



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – May 2017

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Newsletter:

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

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Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by Wednesday 21 June

President's Report



The anticipation is building for our move to the Seniors Building, between the Library and the Fire Station, in Fawkner Drive.

A meeting will be held at 10am on Wednesday 5th July in our new meeting room and it is

essential that all convenors attend. If a convenor is unable to attend please arrange for one of your group to be at the meeting. This will enable all groups to know the layout and facilities of the new venue. Convenors please let me know, by phone or e-mail who will be attending.

U3A will be entering and exiting the building using the side door near the small carpark. This is to prevent disrupting members of the Senior Citizens in their activities.

We have a few items in W4, such as the steel cupboard with the broken lock, TV stand, etc., that will not be going to the new building. Some items are free and others have a small cost attached. If anybody is interested in this please call me on 0412 263 071.

I am very pleased to announce that we have 247 members. If we reach 250 it will be the first time in the history of U3A Benalla that we have had so many members. This will be cause for celebration.

Dorothy Webber President

Group Reports

Armchair History

Henry II first of the Plantagenet Kings with his wife Eleanor made a formidable combination. After subduing the English barons, he imposed a uniform law code throughout Britain known as the Common Law. It was to bring him into dispute with the Church as he sought to limit the powers of church courts. Good King Henry or Bad King Henry? It seems all he is remembered for is the assassination of Archbishop Thomas a Beckett.

We are beginning to read a more contemporary account as Chaucer's pilgrims set out in his Canterbury Tales. I am about to introduce a new element showing history as comedy.

Terry Case

Armchair Traveller

We met with a good attendance on May 16. First presentation was a video of a 4WD visit to Cape York Peninsula from Rupe and Gwen. It was a trip not for the faint-hearted, in about 2008, mostly on the old telegraph road. Lots of creek crossings and mud, but fascinating and colourful despite some technological glitches. Then Jan followed with a PowerPoint presentation of a group back-packer trip to Italy several years ago. Thanks Rupe and Jan, much enjoyed.

We don't meet again until Tuesday July 18, with the program yet to be finalised. Watch this space!

John Avery

Art Appreciation

Quite a few members of the U3A Art Appreciation Group attended the lecture given by Damien Smith, former archivist of the Sidney Nolan Trust U.K., to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sidney Nolan. Surprisingly this is the only exhibition in Australia this year to celebrate this occasion despite several important exhibitions being organised in the U.K.

The Benalla Art Gallery's significant collection of Nolan's work is on display in the Simpson Gallery until 21st May and is well worth a visit. The much loved tapestry of the Glenrowan siege, now restored, is on view. As well, eight of the iconic Kelly-series screen prints tell the story of the Kelly saga.



Two groups of rare photos taken by Nolan between 1949 and 1952 depict the drought in the Queensland outback. They give the viewers insights into where he found some of the well-known images in his landscapes of the red and barren interior of Australia. The mummified images of horses and cattle are particularly arresting. The Brisbane courier Mail didn't print any of these photos despite commissioning some of them, as they were deemed too confronting for their readers.

Smith also commented on the painting "Horse rolling on the beach" (1945). It appears Nolan caught a glimpse of a horse rolling in the sand on St Kilda beach when he was travelling past by tram. Nolan's almost photographic visual memory stored this quirky image and used it later for this painting.

My favourites are the two small studies done in fabric ink and wax crayon that reference Greek Myths entitled "Prometheus" (1968) and "Woman and Bird" (1958).

Nolan was a prolific painter, photographer and voracious reader and collector all his life, interested particularly in myths and poetry. His wide reading

seemed to stimulate his vision and form the basis of some of his works.

Meg Dillon

Postscript: Meg's report also relates to the May session of Art Appreciation, where the exhibition covered was the Sydney Nolan: 100 Year Celebration.

Bird Watching

Our June activity for 2017 will be on **Tuesday 6 June**. We will meet at 10am at the Benalla Golf Club on the Midland Hwy. Please park in front of the practice fairway, just north of the main car park. Vaughan Cowan will introduce us to some attractive, wooded areas of the golf course, and a large dam in a quiet corner of the course. The fairways and large trees attract large numbers of birds. A small section of the walk may be a little rough under foot.

