

**WELCOME BACK MEMBERS...**

**JABBERFEST – 10:00AM 14 FEBRUARY 2022  
NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE – ARTHUR STREET GRAFTON**

**SESSION 1**

Following a welcome back from President Alysian and a detailed update of the state of play in regard to the available courses and groups, quizmaster Kevin Dixon will conduct a TRUE/FALSE quiz on the rather topical subject of Valentine's Day. The lucky winner will receive a lovely box of Valentine's Day chocolates.



**SESSION 2 – "OUT OF THE FRYING PAN" – GUEST PRESENTER NICK REEVE**



Who remembers COP26, the much-heralded Glasgow conference that was to be our last chance to save the planet?

The task of COP26 was to consolidate pledges made following the (2015) Paris Agreement; the goal, to reduce global emissions sufficient to keep warming to no more than 1.5 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels. Any warmer poses real risk of death to the coral of the Barrier Reef

and likelihood of a 'cascade of tipping points' sending us into Climate Catastrophe.

Was COP26 a disappointing failure, "All 'Blah, Blah, Blah'" as judged by Greta Thunberg? Certainly, all the promises added together, still leave a planet hotter by 2.4 to 2.7 degrees, pretty much guaranteeing extinction. Even so, while the urgency of the 'Climate Emergency' remains, perhaps COP26 does offer some hope; a few steps in the right direction, not enough but a start.

These were:

- a commitment to 'net-zero' by 2050; too little too late – but at least agreed by all present.
- 190 countries pledged to end coal (Australia declined).
- Over 100 countries pledged to reduce methane gas by 50% (again Australia declined).
- 110 countries pledged to end de-forestation.

There was also the agreement by the US Climate Change ambassador, John Kerry and his counterpart in China to work collaboratively on climate change despite their many other disagreements. Finally, there was the important agreement for all countries to report progress and plans every year, starting in 2022 at a conference in Egypt.

Our U3A 'Climate Change group meets to keep abreast of these developments, to share and discuss the interesting articles, books and reports we have chanced upon. If you are concerned about Climate Change and would like to be informed about Australia's role in meeting this 'existential challenge', come and join our discussion group on the third Thursday morning each month. Sign up at the 14th February Jabberfest, or contact Nick Reeve [nickreeve@bigpond.com](mailto:nickreeve@bigpond.com)) or 0408 001 541.

**\* BEADLEDOM \***



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 available edition of the Jabber Journal. **Last month's word FROGHOOD** – A creature's standing or quality as a frog! In other words, a creature's sheer frogginess is its froghood – *Fiona Duggan*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good morning, everyone



I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas break and managed to celebrate the Festive Season with family and friends, in spite of the Omicron variation of Covid which seems to continue stalking us. I had travelled to Sydney to spend Christmas with my son and as the restrictions eased, had held such high hopes of visits to exhibitions and galleries, maybe a show in the city, maybe a ferry ride or New Year's Eve fireworks at the harbour. But, alas, restrictions started to tighten, masks and QR codes were back to haunt us again and the only trips we undertook were to the garden centre, the local park, and Coles. Never mind, we still had fun and at least we managed to get some work done in the garden. Now, here we are at the end of January and it looks like the situation may be improving at last. Covid restrictions keep easing, state hard borders are opening up, many of our members have now had a third Covid vaccination and children are returning to school. The New Life Church Centre, CWA rooms, the clubs and Conservatorium of Music are all happy to see our groups return to their usual venues. With the 2 sq metres per person rule still in place, we are able to resume use of our U3A rooms for all of our usual groups. Great news!! Jabberfest and many of our groups will return to their normal programmes in February. What a relief, and what a great start to the year. Alas, we are still subject to some Covid regulations – we still have to maintain social distances, masks must be worn indoors, numbers may be capped at some venues and we still need to sign in to the various venues. Covid rules keep changing in the most curious ways. No singing and dancing for fun in a social setting, but we are allowed to sing in an educational setting – hence Good Vibes can resume. We are permitted to socialise indoors without a mask if we are seated with a drink or meal. There is no longer a requirement for a business (including U3A) to refuse entry to anybody who is unvaccinated. We're almost back to normal! I really enjoyed our AGM and Christmas Luncheon at the Golf Club back in December. I hope you enjoyed it too. After all the months of lock down and avoiding large crowds, it was wonderful to get everyone together in such a convivial, relaxed atmosphere. A great way to end 2021. Now here we are starting 2022 with much optimism. I have been speaking to many of our group leaders in the last few weeks, and they are all keen to get back to the routine of their regular groups after such a long period of disruption. Happy New Year everyone! I hope to see you all soon.

