

SEPTEMBER JABBERFEST CANCELLED

The committee has reluctantly had to take the decision to cancel the September Jabberfest due to the Covid epidemic and the ongoing regional lockdown in place until at least 10 September. Even in the unlikely event that the regional lockdown is lifted beyond that date, the restriction announced on 26 June concerning the 4 square metre rule would continue to apply for all indoor/outdoor meetings meaning that we would be unable to meet at the New Life Centre.

The 2021 Annual General Meeting will be rescheduled at a later date once a clearer picture emerges regarding the ongoing Covid lockdowns and/or restrictions.

COVID-19 REGIONAL AND RURAL RESTRICTIONS IN NSW

If you are unsure as to how the restrictions affect you, information is available from the NSW Government website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/affected-regions> or contact Service NSW 24 hours 7 days on 13 77 88. A brief summary from the website of the restrictions is set out below:

Activity	The rules
Stay at home	You should not leave home unless it is absolutely essential. You can leave home if you have a reasonable excuse . Follow the NSW Health guidance if you are self-isolating .
When you leave home	When you need to leave your home for a reasonable excuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carry proof of address with you • check in at any places you visit (QR code) • follow the rules for carrying and wearing a face mask.
Outdoor exercise	Stay within your local government area. If you need to cross into another local government area, you must stay within 5km of your home. You can go outdoors for exercise or outdoor recreation. You can go outdoors with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the people you live with • one person you do not live with, such as your nominated visitor.
Visiting people	In general, you cannot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visit people in their home or allow people to visit you at home • share a car with a person you do not live with.
Repairs and cleaning	Restrictions apply to renovations, repairs, maintenance and cleaning services that can be provided by someone working in your home. Find out about the service providers allowed in your home .
Working	Work from home if you are able to. If you cannot work from home, see the rules and restrictions for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaving your home to go to work • renovations, repairs, maintenance, and cleaning services that can be provided in the home. If you leave your home to go to work, follow the rules for wearing a face mask .
COVID-19 tests	Get a COVID-19 test if you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have any symptoms • were at a location at the same time as a confirmed COVID-19 case • come into contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good morning everyone.



It's only four weeks since I last sat down to write my letter for the August Journal, but it certainly feels a lot longer than a mere month ago. I feel that being confined to barracks has been much more challenging this time around, compared to last year, when it was all such a novelty. But there's nothing we can do but wait patiently for time to pass until we can safely come to the other end of it all and emerge back unto a "normal" world. Hopefully we will emerge with our sense of optimism, sense of humour and our good health intact. I do hope you're all managing to stay busy and content with life in spite of this long period of enforced confinement.

It is such a pity that we are again in the position of being forced to cancel all our interest groups and Jabberfests at present, but there is nothing we can do about the current government regulations. The Committee has been working so hard to design a range of interesting Jabberfest programs (including the AGM). It is very disappointing to see the end result - numerous cancellations. Never fear, we hope to re schedule a lot of those guest speakers in future, when we can open up again.

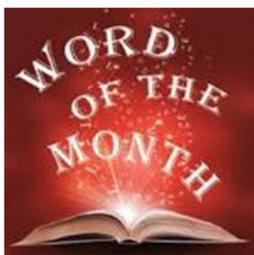
I was sorry to learn that a few of our members had attended the New Life Church Centre last month expecting to attend the AGM, but there was no way that we could access the building, which at that time and now continues to be subject to a ruling of 4 square metres per person. Please also remember that the Journal is printed about two weeks prior to Jabberfest. At the time of planning the AGM, we had been so confident that the then current restrictions would only last for a couple of weeks and would be over in time for the August Jabberfest. Well, that didn't happen! Nobody predicted the extent to which the Delta strain of the virus would overwhelm Sydney, or the rest of the state. Now nobody can predict how long we will be restricted in the coming months. It's all just a matter of wait and see.

In the meantime, I hope you find things to do which will keep your spirits up. I've been doing a bit of work in the garden, a fair bit of embroidery and lots of phone calls to distant friends and family. No cooking and minimal cleaning, as those activities would definitely send my spirits downward.

