



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – August 2017

U3A Benalla & District Inc

P O Box 674

Benalla 3672

Website: u3abenalla.weebly.com

Facebook: facebook.com/u3abenalla

Newsletter: newsletter@u3abenalla.com

President: Dorothy Webber

5762 2116

president@u3abenalla.com

Secretary: Geraldine McCorkell

P: 5762 2134 M: 0408 522 662

secretary@u3abenalla.com

Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by Wednesday 20 September

President's Report

I am still recovering from my recent surgery. Thank you for all the good wishes.

Keep the afternoon of Monday 13th of November free for the opening of the Senior Citizens Community Centre Renovation at 3.00pm. It has been arranged by Benalla Rural City Council at a time which will allow Cathy McGowan MP to join us. More information will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

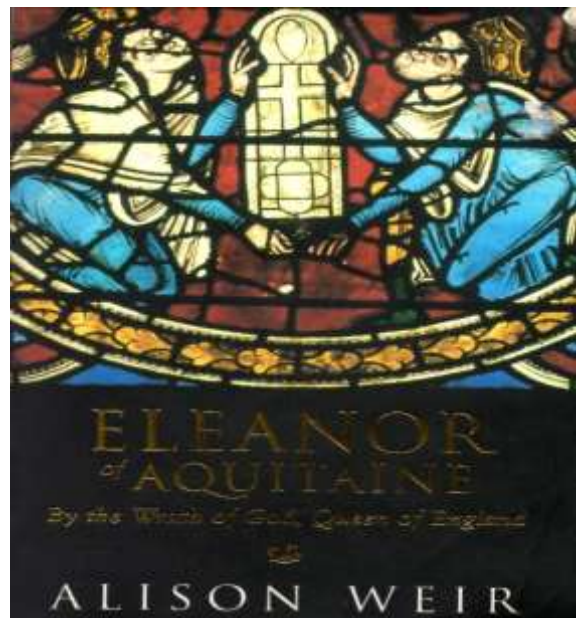
At the convenors meeting in early July the convenors were given a demonstration on how to operate the tables, however people have experienced problems with them. If you need a refresher demonstration for your class please let me know. While the wifi modem works well, we have been advised to turn it off and unplug it after use to avoid overheating the charger. We have asked the Council to investigate the boiling water problem in the kitchen as there has not been enough boiling water for the larger classes. The urn can be used if necessary. We are also investigating raising the television. Hopefully our teething problems will sort themselves out soon.

Dorothy Webber, President



Group Reports

Armchair History

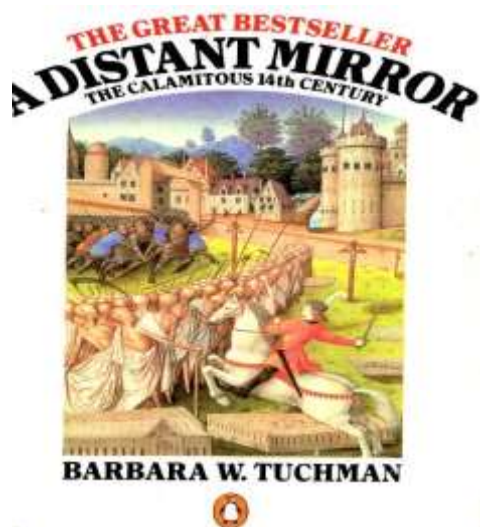


I promised my group I would provide details from the two books that have provided much of my background reading for the period of the 12th & 13th Centuries which we are now studying. Alison's biography of Eleanor of Aquitaine at times reads like a mediaeval romance, but a glance to the footnotes ensures we are reading a well-researched account.

Eleanor was first married to the King of France and after that marriage was annulled she quickly married Henry II of England and provided him with the immense lands she had inherited in Aquitaine. For women of this period marriage meant surrendering all possessions to your husband and having no say in decision making. Eleanor was an exception and became a powerful Queen, acting

as Regent for her son Richard the Lionheart as both he and John became Kings of England.

The book cover shows a window in Poitiers Cathedral donated by Henry & Eleanor to celebrate their marriage.



My other recommendation is Barbara Tuchman's *A Distant Mirror*. This book focusses on a powerful French aristocratic family with powerful connections to both the French and English kings. This turbulent period included the arrival of the first wave of the Plague to hit Europe and the calamitous repercussions of the "Hundred Years War". This is another superbly researched text by an author who writes history as a drama.

The cover illustration is a detail from *Le Cavalier de la Mort*.

