



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – June 2017

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Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by Wednesday 19 July

President's Report



On the 29th May Geraldine McCorkell and I attended a U3A Network Victoria seminar in Bendigo. 'Finding and Keeping Tutors' was the topic. Listening to reports from other U3A's, some suburban and some country, proved to me how well we are doing in Benalla. All thanks to the hard work of past committees.

Thank you to Benalla Rural City for their 2017 Community Grants program from which we benefitted by a grant of \$927 which will fund Mentor training for Tech Savvy.

We will be making the move from W4 to our new premises on Friday June 30.

Once again I want to remind all convenors to be represented at the meeting on July 5 at 10am. Keys for W4 will need to be returned to Terry Case before or on this date. Keys for the new building will be handed out and must be signed for at this meeting.

Our thanks to the Flexible Learning Centre as our time at W4 comes to an end.

U3A has the cabinet at the Library for June and I hope you have been impressed with our activities on display.

U3A Benalla now has 253 members.

Dorothy Webber President

Group Reports

Armchair History

July will see us commence our final Semester for this class as I will take a break for a while, an Australian History class will run in this time spot commencing next year.

Can I also remind you John Barry will be commencing a history class about the Great War called 'Over there' starting this semester on the third Friday 1.30-3.30pm? If you wish to join John's class you can email me case.terence@gmail.com

Please note that Semester 2 Armchair History will now start at 1.30pm.

Terry Case

Armchair Traveller

We meet again on Tuesday July 18 in our new room at the Senior Citizens'-- please enter thru the side door under the carport. Jan will take us hiking thru the Maples – Fall (Autumn for us aussie speakers) – Ontario,

Quebec Vermont, New Hampshire. We will have also have a 4WD trek in the Simpson Desert in outback Australia with Gwen & Rupe.

Note that no meeting has been scheduled for September in the Semester 2 timetable. Our most likely presenters will all, co-incidentally, be visiting Canada/USA, and possibly having a first-hand viewing of the lovely scenes which Jan will show us in July.

If there are any volunteers to take us for a journey on September 19, please contact John (0418576155 or 57621818) and we can re-schedule the session.

John Avery

Art Appreciation

Aboriginal Art - Benalla

Catherine Bennetts-Cash provided members with some intriguing information about **'Patterns of Connection'**, indigenous art from the Benalla Gallery collection, celebrating the 1967 Citizenship Referendum, NAIDOC week and the Uluru Declaration. Most of the work on display was produced in the 1990s and consists of photographs or mixed media with photographic elements. This provides viewers with a different perspective about Aboriginal art practitioners than the usual exhibitions of dot paintings and makes many tough and sober comments on the effects of colonisation.

Sexy and Dangerous shows Brook Andrew's appropriation of an early 1900s photo of a young Aboriginal chief from North Queensland. This ambiguous image printed on perspex challenges stereo types by playing with the concept of male beauty bisected by gross white slashes perhaps representing colonial oppression. By contrast Leah King-Smith creates large multi-layered images of nineteenth century mission Aborigines returned to their bushland settings in a mysterious and unsettling ghostly landscape. These two key works are amply supported by the strong photos of Fiona Foley traditionally dressed, mirroring historic portraits of Aboriginal women, thus merging their condition in the past and present.

In contrast Destiny Deacon in "Peach Blossoms Revenge" provides a satirical swipe in a mixed media montage of modern Aboriginal and Anglo culture morphing into lurid commercial theatre. Look out also for the almost hidden photo image of a settler ploughing a field in Gordon Bennett's work which is embedded in the larger traditional painting of Aboriginal land with "sit down" space around a waterhole ringed by border of skulls, suggesting the colonial killing of traditional owners in order to appropriate their land.

These photographic works are anchored by two large traditional paintings whose meanings are clear to the initiated members of the artists' Northern Territory clans.

Meg Dillon

The June session at the gallery marked a changeover of Art Appreciation's convenors. Thank you Carole and Godfrey for convening the group for so thoughtfully and successfully for the past years.

Meg Dillon & Neville Gibb will take over the role in semester two.



Meg, Godfrey, Carole & Neville at Benalla Art Gallery

Bird Watching

Fourteen people attended our bird watching walk on a sunny Tuesday morning on 6 June 2017. Vaughan Cowan led us around the northern section of Benalla golf course, an area of red gum bushland with a large dam and not many golfers to interrupt our birding. Vaughan made sure we kept well away from the golfers as we carefully skirted or crossed several fairways.

