



Benalla and District Inc. Newsletter – October 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 28 November 2016**

President: Terry Case 5762 1700

case.terence@gmail.com

Secretary: Lorraine Knox 5762 1531

lorrain.knox@bigpond.com

Web site: <http://u3abenalla.weebly.com>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to thank all tutors and convenors for their work this year in presenting a wide selection of courses for our members. Would tutors and their groups review their offerings for next year and get back to me with any changes, my deadline is 6/11. Committee members are now organizing next year's program in time to have it published in the November newsletter.

Our guest at the October Meet & Mingle was Pat Claridge from the *Tomorrow, Today Foundation*. I thought I knew something of their work, but I was most impressed by its scope and partnerships they have formed with 120 participating groups. It is no surprise to hear that both at the national and state level the organization has been recognized for its work helping youngsters overcome adversity. Well done!

I was pleased to welcome a prospective new member to my politics class recently. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining U3A why not invite them to try out a class in the next month?

Joyce Borschmann and her singers are busy preparing for our November Meet & Mingle when they and the Patchwork group will display their skills. Please note we will be using the Seniors as our venue for the November meeting, not the Hub as shown in the Christmas Luncheon advertisement in the September newsletter.

Terry Case, President



Pat Claridge with U3A member Laurie Melgaard.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON GRACEBROOK VINEYARDS



It's not too late to book for our Christmas luncheon on Wednesday 23 November 2016. Bus leaves at 11 am. Please ensure that your registration reaches us by 16 November.

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.

Editorial/Opinion - The question of members' 'welfare'... What do you think?

At recent executive meetings the committee has considered whether there is a need for expansion in the priority given to member 'welfare'. Inspired by guest speakers at a recent regional U3A meeting, president Terry Case asked the question 'Do we need an expanded role for welfare – with a procedure written up relating to following up and visiting members who are unwell, support provided in assisting them to gain transport to classes, and more?'

Executive currently has a portfolio for 'welfare'. The role includes meeting our 'hunger' needs during coffee breaks by stocking copious supplies of biscuits and other supplies in the cupboard in W4 and the sending out of get well, condolence, congratulations cards to members who are experiencing ill health, grief and loss or positive acclaim.

Executive considered Terry's question from many angles – the need to be conscious of member privacy and independence was paramount. At the same time there was awareness of a duty of care and concern to prevent members 'falling through the cracks'.

There seems to be general agreement that U3A is at the 'preventative' rather than 'acute' end of the welfare or 'social health' spectrum – that our mission is to foster wellbeing through encouraging social connectedness through learning and shared activities rather than setting and meeting expectations of higher levels of care. At the same time there was clear concern that we need to look out for one another and awareness that convenors play an important role in watching out for and following up newer members who may not have established friendship networks in Benalla.

At this stage the committee would like to remind members that Pat Gardiner is the first point of call if any of us feel that a member would appreciate a card if they are unwell or have either sad or happy news to report. Pat will arrange for a card to be sent to them from U3A. Pat's phone number is 0407 848 534.

The committee would also like to reinforce the important role individual convenors and tutors play as 'front line' workers in promoting and monitoring social health, as some members come to U3A to follow up particular interest areas in activities such as Lifeball and Singing for Fun which do not meet in W4.

Executive is still discussing the issue and would be interested in hearing feedback from members.

GROUP REPORTS

Armchair History

We are nearing the end of another year and I hope to reach the date 1066 when those latter day Vikings, the Normans, arrived in England. This was the last successful invasion of England and for hundreds of years French was the ruling language. The 2017 course will review the centuries leading to the rule of the Tudor dynasty and the break with Rome.

2017 maybe my last history course for a while: I will have run classes for 6 years. I am hoping that we will have a tutor to take an Australian history course starting in 2018.

Armchair Traveller

The last meeting of Armchair Traveller for 2016 will be held in W4 on Tuesday 15th November at 10 am.

Art Appreciation

The last meeting of Art Appreciation for 2016 will be held at The Benalla Art Gallery on Monday 7th November at 10am.

Astronomy



Jupiter's North Pole coming into view from 703,000 kms as NASA spacecraft Juno approaches the giant gas planet.

The exploration of Jupiter continues to dominate our studies. Juno is now orbiting the planet closer than any other spacecraft and will study Jupiter in depth. This mission's aim is to find out how solar systems form and therefore to study our own origins.

