On Monday 6th December, 2010, 101 Grafton U3A members gathered together for their Annual Christmas Luncheon which was held at Erin’s Restaurant at the Golf Club.

As members were arriving they were entertained by Jim McDougall and Helen Hearnshaw with music.

Our president David Morgan welcomed our guests: Carol and Ron Skinner and Jan Mc Gill.

Greg Ryan started the day with a rhyme about the Men’s Shed and Gladys Andersen chipped with “The Bottom Line”!

Everyone was then served a delicious dinner served by Erin and staff, while this was being served our past president Bob Cuming sang a little ditty called “Granddad got married last Saturday” (which went to the tune of :“Side by Side”)

“Good Vibes” our choral group sang 3 Christmas songs - “Sing we now a song of Christmas”, “Frosty the Snowman” and “We wish you a Merry Christmas”. Four of the committee ladies Maree Burrows, Carole Cairns, Alysan Pender and Bev Garde entertained with a skit “A tale of four Ladies”, Good Vibes finished the entertainment by singing “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” and everyone joyfully sang along.

President David thanked all the entertainers for a good day, everyone for coming and for everyone to have A Merry Christmas and looked forward to seeing you in the New Year.

This was a truly enjoyable function – the picture shows members enjoying the company and entertainment.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**CCGG AT FEBRUARY JABBERFEST!**

Concerned Citizens Group Grafton (CCGG)
The Group formed in March 2010 due to concerns about the indecent haste and the change of direction taken by the RTA with the resumption of the second Grafton Bridge Project (without any community consultation about the two new route options and defined study area). The Group comprises only a few local residents from the Dovedale area, however community support appears to be much wider.

**Presentation**

Bob Cairns will be making a Power Point presentation to provide a brief history of the second Grafton Bridge Project since 2003/2004, an outline of the current RTA process and potential impacts as seen by the CCGG. It should be noted that funds are only available for the RTA investigations at this time and construction funds are unlikely to be available in the foreseeable future. Anticipated construction costs of a second Grafton Bridge and approaches will be in the order of $200 million (2009 costs).

Bob Cairns was a professional Engineer for over 40 years, mostly working with civil construction projects in NSW Local and State Government. In 1992, he commenced work as Flood Mitigation Engineer with the Clarence Valley County Council Flood Mitigation, and was in charge of completion of the South Grafton levee. Bob then worked for some 12 years as Senior Project Manager with the RTA on a number of Pacific Highway projects, including Tandy’s Lane Deviation, Ewingsdale Interchange, Half Way Creek Deviation and Ballina Traffic Lights. He retired in July 2010.

This is a great opportunity to hear expert opinion on this very topical issue and to partake in ongoing discussion. To good to miss!

**GROUP LEADERS SEGMENT**

Joan Ingram – Mahjong, and Andrew Richmond – Wine Appreciation will each be giving a short talk about their respective groups at the meeting!

**GRAFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE DUKE ST.**

10AM MONDAY FEBRUARY 14TH
INTEREST GROUPS

Armchair Travel
Maureen Stanford 6644 9814
4th Tues 2-4pm.CWA Rooms, Grafton

Aquarobics
Helen Hearnsaw 6642 5073
Mondays 3-4pm 23 Eight Mile Lane,

Book Discussion
Maureen Stanford 6644 9814
3rd Mon 2-4pm.CWA Rooms, Grafton

Bush Walking
Peter Mears 6644 7435
To be decided by the group.

Computer Users Group
Tom Dennis 6642 2502
2pm. Every 2nd Friday U3A Office

Recommences 18th February

Good Vibes’ Vocal Group
Elaine Taubman 6642 3375
Barbara Eastwood 6644 5564
Mondays, 1 – 2.30pm
Conservatorium, Villiers St.

Mahjong
Joan Ingram 6642 1560
9.30 – 12.30 Wed. CWA Rooms, Grafton

Thursday – Opinion Time
Colleen Morgan 6642 1131
1.30 – 3.00 pm Thursday

266 Bent Street South Grafton

Men’s Shed
Frank Heppell 6643 5331
David Abrahams 6642 2540
8am – 3pm Wednesday
Old Brewery Site, North St., Grafton

Meditation
Colleen Morgan 6642 1131
Maree Burrows 6642 1640
9.45 – 11.50 am Tuesdays
South Services Club Room 4

Movie Group
Ralf Junger 66423484
Program in Journal each month

Table Tennis
Lyn Roughley 6644 5212
2 -4pm Tues Oddfellows Hall,
Bacon St., Grafton

Scrabble
Alyson Pender 6644 5397
9.30am, Wednesday
Commencing February 16th
U3A Room

