

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

SESSION 1 – “THE JOYS OF PT”

So what is PT? Would you like to find out? If so do join us as U3A member Sue Hereford-Ashley, a member of Mighty Clarence Toastmasters Club, provides an insight on this topic. The session will include a power point presentation.

SESSION 2 – BILL DOUGHERTY INTERVIEW WITH MIKE GILLESPIE

William Matthew Dougherty was born at Runnymede in Grafton, a son of R.A. (Tony) and Mildred Jane (nee Weiley). He has lived in Grafton all his life excepting the initial few years when his parents took up a farm at Spring Grove outside Casino and five years at boarding school 1942-46.

His working life commenced at the ES&A Bank in Grafton. He tried work in a sawmill lasting only three days, a stint as a delivery driver for Zuber Cordials, then worked for Barnes & Young Real Estate /Travel Agents where his duties included loading and unloading the Flying Boat twice weekly before being employed for two years in the Grafton Brewery office.



Bill became the licensee of the Royal Tavern from 1951-56 before acquiring Carl Pitts Real Estate in 1958 which he and brother Peter operated for many years. Around this time, he also began a bookmaking business and set up Westlawn Investments (now Westlawn Finance) with his brother Peter.

Elected as a councillor of Grafton City Council he served five years, the last two as deputy mayor. He became inaugural chairman of Clarence Valley Aged Care, a position he held for forty years and for which he was awarded an OAM.

His family has grown from nine children to thirty-five grandchildren and sixty-one great grandchildren. His sporting prowess extended to cricket, rugby league and significant involvement in the Yamba Surf Club and Grafton Golf Club including administration. In his own words he has been blessed with good health for most of his life and hopes to be around for some time yet.

PLEASE NOTE: As from May Jabberfest, the cost for members will revert to \$4.00.

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC - IMPORTANT NOTICE RE VENUE

PLEASE NOTE: The venue has been changed to See Park on the corner of Bacon & Garden Streets Grafton. The change was due to Corcoran Park currently being closed. Although there are picnic tables around, you may wish to bring a chair or picnic basket as well as your food, drinks and of course your teddy bear. I look forward to seeing you there. *Vanda Geremia*

DATE: 16 MAY 2021

TIME: 10:30/11:00AM

VENUE: SEE PARK





PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good morning everyone.

Here we are following Easter and Anzac Day and, as usual, our glorious Autumn days are starting to turn cooler. The start of a nip in the air has sent me searching for the Ugh boots and a favourite winter tracksuit to wear in the evenings. As usual, the occasion of Anzac Day reminds us that Winter is fast approaching. I have such a strong memory from my childhood of the excitement of going into the city (Sydney) with my

mother to watch Dad march in the Anzac Day Parade. I was wearing a new woollen tartan skirt and a new handknitted yellow jumper and was very pleased with my new outfit. I was probably about eight.

But at least we live in an area where the days usually warm up quickly, the sun shines brightly, skies are usually blue and the parks and gardens look lovely. There is a very good chance that we will have a lovely day for our Teddy Bears' Picnic at See Park on Sunday 16th May. I hope that a many of you come along and bring a bear, if you can, just for fun. Remember to bring your picnic, and a chair, too if you are able as we never know how busy the park will be on the day – See Park's benches could be in great demand!

I hope you enjoyed our last Jabberfest. It turned out to be quite a program, starting with some silly poetry and finishing with a very sombre topic, when Kevin Dixon and Harry Jones spoke about their tour of the battlefields of France and Belgium in 2019. So many cemeteries holding so many young men from around the world, so many people mourning lost loved ones, so many cities and villages destroyed, and so many people dealing with the scars of war for generations to come. Between those two items, we were able to serve tea and coffee again – what a delight!

As the threat of Covid slowly recedes and the vaccination roll out begins, hopefully some of our members will soon receive the jab. Meanwhile, the remainder will continue to wait patiently on the Waiting List. I would be grateful if any member who has actually received the injection could relate their experience at a future Jabberfest. Now I am looking forward to our May Jabberfest. Bill Dougherty will be telling us a little about his life, in conversation with Mike Gillespie. They are both such great storytellers, it should be a most entertaining interview. When you attend Jabberfest, please try to remember to bring some coins along, and don't forget to wear your NAME TAG – that would be of great assistance to the ladies on the reception desk who are struggling with a long list of names for Covid sign in purposes.

