



Benalla and District Inc. Newsletter – September 2016

P O Box 674, Benalla 3672
Editor: Freida Andrews 5765 2476
fmandrews46@gmail.com
Newsletter deadline – fourth Monday at midday
Next deadline—midday **Monday 24 October 2016**

President: Terry Case 5762 1700
case.terence@gmail.com
Secretary: Lorraine Knox 5762 1531
lorraine.knox@bigpond.com
Web site: <http://u3abenalla.weebly.com>

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Good news! Our joint submission with the Benalla Council for funding to upgrade the Seniors facility to enable us to use it has now been approved. The Benalla Ensign published part of a press release outlining the announcement. The project will go ahead early next year with our timetable for next year showing our room as W4 and dates listed to the end of June. We anticipate moving sometime before June and there will be a short break to enable us to move our equipment and brief tutors.

Earlier this month Dorothy, Margaret, Judith, Geraldine and I attended the U3A Regional Network meeting in Cobram. Two speakers had been organized, Gerard Mansour, Commissioner for Senior Victorians who advises the Victorian Government of key issues facing seniors and Dr Rachel Winterton from Latrobe University Wodonga. Rachel outlined the ASPIRE project which explored how services and supports are accessed by older people in rural Victoria and Queensland.

Both speakers highlighted the need to be connected with your community and how much older Australians contribute as members of groups and local boards and committees. Rachel’s study found carers and volunteer drivers, often in their mid-70s, are still helping vulnerable people. This finding might be no surprise to us, but is news to some who perceive older people as a burden.

U3A contributes to seniors having a happy life and a sense of purpose. Many of our new members have chosen to retire to Benalla. We were reminded of the

need to be welcoming so they can find new friends and enjoy life in our community.

It is pleasing that attendances are increasing as the warmer weather sees the return of some travellers. The September Meet & Mingle was crowded with all chairs being taken as over thirty members gathered.



We will have to consider how we deal with the expected large numbers at the beginning of the next year, it’s fantastic to be popular!

Terry Case, President

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON GRACEBROOK VINEYARDS

Wednesday 23 November 2016. Bus leaves at 11 am. Registration sheet and details have been included on the last page of this newsletter. This event has become a fun outing for U3A members and friends. We look forward to seeing you there.

GROUP REPORTS

Armchair History

We are investigating the impact (an apt description) of the arrival of the Vikings in Britain. One of the more unusual aspects of the invasion was how it revolutionized the tax system in the country, which made it irresistible to those later Vikings; the Normans.

Armchair Traveller

In September we cruised to the Greek islands with Reina and John. Visits to the islands of Sanatori and Symi were especially spectacular.

We meet again on *Tuesday 15th November*, when Jan will take us back packing in Italy, but from the comfort of our W4 armchairs. One of our members offered us a video of a helicopter ride – Please contact John to confirm time and place.

We would like our participants to come prepared to tell us of some of their special experiences whilst travelling in Australia or overseas.

- What was funny
- What went wrong
- What coincidences occurred
- What was scary

We need to share your experiences at our last meeting in 2016, or next year if you are keen to continue.

Art Appreciation

On the 5th September the Art Appreciation Group listened to a short lecture in the Simpson Gallery by Catherine Bennetts-Cash on an artwork exhibition by artist Sally Simpson – presumably no relation – entitled *Natural History: Lake Mokoan*.

This is a minimalist exhibition in three parts – pencil and some paint – sculptures made from plastic and metal – and a selection of objects made out of cloth and bones. All ingredients making up the installations were collected on site at Winton Wetlands.

The black and white pencil with minimalist paint drawings are of decomposing fish heads and attached skeleton remains. Very carefully crafted on special paper these drawings are first class and well worth a close look when visiting the gallery. They have a distended look about them and could almost be human or pre-human indicating the evolution of both species.

The plastic and metal installations are more conventional and could have been an afterthought making use of all pieces abandoned by previous human beings that were picked up by Sally.

