



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – May 2024

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President’s Report

The Committee of U3A Benalla have invited all Convenors to a meeting on Friday 3rd May at 2pm in Room 1. The aim of this meeting is to hear what is going well, what the challenges have been and if there is anything the Committee can help with. Afternoon tea will be provided, and we hope to see all Convenors there.

On Tuesday 9th April Nicole McFarlane as Secretary, Anne Nelson as Course Co-ordinator and myself participated in a Regional U3A meeting by Zoom. The main points which came out of the meeting were:

U3A Network are going to use State Government funds to pay for a music licence which will cover copyright for the music used by all groups of all U3A branches. The music covered is for the Ukelele group, the Recorder Group, the Singing Groups, the Exercise Group and also the Film Group.



Tax reporting laws for Incorporated groups such as ourselves are changing on 1st July 2024. U3A Network have engaged a lawyer to give an opinion on how these changes will affect individual U3As such as Benalla. This information has been forwarded to the U3A Benalla Committee, and they will act on the information provided at the next Committee meeting.

The Victorian U3A Conference will be held in Melbourne in early October 2024. Network are paying the Registration costs of one delegate per U3A to encourage participation by all U3A branches.

A small housekeeping item. Twice this month I have been contacted by morning groups which have found a window open in Room 1. Also, another group found the heater on one morning. Could everyone please check that windows are closed and that the heater is off at the end of each session.

Thank you to Neville Gibb for laying a wreath on behalf of U3A Benalla at the Benalla Anzac Day service. Covid prevented my participation in the service

Margaret Jenkins, President

Group Reports

A Taste of Art

Broken River Painters are delighted that U3A’s fortnightly ‘A Taste of Art’ class now has a core group of six members who are attending regularly and gaining or renewing skills in a medium of choice. Broken River Painters members Norah, Leon and Carol are available to provide mentoring support for members, who are bringing along their own ‘props’ as inspiration, such as a small vase of flowers for a water colour still life; or

their ideas for paintings which have meaning for them. A Taste of Art members are invited to join Broken River Painters during the Benalla Heritage Festival activities for artists at Winton Wetlands.

Carol Perry

Armchair History

In history the tendency is to range from subject to subject. We began with Anzac Day - the landing at Anzac Cove. We discussed the fact that a large number of troops from many countries of the Empire, including African and Indian, plus French Troops were sent into action. We noted that in total approximately 60000 Australians landed and that there were over 10000 casualties. We also noted that there were misgivings about the enterprise from day one.

From that we moved to Settler History and the expeditions of Major Mitchell. Major Mitchell made three expeditions surveying the country south of Botany Bay including in our area. Major Mitchell had both good and bad relationships with the native population, and a number of his employees were killed. We made note that out of the 400-odd, recorded massacres of native people in Australia, some were in our area.

Neville Gibb

Art Appreciation

Due to Monday 1st April being Easter Monday and a Public Holiday, there was no First Monday session in April. 'First Mondays' resume on Monday May 6th, when gallery staff will "join in conversation with Janet Leith about her exhibition, [*Melancholia*](#), showing in the Simpson Gallery. Following the loss of her father, Janet used the human figure to explore her own emotional and physical world. The figures are depicted as vulnerable and stark against bold backgrounds; the large, cropped bodies, torsos and busts are de-identified through fabric wrapping of the face and body." Join other members for coffee and conversation at the Munro & Sargent café after the session.

Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

If there was a theme woven through our memoirs at our April session, it might have been that of a 'coming of age'.

After Bev's invitation to reflect and share stories of the Great Depression, and Margaret and Carmyl tabling their recent published collations of memoirs, Bev suggested publishing options as a future focus for our group.

'Scars', the opening theme of our memoirs, were an outer indicator of significant physical or emotional events in the life for both Carmyl and Graham. Whereas a trip to the NASCAR races in the USA was a most 'memorable holiday' for Heather W and opened up possibilities for envisaging similar racing in Australia.

Whereas Ray's trip through England, France, Spain and Northern Ireland reflected the professional planning skills of his daughter, resulting in an unforgettable holiday, Neville's trip to Sydney introduced him to a world inhabited by a most mysterious and compassionate aunt, a beautiful cousin and younger Down syndrome relative.

Heather's cruise from Australia to England encompassed the most memorable and the most dramatic experiences of her life while John's 'just come and paddle' invitation down the Goulburn River was one never to forget.

For Max, contact with 'could have been Anzacs' veterans was an early honoured experience whose character sketches drawn by Max intrigued members of the group.

The May theme for continuing students is '**Time Travelling**' - 'about looking behind you.... yet being present' - with a choice of two topics - *Time Travelling #1* "When you look behind you, you see the future in your footprints' (suggested by Graham Jensen) OR *Time Travelling #2* 'You've travelled through time and encounter a younger version of yourself. What life lesson (or lessons) would you share? (suggested by Barry O'Connor)

New, or newer participants, are encouraged to create/draw upon a '**Memories Treasure Chest**' in a shoe box, drawer or old case containing objects and artefacts that enliven your memories, through scent and



feel. Maps, menus, theatre programs, an old report card, vials of perfume, a garment, treasured photographs, a souvenir, an expired passport can sometimes trigger a work rich with detail. Select two items from the treasure chest as creative prompts – what do they mean to you? What were you doing, why; what were you thinking at the time this object related to your life? (250 words each object)

Graham Jensen

Australian Shares & Stock Market

We commenced with a short video extract of a podcast of February 2024 by Justine Campbell, Chief Financial Officer of Lycopodium (LYL). The video provided insight into its engineering and project delivery services in the Resources, Infrastructure and Industrial Processes sectors for 35 years across all the world with 1,200 staff.

The handouts included notes that Boral has rejected a takeover offer, and BHP has divested two of its coal mines to Whitehaven Coal. There is no doubt BHP will now rely on base metals such as copper and rare earth into the future. A listing of April and May Ex dividend dates was also handed out.

Our long-term stock selections again were positive for March with Wende leading with paper profit of \$4,990 followed by John & Colin. Overall, the list was \$6,630 positive across the 20 members

Our tea break included a small offering of tiny Easter treats and was followed by Les who gave an insight into the paper handout on Altech (ATC); a company with a new electric storage battery to be produced in Germany based on Solid State materials with Sodium Chloride as the symporter. There are no moving parts such as fans to keep the battery cool and fire risk is non-existent. Another handout listing on one page of stocks “Fundamentally Sound” thanks to Don, who said this listing is updated yearly and lists 100 stocks. It was suggested the full list be emailed out after the meeting.

Our stock listing of “Real Time Stocks” with dividend has Nola, Neville, Sue, Neena and Colin leading with greater than \$700 profit, with 11 members ahead of the initial purchase of \$9,980. Overall, a good result with 4 members wishing to sell their stock and purchase a new stock (WAM ex-dividend date being 18 April) to obtain a new dividend before the next meeting on 6th May. Malcolm will sell the current selected stock on paper at its peak over the next 3 weeks and buy WAM & CDM as requested. By our May meeting, we will have had announced by NAB, ANZ, & WBC dividends and ex dividend dates. This will provide a chance to buy these stocks as the dividend should be close to previous solid results by banks.