I hate to admit that I've been watching You Tube a bit too – some terrible stuff, but some photos or performances which are fantastic. My favourite discovery has been the Marsh family, a very talented family of Mum, Dad, 4 children, all with beautiful voices, who sing Covid parody songs in their locked down British house, all familiar music, with words supplied on the screen, karaoke style, so you can sing along too. Good fun! Copy this link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMmgu60G09zrL9JsrFZYgqA> Try to keep having fun people, and try to keep in touch with your U3A friends.

Stay safe

Alysan Pender



Fiona Duggan

*** PUCKET ***

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 INCUBUS** – nightmare or anything that weighs heavily upon the mind. Also used to mean a heavy moral burden.

FACEBOOK

Grafton U3A's Facebook page is now operational <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=grafton%20u3a>. If you have any item of interest to members, please submit it to Vanda Geremia - email vandageremia@bigpond.com and she will arrange for it to be posted on the U3A Facebook page. Check site regularly for updates and news etc.

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 October edition is **Friday 24 September 2021**. Contributions to thehifields@bigpond.com

ADDENDUM TO DIARY OF A DECADE – 1951 – By David Abrahams

P G TAYLOR HISTORIC FLIGHT TO SOUTH AMERICA – GRAFTON CONNECTION



A little publicised fact is that after having been given a special farewell by dignitaries such as the Prime Minister, P.G. Taylor stopped overnight on our River.

My father Leo Abrahams, President of the Chamber of Commerce, hosted a small informal dinner for the crew who were then taken to various homes for billeting. As a result, I had the captain share my bedroom for the night and I have great recollections of this rather remarkable Australian in my absent brother's bed. It was great to go with him to the Boulevard to farewell the venturesome crew.

Below is an excerpt from rare stories about the diversion.

By 1951, the final ocean to be traversed for air travel was the South Pacific between Australia and South America. On 13 March 1951, Captain P.G. Taylor set off from the flying boat base at Rose Bay in Sydney with a crew of four. They made a shakedown flight to Grafton, NSW, landing on the Clarence River and next morning headed east for South America. Stops were made at Noumea; Fiji; Samoa; Cook Islands; Tahiti; and Mangareva, French Oceania and then Easter Island before arriving in Valparaiso Chile on 26th. March 1951.

COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS update – ALYSAN PENDER

No Course notes today, instead we have a list of Grafton U3A resources available for loan to members.

THE GREAT COURSES

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WORLD

6 DVDs Lecturer: Professor Peter Stearns George Mason University

CHINA INDIA & THE US: The Future of Economic Supremacy

3 DVDs Lecturer: Prof. Peter Rodriguez Darden School Business Virginia University

CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

3 DVDs 1 Guidebook Lecturer: Prof. Elizabeth Vandiver Whitman College

EXPERIENCING HUBBLE: Understanding the greatest images of the Universe

2DVDs 1 Guidebook Lecturer: Prof. David M Meyer North-western University

FROM MONET TO VAN GOGH: A History of Impressionism

4 DVDs 1 Guidebook Lecturer: Prof. Richard Brettell University of Texas Dallas

MUSEUM MASTERPIECES: The Louvre

2DVDs 1 Guidebook Lecturer: Prof. Richard Brettell University of Texas Dallas

OPTIMISING BRAIN FITNESS

2 DVDs 1 Guidebook Lecturer: Prof. Richard Restak Washington School of Medicine Health

THE GREAT TOURS – GREECE & TURKEY: From Athens to Istanbul

6DVDs 1 Guidebook

THE 30 GREATEST ORCHESTRAL WORKS

8 DVDs 1 Guidebook 33CDs Lecturer: Prof. Robert Greenberg San Francisco Performances

THE WORLD'S GREATEST GEOLOGICAL WONDERS: 36 Spectacular Sites

6 DVDs 1 Guidebook Lecturer: Prof Michael E Wysession Washington University St Louis

ISSUED BY U3A NETWORK

THINK PHILOSOPHICALLY ... YOU'LL FEEL BETTER

1 Book 2 Copies

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS

1 DVDs U3A network Resources Library

To borrow any of the above items please contact Alysian Pender on 6644 5397.