NASA has a theory that Jupiter was the first planet formed in our solar system from the left over's from the Sun and that the rest of the planets formed from the left over material from Jupiter. The Sun is mostly hydrogen and helium but Jupiter has many heavy elements, the same as Earth, the recipe for life itself.

The question is 'where did they come from?'

Jupiter is so large that all the planets, asteroids and comets and space debris in our solar system could fit inside! It is not known if it has a solid core. If so, Jupiter may have formed around rocks that are older than the planet itself.

Juno's microwave radiometer will peer far below the ammonia laden clouds that shroud the planet, to a depth of about 400kms, to try to solve the mysteries. Jupiter is 588,000 kms away from Earth at its closest point but actual videos and photos have been sent back to NASA.

There is also an [onboard camera named Junocam](#) that takes photos to be viewed by the public. Amateur astronomers are invited to process and photo shop the raw images and send them to NASA. Viewers can also vote on the areas of the planet they would like to see.

So in your spare moments tune in to "Junocam!" You may be surprised.

Bird Watching

Nine members of Benalla U3A's Birdwatching group travelled to the Warby Ranges on Thursday 13 October for a walk along Pangarang Track.

We stopped briefly at nearby Pine Gully picnic ground for morning tea before driving to the start of the walk to Pangarang Lookout. The Turquoise Parrot was the birding highlight of the day. We were lucky to see 10 of these birds not far from the car park, and a couple of people in our group had very close views of this stunning little parrot. It is one of the special birds of the Warby Ranges and Chesney Vale Hills.

We saw 11 other species of birds, including a pair of Red-capped Robins, a few Grey Fantails and Rufous Whistlers, 4 Varied Sittellas and a male Mistletoebird. We also saw a White-winged Chough sitting on its large mud nest. Other birds were identified by call, including wrens, weebills and pardalotes, but they were hard to find in the vegetation.

Unfortunately 4WD tracks had caused severe damage to several sections of this lovely walking track, and the damage was made worse by water erosion after recent heavy rain. But the mozzies were loving the moisture. And so were the sun orchids. Large numbers were in bud, but not quite in flower. The group then returned to Pine Gully to sit in the sun for a well-earned lunch. Our bird list can be viewed on EBird.at

<http://ebird.org/ebird/australia/view/checklist/S32182552>

Next outing to Mollyullah district on Thursday 10th November

We will meet at the Barkly St car park at 9.45am, and car pool for our drive to O'Deas Road near Mollyullah. Bring your lunch, thermos and a water bottle. Our visit is to the northern edge of Toombellup State Forest. There is an easy walk along the road, where we can view the birdlife and wildflowers in this pretty valley.

We have been invited to visit a nearby farm where we will have our lunch and a cuppa, while enjoying the views down the valley. John the owner will then lead us on a walk to a waterfall on the property.

Brain Games

With an unexpected holiday for flexible learning we were comfortably accommodated in a P-12 conference room for our October session. We began with a brain enlivening ball game, continued through some pesky shapes, pictures and figures and ended with a twenty minute program which explored visual attention and distraction, peripheral vision and recall of detail.

Bushwalking

Mid-week walk – October 12

Eight walkers met at Barkly St and Tatong Pub and drove towards our destination. The quagmire on Tiger Hill Road at one place meant that our hike started a little further from our lunch site than originally intended.

We walked and talked our way up up and up uphill, negotiating logs [all sizes] wet and sometimes boggy ground and rocks until we reached 'a top'. Vaughan could see a track through the trees! We were on track for lunch on Mt. Tatong. All this uphill I might add, was without a map. What navigation.

We had crossed boggy patches with lots of wild flowers [14 species in total] including Greenhoods of two

varieties, Caladenias white and pink and Harbingers of Spring (*Anguillaria dioica*) in profusion. Carol recognized the calls of a number of birds and shared her knowledge willingly.

Lunch on top of Mt Tatong was a delightful place, on the rocks with views to Winton Wetlands filled with water and maybe even a sparkling glimpse of the Winton Raceway Pit sheds.



Walkers on the top of Mt Tatong

An easy walk down the road back to the vehicles with still more wildflowers and bird calls to delight our hikers for this Senior week walk. A great hike which was probably about 10Km, enjoyable company and well lead and of course afternoon tea with biscuits at Tatong Pub!!! Thank you Vaughan and Marion.