Finally, our monthly short-term selections were positive for 14 out of our 20 members. There were 2 requests for new stocks being for WAM and CPV. Overall, across the 20 stocks by members, the result is \$11,230 or 5.5% positive.

Our next meeting will be 6 May 2024 at 2pm.

Malcolm Sanders

Be Connected – Android

Our two sessions in April reinforced to us that there is a myriad of ways to achieve our preferred outcomes on our devices.

Firstly, we looked at using the camera. Taking photos and selfies and then editing them. Then we looked at an issue that we all seem to have to deal with at some time – sorting all our photos. Deleting duplicates – out of focus pics – other unwanted photos. Once we had some of these sorted, we created folders for our photos so we could deal with them as we wish. Just a reminder, if there is sufficient interest, in Semester 2 we will concentrate, and maybe even produce, a photo book or other product using our sorted photos.

Whilst focusing further on how to connect to the “BeConnected” website we were led down the path of passwords and security. We discovered how most of us are able to find our passwords if we have saved them at some stage in google. This is both a positive and a negative feature as we do get to use apps and passwords that we had forgotten about, but it was pointed out how easily an unwanted third party could potentially find the same.

In May we will explore the world of scams, online shopping and the internet.

We continue to encourage class members to suggest topics and issues they would like help with.

Ruth Jelliff

Birdwatching

The next outing for the U3A Birdwatching group will be held on Thursday 9th May at **Shadforth Reserve, Violet Town**. We will meet in the car park behind the Seniors and Community Centre at 9.30am for the drive to Violet Town. Shadforth Reserve is on the northern edge of town off Shiffner Street. With a good mix of mature trees, understorey shrubs and open grassland, it is a very good birdwatching site. Please bring a hat, water and binoculars if you have them, and wear sturdy walking shoes.

Report of April outing to Winton Wetlands

The group visited **Winton Wetlands** on Thursday 11th April. It was a clear sunny morning, which gave us great views of the main wetland and a range of waterbirds at the Boat Ramp on Lake Mokoan Road. With the help of a telescope, we were able to identify 16 different waterbirds. There were plenty of Black Swans, Coots and Grey Teal, plus several Great Egrets, Plumed Egrets and Yellow-billed Spoonbills, while a Whistling Kite flew overhead. Helen M did well to spot a beautiful Turquoise Parrot which flew into a small eucalypt. Then it was off to the Mokoan Café to enjoy coffee and cake.



Altogether we recorded 28 species for the morning. Here is the link to the eBird list - <https://ebird.org/checklist/S170021248>

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

In April we found that some answers make you groan, and some are obvious as soon as someone else says them but it's always easier if you read the instructions carefully.

We built mental muscle with geometric shapes, rebus and cryptic homophones and fired pathways across the brain by touching our nose with one hand and the opposite shoulder with the other.

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalking – Easy Walks

A walk at Jamieson

With fine weather and the promise of some pleasant exploring, fourteen walkers assembled at Jamieson and set off along the river walk. While the autumn colours were not quite as blazing as expected, there were enough for our photographers to capture the day, and for the group to enjoy just under 5kms of rambling around this historic town-followed by a welcome coffee.



Thank you to Andi and James for some great photos, and to the group for managing the day while I convalesced at home.

Wednesday 1st May: Winton Wetlands Orienteering

The planned Cherry walk at Bright has had to be delayed, and Bev has offered instead to take us orienteering at the Wetlands, an activity previously done with Benalla Bushwalking Club, and which promises an interesting angle on getting our walk for the morning. We will then enjoy lunch at the Hub cafe, with the chance of a bit more wandering afterwards.

Meet at the Seniors' carpark, Fawckner Dve to leave at 9.30am.

I will need confirmation for lunch by Sunday 28/4- text, email or phone message on 0407823031 or juliemcneill55@gmail.com.

Car sharing is available for a small contribution.

Wednesday 5th June: Goulburn River and Shepparton Botanic Gardens This will be the walk previously planned for March, walking along the Goulburn and picnicking at the interesting Botanic Gardens, which offer shorter walks and views across the Goulburn Valley.

Meet-with confirmation to Julie-as above to leave at 9.30am

Julie McNeill

Cards '500'

The roll up to our twice monthly sessions totalled 35 players for April. Room 2 is being used to accommodate the overflow from Room 1 if we have 5 tables or more, although this only happened once in April.

The Five Hundred card playing cohort seem to sit in the same place each time enjoying the company of their partners and random opposition.

My thanks to Pat Menzies for running the March sessions while I was away on holidays.

For those with a mobile phone, that's just about everybody now, there is a handy and free app (see below) where you can play a variety of card games including Five Hundred, Bridge and Euchre. My thanks to Bev Lee for letting me know about this app - <https://www.neuralplay.com/fivehundred.html>

If you can't make a session, please let me know to avoid the unnecessary set up of tables.

Keep shuffling

Doug Smith

Chat n' Chew

April's 'Chat n' Chew' lunch will take place at '**Zeus' Cafe**, 123 Bridge St East, on **Friday 10th May**, arriving at 11.45 for a 12 midday start. Chat 'n Chew members need to let me know each month if they wish to attend. If I'm not available to answer the phone when you call, please leave a message—also, don't forget to include your name in the message, not just the phone number. If you wish to attend the May Lunch at Zeus Café, please contact me on 0427 376 991 by Tuesday 7th May 2024.

Lorraine Knox

Chess

Our small chess group of mainly beginners is gathering experience and confidence as they negotiate the nuisances of the various moves of the chess men.

Chess can appear complicated in the beginning but playing face to face with an opponent of similar experience and helpful assistance from other players present sees improvement gained quickly.

The website **Chess.com** is an excellent tool for those learning or wanting to play a computer bot or friends online. Chess.com is free if you stick to just playing the bot. It allows you to pick varying degrees of difficulty, choose black or white men and allows take backs. I found it to be an excellent training tool and it's free.

Our players have been accessing this site for practice and honing their skills for play on our meeting days. Give it a try - it's good fun.

The group meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 1.30pm in Room 2.

Doug Smith

Coin Collectors

Two reports this month!

At our **March** meeting Frank showed some of his \$2 & 50c coins; Shirley showed us her 2003 Australian Volunteers 20c coin, while Peter brought along some of his collection in folders. He also Coin Scoped some of Dianne's obscure coins. Dianne brought along her uncirculated 1945 National Chinese bank notes, they are in pristine condition, in the denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 100 & 1000 Yuan.

This was followed by a Noodling session. David supplied noodling sheets, pre decimal & decimal. Members brought along their own coins & noodled away. Rupe supplied a number of 50c coins, so he & Frank spent time sorting them out. By and large it appears that everyone learnt something & enjoyed themselves.

