



Benalla and District Inc. Newsletter – April 2017

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With School Holidays over the Flexible Learning Centre will now be opening the building. If you arrive and it is not open give me a call on 57622116 or 0412 263 071.

I've met with the President of Benalla Senior Citizens and discussed our Grant application for a Defibrillator to be used in the building. Thank you Margaret Jenkins for all the hard work you are doing with the Grant Application.

The groups that I have met in the last weeks are very enthusiastic which is so good to see.

I have been asked by some for new Name Tags so if any Convenor has anybody in this situation please contact me.

We currently have 246 active members.
We have 46 people whose membership has not been received as yet.
We still have 39 members receiving the Newsletter via Australia Post.
We have 38 Convenors delivering 31 programs.

Can Convenors please keep accurate records of attendance and sign off at the end of each session.

Dorothy Webber

Please note - Geraldine McCorkell's contact details – email gmcorkell@activ8.net.au ; Telephone 5762 2134, Mobile: 0408 522 662.
Newsletter items for the May newsletter are to be forwarded to Geraldine by May 17.

GROUP REPORTS

Armchair History: Invaders.

The Group had a holiday on Good Friday, our class next meets on 12th May.

Armchair Traveller

We meet again at 10.00 am on Tuesday May 16. The program is yet to be finalised but it is hoped to include at least one of Jan's backpacker journeys.

Art Appreciation

The U3A group was entertained by an instructive talk by Ivan Durrant concentrating on his friend Brett Whiteley, but also including references to other acquaintances of his in the art world. Ivan, who has had a long career in art, is well respected and well known by many other artists.

It was immensely enjoyable to listen to someone who is familiar with well known figures who could relate stories about them. Whiteley was a gregarious friendly person who Ivan knew quite well. Ivan made reference to many of Brett's works and explained their context in the art world. He was quite generous in his praise of Whiteley and congratulated the Gallery on the current exhibition.

The basic point of Ivan's talk was that artists have many different drives and these need to be put into context. Nervous energy is very important and may manifest itself in surprising ways. It is important that we understand and tolerate things that artists may indulge in - drugs - sex - rock and roll - etc - because sometimes artists need to follow all their instincts in order to produce good art. Sometimes artists live off their nervous energy when producing

art. Artists start off being teenagers and it is important that they keep the edgy feeling they had as teenagers - in essence stay teenagers for all their lives. Artists have to explore all creative urges because no one knows in advance where it will lead them. Feelings are important and artists just have to follow their feelings.

Sometimes, however, in following their feelings, creativity can lead some artists into bizarre circumstances. Ivan was able to provide us with entertaining gossip concerning many people in the art world and to give us details of the interesting private lives of artists he had known.

We hope Ivan can come back again for further lectures.

Neville Gibb

Bird Watching

April 2017

Our April outing was a leisurely walk around the red gum woodland area at Lake Benalla on Tuesday 4 April. Some of the most interesting sightings included a kookaburra with a mouse in its bill and at least 8 Yellow-billed Spoonbills. At a drying waterhole, we watched from a bridge as four bird species fed for an extended period: Yellow-billed Spoonbill, White-faced Heron, Australian White Ibis, and a beautiful Azure Kingfisher, which dived repeatedly into the water catching small fish which had no escape. We recorded 28 bird species for the morning.

Tuesday 2 May 2017 - Visit to private property at Chesney Vale

Our May activity will be at John Lloyd and Frieda Andrews' property at Chesney Vale, overlooking Winton Wetlands. We had a very enjoyable visit there last year, and we have been invited to return this year. Please meet at Barkly Street, on the old tennis courts behind Aldi, at 10am, on Tuesday 2 May. We will car pool from there. It will be a morning activity, but I'd encourage you bring your own picnic lunch, and maybe a mug, as it is a lovely spot to eat and chat after the birding activity. Wear sturdy shoes and bring binoculars if you have them. The Chesney Vale hills are home to a number of threatened woodland birds. Last year we found three of them on the property: Brown Treecreeper, Hooded Robin and Diamond Firetail, among the 30 plus species recorded. I look forward to seeing what turns up this time. *Kathy Costello, Convenor*

Brain Games

Brain Games continues to puzzle, educate, irritate and intrigue in fairly equal measure.