ITEMS ON LOAN FROM GRAFTON U3A

TO: PAT HILL Phone: 6642 3475 ITEM: Museum Masterpieces 9.9.14. DUE: 9.11.14

TO: MORRIE DUGGAN Tutor ITEM: World's Greatest Geological Wonders DUE: Course conclusion

ITEMS TO BE RETURNED TO ALYSAN PENDER 6644 5397

LOCKDOWN LAMENT

So, here we are in lockdown
Makes us feel like wearing a big frown
The powers that be said “stay, stay, stay”
And it looks like they aren’t going away

No more leisurely browsing the shops
Or we got get stopped by a cop
Just go to the supermarket and buy some food
And of course, some toilet paper as you should

In fact, the supermarket has never looked so good
We are allowed to browse and swoon at the food
No need to rush around and smash your trolley
Just take your time and try to look jolly

Have you become used to wearing a mask
Not that easy can be quite a task
And the danger of not recognizing a friend
Hidden behind this accessory – what a new trend

Bet you have become observant of your rooms
Never had time to study them so soon
So, sit back and enjoy your home and say
“I hope this lockdown will soon go away”

Maree Burrows

EDITED NOTES BASED ON GETUP'S SUMMARY OF THE IPCC'S SIXTH REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Time's up! In November this year all countries will come together at the United Nations climate talks in Glasgow to accelerate climate action and avoid the most catastrophic social, economic and environmental consequences of global warming. It represents our last chance to contain global warming to a 1.5-degree increase.

The political debate in Australia, on whether to commit to 'net zero' by 2050, is no longer relevant; it has become a 'red herring'. A net zero emissions target for 2050 is not only too late, it is also meaningless without a plan or concrete steps or investments that cut emissions this decade.

The scientific consensus is that a rapid reduction in climate pollution is required by 2030 to avoid disastrous climate damage and keep the global 1.5-degree goal within reach.

Contrary to claims by Coalition ministers, Angus Taylor, Barnaby Joyce and the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, repeated by our representative, Kevin Hogan, Australia is out of step with the rest of the world. Australia's emissions reduction target of 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030 falls short of targets set by our strategic allies and trading partners, who are committing to

significant pollution reductions for 2030. The United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan, have all committed to halving carbon emissions this decade.

The United States has almost doubled its 2030 commitment to at least 50% reduction by 2030. Japan increased its 26% pollution reduction commitment to 46% by 2030, including a plan to halve gas-fired electricity generation and reduce coal power by more than a third. Canada, a major fossil fuel exporter like Australia, has increased a 30% commitment to 40- 45% cut by 2030. South Korea has committed to a 40% cut below 2017 levels by 2030. The United Kingdom is committed to 68% reduction by 2030, and 78% by 2035. The European Union is committed to 55% reduction by 2030.

Collectively, these commitments are moving the world closer to the pathway of keeping global heating as close to 1.5 degrees as possible.

Australia has exceptional natural advantages with its abundant renewable energy and skilled workforce. We can develop world-leading new industries and jobs based on our vast reserves of solar and wind energy. However, if development plans and investment don't materialise, these renewable industries and jobs will go to other countries; our exporters and workforce will also become disadvantaged as they bear the cost of border carbon adjustments applied to countries that are not acting responsibly to reduce climate pollution.

Unless the Federal Government acts decisively we will be left behind, or worse, penalized and globally isolated for our inaction.

Already, at a global average temperature rise of 1.2°C, we're experiencing more powerful storms, destructive marine and land heatwaves, and a new age of megafires. The latest science, and extreme floods, fires and heatwaves being experienced here and around the world, tell us climate change is accelerating. Our response must match the scale and urgency of this worsening crisis. Importantly, all Australian federal political parties should be pursuing a science-based target of 75% pollution reduction by 2030, with a just and fair national plan to rapidly slash climate pollution across our economy this decade. *Nick Reeve*