David Lowing

Our regular segment COTH (Coin Of The Month) for **April** was titled – "*A foreign coin based on its attractiveness, mintage and condition*". Coin collector members rose to the occasion with this challenge presenting a variety of interesting, mostly foreign coins from:-

- Cooke Islands – triangular shaped \$1 and 12 sided \$5
- Cooke Islands use NZ currency but also mint their own coins/notes
- Thailand – very attractive 5 baht
- Swedish 1989 proof coin set
- Turkey/Egypt coin sets
- Russian 2014 euro – commemorating 20 year fall of USSR
- Euros are the currency of the European Common Market countries but many mint their own euros
- Mexican centavos and USA 1885 Silver Dollar
- Palestine 1927 2 Mils. The coin obverse (face) features the word Palestine in 3 languages Hebrew, English and Arabic. It was issued during British Mandate 1920 to 1948. The historical Mandate was created by British Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour after WW1 to resettle the Jewish population to the then State of Palestine.

The Group then looked at the RAM (Royal Australian Mint) website to view the difference between a circulated and uncirculated coin. Circulated coins are generally issued by RAM to banks. Uncirculated coins are circulated differently. These coins are the basis of many coin collections. They usually highlight significant Australian people, places and events. Uncirculated coins are made from the same materials as circulated coins but are struck at a slower rate with greater force. This produces a sharper image with clearly defined edges.



They are also slightly more polished than circulating coins and are typically packaged in presentation cards. A coin trivia session followed based on members knowledge of Australian currency pre/post decimal. Lastly, the Group viewed a number of short YouTube videos from the *Coin Collecting and Detecting* channel on coin errors and rare coins to collect.

My thanks to David who ran the March Coin Collectors session during my absence.

Happy noodling!

Doug Smith

Community Singing

There was no Community Singing in April due to it falling on Anzac Day.

In May we will have Community Singing on both the 23rd and 30th May at the Hub at Coinda at 10am. All welcome.

Margaret Jenkins

Cooking Solo

Cooking Solo is a very interesting activity, not always going to plan! At our first session in April, due to Gwen being unwell, Val and Lin organised the pumpkin soup and “fish” meal. Thanks to Jim for donating the pumpkin. The soup had a special flavour as it stuck to the saucepan! Fish Puffs were a tasty entrée, enthusiastically eaten from the pan as they were cooked. The tuna mornay looked really good and was enjoyed by all, even though it was missing some vegetables! Everyone enjoyed their time in the kitchen, and lots of interesting questions were asked.

Why are fish so smart? Because they live in schools.

Next_session, Val’s granddaughter Nathalie, and her partner Alex, visited to film a possible entry for the Benalla Short Film Festival. All present responded well to being interviewed, and we are looking forward to the edited version when it arrives. The filming was approved by U3A Executive and everyone was given the option of not participating.

Lin made a hearty pot of minestrone with lots of seasonal vegetables. Then everybody made their own pasty – not the traditional Cornish variety, but a Mexican one made with precooked mince, grated apple and crushed pineapple filling, inside a mashed potato pastry. Very tasty with home-made relish, and very, very filling! Thanks to Rupe for donating tomatoes and beans.

Gwen Mildren and Val Whan

Creative Writing

Another month of writing and more great stories.

Hints: After talking about the importance of the beginning of a story in March, it made sense to talk about the ending of the story this month. We looked at three options:

1. Leave the reader satisfied.
2. Leave the reader to decide what really happened/happens. The book "If I Stay" by Gayle Forman is a good example.
3. Leave the reader wanting more – a cliffhanger. Although the cliffhanger is more for the end of a chapter of an ongoing story or a series of books. For our short stories it is more relevant to be the end of a paragraph.

But all three still need to leave the reader satisfied!

Our challenge: This month we were challenged to identify original quotes from altered phrases, such as

- "There's no location like my abode!" = "There's no place like home."
- "I have brain waves, therefore I'm here." = "I think, therefore I am."

Some of our Stories:

Vegies Rule: How Margot enjoyed her vegetables and found her perfect partner in a vegetarian.

The Thief: Life in a boarding school. During the term suddenly a thief was amongst them, and when they decided who it was, she was never "forgiven or forgotten".

Ambrosia: The start of a fantasy around elves, pixies, winged horses and dragons and probably more.

Ronald's Funeral: A supposed long lost son talking at his father's funeral, when in fact the son had died many years before. It was a plot to cover for his mate who was trying to burgle the father's home.

A Day to Remember: Surviving a bombing and realising he should never take things for granted.

Prompts: The prompts for our May class are:

- Who's that woman in the photo?
- My best friend is a ghost.
- Helen dropped the last of his photographs into the trash.

Joy Shirley

Demystifying Psychology Course

The Enigma of a Particular Character: The Making of Donald Trump

The focus on the psychology of Donald Trump in Session Three held people's interest, not only by its topicality but also a shared understanding of Donald Trump as a complex, confusing and at times charismatic, at times obnoxious individual.

Two salient factors that contributed to the election of Trump as US President were his wealth and the skewed nature of the US electoral system. However, it was agreed that the nature of Trump as both an individual and a politician merited exploration. In other words, what made Trump who he is and what is his appeal for many American voters?

It became clear that his upbringing and the nature and personalities of his parents profoundly influenced Trump. He was a product of his environment, being someone who not only inherited wealth but also independently was successful in achieving "The Great American Dream".

Trump's Scottish-born mother was not a strong maternal force and exhibited narcissistic characteristics, while his father has been described as "a high-functioning sociopath." Donald idolised his father, who was controlling and emotionally unavailable and who groomed Donald in his own image. Consequently, Donald Trump experienced emotional disruption as a child, which is reflected in how he sees himself and engages with the world.

A number of reasons were outlined to explain why many voters supported Trump, covering bribery, aspects of past policies, the economy, military spending, border control, and, significantly, Trump's canny use of perception, successfully targeting people's fears.

The stimulating discussion highlighted the role of ego and narcissism in leadership styles.

Barbara Rogers/Jane Rushworth

Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group

Thanks to everyone for meeting a week earlier this month at Ruby Blue Cafe. We appreciated Dan and Jodi's update on the Cafe's anticipated temporary relocation for building renovations. There is nothing solid to report yet, so for this group it is "business as usual".

A reminder that Ruby Blue closes at 4:00pm during winter, so we'll aim for a 3:45 finish which means no new "meaning of life" discussions from 3:30.

Topics this month fitted an overarching "changes we notice". Points of interest included:

- Current parenting trends - mobile phones and parenting.
- Gender pay gap - with "same job, same pay" is there really a pay gap? (calm .. calm:))
- Sex and gender - Gender and sex differ; and how a binary minded world responds to gender changes.
- Gender trends in the workforce - a positive move to encourage females into male dominated industries, however, what is being done to encourage males to participate in female dominated industries?