We have a break before our next session on May 1st.

Chat n' Chew

On May 19th we will be having lunch at the Benalla Art Gallery Café. All welcome. Please make contact with Shirley re attendance by Tuesday am 16th May. Phone 5762 6768.

Collectors



Collectors did not meet in April due to the Easter break. At our March meeting Dorothy - a keen Richmond supporter - brought along many of the pieces she has collected over the years including the knee rug made from Richmond (not Collingwood) scarves.

Our next meeting will be on Monday May 15th in W4. If you have a music box bring it along together with your usual items.

e-Book Group

We were captivated by *Our Souls At Night*, by Kent Haruf. Above all, this novel was an exploration of the possibilities of life, and a celebration of the everyday small events which can shape and transform us. Our ordinary heroes Addie and Louis, live in the perfectly, unremarkable fictional town of Holt in the American mid-west. Mutual loneliness brings them together, until town gossips and their own families, almost succeed in driving them apart. This doesn't happen, and therein lies the success of this wonderful novel. Their tenacity, bravery in the face of obstacles, and memories of shared tender moments, ensure a future, maybe not quite as they envisaged, but a quiet happiness nevertheless.

Exploring the Universe

A U3A Astronomy group in Melbourne has asked Astronomy Benalla Inc. why supermassive black holes are at the centre of galaxies. This was a matter

for discussion at our April meeting of Exploring the Universe.

No one has ever seen a black hole but since their first mention by Jon Mitchell in a letter to the Royal Society in 1783 they have captured the imagination. Defined as “an area with an intense gravitational pull from which nothing can escape, not even light, they feed on anything that their gravity can capture. Found in the centre of galaxies, their presence is only detected by the gravitational pull on the stars and dust and gas circling the “black hole.” This area is known as the accretion disk.

From the 7th -14th April 2017, powerful radio telescopes combined from eight observatories spanning from South America to Hawaii, Antarctica and Spain peered at the location of our black hole named ‘Sagittarius A.’ in the centre of the galaxy. Astronomers hope to have captured an image of some sort, of part of the accretion disk. This would prove that black holes exist, as predicted by Einstein’s theory of general relativity.

The result will not be known for months, so a large degree of mystery still surrounds the black holes! After viewing a U-tube titled “Mind blowing. Earth in comparison to the rest of the universe,” we felt that a coffee break was needed to return us to our own idea of reality.

Mel had an interesting film on the motion of our Earth and Moon through the heavens; the movement of our Earth’s tilt which changes the location (to us) of our pole star, and causes climatic change and ice ages. No fear, we will not have another ice age for a long time!

Jan finished off our afternoon with the fascinating history of astronomer Galileo Galilei who was tried for heresy by an inquisition of the Catholic Church, for saying that the Earth was not the centre of the universe. Three hundred and fifty years later the Vatican apologised.

A friendly afternoon of learning, lots of questions and round table discussion. Why not join us?

Film and Literature

In March we watched *Suffragette*, released in the UK in 2015.

Genre: Biography, Drama, History

Plot: “The foot soldiers of the early feminist movement, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State.”

Characters: Maud Watts, an ordinary and anonymous working woman (Carey Mulligan),

Maud’s friend Violet (Anne-Marie Duff), Edith Ellyn (Helena Bonham Carter), Maud’s husband (Ben Whishaw).

Location: Set in 1912 London.

Other: *Suffragette* is a solid historical drama, that tells an important social story that graphically illustrates how much the world has changed, for the better, in a hundred years. The film concludes with the astounding fact that Switzerland only gave women the vote in 1971.

Review: All appreciated this movie, although some found it quite emotionally challenging. Although not overt, there were several issues raised. Women could work, but did not have a voice; women did not have rights, only men; women were mothers or wives, possessions not people. The question was raised as to whether we still fall in to the trap ourselves, identifying ourselves as our roles. We see Maude’s inner conflict over whether to “do as she was told”, or to think for herself. Thinking for herself was labelled as “not right in the head” – a sickness.

During the movie the lighting changed from sombre to brighter as the time for women gaining the voter came closer. Even the costumes seemed to become lighter and brighter. Of interest was the list at the end of the movie showing the years that many countries gave women the vote.