The selection of objects made out of cloth and fish bones remains are interesting and thought provoking. They could be mummified fish. They could be large moths – large enough to cook and enjoy eating at seasonal activities when they are in abundant numbers. The objects in question are made by wrapping fish bones etc. in a delicate lace tablecloth that was obviously abandoned by someone and are mounted on wire that is attached to a specially manufactured table. This has the effect of indicating that the fish might be jumping out of the water or the moths could be hovering over the water.

We thank Catherine for giving us the lecture and advising us of future events coming to the Gallery.

Astronomy

We haven't had any U3A Astronomy meetings for the last two months as most of us were unavailable, hence no reports.

Astronomy meets monthly at W4. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th October at 1.30pm.

Bird Watching

U3A Benalla's Birdwatching group resumed in September after a two month winter break. We were fortunate to be invited to visit John and Freida's lovely bush block in the Chesney Vale Hills on Thursday 8 September. It was a mild day & our group of 13 saw a number of uncommon woodland birds on the property.



Photo Marg Walshe -Vaughan, Heather and Shirlie check out a bird.

A small flock of White-browed Babblers moved quickly through the garden, but they were difficult to observe. Everyone had close looks at a pair of Jacky Winters which perched quite close to us. We also saw a pair of Crested Shrike-tits, with their attractive lemon breast and striking black and white head. Eastern Rosellas and a flock of Red-rumped Parrots were seen well, plus a Restless Flycatcher which made its distinctive scissors grinder call as it hovered nearby. A Dusky Woodswallow perched on a branch above our heads, several Brown Treecreepers flew onto nearby tree trunks, and a small flock of White-winged Choughs was easy to see up ahead. Those of us who walked a bit further up the hill were lucky to find a couple of Diamond Firetails feeding on the ground, while three Hooded Robins chased each other through the trees.

We were lucky to see so many woodland birds in such a small area. The Chesney Vale Hills are an absolute treasure for birdwatchers. We recorded 34 species in this small area. The list has been entered on EBird <http://ebird.org/ebird/australia/view/checklist/S31635063>

We ate lunch on John's new deck, with cake, tea and coffee supplied by Freida. It was lovely to have Rupe join us, as he recovers from his accident. After lunch, we made a brief visit to Duck Pond, at the far end of Winton Wetlands. The beautiful Pink-eared Duck showed very well in the scope, but there were few other birds around, so we finished up and headed back to Benalla. Many thanks to Freida and John for their hospitality.

Our next outing is on *Thursday 13th October*, a day trip to the Warby Ranges. Meet at Barkly Street car park at 9.45am, bring morning tea and lunch and a folding chair if you have one. We will car pool and share transport costs. Our main bird walk will be along Pangarang track.

Brain Games

Please note that Brain Games will be on *Monday 3rd October*. Hope to see you then.

I can be emailed at elspethm1@gmail.com, sent a text on 0418 621 764, a 101 can be left (after a longish wait) on 57621700, or a message left in my pigeonhole at Benalla pool.

Bushwalking

Easy Walk Wednesday September 7

Nine walkers enjoyed the warm weather and the wildflowers on the "Friend's Track" in the Warby Ranges. The circuit was 4.5km, but we extended it a bit by including Quat Quat Lookout, where we had lunch while admiring the views of the countryside and the mountains to the South.



We found 15 Genera of wildflowers, the most prominent being Box-leaf wattle, *Grevillia alpina*, Leopard Orchids, *Stypantra glauca* and masses of Greenhood orchids, both *Pterostylis curta* and *Pterostylis nutans*.

To make an interesting day a bit more exciting, we met a car and caravan on the narrow road in, which required a bit of manoeuvring negotiating.

Then on the return to the cars we found notices to inform us of a lost dog. On the way out we met the dog, which was happy to jump into the car while Phyllis rang the owners. The reunion was extremely joyful as the dog had been missing for about ten days.

Seniors Week Walk - Wednesday October 12

The easy walkers have visited this area every few years, but it will not disappoint mid-week walkers. This year it is a combined walk for Seniors Week. Most of the track is along existing roads, but there is a short easy off-track section before reaching a cleared area with great views over Sam's Creek valley.