We will then have **lunch at the golf club**. Please let me know by **Thursday 1 June** if you will be coming to lunch so I can reserve a table. Also let me know if you would like a lift. Ph 5762 5755.

Bring binoculars if you have them, sturdy walking shoes, a water bottle and any nibbles you need en route.

Chesney Vale 2 May 2017

We enjoyed the birds and the wonderful scenery at John and Freida's Chesney Vale property on Tuesday 2 May. There was a cool breeze and birds were hard to find, although we enjoyed great views of a Wedge-tailed Eagle flying overhead. Four Dusky Wood swallows were hawking insects above our heads then landing high in a large eucalypt. It was good to see two Restless Flycatchers, a bird that is becoming increasingly rare in the district. Thirteen bird species were recorded for the morning. Thanks to John and Freida for hosting our visit. We all enjoyed our picnic lunch, Freida's cakes and a cuppa afterwards.

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

Both our May sessions had cogs turning and we had it further reinforced that sociable and varying mental and physical challenges are useful. We watched brain research and played web ball. We might even be getting close to conquering number puzzles but will still be pleased when Geoff is back to help.

Elsbeth Maconachie

Chat n' Chew

Next session: 16 June at Bowls Club at 11:45. Please notify Shirley on 5762 6768 of your intention to attend by Tuesday morning 13 June.

Shirley Kearney

Collectors

The theme for this month was music boxes and we had several examples. One was based on a Normal Rockwell painting and another resembled a Russian building and played a Russian tune. A Shelley vase and Wedgewood items – one from the 1880s – caused much discussion. One of our group had recently returned from an overseas holiday and brought along several blue and white items purchased in England, Holland and Germany. Royal Doulton was also on display as well as collections of smaller items. A recently purchased 20 inch OK Kador doll, made in Hong Kong during the 1950s or 60s was also displayed.



Judith Borthwick

e-Book Group

Lucy Treloar's *Salt Creek* is an impressive first novel. She has succeeded in creating an authentic colonial voice in her description of the Finch family, who, in 1855, are forced to move from Adelaide to distant wetlands with few resources, and surrounded by Indigenous people who regarded them as intruders. If there is a stand out theme, it is struggle: Hester struggles to preserve her independence; her father fights to make a living and ensure a future for the family, while Addie and Tully battle to keep their child and have a life together. It may well be that the past and its people are unknowable, but the author's respect for history, and her fine interpretation of one particular family, allow us at least a partial glimpse of the past.

Helen Scheller

Exploring the Universe

Our round table discussion got off to a rather hilarious start when Rupe asked us three quiz questions. "What have been the three most important discoveries in astronomy that have helped us to explore the universe?" Some people had had their Weeties™ for breakfast! The answers

were Galileo's discoveries with his homemade telescope in 1609, the camera and the spectroscope. (The Spectroscope defines the elements of light in space and therefore the properties of the elements and distance can be calculated.)

This set the stage for all our questions when Rupe presented the details of the ten most extreme things in the Universe, (which of course includes our planet Earth.). We had a very late afternoon tea.

Sound can't travel in empty space and there is a popular saying of "In space no one can hear you scream," Jan had an interesting article titled 'Music of Ancients Stars Reveals Stellar Surprise.

Astronomers study radio waves from ancient stars that are caused by star quakes.

Just as seismologists use earthquakes to study the interior of our planet, researchers use star quakes to understand the interior of stars. The star quakes generating sound waves inside the star make the surface vibrate and ring like a hammer on a gong. The different notes can tell astronomers the angle of the star's rotation.

Star quakes emit frequencies that can be detected by the Kepler Space Telescope and scientists record and interpret them for our ears.

After we sorted out the problems of the sound system in Room W4, we were able to hear these recorded sounds, coming from ancient times from stars in outer space many, many light years away.

Bev finished the session with a film explaining the sound recorded from the star quakes and a u-tube from Science at NASA of "The Sound of Earthsong."

Our monthly sessions of Exploring the Universe are very enjoyable and we have more material from recent discoveries than we are able to keep up with.

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

This month we watched *Love and Friendship*, based on an early novel by Jane Austen, but which was not published for many years.