*Alysan Pender*

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### ARE YOU STILL A MEMBER?

Please check if your membership is still current. With all the Covid interruptions, and so few Jabberfests in the past 12 months, you may not have renewed your membership. Now that we are opening up again, our groups will be resuming, and a Jabberfest will be held each month. You must be a member to take part in U3A courses and activities. **If your membership is no longer current, provision of the Jabber Journal will cease following the February 2022 edition.**

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### 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. North Coast specific information is available at <https://hnc.org.au/coronavirus-information/>

#### [REGISTER YOUR POSITIVE RAPID ANTIGEN TEST RESULT ONLINE](#)

The NSW Government has made changes to the way it identifies positive COVID-19 cases. Most people who test positive on a rapid antigen test will not need to confirm their result with a PCR (nose and throat swab) test. Instead if you get a positive result using a rapid antigen test **you must register it with Service NSW as soon as possible**. This will help you to quickly understand your relative level of risk and provide access to support from NSW Health.

It is easy to register a test result for yourself or someone else. Simply provide contact details and answer a few health questions – it takes a couple of minutes to complete. You can log-in using your MyServiceNSW Account to save time. If you need help registering a positive result, please call Service NSW on 13 77 88.

## **COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE – ALYSAN PENDER**

### **COURSES TO BE OFFERED AT FEBRUARY JABBERFEST AFTER A LONG BREAK**

**Good news – with the relaxation of some of the COVID-19 regulations, we are now able to offer most of our usual courses, including those with larger numbers in attendance.**

#### **MAHJONG – TUESDAY**

Leader: Jan Goodwin 66421796. Held at the U3A rooms, Dougherty House every Tuesday morning 9:30 to 12:00 noon.

#### **MAHJONG – WEDNESDAY**

Leader: Leila Thompson 66447782. Held at the CWA rooms every Wednesday morning 9:30 to 12:00 noon.

#### **MENS SHED**

Various times and days, by arrangement. Contact: Bruce Carle 0409 225 536.

#### **EARTH'S CHANGING CLIMATE DISCUSSION GROUP**

To be held at the U3A rooms Dougherty House on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 10:00 to 12:00 noon, commencing on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Leader: Nick Reeve 66425367.

#### **GARDENING GROUP**

Leader: Shirley Grimston 0420859760. To be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month from 10:00 to 11:30am commencing on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Contact Shirley for location details. It is held in various local parks and sometimes visits members' gardens.

#### **GUITAR**

Leader: Leonie Hayes 66432211 Held every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:30pm at her home in South Grafton, commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

#### **ARMCHAIR TRAVEL**

Held at the U3A rooms, Dougherty House on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. First meeting for this year will be held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> February at 2:00 pm. Magda Mussared will be speaking about her travels to New Zealand with Stan about 20 years ago. Enquiries to Magda Mussared 66449309.

#### **CRAFT GROUP**

Leader: Cheryl Hobbs 66447774. Held at the U3A rooms, Dougherty House from 9:00 to 12:15pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month, commencing Wed 16<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **POETRY READING**

Leader: Alysan Pender 04472700997. Held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at the U3A rooms, Dougherty House, from 10:00 to 12:00 noon.