The golf course is a popular spot with a variety of parrots and cockatoos. We saw a large number of Eastern Rosellas feeding on the fairways. King Parrots were flying through or perched in the trees. Several flocks of noisy Musk Lorikeets were attracted to three flowering ironbark trees beside one fairway. I was surprised to see one Rainbow Lorikeet with them. This is the first one I have seen around Benalla, and seems to be a new record for the area. Rainbow Lorikeets have long been established in Shepparton and Melbourne, and there are good numbers in Seymour, so their spread to Benalla was probably inevitable. The most numerous bird was the Noisy Miner, which thrives in the habitat provided by tree-lined fairways.

In the bushland we found some of our smaller birds; a flock of Striated Pardalotes feeding high in the red gum foliage, several Red-browed Finches in the tall grasses below, and a couple of family groups of Superb Fairy-wrens. Back at the car park, several people saw two Gang-gang Cockatoos landing in a lone tree on the driving range. We then adjourned to the golf club bistro for an enjoyable lunch.

We recorded 23 species for the day. The full bird list can be viewed at

<http://ebird.org/ebird/australia/view/checklist/S37677995>

U3A Bird watching will resume on Tuesday 5 September 2017.

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

We saw some optical tricks and learnt a little about central and peripheral vision and how they are used in processing information- and can be manipulated by magicians.

We tackled contrasting puzzle pages to train left and right brain and challenged our mental flexibility.

Though down on numbers we did better than usual on our number puzzles at our second June session.

As our next date is during **the big move** we will in fact be meeting again on third Monday on July 17.

Elspeth Maconachie

Chat n' Chew



Ralph, Noel & Ken at Benalla Gallery Cafe

Our next lunch will be at Kim Wah Restaurant at 12 midday on July 21. Please phone Shirley by Tuesday morning July 18 regarding attendance.

Shirley Kearney

Collectors

A very successful Collectors group was held this month. This was our last meeting in W4 before moving to 'The Seniors' at our new meeting date of the 4th Monday of the month.

As usual we had a diverse range of items on display. Beautiful Bunnikins plates and cup and saucer, a marble plate and box with inlays of



semiprecious stones, an ornament featuring a milk maid milking a cow, magnets in an Egyptian style, Shelley cups and a collection of time pieces and hand painted seed pods. These were just a few of the items brought along. Pictures of all the items displayed at Collectors can be found on the U3A web site under 'Collectors'.

Judith Borthwick

e-Book Group

Magda Szubanski is well known as one of Australia's top comediennes, but *A Reckoning: A Memoir*, establishes her reputation as a gifted writer. Words leap from the page as she describes in intimate detail, her often fraught relationship with her father, and the emotional turmoil she experiences as she struggles with her sexual identity. Her very best writing stems from her vulnerability as she attempts to fit into new environments. We can laugh as she becomes a 'sharpie', sympathise when her tennis career fails, and then rejoice when she finds her niche as an actress. This autobiography, tender, funny, brave, and compassionate, we hope, will not be her only work.

PS: Don't forget to bring along your ideas for new titles for next year's list at our next meeting on Tuesday, July 4.

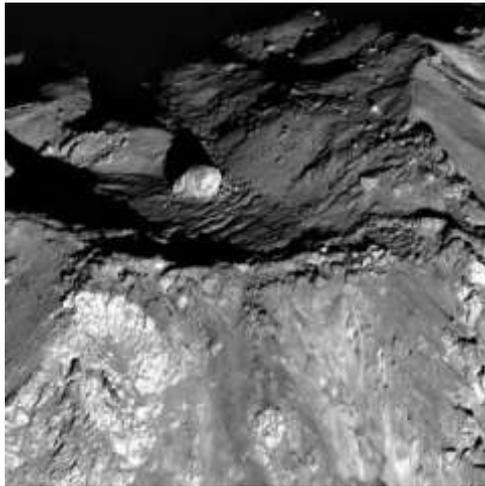
Helen Scheller

Exploring the Universe

The Moon, Dark Matter and a Sniff of Hydrogen

We explored the face of the moon, its terrain, craters and lava fields, at our last meeting in W4. Rupe presented a very in-depth power point presentation with images taken by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, showing mountains over eight kilometres high, huge escarpments and deep, deep craters. Everywhere there was evidence of the volcanic activity speaking of the Moon's violent history. The size of the craters told of huge meteor strikes over time. On Earth we are protected by an atmosphere that causes most meteors to burn up before they strike us, thank goodness! Strange to see a landscape with no vegetation. I asked if it would be dusty but Martin said, "No dust, because there is no atmosphere." This is the Moon as we have never seen it before.

