

JABBERFEST – 10:00AM MONDAY 17 JUNE 2024
NEW LIFE CHURCH CENTRE – ARTHUR STREET GRAFTON

SESSION 1

MEMBERS' FORUM – YOUR "STUFF IT" LIST

A "Stuff It" list is the direct opposite of a "Bucket" List, but instead of being a list of all the things you hope to do in your lifetime, it is a list of all the activities you never ever intend to do again. It could date back to a resolution made long ago in your childhood or early adulthood, for example "I will never ever practice the piano again" or "I will never milk those goats ever again", or a more recent experience such as "I will never travel on a large cruise ship ever again". It could refer to a much-regretted item of clothing, for example, "I will never ever wear hot pants again" or an item of food, or drink, or a place. The list could be endless. Please be prepared to tell us why you came to that decision. If it's too embarrassing, you can always tell us that you forget! Over to you! *Alysan Pender*



SESSION 2

MEMBERS DEBATE



And now for something completely different! An impromptu members debate between two teams of 3 speakers on the topic "**Country folk are disadvantaged compared to the City**". To date four members have put their name forward to participate in the debate – Harry Jones, Fiona Duggan, Pattie Hewitt and Bill Greenlees. We need **two more members**, who are not Committee members that are willing to "have-a-go". Please contact me before the meeting if you would like to be included on a team.



Mike Gillespie will be the Convener and Judge. Members will speak for a maximum of 5 minutes per speaker and to make it interesting, those taking part do not know if they will speak For or Against the motion. That will be decided by the roll of a dice at the meeting. Please note that paper and pencils will be supplied for participants to make notes. *Kevin Dixon 0402295904*

JABBERFEST

The committee is concerned about the trend over a significant period of time to smaller numbers in attendance at our monthly Jabberfest meeting. With the exception of the Christmas luncheon, this is our key activity where all members are invited to attend. The Committee work hard as a group (more so with 2 committee members short) sourcing guest speakers on a range of topics each of whom has a special story or information of benefit to members, organising other activities and presenters in order to make Jabberfest function for you each month.

- New Life Church Centre does not feel like a church but is very welcoming.
- \$4.00 is a cheap tea/coffee and biscuits with opportunity to chat with friends or meet new fellow members.
- Transport – need assistance? Just ask.
- Bring a friend.
- Offer suggestions as to how attendee numbers can be increased.

So, what do we need to do to encourage more of you to attend?

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good morning, everyone



As I begin to write this message, I realise we have now officially reached the first day of Winter. Only 92 days to go before I can breathe a little more easily – I always find the winter months with their cold, dark days and insufficient sunshine quite a trial. Never mind, I'll console myself for now with the thought that there are only 21 days to go until the Winter Solstice, I always feel a little cheerier once the days start to get longer.

I hope you all enjoyed Harry's talk on Cave Exploration at May Jabberfest. I was sorry to miss it, but I had a fine time with my family in Perth. This is such a big country with such varying weather conditions – when I left Sydney, the rain had been bucketing down for days, and we were all wearing jumpers. When I arrived in Perth, the sun was shining and a lot of mature trees in the bush were dying because of the drought. Just as well I'd packed a couple of light shirts. On the day I left to return to Sydney, it was 39 degrees in Perth, but it was still raining in Sydney. Most of the clothes I lugged over there didn't get out of the suitcase, but then they all got damp in Sydney's weather and needed to be washed anyway. Sigh.

We have an interesting program arranged for our June Jabberfest, involving quite a bit of member participation (I hope). In the first session, I will be convening a Members' Forum on the topic of your "Stuff it List". This is the direct opposite of a "Bucket List" – we are asking you to list activities you never ever wish to do again in your life time. It could date back to a resolution made long ago in your childhood or early adulthood, for example "I will never, ever practise the piano again" or "I will never milk those goats ever again" or a more recent experience such as "I will never travel on a large cruise ship ever again". Hopefully, the topic will promote a fun discussion.

After morning tea, our second session will be a Members' Debate on the topic "Country people are more disadvantaged than City people". The participants consist of two teams each comprising three members and Mike Gillespie will be the Convenor and Judge. This is the first time we have tried a debate at a Jabberfest, so we will be learning as we go, but hopefully it will be a positive experience for all.

I must have come back from WA revitalised - I've arranged for two of our occasional groups to take another outing. Both Singing along with the Pianola and an Art Gallery Visit are programmed for the last two weeks of June – see Course Notes. There will be Expressions of Interest forms at Jabberfest.

I'll look forward to seeing you all on the 17th June.

Alysan Pender

UPCOMING JABBERFEST PRESENTATIONS

MONTH	TOPIC	PRESENTER
JULY 8	ONE + ONE MEMBER INTERVIEW	KEN WOODWARD Interview by Mike Gillespie
AUGUST 12	HOW TO TALK TO A DEAF PERSON IN AN EMERGENCY	JIM READ (SES)
SEPTEMBER 9	SARATON THEATRE HISTORY & ORGANISATION	MICHELLE GILBERT

IN MEMORIAM

WARREN BERNARD GRANT

Born in Lismore 1942 - Passed away in Grafton, April 2024

Warren Grant became a member of Grafton U3A in 2006 and proved to be a most enthusiastic and supportive member of numerous interest groups and most Jabberfest meetings in the ensuing years. Despite battling some major health issues over the past few years, he continued to regularly attend our meetings whenever his health would allow him, always throwing himself with enthusiasm into the discussion group, or the ukelele performance or the fancy hat parade as required.