The group seeks to apply a psychological framework to discussions, however, on this occasion we dived deep into "gender pay gap - does it exist?" and then time ran out. On reflection, the psychology of change is one of a few theories (frameworks) applicable to our discussions.

More details at <https://www.psychologytoday.com/au/blog/understanding-addiction/202110/understanding-the-process-change>

On a final note, I've observed that one of the most uncomfortable places for the human psyche seems to be the emotional space between the "old known" and the "new known" - perhaps a form of grief.

Next meeting: 16 May 2:00pm at Ruby Blue Cafe Nunn Street.

Jane Rushworth 0437 621 575

Exercises for Fun

Our Exercise Class is continuing to have good attendances, where we are all keeping ourselves moving, whilst improving our fitness and enjoying each other's company. All welcome.

See you Monday 9.30am sharp.

Helen Jeffree

Exploring the Universe

A Symphonic Odyssey, Aliens, UFO's and Fireworks on the Sun.

We started our afternoon with a portion of 'A Symphonic Odyssey,' with Professor Brian Cox revealing the wonders of the Cosmos with the Sydney Symphonic Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House. Brian spoke of the size and scale of the Universe. "It seems that we are adrift in an infinite ocean of stars."

On the large screen he took us on a short journey out into the Universe amongst beautiful galaxies. The Universe is 13.8 billion years old. In the background the minute red dots are galaxies billions of light years away. (*Light travels at the speed of 300,000 km/sec. A light year is the distance light travels in a year.*) The beautiful music at the end of this segment was from 'Missa Solis' inspired by Galileo's first scientific treatise, 'The Starry Messenger.' 'A Symphonic Odyssey' is still on ABC i-view.

Aliens and Flying Saucers seem to have become part of our culture. With a film from Brian Dunning we looked into what scientists call 'The great silence.' Earth with its atmosphere and oceans must glow like a beacon, but no one has contacted us!

Brian interviewed astrobiologists and astrophysicists who believe that there is life far away in the universe. But the universe is so vast that aliens would have to travel faster than the speed of light to reach us. It's been scientifically proved that the laws of physics are the same everywhere in the universe; ever since the beginning of time as we know it. Nothing can travel faster than light. There is also the time factor. Civilisations must be close together at the same time. The universe could be full of signals, but you have to be looking at the right place at that same time to receive them. Perhaps someday we will receive a signal, but by the time we get it will that civilisation still exist?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t72uvS7EJT4>

Fireworks on the Sun As the Sun approaches solar maximum in its eleven-year cycle, it continues to be covered with solar filaments and multiple sunspots. At U3A we went outside to view the sun through a special solar telescope. Unfortunately, we couldn't see any visible sunspots on the fiery red disk because of smoke in the atmosphere.

Sun News Apr 24, 2024. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mzV-_az5wc

Bev Morton

Family Research

Our recent 'fourth Thursday' class fell on Anzac Day, making the sharing of stories about family members who had served particularly meaningful. In doing so, we created our own 'memorial event'.

We began by reading a selection of 'Anzac Day' stories from our ['Family Stories'](#) and the ['As Time Goes By'](#) collection. There are wonderful stories to be found, including Max Tilbury's first story presented just this month *'They could have been Anzacs'* and a poem *'The Courage of the Horse'* written some years ago by David Lowing'.

David Hall revisited the story of his great-uncles, brothers John Clifford Bowers (d.France, August 1916) and Norman Hugh "Norrie" Bowers, and shared a video segment, ['Wartime Legacy'](#), from last week's Landline, which related to a family connection with the McCaughey family. Bev reflected on discussions which may have been held around her paternal grandparents and great grandparents' dinner tables during World War 1 and showed a video ['Against the Odds--The Victory against Conscription in World War 1'](#). Did you know there were two referendums, with 'No' results for both? Mary drew upon John Barry's book ['Whatever of Glory: Those of Benalla & District Who Gave Their Lives in the Great War'](#) when sharing the story of a forebear, William 'George' Clarke, who lived in Goorambat and died in WWI. As Mary read his story, Bev realised George had married a daughter of Catherine Warren, the first nurse researched by Judith Borthwick for her project ['Benalla Hospitals and Nurses in the early years of the 1900's'](#). Both John Barry and Judy Borthwick's research began when they were members of John Avery's 'Local History' program and Meg Dillon's 'Stories of Benalla's Past' courses over a decade ago! David also pricked up his ears on hearing that one of the hospitals was in Lavery Street –David lives in Lavery Street!

Finally, Mary shared a link to [Benalla Heritage Festival Events](#) from Wednesday May 1 to Sunday May 5. We hope to see you there!

The suggested theme for May's *'contextual story of an ancestor with a 500-word maximum'* is *'Disappointments'*- 'Write about a time when you felt profoundly disappointed when doing your research. What triggered this? Who in your family was involved, what effect did it have on you? It may be a disappointment you felt for the person involved, or you felt as you negotiated your family research journey. How did you deal with it?'

Bev Lee

Family Research 'Drop In'

The Family Research 'Drop In' is, by nature, a casual affair. We gather in the small classroom at 1pm to begin working on our devices; share stories and discoveries from 2 to 3 pm, then return to work on our devices, solving problems and following up issues with the support of others until 4pm. Well, that's the plan!

Robyn was keen to follow up records from India this month, but we discovered ancestry.com.au is no longer offering the relatively inexpensive '10 world records for \$10.99' subscription. Fortunately, we've since discovered a work around – go into the ancestry.com.uk subscription page; scroll down, then click on [Access 'Pay Per View' Records](#).

Bev's *'Too Hard Basket'* story described difficulties in finding information about the early life and parents of a great aunt-in-law who was born in India in 1888, married Bev's great uncle in South Africa in 1906, migrated to Australia in 1910, and as a 25-year-old mother of three children under 5 was admitted to the Victorian psychiatric institutional system in 1914.



Malcolm dropped in with encouragement to go beyond on-line resources, bringing along a local history publication and aerial photographs and maps of the Greta/Lurg area. The maps were of great interest to Robyn, who farmed at Hansonville for 28 years before retiring to Benalla. Malcolm also brought along a treasured copy of ['The History of the Molyullah and Upper Ryan's Creek District'](#) discovered on E-Bay and the latest My Heritage Reports he has customised as gifts for family members by converting the pdf to word, adding photographs and making any necessary edits.

We love the introductory message he has written in the genealogy report he is giving to his three-year-old great grandson, Teddie!

We are looking forward to seeing the framed family tree Robyn recently won in a Benalla Family Research Group fundraising raffle and a family tree chart which Malcolm finds visually appealing. David Hall will be dropping in at 2pm to show us the features of the *Family Historian* program he recommended at last month's group session. Well, that's the plan!