Alysyan Pender

COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE – ALYSAN PENDER

We have now been offering a wide range of courses since the Coronavirus restrictions eased earlier in the year. We are now able to fully utilise our rooms at Dougherty House and the Mens Shed, virtually free of capacity restrictions and Good Vibes have been able to resume their regular singing groups. However, there are several groups that have not resumed since February, for various reasons. I now expect that these groups will not resume in the coming year:

BOOK CLUB, FIVE HUNDRED/CANASTA, HISTORY CLUB, UKELELE – (BEGINNERS & ADVANCED) UNSOLVED MYSTERIES and WOODWORK FOR WOMEN.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation of the efforts made by all leaders and members who have attended those groups over the years. There is no draw-back to these groups reforming at any time if there is sufficient interest. However, all is not lost and the following courses will be offered at May Jabberfest for members' consideration:

COMPUTER PC TABLET USERS – with group leader Don McLeod. It will run every Friday afternoon for six weeks, hopefully starting in May, at the U3A rooms.

BOARD GAMES/ SCRABBLE will be offered once or twice per month on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons at the U3A rooms. Vanda Geremia to be the coordinator for now.

Expressions of interest will be available for these two groups at May Jabberfest.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL - Our next meeting will be held on Monday 24 May 2021. Presenter will be John Rhodes recounting his travels through Africa on expedition from London to Cape Town.

APRIL JABBERFEST WRAP

The meeting was opened by President Alysyan with announcements regarding courses and groups and mention was made of the details of the Teddy Bears Picnic to be held on 16 May. We were then entertained by recitals by members of the recently formed Poetry group before members availed of a cuppa for the first time since the lockdown early last year. The lucky door prize was won by Carmel Tarrant.

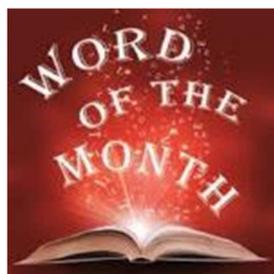
Battlefields Tour to France - Recap

Harry Jones and Kevin Dixon then gave a very interesting presentation on their trip to France and Belgium in 2019 including ANZAC DAY Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux.



Harry kept the audience entertained by walking amongst the audience whilst Kevin remained on stage to point out interesting facts from some of the images in their PowerPoint presentation. Many beautiful Memorials were shown 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. Our thanks to Kevin and Harry.

FIONA DUGGAN - SIESTOSE



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 Isabelline** – greyish yellow colour. Elizabeth 1 was said to have owned "one round gown in Isabella coloured satin". The use of this word to mean this particular colour may come from a bear of this colour (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*) or Archduchess Isabella who in a fit of patriotism vowed not to change her underwear until the city of Ostend, under siege, was taken!!



We welcome new members Joe Armstrong and Lorna Felton and welcome back Mary O'Connor. We trust that you enjoy your association with Grafton U3A and take the opportunity to avail of the courses/interest groups on offer. We bid farewell and best wishes to Ingrid and Andrew Pollack who have relocated to the Sunshine Coast.

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 June edition is **Friday 28 May 2021**. Contributions to thehifields@bigpond.com



AND THEN IT IS WINTER

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like yesterday that I was young, just married, and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all those years went.

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But here it is... the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise... how did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those "older people" were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey... they move slower and I see an older person in myself now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me... but, I see the great change... Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so... now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over on this earth... it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet... let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so, LIVE FOR TODAY and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a GIFT to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Remember:

- "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."
- Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!
- Going out is good, coming home is even better!
- You forget names... but it's OK, because other people forgot they even knew you!!!
- You realize you're never going to be really good at anything.... especially golf.
- The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep."
- You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?" ... "when?" ...???
- Now that you can afford expensive jewellery, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless?!"
- What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- Everybody whispers.
- You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet... 2 of which you will never wear.

But "Old" is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies and best of all, our dear ...OLD FRIENDS!!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" *Contributed by John Stone*

EDITOR'S NOTE: A copy of the aforementioned article was also received from another member for inclusion in the Journal, However, despite my best efforts, I have been unable to locate the email in question and therefore cannot acknowledge that member. My apologies.