Terry Case

Armchair Traveller

The September 19th Armchair Traveller session is back on the timetable, with a colourful presentation on her recent visit to Papua New Guinea by Judy Perry. The video features a dramatic journey around many of the islands. It covers: the dances, music and festivals of the Trobriand Islands, interviews with local village schools and a commentary on their subsistence lifestyles; WW2 history of the Battle for Milne Bay, The Battle for Rabaul, including its tunnels, wrecks and War Memorials, the volcanic destruction of Rabaul after the 1994 eruption as well as a visit to the vulcanology centre. Also, a brief look at Honiara, the Solomon Islands capital and the Folkloric Festival. There is something of interest for everyone in this presentation by Judy, which will be convened by Bill Parris as Reina and I will be apologies.

John Avery

Art Appreciation

This month Art Appreciation group members were treated to a behind the scenes inspection of Benalla Art Gallery's storage space by the Director, Bryony Nainby. Bryony began by giving us a short history of the Gallery, explaining that financial restraints when the Gallery was built meant that limited storage space was included within the building. She then gave us a detailed explanation of the Gallery's policy of collecting art and of the various ways in which the Gallery comes to be in possession of so many valuable works of Art.

Lack of space has meant the Gallery has had to make do when storing art works, of which there are approximately 4000 pieces. Some paintings are stored in specially made metal racks. Some works are stored on moveable wooden racks which are moved around within the storage area as required. Other more important works are stored in conventional ways on storage racks that need a good deal of strength to pull out to extract paintings stored. Bryony explained that plans are in place for the rollers on these racks to be greased, a major task as all the art works on them will need to be removed then replaced.

Bryony gave us an insight into the problems of keeping all art works in good condition and the group listened with rapt attention. This visit to the storage area behind the scenes was a treat that other visitors to the Gallery do not see.

Later on Bryony brought us up to date with the plans for the expansion of the building. There are plans in place for a further two large galleries and several other storage and educational facilities and it is hoped that the finance required can be raised in the near future. When completed the expanded Gallery will be continuing proof of how Benalla competes well above its weight when it comes to Art.

Neville Gibb



Bird Watching

U3A Bird watching resumes on Tuesday 5th September after a winter break. We will visit Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park hoping to see a special bird, the endangered Regent Honeyeater. A large number of captive-bred birds were released at Chiltern in autumn, and we hope some will still be feeding in the park. Some of us attended a recent talk in the library by Andy from the Regent Honeyeater revegetation project.

Please meet at 9.30am in the car park behind the new U3A room in the Seniors building off Fawkner Drive. The drive to Chiltern is nearly an hour up the Hume Freeway, so you should bring lunch, a thermos and a folding chair if you have one. Chiltern forest is well known for its birdlife and wildflowers, so it promises to be a lovely early Spring outing.

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

The small but sharp group left at Brain Games is getting a little too smart and I think they are planning to take over the leadership!! {Luckily I am getting international modelling on how to keep them in line with escalating threats}



Brain Games - 'team ' juggling task

Elspeth Maconachie

Bushwalks

Easy walk Wed Aug 2

Seven walkers had a great day on the various tracks through the Euroa Arboretum. There was a good display of Acacias including *Acacia flexifolia* (Bent-leaf wattle which flowered profusely in the Reef Hills this year), and *Acacia lanigera* (Woolly wattle). On the Northern side was a spectacular *Acacia podalyrifolia* (Queensland silver wattle or Mount Morgan wattle). Very bright yellow flowers and small blue-green phyllodes. Growing with

this, was an *Acacia vestita* (Hairy Wattle) and nearby was a fenced area for Silver Banksia seed production, which would have flowered earlier this year. It was good to see many improvements and artificial mounds for future plantings.



We had lunch beside the lake before another short walk, and then drove back to the town to walk the Apex Seven Creeks track downstream. A very pleasant sunny day.

Vaughan Cowan

Mid-Week Walks

WED AUG 9: GRADES 3&4 SCHOOL OUTING TO THE WARBYS

Teacher: Mrs Spinks

10 of us kids had a really fun treat on Wednesday, 'cos our teacher, Mrs Spinks, drove our school bus up to the Warby Ranges to teach us how to bushwalk. We all like Mrs Spinks, even though she is a bit strict, especially with naughty boy, Rupert, who's always in trouble! We all carried Backpacks with us, all but Rupert, who said his Mum forgot to pack it. Lucky for him, Mrs Spinks always carries a spare. She said this is what grown up Bushwalkers do.

Mrs Spinks told us we were walking along The Sunrise Track, but it was already mid-morning, so we reckon she was fibbing. We all got puffed climbing up the steep hills, but of course Rupert showed off by running ahead. Boy, did Mrs Spinks get cross! Guess she didn't want to lose anyone. But she did cheer up when Rupert found some wildflowers for her to take photos of. They were Helmeted Orchids or something. Not sure why she got all excited, but she said they were rare, whatever that means. There were also lots of those funny looking spiky plants, which Mrs Spinks told us used to be called Blackboys, but are now called Grass Trees, so that nobody gets offended, she said. Grown-ups are funny like that.