Ring Vaughan on *Tuesday 11th October* on 5762 1980. We leave the Centre car park at 9.30am.

Chat n' Chew

Come along and join us at our last Chat n' Chew for 2016. We will be at **Georgina's** on **Friday 21st October** at **11.45 am**. Everyone welcome.

Collectors

Our September session of Collectors was the last for this year and featured a Christmas theme. Our numbers were down but we still had an interesting display and saw amongst other items a collection of Toby Jugs and learnt about their origins; another of onyx fruit and a ceramic Christmas tree.



Following our Christmas themed morning tea of mince tarts we saw a slide show of all our items which we had seen over the year. It was amazing how many lovely and unusual items were shown. Thank you Bev for producing this slide show. This was followed by a DVD about collecting from Terry and Elspeth. Thank you both. *Collectors will recommence in February 2017.*

Comparative Religion

Former Benalla convenor Laurence Neil presented a session, at our August meeting, about the Exclusive Brethren otherwise called the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church. Two of the Wangaratta U3A members also attended with Laurence and contributed

to the session which boosted our attendance to six people.

Laurence has extensive knowledge about this Church because he worked as a teacher at their Nathalia School and was accepted as an "honorary" member. It is not possible to walk off the street and become a member of this religion because you must be "born" into it, hence the title "exclusive". Brethren members are often successful in business and contribute generously to community charities but their strict rules for members, which includes no TV, university education, computers and other devices leads to the conclusion that it is a "cult".

Our session finished with a searing critique of religion from a DVD video presented by Richard Dawkins. Dawkins is a well-known atheist and sceptic who advocates for reason and science ahead of faith and belief. Perhaps the value of religion lies somewhere between the two extremes of fundamentalism and atheism because we are not just machine like rational thinkers but also passionate and feeling beings. While the influence of religions decreases as societies become more knowledgeable and sophisticated, it is unlikely that they will disappear any time soon.

With this final report and on a personal note; I am grateful to Benalla U3A for the opportunity to convene the Comparative Religion class. While it was not quite my "cuppa tea" it came close and I was surprised by many of the wonderful stories plus the rich history contained within this subject. Also my thanks to the attendees who persevered and contributed honestly for the benefit of all.

Mike Larkin

E Book Group

Variously described as 'fast paced' and 'suspenseful', *The Girl On The Train*, a psychological thriller by Paula Hawkins, should have been engrossing, but, for us at least, it didn't live up to the hype.

The novel is mostly about Rachel, a depressive and an alcoholic, who sees something unexpected from her train window, which shatters her illusion of the perfect couple. Megan, the woman in question, goes missing and is later found dead, and so begins Rachel's obsessive desire to find the killer. Is it her ex-husband Tom, his wife Anna, Megan's husband Scott, or perhaps the psychotherapist? In spite of red herrings and withheld information, it becomes clear to the reader

'whodunnit', but by the end of the novel we simply don't care. There are many eminent writers in the crime genre, but sadly, Paula Hawkins isn't one of them.

Film and Literature

We watched another episode in the Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* series. This time it was *Miss Fozard Finds Her Feet*, a monologue by Patricia Routledge. It was interesting to compare this with the previous episode we had watched – *Bed Among the Lentils*. It was interesting to see how characters can be created via a monologue. Patricia Routledge created the different characters by voice changes and head movements, actually acting the characters. There were three characters in particular that she showed really strongly using these techniques – her brother and two chiropodists in her life. Through the script we also gained a good picture of Miss Fozard herself. She was a bit naïve, at least at first, but was cautious about younger people who she thought did not have much experience and so were not necessarily capable. The setting was also well suited to the monologue. For example, after her brother has a second stroke, we see her looking out with rain running down the window, representing the bleakness of the situation. Through her words we can “see” her brother sitting in his chair staring into space. All of this showed how clever Alan Bennett's script is, and how well Patricia Routledge interprets the words.

Next month we will be watching an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, starring Sarah Parish, Damian Lewis, Billie Piper and Tom Ellis. Everyone is welcome to join us. Anyone familiar with the Shakespeare Play may be particularly interested in this film.

