

**JABBERFEST - 10:00AM 8 MAY 2023
 NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE – ARTHUR STREET**

SESSION 1

CONNECT YOU TOO – Rebecca Spence

Rebecca Spence will be providing us details of the services offered by this not-for-profit company for the benefit of the community and include:

CLARENCE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT delivering services for medical transport

Travel to specialists	Hospital admission/discharge	Allied health	Pathology	Dentists
General practitioners	Medical centres	Health clinics	Tests - x-rays/scans	

Plus, services for shopping trips, bus transport and social outings.

A2B TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS providing charters, private hire, transport if you are not eligible for community transport and want to get to the services that you require, transport for NDIS participants and those on health Care packages who want the choice of transport provider.

An airport transport service is also offered from the Clarence Valley to and from Ballina Byron Gateway and Coffs Harbour Airports. This service is a door-to-door prepaid vehicle hire service for family visitors, business people, holiday makers, group bookings and just on occasions when it is more convenient than taking your vehicle and paying for parking.

MEALS ON WHEELS offering services for any person in the community who wishes to receive meals home delivered by our volunteers. Although meals are available to everyone, subsidised meals may be available if you have been assessed by My Aged Care.

SESSION 2

HISTORY OF WOOD TECHNOLOGY - GREG CROMPTON

It has been suggested that the pivotal technology of the twentieth century was radar. The war time need to make radar smaller, more powerful and analyse images more effectively led to laptop computers, mobile phones etc. The argument of our guest presenter Greg Crompton is that the processing and manufacture of Wood products over thousands of years has established the human race today. Humans have used it for fuel, building materials, furniture, paper, tools, weapons and more.

Our relationship to this resource has remained relatively unchanged over time, and our methods of developing and managing woodlands continue to rely on tried-and-true techniques established by early civilizations. Prehistoric man needed the ability to heat, cook, hunt and shelter and learning how to make tools to cut and shape wood was essential. The twenty first century is still inventing tools to utilise wood and around the world, wood is being used to build high rise buildings. For several environmental and economic reasons, timber provides an insulated strong aesthetic structure.

The building (pictured) is a proposal (covid willing) for Vancouver Canada - twenty odd stories, timber structure and cladding. Several similar buildings are completed in Norway and a smaller building is in Brisbane. Without the ability to use timber, would we have explored the world or learned to fly?



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good afternoon, everyone.



I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and were able to spend at least some of the time in the company of friends or family. I was able to spend a week with my son in Sydney and then a further two weeks with my younger daughter who visited from Perth. What a delight! After all the disruption and uncertainty of the pandemic, it is such a bonus to be finally able to spend two weeks in each other's company.

But now she is about to return to Perth and already it's time to think about our plans for the May Jabberfest when we will have speakers on two widely different topics. In our first session, Rebecca Spence will be talking about Connect You Too, a local Clarence Valley organisation; and following morning tea, our guest speaker will be Greg Compton, speaking on the History of Wood Technology.

I hope you all enjoyed our April Jabberfest, with its emphasis on Anzac celebrations. The Anzac Biscuit Bake-off attracted the attention of a good number of our members, resulting in about 18 entries – well done everyone and congratulations to our winner Una Stone and second-placed prize winner Kevin Dixon. Of course, the biscuits themselves attracted the attention of all members in attendance and were much appreciated as a feature of our morning tea. We heard a wide range of personal stories in the later session, when a number of members told of the experiences of both distant and close relatives in various theatres of war. Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of this worthwhile session.

As the year rapidly passes, I must point out that it is only 3 months to our AGM in August. It will be time to elect a new committee, and I urge you, dear members, to seriously consider standing for the committee. Several existing committee members have indicated that they will not be in a position to stand for the committee next year, but this organisation will not flourish without an effective committee to run it. The workload in both the committee and the Mens Shed is not onerous, but both the committee and the Mens Shed are in need of some fresh blood and fresh ideas to keep Grafton U3A ticking along. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the present committee, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

I'll look forward to seeing you all in May.