Easy walk – Wednesday November 2

We will make our annual trip to the Reef Hills. The wet weather has been good for the wildflowers this year. *We leave the Centre car park at 10.00am. Ring Vaughan on 5762 1980.*

Mid-week walk – Wednesday November 9

We are hoping to walk to the Mac's Point lookout on Mount Buffalo, but at present the road in is closed. It may be open in November, but there are plenty of alternatives. This walk starts from the Reservoir and heads south for great views over Bunyip Creek. Leader: Vaughan Cowan 5762 1980
Meet at the Centre at 7.45am for 8.00 departure.

There are no walks scheduled for December or January and the Easy walks will commence in April.

Collectors

Collectors will recommence in February 2017.

E Book Group

There were great expectations of our latest novel, *The Strays*, by Emily Bitto, which is a fictional account of a colony of artists based on the 1930's, the Heide group in Melbourne. At the heart of the story, is Lily, the first person narrator, befriended by Eva Trentham and her family. It's through her eyes that we witness the gradual breaking up of the group, the resultant anarchy and the inevitable tragic results for 'the strays'.

Sadly, the narrative fails to sustain interest in what was after all, a momentous time in the history of Art in Australia. Much like the social experiment it describes, it just fizzles out. We were all a little disappointed.

There is no November meeting. We meet again on December 6th at the Library at 10am. Please bring something festive for morning tea, and those with Kindles, please bring them.



Last e-book members (Helen, Stephen and Shirley) to leave!

Film and Literature

This month we watched an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, starring Sarah Parish, Damian Lewis, Billie Piper and Tom Ellis. It was part of a series of four television adaptations of Shakespeare's plays broadcast on BBC in 2005. It relocated the story to the present day, which did mean some changes in the story and characters.

The setting for the adaptation was a news studio where all the main characters were employed. For those familiar with Shakespeare's play, Beatrice and Benedick were feuding co-presenters, Hero the weather girl, Leonard the station manager and Claude (Claudio) the sports presenter. Don was a jealous visual effects

manager. To fit into the present time and the studio setting, there were some slight variations to the story, but in general the plot was similar.

One variation that I noted was the use of a Shakespeare Sonnet that Beatrice and Benedick discuss in place of the poems which they had written about one another in the original play. The other notable variation was that Hero and Claude do not marry. This perhaps fitted a more current approach, with all U3A attendees suggesting that they would not have forgiven Claude after what he had done to Hero on their wedding day. An interesting question is whether this was a comedy or tragedy. One person summed it up as rather a comedy of errors.

Our current plan is to watch *12 Angry Men* next month, based on a play by Reginald Rose. This will be our last session for the year. Everyone is invited to join us as an introduction to Film and Literature for next year.

Garden Appreciation

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 will be supplied, bring own cup and small plate to share. Lunch at Geraldine McCorkell's. Please bring lunch to share.

December - Christmas break.

A look at 2017 - February 23rd 2017

"Belvedere Garden" Chesney Vale.

March 23rd

A coach trip to Bishops Court Garden, the home residence of the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Clarendon Street, East Melbourne and Fitzroy Gardens. *More information in November's newsletter*

Garden Team

You can thank Jane and Elspeth for the sunny breaks on Monday 11th as it didn't rain after we called off the team at about ten minutes before scheduled spade off!

We will return to Jane and Bill's in November after our session in the new Barkly Street abode of Val and Frank – so be ready for a little trimming, weeding and ideas for out the back at *66 Barkly St on October 31st*.

Investment

At the October meeting of Investment we looked at the various sectors and found that the Industrials index, the Health Care index and the Utilities index had shown sustained growth over the past three years.

We also examined the capitalisation indexes of shares and found that the Midcap 50 Index, which is comprised of shares within the ASX 100, but does not include those in the ASX 50, had also shown sustained growth over the past three years. As a follow up we then examined the charts of some of the best performing shares in the indexes mentioned and Midcap 50 stocks. j

Our second topic for the afternoon was Managed Funds. This umbrella can include Australian Real Estate investment trusts or A-REITS, Infrastructure funds, Absolute return funds as well as listed investment companies or LIC's. We discussed that the choice of a fund manager with a good record was vital as the investor had no control over what the fund manager did with the money invested. We also heard that the fees charged to the investor can be considerable.

Information on this topic which is easily understood may be found at www.asx.com.au

The final meeting of Investment for 2016 will be held on Friday 4th November at 1.15pm in W4. Investment will continue in 2017.

