

307 words, column #9
Java Talk
(for June 21 to June 27, 2007)

Every Age Is The Best Age

Olive's Blob Story

Mike Rubbo does the typing, while Olive Riley, 107, the world's oldest blogger, does the telling. Olive met Mike in 2004, on her way home to Broken Hills, Australia from Brisbane. He was producing a film about her trip to see relatives she hadn't seen in eighty years.

Mike also made a fictional film, in 1990, that included Madame Jeanne Calmant of Arles, France. At the time of the movie, Jeanne was 114. "Being in my movie did Jeanne no harm, quite the contrary," says Mike. "She went on to live to 121, the oldest person ever recorded. She's still in Guinness as the oldest actress, and only died, rumor has it, because her carers at the old folks home decided to cut her off from visitors when she turned 119 and she died of boredom two years later. I've never forgotten that. Jeanne died of boredom! We'll make sure that never happens to Olive."

In Olive's Twenty-Third Post: The Five Lands Walk, she says, "Good afternoon, all readers of this little blob [*sic*]. Welcome to another chapter of our story. Mike wants me to go on a walk."

Mike explains to Olive how he is making another film, titled *Bit by Bit*, that invites everyone to join them, on Saturday, June 23rd, for a walk along the central coast of Australia (there are amazing "sneak previews" of the scenery, on the site) that will give everyone a reason to stop and chat with her. The plan is to "catch the walkers as they come up the hill...."

"Hey folks, there's a very, very, old lady up ahead under a canopy. She's fading fast (pretending) and the only thing that can save her, is your stories. Stop for a moment, please, and tell her about some place you love."

You can respond to Olive's "blob" at www.allaboutolive.com.au/2007/05/30/the-five-lands-walk/

Deidre Hill