The Sniff of Hydrogen. NASA announces that one of Saturn's Moons could support Alien Life. Enceladus is an active moon that hides a global ocean of liquid salty water beneath an icy crust. In 2015 when 'Cassini' skimmed 49 km above the surface taking samples, instruments akin to the human nose aboard the spacecraft, detected a whiff of hydrogen in geysers of sea water containing simple organic chemicals being projected into space. Some of the chemicals can only be generated where liquid water and rock interact at temperatures above 90 degrees C. pointing to hydrothermal vents like those on the ocean floor here on Earth. Hydrogen could support potential microbes on the sea floor with energy. We viewed a film titled "NASA: Ingredients of Life at Saturn's Moon Enceladus." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nzaFDkDU7c>



Tycho Crater. Photo: Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

In a male dominated profession, astrophysicist Vera Rubin many years ago was the first person to discover evidence of Dark Matter, the unseen component that makes up 23% of the Universe. Many people believe that Vera should have been awarded a Nobel Prize. Jan related the findings that understanding dark matter is still very much a work in progress.

The Australian connection is an experiment that is being conducted to locate the presence of dark matter underground in a working gold mine at Stawell, where it cannot be interfered with by cosmic rays. Scientists from Australia's leading Universities, Stawell Gold mine management and the Northern Grampians Shire Council have been working together since 2013 to design a facility of international significance.

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

This month we watched *Lantana*, an Australian movie.

Genre: Mystery Drama

Plot: The relationships of four couples unravel after the disappearance of a woman in Lantana bush in suburban Sydney.

Key Characters: Leon and Sonya (Anthony LaPaglia and Kerry Armstrong), John and Valerie (Geoffrey Rush and Barbara Hershey), Paula and Nik (Vince Colosimo and Daniela Farinacci), Jane and Pete (Rachael Blake and Glenn Robbins)

Location: Set in Sydney, and filmed at various locations around Sydney

Other comments: Was it necessary to include smoking in the movie – it was set in current times and filmed during the 21st century? The IMDb web site suggested the genre was also a romance, but the group did not agree that there was any real romance in the movie.

Review: Opinion of the movie varied, with some enjoying it more than others. The real mystery did not come apparent until halfway through the movie, with the first hour setting up the various relationships. It was based mainly on the four couples, but each of the partners encountered others co-incidentally throughout the movie. For example, Pete met Leon in a pub, after Pete had a strange interaction with Valerie. It was good to see so many strong Australian actors in the same movie. Geoffrey Rush's performance was very different from his other movies.

Our next session is on July 12. We plan to watch the movie *Eddie the Eagle*. We will be in our new location at the Senior Citizens, but we will start promptly at 1:00pm.

With all the movies we watch we can look at them as literature – literature in a different medium, that of film. This helps to focus the discussion, covering ideas around genre, characters, plot, but also adding the aspects that relate to film, such as cinemascope, music and atmosphere.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation

In May the Garden Appreciation group visited the lovely garden of Beryl Harris in Euroa, a garden filled with hardy plants and an impressive collection of pot plants under the back veranda, we all came home with cuttings to add to our own collections. A delightful lunch was served at the Flour Mill in Euroa.

Our June meeting is at the Library with a speaker from the Regent Honeyeater Group.

Then on July 27 we meet in our new rooms at the Senior Citizen building for a talk by Betty Lindsay who will take us on a garden tour of the Baltic States and Ukraine. Bring something for morning to share.

In August we are having a break but will resume in September. Happy Gardening.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team

We concentrated on the front garden at Jane and Bill's and with another large roll-up quickly made progress on weeding and pruning. (My dodgy phone prevented Lois's apology from reaching us)

Afternoon tea was well-deserved and enjoyed.



A well earned afternoon tea

We kept the long weekend free and thus will be at Lois's garden near the end of June before honing pruners for Val's place in July.



Garden Team In Full Swing

Elsbeth Maconachie

In the Mood for Opera

Fledermaus by Johann Straus was our final opera for this half year. We enjoyed our journey from Mozart's *Così fan Tutti* through the C19th tragedies of *Riguetto* and *Andrea Chenier*, then the light-hearted *Daughter of the Regiment* to a taste of the gritty C20th with Britten's *Peter Grimes*.

Fledermaus or *The Revenge of the Bat* was first performed in 1874. Its trifling narrative is completely vindicated by the lovely music and arias. This DVD by Opera Australia delighted us with magnificent staging, costumes and singing.