Let's Talk Books



A small group braved the wind, rain and floods to attend Let's Talk Books this month. This didn't diminish the enthusiasm. Alice entertained us with quotes by Poets and a reading of a dream she had many years ago. The books read included *A Sweet Obscurity* by Patrick Gale a big book, and also *Trial by Fury* a Penguin Book. Both were enjoyed.

Also on the table was a book by Louis de Bernieres titled *The Blue Dog*. The same author wrote *The Red Dog*, of which a film was made. Most interesting. Lorraine had listened to a talking book by David Baldacci. *Hazel Hawke's* story was enjoyed but everyone felt a little sad for this intelligent woman. Dorothy attended the launch of the book with Hazel at the launch and commented on her sense of humour in the face of many challenges.

Philippa Gregory has a new book out *Three Sisters, Three Queens*. If you have followed the adventures of the Tudor dynasty this goes along the same theme. Liz Byrski has a new book *The Woman Next Door*. Took a bit of getting into but was worth the patience.

Laurie listened to 2 audio books, *Napoleon's Last Island* telling the story of Napoleons stay at St. Helena and the interaction between the soldiers in the Garrison and the civilians. The second book was *The Commander* by Thomas Kenneally, a story about Soviet aggression and is very relevant to today's climate.

The Tall Man a factual story of the first white policeman charged with the murder of an aboriginal on Palm Island. Found not guilty of murder the 3 sisters of the murdered man are taking civil action against the policeman. Some more good reading as follows: *Bonchi; The Secrets We Share; Redemption Falls;* and also *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson.

Don't forget our next meeting is listed for Melbourne Cup Day, which we will miss but will meet again on the 6th December for our last gathering for 2016. Lots of time for reading.

Lifeball

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

Pat Claridge from the *Tomorrow, Today Foundation* was guest speaker at our October meeting. Pat outlined

just some of the programs that the Foundation runs leaving the audience overwhelmed by the range of programs running to assist children from preschool to secondary level.

The aim of one program is to have children ready for school while another coaches older students on how to present at interviews. This was a very informative and enjoyable session. Pat then joined the group for morning tea and talked too many of those present who had further questions. Thank you Pat.

Our last Meet and Mingle for 2016 will be held at The Senior Citizens Centre on November 16th at 10.00 am.

Members of the Patchwork group will have quilts and patchwork on display and we will be entertained by the Singing for Fun group. Morning tea will be served. All welcome.

Music Appreciation

23 September

John presented the session.

1. Sergie Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) *Piano Concerto #2*, Pianist Jeno Jando Budapest Symphony Orchestra
2. J S Bach (1685-1750) *Goldberg – five variations* Pianist Jeno Jando
3. Joseph Holbrooke (1878-1958) English Composer *Violin Sonata #2* Violinist Kerenza Peacock
4. Rachmaninoff, *Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini* Pianist Jeno Jando

14 October

Freida presented the session. The first presentation was the Goldberg Variations by Bach played by Joe Chindamo and Zoe Black. We had been introduced to the variations in our last session by John.

Bach was commissioned by Goldberg to compose music for him to listen to at night as he was a poor sleeper. The initial theme was varied by Bach, resulting in 30 distinct pieces of music.

For the second half of the session Freida diversified by showing a Youtube clip of Joe Chindamo talking of his introduction to jazz and playing several pieces.

We concluded with another YouTube clip of Joe and Zoe playing a jazz arrangement of Gershwin's 'It ain't necessarily so'.

Opera – The Dark Side

Our group had its first meeting to see Bizet's opera Carmen which was first written and produced in 1875. When first performed in Paris it shocked the audiences and was not initially a success as it was the first of what would become the "new realism" in opera. It was a contemporary story about a modern soldier of the guard, Don Jose, who became entranced by a fiery gypsy woman who worked in a cigarette factory. He let her escape after she was charged with fighting and was demoted and imprisoned for his neglect of duty. When released he went to find Carmen at a tavern where her gypsy compatriots met to plot their smuggling trade. She forced him to join them if he wished to remain with her. He later regretted this when she left him for a toreador and he stabbed her outside the arena where the bull fighting took place.

The new and exciting tenor, Jonas Kaufman was a splendid Don Jose, while Anna Antonacci sang and acted the role of Carmen with thrilling passion. This Decca version was filmed at Covent Garden, London and is one of the best DVDs of Carmen available.