Details of BPACC's Seniors Week screening of 'Love and Friendship' can be found in 'Around the Traps' (pg11).

Garden Appreciation

Thursday 27th October

Meet at Flexible Learning carpark 9.30 to travel to Karn station in Samaria Road to view garden and enjoy morning tea. Tea, coffee, milk and hot water supplied bring own cup and small plate to share. Lunch at Tatong Tavern.

Thursday 24th November

Meet at Flexible Learning car park 10.15 to go to 6 Benson Street Benalla, home of Libby Mason. Morning tea and view garden. Tea, coffee, milk and hot water supplied bring own cup and small plate to share. Lunch to be arranged.

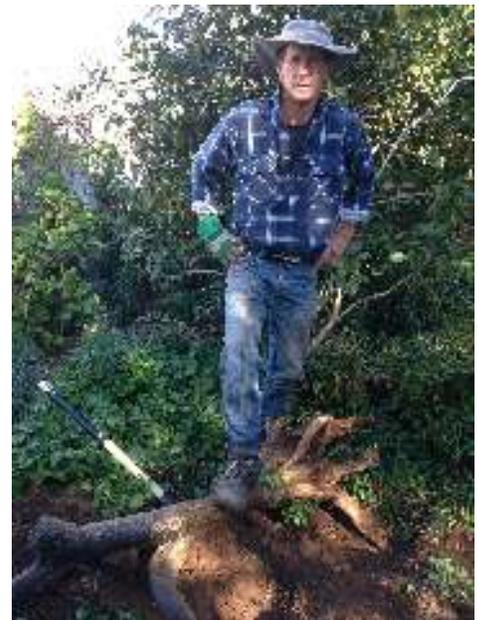
December. Christmas break.

For more information phone Gwen – 0438 627 010 or 5762 7017

Garden Team

There have been two Garden Teams in the last month. On both occasions the weather forecast suggested we would be rained out, but we were lucky enough to be able to do the work.

On the fifth Monday in August five members met at Shirly's home and undertook weeding and pruning. Bill was able to dig out the stump of a grapefruit tree which had been severely pruned on a previous occasion.



As usual we rewarded ourselves with a delicious afternoon tea and caught up on the gossip around the town.

On the second Monday in September seven members met at Kathy's home and again weeding was the order of the day. Jane severely pruned back an unwanted *Grevillea* and Bill was able to dig out the stump. Over afternoon tea Kathy told us about her recent birding trip to Colombia in South America, and the over 300 species she was able to observe.

The next Garden Team will be at Bill and Jane's on Monday 10th October - with all this rain there will be plenty of weeds to pull out!



Investment

To commence the September meeting of Investment we had a look at the results of the Reporting Season of several of the major companies on the Stock Exchange. We saw how their reported figures resulted in some dramatic rises and falls in the share price of various companies following their announcement of the results. The rises and falls depended not only on the announced results but also on how the market perceived the result.

We also discussed the Telstra share buy back which was recently announced.

The final topic of the afternoon was a list of high yielding ASX listed stocks with the best fundamentals compiled from the top 150 largest companies by marketindex.com.au

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 7th October at 1.15pm in W4.

Let's Talk Books

A group of 15 U3A members had a very pleasant time at the Library for our September session.

After reading *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens it was commented on how precise the written language was in that era. The same reader also enjoyed *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali the story of her traditional Muslim childhood in Somalia to her journey and life in the Netherlands, to life under guard in the West. Shirley Roberts enjoyed two books, *Ageing with Grace* by Kathy Reichs and *Jesus and Mohamed* two totally different topics. An easy read *The Light of Paris* by

Eleanor Brown was enjoyed as was *The Ties that Bind* and *The Last Dance* a novel by Fiona MacIntosh, who seems popular at the moment. Rhonda was reading *Great Working Dog Stories* a book that evoked memories and stories of our own dogs. *Twisted* by Lynda La Plante always a popular author and *The Lakehouse* which was an e book.

