

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good afternoon, everyone



Following last month's sunny days, we've suddenly plunged back to cold winds and rain squalls. Winter is doing its best to remind us that it's still here. I have now adopted the habit of wearing 2 jumpers around the house – is that a sign of increasing old age? Or just a sign that I'm too frugal to turn on a heater during the day? I think I'll try to claim climate change awareness instead.

The gremlins are still creating havoc with our planned Jabberfest meetings. This time the heavy rain and floods in the Sydney and Hunter River areas are to blame. Our advertised guest speaker, Janet Pettit, advised just a few days prior to Jabberfest that she would not be available after all. She is the Community Capability Officer for the Northern Rivers in the SES and, being an operational position, she was required to assist with the flood emergency in the Hunter area. Fortunately, 3 of our members – Carole Cairns, Aileen Garner and John Hobbs are active SES members and bravely volunteered to talk about their roles within Grafton SES. All three spoke with enthusiasm about the various tasks they perform and clearly enjoy their roles within the SES. Their various "goodies" were also well received by all present.

On the other hand, our first Jabberfest session went according to plan. The guest speaker, Gary Reardon, from Grafton Fire & Rescue delivered a most informative talk about fire safety and prevention in the home. I think we all went home inspired to check our fire extinguishers and smoke alarms and chase up home maintenance issues as required – for example, checking that power boards are not overloaded, and arranging to have your chimney cleaned. All sensible advice, considering that many of us are living in older houses and we tend to become less enthusiastic about home maintenance as we (and the house) get older.

Plans for our 20th Anniversary celebrations in October are progressing. Please check your old photo albums or digital files for photos taken at various U3A functions over the years and pass them on to Fiona (they will be returned) and also check your old files for any documents that may be of interest. Please start thinking about courses or events, which you enjoyed over the years and that you will be happy to speak about. Thanks to those members who have located a few interesting old documents for display. We intend to invite a few visitors from previous years and will welcome your suggestions as to who to invite. Please do not hesitate to approach any of the Committee with your suggestions about events or people you would like to see included in the day.

Our AGM will be held at our next meeting. Please ensure that you have paid your membership subs for the coming year. Costs are \$35 a single and \$60 a double and can be paid online via the website or to our Treasurer Bruce Carle at Jabberfest prior to the AGM. Since two of our committee members have decided not to stand again, we will have two vacant positions. Please seriously consider nominating for the Committee – most of the roles are not particularly onerous. Please approach any member of the committee if you have any questions.

I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Alysan Pender

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 September 2022 edition is **Friday 26 August 2022**. Contributions to thehifields@bigpond.com

COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE – ALYSAN PENDER

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL – Our next meeting of this group will be held on Monday, 22nd August from 2:00 to 4:00pm at the U3A rooms, Dougherty House. We will view a short documentary about Canada & Alaska, then Alysyan Pender will talk about a trip she undertook through Canada & Alaska in 2006. New members to the group always welcome. Enquiries to Magda on 66449309.

FOSSILS AND PALAENTOLOGY GROUP is about to finish and **A NEW COURSE** will commence on Friday, 22nd August (well, it's actually an old course which was so good, it's being revisited - **HISTORY'S GREATEST VOYAGES OF EXPLORATION**. One of the Great Courses, it will run for 12 weeks every Friday morning from 10:00am to 12noon at the U3A Rooms, Dougherty House. Expressions of Interest for this group will be taken at the August Jabberfest following the AGM. Enquiries to Alysyan on 0447270997.

The majority of the groups still have vacancies and would welcome new members. Please contact the respective group leader if you have any enquiries.



As noted in the June President's Report, later this year Grafton U3A will be celebrating its 20-year anniversary. A planning group, comprising committee members Alysyan, Carole, Nancye and I has been formed and tasked with organising a special celebration at October Jabberfest of this momentous event that will include a display of photos and documents from the early days to more recent times.