When we reached some fallen logs, Mrs Spinks told us it was lunchtime, and that we all had to sit down and quietly eat our playlunches. Natch, Rupert pretended to fall off his log. Very funny – NOT! Vaughan from Grade 4 got sick of Rupert showing off and started a competition to see who could throw Rupert’s funny old hat the furthest. Mrs Spinks pretended not to notice.

On our way back to the bus, Mrs Spinks decided to annoy us all by turning left along a steep track down to a boring place called The Quarry. She told us it used to be where in the Olden Days men used that old rusty thingy called a pulley, to dig out humungous rocks to build churches and stuff in Wangaratta. We reckoned it sounded like a lot of hard work, when they could have just used bricks like everyone else. Rupert pretended to start the rusty old machinery there but Mrs Spinks told him not to be silly. He also got into trouble again trying to open the old dug-out cupboard which had a name on the door saying “EXPLOSIVES”. We didn’t have a clue what that meant, but I heard Mrs Spinks mutter “just as well”.



Back at the school bus, we all piled in and were driven to Glenrowan to have some yummy cake Mrs Spinks had made. We all reckoned it looked a bit too healthy, but she said we needed to eat healthy food or we wouldn’t grow up brainy (like Rupert). Marion from Grade 3 got frightened and started to cry ‘cos she noticed some really spooky looking men in funny helmets watching us from the Glenrowan Pub veranda. Mrs Spinks said not to worry Marion, ‘cos they weren’t real. Duh! She said some men led by a dude called Ned Kelly used to hide up in the hills and rob banks and stuff. They all made those funny helmets out of old metal to protect their heads from police bullets. Pretty cool, huh? I think they all came to a sticky end but.

We all had to clap and thank Mrs Spinks for our outing (or she would get cross) and had to write an essay about our walk and what we learned from it.

I thought I would please my teacher and try to write a funny essay, ‘cos it was really a cool day. Rupert of course didn’t write his essay, as he said the dog kept eating it (he doesn’t have a dog). Boy, did HE get into trouble! I guess every class has a troublemaker.

Signed: Beverly Rae Thornell, aged 9½.

Easy walk Wed Sep 6

There should be a good display of flowers in the Killawarra Forest at this time of year. We will walk a circuit from the central camp ground before lunch and possibly a shorter circuit afterwards. We will leave Benalla from the tennis court at 10 am.

Mid-week walk Wed Sep 13

This track was surveyed by Doug Kneen two years ago and the walk was washed out twice. Third year should be more successful!! We start from Buckland Gap and visit Bates Dam before climbing Jensen track to a lookout area, then follow various roads and tracks to Clark Corner for lunch. On the way back along Lady Newton Drive is the Murmungee Lookout. We will leave Benalla at 9.00am. Please ring Vaughan on 5762 1980.

Vaughan Cowan

Chat n’ Chew

September 15th - North Eastern Hotel

All welcome. Phone Shirley re attendance by Tuesday morning 12th September on 5762 6768.

Shirley Kearney

Collectors



Our theme for July was 'blue and white' and we had a very nice display ranging from Op Shop items to Spode and Wedgwood, all of which had some meaning to the Collector. There were other items as well, including a miniature porcelain sewing machine, a set of Bakelite canisters and Teddy Bears.

Our theme for August is 'jewellery'.

Pictured: May Willan

Judith Borthwick

e-Book Group

The Natural Way of Things, by Charlotte Woods, has been variously described by critics, as a 'masterpiece of feminist horror, and a 'virtuoso performance'. We disagreed. The novel is supposed to be an exploration of contemporary misogyny and corporate control, in which ten women are imprisoned in a remote area, and subjected to every kind of abuse, as punishment for perceived sins. Yolande and Verla, the two main protagonists, are sympathetically and sensitively portrayed, and develop new personas to cope with a hostile environment, but the others remain deliberately shadowy. One horror follows another, but the writer's remorselessly angry tone means the novel loses clarity and focus. She is just too angry, and this is a pity, as she is a fine writer.

Helen Scheller

Exploring the Universe



Scorpius Constellation.

These August nights, (if you can tear yourselves away from the fire or your warm beds) the constellation Scorpius is directly overhead framed across the Milky Way.

In the middle of the scorpion's body is the very bright star Antares, the hook of the scorpion's tail curls off to the east and the T shape of its body to the west. The star Antares, a red super giant, representing the scorpion's heart to us mere mortals, is 10, 000 times brighter than our Sun and so massive that if it was in the middle of our Solar System it would engulf all planets from the Sun out to Jupiter. In Greek mythology the constellation Scorpius is identified with the scorpion that killed Orion the hunter who had boasted that he could kill any wild beast. Thus when Orion the hunter sets in the west, Scorpius the scorpion rises in the east to chase him across the sky.