This light-hearted fantasy was built on the comic revenge that Dr Falke sought on his friend Eisenstein for leaving him in his bat's costume in a public park when they walked home after a fancy-dress ball. Falke in league with the world-weary Prince Orlovsky, arranges to have the main characters attend Orlovsky's grand ball, but disguised under false names. Eisenstein deceives his wife into thinking he is going to prison that night, but she sees him at the ball introduced as the Marquis de Renard; she attends in disguise as a Hungarian Countess. Her maid, who was to visit a sick grandmother, is there too wearing one of her mistress's grand gowns and pretending to be an actress called Olga. And Frank, the policeman, comes as the Chevalier Chagrin.

Orlovsky is delighted as his guests flirt, make fools of themselves and leave none the wiser of the trick played on them. The next morning at the local police station they all assemble and the truth about their identities is revealed. They all forgive each other and blame the evening on the large quantities of champagne they all drank.

Meg Dillon

Investment

At the June meeting of Investment Peter Simpson gave an interesting talk on Investing for Capital Gains using Technical Analysis such as Dow Theory. Peter illustrated his talk using shares which had produced gains in the past six months. He also suggested four shares to watch in the next couple of months.

For the July meeting of Investment we enter a new phase with the meeting being held on Friday July 7 2017 in the U3A Room of the Benalla Rural City Seniors Complex in Fawckner Drive Benalla.

It is suggested that members enter by the side door which is in the carport. Commencement time for Investment has been changed to 1.30pm. We look forward to the first meeting in our new facility.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books



At the Library

A group of 19 attended at the Library on the June 6 it was lovely to welcome back Margaret Sellars. Some of the books read this month include *House for all Seasons* by Jenny McLeod – could not put down read. *A Street Cat Named Bob* about a cat in a library (appropriate) was enjoyed. *Penguin Bloom* is the story with great pictures of a woman who became a paraplegic the same time as a magpie fell out of the nest. *My Love Must Wait* by Ernestine Hill, Mathew Flinders kept very accurate charts, but was treated badly by the Admiralty who would not assist financially. He died at the young age of 28.

As a coincidence, another book, *Call of the Outback*, the autobiography of Ernestine Hill was read and enjoyed by one of our group. Heather purchased *Book of Joy* a discussion between Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. *The Beekeepers Secret* was not particularly enjoyed, but Billy Thorpe – *Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll* provided entertainment. *The Extinction Club* by Geoffrey Moore was gruesome and horrible, we will stay away from that one. Fay Weldon *Letters to Alice* provided comments on Literature – how to read and write well, the reader found it extremely useful and a good book. *The Glassblower of Murano* was set in Venice in 1681, and another book along the same creative lines was *The Potters House*, set on an island in Greece.

Michael White wrote *Soul Catcher* a slave recruiter in the 1800s. A comment on *The Dressmaker*, our reader thought there was more in the book than the film. Author Elizabeth Strout is being revisited and *No*

Time for Goodbye by Linwood Barclay. *The Dandelion Years* by Erica James was another of those books that could not be put down. I haven't mentioned all the books read as we would take up the whole page, but it is obvious that a lot of reading is done by this U3A Group. See you all on July 4.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

Next Lifeball is June 26 at 10am

Marg Merriman 5762 2967

Meet and Mingle



Alison Angus, Tourism Coordinator of the Benalla Rural City, spoke to us at our June meeting about her history in this activity and what she's currently doing in her work at the council. Her key role is running the Information Centre and working with the volunteers who work there. Alison was asked many questions on a huge range of topics related to tourism in Benalla and provided comprehensive answers. An enthusiastic person who has only been in the role for seven months, Allison is very keen to improve tourism in the Benalla region.

Next month one of our members, Marcus Bolger, will speak about his previous work life as a patent attorney and some of the amazing patent proposals that came before him. It will be held on July 19 at our new location.

Bill Parris

Music Appreciation

26 May 2017

John presented the session with the following selection:

Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 – 1827, Romance No.2 (this was a repetition from last session as we did not play it entirely)

Vaughan Williams 1872 – 1958, The Lark Ascending

Massenet 1842 - 1912, Meditation

The next section included:

Shostakovich 1906 – 1975, two tracks from the Gadfly, Romance and Nocturne played by the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine.

Gustav Holst 1874 – 1934 (English of Swedish descent), The Planets Suite played by the Royal Concert Gebouw of Amsterdam.

9 June, 2017

John presented the program as follows:

Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 -1827, the Moonlight Sonata

Vladimir Ashkenazy born 1937, Beethoven's Appassionata Sonata performed by Jeno Jando

Franz Schubert 1797 – 1828, 'The Trout' Piano Quintet (three tracks were played)

Mozart 1756 – 1791, three arias from The Magic Flute

We then returned to:

'The Trout' and listened to two tracks.