The Sunday Wife by Cassandra King, a girl with a questionable past who married a Minister, interesting relationships surfaced through this book. It was voted a good read. For history buffs *The Romanovs 1613-1918* was heavy reading but most interesting. The *Agatha Raisin* series by M.C. Beaton rated a mention, although the film of *The Potted Gardener* was not as good as the book.

An article on what imported books are doing to books in Australia was discussed and from *Brains Picking Weekly* the question was put, Why do we read? To have something to talk about!!!

Salt Creek by Lucy Treloar was set in the Coorong in the 1840's and related the story of one of the 1st white families in the area. *Home* by Larissa Behrendt was written from an aboriginal perspective.

Enjoy your reading, we will meet again on Tuesday 4th October in the Library.

Lifeball

On September 19th our Lifeball numbers rocketed back to 16, after having been around 10 for the past few weeks, due to injuries, illnesses and people seeking warmer climes. But when we are all together, the laughs are louder and more frequent.

We had a wonderful time assisting the Big White Chiefs in Melbourne recently, playing demonstration Lifeball to a group which came to Melbourne from across the world for a Conference on Active Ageing. Members of the group also joined us eagerly on the "court" - a room in the Melbourne Conference Centre specially adapted for the day, and the word is being spread to Tasmania and New Zealand, so we could have our game being played much further afield.

Recently we had a great Fun and Friendship Day in Albury, where there were around 50 players, from Benalla, of course, and Wangaratta, Myrtleford, Rutherglen, and Deniliquin, as well as Albury.

A super day!

Coming up, on 5th October, we have a day at Rutherglen, and on the 25th a day at Wangaratta. As usual, we will have great games, great food, and great companionship.

This really is the BEST game, and if you want to enjoy what we enjoy, come along every Monday at the sports stadium in Ackerly Avenue at 9.45am and have a go - if you don't enjoy yourself, either watching or participating, you are under no obligation, but you can at least say you have seen the fun, and recognise how good this game is, both for fitness, team building, and heaps of fun.

You will be made so welcome!

Phone Marg Merriman on 5762-1404

Meet and Mingle

Chris Gill from the Sentencing Advisory Council presented our session in September. The case which we were asked to judge was about a young man who was charged with arson as well as other crimes committed during a robbery. Most of our members agreed with the judges verdict of guilty and also with the sentence, especially when we heard that the perpetrator had already been charged with 19 other crimes. This was a very informative session and gave us a little insight into sentencing and what the judge has to take into account.



Thanking Chris Gill at Meet and Mingle

Guest speaker at our next session on 19th October will be Pat Claridge from the Tomorrow, Today Foundation.

Music Appreciation

26th August 2016

John presented a session of favourites, as follows:

1. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 to 1893) *The Capriccio Italien*
2. John Ireland (1879-1962) *Piano Concerto in E Flat*, Pianist John Lenehan,
3. Ravel – *Bolero*.
4. Debussy – *Claire de Lune*
5. Tchaikovsky – *The 1812 Overture*
6. John Ireland – *Three Dances*
7. Mozart – *Landate Dominium*

9th September 2016

John presented a group of Scandinavian composers:

1. Friedrich Kuhlau (1786-1832) Born in Germany, settled in Denmark. *The Flute Quartet No 2*
2. Johan Svendsen (1840-1911) Norwegian composer, conductor and violinist. *Romance op 26*
3. Johan Halvorsen (1864-1935) Norwegian violinist, conductor and composer. *Danses Norvegiennes*
4. Christian Sinding (1856-1941) Norwegian composer, *Legende*.
5. Jean Sibelius, Finish composer. *Violin Concerto*.

Music Appreciation meets twice every month. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 14th October in W4.

Patchwork



We had a very successful charity day - thanks to all who came. We will continue with the trading table as wadding is needed. It's always great to take home goodies from the garden. We're looking forward to seeing some of our group back from their travels.

Play Reading

Over two sessions, the Play Readers met to read Peter Coke's splendidly funny play: *Winter Glory*. Following as it did from his earlier plays, *Breath of Spring*, *Midsummer Mink* and *Autumn Manoeuvres* we meet the fabulous Dame Beatrice Appleby and her lodgers Nan, Hattie and The Brigadier.

