



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – November 2014

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The U3A year is drawing to a close and we have a chance to view the work of our Patchwork class at the November Meet and Mingle and also hear our Singing group in action. I want to thank Joyce Borschmann who negotiated access to the Seniors’ piano, after an initial glitch. Next year most Meet and Mingle sessions will be held in W4. We have changed the format to have about two speakers per semester. We will rely upon ourselves to provide the entertainment at other sessions giving us a chance for more time to talk and relax.

A reminder to those of you travelling by bus to the Christmas lunch. The bus leaves Benalla Bus Lines depot at 11 am. Queries Noel Meagher 5762 3149. Rupe Cheetham and Margaret Walshe have decided it is time to retire from running the Astronomy class, of which they were both founder members. Rupe spends hours preparing for each class and needs a break however he will continue to coach our Lifeball group. I would like to thank both Rupe and Margaret for all their various contributions to making U3A such a success over the years; well done!

Preparations for new courses and program timetables are nearly complete and will be posted out in a December news. Please help us recruit new members by telling people why you enjoy U3A!

Congratulations to the investment group which has won a statewide competition showing they're the best at playing the market for a profit.

Terry Case, President

January 2015 newsletter

Enrolment day for 2015 will be held at the Senior Citizens Rooms on January 21st. Further details will be included in the January newsletter. This newsletter will be posted on 13th January. Items for inclusion to be received by the editor by 12 noon on Friday 9th January.
Happy Christmas to you all.



Judith Borthwick, Editor

GROUP REPORTS

Armchair History

The course was judged a success by the class and we will continue next year looking at the intriguing reign of Queen Victoria and why people in Britain and its Empire proudly called themselves “Victorians”. Once again I have a large collection of DVDs to illustrate the era and you can sit back and enjoy your history:

- Photography became very popular during Victoria’s reign and people who thronged to the Great Exhibition were entranced by this new development. I will draw on some collections of photographs from the period.
- The great writer associated with the period was Dickens who held society accountable for the miseries inflicted on the poor.
- City and home life gradually improved and the new Middle Class reaped the benefits.



Sincere thanks to Bill Sykes MP and office staff who have printed this newsletter over many years. We wish you the very best in your future endeavours.

President, executive and members of U3A Benalla

- This was the Age of Steam as trains and steam ships cut travel time and carried people cheaply and (eventually) safely to distant destinations.
- It was also a period when the British Empire was at its peak and we will look at colonies such as Australia, after all what could be more Victorian than a colony named for the Queen and a State capital named for her favourite Prime Minister?

Armchair Traveller

We concluded our 2014 program with a program presented by Terry Case on his visit to Turkey in 1989. He was following in the footsteps of one of the greatest travelers of all, the apostle, St Paul. In the process he stumbled on the story of Australian WW1 POW's. who were slave labourers building one of the world's greatest train journeys in Eastern Turkey.

We resume in March next year.

Art Appreciation

We have had some interesting sessions of practical art over the past three months but not everyone wants the hands on experience.

Conveners Carole and Godfrey Marple have made appointments with Gallery staff to plan the program for 2015 keeping this issue in mind.

Our last gathering for 2014 will be on December 1 at 10:00 am when there will be works under the heading 'Traditionalists of Australian Landscape' from the Alex Cato Wesley College collection and the Benalla Art Gallery collection on exhibition. There is to be a floor talk with Kenneth Park, curator of the Wesley College collection.

Astronomy

We welcomed the return of our industrious tutor, Rupe, after competing in the Masters Hockey event in Perth.

Jan spoke about British Physicist, Professor Brian Cox, Melbourne talk, titled Making Sense of the Cosmos. He took the audience on an interesting journey through space and time making this highly complex subject entertaining. Rupe provided amazing images of the Oort Cloud comet Siding Springs as it passed close to Mars on 19 October 2014.

Spacecraft sheltered behind this red planet as the comet flew by on its first visit. The 18

October saw the largest Sunspot in the current Solar Cycle that began in 2008; the peak of the Sun's activity occurs approximately every 11 years. Current viewing: evening sky, Great Square of Pegasus near the north horizon; Planets Mars and Saturn in the west and Jupiter in the early morning eastern sky. No session on 4 November - Melbourne Cup holiday.

Benalla Writers Group

It was great start this year for what should be a promising local group. We have such talent in our area. Unfortunately I will not be able to be co-ordinator in 2015. This is an easy job because it is a self-help group for all those wishing to discuss and share their writing. And maybe put a short report into the newsletter each month. Maybe a roster could take care of the problem? Stella will be co-ordinating our last meeting in November as I am overseas.

You are an inspiring group and I do hope you all continue your endeavours successfully next year. Have a great Christmas and write up all those important moments as - time is passing by.

Happy writing to you all.