We concluded with Neville presenting a short DVD featuring Paul Simon (of Simon and Garfunkel fame) singing with his daughter, a song he wrote for her – A moment of Nostalgia.

Joan Visvader

Patchwork

Our last Patchwork day at the Hub was a happy, chatty affair but we forgot the cake. Work is progressing on our year's challenge with some wonderfully different interpretations. We are all looking forward to our new room where we will meet on 6th July at 1pm.

Dorothy Webber

Play Reading

Our play for June, Terence Rattigan's, *'Table 1, Table by the Window'* from *'Separate Tables'*, took some time to set up physically and for us to gain a workable sense of our roles, however by Scene II we were well under away. We became absorbed in this comedy of manners which cleverly addresses complex interpersonal issues in a powerful and thought-provoking way. Jenny and Pat, who had roles as the waitresses, decided to physically serve our imaginary tables while reading. This wasn't always smooth sailing as we read the script 'cold' without any preparation and find we do need to concentrate. Fortunately, we don't have to remember lines. Now that would be a huge challenge!

Our play for July will be the second of the *'Separate Tables'* plays *'Table Number 7'*. There is an interim change of time and venue – 12 to 2 pm at the Library - as the Convenors' briefing meeting is being held in the new U3A meeting room in Fawkner Drive in the morning.

Coming up in August – *'The Putting Down of Ned Kelly'*, by Len Kenna, a play suggested by Marg Symons and first performed in Benalla in April 1995 as part of the Felix Australia Benalla Easter Arts Festival. Len Kenna has granted us rights to do the play reading on the proviso that he can come to Benalla to hear us in action. Having the writer as an audience will really test us out!

Bev Lee

Politics and Current Affairs

I finally ran a class without having it dominated by President Trump's latest twitter, however I suspect we will have to give in and accept that he will continue to demand attention. We had time to consider happenings in Australia and mull over the French and British elections.

Our Federal politicians are about to take their winter break. Tony Abbot will probably huddle up to a nice coal fire as he contemplates how to help Malcolm keep the party unified. Other MPs will now have time to spend tending their electorates and maybe contemplate the dangers of early elections as happened in Britain.

Terry Case

Singing for Fun

This past month has seen our last meetings of both Singing for Fun and the Harmony Group in the Baptist Church in Bridge Street Benalla. The Baptist Church has provided suitable accommodation for six years.

All Singing for Fun and Harmony meetings from July 2017 will be in the U3A Room at the Benalla Rural City Seniors Complex in Fawckner Drive Benalla. Enter by the side door which is in the car port. During this past month Faith Hicks continued her revival of some of the first songs that the Singing for Fun group sang. More than half of the group had good memories of these English, Scottish and Irish sing-a-long songs.

Margaret Merriman introduced the group to the "Hippopotamus Song", the chorus of which was well known. However, some members had not heard the quirky words of the verses which contribute to a more interesting rendition of the song.

Two songs which we had not sung before, namely "Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah" and "Istanbul" (not "Constantinople") were introduced to us by Brian Greed this month. Both songs were enthusiastically

enjoyed by the group. Gwen Barnes our pianist is ever patient with the group, often suggesting small improvements which can be made.

Spontaneous singing provides highlights to special events. Such was the singing of “For he’s a jolly good fellow” when the group were told of member Ken Whan being awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen’s Birthday Honours this year. Congratulations Ken.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be held on Thursday 6th. July 2017 in the U3A Room of Benalla Rural City Seniors Complex in Fawckner Drive Benalla at 10am. Come and see and enjoy our new facility.



Enjoying the final ‘Singing for Fun’ at the Baptist Church

Margaret Jenkins

Tech Savvy

Tech Savvy Beginners

This month the Android Beginners class used the camera and discovered many options for taking photos. Then after experimenting with some of them we sent and received photos via email.

We also looked at editing tools for photos; including borders, cropping and rotating. We even used the video function. Here is a photo taken by one of our mentors showing Bev and Jean hard at work editing photos.



Important dates for all Tech Savvy Beginners:

There is no class on July 5 due to the move to the Seniors, so the final TSB basics for Android of this series will be on July 19. From August there will be a new series of four sessions each for both groups as follows:

Apple Users: Wednesdays:

- August 2, 16;
- September 6, 20

Android Users: Wednesdays -

- October 4, 18;
- November 1, 15

Please note these dates in your device calendars! (Session 6)

Jenny Sawyer & Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Plus

After a look at GPSs we had a different look at counting the way spiders or insects might count and several ways a computer counts.

For the final session we will look at the 'new' dual memory sticks and take video clips on our phones and camcorders and share them. We will also use the dual memory sticks to back them up.

