

**JABBERFEST – 10:00AM 12 APRIL 2021  
NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE – ARTHUR STREET GRAFTON**

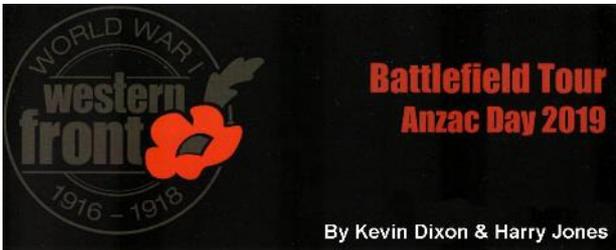
**SESSION 1**



As you may be aware the poetry group is one of the more recently formed groups. Members of the Poetry group will entertain us with a selection of poetry recitals.



**SESSION 2 - ANZAC DAY AND BATTLEFIELDS TOUR TO FRANCE & BELGIUM**



IN 2019, OUR GUEST speakers for April Jabberfest, HARRY JONES and KEVIN DIXON joined the Battlefields Tour of France and Belgium, including attending the Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux on ANZAC DAY. For twelve days they visited many historic Battlefields of WW1 and laid wreaths at several Commonwealth War Cemeteries.



Starting in Paris, they journeyed through the champagne region of Epernay and the French- German battlefields of Verdun. The Somme, Bullecourt, Lochner Crater, Hill 60, Fromelles, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Tyne Cot, Villers-Bretonneux and Compiègne where the Armistice was signed in 1918.



Many beautiful Memorials were photographed such as the Windmill Memorial, Mouquet Farm, Slouch Hat Memorial just to name a few. A particular 'highlight' was seeing the original resting place of our very own Unknown Soldier at Adelaide Cemetery. Other notables were the crash site of the Red Baron, Last Post at the Menin Gate and of course ANZAC Day at Villers-Bretonneux Dawn Service.

Harry & Kevin will present an exciting Power Point presentation and talk on the exciting sights and historic locations of their tour. There will also be brochures, pieces of shrapnel collected from the fields and most importantly, a 3-volume Photobook of their trip on display. A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED Jabberfest meeting where the Special Guests are guaranteed to entertain.



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good morning everyone.



As I sit here at the computer, just outside the window, I have substantial water views. It's been an interesting week for those of us living on the wrong side of a deep creek or flood plain or ferry crossing, (or involved with the SES). But for most of our members, living in Grafton, it seems to have been life as usual, particularly after the sun returned to dry things out. A few of our groups held early in the week were cancelled or rescheduled due to the heavy rain, but by today (Friday) it's probably only Geology being affected by the fact that our enthusiastic leader, Morrie, has chosen to live on the wrong side of a very capricious waterway. Now the water is slowly receding everywhere and we're able to race into town again – just in time to cancel more groups for the Easter break. Oh well, such is life.

At least we were all able to attend our March Jabberfest. It's a pity that the advertised guest speaker didn't. When Kevin Dixon had first invited him to attend to speak about the promised vaccine rollout, he had readily agreed to come along, but as the date of our Jabberfest grew closer, he proved to be very elusive, in spite of Kevin's best efforts to confirm his attendance. This is the first time I can remember such a happening in the 10 years I have been a member of Grafton U3A. The absence of the guest speaker required us to hastily reschedule the programme a little. Kevin managed to fill the gap with an informative video about vaccinations generally and another of his quizzes, which at least kept the subject of Covid in our minds. After the (non) morning tea break, "The Memories of Washing Day" discussion, chaired by Fiona, prompted some interesting contributions from many of our members and proved to be most enjoyable. I hope we'll be able to schedule additional "Memories of ..." discussions at future Jabberfests from time to time.

Following the non-appearance of any representative from NSW Health at the Jabberfest, Kevin wrote a letter to our local MP, Chris Gulaptis, expressing his concern that here, in Grafton, nobody in the community seemed to know when or where the vaccine rollout would take place in our area. He raised a number of pertinent questions, which were duly passed on to NSW Health. A prompt response was received affording only general information about the various websites available, but no specific information concerning the vaccine rollout in Grafton. Please see Kevin's separate article elsewhere in the journal. I suspect that eventually we will all feel well informed only after we have received "The Jab".