Patchwork

Once again we will be displaying our year's work at the November Meet & Mingle (on the 16th November) at the Seniors Citizens. On Thursday 1st December we will have our end-of-year lunch. Bring a plate & a fat 1/4 to share.

Patchwork meets at the Hub, Coovinda Village from 1 to 4 pm on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Play Reading

Apart from our usual facilitator Keith (this month cast in the role of narrator), our group comprises women, so we decided to read a play with all parts for women!

The play, suggested and directed by group member Gwen Barnes, *Dinkum Assorted*, is set in Australia, not too far from Sydney, during World War 2.

An American Air Force base is close by, and even though the men do not appear in the play they are very much part of the story, as is Rita the goat, who is their mascot.

The women all work in a biscuit factory which produces plain and creamy biscuits. The conversations between them are often humorous. Much fun is created when

the women all assemble for ARP – practice for the possible air raids. The goat being captured to give it 'freedom' also gives some laughs. When the women hear that the factory may close, the cranking up of the old cooker to impress the owners with a new army biscuit, leads to hilarity also.

There is also pathos. The crusty elderly woman who is the boss's tea lady is not accepted by the group, as is the newcomer - a stylish young woman who has personal problems to deal with. Another young woman cannot accept that her husband will never be coming back and struggles to cope with her life.

It will be interesting to see how the problems of all of the women are resolved!

There is a lot of action in this play. It is listed as a musical, but most of the songs are sung at a Christmas concert at the end of the book. Who knows? If we have time, we may try to sing some of them to tunes which we already know. Could be fun!!

Politics and Current Affairs

Donald Trump certainly is the gift that keeps on giving for our Politics Group, however I am going shift our focus with a DVD that looks at the history of consumerism and advertising. That should stir things up and just in time for Christmas gift buying! I wonder if some of our class will be shopping for recycled presents after this burst of aversion therapy?

Rail and Tourism



The last session of this course was held on Tuesday 4th October. Bill finalised his study of the Canadian Rockies. A very good DVD was 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.

Bill described having 'a really good day – the best day of the course'. Thank you Bill for the effort you have put into developing and delivering a course about which you have so much passion.

Singing for Fun

An interesting and varied program has been prepared for the *Meet and Mingle* morning on Wednesday 16th November. There will be old favorites, toe tappers, harmonious melody and some humorous surprises. We will have a choir of between 25 and 30 people. A plate of morning tea would be appreciated.

Members are reminded that we are now singing in the SENIOR CITIZENS HALL and not in the "Hub" at Cooina.

Tech Savvy

Dramatic film taken from the cockpit of a competing glider racing another at up to 250km/hr during a gliding competition in Chile began our October session, fitting in well with 'The Sky's the Limit' theme of this year's Benalla Festival in the lead up to the World Gliding Championships in January.

Guest speaker, glider pilot Tim Shirley, gave a fascinating presentation on changes over time in the devices used to track the position and performance of gliders, particularly during competitions.



Since the advent of GPS it seems that the capacity for occasionally corrupt practices during competitions has been virtually eliminated!

Certainly the gliders coming to Benalla in January - which carry price tags from about \$150,000 to

\$500,000 - will have the latest tracking equipment. Perhaps more importantly they are much lighter than previously because they are made of kevlar and carbon fibre and travel 50 metres forward while only descending one metre.

Tim's session clearly provided rich ground for reminiscing by those with past experience of gliding. It also provided us all with a more informed base on which to understand the experiences of those who will be flying over Benalla in January.

During question time Tim, an experienced competitor, was asked if he would be gliding during the competition. He jokingly set us straight saying there are teams of six pilots from each country, and he's not exactly the Michael Schumacher of Australian Gliding.

An intriguing answer resulted from the question 'Why have so many of the advances in gliding technology taken place in Germany'? It seems that after World War I the Treaty of Versailles contained provisions restricting the production of powered aircraft in Germany. The result - the attention of German aviators changed direction - to gliding.

Our final session will be on November 9th when Bill Parris will introduce his extensive watch collection as part of a 'Show and Tell' session in which we will all bring along an item or two which demonstrate changes in technology over time. This will be followed by time for working groups 'Tech Savvies' to discuss incorporating the Internet of Things in next year's sessions and 'Mentors' to begin planning the Tech Savvy Drop In for 2017.