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 May Jabberfest.



COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE – ALYSAN PENDER

SINGING AROUND THE PIANOLA – Will commence on Friday 19 May at 2:00pm at the home of member Harry Jones.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL Our next group meeting will be held on Monday 22 May at 2:00 pm at the U3A rooms. Alysyan Pender will be speaking about her recent trip to South America through the Chilean fjords from Valparaiso to Ushuaia, Buenos Aires Patagonia and (almost) Antarctica.

Enquiries: Alysyan 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.

APRIL JABBERFEST WRAP

ANZAC BISCUIT BAKE-OFF

Thank you to all who entered our first Anzac Biscuit Bake-off. In all we had 18 entries from members and a variety of styles. A special thank you also to our two judges Carole Kendell and Yvonne Tomlinson. Congratulations to Una Stone for 1st place and a surprising 2nd place to myself. *Kevin Dixon*

QUIZ – “AUSTRALIANS AT WAR”

During the judging of the Anzac Biscuits Bake-off, Fiona Duggan presented the quiz and congratulations went to the joint winners Ken Woodward and Harry Jones.

AS TIME GOES BY.....

A big thank you to some dozen members who took up the offer to relate a tale or two, unrelated to military service, about an enlisted relative. A number of the presentations were accompanied by photos of the enlisted relatives. The stories were indeed entertaining and an insight.

President Alysyan presented an update on courses old and new and awarded the lucky door prize to Paul White. Next meeting - 10:00am 8 May 2023 New Life Church Centre.

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.

2023-2024 Membership fees are now able to be paid from 1 May 2023. Fees: \$35.00 a single \$60.00 a double. Complete the form at the following link and then pay online.

https://grafton.u3anet.org.au/?page_id=1182

Electronic Payments can be made to:

- Account Name: Grafton U3A
- BSB Number: 637 000
- Account Number: 780 236 035



Annual
Membership

• **HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE?**

- As you are aware Grafton U3A Inc. is a voluntary, non-profit association. Like U3A groups worldwide, Grafton U3A has the philosophy of engaging members as volunteers to fulfil all the management, administrative, organizational and tutoring tasks necessary for its effective and successful operation.
- The management role of U3A is undertaken by your committee, without which the organisation is unable to function. The committee of Grafton U3A is composed of a four-person executive and seven additional members with various responsibilities.
- At the upcoming Annual General Meeting to be held in August, several vacancies will need to be filled as a number of the current committee, after considerable service, have indicated that they will not be re-nominating for the upcoming year.
- The committee is therefore in need of new blood to bring fresh ideas to the table. Membership of the committee is not an onerous task, but is very fulfilling with each member having a set area of responsibility. The members of Grafton U3A as a group have extensive experience in many fields from their working lives and serving on the committee offers an opportunity to utilize those skills and ideas for the benefit of all members of Grafton U3A. So please do give this opportunity to nominate your serious consideration.

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 2023 edition is **Friday 26 May 2023**. Contributions to the editor: Dennis Kelly email: thehifields@bigpond.com

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

EATING IN THE FIFTIES

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.
Curry was a surname.
A take-away was a mathematical problem.
Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.
Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.
All chips were plain.
Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking.
Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.
None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
Cooking outside was called camping.
Seaweed was not a recognized food.
Kebab was not even a word, never mind a food.
Sugar had good press in those days and was regarded as being white gold.
Prunes were medicinal.
Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.
Pineapple came in chunks in a tin; we only ever saw a picture of a real one.
Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock.
The thing that we never ever had on/at our dinner table in the fifties.....
was *elbows, hats and cell phones*.

STORY TIME:

THE WISE WOMAN'S STONE

A wise woman who was travelling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveller who was hungry and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveller saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveller left rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman. "I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone." ❤️