

JABBERFEST - 10:00AM 17 APRIL 2023 NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE – ARTHUR STREET

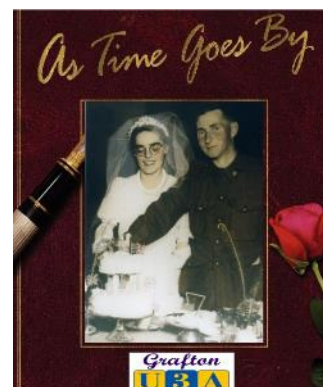
SESSION 1 – ANZAC BISCUITS BAKE OFF



Members are being asked to bake and present 3 x home-made **ANZAC** biscuits for judging at Jabberfest. There will be prizes for the biscuits judged to be the best with First, Second and Third place winners. During the biscuit judging period, a quiz titled "Australians at War" will be held.

SESSION 2 – AS TIME GOES BY.....

As advised in earlier edition, planned as a member-orientated session where members present a short (2-3 mins) talk about an enlisted relative and some interesting story about them. If a member wishes to give a talk and has a photo that I can scan, then please email to kgdixon@bigpond.com. The talk is not intended to be about their military Service but an interesting tale about their time in the Service. Any enlisted personnel from the Boer War through to Afghanistan or peace keeping duty. *Kevin Dixon*



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good afternoon, everyone.

Three months of this brand-new year have gone already and now Easter is fast approaching, bringing more holiday distractions and milder weather.



It's always been my favourite time as a child, with the excitement of a visit to the Royal Easter show and later the joy of the Anzac Day march, with all those wonderful marching bands. I also remember clearly the long, long wait for my father to appear carrying the banner for his 8th Division 27th Brigade headquarters group – such a fleeting view before he disappeared amongst all those rows of marching ex-service men. Later, I was to discover the absolute joy of the Scottish massed pipe bands, when they would march into Martin Place to lay a wreath. The sound of those skirling pipes and drums, reverberating around the sandstone buildings, as they marched along Martin Place to the Cenotaph, remains a

strong memory today. At our April Jabberfest we will be seeking from you some of your family's war stories, whether your family members were serving overseas, or waiting at home for news of their loved ones, or living close to a war zone. You may elect to present a family story from a conflict long ago or one more recent. I am a baby boomer, born in 1947, but I was always aware that my family's war time experiences were never really forgotten and affected them for the rest of their lives. Please bring a photo, or a USB stick, to illustrate your story if you can. We are more interested in human interest stories than battle statistics.

The other item planned for our April Jabberfest is our Anzac Biscuit Bake Off. Please bring just 3 biscuits for judging, and maybe a few extras for morning tea. This is the first time we have ever organised such an event, so please summon up your courage and have a go at contributing to the fun. The more biscuits the better! Kevin assures me that all names will be withheld!

I'm pleased with the general response to the groups that I put up for Expressions of Interest at our February Jabberfest. Only 2 groups did not gain sufficient interest to start and the majority of them are now up and running. The last two new groups – Singing around the Pianola and Birdwatching will hopefully start after Easter. Having said that, most of our groups, both new and established, would welcome additional members. Have YOU checked the course list lately?

Finally, I must congratulate Warren Grant and Mike Gillespie for their one-on-one interview at our March Jabberfest. I thought it was excellent. Warren has lived in Grafton all his working life, but has been involved in so many community groups through the years and followed such a wide range of interests, acquiring such a wide range of skills along the way, that he has made a significant contribution to a surprising number. His hard work has affected not only the Grafton community, but also State and National government policy. He was even involved, as part of a Grafton team, in monitoring radio transmissions for NASA including the first flights to the moon. Amazing!! Well done Warren and well-done Mike for keeping the conversation flowing. Also, thanks to Nick Reeve for recording the interview and contributing an item to this Journal. I hope you all enjoy your Easter break. I will look forward to seeing you all in mid-April.