The early indigenous culture of Australian aboriginals may have identified Scorpius long before the Greeks. In Victoria the Wotjobaluk people believed the two stars in the tail were the male and female falcon ancestors. In York Peninsula they were the eyes of the emu. The Yolgnu people of east Arnhem Land associated the constellation with both the crocodile and scorpion. In July Scorpius position in the sky was a sign to them that the Macassan traders would soon arrive. Or so we learnt at our last session from a presentation on Constellation Scorpius which also included vision of spectacular star clusters.

Via a medley of films we journeyed to Jupiter aboard the spacecraft 'Juno' propelled by solar power, travelling at 39 kms / second after getting a sling from Earth's gravity to speed us on our way. We witnessed the first film taken by Juno of the Moon orbiting the Earth and saw stunning actual time lapse video taken by Juno of four of Jupiters moons orbiting Jupiter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpsQimYhNkA>

Via 'Catalyst' we viewed Australia's Tidbinbilla radio telescope playing its part in Juno's insertion into orbit around the giant gas planet & the NASA control room scenes; then came the science being sent back from Jupiter. We await further results.

We discussed the question of: "Should Australia have a Space Agency?" Industry minister Arthur Sinodinus announced in mid July that a review by the government was setting the scene for developing a space agency. Australia and Iceland are the only two countries in the 35 member Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development who do not have space agencies. The Science Shows presenter Robin Williams said, "The radio telescope was invented in Australia. We used to launch satellites. After all these initiatives we let things lapse. There is still technology going on at the CSIRO and university campuses. Wifi came from this research. We are dependent on other nation's goodwill to be able to use their satellites." Global space industry revenue is \$420 billion annually. An expert panel will report its findings by the end of March 2018.

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

This month we watched *The Third Man*.

Genre: Mystery, thriller (spy)

Plot: Pulp novelist Holly Martins travels to shadowy, post-war Vienna, only to find himself investigating the mysterious death of an old friend, Harry Lime.

Key Characters: Major characters are Holly Martins (Joseph Cotton), Anna Schmidt (Alida Valli), Harry Lime (Orson Welles) and Major Calloway (Trevor Howard)

Filming Location: Austria and UK

Review: Comments after the movie covered the location – post war Vienna – and how the ruins added to the atmosphere of the movie; the quality of the performances; and the music which is well known. One scene was noted – Harry Lime (played by Orson Welles) was standing in the underground sewers listening to the calls and footsteps of the people chasing him echoing around him, trying to find out which way to run. There was a little bit of comic relief as well – a parrot, a cat finding Harry Lime just after a comment that he only liked Harry, a little boy chasing Holly and Anna, and a scene where it looks as if Holly has been kidnapped only to find he is being taken to a lecture he was to give.

Other comments: Cinematography was by Robert Krasker, and won an Academy Award in 1951

Our September session is on 13 September.

We plan to watch the movie *Saving Mr Banks*, the story behind the making of *Mary Poppins*. We will be in our new location at the Senior Citizens, and will start promptly at 1:00pm.

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

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation

No meeting in August - we resume in September
September 28

Meet in the car park at the back of the Seniors building at 9.30. We will head off to visit the garden of Stan Robson and family at 19 Holmes Court Rutherglen. Please bring something for morning tea to share. Stan has offered to prepare our lunch. *Please phone Gwen with any special dietary needs.*

October 26th.

Meet in the car park at the back of the Seniors building. We will then visit the farm and cherry orchard of Valda Martin, 175 McLean's Lane Ruffly. The cherry trees will be in flower. Valda has a great display of patchwork and quilts. As usual bring something to share for morning tea; lunch is yet to be decided.

Please let Gwen know if you attending these outings - 0438 627 010 or 5762 7017.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team

One session was called off due to cold feet ,but otherwise we have been lucky with some gaps in the clouds and have come through the worst of winter with nothing more serious than a few rose scars to Marcus!!

Frank proved variously skilled recently at Shirly's garden with dog handling, fencing and even some pruning.

Next time, on September 11th, we will be at 6 Tulip Street, Violet Town.

Elsbeth Maconachie

In the Mood for Opera

Opera will resume in October. Meg will email participants on her return.

Investment

At the August meeting of Investment we looked at the Materials Sector versus the Midcap Index both of which showed the biggest increases in the Sectors and Indexes respectively for the 2016-2017 end of financial year results. Surprisingly we found that the two ASX Top 20 stocks in the Materials sector showed better shareholder returns over one year than stocks in the Midcap section.