Please try to remember to bring some coins along when you attend Jabberfest or any of our groups; also, don't forget to wear your NAME TAG to both Jabberfest and groups. Yes, I know – I confess I forgot my name tag last Jabberfest, couldn't find it anywhere, in spite of a massive search before I left the house. When I returned home, there it was!! Hanging on the dressing table mirror, where I would easily find it. Sorry about that, everyone. I'll try better next time. At our April Jabberfest, Kevin and Harry Jones will be describing their tour of the Gallipoli Peninsula, very timely as we approach the commemoration of Anzac Day later in the month. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy a relaxing Easter break.

*Alysan Pender*

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## COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE – ALYSAN PENDER

Following the recent spell of wet weather, several groups were cancelled due to the heavy rain and local flooding.

**ARMCHAIR TRAVEL** was one of these groups and could not be rescheduled. At our next meeting on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, Magda Mussared will be talking about a trip that she and Stan undertook through Holland several years ago. Please be aware that despite that date being shown as a public holiday on some calendars, in NSW that is not the case. Venue will be the U3A rooms, Dougherty House, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. If you would like to join the group, please contact the Leader Magda Mussared on 66449309.

Please note that NO GROUPS will be held on Easter Monday or Good Friday. Business as usual on all other days during school holidays.

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## NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL \* 13-24 APRIL 2021

In conjunction with the Seniors Festival, Grafton Library will be conducting a number of programs that may be of interest to members. Programs include WELLBEING AND YOU, STORYTIME AND TECH HELP, LEARN 3D PRINTING.

For full details and/or bookings contact the Library on (02) 6641 0100 or email - [grftonlib@crl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grftonlib@crl.nsw.gov.au)

## COVID UPDATE – MARCH JABBERFEST

Our sincere apologies to all our members at our March Jabberfest Meeting who were expecting to be briefed about the COVID-19 vaccinations. Apologies, also, to the CV Independent newspaper that sent a reporter to cover the presentation. The non-attendance of our guest speaker was beyond our control and was most disappointing. Following our meeting, I provided a list of specific questions to our local Member Chris Gulaptis. Although he rang me about the questions, he passed the list to the NSW Health Dept as he was not able to provide responses to the questions. Chris Gulaptis has since emailed Kevin with responses provided by the Minister for Health and the text of that email is reprised below. If you are in Group 1b (over 70) the vaccine will be available soon but do check out that <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-17/covid19-vaccine-book-gp-doctor-australia/13255390> Kevin Dixon

Good morning Kevin

I have just received the following response back from the office of the Minister for Health: “The Australian Government is leading planning for the national roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine with Australian states and territories, and has developed the [Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy](#).

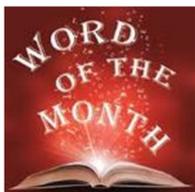
- Under the policy, the Australian Government is responsible for the safe transportation of vaccine doses to storage and administration sites and between these sites and vaccination locations, where necessary. When vaccines are available, supplies will initially be limited and directed towards nationally-agreed priority groups for vaccination. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has developed preliminary advice on priority populations. This is based on a review of Australian data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic so far, and anticipated risks. Vaccinations will be offered in several phases. More information is available at: [www.health.gov.au/news/preliminary-advice-from-atagi-on-general-principles-for-the-covid-19-vaccination-program](http://www.health.gov.au/news/preliminary-advice-from-atagi-on-general-principles-for-the-covid-19-vaccination-program)
- The Australian Government provides news and information about the development, approval process and plans for COVID-19 vaccines on this [page](#).
- NSW Health, along with other states and territories, is collaborating with the Australian Government about implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program. The Australian Government Department of Health is the lead agency on this program and is responsible for the provision of vaccines to the broader population.
- Five major vaccination hubs and 99 regional satellite sites will open progressively across NSW.
- These vaccination hubs and satellite sites will initially focus on frontline healthcare and border workers.
- The five major hubs and their linked satellite sites will open progressively from 15 March through to April and will be located at:
  - Newcastle Hospital
  - Wollongong Hospital
  - Wagga Wagga Base Hospital
  - Coffs Harbour Hospital
  - Dubbo Hospital
- The vaccine will be dispatched from the hubs to the satellite sites. A list of satellite sites, or regional vaccination spoke sites, was released on Saturday 27 February by the Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health.
- The roll-out of the vaccination to the rural areas is for those people who have been identified as part of the high priority 1a group that includes front line workers who have the greatest exposure to potential COVID-19 patients.
- Individuals can continue to monitor the Australian Government’s COVID-19 website at:
- [www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-covid-19-vaccination-policy](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-covid-19-vaccination-policy) for further announcements about the COVID-19 vaccination program.
- Information from the NSW Government is available here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/covid-19-vaccination-nsw>. There are also detailed responses to frequently asked questions available on the NSW Health website here:
- <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/covid-vaccination-faqs.aspx>
- As decisions are made, the NSW Government will communicate the changes on the [NSW Government website](#).