In April we watched *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, filmed in New Zealand.

Genre: Adventure, Drama, Comedy – an element of each

Plot: A manhunt is ordered for a rebellious kid and his foster uncle who go missing in the wild New Zealand bush.

Characters: Ricky (Julian Dennison), Hec (Sam Neill), Paula (Rachel House) Social Worker and Bella (Rima Te Wiata), Hec’s wife.

Location: Set in the North Island of New Zealand.

Other: While this is about the hunt for Ricky and Hec, the underlying theme is the developing relationship between the two and how they dealt with Bella’s death. There was a cameo appearance by the Director, Taika Waititi, as the minister who conducted the service for Bella’s funeral.

Review: This film would appeal to all ages. The adventure would appeal to younger people, and older people would enjoy the relationships, humour, and references (overt and subtle) to other movies. For example, the car chase which has elements of *Thelma and Louise*. One of the key characters,

Paula, was a standout performance – she acted as an over the top Social Worker, well portrayed as a totally unlikable character. In many ways this was a drama, with many humorous scenes. In parts, it could make you cry, but mainly it made us laugh. Everyone agreed that this movie rated as 5 out of 5. We could not see any real weaknesses – the key characters, scenery of New Zealand and music were all excellent.

Our May session is on 10 May. We plan to watch the movie *Love and Friendship*, starring Kate Beckinsale, Chloë Sevigny, Xavier Samuel, based on a Jane Austen book. To allow time to discuss the movie, we start the movies sharply 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.

Garden Appreciation

April 27th – Meet at 9.30 am at 56 Grant Drive. Benalla, home of Jackie Rubira. The garden has lots of trees and garden beds. Please bring morning tea to share and your own cup. If you have a thermos flask please bring hot water. Coffee, tea and milk will be provided.

We will then move on to Green and Grow Nursery and their private garden. Depending on numbers attending lunch at either Shady Elm Café or Golf Club.

May 25th – Meet at Benalla Gardens at 9.15. Then ‘Euroa Garden’, home of Beryl Harris, 35 Gobur Street, Euroa. Lunch at Flower Mill, Euroa. Please bring morning tea to share and your own cup. Hot water, coffee, tea and milk will be provided.

June 22nd

Meet at 10.00 at the Benalla Library. Our guest speaker is from the Regent Honeyeater Group. Please bring morning tea to share. Coffee, Tea and Milk will be provided.

July 27th

Meet at 10.00 a.m. Venue to be advised. Our guest speaker is to be arranged. More news on this in the next Newsletter.

If you are attending outings or meetings please contact Gwen Turner 5762 7017 or 0430621010

Garden Team

With the welcome addition of Marcus and Kirsten it was team of nine who worked with impressive effect at Kathy's and the well-laden afternoon tea table offered the accustomed reward.

In May we'll see a new garden when we work at 10 Mitchell St on the 8th and we'll be at Jane and Bill's on the 28th.

After that we'll be at Lois's in June and by July Val's roses will be in need of pruning.

In the Mood for Opera

Our March opera was “*Otello*” by Gioachino Rossini (1792 - 1868).

Otello, loosely based on Shakespeare's Othello, was first performed in December 1816. Desdemona has pledged to marry Otello the Moor whom she loves. Otello's jealous and faithless friend Iago plots to destroy him by intercepting a letter Desdemona has written to Otello but not written his name. Iago shows it to Otello claiming she wrote it to another lover. Jealousy overwhelms Otello, he confronts her and kills her just before a messenger arrives who reveals the plot to him. He then kills himself in remorse. No happy endings here!

Rossini had been living in Naples for some time and writing operas. Otello was the second of ten serious operas he wrote between 1815 and 1822. This group of operas were transformational in changing the light joyous C18th style of opera to the C19th style of more serious opera-drama. It is also a tenor's dream as all the main male roles are tenors. John Osborn sang the vacillating Ottello with Peter Kalman as the sly Elmiro and Javier Camarena the faithless friend. Desdemona was sung by Cecilia Bartoli. Our recording is the most recent DVD production from the Zurich Opera in 2012.

In April we listened to Giordano's opera, “*Andrea Chenier*”.