The attempts of these do-gooder retirees to put a pathetic pet out of its misery and to help an aging actress fade away at "the peak of happiness" do not go according to plan and they (spoiler alert!) dispatch themselves heavenward as well in the most hilarious of ways. Such fun for the Play Readers giving us a chance to use funny voices and accents, to get carried away with hysterical over acting and to bark out orders like a retired military gentleman whilst simultaneously keeping track of the intricacies of a well-crafted comedy. Nothing a bit of "nerve tonic" wouldn't fix!

Our next play will be an Australian one. During war time U.S. soldiers are stationed next to a country biscuit factory staffed by women...So bring your Aussie accent and knowledge of war brides. We can't promise biscuits but... rumour has it there may be music.

Politics and Current Affairs

Our guest speaker for September was to be Greg Robertson, the Council's Manager of facilities. Unfortunately he had to cancel because the forthcoming Council elections mean that the staff have to follow "Caretaker" rules during the period before a new Council is elected. We will discuss the forthcoming Council elections and the US Presidential.



The debate is on! Politics class 27 September 2016

We may even consider Donald Trump's latest claim that Hilary Clinton died and a double is now playing her part, stranger than fiction?

Rail and Tourism

At our meeting on 6th September, Bill presented more on the railway through the Canadian Rockies. Member Wendy Sturgess, recently returned from a long holiday in U.S.A., gave a very good presentation on her travels, which included some on trains. To end the session a DVD on narrow gauge passenger trains in the Colorado State Mountains was shown.

The final session of this course will be held on *Tuesday 4th October*. Bill will finalise his study of the Canadian Rockies. A very good DVD will be shown, of a steam trip Bill was on in 1999, from Vancouver to Squamish. This area now comprises a new route of the Rocky Mountaineer through Whistler.

Singing for Fun

We have only three more sessions before we sing for U3A and Coinda. We ask that members try to attend all sessions as we need to polish up the songs for our programme which will include some unusual songs. A fun version of *Polly Wolly Doodle*, *Green, Green Grass of Home*, and *The Ballad of Jed Clampett*. Max has been practising his recitation for the last two.

Tech Savvy

Another thought provoking TED talk, this time ['What can save the rainforest? Your used cell phone'](#), set the scene for our September session.

Class member Les Rodgers followed with a presentation highlighting the main changes in communications technologies (including broadcasting) and their impact during his career as an engineer.



Originally from Queensland, Les spent most of his working life with Telstra and its forebears, apart from a period with the Weapons Research Establishment in South Australia. His working life began at the time of switchboard technology and included time in New Guinea; involvement with rocket launches at Woomera; dealing with governments at high levels while national manager of projects including the spread of television transmission to country areas and broadband to rural Queensland ; the replacement of the television transmitter in Hobart; and speaking at a Senate Estimates Committee leading to a mention in Hansard. What a rich career – thank you for sharing your journey with us Les.

Next month, IT specialist Tim Shirley will continue the theme of changes over time in technology, presenting on changes over time in the Gliding Industry, a very pertinent topic with the World Gliding Championships being held in Benalla in just a few months.

At our final meeting in November, Bill Parris will lead a ‘Show and Tell’ session in which we will all bring along an item or two which demonstrate changes in the technology over time. Bill is going to bring along his extensive watch collection, while the rest of us are thinking deeply about just what we might bring along.

Tech Savvy Drop In

Our final Drop In sessions in the two hour format featured an introduction to simple travel blogs. Jenny Sawyer introduced the Apple Group to the simple yet effective Travel Pod App and also recommended Australia Post’s Postcard App for iPhone users. The Microsoft/Android group checked out the Windows version of Travel pod and also had a look at Blogger. Travel blogging is very effective way of communicating with family and friends – most of the time! Claire shared with us the enjoyment she got out of starting to use Blogspot during her recent Canada trip, and also her frustration when the posts didn’t send, possibly because of Wifi transmission problems.