Bev Lee

Family Research – Getting Started

Our group session for April focussed on Shipping Records and the information that they provide when researching our family history. Working out the timeframe for our ancestor's arrival is the first puzzle to complete before the search can begin. Many of the passenger lists for ships are available online. When searching it is important to begin with the surname. In some shipping records the passengers may be listed as Mr or Mrs so this adds an extra challenge to the search.

Those who attended the session took up the challenge to search for an ancestor in the online Shipping Records. Later in Ancestry, we explored how to search the immigration records for ancestors.

Each month class members determine the focus and goals for their one-on-one sessions. Their family trees continue to grow as new discoveries are made. Birth, death and marriage certificates that have been purchased have proved very helpful in determining how long an ancestor has been in Australia, along with the name of their parents. This information helps piece together the family tree.

One priceless gem that has been shared with the class is the 1909 Postal Directory for Victoria. It contains a Melbourne Street Directory, a Trade Directory and a Country Directory that can be searched alphabetically.

In 1909, Benalla was described as '121 miles N.E. by rail; Col., Nat., NSW & Savings Banks; 2 bi-wkly newspapers (Standard and Independent); wkly (Ensign), post, tel. & M.O.O.' Those who lived in the district are listed alphabetically with their occupation.



Pictured - Kerri-Ann and myself searching through this wonderful resource.

Our next group session in May will focus on using TROVE – a digitised collection of old Australian newspapers and gazettes. Newspapers articles give another insight into the lives of our ancestors. This will be followed by ways to add the articles to our records within Ancestry.

Deb Saunders

Film Discussion Group

Films discussed this month were:

The Rooster: When the body of his oldest friend is found buried in a shallow grave, Dan, a small-town cop, seeks answers from a volatile Hermit who may have been the last person to see his friend alive. The cinematography and setting in the forest were stunning. The soundtrack was eery in parts, with times of silence or just the sound of the birds adding to this eeriness. This correctly fitted the story. Performances by the two main actors, Phoenix Raeli (as Dan) and Hugo Weaving (as the Hermit) were excellent. The film was rated as 4/5.

Force of Nature: Five women participate in a hiking retreat but only four come out the other side. Federal agents Aaron Falk and Carmen Cooper head into the mountains hoping to find their informant still alive. This was covered in March, but one of the class members had since seen the film. She did not agree with the earlier assessment of Eric Bana's performance as being wooden. She saw it more as displaying his meditative state. She agreed strongly with earlier positive comments around the cinematography and setting.

The Great Escaper: Bernard Jordan escapes from his care home to attend the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France. The key actors in the film were Michael Caine as Bernard and Glenda Jackson as his wife. Their performances were excellent, with little snippets of humour which helped take away the disturbing aspects of the story. One of the aspects of the film was the impact of war on the young men involved.

Underpinning the story was the development of relationships of the various characters. We rated the film as 4/5.

Just a Farmer: A newly widowed mother is left with the care of an alcoholic father-in-law and a failing farm. She is forced to forge a new path for her family, all while struggling to pick up the pieces of her life. This is an important film, covering the issue of mental health in rural communities. Cinematography was excellent, set around the Macedon Ranges. The performances were good, bringing out the pressures on farming communities. A powerful film, this was rated as 4/5.

Wicked Little Letters: As only one member of the class had seen the film and others hoped to see it in the coming week, we held over the discussion until our next class in May.

Other films and television series mentioned were:

Vanishing Triangle (SBS OnDemand) which did not have a satisfying end, but otherwise was good.

Boiling Point (Possibly SBS On Demand) was also recommended as a good film.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation

At our Anzac Day visit to **Brookfield Maze Garden and Cafe** we welcomed three new members. The weather was beautiful, the garden lovely to walk in, our lunch most enjoyable. Some of our members become lost in the maze, resulting in lots of laughter when they came back!



We have a few seats left for our bus trip to **Echuca Plant Farm and Nursery**, Northern Highway Echuca West on Thursday 23rd May. The trip includes a Bus Tour around Echuca Township. Echuca Moama Plant Farm offers a huge range of plants from their plant nursery in Echuca and expert advice to select the right plants for your garden.

Cost - \$32 pp – includes Bus Travel, Morning Tea in Gardens, Bus Tour of Echuca township.

Pick up - Benalla Rose Gardens, Royal Hotel End, at 8 am. **Lunch – Moama RSL Club** – at own cost.

Bookings – if you would like to attend, please ring or text Gwen Turner on 0438627010, or email gwenturner243@gmail.com. Please let Gwen know if you have any dietary needs.

Payment - due on or before **April 30th**, or by arrangement; can be left at the **RedB4 Bookshop** next to Hide's Bakery, Bridge Street, in an envelope marked **U3A Garden Appreciation Echuca Bus Trip**, with your **Name** and **Phone Number**.

Gwen Turner 0438 627 010

Garden Team

We had another delightful afternoon, this time among Helen's interesting trees and mainly native shrubs.



We felt useful enough to justify another tasty afternoon tea and also exchanged armfuls of fruit, vegetables and seeds from several gardens.

We'll be at James's place on Monday 29th April.

Elsbeth Maconachie

German

Some weeks ago class member Sigi suggested a trip to the Hofbraühaus restaurant in Melbourne. The suggestion was unanimously accepted and, thanks to Sigi, was well organised. Some family members were able to join us as well.

The outing was a memorable experience and I believe a bonding one. The food and drinks were authentic and a delightful atmosphere developed as we enjoyed the genuine Bavarian beer or Schnaps. We drifted contentedly back to the station, surfed the adjoining shopping centre and, at the appropriate time, joined our train home in a wonderful mood. It was a long day and I'm fairly sure everyone slept well that night. I guess also, for some of us, the experience brought back happy memories.



Apart from this wonderful event, group members are becoming more and more conversant in the German language, with good conversation occurring during our regular weekly classes.

Horst Gunther

Let's Talk Books

On Easter Monday a small group talked for 2 hours about books. It was a very enjoyable way to spend time in our busy world.

We will be up and running again on **Monday 6th May**, so come along and share your reading with us.

Geraldine McCorkell

Life Ball

We are still enjoying having enough players to use the whole court, although the full court game does seem to require greater concentration, and as always there are some fast and furious moments! Lots of laughter as well and it is great to see everyone enjoying the game.

Marlene has recently been involved in discussions with another U3A interested in Walking Netball, but for us, Lifeball offers a better mix of skills.

We play at 10am each Monday at Benalla Indoor Rec Centre, and welcome players and watchers. For more information, contact Marlene on 0407240943

Julie McNeill

Meet and Mingle

The focus for April's Meet and Mingle was a talk on elder abuse presented by Benalla policewoman **Sergeant J Lamond**.

Sergeant Lamond said the topic was highlighted by the 2015 Victorian Royal Commission into family violence. As detailed in the 2008 Family Violence Protection act, family violence is any behaviour that controls or dominates a family member and causes them to fear for their own or other family member's safety or well-being.