This opera was written in 1896 and continues the C19th tradition of composers looking for drama in actual events or situations that are common to their times. The French Revolution [1789 – 1799] offers many awful opportunities for a composer to explore revolution, betrayal, brutality and love. In a way the revolution was far more dreadful than any composer could envisage 90 years later. The drama is tempered by the love story between the poet Andrea Chenier, a supporter of the revolution and

his love Maddalena, the daughter of a Count, a member of a class that is being exterminated by the revolutionaries because of their indifference and cruelty to the middle class and the poor. There is no Scarlet Pimpernel in this opera to save the two doomed lovers, but we thrilled to the voices of Jonas Kaufmann singing the role of Chenier, the Serbian tenor Zeljko Lucic as Gerard and Eva-Maria Westbroek as Maddalena. This is a Royal Opera House DVD originally performed in London in 2015. In May we will compare these with Berg's "LuLu", regarded by some critics as the best twentieth century opera.

Meg Dillon, presenter.

Investment

At the April meeting of Investment we looked at an article by Marcus Padley called "Two trends creating results roulette" which had appeared in "The Age" Money section on Wednesday 8th March 2017. This article confirmed what we had discussed at our previous meeting in early March that large movements in share prices, in some cases up to 10% change in price, followed the reporting season. The article also contained information on high frequency traders who use algorithms to detect trends in other people's trades in nanoseconds without any consideration for fundamentals.

The Materials, Energy and Utilities Sectors have performed better than some other Sectors over the past 12 months. With energy very much in the news we looked at a few companies in the Energy and Utilities sectors which have performed well over 12 months and also over the past month.

In our final topic for the afternoon we looked at the most commonly traded shares in February 2017 by contract note volumes as shown on the CommSec website. CommSec have not posted a similar list to date for March. However they have listed one for the week-ending 4th April 2017. In that list there are five companies involved in producing medicinal cannabis. None of these companies were included in the February list. One of our members suggested it could be a "cannabis bubble".

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 5th May 2017 at 1.15pm in W4.

Let's Talk Books

Sixteen enthusiastic readers met at the Library for Let's Talk Books on the 4th April.

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith author of *101 Dalmatians*, was written from a 17 year old's Diary

entries. Quite an eccentric family from the description. *Little Bee* written by a Nigerian refugee who was held in detention in England in 2008 for 2 years was compelling reading. She was alone with no family, but renewed a friendship with 'Sara' a magazine editor. *Little Bee* was sent back to Nigeria eventually, this book led to a discussion on the plight of women in Nigeria.

Alexander McCall Smith wrote *The Importance of Being Seven* from the series centred around 44 Scotland Street Edinburgh. This is a most enjoyable series, the author also having written the *No. 1 Ladies Detective* books. *Under Milkwood* was written in 1954 as a radio drama and later adapted for stage and film, written by Dylan Thomas it made for good reading. Heather was very busy reading this month including *Midnight Blue* set in the 1600's in the Art community of Amsterdam author Simone Van Vlugt. *Runaway Girl* was described as a haunting read and also *Wild Island*, a good read set in Port Arthur around the settlement of Tasmania. Three new books were purchased at the Post Office including *Call of the Outback* and *My Love Must Wait* written about Mathew Flinders and his long detention on an island. We will have to keep an eye on the post office books. The *Book of Joy* were interviews by a Jewish journalist with Desmond Tutu and the Dali Lama (interesting trio), we also spoke about *Beyond Religion* by the Dali Lama. A beautiful picture and story book of *The Secret Garden* created by Wendy Whitely in Sydney was displayed. A book that created discussion was *The Hospital* by the River, the story of Dr. Catherine Hamill and her husband who have worked as volunteers with women in Ethiopia for many years. Now in her 90's, Catherine is still there and working. An enjoyable afternoon was finished off with afternoon tea and we will meet again on the 2nd May.

Lifeball

Lifeball is undergoing a resurgence in Benalla! We now regularly have around 16 people per game. One player has returned after some time away from the game, and she is a true asset!!

We had a wonderful Fun and Friendship Day last month, with over 60 people attending. The players came from Deniliquin, Albury, Wangaratta, Rutherglen, Myrtleford, Mansfield, Eildon, and of course, ourselves. It was a super day....these days always are!