SPECIAL CLASSES

“A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WORLD”
This is a series of lectures on DVD
given by Prof. Peter Stearns a
popular teacher and editor of the
Encyclopedia of World History. He
discusses the development of major
civilizations and their interaction
with each other, as well as the far
reaching changes that result from these exchanges in
ideas, trade etc.
We start off with the Neolithic revolution and the
Classical Period around the globe.
The entire course goes over a total of 18 weeks and takes
us right up to modern times.
Course Leader is Vreni Voigt - Phone 6649 5003
Commences Friday 4th February 2011 for 6 weeks (with
possibility of extension if interested)
Time 10-11.30 am
Place U3A Club Rooms

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE – MACBETH!
It is planned to start the year on
Wednesday 2nd March at the
Dougherty House rooms – from
2.00pm – 4.00pm
Play to be studied will be
Macbeth. This course should go for
about 6 weeks. We will be taking
names for this group at the February
Jabberfest.
Course Leader is Enid Bennett Phone 6643 1998

GRAFTON U3A WINE
APPRECIATION
Recently our group put our wine
tasting into practice, with a very
pleasant and sociable luncheon at
Vines Café. Food was great and six
wines, of varying ages, were enjoyed.
Peter Dougherty kindly contributed a bottle of 1999 Petaluma
Cabernet Merlot. It was sublime. Thank you Peter.
I must thank Bruce Sherwood for his great assistance through our
8 meetings.
It was decided to wind the group up at this point. However, we
will start a new group this year and go again, with slightly
different themes.
The new “U3A Wine 2011” will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the
month, 2 – 4 pm, at the U3A Rooms.
Membership will be $15 per meeting. Nibbles and glasses will be
provided and members will be guided through the tasting of one
sparkling and four still table wines. Several wine luncheons will
also be held. First meeting will be on 15th February.
I will be at the February Jabberfest, to take names of those who
wish to join.
Happy tasting
Andrew Richmond Phone 6642 5373

COMPUTER CLASS
Tom Dennis will be asking for expressions of interest from
members at the Jabberfest – 14th February.
MOVIE GROUP
The first film for the New Year will be BLITHE SPIRIT, a Classic Comedy on Thursday 10 February 2011, 10am at the Dougherty House Rooms. Produced by Noel Coward, the cast includes Rex Harrison, Constance Cummings, Kay Hammond and Margaret Rutherford.

This a "golden oldie" in which a medium Madame Arcati (Margaret Rutherford) conjures up the ghost of Charles Condomine’s (Rex Harrison) deceased first wife Elvira (Kay Hammond) in the presence of his second wife Ruth (Constance Cummings). No-one but Charles can see the ghost of Elvira and she takes the opportunity to make mischief all around her!

Rita Bullen

~~~ooOoo~~~

GRAFTON U3A CONSTITUTION
Notification has been received from Fair Trading, NSW that the New Constitution as presented to members at the Special General Meeting in November has been approved as from November 26th 2010. Copies are available for perusal at the Drop in Centre or may be viewed on our website - www.grafton.u3anet.org.au - follow the link.
Members wishing to purchase a printed copy should contact the Secretary - Carole Cairns 6642 4615.

