Friday 26 March 2021.**

Welcome to our New Members

We welcome new members Arthur Williams, Ross & Grace Loebel, Matthew Chapman, Sonia Carlsson, David & Dianne Foulstone, Eddie Wentorf, Shirley Gilmore, Rosalie Reville and Roslyn Hart. We trust that you enjoy your association with Grafton U3A and take the opportunity to avail of the courses/interest groups on offer.

WARNING

CORONAVIRUS SCAMMERS PREPARE TO TARGET AUSTRALIANS OVER VACCINE ROLLOUT, EXPERTS WARN

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) confirmed it already had 16 reports of vaccine-related scams. If you receive a suspect email, do not click on any link. *Kevin Dixon*