Fun and Friendship Day at Benalla

We have been invited to go to Myrtleford on the 28th of this month for their special day, and, as I write, we have around 12 players anxious to attend, which is marvellous!

Colleen Wilson-Lord and her husband Brian, the instigators of the game, came as well - it is always such a pleasure when they come, to oversee what happens on the court, and give us timely advice on the "road rules", what we are doing wrong and how to fix it. They are marvellous people, so constantly enthusiastic, and it really becomes contagious!!

Come and watch us, any Monday morning at 9.45 am, at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre in Ackerley Avenue, and you never know - you may even be tempted to hop in and join our happy throng! Which would be good for usand you too!!

Marg Merriman. [5762 2967](tel:57622967) (New number)

Meet and Mingle



Jane Taylor speaking at Meet and Mingle

Guest speaker at our April Meet and Mingle was Jane Taylor, Volunteer Development Coordinator

with Benalla Rural City Jane gave a very interesting talk about her position and what she does. She commented on the need for Police Checks and Working with Children checks for some volunteers. Jane also covered aspects of insurance for volunteers.

Music Appreciation

Music Appreciation was not held due to Easter.

Patchwork

Numbers attending are 15-18 so a lot of work is being done on our quilts. It is so good to see everyone's interpretations of the same pattern. More photos can be seen on the web site.

Politics and Current Affairs

Our class takes a holiday on Anzac Day and is due to resume on 9th May.

Play Reading

This month our play is *Calendar Girls* adapted by Tim Firth.

Annie's husband John, dies of leukaemia. Annie has spent a lot of time at the hospital waiting room sitting on hard seats. Her fellow WI (Equivalent of our CWA) friends decide to raise money for a comfy lounge to replace the current waiting room seating.

The play is based on the true story of eleven Yorkshire Women's Institute members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund. They pose for "tasteful" photos of them strategically covered by plants, watering cans, large sunflowers and such.

None of the ladies have done anything like it before and are somewhat nervous in their posing. Hilarious in places such as Annie posing behind a cake stand of iced buns with a red cherry in the centre and holding one over each breast. The photographer calling "don't move the buns".

The group got well into the swing of things which much laughter especially when we imagined ourselves in the roles. There is also a lot of camaraderie and friendship among the group and we look forward to getting into the second act at our next meeting.

Claire Rudolph

Singing for Fun

The Singing for Fun group was saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Borschmann on 24th March 2017. Bob and Joyce started the Singing for Fun group twelve years ago.

The members of Singing for Fun were pleased that Joyce invited the group to lead the singing at Bob's commemorative service on Friday 31st March at the Benalla Uniting Church. The songs chosen by the family were "You'll Never Walk Alone", "What a Wonderful World" and "Jerusalem". Faith Hicks conducted the group whilst Gwen Barnes provided accompaniment on the piano.

At our first meeting in April we were introduced to some breathing exercises by Faith before our rendition of several rounds. The breathing exercises caused a ripple of fun. However, no doubt they will be beneficial to our lung capacity and our ability to hold onto notes in the future.

Margaret Merriman chose some stirring songs including "Wandering the King's Highway" and "The Holy City" for her part of the session.

At the Harmony Group this month Brian Greed introduced us to another two modules of "The Rhythm of Life". The group enjoyed the new segments, and are now over half way through learning Brian's arrangement of this song.

Members of Singing for Fun group are reminded that the Vocal Dimension Group from Wangaratta is performing at the Benalla Town Hall in Nunn Street on Saturday 29th April at 7.30pm. They will be presenting a selection of sacred choral works at this concert, prior to their participation in the Geelong Festival of Sacred Music in May. The NEO String Ensemble will also be participating in the concert. Prior concerts by the Vocal Dimension Group have been really enjoyed by our members. Please come and support the singers and have an enjoyable evening.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 4th May 2017 at 10am in the Benalla Baptist Church in Bridge Street.

Tech Savvy

Tech Savvy Beginners

The class spent another session mastering photos on their iPads and iPhones; editing photos, adding photos to the photo roll, attaching photos to emails and changing screen wallpapers.

There is just one more session for Apple Beginners - Wednesday 19th April. Android Beginner Classes begin Wednesday 3rd May.