He had arrived in Grafton in 1958, a skinny 16-year-old kid (his words) to start a job with the PMG Department as a technician and proceeded to develop a range of interests and skills and community connections over the years. Always generous with his time, he usually rose to executive positions in a number of Grafton clubs as he worked hard to support the local community – Grafton Sailing Club, Grafton Aero Club, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Grafton Postal Employees Credit Union and the SES, to name but a few.

We send our sincere condolences to Pauline, their children and grandchildren.

Alysan Pender

PS: At a U3A Jabberfest in March 2022, Warren was our special guest in a one-plus-one interview with Mike Gillespie, a most interesting life story and one of my favourite Jabberfest session. Nick Reeve's summary of this interview is available in our April 2022 edition of the Jabber Journal.

COURSES AND INTEREST GROUPS update – ALYSAN PENDER

Please contact your Group Leader if you have any questions.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL GROUP will be going into recess for at least three months. The situation will be reviewed in September, dependent on level of member interest. Enquiries: Magda Mussarad 6644 9309.

SINGING AROUND THE PIANOLA - Our next get-together will be held on Friday 28th June at the home of Helen Hearnshaw starting at 1.00pm. Expressions of Interest form will be available at June Jabberfest. All welcome. Enquiries to Alysan Pender 0447270997.

ART GALLERY VISIT – Will be held on Thursday 20 June at 10:00am. Expressions of interest form will be available at June Jabberfest. Enquiries to Alysan Pender 0447270997.

PLEASE NOTE: (1) ALL OF OUR GROUPS WOULD WELCOME MORE MEMBERS.

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

GRAFTON U3A COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Due to a relocation and an illness, there have been, for several months, two vacancies on the committee of your Grafton U3A. In order for the committee to function efficiently in undertaking the tasks associated with managing the activities of Grafton U3A, it is essential that we have a full complement of members of that committee. The tasks associated with membership of the committee are certainly not onerous. All members are therefore asked to give serious consideration to putting themselves forward to serve on the committee. Should you require any information or have questions please feel free to approach any member of the current committee or our President Alysan Pender who can be contacted on 0447 270 997.

MAY JABBERFEST WRAP – KEVIN DIIXON

Hello everyone, and welcome to the June edition of Grafton U3A's Jabber Journal. Of course, by the time you read this, winter will have begun. After a somewhat damp autumn, I believe we are in for a dry winter, but who knows?

At our May meeting Harry Jones gave a very enlightened and enjoyable talk on Speleology (Caving). Initially, we were treated to a short film clip about caving and the perils of not checking the weather report. Harry made his dramatic entrance all dressed up for caving, carrying rope, safety equipment, helmet, head light and a flying bat! His presentation was most interesting and informative with the number, and different types, of caves in Australia. Harry showed numerous slides of his expeditions with his late wife Barbara and a well-experienced group of cavers.

In Session 1, the Summer Olympics quiz was won by Sue Woodward and the Lucky Door prize was won by Annette Hicks.

Some important things to keep in mind as we enter winter. If you are feeling unwell, a bit fluey or not 100%, please wear a mask for the Jabberfest meetings. Masks are available at the sign-on desk. Also, anyone wanting an Emergency Contact members card, please see Nancye on the front desk at the next meeting.

Now, onto our next meeting on June 17th, a week later than usual due to the June Long Weekend. Our initial Guest Speaker, Maria Wormald, is no longer employed at Services NSW and as such is unavailable.

So, as a fill-in we are having an impromptu Members Debate for Session 2. The topic is **“Country folk are disadvantaged compared to the City”**. So far, I have 4 names of Participants. I am after members who are not Committee members and are willing to “have-a-go”. I need 2 more names. Mike Gillespie will be the Convener and Judge. Members will speak for 5 minutes. To make it interesting, those taking part do not know if they will speak For or Against the motion. That will be decided by the roll of a dice at the meeting.

So, rug-up for winter and see you in June.

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP FEES are now able to be paid since 1 May 2024. 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

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



CONNECT YOU TOO
JUNE 2024 SOCIAL OUTING

A TRIP TO SAWTELL
Enjoy a tour of Sawtell and have lunch at the Sawtell RSL.

(lunch at own expense)

BUS #1 - MON 17 JUNE
Departing from Yamba

BUS #2 - TUE 25 JUNE
Departing from Grafton

BUS #3 - WED 26 JUNE
Departing from Maclean

BUS #4 - FRI 28 JUNE
Departing from Iluka

BOOK YOUR SEAT • 6645 3200

PLEASE NOTE THAT TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BOOK A SEAT ON ANY CONNECT YOU TOO OUTING OR TRIP YOUR NAME MUST ALREADY BE REGISTERED WITH MY AGED CARE

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 July 2024 edition is **Friday 22 June 2024**. Contributions to the editor: Dennis Kelly email: thehifields@bigpond.com