It can include physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or economic abuse and any behaviour that causes a child to hear, witness or be exposed to the effects of that behaviour.



Types of elder abuse include abandonment or a carer deserting an older person, financial abuse, refusal or failure to take care of an elder, healthcare abuse, where a medical professional over or under prescribes medications or makes detrimental decisions about an elder's health, and physical, verbal and non-verbal psychological abuse involving restraint or confinement against one's will.

In a 2021 survey, one in six older Australians reported abuse in the previous year but only one third of those sought help.

In 2020 4.2m Australians were 65 or over and by 2031 that number is expected to be about 5.7m. Those in the 85-year-old plus bracket, are expected to increase from 1.9 percent in 2013, to 4.2percent of the population by 2053.

We are having **Kathryn McQualter**, a Dietitian from Benalla Health and Gateway Health , to speak on **Healthy Eating and the influence of Climate Change on Eating Habits** at the next Meet and Mingle which will be held on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 10am in Room 1. All welcome.

David Palmer and Margaret Jenkins

Music Appreciation

“What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet.” William Shakespeare uses this line in his play Romeo and Juliet to convey that the naming of things is irrelevant. Composer Robert Schumann would disagree. For Schumann, everything was in a name, and his own was legion. Most famous of all are Florestan and Eusebius, whom Schumann labelled the two emotional extremes in his changeable personality - the active and the passive aspects of his personality. Florestan, an outward-going, robust figure; Eusebius, moody and introspective. These also appear regularly in Schumann's music. His second Symphony is a good example with its contrasting moods of quiet reflection and exuberant hyperactivity. This, the main focus of the first of our April sessions, was bookended by a Telemann Overture and Felix Mendelssohn's Octet for strings, composed at sixteen years of age. Interestingly, Telemann's music was an enormous influence on Mendelssohn's more than a century later, and Mendelssohn was the conductor for the premiere of Schumann 2nd Symphony.

If Schumann's mental state was his “Achille's Heel”, Beethoven's was his encroaching deafness which, at times, drove him to despair and, like Schumann, to thoughts of suicide. It was in the midst of this anguish that Beethoven's Second Symphony was born. A work which bewildered critics at the time, others since have come to see it as filled with spirited vitality, humour and frivolity – “music which glances backwards while looking forwards”. This was the first part of a double bill in our second April session, the other being Mozart's Piano Concerto No.23 – it also being a work expressing powerful emotions. Another composer of powerful emotions was British composer Ethel Smyth whose campaigning for women's rights as well as her music both landed her in gaol and in performance in the drawing room of Queen Victoria; and later the first composer to be made a Dame of the British Empire. We heard the Overture to her opera “The Wreckers”.

Links to the recordings and the notes for the 2nd session may be accessed on the Music Appreciation page of our U3A website. Hopefully notes for the first session will be posted as soon as possible.

Bill Squire

Page Turners Book Group

Thursday Murder Club, Richard Osman

The first of a series by Osman about some feisty oldies in a luxury retirement home (wish we had some places like this one!!!)

With traditional witty British humour, Osman introduces us to the four unlikely characters who team up weekly to discuss and solve cold cases: Elizabeth - the leader and a former secret service agent; Ron – a former radical union leader; Joyce a nurse and Ibrahim a former psychiatrist. A real murder occurs when the shift owner of the establishment is stabbed in his nearby home. He is planning to enlarge the number of retirement villas on surrounding land and also destroy the nuns' cemetery located in a peaceful part of the retirement village, which was a former convent repurposed for luxury retirement units.

When a second murder occurs and an additional skeleton is found in one of the nun's graves, the list of suspects grows. The resourceful foursome befuddle and assist the two detectives assigned to the case. Without this help it's unlikely the police would have unravelled the surprising perpetrators or their motives for killing.

A good holiday read.

Old God's Time, Sebastian Barry

Barry is an Irish writer with other books to his credit, mostly exploring some of the tragic themes of his country including the potato famine, the Irish Civil War and the influence of the Catholic Church on politics and the population.

Old God's Time looks at the life of retired policeman, Tom Kettle, who is induced to return to service to help solve the mystery of the murder of a catholic priest, allegedly by his curate: both priests had abused children and police wanted to close this cold case.

Kettle has also had a sad life, his wife and two children dying, and a neighbour seeking help from him over her abusive husband. He seems confused and aimless but agrees to assist his former colleagues. This book explores tragedy and resilience while treating the reader to sensitive descriptions of the Irish countryside and insights into Kettle's reimagining of his past.

A tough read that may appeal to those with a taste for Irish prose and an interest in social issues.

Meg Dillon

Patchwork and Craft

I have received an email from the Waverley Patchworkers to say they are having a Quilt Show on the 1st & 2nd of June at the Mulgrave Community Centre. I have more information if you are interested.

Well done everyone for the work on the 'thank you' quilt! All the blocks were put together by Corrie, the end-result looks fabulous, and the quilt has been passed on.

At our 'Fifth Thursday' extended session on Thursday 30th May, our starting time will be 10.30 am.

Dorothy Webber

Photography

We did not have a class in April as the date fell on the Anzac Day holiday. Our next session, on Thursday 23 May, is our final session for the first half of the year and the last chance for members to send in photographs for discussion until September. I'm looking forward to receiving photographs in my inbox over the coming weeks and to seeing you all on May 23rd.

Rene Martens

Play Reading

Our play for April, "Deception" by Barbara Rose, is a play about deception, infidelity and tragedy. No-one in this play is entirely honest! A murder is planned, a murder is committed - and, in the end, the audience is deceived.

Charlie Caine is married to Sylvia, a woman 30 years younger than himself. She and Charlie's best friend, Doug Blackman, are having an affair and plot Charlie's murder. But Doug is also having an affair with someone else from the office. Charlie's PA seems to have a crush on Charlie. When Charlie and Sylvia go away for the weekend, the trip ends in tragedy. Overall, perhaps the greatest deceiver is Charlie!

This was a black comedy that was enjoyed by the class. There were hints during the play of the characters of each of the major players. Charlie was a very intelligent business executive but was also ruthless. He was

not one to take action without giving it a lot of thought and planning, but then he would pounce. Doug was a bit of a lady's man and quite smarmy. Sylvia was a self-centred gold digger. All of this came through via the dialogue in the play. And the plot unfolded smoothly.

Our next play is *'The Prisoner of Second Avenue'* by Neil Simon.

Joy Shirley

Recorder Group

With Janet away, the Recorder Players each chose some favourites to the group to play. We also tried out "Ah Robin Gentle Robin" by William Cornish, written around 500 years ago for Soprano, Alto and Tenor. It took a couple of tries to get the hang of, and by the third time sounded very sweet. Tomoko played a blinder as the only Soprano player present; Rae and Andi being on Alto, Pat and Sally on Tenor. Other players were engaged elsewhere, Judy off playing Croquet in Albury instead of Recorder in Benalla.