Drop In questions this month included the use of Messenger and Groups on Facebook; using Drop Box on an iPad; along with queries about current ‘scams’. We highly recommend checking out [Staying Smart Online Alerts](#) if you become worried about a possible scam.

We moved to shorter, weekly sessions mid month, with Tech Savvy Drop In from 1.30 to 2.15 pm, followed by

Terry Dillon’s Google Apps Course from 2.30 to 3.30pm. If you join Google Apps after the first session, you need to have set up a working gmail account. For further details contact Terry Diillon on 0419 343 129.

News has just been released that Benalla Library is offering Telstra/State Government funded Tech Savvy Seniors classes from October to mid December and from February to April. Tech Savvy Drop In members who had attended these courses previously then came to our Tech Savvy Drop In this year certainly benefited from going to them. As older learners, we benefit from plugging in to a range of learning experiences (and reminders of them!) over time.

For more details about Benalla Library’s Tech Savvy Seniors classes, go to ‘Around the Traps’ on page 11.

Towards a Sustainable Future

So much of what we hear, and read about climate change these days is political in nature and much of our discussion over the last month has focussed on the politics of climate change issues: renewable energy targets, greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, funding for ARENA (Australian Renewable Energy Agency), clearing of forests, fracking, closing of coal mines, etc. There is much animated discussion about these, and many other, issues. Often we talk about interesting developments that can help reduce our impact on the environment.

At our last meeting our newest member (who has only been with us for three meetings) asked a very interesting question. “*What do you do about all the information you read and talk about? How do you put these ideas into action?*” This led to some interesting discussion and is probably worth raising again at future meetings.

Group members were interested to hear about the judging of the *Benalla Business Network’s Environmentally Sustainable Business Award*. Benalla Sustainable Future Group was a joint sponsor of the award and our convenor, John Lloyd, was a member of the judging panel which made site visits to the three finalists: *Henderson’s, Benalla Health and Benalla Toyota*. John provided details of what he had seen on the site visits and the reasons behind Henderson’s winning the *Environmentally Sustainable Business Award*. It was interesting to hear of the environmental practices of these businesses.

At our last meeting mention was also made of the forthcoming community forum on developing a renewable energy future for Benalla to be held at 7:15 pm on Tuesday 18th October at BPACC.

More information about the forum can be found on the BCFG website, www.bsfg.org.au. There is a link on the Towards a Sustainable Future page on the U3A website.

Wine Appreciation

Wednesday 26th October 2016

Meet at carport at 10.00 am for visit to Campbell's Winery at Rutherglen. Lunch at Tuileries Café.

We hope to be back in February 2017 to present another schedule of visits and would welcome ideas and assistance.

For more information or to discuss ideas for next year, phone Noel Meagher (5762 3149) or Keith & Heather Rogers (5762 4086).

Writing Workshop

September's cafe meeting at 'The Northo' saw Joy share her intriguing 'Experience of the Unexplained' and Godfrey two original topics, 'Why I joined a union' and 'Bicycles I have known'. 'Why I ...' and '... I have known' are great starting points for memoir based stories and have now been added to our alternative topic lists.

An almost full roll up for our regular mid-month class saw more contributions including Brian's perceptive story on 'Advice'; Maxine's description of a wonderful hotel she came across on tour at Tenterfield; memorable 'What happened in Vegas' stories from Jenny and David; a lively discussion about the role of grandparents after Carole's story on Grandparents and Grand parenting; a quirky story from Pat on 'The Unexplained' and Joy's very imaginative and engaging story for the new 'The Sky's the Limit' topic. Godfrey presented another '... I have known' topic – this time 'Interesting People I have Known' - based on his memories as an eight year old visiting a wealthy Marple relative, Cliff Cooper, the alcohol loving inventor of Cooper's Louvre Windows.

Topics for October are '[Dear Unfinished Business](#)' and the Benalla Festival's writing competition topic '[The Sky's the Limit](#)', set in honour of the upcoming World Gliding Championship. With some members

considering writing a stand up comedy set for one of our topics, resources on stand up comedy have been reposted on our web page. [Pat's stories](#) are now included in '[Our Stories](#)' on the website—beautifully crafted and often quirky, they always create interest when shared in class.