The other topic for the afternoon was Conditional Trading which led into a discussion on the use of appropriate Stop/Losses. It was good to see so many of the group participating in this discussion.

During the month Margaret had a visitor from U3A Beechworth. Joyce Wilkinson had heard about our Investment group through an earlier article in "The Age" and was hopeful of starting a similar group at U3A Beechworth. Joyce was also interested in other successful activities at Benalla U3A.



The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 1 September 2017 at 1.30pm in the U3A room at the Seniors Community Centre, Fawckner Drive.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

We had our usual lively discussion and welcomed Helen Squires into our group. Some members are unwell and some away still. Shirley suggested we have a survey among the group to find everyone's favourite book of all time and our favourite author, we all have a form to fill in and bring back, it will be fun to read and compare the best books and authors we have enjoyed over many years of reading. Some books read this month were *The Dry* by Jane Harper a murder/suicide, Heather read *Jane Austen The Secret Radical*, not a recommended read if you are a Jane Austen fan, she has nothing or prove. *Too Close to Home* by Linwood Barclay and *The Child's Child* by Barbara Vine who is Ruth Rendell, I can never work out why authors do that, was enjoyed. *Wife, Mother, Spy* based on the story of Russia and England and their spies. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 5th September.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

"Lifeball is the game we play, we play it just for fun....."

This is the first line of the Lifeball Song, created by Dr Brian Lord, who, with his wife, Colleen, began the Lifeball game some years ago now. It's the very same game we play every Monday at 10 am in the Recreation Centre in Ackerly Avenue.

We had yet another new player join us last game, Judy, who said she thought it was great fun!! And so it is!!

We are sending our love and best wishes to Thelma, in hospital in Albury, she is undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy at present, and is feeling a bit low.

On the 28th of August, we are hosting an Umpire Training Day in Benalla, both for prospective umpires and as a refresher course for those who need updating on the rules and regulations of our game. This is both a mixture of theory and practice, and our Benalla players will be participating in assisting these umpires to complete their training.

Then, on September 6, a group of us will travel to Albury to share in their Fun and Friendship Day. These are great days, and we always have a

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good enthusiastic crowd, all playing for the fun of the day, and the enjoyment of the game. Plus, the lunch is pretty good as well!!!!!!

Do come along on Mondays from 10 till about 11.30, and then you will understand why we enjoy ourselves so much!!

Marg Merriman 5762 2967

Meet and Mingle



Our guest speaker in August was Ken Jenkins from the Benalla Camera Club. Ken's talk was very informative with some history of cameras and photography, and some hints thrown in for our own picture taking. Ken displayed some beautiful photos he has taken.

An excellent talk. Thank you, Ken.

If you would like information about the Benalla Camera Club, contact Ken on 0401306384 or email benallacameraclub@gmail.com.

Music Appreciation

28 July 2017

In John's absence, Les presented the first session, as follows:

Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No 3

- CD of pianist, Grigory Sokolov (1950-) playing the first movement.
- DVD of Vladamir Horowitz (1903-1989) playing 2nd & 3rd movements, New York Philharmonic.
- DVD of Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953) repeating the 3rd movement at the Musikvereinssaal Concert Hall in Vienna.

The second session was presented by Joan, with a variety of music.

- Pianist Alfred Brendel playing Franz Liszt's composition, *St Francis Walking on the Water*.
- DVD of young Chinese pianist, Lang Lang, playing *Chopin's Polonaize* at the famous concert hall in Vienna.
- A selection of Luciana Pavarotti's favourites.



Joan Visvader and Les Rodgers, presenters on 28 July

11 August 2017

John presented the session with music from the following composers:

- Camille Saint Saens (1835-1921), French composer.
- Symphony No 3 (Organ Symphony) played by the Bern Symphony Orchestra.

The second half of the session, was as follows:

- Gabriel Faure (1845-1924), French composer. The Requiem

Joan Visvader

Over There

Our new course with John Barry commenced on July 21st with a fascinating and powerful overview of the causes of the Great War. Each participant described reasons for attending 'Over There' which John plans to add insight into during the course. At our next session, for example, after exploring the war strategies of the various powers and Gallipoli, John anticipates covering the experience of Australian troops at Pozieres (one of the class had a relative there) and the Pals Battalions (for our English class member). He also plans to explain, after years of thinking about it, why he think most of the generals behaved with such little imagination and to provide an overview of the Australian homefront. Participants who have not already accessed the digital war records of their relative/s, please mention this in class so that support to do so can be provided.

Bev Lee

Patchwork

I hear that the last Patchwork session that I was unable to attend went very well, with lots of stimulating conversation and stitching. With a few away heading for warmer weather our numbers are smaller as is normal for winter.