Poor "Maggie" got a little butchered, until we got into the swing with the timing and that tricky anacrusis, then she sounded as gorgeous as she should. "Under the Linden Tree" was very rewarding. Apparently, there is a Linden Tree in Swanpool, and we ought to serenade it.

Important Notice--The Benalla U3A Recorder Group seeks more Soprano players! Also called the Descant, this is the size recorder you might have played in school. The Soprano is the smallest commonly used Recorder, although it is pipped by the titchy Sopranino, and apparently there one even smaller called a Garklein. Larger than the Soprano is the Alto, or Treble, which Rae, Andi and Kazuko play. Then there is the Tenor, giving a really beautiful deeper note, which Pat, Sally and often Janet, perform on. Janet has a Bass Recorder for when the music calls for it, but we do not have any of the larger varieties of Bass.



Andi Stevenson

Singing for Fun

We have had a varied month in April with lots of different songs. Brian re-introduced us to the Abba favourite "Waterloo" which was quite successful. It has some unusual rhythm sequences which the group picked up quite well.

Margaret supplied us with the words to "Thank Heavens for Little Girls" which she teamed with "I Enjoy Being a Girl" which was a great combination.

Kieran favoured some Irish Songs and also some songs with Anzac themes for the third Thursday, whilst Carmyl had a great variety of songs and also some rounds which she conducts so well.

We had Deb playing for us on the second Thursday which went well. Thank you to Gwen and Deb for accompanying the group.

We appreciate the effort everyone puts into selecting their songs. We also really enjoyed the delicious slice which Rae brought on the first Thursday morning.

The next Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 2nd May at 10am at the Hub at Cooina.

Margaret Jenkins

Sky's the Limit

As our April speaker was unable to make it, the session became a presentation by the group's members of their experiences of building and flying various aeroplanes. Both **Graeme Greed** and **Brent Bailey** had built and flown their own aircraft with Graeme in particular undertaking long flights to Western Australia and north Queensland.

Some memorable flights were recalled, with David saying he was required to research and write a number of Tasmanian farm stories for his newspaper employer and chose to fly a Cessna 172 in one hop from Benalla to a farm in northeastern Tasmania. But about halfway he started to feel extreme pressure on his bladder. That led to poor judgement because he ended up landing in a paddock next to the farm airstrip. No damage was

sustained.

Our speaker on May 7 will be **Helen Price**, a private pilot and former air hostess in South Australia. We will also show a 45-minute segment of a TV show called *Fly With Me* which highlights the role played by flight attendants

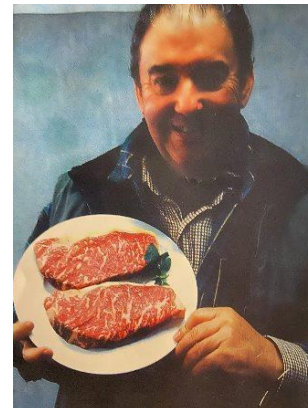
David Palmer

Stock and Land

As I have known him since the 1970s, I knew our April presenter **Rob Williams**, a Glenrowan Angus beef breeder, was likely to be entertaining and informative if not provocative. He was.

With Rob came **John Docker**, a descendant of the Rev Joseph Docker, who settled at Bontharambo near Wangaratta in 1838. That farm is still owned by the Docker family.

Both families have a long history of breeding superior Angus cattle and with pictures, Rob emphasised the importance of producing animals of refined appearance and high fertility. As well, he promoted the proved ability of Angus to produce marbled beef, that compares well with the Wagyu breed's similar ability.



With the nutritional quality of much food degraded by over cropping, Rob said eating organic food was the best nutritional path. He highlighted UK consumers eating 24 percent organic compared with just one percent here. Essentials in our diet should be magnesium, selenium and zinc, he said.

Our speaker for May 7 will be **Andrew Marriott**, a Benalla farmer famous as a breeder and exhibitor of Clydesdale horses

David Palmer

Sustainability

The sustainability group had an outing to Susan and Sandy Campbell's property on the Shepparton Rd for our first session of April. They have a large worm farm which produces fertiliser for their farm. It was amazing that an apparently simple system, with the irrigation powered by solar, can replace 'industrial' fertiliser. Inputs are horse manure from the nearby equestrian centre and chicken farm waste; just add water and worms. We all came away with a sample to try out.



At our second April session we looked at a report from an Australian research group called the Scanlon Foundation who has been reporting on social cohesion since 2007. There were two key elements to this work, the first being related to financial pressures and the second to trust in government and institutions. Needless to say, the findings were a mixed bag, but I took away an important finding that our community is quite resilient in response to difficulties. You can have a look at the findings [here](#).

John Lane

Tech Talks

Our friend Graeme Greed was generous in organising a visit to the Benalla Airport. The Airport has many buildings that are not always visible from the road and contain lots of planes and gliders.

We were fortunate in being invited to inspect in detail the latest in gliders.

The particular glider we looked at in detail at first sight resembles a high-tech combat plane. It is sleek, it is compact, it looks as if it will glide at high speed for great distances. It looks something like a U2 spy plane.

It has a cabin for one person and its own propeller which can be extended from the Glider body if required.



Improvements in battery technology have meant that the range of the glider has been extended. And it is possible to take off without a tow plane although this provision is not often used.

We also inspected a two-seater aeroplane. This airplane is in constant use and contains the latest in digital technology. It appears to be able to fly anywhere.

Gliders and Planes live in a different world to us people attached to the earth.

Neville Gibb

Ukes4Fun

I am currently unable to convene the group due to a back/nerve injury, however Elly and Neville have taken over during my absence. I called into see the group a couple of weeks ago and was so impressed with the way they were blending and singing together. It brought tears to my eyes. I am so proud to be part of a group of people who are getting so much enjoyment out of their chosen subject. Thank you to both Elly and Neville for supporting the group during my absence.

Heather Wallace

Ukes4Fun – Getting Started

Hello all, Elly here! It was wonderful to have Heather join us recently. We all wish her well with her current health battles.

I just couldn't let this newsletter come and go without a few words from me.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with the 'Getting Started' ukulele group. It was so satisfying to see each of you go from timid strummers and hesitant chord changers to playing loudly, tapping your feet to the beat, having fun, laughing, singing and believing in yourselves. The smooth transition into the jamming group is testament to how much you've achieved. Thanks for your support.

A huge thank you also to Neville Young for all his support, patience, encouragement, listening to my suggestions and comments and answering my many questions!

I must also thank John Barry and John Sleinis who also helped keep me on track.



Note the beginners 'Graduation' ukulele earrings!

Elly Smith

Ukes4Fun – Just Jamming

Great news. The 'Getting Started' group is now being integrated with the 'Just Jamming' players. They have been welcomed into the fold, with members happy to readily offer assistance as required.

It can be quite daunting at times to extend our musical knowledge, but they have already demonstrated their ability to do so.

I must offer my congratulations to Elly for the excellent job she has done teaching the newbies.