On a closing note - '[Our Stories](#)' has had the most views our website this month after the homepage! We hope you enjoy reading them.

Program News

- '**Google Apps**' is now underway, with most participants also 'dropping in' to the Tech Savvy Drop in session beforehand.
- '**Opera**' will be commencing on Wednesday October 12 at 7pm. The course is full and Meg has been in touch with all participants. If you would like to be on the waiting list or to hear news of future courses, please call Meg on 57632 6558. You could also keep an eye on the new 'Opera' page on the website.
- **Courses/activities for 2017** The program committee has begun asking coordinators about plans for next year. However, with the move mid next year and with quite a number of new courses having started this year, the program committee is unlikely to make major changes to the timetable in terms of offering new courses for Semester I next year.

Newsletter/Website News

- Please check your Newsletter and the calendars, group reports and timetables on the website for updates and changes to scheduled meetings.
- If possible, please let your Tutor/Convenor know if you are unable to attend a meeting. Notification is appreciated so that topics/presentations can be adjusted accordingly.
- The next newsletter deadline is on **Monday 24th October** at midday.
- Newsletter reports will be uploaded to the website at the end of that week. Additional photographs for the web can be sent to bevlee47@gmail.com.
- We are receiving some wonderful photos for the Newsletter. Please let the Editor know what text you would like to include to explain to readers who they are and what they are doing.

Freida Andrews, Newsletter Editor
Bev Lee, Website Manager

Around the Traps

Tech Savvy Seniors Classes at Benalla Library

"Tech Savvy for Seniors classes will return from October – December 2016 and again from February – April 2017. Information flyers are available at the library. Preference will be given to new participants for beginner sessions. If you attended last year you could consider the intermediate level sessions." Foibles

The Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre is offering weekly Tech Savvy Seniors classes for Beginners on Tuesday mornings (10 to 12) from 4 October-13 December. The classes are organised in blocks of five with the first 5 weeks for computers (Windows or Apple) and the next 5 weeks for iPads/iPhones. At the beginner level preference has to be given to those who did not attend Tech Savvy Seniors classes at the library last year.

People who attended previous Tech Savvy Seniors courses at the library or are comfortable with their devices will be able to enrol in Intermediate level sessions on Thursday mornings from 10 to 12. More sessions for both levels are being held from February to April next year – if this time suits you better, your name can be placed on a waiting list. Find out more by dropping in to Benalla's Weary Dunlop Library.

BPACC Screenings

Seniors week

Love and Friendship starring Kate Beckinsale and Chloe Sevigny will be shown at 1.30 pm on **Tuesday 11th October**. Tickets are \$10.00 with tea and coffee provided.

Thursday 6th October

Body image activist Taryn Brunfitt continues her crusade exploring the global issue of body loathing in the thought provoking film *Embrace*. Tickets for this session must be pre-booked by **Friday 30th September** to ensure that the screening goes ahead.

For more information about films and a program of upcoming events phone BPACC 5762 5515 or visit the website <http://www.bpacc.com.au/events/films>

Please detach this form and return it with your payment

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON GRACEBROOK VINEYARD, KING VALLEY Wednesday 23rd November 2016



Wine tasting on arrival

2 course Lunch followed by Coffee/tea

Cost/head: \$40 for the meal and \$10 for the bus

Bus leaves at 11.00 am from Benalla Bus Lines

I/We will be attending the Christmas luncheon

(Please print).....

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Partners welcome

Phone

I/We will be travelling on the bus.

YES NO (Please circle)

Please return completed form together with your payment - either:

- Post to U3A, PO Box 674, Benalla, 3672
- Leave at ReadB4 bookshop (next to Hide's Bakery) in an envelope marked U3A Christmas luncheon
- Bring to U3A Meet and Mingle in W4 on Wednesday 19th October or Meet and Mingle at the The Hub on Wednesday 16th November.

Payment to be received by Wednesday 16th November.

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