Dorothy Webber

Play Reading

At our last meeting we read the play "The Putting Down of Ned Kelly" by Len Kenna. The first public performance of this play was in Benalla during the Felix Festival in April 1995.

It is the story of part of Ned's life, his trial and his execution. It is also the story of pure political power and about men who were prepared to go to any lengths to protect their positions and to deflect attention from their own activities. It is also a story about today and tomorrow, for as long as men strive to rule and put their own interests ahead of the community: dishonesty, injustice and exploitation will become the order of the day.

It is also the story of a mother who is serving a three year goal sentence with hard labour in the same goal as her son, Ned, who is awaiting execution. However, she cannot go to him, help him or comfort him in any way.

Members were affected by this presentation of the Ned Kelly story. The harsh treatment of Ned and his lawyers by Redmond Barry; dubious documents submitted as evidence and the like.

A very interesting play indeed.

Keith Rogers

Politics and Current Affairs

From threats of nuclear war to Barnaby's and others questionable citizenship, the politics class is striving to stay abreast of developments. In this crazy political year young people may find themselves learning new communication tools, such as posting a letter whilst the Commonwealth Bank stands accused of aiding criminal gangs to launder money. What next?

Terry Case

Singing for Fun

Singing for Fun is happily settling into its new home in the U3A room at the Seniors Community Centre. Our numbers have been slightly down during the past two months due to a few members migrating to warmer areas on holidays.

We have also missed Gwen Cheetham one of our sopranos who has been unwell for several weeks. We hope to see you back soon Gwen.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 7 September 2017 at 10am in the U3A room at the Seniors Community Centre.

Margaret Jenkins

Tech Savvy

Tech Savvy Beginners

It is great to be in the new premises and be able to demonstrate some computing tips and watch instructional films on the new computer via the smart TV.

This month there were two Apple sessions. The first session was about money on your device. We had Margaret Jenkins (Investment) as a guest speaker talking about banking online. Bev demonstrated purchasing online and Jenny paid her Telstra bill online.

The second session was devoted to travel. We all enjoyed spending our virtual dollars on virtual travel within Australia and abroad. Each participant researched the web to cost a one week trip to Brisbane for flights, accommodation and some sight seeing, spending between \$1000 and \$2000. We then chose another destination to spend even more virtual dollars on some virtual travel; ranging from Darwin to Hong Kong to Helsinki to Edinburgh.

In September there will be two more Apple device sessions – Wednesday 6th and Wednesday 20th September – looking at leisure activities.

Jenny Sawyer

Tech Savvy Plus

There is no Tech Savvy Plus during July, August & September. Terry will contact participants in September.

Terry Dillon

Tech Savvy Talks

This month Tech Savvy members began by sharing topics including driverless cars; the growing use of artificial intelligence; use of smart phones when travelling; the coding error and money laundering crisis facing the Commonwealth Bank; driveable helicopters and the world's first floating wind farm. Les and Wendi shared frustrating episodes of problem solving with IT, with applause for Les on his eventual victory.

On a different note, Len reported on using a lathe for the first time in his current pastime of restoring 'kangaroo' chairs. David Hall then became an impromptu guest speaker as we drew him out about the superbly crafted wooden box he had with him. David spoke about the woods he uses in his work, including the wood from pellets; woods available in the North East; integrating computer related design skills from his engineering

background when he works and the work he will be exhibiting in October at the Manningham Gallery.

After the break, we watched first of a three part series about cells, the basis of all life on earth. The video was a visually stunning high definition blue ray video produced by the BBC and presented by Dr. Adam Rutherford. The first part showed the fascinating story of the progress of the study of cells from when a Dutch producer and seller of napkins and also an amateur scientist, first found life in a sample of water. He invented a simple tiny microscope of far greater power than the renowned scientists in the Royal Society in England had seen before. This enabled him to see and describe the "little animals" in the water which the English scientists were unable to reproduce at first. The story continued of the many people and groundbreaking discoveries that lead to the realization that all life on earth, plant and animal came from similar cells with a nucleus. The story will continue and eventually bring us up to modern times so that we can explore "what happened after Dolly the sheep". This represents a change from our almost exclusive focus on electronic technologies to a wider field just as interesting and challenging.

Our next discussion group at Rustik café is on Thursday August 24th at 3pm.

Les Rodgers and Bev Lee

Towards a Sustainable Future

Articles about solar energy have been prominent in 'Country News' (insert in the Ensign) recently, including an article on the possibility that large scale solar farms may impact on microclimates of nearby farming properties. After exploring this proposition with the help of our agricultural scientist, Frank Dunin, and the scope for them to be placed on land of low productivity, we moved on to discuss articles about policy decisions being made to ban fossil fuel cars in the UK and France and the efforts being made by car manufacturers to adapt. Possible upheavals as electronic vehicles with a possible lifespan of 800,000km and fewer moving parts make combustion engines obsolete include oil companies experiencing less demand for petrol; spare parts not needed by electric vehicles (such as spark plugs and fuel injectors) becoming difficult to find and home charging units replacing petrol stations.