Alysan Pender

AFTERNOON TEA – REMEMBER WHEN COTTAGE MUSEUM

WHERE: 28 EATONSVILLE ROAD WATERVIEW HEIGHTS

WHEN: 2:00PM SUNDAY 28 MAY 2023

ADMISSION: \$15.50 PAYABLE ON ENTRY (includes afternoon tea)

The Cottage contains displays of interesting photographs, artworks, documents, tools and agricultural artefacts displaying rich dairy history. A highlight is the collection of artworks and photographs featuring Grafton businesses from past decades. There is also a retro room full of crazy items and fashions from the 60s and 70s that often cause much amusement. So, if you fancy evoking memories of earlier times or wandering around delightful collections of vintage memorabilia, feeding the animals or enjoying Devonshire tea in the kitchen this outing is for you. Expressions of interest will be taken at April and May Jabberfests.

COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE – ALYSAN PENDER

The majority of the “New” courses advertised in the February Journal are now up and running.

BIRD WATCHING – will commence on Wednesday, 26 April. Meet at McDonald’s carpark at 7.30am.

CANASTA/ 500 – This group has commenced each Tuesday afternoon at the U3A rooms, commencing at 1:00pm. Only 500 is available at present and additional players would be welcome.

SINGING AROUND THE PIANOLA – Will hopefully start in May, date and venue to be advised.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL - Our next group will be held on Monday, 24th April at 2.00 pm at the U3A rooms. Adrian van Ash will be speaking about his travels through Israel and Jordan. **Enquiries: Alysan Pender - Course Coordinator, ph 0447270997**

PLEASE NOTE: (1) ALL OF OUR GROUPS (INCLUDING THOSE LISTED ABOVE) WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

PLEASE NOTE: (2) IF YOU WISH TO JOIN A GROUP, PLEASE CONTACT THE GROUP LEADER AS A COURTESY BEFORE TURNING UP.

ADVENTURE ALL * STARS

Charities and Cast – **HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED! Interested in becoming a TV cast member?**

As you may or may not be aware, this program is the Aussie Travel show with a difference. Real people, real emotion, real adventure. Every episode is filmed in spectacular locations – the ultimate trip where TV viewers get to experience incredible regions through the eyes of funds and awareness for their chosen Australian charity. Our inaugural “Legends” Adventure All Stars series has already filmed multiple TV episodes in Tropical North Queensland throughout February. Next stop was Vanuatu in March, followed by the filming of Season 4 to round out a big year! And let’s not forget the money and awareness we’ll continue to raise for Australian charities along the way. Each episode features 12 new cast members from every corner of Australia. Past and present cast consist of various racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds, in addition to an assortment of lifestyles, experience, and interests. Pre-filming, you’ll be supported by our amazing team to raise funds for a charitable cause you’re passionate about... and your reward is a one-week trip-of-a-lifetime with our [Adventure All Stars](#) film crew. This award-winning filming and fundraising project will transform your life, and the funds raised via this experience will help change the lives of others! Here’s your charity’s chance to benefit from the funds & exposure raised in 2023! Or perhaps you want to star in our TV show? Applications close Friday 21 April 2023. **REGISTER NOW AT** – <https://www.charityglobal.com/register-now/>

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

FRIENDS OF GRAFTON GALLERY ANNUAL WINTER SOLSTICE SOUP DAY

This event is set down for Sunday 18 June 2023. The cost is \$35.00 payable online. For further information, contact FoGG on 6643 4044 or email friendsofgraftongallery@gmail.com

THE CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATORIUM’S “STRINGS N THINGS”

“Strings n Things” will be performing at the Eatonsville Hall High Tea on 3 June 2023. The cost is \$25.00 payable on admission. The hall is located at 38 Orara Street.