The Federal Government has established a [National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline](#) which may also be of assistance.” I trust will help clarify some of your questions.

Regards

Chris





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 DISCOBOLUS** – someone is a thrower of the discus. The same word applies to the statue of any person who is competing.

## MARCH JABBERFEST WRAP

What promised to be an enlightening and entertaining meeting ended up being just that but for entirely different reasons. Our Guest Speaker was a no show leaving us with absolutely no idea whatsoever of the promised roll out of the Corona vaccination program. We are no further advanced after Kevin Dixon's valiant efforts in contacting our Local Member, who to his credit did pass on to the State Minister for Health, Kevin's comprehensive list of questions, only for the Minister to reply with advices that were well known to all and sundry. In its stead Kevin showed a short general information video on the Corona Virus vaccine. As we discussed at the Committee meeting on 15 March we can only sit back patiently and await advice from our local GPs for their vaccination programs. Let's all look forward to the Jobs whenever they become available.

Nevertheless !!! the morning was after all a great success with an interesting talk from Nancye Eggins on the history of the Lollback Family of early pioneer settlers in the Clarence Valley. A family of German migrants who overcame trials and tribulations inflicted on them by entrepreneurs who by today's standards would be classed as comen.

Nancye's presentation was followed by a Heads and Tails quiz, conducted by Kevin, with the subject questions searching our knowledge of the Corona Virus that eventuated with the winner being member Jan Goodwin. The morning continued with an interesting session of members reminiscences of their Washing Days of many yesterdays past. Some quite different memories indeed, yes those were the days!! The lucky door prizewinner was Colleen Schaeffer. We can all look forward to the April Jabberfest when we are guaranteed that the guest speakers WILL appear! *Brian Carter*

## MEMORIES OF WASHING DAYS "Washday Colours" – Contributed by Anna Pulkinin

Mum's washing labours for the day were coming to an end. There was going to be no problem drying it once it went on the line as there was a cloudless sky that had been the case for some time. The ground was a sea of red dirt with islands of prickles and many spindly bluebells.

The blue bag had just been added to the final tub of precious tank water and I climbed up where I could pull my hand through the water and watch to see it change colour from light to dark blue depending on where the blue bag had done its work. Once fully mixed I would turn my hand over to the pale blue of the palm then the black of the back. The sheets were the most impressive going in white coming out dripping with pale blue water and as Mum wrung them changing to a shinier white – MAGIC!! Where did the blue go?

I would leave Mum to get on with putting the washing on the line. CRAACK! The prop holding the line of lovely white sheets snapped as Mum hoisted it aloft. The lovely white sheets were streaked with red, shading from bright to a pale orange as Mum dragged them up. The strong blue and red colours contrasted with the white were my favourite bits.

**Ed Note:** Edited for length due to space constraints.

## TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

VENUE: Corcoran Park Grafton

DATE: 16 May 2021

TIME: 10:30/11:00AM

Bring your own picnic lunch or BBQ. There will be prizes for best dressed, oldest, most loved. Expressions of interest at April Jabberfest or just turn up. As this will be the first social event since Covid, it is hoped that you are able to attend. *Vanda Geremia*



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



## 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 May edition is **Friday 23 April 2021**. Contributions to [thehifields@bigpond.com](mailto:thehifields@bigpond.com)