One class member mentioned that their long-serving, trustworthy mechanic in Benalla

looked somewhat crestfallen when they said they would like to buy an electric vehicle when prices come down. Professor Seba from Stanford University suggests cost parity may be achieved within five years, with the influence of market forces more significant than government bans. Local signals of market driven and policy change towards fossil free cars include Tallis winery at Dookie installing a charging station for electric vehicles recently and the Benalla Council already having policy relating to the transition over time to electric vehicles. In 'Petrol vehicles approaching their Kodak moment' (Age, 23/7/17) Evans-Pritchard goes on to suggest that it's not only fossil fuelled cars that will be affected—haulage and trucking; aircraft; ships and ferries—will also be impacted... 'Scandinavia already uses electric ferries for short trips' and 'Boeing is even working on electric aircraft for short haul flights'.

Towards a Sustainable Future meets on the first and third Thursdays from 9.30 to 11.30 am. New members welcome!

Bev Lee

Wine Appreciation



July visit to John Gehrig's Winery, Oxley

Wednesday 23rd August

Meet at 10 00 am to travel to Red Feet Wines to meet Danny at this new location for them in the King Valley. Lunch is at the Moyhu Hotel.

Wednesday 27th September

Meet at 10.00 am for travel down to Avenel to visit the Winery prior to cellar door tastings. Lunch will be in the restaurant on site.

Noel 5762 3149 Keith & Heather 5762 4086

Writing Workshop

With our memoir related theme for July 'Travel Tales', we invited published travel writer and U3A Benalla member Judy Perry to be our guest speaker. Judy drew upon two of her articles published in the Seniors Magazine to demonstrate strategies she employs to intrigue and influence readers to travel, in this case to Benalla. The 'hooks' used involved stories from Benalla's past—the story of the 'Bugle Boy' of Benalla and recollections of 'Heavy Harry' the train—engaging us all. Thank you Judy for preparing and presenting such an interesting and practical introduction to travel writing.

Following the break, class members shared a diversity of travel tales and some more wonderful stories of rebellion, including Elizabeth's diverting story of a playful rebellion against patriarchy as a young girl in Ireland. At our next regular session on August 28th we will be sharing tales of being the 'Odd One Out' *'Have you ever felt like you didn't fit in? Too old or too young? Wrong clothes or different culture? Write about a time you felt out of place and why'*.

There was almost a full house at our Northo gathering this month. Stories shared included Ray's 'If Only I'd'... (worn a seatbelt!); Jenny's humorous story inciting 'Rebellion' against the overcharging for tea in our current café culture, and David's story about two 'swashbuckling' ancestors in a family history piece inspired by the birth of his first grandson.

Finally, a reminder that creative writing from 1 to 2.15 pm now precedes our catch up at the Northo from 2.30 to 3.30pm on the 2nd Monday.

Bev Lee

Member News

Vale Don Jukes

Members of the U3A Music Appreciation group were saddened recently to hear of the death of Don Jukes.

A jeweller who ran a business in the main street for many years, Don was an early advocate of adult education in Benalla and a very committed member of the U3A Music Appreciation group.

In latter years Don became the carer of his wife, Lois, who shared his love of classical music. Don's devotion to Lois was exemplified in the care he took in negotiating ramps and other obstacles to bring her to W4 in her wheelchair each fortnight,

enabling them to continue to share and enjoy classical music sessions together.

A highly respected man and member of local service groups, Don's funeral filled the Uniting Church to overflowing.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Lois.

U3A Music Appreciation Class

Program News

Advanced Care Planning Course

Benalla U3A is offering a single session course on Advanced Care Planning in conjunction with Benalla Health on Monday 9 October 2017 between 10am and 12 noon in the U3A room at the Seniors Community Centre. The session is designed to start the conversation regarding pre-determining Care options for when the recipient is not able to communicate their wishes with family and health care professionals. Two videos will be shown as well as discussion led by Ms Deb Smith, Community Health Nurse, Benalla Community Health. Enquiries regarding the session may be made by contacting Margaret Walshe on 5762 3906 or email margaretwalshe@bigpond.com

'Legal Matters' The second session in this popular short course on Wills, Powers of Attorney and Online Banking offered by retired lawyer John Barry will be held on September 11 from 10 to 12 in the U3A Meeting Room. To join in contact Margaret Jenkins on 5762 6944 or email margaretjenkins@bigpond.com.