“HAZARDS NEAR ME NSW”

This app is available to receive real-time notifications on floods and emergencies near your home. Floods and fires can start quickly and without warning and setting up alerts is easy:

1. Download the “Hazards Near Me NSW” app.
 2. Create personalized “Watch Zones” to be notified about emergencies happening in your area.
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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 2023 edition is **Friday 21 April 2023**. Contributions to thehifields@bigpond.com

MARCH JABBERFEST WRAP

The Poetry group entertained us with a selection of limericks. Harry Jones was the star of the show and explained what limericks are and how they can be somewhat risqué. The "Best in Green" winners will be included in the next edition as well as the winner of the Irish Quiz.

ONE ON ONE INTERVIEW – WITH WARREN GRANT BY MIKE GILLESPIE

Warren Grant, interviewed by Mike Gillespie can be described as 'a Northern Rivers man' and as a 'man of many parts'. Born in Lismore in 1942, Warren has accomplished much in his life, and has done much for the community; none of which, he says 'would have been possible without the friendship of his cousin Neville Hunt' who was like a brother to him and above all from the love and support of his wife of 59 years, Pauline.

He first met Pauline when he arrived in Grafton in 1958 to commence a new job working on Grafton's telephone system. Looking with his friend for accommodation, they were confronted by this young lady who asked "what do you boys want"? Later when he asked her to be his partner at the boarding house dance, she said "Yes"!

Coming from Lismore, as he crossed the bridge into South Grafton in a bus, Warren was impressed by his first sight of the mighty Clarence River. He also noted all the people on bicycles, (not so popular in hilly Lismore). He found the people friendly and joined several clubs including football, basketball and a motor-scooter club. When a friend sold him his second-hand Moth dinghy, Warren then took up sailing. He describes the exhilaration of sailing down to Ulmarra with a good following breeze, and racing in one of the four club boats, built for them by the Lions Club. Exciting too was his first solo flight in an aero plane, after his instructor climbed out and sent him off alone, to enjoy circling above and around South Grafton.

Working for the Postmaster General's Department, Warren grew up with the telephone system, as it expanded and modernized. He described the changes from manual calls through an operator, to automatic telephone exchanges, the first of which was installed at Copmanhurst. The telephone system grew from three lines serving the Northern Rivers towns, with 300 subscribers in South Grafton and 3,000 in Grafton, to 1968 when dial-up trunk calls allowed dialing to (at a price!) anywhere in Australia. Radio came into use for remote areas such as Nymboida and led to the Grafton team's involvement in monitoring radio transmissions for NASA, including the first flights to the moon. Warren became involved with the Post Office Credit Union and as regional representative initiated 'loans for single women', previously unavailable and therefore making it impossible for single women to own a house. (This disclosure raised spontaneous applause from the U3A audience). Warren was also a volunteer for the local SES and for 15 years he led a small 'intel' team responsible for collecting and correlating flood reports from all the 24 sources feeding into the Clarence. The team covered an area from the Clarence to the Nambucca River, using their local knowledge to predict the flood heights and times. Sadly, this essential function, performed by the small local team has now been re-located to Wollongong and the local knowledge, crucial in times of major floods, is lost.

In his modest way, Warren described a life lived to the full, in which he used the skills and experience acquired from his working life to enrich both his private life and voluntary work for the community. He described how setting up recording systems for ABC concerts, broadcast from Dougherty House led to a love of classical music; his assistance to Grafton Race Club in replacing the race recording system, led to this later being adopted at Randwick Racecourse, and his voluntary work for the SES which will surely be missed. *Nick Reeve*



We welcome new members Yvonne Busslinger, David Pollard and Ron Porter. We trust that you enjoy your association with Grafton U3A and take the opportunity to avail of the courses and interest groups available.

GRAFTON BRIDGE CLUB



Would you like to learn to play bridge? Are you a euchre, 500 or canasta player seeking a new challenge? Have you never played cards but would like to learn? If so, Grafton Bridge Club are running lessons for eight weeks at the GDSC commencing on the 11th April 2023 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Lessons are FREE except for \$20 to purchase the "Introduction to Bridge" book. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Bob Northam on 0413493274.