To this end, the planning group are calling on members to be involved by passing on memories of special moments from events or groups over the years that you

thought memorable together with photos etc. Members involvement is sought to ensure that we have a wonderful display on the day. It offers a means for members to support our hardworking group in ensuring that our 20th anniversary celebration is successful. Any photos or documents can be directed to me either at Jabberfest or email to fiona@guarana.org Please note that any items submitted will be returned following the event. So please, do not hesitate to contact any member of the planning group or committee with any suggestions and ideas concerning events or people you would like to see included in the celebrations.

It is your organisation, so let's all help to make it a celebration worth remembering. *Fiona Duggan*

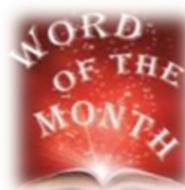
OVERDUE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Please note that fees have been increased for the first time in over 10 years and are now **\$35 single** **\$60 double**. Kindly complete the form at the link https://grafton.u3anet.org.au/?page_id=1182 and then pay online electronically to:

- Account Name: Grafton U3A
- BSB No: 637 000
- Account Number: 780 236 035
- Reference: Your Name



POODLE-FAKER



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 – CUT-FINGERED** – an archaic word meaning peevish or ill-tempered. If you were to snap or snarl at me in an acrimonious way I might say, 'You're a bit cut-fingered today aren't you?' *Fiona Duggan*

JULY JABBERFEST WRAP

What a great morning was had at our July Jabberfest. First cab off the rank was from Gary Reardon, Grafton Fire and Rescue Captain. He provided a most interesting presentation enlightening us with a range of simple and elementary procedures, which sadly are often overlooked by members of the public and are the basic cause of many if not most of the problems that generate emergency call outs that members of Grafton Fire and Rescue must attend. Gary's list of do's and don'ts were so well received by members in attendance and prompted a range of questions. A few of the pointers we should keep in mind are..... but on second thoughts I will not list out all the recommendations that Gary mentioned but will just pose you a question or two!!!!

- Do you have an Escape Plan in place for exiting your property in the event of a fire?
- Do you have a fire blanket in the kitchen and are you aware how to use it?
- Are your smoke alarms over 10 years old and are the batteries replaced regularly?
- Are they installed in all bedrooms?
- If you have power-boards that lie flat on the floor, do you have dummy plugs in unused sockets to prevent the possibility of dust entering the socket?
- Do you know the new telephone number for Grafton Fire and rescue? The number is 6690 6106.
- Do you ever leave home and leave batteries on charge?

These are but a few of the many that can be asked!!!!

Our second session was a presentation from three of our U3A members – Carole Cairns, Aileen Garner and John Hobbs, who are all NSW State Emergency Service volunteers. They provided us an interesting insight into the workings of this remarkable organisation and distributed a number of carry bags with very useful inclusions. Again, as with the earlier presentation we should be asking ourselves some pertinent questions – e.g., do you have a GO Box or Bag in the event that you must evacuate containing the following:

- ✓ Essential papers in a sealed waterproof bag
- ✓ Water bottles,
- ✓ Torch
- ✓ Quantity of food
- ✓ Portable battery-operated AM/FM radio
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Candles and waterproof matches
- ✓ A week's supply of your medications plus prescriptions
- ✓ Appropriate clothing and footwear

Again, our immense gratitude to these members for stepping in at the last moment, as the listed Speaker was unable to attend due to SES duties requiring attention and of course took priority. After all the above-mentioned activity, the lucky door prize winner was our indefatigable President Alysyan Pender. *Brian Carter*

PLEASE NOTE:

Following on from the presentation by Gary Reardon, Kevin Dixon will be taking names at August Jabberfest of any members who would like to avail of the FREE offer to have their fire alarms tested/checked.



**Save the
app that
could save
your life**



triplezero.gov.au

Emergency Plus is a **free** app developed by Australia's Emergency Services and their Government and Industrial partners. The app uses **GPS functionality** built into smart phones to help a Triple Zero (000) caller provide critical location.