Genre: Comedy, Romance

Plot: Set in the 1790s, *Love and Friendship* centres on beautiful widow Lady Susan Vernon, who has come to the estate of her in-laws to wait out colourful rumours about her dalliances circulating through polite society. Whilst there, she sets about securing a husband for herself and her rather reluctant debutante daughter, Frederica.

Key Characters: Kate Beckinsale - Lady Susan Vernon; Morfydd Clark - Frederica Vernon; Tom Bennett - Sir James Martin; Xavier Samuel - Reginald DeCourcy

Location: Set in and around Dublin.

Other: An extra aspect of interest I found were places we had visited on our travels in Ireland.

Review: At a first glance this is a superficial movie and could be considered a “chick flick”. Looking more deeply it gave a picture of the era, and the issues faced by a penniless widow and a view of the pressures on young girls to marry money. Possibly the stand out performances were by Kate Beckinsale and Tom Bennett. Lady Susan was manipulative and selfish, Sir James was portrayed as a fool, and Reginald as easily led. With a few exceptions, it was only the women who were not easily brought under Lady Susan’s spell. It is Jane Austen’s clever character portrayal that made this an enjoyable movie.

Our June session is on 14 June. We plan to watch the movie *Lantana*, an Australian mystery starring Anthony LaPaglia and Rachael Blake. To allow time to discuss the movie, we 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 discussion, 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

May 25 Meet at Benalla Gardens at 9:15. We will then head to ‘Euroa Garden’, home of Beryl Harris, 35 Gobur Street Euroa. Lunch at Flour Mill, Euroa. Bring something to share for morning tea and your own cup. Hot water, coffee and milk will be provided.

The next two meetings June/July will be indoors with a guest speaker.

June 22 Meet at 10.00 at Benalla Library. Our guest speaker is from the Regent Honeyeater Group. Bring something to share for morning tea, coffee, tea and milk will be provided.

July 27th – Meet 10.00 in our new venue at the Senior Citizens. Betty Lindsay, our guest speaker will take us on a garden tour of the Baltic States and Ukraine.

If you are attending outings or meetings please contact Gwen Turner 5762 7017, or 0438627010.

August will be our winter break.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team

It was a pleasure to visit Kirsten and Marcus and have a new garden to view and work in with a large team despite a couple of apologies. On the last Monday of May we will be at Jane and Bill's in Grey St

Elspeth Maconachie

In the Mood for Opera

Our May modern opera was *Peter Grimes* by Benjamin Britten, produced in 1945. It is the story of a modern English fishing village that vilified Peter Grimes, a morose and bad tempered fisherman whose apprentice died at sea. Village folk thought Grimes was unsuited to be in charge of young apprentices who were mostly taken from the orphanage.

Grimes loved the local schoolteacher who befriended him and tried to soften his grim character but to no avail. The villagers rebelled against his decision to get another apprentice boy from the orphanage despite the schoolteacher trying to ensure the boy was not harmed. One stormy night the apprentice slipped to his death while climbing down the cliff to Grimes’ boat and Grimes took the body and disposed of it in the sea. A terrible clash occurred when villagers confronted him with where the missing apprentice had got to. Grimes distraught with anger and grief took his boat out to sea and sank it thus drowning himself.

Most of us found the opera “interesting” as a modern opera but missed the lush orchestral music and arias of the great C19th operas, despite the beautiful singing and staging of this version. Britten’s music was reminiscent of the sea and storms and contained the lovely orchestral interludes that are often played by themselves as a suite of Four Sea Interludes.

Meg Dillon

Investment

Members of Investment enjoyed the discussion at the May meeting about Constructing a Share Portfolio directed toward Income Producing Stocks. We looked at this subject four different ways. These included some personal preferences, high dividend

yielding stocks from the ASX 50 companies and Buy and Hold recommendations from Market Index. We also worked our way through an example of Dividend Yield Play buying four different shares expressly to get the dividend in a twelve-month period using the same capital.

In another segment Peter Simpson provided us with a list of the ASX200 6 month Best and Worst performing shares for our consideration.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 2 June 2017 at 1.15pm in W4.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

Our group was sorry to hear that Margaret Sellars was sidelined and unable to attend, get well soon Margaret we miss you. Lots of books were read this month with the usual variety of authors and story lines.