A lot of hours are put in by the instructional group preparing various handouts of tuition notes and song sheets to achieve the results. Well done. Remember – UKE CAN DO IT!

Neville Young

Wine Appreciation

I thought last month's winery visit was really, really good, but this month, at Buller's Winery, was excellent. Again, another beautiful day and standing in the sun we were entranced as Peter, our host, gave a very interesting and informative talk about the beginnings of the winery. The first plantings were in 1920 and today, over half of those original plantings are still producing intensely concentrated low yielding fruit that is the hallmark of the Buller Wines portfolio.

There was a great selection of wines available for tasting and as we wandered into the original winery, a few bottles came along too!! This is where they now age their fortified wines and have a gin distiller.



Lunch followed at Poachers Paradise Hotel on Main St Rutherglen, seated on their deck. A wide-ranging menu with everyone enjoying the meal they had ordered. Clean plates were evident!!

Next month, Friday 17th May, we are off to William Kurt Wines at 365 Buckland Gap Road, Beechworth. Lunch at Hotel Nicholas, 1A Camp St Beechworth.

Normal meeting procedure at the Seniors Carpark, 10.00am. Please let me know by Sunday 12th May.

Nicole McFarlane

Lest We Forget

At the Official Anzac Day Service in Benalla, a wreath was laid by U3A Members.

The service was well attended by a good cross section of society and was conducted in a dignified and respectful manner.

It was heartening to see so many children in their Scout Uniform or their junior CFA Uniform or their school Uniform or other Groups Uniform taking part in the ceremony.

It was also heartening to see so many young people in their 20's to 50's attend - not normally on display in Benalla.



Neville Gibb

Remembering Jenny McKenna

Jenny McKenna, who passed away recently at home surrounded by her family, had a quiet passion for writing and theatre. A much loved and highly respected nurse in the community, upon retirement Jenny joined the new Play Reading group and the Memoir Writing group at U3A. Jenny's stories were always beautifully written and can be read at [Jenny's Page](#) on our website. Keen to pursue fiction writing, Jenny, working with Joy Shirley, took on the challenge of establishing our Creative Writing group. A book of stories Jenny had written over the years was published for her family and friends shortly before she died.

Jenny was a member of LUEY (Let Us Entertain You) and an inaugural member of our Play Reading Group. Jenny took on the co-convening 'admin support role' a few years later, a labour of love involving liaising with the Victorian Drama League to access our chosen plays, ordering and returning plays, and collecting weekly contributions towards costs. Jenny stepped up to write newsletter reports, gradually taking on the role of convenor and 'creative director' when Keith Rogers became unwell. Jenny continued in the role of convenor for over two years with the support of a small team who helped to choose the plays. In late 2022 Jenny stepped down from her convening roles in the Play Reading group after almost five years, however continued to attend class when appointments to Melbourne allowed.

A loved fellow classmate and friend of many U3A members. RIP Jenny.

Beverley Lee

What's On

Wednesday, 1 May

- 09:30 Easywalks - Winton Wetlands Orienteering
- 09:30 Play Reading - 'The Prisoner of Second Avenue'
- 13:30 A Taste of Art
- 14:00 Cards '500'

Thursday, 2 May

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Be Connected - Android
- 13:00 Patchwork and Craft
- 3:30 Family Research - Getting Started

Friday, 3 May

- 10:00 Sustainability
- 14:00 Convenors Meeting

Monday, 6 May

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball - Marlene 0428 210 944
- 10:00 Art Appreciation - Janet Leith, 'Melancholia'
- 12:00 Ukes4Fun - Just Jamming
- 14:00 Australian Stocks and Share Market
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books

Tuesday, 7 May

- 10:00 Page Turners - 'The Wren'
- 10:00 Stock and Land – 'Clydesdale Horses', Andrew Marriott
- 12:15 German
- 14:00 Sky's the Limit - 'Come Fly with Me' - Helen Price, private pilot and former air hostess

Wednesday, 8 May

- 10:00 Age Friendly Benalla Information Hub
- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 10:30 Cooking Solo
- 13:00 Family Research - Getting Started (one-to-one)
- 14:00 Film Discussion Group

Thursday, 9 May

- 09:30 Birdwatching - Shadforth Reserve, Violet Town
- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Be Connected - Android
- 13:00 Family Research - Getting Started (one-to-one)
- 13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 10 May

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 11:45 Chat 'n Chew – 'Zeus' Cafe
- 14:00 Armchair History

Monday, 13 May

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball - Marlene 0428 210 944
- 12:00 Ukes4Fun - Just Jamming
- 14:00 Creative Writing
- 14:00 Garden Team

Tuesday, 14 May

- 10:00 Politics and Current Affairs
- 12:15 German
- 14:00 Tech Talks

Wednesday, 15 May

- 10:00 Meet and Mingle - 'Healthy Eating and the influence of Climate Change on Eating Habits', Katherine McQualter, Dietitian
- 13:30 A Taste of Art
- 14:00 Cards '500'

Thursday, 16 May

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 13:00 Family Research - Drop In
- 13:00 Patchwork and Craft
- 14:00 Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group

Friday, 17 May

- 10:00 Wine Appreciation - William Kurt Wines, Beechworth
- 10:00 Sustainability

Monday, 20 May

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball - Marlene 0428 210 944
- 12:00 Ukes4Fun - Just Jamming
- 14:00 As Time Goes By - Memoir Writing

Tuesday, 21 May

- 10:00 Demystifying Psychology Course –Session 4
- 12:15 German
- 13:30 Chess
- 14:00 Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 22 May

- 09:30 Age Friendly Benalla Information Hub
- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 10:30 Cooking Solo – final session

Thursday, 23 May

- 08:00 Garden Appreciation - Echuca Plant Farm
- 10:00 Photography
- 10:00 Community Singing
- 13:30 Family Research

Friday, 24 May

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 14:00 Armchair History

Saturday, 25 May

- 17:00 Newsletter reports due today

Monday, 27 May

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball - Marlene 0428 210 944
- 12:00 Ukes4Fun - Just Jamming
- 13:30 Coin Collectors
- 14:00 Garden Team

Tuesday, 28 May

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs
- 12:15 German
- 14:00 Brain Games

Wednesday, 29 May

- 13:30 A Taste of Art

Thursday, 30 May

- 10:00 Community Singing
- 10:30 Patchwork and Craft (Extended session)

Monday, 3 June

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball - Marlene 0428 210 944
- 10:00 Art Appreciation
- 12:00 Ukes4Fun - Just Jamming
- 14:00 Australian Stocks and Share Market
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books

Be Connected - Tech Advice – 'One-to-one' sessions by appointment for members experiencing problems operating mobiles, tablets or laptops – Contact **Robyn** (Android Devices) **0403 164 931** or **Jenny** (Apple Devices) **0409 545 182*** Venue: Classroom 2. Referral on will be suggested if necessary.