#### **TABLE TENNIS**

Leader: Jeanette Pulford 66435842. Held at the Mens' Shed every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

#### **GEOLOGY – HOW THE EARTH WORKS**

Every Friday morning, 10:00am to 12:00 noon at the U3A rooms, Dougherty House. Leader: Morrie Duggan 66493202. Course will continue from where it was interrupted in June last year recommencing Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**ALSO – TWO NEW COURSES - BIRDS OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY & DO IT YOURSELF DAY TRIPS.**

**These were offered last June, but were unable to be established before Covid closed us down.**

Expressions of interest will be available for most of the Courses listed above at February Jabberfest.

**PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO START ATTENDING A GROUP, PLEASE CONTACT THE GROUP LEADER AS A COURTESY BEFORE TURNING UP.**

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### **DAILY WORD CHALLENGE?**

Looking for a daily word challenge without ads to stimulate the little grey cells? Then WORDLE may be for you. Follow the link for further details:

<https://www.powerlanguage.co.uk/wordle/>

### **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 March 2022 edition is **Friday 25 February** Contributions to [thehifields@bigpond.com](mailto:thehifields@bigpond.com)

## COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS

**COORDINATOR: ALYSAN PENDER 6644 5397**

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST CONTACT THE CONVENOR PRIOR TO JOINING ANY COURSE/GROUP**

<b>COURSE/GROUP</b>	<b>CONVENOR/CONTACT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DAY/DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
ARMCHAIR TRAVEL	Magda Mussared 6644 9309	U3A Rooms Dougherty House	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	2:00 – 4:00
BIRDS OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY				
BUSHWALKING	Peter Mears 6643 5748	The Great Outdoors	Watch journal for details	
CRAFT	Cheryle Hobbs 6644 7774	U3A Rooms Dougherty House	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays	9:00 – 12:15
DISCUSSION – ALTERNATE IDEAS	Pauline Cole 6644 5446	Room 4 South Services Club	Tuesdays	
DO IT YOURSELF DAY TRIPS		Everywhere		
EARTH'S CHANGING CLIMATE	Nick Reeve 6642 5367	U3A Rooms Dougherty House	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays	10.00 – 12.00
FRIDAY GEOGRAPHY HOW THE EARTH WORKS	Morrie Duggan 66493202	U3A Rooms Dougherty House	Fridays	10:00 -12:00
GARDENING GROUP	Shirley Grimston 0420859760	The Great Outdoors	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	10.00 – 11.30
'GOOD VIBES' VOCALS	Brenda Little 0402083471	Conservatorium	Mondays	1:00 – 2:30
GUITAR	Leonie Hayes 6643 2211	Leonie's home South Grafton	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays	1:00 – 2:30
GUITAR – BEGINNERS	Leonie Hayes 6643 2211		In recess	
MAHJONG – TUESDAY	Jan Goodwin 6642 1796	U3A Rooms Dougherty House	Tuesdays	9:30 -12:00
MAHJONG – WEDNESDAY	Leila Thompson 66447782	CWA Rooms	Wednesdays	9:30 – 12:00
MEDITATION	Pauline Cole 6644 5446	Room 4 South Services Club`	Tuesdays	11:00 – 12:30
MENS SHED	Bruce Carle 0409 225 536	Brewery Industrial Complex	Most days by arrangement	8:00 – 3:00
POETRY READING	Alysan Pender 6644 5397	U3A Rooms Dougherty House	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	10:00 – 12:00
TABLE TENNIS	Jeanette Pulford 6643 5842	Mens' Shed	Tuesdays	2:00 – 4:00
UKELELE	Leonie Hayes		In recess	
UKELELE – BEGINNERS	Leonie Hayes		In recess	
TAI CHI	Nancye Eggins 6642 4147 Raelene Bird 6644 88406	Room 4 South Services Club	Tuesdays	11:30 – 12:30
WOODWORK FOR WOMEN	Kevin Watkins 6644 5518	U3A Rooms Dougherty House	In recess	