No Time for Goodbye written by Linwood Barclay, Patricia Cornwall put in an appearance and also Rosamonde Pilcher. *Saltwater* by Cathy McLennan a true story about the fight for justice with the High Court Commission for the Torres Strait Islanders. The author lives on Magnetic Island, the book is dedicated to 2 aboriginal children who were badly treated and abused and also won the 2014 Literary Award for best emerging author. A good book to look out for. *The Law of Dreams* written about Ireland in 1847, the storyline includes the potato Famine, prostitution and Railways – an interesting mix. *The Glassblower of Murano* was enjoyed. *The Silk Weaver* written about 18th C Britain – how the silk trade worked. *The Secret Son* written by Jenny Ackland proved a challenge to read, but *Salt Creek* by Lucy Treloar was well researched, the story moves from Adelaide to the Coorong and was highly recommended. Scandinavian by Alice Munro set in 1950's Canada drew comparison to some of Somerset Maugham's work. *Call of the Outback* by Ernestine Hill and *Queen of the Road* proved easy reading. Annabel Crabbe author of *Canberra Confidential* is all about past scandals in Canberra, quite a hotbed of intrigue. *Jasper Jones* by Craig Silvey has been released as a movie and was showing at BPACC last week. Jane Harper wrote the crime mystery *The Dry* whilst Jen McLeod gave us a *House for all Seasons*, old school friends were bequeathed an old house, each girl had to spend a season in the house. Reminiscent of 'Are you being

served?' *The Store* by Alexander Fortune is set in a Department store in London.

Happy reading on these cold nights. See you all in the Library on the 6th June at 2.00 p.m.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

Lifeball continues to be the highlight of our week. Today we only had 8 players, so we played half court, and it was hilarious!!! It is a great workout, but the situations that arose provoked constant laughter, and everyone had a ball!!! We are making arrangements for us to go to the Golf Club for lunch on May 29 after we finish playing, which gives us a great opportunity for some much-needed socialisation in a relaxed situation, when there is no need to race home following the game.

We have been approached by Colleen Wilson-Lord, our esteemed leader in Albury, to run an umpires' training day, when potential umpires from surrounding teams (Albury, Deniliquin, Rutherglen, Wangaratta, Myrtleford, Mansfield, Eildon, and us, of course) all meet to learn the rules thoroughly, then put them into practice when teams come onto the court later. Umpires will be put through their paces, testing both their knowledge and practice, and if successful, they will be awarded their credentials at a Fun and Friendship Day later in the year.

This will be a whole day's training, so there will be both morning and afternoon tea, and lunch for all participants.

Some teams have difficulties fielding umpires when we play away, so having a wide selection of umpires takes the responsibility away from those who umpire all the time, at every game.

We are hoping that August 28 will be the selected day, but we must till we have responses from all teams before that date can become definitive. If you like, come and watch our version of hilarity every Monday at 10am at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre, in Ackerly Avenue, and if like what you see, join in!! You will be made very welcome!!!

You don't have to mad to join us, but it sure would be an asset!!!!

Marg Merriman 5762 2967

Meet and Mingle



Wall Art Goorambat Church

Jim Myconos was our guest speaker at the May Meet and Mingle. In a very interesting talk Jim outlined how the Street Art Festival came into being and some of the difficulties the committee faced in getting it off the ground. He also praised local businesses who donated finances or equipment to run the event. Now after running for three years the Street Art this year attracted lots of artists and visitors to the town. Jim said that a 4th Street Art Festival is planned.

Guest speaker for the June Meet and Mingle will be Alison Angus, Tourism Coordinator with the Rural City of Benalla.



Following morning tea, President Dorothy Webber spoke about the move to our new U3A venue at the Senior Citizens, which will occur in early July.

Judith Borthwick

Music Appreciation

28th April 2017

John presented the session. We commenced with:

- Brahms(1833 – 1897) - Trio in Eb Major for French Horn, Violin and Piano.
- Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893) - Symphony No. 6 'Pathetique'

We concluded with Frederic Nicholas Duvernoy (1765 – 1838) - Trio No. 1 for French Horn, Violin and Piano.

