



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – April 2019

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by 25 April, 2019

President's Report

2019 Annual President's Report

The past year has seen Benalla U3A go from strength to strength. This time last year our membership was 275. Currently membership stands at 308 and is still growing.

Our classes are proving as popular as ever, the new classes running in semester one have had great start and with the dedication of our convenors all our classes are having a successful year. This semester is the first time we have had to close numbers for some groups as space is tight.

As numbers continue to grow our accommodation will become an issue. We as a Committee have started discussing this for the years to come.

We ran a very successful 'Be Connected' Summer School. Thank you, Jenny Sawyer. I hope the concept of Summer Classes will grow and become a major part of January.

Grant money from the Good Things Foundation enabled us to train 30 people in the use of their devices.

Age Friendly Benalla donated three cellular Wi-Fi iPads for our use and also a grant towards our Seniors Month Morning Tea which was enjoyable and successful. We will continue to apply for grants as the need arises. Thanks go to Margaret Jenkins, our grants guru.

Getting some office space has seen us being able to bring together the office materials that members had in their homes. A new computer and printer has been purchased. Great work from Geraldine setting up the filing cabinet.

The Singing for Fun group piano was replaced. I trust the new piano will give sweet notes for many years.

Thanks to Terry Dillon for the many hours he has dedicated to supporting and training us in the use of our technology.

The overhead projector was purchased and installed with grant money from the U3A Network and, with the painted wall, is now a greatly used part of our technology.

Last week the problems with the computer and television were sorted, with a number of the committee spending time with Michael Plex.

I'm pleased to announce the connection to the NBN was installed on 12 March. As Benalla Council decided not to connect to the NBN, U3A has gone it alone. An offer was made to the Senior Citizens committee to share with us. They have not decided as yet.



Congratulations to our two new life members **Joyce Borschmann & Vaughan Cowan**, pictured above. Joyce & her husband Bob, started the Singing for Fun group & Joyce has been the convener from the start till last year. Over the years the singers have gone from strength to strength and have become one of the most popular groups.

Vaughan has likewise led the Bush Walking groups for 16 plus years. It is always great to see the photos of smiling faces and wonderful scenery on our website and Facebook page.

Both Joyce and Vaughan started with U3A in 1996 and after U3A closed down took up their roles with the new formation of U3A in 2002. I thank them and congratulate them on their many years of volunteering with U3A.

Lastly I must thank and congratulate your committee for the support they have given me and the hours they volunteer to make U3A Benalla the successful and vibrant club that we are. I am looking forward to 2019 continuing in the positive way it has started.

Thank you.

Dorothy Webber, President

Group Reports

A Night at the Opera: French Style

Beatrice and Benedict by Berlioz

We looked at the Glyndebourne 2016 production of this tuneful opera. Berlioz was enthralled by Shakespeare and this opera is a version he produced of Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing*. A very sarcastic Beatrice constantly hurls barbed comments at Benedict and he replies in kind. Despite this, these strong feelings are eventually changed into a reluctant acknowledgement of love and they marry rather hastily. One wonders how it would work out? But not to worry, we don't get to see them experiencing domestic bliss. Feminists should beware of this opera, it supports the old clichés of women reluctantly placing themselves under the domination of men. What on earth would Shakespeare think if he had to try and write a play about equal partnerships in modern marriage? The music was great and we enjoyed this teasing opera that has a happy ending.



Meg Dillon

Armchair Traveller

16 members attended the March group meeting to hear Andrea Stevenson and Brian Vial give an interesting and informative account of their visits to Papua New Guinea. Thank you Andrea and Brian.

The next meeting on 7th May will hear Neville Gibb give a talk on Germany and/or Venice.

I have Bill Paris on standby for a talk in the second semester but volunteers are always welcome. Please contact me if you are interested.

Ray O'Shannessy

Art Appreciation

At our March meeting we were given a lecture by Bryony on portraits in the Simpson Gallery.

Bryony concentrated on the two portraits of Henry Johnson and Caroline Johnson by Joseph Backler.

Unfortunately not much is known about Henry and Caroline Johnson - -were they husband and wife or brother and sister for instance? A quick check of NSW historical records does not throw up any information. As the paintings were done before the Gold Rush it is unfortunate that nothing is known of the figures as they could have been significant members of the small community.

However we do know something of the Artist Joseph Backler. Joseph was an ex-convict who after his ticket of leave was granted made his living as an artist. Convicted of being a forger he was transported to Sydney and during his early years in Australia suffered further heavy punishment because he was suspected of further forging activities. But even when he was on Norfolk Island he managed to do several paintings. He was not an Artist who mingled with the art crowd in Sydney, but nevertheless a number of his paintings have survived. He travelled around the colony with a handcart carrying his art supplies advertising his capacity for portraits. His portraits concentrated on showing details of the face and leaving the rest of the portrait with general impressions. It could be that he used props to fill in details of clothes etc. However his portraits do show a certain amount of character and appear to make no attempt to improve the beauty or otherwise of the sitters.