Tech Savvy Plus

Thank you, Bev, for standing in for Terry and taking the Tech Savvy Plus program in March.

In April we revised Wifi and Bluetooth and connected a Chromecast dongle to the TV in W4 both as a practical demonstration and

for actual class use. This allowed the presenter to *mirror* his device (display the smart phone screen) on the TV. We then used the mirror to demonstrate the processing of photos using Snapseed.



Computer Display - Chromecast Dongle (Terry Case)

There is now a Chromecast dongle attached to the TV which allows you to mirror the display on your Smart Phone or Tablet to the TV. Some setup is required to connect your device. If you want to use this facility please contact Terry Dillon on 0419 343 129.



Before



After

There will be no second session in April as the scheduled time would be Anzac day. On return in May we will have a visiting presenter explaining Geocaching and giving us a practical demonstration.

Tech Savvy Talks

Peter Simpson began our April session introducing an article on [DRED \(Demand Response Enable Device\)](#). DRED is an energy demand management device which enables energy suppliers to switch off or reduce the amount of power drawn by devices such as domestic air conditioners at times of peak demand in summer. Brent Bailey then spoke about a visit to Canberra during which he attended a thought provoking seminar on Solar Energy on behalf of Cathy McGowan. Bev raised the ABC's Law report about [legal dilemmas arising from 3D printing](#) and news of 94 year old inventor of the lithium battery [John Goodenough's recent release of a new battery](#).

Our TED talk for the month explored the ongoing development of ['a plane you can drive'](#) - the ['Terrafugia Transition'](#)- a ['light sport roadable aeroplane'](#). The theme of alternative vehicles continued, with Brent introducing us to the electric paddock vehicle he and Pauline researched, imported, assembled and now use on their 170 acre farm. We ventured to the car park behind Aldi to inspect and discuss Brent's vehicle, some of us taking up Brent's offer of a test drive. It proved quite zippy and responsive to drive – it's also quiet, which Brent described as a great advantage as it doesn't disturb the animals on the farm.

Next coffee meeting will be at 10.30 am at Rustik Cafe on Wednesday 26th April. For more information, contact Les Rodgers on 5762 7600 .



Towards a Sustainable Future

After reading and discussing articles of current interest, in early April the Towards a Sustainable Future class left W4 for a much anticipated field trip to Brian Howard's home. Following morning tea with scones (thanks Margaret) we headed out to the backyard shed to inspect three models built by Brian which demonstrate the principles of solar thermal energy production. It wasn't long before Brian's impressive models were generating steam via small engines powered by solar thermal energy.



Brian demonstrated other models he has built during his retirement – with still others on display in beautifully crafted wooden cabinets in his shed. Our teacher John at times mentions Brian's models in class, so it was wonderful to be able to visit, inspect and be informed about them. Brian and Margaret are certainly early adopters of renewable energy, with solar panels long present on the roof of their home and Brian's inspirational modelling of alternative methods of producing renewable energy. Thank you for introducing us to your forward thinking models, Brian.

Walks

Easy walk Wed April 5

Seven walkers enjoyed the autumn weather on the visit to the Northern Beaches in Wangaratta. This walk starts at Apex Park and follows the Ovens River downstream. The track is very good and is called the Bullawah Cultural Trail, as it has very impressive interpretive signage describing the lives of the Pangerang people. These appear regularly along the track and describe Aboriginal spirituality, culture, food, sculptures, stories and language.



Particularly interesting is the native garden with plants used for food and medicine. We had lunch overlooking Kingfisher Beach admiring the massive River Red Gums before returning to Apex Park, a total walk of 6.8 Km.

Mid-week walk Wednesday April 12



Unfortunately the School Holidays and the approach of Easter probably affected the attendance on this great walk, but Irene, Kerrie and I enjoyed the fine weather, magnificent trees and views from Mount Samaria.

We left the car in the Wild Dog Park and walked back along the road to the Eastern most track up the mountain. After admiring the views we had lunch on the top before descending by the more Westerly track, which leads over the road to the start of the Wileman Track. This leads to a detour to the falls and a descent of 79 steps. There was a reasonable amount of water in the creek and good views to the West. We had afternoon tea in the Samaria Wells Park. Walk distance was 6.7 Km.