Terry Dillon

Tech Savvy Talks

This month's session returned to IT, but this time with a family history focus. A TED talk by Al Jacobs on a major genealogical project set the scene for the day's topic 'Family History, A Tech Savvy Perspective'. We began by hearing about the ways in which family historians in the group had used technology in their research and heard about a memorable highlight in their journey. Bev then spoke to a slide show presentation about her quest to resolve family mysteries and secrets, followed by further sharing of family history stories over the coffee break. Les completed the session with an activity on the [untangling the mystery of how shoelaces come untied](#) which he thought would particularly appeal to our engineers.

The Rustik discussion group made the transition to the new time to avoid a clash with Wine Appreciation, meeting on the fourth Thursday at 3 pm for coffee and discussion of topics of interest. Topics included the Grattan report into the difficulties facing the National Energy Marketing Organisation with the currently unworkable arrangements of state governments doing their own thing and the commonwealth making ad hoc decisions about building more taxpayer funded generating capacity all with no coherent policy. Peter shared an interesting article on tyre pressure monitoring which would be very useful for those with expensive tyres as Les found out recently. The next Rustik meeting is at 3 pm on Thursday June 22.

Bev Lee & Les Rodgers

Towards a Sustainable Future

There is never a shortage of topics for discussion in our class! Even when our fearless leader John Lloyd was away last week we covered lots of topics, all bringing along articles of interest. Our discussions often fit within Renewable Energy for Benalla's three areas for action/investigation – Buildings and Energy Efficiency; Solar and Community Energy; and Utility Scale and Storage, with a particular interest in stories about community energy projects.

Good news stories this month included the development of 'Eco-cement' and Tesla's solar roofing tiles. A particularly interesting article related to Australian company Bristile Roofing's new solar tile and the partnership Bristile has formed with German battery storage giant and major Tesla rival, Sonnen, to supply solar powered energy storage systems for homes using it. Other articles included an article from Engineers Australia's magazine called 'Get Pumped' on pumped hydro; an article critiquing carbon capture and storage technology; and an excellent extract in the 'Good Weekend' from Anna Krein's Quarterly Essay 'The Long Goodbye – Coal, Coral and Australia's Climate Deadlock'.

Before the next newsletter, many of us will have attended the Benalla Sustainable Futures Group AGM and screening of Adani related film 'Guarding the Galilee and attended the Swanpool Environmental Film Festival. Perhaps we will see you there?

Bev Lee

Walks

Easy walk Wed July 14

Eight midweek walkers left Benalla on a crisp winter day heading for the Warby Ranges. We left the cars on the east side of the range at the bottom of the Chick Hill walking track.

The climb up to Chick Hill was quite steep and required many rest breaks however the sunny day and good views (including distant snow on Feathertop and Hotham) were appreciated by the group. During the walk the vegetation was quite varied with stringybarks, red box, Blakely's red gums, casuarinas, the odd grass tree and other understory shrubs.

Eventually we reached Chick Hill and stopped for a snack before continuing towards Ridge track. At the track we turned south and headed for the summit of Mt Glenrowan where we were rewarded with magnificent views and of course lunch.

We could easily imagine how bushrangers such as “Mad” Dan Morgan and Ned Kelly could have used this same vantage point many years before to observe activities in the Glenrowan township.



Overlooking Glenrowan

A geocache was located and our visit recorded. The last recorded visit was Christmas 2016.

After lunch we headed back along Ridge track to the junction with Chick Hill walking track. At this point 5 headed back to the cars down the steep walking track that was climbed earlier in the day. The other 3 continued at a leisurely pace along Ridge track to Taminick Gap where they later met the others in the cars for the obligatory afternoon tea.

Thanks to Vaughan Cowan for organizing such good winter weather and another pleasant midweek walk.

David Harvey

Easy walk Wed July 5

If it is not too wet we will visit Rocky Ned Falls in the Strathbogies. It is some time since we have been there, and it is a pleasant walk. We will leave Benalla at 10.00 am.

Mid-week Wed July 12

Again, if it has not rained too much, we will try the Seven Creeks / Balmattum Hill walk again at Euroa. It was cancelled last year because of flooding, so will try again. We will leave Benalla at 9.30. It helps transport arrangements if you can ring Vaughan Cowan at 5762 1980 beforehand.

Vaughan Cowan

Wine Appreciation

Wednesday July 26

Meet at our original car park at 10.00 am for a visit to John Gehrig Wines Oxley.

Lunch is at the King River Cafe. Enquiries to Keith or Heather 5762 4086.

Noel will be away this month.