Elsewhere there are other portraits by Clifton Pugh and Albert Tucker that are worth viewing and are valuable assets of the Gallery.

Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

We began our March session by hearing from group members who are writing their story for family members using a timeline or life stage approach. Ray O'Shannessy distributed copies of the book he had written and printed for his family and spoke about his process, which involved using themes as well as life stages. Ray shared lessons he learnt along the way, particularly 'Don't rush'. Noelle McCracken also made a valued contribution, drawing upon her history in publishing to talk about a way of printing and publishing a work that is going to be added to over time

We then revisited last month's 'Family Traits' topic - Betty and Neville shared their stories followed by a small group activity prompted by selecting a trait from a pack of Strengths cards.

After the break fascinating stories were shared on our March topic 'I Broke It' – reflective stories about all the things we can break, from broken head gaskets miles from anywhere, to broken nails, high heels, ankles, backs, hearts and more. There were quirky stories and stories which broke our hearts.

Our April session has been rescheduled to Monday 29th April as the 22nd is Easter Monday. The topic is *'Faking It'*, The brief? *'Have you ever inflated your credentials to land a coveted job, told a silly lie to save face in front of a new acquaintance, or felt well and truly out of your comfort zone when you tried something new. Perhaps faking it helped you gain the experience or tools necessary to bring about real change, whether you were pretending to the world or just deluding yourself. How did you feel at the time, and how do you feel about it now? Did your fakery ever get found out? Did you surprise anyone, even yourself?'*

Bev Lee

Bird Watching

Fourteen participants attended our outing on 14 March, enjoying a leisurely walk around the southern half of Lake Benalla. The lake has been a drought refuge for birds over our very hot and dry summer, and we were pleased to record 32 different species for the morning. There were a lot of small bush birds around the bridge on to Jaycee Island, including Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Red-browed Finches, White-browed Scrub wren, White-browed Treecreeper and a good number of Superb Fairy-wrens. And there was the beautiful Azure Kingfisher which flashed

past under the bridge and quickly disappeared downstream. Thanks Margaret Walshe for the photo on the bridge. For a complete list of the birds recorded, please see our eBird list at

<https://ebird.org/australia/view/checklist/S54160519>



Next outing Thursday 11 April 2019 to Euroa

Please note we will not be able to do the planned walk along Holland's Creek via Willis Little Drive. Instead we make a morning visit Euroa, looking over the fence for water birds at the water treatment plant, then going to the nearby Euroa arboretum. We will meet as usual in the car park behind the Seniors Building in Benalla at 9.30am on Thursday 11 April. Please wear comfortable footwear and bring binoculars and any food and drink you require. The arboretum will be open for native plant sales when we visit

Kathy Costello

Booker Reading Group

Warlight by Michael Ondaatje

Now in his 70s, Ondaatje reminisces about a London he knew in the late 1940s, bringing his extensive knowledge of the city to the fictional story of two children abandoned by their middle class parents and left in the care of an eccentric and varied group of guardians, some of whom are minor criminals. Through Nathaniel we see the underbelly of this city recovering from war. People scabble to make ends meet: travelling the Thames at night picking up contraband greyhounds; working in the laundry of a large hotel – Nathaniel starts to see the way adults organize their lives and abandons school to learn from life. Neither of the children realise their parents work in the post-war secret service and eventually the children are in danger from their parents enemies. Later in life Nathaniel tries to make sense of his teenage years and work out just what his mother did and why she left them. His isolation and loneliness seem to stem from these

experiences and his abandonment of his teenage girlfriend. Ondaatje explores the way memories of past experiences are unearthed and explored when adults reflect on life seeking some understanding their behaviour. Lively discussions resulted from the very mixed responses to this book from our group. Our April book is *Everything Under* by Daisy Johnson. Anyone who has read it is welcome to join us in the Library at 2pm, Thursday 18th April.

Meg Dillon

Brain Games

I hope you've been seeing new places, acquiring a new skill or doing mind /body exercise so you can keep up with the group when we meet on April 9.

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalks

Easy Walks

Wednesday 3 April – Lake Benalla Walking Track

Meet in the car park behind the Seniors Complex at 9.45 to depart at 10 am for a walk around our beautiful Lake Benalla Walking Track & surrounds, concluding with lunch in the Gardens. Bring water, nibbles and your lunch. Margaret Walshe 5762 3906 (Note--change in location from Yarrawonga).