Tech Savvy Drop In/Google Apps

The Tech Savvy Drop In has now changed to its new shortened format prior to the Google Apps course sessions, with a number of members dropping in with problems or just to check out the action before the start of Terry's presentation. Discussion of scams is a regular event during the drop in –don't forget to check out the government's [Stay Smart Online](https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/alert-service) website <https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/alert-service> for any concerns

Topics covered to date in the Google Apps course include: Gmail, Google Contacts, Google Calendar including sharing calendars, Drive for backup and sharing and Google Docs.

Terry's website can be drawn upon for information and review of the Google Apps course he is delivering on Google Apps. See:

- teedee.com.au/google_apps
- teedee.com.au/google_apps/apps

Downloadable PDFs are available on *Getting Started* with Google Mail, Google Contacts, Google Calendar, Drive and Docs.

Towards a Sustainable Future

Towards a Sustainable Future is a 'readings' based class in which our facilitator, John Lloyd, presents articles for discussion selected on the basis of sound research on current developments.

New member Gabija recently asked the question 'What do you do about all these ideas you read and talk about?' While the group agreed it isn't an activist collective it is clearly made up of individuals concerned about climate change and the environment. Members talked about the practices they follow individually which work towards sustainability, practices including installing solar panels; reducing use of single use plastic; retrofitting homes, and more. Other answers related to sharing or disseminating ideas during conversations with friends and families; writing newsletter reports about the ideas we discuss; and in the case of retired CSIRO scientist Frank Dunin, writing a paper on an area of interest, 'Fire reduces water harvest from Melbourne's water supply catchments'.

Most of us are members or on the mailing list of the [Benalla Sustainable Future Group \(BSFG\)](#) and many are members of the [Benalla Food Cooperative](#).



Arthur and Kathy at the [Benalla Food Cooperative](#)

Our facilitator, John Lloyd, makes an enormous contribution through his advocacy work as President of BSFG and in generating partnership events such as

Sustainable Housing Forums, October's '[Benalla's Renewable Energy Future](#)' Community Forum and the recent Environmentally Sustainable Business Award.

With only two more sessions to go this year, we are fully aware that while we have been deliberating and discussing issues over the past year, the first nine months of 2016 have been the warmest on record, at an astonishing 0.99°C above average, and 2016 is likely to become the warmest on record globally, for the third year in a row. We wonder what next year will bring.

Wine Appreciation



A most enjoyable day was spent at Booth's winery and lunching at the Thoona pub in late September. Check the [Wine Appreciation page on the website](#) to see a slideshow of photos taken on the day. See you at the Christmas lunch at Gracebrook Vineyard!

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

Writing Workshop

Group member Barry O'Connor, also an active member of the [Benalla Family Research Group](#) and [Tatong Heritage Group](#), gave an excellent presentation on the writing and 2013 publication of local history '184 Samaritans' at our October session.

The title '184 Samaritans' derives from the fact that this is the number of members that the Samaria Bush Fire Brigade and the later Samaria Rural Fire Brigade has/had since formation. Barry also spoke about a book he is currently writing in collaboration with Beverley Walker on the history of the Sherwell butcher family in Benalla.

The topics 'Unfinished Business' and 'The Sky's the Limit' along with some original stories were also shared by group members.

The topic for our monthly session in W4 on Monday 21st November from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm is '[Running with Scissors](#)'. The brief:

'Tell us about that moment when you did something reckless, that time when something really could have gone badly wrong. Tell us your stories where you knew what you were about to do was crazy or stupid, but you did it anyway. Maybe you believed 'it' wouldn't happen, or maybe you thought it would, and you didn't care. Was it just slightly illegal? Or was it just too fun to miss out on? Did you make a choice that left you breathless but wildly alive? Or did your world come crashing down? An affair, a physical risk, a mental challenge, a dance with danger, the possibilities are endless.

This will see the end of another year of reminiscing, another year of writing stories to add to our memoirs. Our next cafe catch up will be on *Monday 7th November from 2.30 to 3.30 pm at the Northo*—we are looking forward to sharing our writing sitting in the sunshine on the outside deck.

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, 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 28th November** at midday. This will be the last Newsletter for 2016.
- Newsletter reports will be uploaded to the website at the end of that week. Additional photographs for the web can be sent to bevelee47@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 is in the photograph and what they are doing.

Freida Andrews, Newsletter Editor
Bev Lee, Website Manager

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).....
.....
.....

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 RedB4 bookshop (next to Hide's Bakery) in an envelope marked U3A Christmas luncheon
- Bring to U3A Meet and Mingle on Wednesday 16th November at the Senior Citizens Centre.

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.