Wednesday August 23

Meet at 10.00 am to travel to Red Feet Wines to meet Danny at this new location for them in the King Valley. Lunch proposed at the Moyhu Hotel.



Talk at Piano Piano Winery in May

Keith & Heather

Writing Workshop

It is such a pleasure convening this group! Our May topic **'I Was There'** elicited stories about *natural disasters* - 'Benalla bushfires of 1951'; 'the Benalla Floods of 1993'; 'being 'stuck in Ireland' during the eruption of the Icelandic volcano, Eyjafjallajökull, 14-20 April 2010; *celebratory family events* 'at my grandson's birth', 'attending the 1990 Grand Final at the MCG with my 7 year old son', 'at Government House to receive the Order of Australia'; *times of political and industrial upheaval* 'being with a Chinese migrant family when news broke of the Tiananmen Square massacre', 'nursing in Germany on the day Nikita Krushchev resigned', 'being on the picket line at the Melbourne Docks during the Patricks' waterfront dispute in 1998'; *tragic events* - 'coming across a fatal plane crash in Tasmania'; another *football final* story - 'playing in the 1968 Ballarat District Football League Grand Final' and other *memorable events* including Shirley's experiences after arriving in Melbourne from England as a child migrant on the Jervis Bay in 1938 and Bev's being outside the Southern Cross during the Beatles Tour in 1964.

At our June catch up at the Northo Elizabeth shared her **'I was there'** story on living in Brisbane during 'World Expo 1988' and David read his story 'Backpacks and blisters matter' about 'Walking the Camino' in Northern Spain with his son Ollee.

Pat and Joy, who will miss the next meeting, shared stories on our June topic **'An Act of Rebellion'** - *Have you ever challenged authority, defied expectations or fought for your beliefs? Choose a single, defining act of rebellion in your life & tell us about it.*

The topic for July is **'Travel Tales'** Everyone has at least one good travel story to tell. Share your best story of adventure or misadventure in 500 words or less.

Bev Lee

Member News

Vale Ian Burkinshaw

26.5.25 to 25.5.17 - 91 yrs 364 days

One of five children, Ian grew up in central Victoria to a farming family. Ian enjoyed life, although piano lessons with Mrs Southcombe (his future wife Dulcie's mother) were torture, especially when two-year-old Dulcie cried!

In the early 1950s Dulcie and Ian were married. Three children followed, Roslyn, Heather & John. Ian took a farm manager's position at 'Gilgai' Nagambie. From Nagambie they moved to Lima South and farmed. From Lima South they moved to Benalla where Ian worked in a stock and station agency and then in real estate.

Upon retirement in 1987 Ian embraced the computer. Joining U3A he was educated in investments. Stocks and shares were the order of the day. Ian convened the U3A cyclists' group for many years and in 2016 shared stories of his life during Writing Workshop.

Ian was a life member of the Agriculture Society and contributed in many ways to the welfare of the community. Hoisting the Flag on Australia Day, reciting the ANZAC oath, on various committees, Ian was ready to help.

Ian had an interesting life. A child of the Depression, Ian at 8 years old flew with Kingsford Smith and in 1943 as a young man undertook a very large droving job with his father from Carisbrook near Castlemaine to the Angliss Meatworks at the Newmarket saleyards 'probably one of the last big droving jobs into the metropolitan area'. Ian was recruited into 'dad's army' (the Home Guard) during World War II.

Ian's ancestry is Yorkshire in England, but he was Aussie to the core. Albert Facey's book *A Fortunate Life* is how Ian thought about his own life.

Farewell Ian, we are fortunate for having known you.

R.I.P.

Jackie Houghton

Program News

Second semester will see a new course titled '**Over there**'. The tutor will be John Barry who has been involved in writing articles for the Benalla Ensign covering the 1914-18 War and its impact on Benalla and Australia. John will be drawing on this research to run a once a month course on the third Friday commencing July 21 at 1.30pm. If you wish to join this course please contact Bev Lee (5762 8171 bevlee47@gmail.com).

John has also agreed to repeat the '**Legal Matters**' short course that was oversubscribed last year. The first session on Wills will be on Tuesday 14 August 10am-12 noon. The second session on Powers of Attorney will be on Tuesday September 11 10am-12 noon. If you wish to enrol in either session email Terry (case.terence@gmail.com or text 0427 621 700).

We have been successful in applying for funding to offer two 'train the trainer' based short courses for mentors. '**Facebook for Mentors**' will initially target and prioritise members with foundation Facebook skills who have mentored our beginners' groups or are interested in doing so. More information will be made available in future Newsletters.