12th May, 2017

John presented the session as follows:

- Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) – Enigma Variations (15), Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra conductor Zubin Mehta.
- Heinrich Von Herzogenberg (1843 – 1900) – Trio for Horn, Oboe and Piano.

- Mozart (1756 – 1791) – The Choir – Ave Verum Corpus.
- Mozart – 'Musical Joke' (Ein Musikalischer Spass)
- Beethoven (1770 – 1827) – Romance No. 2, Violinist Takako Nishizaki.

Joan Visvader

Patchwork

I quote from a Thank You Card received from Meryl Baston of the Uniting Church in Benalla: "Dear Dot, my jaw dropped with pleasure and excitement when I opened the bag of rugs Irene Erskine passed onto me from U3A, for the Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Please thank your ladies most sincerely for their generosity and effort." It is nice to be appreciated for our contribution to the community.

On July 6 we will have our first afternoon in our new meeting room at the Seniors, 1pm to 4pm

Dorothy Webber

Politics and Current Affairs

Another fake news report was sent by Terry Case?

I keep telling the class we will get away from American politics, but the Von Trump family have a way of dominating the news (real & fake) and make some of us scared. The threat of war often makes people unite so it is also a tool desperate politicians use. Trump became President promising to look after America first and stay out of costly conflicts, so how would you rate him at this stage?

Terry Case

Play Reading

This month we completed the second and final act of *Calendar Girls*. It was great fun to read. Some of us were lucky enough to obtain tickets for the Wangaratta Players live performance of the play and were able to discuss this in class. The performance was outstanding to the point where an extra performance was scheduled.

Our next play is *Table by the Window* by English playwright Terrence Rattigan. Educated at Harrow, Terrence Rattigan was knighted in 1971 for services to the theatre. His plays *V.I.P.s* and *The Yellow Rolls Royce* are among others made into successful films. For a time, Rattigan was the highest paid screen writer in the world.

Table 1: Table By The Window, one of two one act plays in the well-known production *Separate Tables*,

focuses on the troubled relationship between a disgraced politician now turned to drink and his wife. Both plays are about people who are driven by loneliness into a state of desperation. It appears then to be a real contrast to Calendar girls. We look forward to the challenge and discussion. Why not come and join us?

Claire Rudolph

Singing for Fun

Members of the Singing for Fun group have excellent voices and get great enjoyment from the variety of songs which the conductors present to them twice a month. The number of members in the group has stayed very similar for a number of years. Hence the repertoire of songs is increasing substantially.

At the Harmony meeting in May our pianist Gwen Barnes guided us through the parts of "Amazing Grace" for Faith Hicks who unfortunately was sick and unable to come to the meeting.

Margaret Merriman helped us with the part singing of "Hallelujah" which should be worth listening to when we have a little more practice.

With the help of Brian Greed we achieved another module of "The Rhythm of Life" and enjoyed singing all the modules of the song we have learned at the one time.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 1 June 2017 at 10am at the Baptist Church in Bridge Street.

Margaret Jenkins

Tech Savvy

Tech Savvy Beginners

The first Android class met early in May – while a smaller group than the iPad group, the variation in Android devices kept Bev and Pat busy. Jenny is in China, however we kept to her curriculum, adding contacts to the contacts book/address book and becoming familiar with lots of internet skills while completing the treasure hunt on the U3A Benalla and District website. Lots of topics which will come up during the course arose during our discussions.

The second Android class took place with Jenny Uthrea at the helm. Participants checked their contact list, emailed, looked up places around Benalla and looked at the directions via Google Maps. Participants are looking forward to an email reply and China photos from Jenny. Finally we all

managed to delete our search history from the past hour.

Jenny Sawyer & Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Plus

A guest speaker, Faye Blainey, introduced us to Geocaching, a 'treasure hunt' using your phone or tablet to locate the treasure. Geocaching has a very large following world-wide with many "treasures" located around Benalla. After locating three practice caches near W4 we ventured out in search of the "Real Treasures" located near Lake Benalla. More information on Geocaching can be found at geocaching.com.