Easy and Midweek walk Wednesday May 10

Yes, I am combining these walks at Bright as they are not too hard and are divided into a morning and afternoon walk along the Ovens River, with lunch

back at the cars. Anyone not wanting to do both walks can enjoy the Autumn foliage in the Centenary Park or visit the shops in the afternoon. Of course the main object of this visit is to admire the Autumn foliage. We leave the Centre Car Park at 8.30 am. Please let me know if you are coming on 5762 1980 so I can arrange transport.

Vaughan Cowan.

Vaughan reports that Marion is recovering well from her fall and is hoping to do more walks in a month's time.

All the best Marion from all at U3A.

Wine Appreciation

Wednesday 24 May

Meet at car park for travel to Piano Piano Wines Everton Upper.

Lunch at Plough Inn restaurant Tarrawingie.

Wednesday 28 June

Meet at car park and travel to Cofields at Rutherglen.

Lunch at the adjacent Pickled Sisters Café.

Noel 57623149 Keith and Heather 57624086

Writing Workshop

We began our late March session with a warm up activity 'Two truths and one lie', with each person stating one truth about their life and one lie. Strangely, everyone guessed correctly that Bev had not won an Iron Woman event in her youth! Ray O'Shannessy then gave a most informative presentation on his experience of writing and self-publishing a book about his family history. We all felt it was one of the best self-publications we had seen of its kind. Ray gave us lots of helpful advice should we wish to do this ourselves.

The theme for March, '*Stock and Land*', proved very evocative. Stories were shared of dairy farming, including a story about a mother who had a particular way with a cow her children found difficult to milk, and a child's misadventure turning on the taps in a separator room; 'The Spud Diggers', a story of potato farming in the Trentham area; the struggle to live of a 'red' heifer born the day after Julia Gillard became Prime Minister, aptly called Julia; stories of horses, including Carole's much

loved horse 'Mr Nicksar'; Godfrey's experiences in judging fleeces at country shows; the steep learning curve at shearing time by 'oldies' running a farm for their son, and more.

Our café catch up at the Northo was well attended with the sharing of stories and writing ideas. Towards the end of our time together Maxine's little granddaughter shared a beautiful story about the things she likes to do with her brother.

Our April topic is 'Failure' 'Write about a failure you've experienced – from the commonplace to the catastrophic'.

Program News

New Course in Semester Two – 'Over There'

Do you like to read the Anzac Commemoration column in the Ensign each week? Would you like to find out more about 100th anniversary milestones in the months from July 1917 to the end of November 1917? Are you interested in sharing and finding out more about the experiences of relatives who fought in the final years of the First World War?

'Over There' is a new five session course being offered by John Barry. It will explore the following themes - 'How WWI began'; 'The aims of the parties – what were they trying to do?'; 'Changes in technology during the war'; 'Blockades, Famine and Terror'; and 'What happened at the end of the war?'.

'Over There' has been timetabled on the third Friday of the month from 1.30 to 3.30 pm commencing on 21 July. Please contact Bev on 5762 8171 or bevelee47@gmail.com if you would like to put your name down.

'Legal Matters' This popular short course of two ninety-minute sessions on Wills, Powers of Attorney and Online Banking is being offered by retired lawyer John Barry during Semester II. More details in the next newsletter.

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.

Community News

Benalla Information Centre - Call for Volunteers

Volunteers play an important role as ambassadors for the Benalla area. Tourism is going through an exciting growth period in the region and volunteering presents an excellent opportunity to contribute to the local community and help visitors make the most of their stay. You do not need to have lived in Benalla for a long time to volunteer. If you enjoy meeting and speaking with people, learning about the region and have time to give then join our enthusiastic, fun and friendly team. Please contact the Tourism Coordinator on (03) 5760 2627 or stop by the Visitor Information Centre in Mair St and have a chat about volunteering (Open 9am to 5pm daily). *Submitted by Jenny McKenna*

Some dates for your diary:

Christmas in July - Saturday the 29th July 2017 – A Christmas in July at the Swanpool Memorial Hall – a fund raiser for the Swanpool Oval Committee – a delicious two course dinner plus drinks will be 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) The 2017 Swanpool Bald Archy Exhibition – open 10:00am till 4:00pm daily – Entry is \$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 as yet.

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