A second Australian History course is being planned to commence in 2018, this will commence with early Australian History and will run on the second & fourth Friday afternoons.

iPad and Tablet Loans

A number of iPads and Samsung tablets have been returned are now available for loan to members keen to discover if they would like to try and perhaps purchase one. Contact Bev on 5762 8171 if you are interested.

Some dates for your diary:

July 3 to July 5: No classes at W4 or Seniors

July 5: 10am Convenor Training. All convenors.

July 6 & 7: Classes will begin on **Thursday July 6** in the U3A Meeting Room at the Seniors with *Singing for Fun* in the morning and *Patchwork* in the afternoon, followed by *Towards a Sustainable Future* in the morning and *Investment* in the afternoon on **Friday July 7**.

Christmas in July

Saturday the 29th July 2017

- Christmas in July at the Swanpool Memorial Hall
- Fund raiser for the Swanpool Oval Committee
- Delicious two course dinner plus drinks on offer.
- Ticket prices still to be determined but if any Members enjoyed our Christmas in July during the Bald Archy then you will also enjoy this Evening, the same Caterers and the same atmosphere.

Bald Archy Exhibition – Swanpool

Saturday the 26th August 2017 to 10th September 2017 (inclusive)

- 2017 Swanpool Bald Archy Exhibition
- Open 10:00am till 4:00pm daily
- Entry \$5.00 Adults and \$4.00 Concession
- Morning and Afternoon Tea plus a light Lunch and a main Lunch will be available however the menu has not been finalised yet.

Newsletter

For the Tech Savvy folk **ONLY**. Read the Newsletter [HERE](#) and under the View menu turn on Navigation Pane. Use the Navigation pane to quickly find items.

This method uses an online version of word and is suitable for most devices. It has been tested on PCs, iPad, Android phones & tablets. However, it may not work in old browsers. Your feedback would be appreciated.

A two-column format has been used as research seems to indicate that comprehension is lowered when the eye has further to travel back to the start of a new line & this is exacerbated with age.

Terry Dillon 0419 343 129

Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to Steph Ryan MP and the staff at her Benalla Office for the printing of this newsletter.

What's On Liftout

Monday, 3 July

10:00 (Benalla Computer Club)
10:00 Lifeball
10:00 Art Appreciation

Tuesday, 4 July

10:00 E-Book Group
10:00 Member Services Group
14:00 Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 5 July

09:30 Easy Walks - Rocky Ned falls in the Strathbogies
10:00 Convenors Meeting
12:00 Play Reading - 'Table 7' by Terence Rattigan

Thursday, 6 July

10:00 Singing for Fun
13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 7 July

09:30 Towards a Sustainable Future
13:30 Investment

Monday, 10 July

10:00 Program/Admin Group
10:00 Lifeball
13:30 Writing Workshop & Cafe Catchup
14:00 Garden Team - 'Val's Place'

Tuesday, 11 July

10:00 Politics & Current Affairs

Wednesday, 12 July

09:30 Bushwalking - Seven Creeks/Balmattum Hill, Euroa
10:00 Tech Savvy Talks
13:00 Film & Literature - 'Eddie the Eagle'
19:00 In the Mood for Opera

Thursday, 13 July

10:00 Harmony Group - Singing for Fun
13:30 Executive

Friday, 14 July

10:00 Music Appreciation
13:30 Armchair History

Monday, 17 July

10:00 (Benalla Computer Club)
10:00 Lifeball
13:30 Brain Games

Tuesday, 18 July

10:00 Armchair Traveller - 'The Maples' and the Simpson Desert

13:30 Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 19 July

10:00 Meet and Mingle - Marcus Bolger

12:00 Newsletter Deadline

13:30 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android #5

Thursday, 20 July

10:00 Singing for Fun

13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 21 July

09:30 Towards a Sustainable Future

11:45 Chat N Chew – 'Kim Wah' restaurant, 119 Bridge Street

13:30 'Over There'

Monday, 24 July

10:00 Collectors

10:00 Lifeball

13:30 Writing Workshop - 'Travel Tales'

Tuesday, 25 July

10:00 Politics & Current Affairs

Wednesday, 26 July

10:00 Wine Appreciation - John Gehrig Wines, Oxley

13:30 Member Services Group

Thursday, 27 July

10:00 Garden Appreciation - Guest Speaker Betty Lindsay

15:00 Tech Savvy Talks at Rustik Café

Friday, 28 July

10:00 Music Appreciation

13:30 Armchair History

Saturday, 29 July

Christmas in July – Swanpool

Monday, 31 July

10:00 Lifeball

14:00 Garden Team