An alternative to Geocaching is a similar "Treasure Hunt" game Munzee which is very popular with many active locations in Benalla. Again, for more information go to munzee.com

All-in-all a fun afternoon. Thanks Faye

Terry Dillon

Tech Savvy Talks

The Tech Savvy Talks group has been working through our list of topics for Semester I, moving recently on to looking at 'alternatives to baseload energy'. Brian

demonstrated his models of Sterling engines at our May Meeting to start the conversation and Richard Morton from Sunreal has



been booked for a future session. We considered news of an educational initiative in our region introducing children to technological innovations including 3D printing, following this by viewing a Ted Talk by Mitch Resnick of 'Scratch' titled 'Let's Teach Kids to Code'. Les Rodgers then provided an informative update on the rolling out of the NBN in Benalla. Les could give us some indication from the NBN website as to whether we might receive NBN to the kerb. It appears seems some areas of Benalla will receive this (preferable) option because of the age of existing conduits. Les did stress that the information appears to be changing.

Clare, Peter, David and Les met for coffee and conversation at Rustik on Wednesday 26th April. Les facilitated a discussion about LTE Broadcasting which early adopter Telstra has been trialling and which will be rolled out nationwide next year. It is basically aimed at high quality video or multimedia services for mobile devices capable of receiving 4G LTE-B transmissions although, obviously, the content could be cast to a TV receiver from mobiles using a Chromecast or similar device. The content to be provided is not fully decided but could range from sporting events to first release movies. Both Telstra and Optus appear to be looking ahead for new products and services to replace existing ones in life after NBN.

Please note - The coffee catch up date has changed from the fourth Wednesday to 10.30 am on the fourth Thursday at Rustik to enable tech savvy wine aficionados to attend Wine Appreciation activities as a less cerebral endeavour!

Bev Lee & Les Rodgers

Towards a Sustainable Future

Environment Victoria's [#Repower Victoria](#) campaign is currently asking Benalla residents 'If you could repower an iconic building in Benalla with clean energy from the wind and sun, which one would you choose?' Which one would you choose?

Benalla Council has already acted in relation to many of its buildings, including the Benalla Art Gallery and the Indoor Recreation Centre, adopting an innovative strategy involving using the savings made from use of renewable energy in one building being invested in a further round of renewable energy based technology. 'Towards a Sustainable Future' group members are active in the community in a range of ways, through personal initiatives relating to sustainability of their homes; to attending Benalla Sustainable Future group general meetings (which often feature guest speakers with particular expertise in areas we discuss in class); to contributing to [the BSFG newsletter](#) (for example, recent articles 'Clean Coal in an oxymoron! Welcome to 'alternative facts' and the 'post truth' world!' by John Lloyd; 'Want to be a green shopper?' by Jenny Geer; to putting pen to paper to respond to issues discussed in class such as [Frank Dunin's recent writing](#) for our webpage in response to Scott Morrison's presentation of a lump of coal in a Parliamentary speech. If you are interested in keeping abreast of developments directed towards a

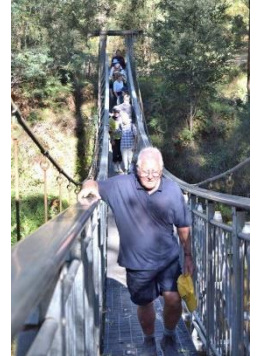
sustainable future, please consider joining us on the first and third Fridays of the month from 9.30 to 11.30 am

Bev Lee

Walks

Easy walk Wed June 7

Starting from the Spring Creek picnic ground, we will visit the Warby North lookout for great views. The walk is relatively short and not too steep, and is ideal for beginners!! We will leave the Centre car park at 10.00 am and please let me know if you will be walking on 5762 1980.



Mid-week walk Wed June 14

Also in the Warby Ranges, we will be visiting Mount Glenrowan. Normally we walk from the Tamanick Gap, but this time we will start from Wirrinia Avenue off the Warby Range road and climb Chick Hill on the way. There is a steep climb for the first 400 m, but there are good views even if it is foggy, and the climb will keep you warm. We have lunch overlooking Glenrowan and return the same way. We leave Benalla at 9.30am. Please let me know if you intend to walk on 5762 1980.