Judy Perry

Item on Page 5 may be of interest to members of Benalla Writers Group

Editor

e-Book Group

Our final novel this year was The Daughters of Mars, by Thomas Keneally. Thomas Keneally is an accomplished writer, and, this, his 29th novel continues his high standard. Again, he takes up the theme of war, and focusses the action on the nursing careers of Sally and Naomi Durrance, two Australian sisters, who attend the wounded, firstly in a hospital ship, later on Lemnos Island, and finally at the Western front. Keneally's mastery of technical detail never falters in his description of the horrific injuries suffered by soldiers from shelling and gas, and makes it clear that these were the side effects of war that authorities preferred to keep hidden from those at home. Love stories there are, but these are subsumed by the insistent message that, far from being glorious, war is dreadful and futile and survival is a chance thing.

NB We have vacancies for four new members in 2015.

Film and Literature

Our November class, last one for the year and the last one for Elva and Marj. We enjoyed a viewing of the Vicar of Dibley, a very funny Christmas episode relating to overeating at this festive time.

After the movie we enjoyed afternoon tea with a luscious sponge cake included, a good social breakup session. We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

Garden Appreciation

November 27. Meet at Benalla Rose Gardens (Art Gallery end) 9.30 for morning tea' b.y.o'.

Then to Strathbogie Huntley Farm Rose Nursery, 15 Main Street, Strathbogie. Lunch at Nursery Café 0429 149173. Gwen 627017 0438 627010

Garden Team

We will fit in one more session at Jane's on Mon Dec 1st especially as it may be a bit hot to resume at the beginning of February.

Investment Group 1

To quote the editor of the Sunday Age Shares Race for Sunday 2nd November "with only days to go until the celebration that stops the nation, our penultimate share race of 2014 has ended with the Ben-itesU3A investment club taking the title by a short head". Reliable newspaper sources have commented that this achievement has not only brought honour to our group but more significantly has proved to be a great promotion for the U3A movement as comments indicating interest have filtered through from other U3A investment groups!

Investment Group 2

Investment Group 2 met in early November and discussed the increase of 3% in the stock market during October. We also talked about the Medibank Private share offer which was open when we met and reportedly oversubscribed. Our thanks to Brian who gave us a talk on charting and the use of charts in the selection of stocks to purchase.

The final meeting of Investment Group 2 for 2014 will be held on Friday 5th December at 2pm in W4.

Lifeball

Lifeball continues on its merry way. Many folk have been absent recently, but we are so adaptable that

we can play with 10 or even 8, which makes us think more about tactics in going towards goal, and is enormous fun.

A week ago, five of us drove to Rutherglen for their first Fun and Friendship Day. It's a great way to meet others, play our wonderful game together, and enjoy the marvellous hospitality. The lunch was marvellous - the meals we have wherever we play are always SO good, and the host teams are always so welcoming.

We anticipate our final game will be on December 8th, concluding with a Christmas lunch at the Golf Club.

If anyone would like to give us the "once over" and see how our beaut game is played, call me on 5762 1404, or email me at maggiemm41@yahoo.com.au I would be delighted to introduce you to the game, and invite you to join us in the future.

Marg Merriman

Meet and Mingle

Meet and Mingle will resume in February 2015. Details will be in the January newsletter.

Music Appreciation

We have continued our exploration of the music composed in the early years of the 1900's. In addition to the wonderful guitar concerts of Rodrigo (Spanish) we have heard darker music by Wiell (Germany) and a range of styles composed by the Russian (Dimitri Shostakovich) in classic, jazz, and movie soundtrack styles.

We resume in 2015 with music from a number of lesser-known composers of the 19th century, plus some of the well-loved classics.

Politics and Current Affairs

I want to thank my co-tutor for the year, Laurence Neal for stepping in and saving my sanity in my first year as president. I have found it refreshing to watch how Laurence runs the class and this is what U3A is all about, learning and sharing. Laurence will continue to visit Benalla U3A next year in his new role as tutor for Comparative Religion. Politics this year was at times a course in religion as we dissected the different factions in Sunni, Shia and Kurdish political forces and even the politics of the Vatican.

Our last class for the year is just before the state election so I guess that will dominate proceedings,

but in a year of political turmoil I have learnt to be flexible in my planning!

Patchwork

To wind up our year we will be having lunch at the Hub on Thursday, December 4th at 12.30pm. BYO plate to share and a wrapped fat quarter to exchange. Numbers have been down but we hope to see you all there for our breakup.



U3A Patchwork members searching for that elusive piece of fabric amongst donated scraps.

Singing for Fun

We have 27 singers who will be performing at the Senior Citizens Hall in November and at Cooina on the 4th of December. Several members will be singing out for the first time. We will be paying tribute to Charmaie Morley by singing several of her songs in our programme. These will be conducted by Faith. Our last singing day for the year will be on Nov. 20th. Following our Cooina concert, we will adjourn to the Golf Club for our wind-up lunch. If you haven't already put your name down, please phone Joyce on 57625013.

The Wangaratta Choristers are presenting a Christmas programme on Fri. Dec. 13 at 8p.m at the Senior Citizens. They are an excellent choir and it would be great if our group could give them our support. Cost is \$15 and supper is provided.