~~~ooOoo~~~

JABBERFEST SPEAKERS
Our Jabberfest coordinator, Shirley Tees (6649 3507) is keen to hear from members who would be willing to share their lifetime experiences and knowledge by making a presentation at one of our monthly meetings.
This can be a most interesting and rewarding venture and every technical assistance is available to enable graphics to accompany your thoughts. Do not be shy!

~~~ooOoo~~~

2010/11 COMMITTEE & TASKS

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BOOK REVIEW
BOOK DISCUSSION
“LOVE OVER SCOTLAND” by Alexander McCall Smith
“Love over Scotland” is another delightful story by the great Scottish author whom you’ll remember from the “No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency”. This title is part of a series “44 Scotland Street”, but stands quite comfortably on its own, tempting one to seek out the rest of the series.
McCall Smith has the knack of involving his reader in the setting, the characters and the story seemingly without any great effort – no long explanations, no involved plot – the tale just flows along.
One sympathises with the clever small boy beset by the ambitions of a foolish mother; one understands the anxiety of the lost dog (human-minded though he is); one feels for the generous coffee shop owner deceived by a worthless cad – yet all these form only a small part of the story.
Laced with subtle humour and living characters “Love over Scotland” is one of those great reads one finds difficult to put down and wishes to start all over again when one finishes.
Pat Smith
The Book Discussion Group meets 3rd Mon 2-4pm
CWA Rooms, Grafton Maureen Stanford 6644 9814
ARMCHAIR TRAVEL—CANADA & ALASKA
This tour was taken in May–June 2009. It was late spring, and Vancouver was making preparations for the Winter Olympics, which were held the following February, 2010. A major feature of this trip was 2 days spent on the Rocky Mountaineer train – left – as it made its way in some of the most beautiful mountain country, through Quesnel to Jasper. Travel then continued by coach, with overnight stays at Lake Louise and Banff. The scenery was spectacular all the way. The days were packed with visits to a variety of interesting and significant tourist venues, learning a good deal of history and development of those areas as we passed through. Next stop was Calgary, the home of the Stampede. Of course it was not Stampede time, though the arena seemed much larger when seen on TV! The flight from Calgary to Victoria took a route over the Rocky Mountains. A clear morning and good vision told of the immensity of this range. A visit to Victoria Island could not be complete without going to the Butchart Gardens. These world famous gardens were developed in an abandoned limestone quarry in 1904. Since then, the family has extended and maintained the many acres of garden themes. Taking a ferry from Victoria Island to the mainland of America (Seattle) threw up a minor customs hitch which could have been avoided if the authorities had the equipment to read the electronic forms, so carefully prepared in Australia!!! The second part of the tour began by joining the cruise ship “Westerdam” at Seattle. The ship sailed the inside passage, stopping in at Glacier Bay, where the view was just magnificent. The ship seemed to be very close and the weather was good. The next port of call was Juneau, the capital of Alaska. It has a relatively narrow land base and can only be accessed by ship or aircraft. Sitka was capped from the inside, unfortunately, it only fitted the “Dream Lifter”, which is assembled at the factory from components sourced from all parts of the world. This was a wonderful tour with much variety, scenery and diversity, as you can imagine, and catering for many interests.

Tom and Frances Dennis
Armchair Travel Group Meets 4th Tues 2–4pm. CWA Rooms, Grafton Maureen Stanford 6644 9814

THE BOTTOM LINE FROM XMAS PARTY
I have just been through the annual pilgrimage of torture and humiliation known as “Buying a Swimming Costume”

When I was a child in the 1950’s, the swimming costume for a woman with a mature figure was designed for a woman with a mature figure – boned, trussed and reinforced, not so much sewn as engineered. They were built to hold back and uplift, and they did a good job.

Today’s stretch fabrics are designed for the prepubescent girl with a figure carved from a potato chip. The mature woman can either front up at the maternity department or try on a floral costume with a skirt – coming away looking like a hippopotamus who has escaped from Disney’s’ Fantasia – or she can wander around every run-of-the-mill department store trying to find something vaguely sensible from what amounts to a designer range of rubber bands.

I wandered around, made my sensible choice and entered the chamber of horrors known as the Fitting Room. The first thing I noticed was the extraordinary tensile strength of the stretch material. The Lycra used in swimming costumes was, I believe developed by NASA to launch small rockets from a sling shot, which gives the added bonus that if you manage to actually lever yourself into one, you are protected from shark attacks – any shark taking a swipe at your passing midriff would immediately suffer whiplash!

I fought my way into the swimming costume but, as I twanged the shoulder strap into place, I gasped in horror – my breasts had disappeared!!! I eventually found one bosom cowering under my left armpit. It took a while to find the other. At last I found it flattened beside my seventh rib. The problem is that modern swimming costumes have no bra cups. The modern woman is expected to wear her breasts spread across her chest like speed humps.

I realigned my speed humps and lurched towards the mirror to take full view assessment. The swimming costume fitted all right but, unfortunately, it only fitted the bits of me willing to stay inside of it. The rest of me oozed out rebelliously from top, bottom and sides. I looked like a lump of play-dough wearing undersized cling wrap. As I tried to work out where all those extra bits had come from, the prepubescent salesgirl popped her head through the curtains. “Oh, there you are!” she said, admiring the swimming costume. I replied that I wasn’t so sure and asked her what else she had to show me.

I tried on a cream crinkled one that made me look like a lump of masking tape, and a floral two-piece which gave the appearance of an oversized napkin in an undersized napkin ring. I struggled into a leopard-skin costume with a ragged frill and came out looking like Tarzan’s Jane pregnant with triplets and having a rough day. I squeezed into a black number with a midriff, and looked like a jellyfish in mourning. I tried on a bright pink pair with such a high cut leg I thought I would have to wax my eyebrows to wear them.

Finally, I found a costume which fitted: a two-piece affair with shorts style bottom and a loose blouse type top. It was cheap, comfortable and bulge-friendly. So I bought it!

When I got home, I read the label. It said, “Material may become transparent in water”.

The Editor apologises he has been unable to find a clip depicting the two-piece affair mentioned above - readers will have to do with the brief clip!