Facebook & "Facebook for Mentors"

We now have a Facebook Page! Link to it by clicking on 'FB' on website's top menu. As of today 17/8 we have 22 followers –slow but steady growth!

Two funded short courses are on offer for members who are, or would like to become, Tech Savvy mentors, in September & November.

'Facebook for Mentors' is a short course for people with basic Facebook skills who mentor or coach older people in using the features of new technology. It aims develop the understanding and skills to enable mentors to better assist older people beginning to use Facebook and will have a particular focus on learning how to use Facebook safely.

"Conditions apply". For further information contact Bev 5762 8171 or bevelee47@gmail.com

"Housekeeping"

Surplus Equipment

When the dust settles on our move to the new location we will be stocktaking our equipment. Surplus or outdated equipment will be offered to members. Watch this space.

Tables in U3A Meeting Room

There's a 'knack' to unlocking the tables for use-contact Dorothy if you or your classes are having difficulties in unfolding/moving them. A demonstration will be arranged.

Wi Fi Modem – new procedure

The modem is to be unplugged from the power supply after use as it may overheat. Please return it to the devices box with the mouse and remote for use by the next class. Further info: 5762 8171.

Use of the Urn

We have asked the Council to investigate the boiling water problem in the kitchen as there has not been enough boiling water for the larger classes. The urn can be used for larger groups. It is also possible to use the boiling water system in the smaller kitchen if necessary.

iPad and Tablet Loans iPads and Samsung tablets are available for short term loan to members keen to try and perhaps purchase one. Contact Bev on 5762 8171 if you are interested.

Community News

2017 Bald Archy Exhibition Swanpool

- Saturday 26th August 2017 to 10th September 2017 (inclusive) from 10am till 4 pm daily
- Swanpool Memorial Hall
- Entry \$5.00 Adults and \$4.00 Concession
- Morning & Afternoon Tea & Lunch available

'Snap Shot' – Benalla Camera Club's 2017 exhibition of photographs

- Saturday 26th August 2017 to Sunday 10th September from 10 am to 4 pm daily.
- Swanpool Bowling Club, Midland Highway, Swanpool. Gold Coin Donation.

Information Centre Volunteers needed

Volunteers play an important role as ambassadors for the Benalla area. Please contact the Tourism Coordinator on (03) 5760 2627 or stop by the - Visitor Information Centre in Mair St to chat about volunteering (Open 9am to 5pm daily).

What's On

Friday, September 1

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future
1:30pm Investment

Monday, September 4

10:00am Lifeball
10:00am Art Appreciation
1:30pm Brain Games

Tuesday, September 5

9:30am Birdwatching - Mt Pilot National Park, Chiltern
10:00am E-Book Group
10:00am Member Services Group
2:00pm Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, September 6

9:45am Play Reading
10:00am Easy Walks - Killawarra Forest
1:30pm Tech Savvy Beginners - Apple - 'Leisure (1)'

Thursday, September 7

10:00am Singing for Fun
1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, September 8

10:00am Music Appreciation
1:30pm Armchair History

Monday, September 11

10:00am Legal Matters - Powers of Attorney & more
10:00am Lifeball
1:00pm Creative Writing Workshop
2:00pm Garden Team - Violet Town
2:30pm Writing Workshop at the Northo

Tuesday, September 12

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
1.30pm 'Facebook for Mentors' training

Wednesday, September 13

9:00am Bushwalking – Mid-week Walks -Buckland Gap & Murrumgee Lookout
10:00am Tech Savvy Talks
1:00pm Film & Literature - Saving Mr Banks

Thursday, September 14

10:00am Harmony Group--Singing for Fun
1:30pm Executive

Friday, September 15

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future
11:45am Chat N Chew - North Eastern Hotel
1:30pm 'Over There'

Monday, September 18

10:00am (Benalla Computer Club)
10:00am Lifeball
1:30pm Brain Games

Tuesday, September 19

10:00am Armchair Traveller – 'Papua New Guinea' with Judy Perry
1:30pm Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, September 20

10:00am Meet and Mingle
12:00pm Newsletter Deadline
1:30pm Tech Savvy Beginners - Apple - 'Leisure (2)'

Thursday, September 21

10:00am Singing for Fun
1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, September 22

10:00am Music Appreciation
1:30pm Armchair History

Monday, September 25

10:00am Collectors
10:00am Lifeball
1:30pm Writing Workshop

Tuesday, September 26

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
1.30pm 'Facebook for Mentors' training

Wednesday, September 27

10:00am Wine Appreciation - Avenel
1:30pm Member Services Group

Thursday, September 28

Lifeball - Umpire Training Day
9:30am Garden Appreciation - Rutherglen
3:00pm Tech Savvy Talks at Rustik Café

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