November walks

Short walk Wednesday November 5

Reef Hills State Park

Seven walkers tried out a track which leads to the rifle range and then south between Roe's Road and the eastern park boundary. We then climbed a low hill to view some old mines, where we turned north to see another mine on the next hill before walking along the ridge to the cars. We had lunch at the Picnic Area and then drove down Wattle Road to look at the growth of the young Golden Wattles on the "Prostanthera track". Most of the spring flowers have finished, but we found two colonies of very healthy Flying Duck orchids. The weather was fine and everyone had a good day out. I would like to thank all of those who have supported these walks during 2014 and hope to resume the activities in April next year.

Vaughan Cowan



The photo is of a Large Flying Duck orchid - Caleana major. We saw several colonies of these in the Reef Hills. The flower is approximately the same size as a postage stamp, so is very hard to find.

Mid-week walk Wednesday November 12 Mt. Buffalo

Three cars carrying 14 bushwalkers, six of them men, left Benalla at 8.15am en route to Mt. Buffalo. The cars were parked near Lake Catani just down from the camping area. With John Boehm as our leader, we started our walk on the track close to the lake. There was much colour throughout the day with many bushes flowering - an abundance of yellow, purple, pink and white little flowers. Too many to name! At the end of Lake Catani we walked a short distance on the road, then made our way along the 3 km track to Mt. Dunn. The track was beside a pristine stream at the start, then we were walking in a gully with most impressive rocks. In due course we started a slow climb and eventually came to the reasonably new ladder set up which made it easy to reach the top of Mount Dunn. We lunched on the summit, all sitting on the huge boulders, and taking in the wonderful panoramic view to the north, south, east and west. After walking back to

the cars, we drove to the Car Park near the Chalet for afternoon tea before starting the trip home. Many thanks to our walk leader and also the drivers.
Judy Cowan



BENALLA

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN U3A BENALLA

Our best marketing tool is our own members therefore we are appealing to you to each try and introduce a new Member in 2015 to U3A Benalla.

We offer a wide range of Courses and Activities that would appeal to semi or retired residents of Benalla Rural City.

If you require information about Courses and Activities on offer in 2015 or if you would like a Membership Application Form then please contact our Secretary, Lorraine Knox via email: u3abenalla@bigpond.com or tele: 5762 1531.

Our growth can only be maintained by introducing new Members , please do your bit for U3A Benalla.

U3A Christmas Luncheon Red Stag Restaurant



Reminder: The bus for the Christmas luncheon will leave Benalla Bus Lines at 11.00 a.m. on **Wednesday 26 November 2014** for Red Stag Restaurant.

Notice to everyone who has a U3A computer

Please contact Barry O'Connor at your very earliest convenience. (bjconnor@active8.net.au)

U3A TV for sale by tender

Bauh 106 cm (42") Full High Definition LCD TV

This TV was bought on 15 April 2011 and is in good condition. It has been used in Room W4 at The Centre and been replaced by a TV with a larger screen.

Tenders to be received by the Secretary U3A Benalla, P O Box 583, Benalla 3672 by 21st December, 2014.

Items from community groups

Let's get published.

At last – a workshop that demystifies the process of getting published.

Blaise van Heckie, author of *The Book Book, 12 steps to successful publishing* and Director of Busybird Publishing will visit **Shepparton** to share her tips on getting published in a variety of formats.

Sunday November 30th

Session 1

10.00 am to 12 noon

The Digital Landscape

Learn about ways to get published on the internet, such as blogging and e-books and how to make yourself stand out from the millions of other people of the net.

Session 2

1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Getting Published

Explore the different forms of publishing. Traditional publishing, partnership publishing and self-publishing – and the best way to succeed in them.

Cost \$10 per session (\$8.00 concession)

Venue The Mechanics Institute, 227 High Street, Shepparton

Bookings Helene Castles 0408 006 989 or Robyn Black on 0408 553 087.

This workshop is hosted by the Goulburn Valley Writers Group Inc. and has been made possible by *Writers Victoria*.



**Swanpool Hall and
Benalla Theatre Company**

present a pleasant

**Summery Saturday Soiree
Saturday 6th December at 1.30 pm**

Come and enjoy choral singing, solos and instrumental music on the Swanpool Stage followed by afternoon tea (scones, jam and cream)

Tickets \$10 available at the door but please RSVP to 0455 342 492 for catering purposes.

All proceeds go to benefit Swanpool Hall and Benalla Theatre Company

**Victorian Young Achiever Awards –
nominations open**

Do you know an amazing young achiever up to 28 years of age who deserves to be recognised? Nominate them today to also go in the running to win a \$200 coffee club voucher

Close of nominations 5th December 2014.

Judging Wednesday 4th March 2015.

Categories:

Victorian Government - Innovation Award

AustralianSuper-Career Kick Start Award

BASF – Science and Technology Award

The Coffee Club – Arts and Fashion Award

For further information contact

Katrina Gallo

Event Manager

Victorian Young Achiever Awards

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www.awardsaustralia.com