Vaughan Cowan

Wine Appreciation

Wednesday 28 June

2017: Meet at car park and travel to Cofields at Rutherglen for tour of winery.

Lunch at the adjacent Pickles café.

Wednesday 26 July: Plan to still meet at the same car park for the time being for a 10.30 start and propose to go to Browns Milawa last visited by our group in 1998. Lunch possibly at the King River café to be confirmed.



Keith & Heather 5762 4086

Writing Workshop

Our 'Failure' stories in late April were all stories of learning and adjustment as well as failure. Stories were shared about writers' block; anxiety during the final stages of a high jump competition; difficulties mastering the recorder as a trainee primary school teacher; the demands on successfully running a milk bar as the mother of four young children and of exam failure, fortunately later overcome. Joy wrote a reflective piece on the nature of failure if one was more academic than athletic; while an insightful acrostic about the nature of failure was presented by Maxine which you can read on her page in 'Our Stories' on the website. Time was also spent reflecting on the complex nature of writing comedy – we viewed sets by Fiona O'Loughlin and Dave Allen; raised Dave Hughes' Logie recent awards 'set' in terms of cringe worthy moments; and also remembered the wonderful writing of John Clarke who had passed away a only few days earlier.

Our next topic is [I Was There](#). The brief: *Have you experienced a significant news, historical or cultural event first hand?* Share your personal piece of history in 500 words.

Our May Café Catch up at the Northo was well attended, with the sharing of ideas for 'I Was There'; the offering of Ray's first 'I Was There' story on the bushfires of 1951; a beautiful poem by Pat 'Growling', ideas for the writing exercise suggested by Joy, and more.

Please note next month's regular meeting in W4 has been shifted to the fifth Monday – 29th May - as the Flexible Learning Centre needs to use W4 on 22nd May.

Bev Lee

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.

Bev Lee

Community News

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).

Jenny McKenna

Conveners

Computer Display

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.

Some dates for your diary:

Christmas in July

Saturday the 29th July 2017

- Christmas in July at the Swanpool Memorial Hall
- Fund raiser for the Swanpool Oval Committee
- Delicious two course dinner plus drinks 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)

- 2017 Swanpool Bald Archy Exhibition
- Open 10:00am till 4:00pm daily
- Entry \$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.

What's On In June

Thursday, June 1

10:00 Singing for Fun

1:00 Patchwork

Friday, June 2

9:30 Towards a Sustainable Future

1:15 Investment

Monday, June 5

10:00 Lifeball

10:00 Art Appreciation

1:30 Brain Games

Tuesday, June 6

10:00 Birdwatching - Benalla Golf Course

10:00 E-Book Group

2:00 Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, June 7

9:45 Play Reading - 'Table by the Window'

10:00 Easy Walks - Warby North Lookout

1:30 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android #3

Thursday, June 8

10:00 Harmony Group - Singing for Fun

1:30 Executive

Friday, June 9

10:00 Music Appreciation

1:15 Armchair History

Monday, June 12

10:00 Lifeball

2:00 Garden Team

2:30 Writing Workshop - Cafe Catchup

Tuesday, June 13

10:00 Politics & Current Affairs

1:30 Tech Savvy Plus

Wednesday, June 14

9:30am Bushwalking - Mount Glenrowan, Warby Ranges

10:00am Tech Savvy Talks

1:00 Film and Literature - 'Lantana'

7:00 In the Mood for Opera

Thursday, June 15

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00 Patchwork

Friday, June 16

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future

11:45am Chat N Chew - Bowls Club

Monday, June 19

10:00am Collectors

10:00am Lifeball

1:30 Brain Games

Tuesday, June 20

1:30 Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, June 21

10:00am Meet and Mingle

12:00 Newsletter Deadline

1:30 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android #4

Thursday, June 22

10:00am Garden Appreciation

10:30am Tech Savvy Talks at Rustik Cafe

Friday, June 23

10:00am Music Appreciation

1:15 Armchair History

Monday, June 26

10:00am Lifeball

1:30 Writing Workshop

Tuesday, June 27

10:00am Politics and Current Affairs

1:30 Tech Savvy Plus

Wednesday, June 28

10:00am Wine Appreciation - Rutherglen

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