Wednesday 1 May - Lake Sambell, Beechworth

The walk around Lake Sambell and nearby passes by part of Beechworth's early gold mining history. Beechworth is a well-preserved historic town, colorful in autumn featuring many mature deciduous trees. The morning walk will be around Lake Sambell with an extension to the walk following lunch.

Meet in the car park behind the Seniors Complex (U3A), Fawckner Drive, Benalla at 9.45am for departure at 10am. Participants, please contact Wendy Sturgess on 0403 226 649 by Monday, 29 April 2019, phone: 0403 226 649.

Margaret Walshe

Mid Week Walks



Eight walkers enjoyed great weather to do three very different walks at Mt Buffalo in March. Dicksons falls, the Hump and the Old Galleries.

Three members had never walked on Mt Buffalo previously.

The next walk is Wednesday 10th April 2019 Beechworth Woolshed Falls S-3-3 Beginning at the Powder Magazine we follow Spring Creek past the Cascades, goldfields and onto Woolshed falls. 10km. Meet at the 'The Centre' Tennis Courts Barkly St. Leave Benalla 9.15 am.

John Boehm - 0428254801

Chat n' Chew

Because our April date is on Good Friday we will not be meeting for lunch until **Friday 17th May at the Dragon Gate Restaurant at 12.00 midday.**

Please contact me by leaving a message with Trish Potter on 5762 1117.

Shirley Kearney

Collectors

We had a diverse range of items on display in March as a theme had not been set.

Jacquie's 1964 Ferris radio in its original box caused much comment. Jacquie was able to tell us that in 1934 William and George Ferris established Ferris Bros in Sydney. By the early 1960's the company employed about 700 workers. It was sold in 1970. William died in 2007 aged 93. His obituary said that his wife Joan still listened to the news on their 1947 Ferris radio.



Jennifer's pictures (prints/copies) had hung in her parent's and grandparent's homes. Jacquie did some research into these pictures after our meeting and discovered some interesting facts about the painter of the originals. We look forward to hearing what she discovered at our next meeting.

Janet showed a silver butter dish with a space underneath for ice to keep butter cool. It had a unique handle in the shape of a cow. Robyn showed some of her lovely Carlton Ware including a recently acquired piece from the Baddagginie Op Shop, a real find. Robyn has also done some research and found some facts on the company which manufactured Janet's butter dish.

Margaret's two embroidered supper cloths were much admired. One she embroidered herself in

different colours. The other was white on white and was made by her grandmother with the date 1897 embroidered in one corner.

Dave brought along a souvenir mug and cap from the Junee roundhouse and spoke about the Goulburn roundhouse where railways locomotives and carriages were repaired.

John's programs were of much interest. They included a 1956 program from the Euroa Show, one from a 1960's Ashton's Circus and one from 'My Fair Lady' at her Majesty's Theatre in which local man John Lidgerwood performed.

Our theme for April is 'Animals' which covers a very broad range so we should have some very interesting items.

Judith Borthwick

Creative Writing

Thank you for those who were able to attend our class on Monday. It was a public holiday and not formally scheduled, so it was great to see so many. The contributions were as usual varied and interesting.

The topics that were covered were "Monday was supposed to be the worst day of the week. Today had it beat by a mile" and "Rain turned the narrow path into a stream of mud and dead leaves". The third topic available was not selected by anyone at the class – maybe we could use this one at another time.

The contributions ranged from science fiction to a tragic car accident as a result of drink driving to the impacts of drought.

A few of the stories had quite sad or tragic endings, but a couple were certainly sitting with an option for "to be continued". One of these was based on a previous piece of writing. Another contribution was also based on previous writing, but the member plans to turn the original piece into a full book, with each topic forming a part of a chapter – a challenge as to how to weave a possibly unrelated topic into something that fits the story.

Our topics for April are:

- The day our great Uncle Tobias came to visit was like no other.
- The lights of a dozen ships twinkled on the horizon
- The old man leaned forward over the table.

Joy Shirley

e-Book Group

The next book on our list was *Women in Love*, by DH Lawrence. This has variously been described as lacking momentum, too wordy, and vague about the aspirations and desires of its central characters Gudrun, Ursula, Rupert and Gerald. While these criticisms are valid up to a point, they in no way detract from the power and sensuality of this twentieth century classic. Lawrence achieves his effect not so much by a logical sequencing of events, but by the creation of a series of tableaux which depict the struggles of the protagonists to understand each other and the world around them. The novel reaches a climax with the death of Gerald in the Bavarian Alps and Gudrun, Ursula and Rupert are left to resolve the issues of love and life in their own inimitable ways.

Helen Scheller

Exercises for Fun

Our new participants are settling in well, and we welcome them to our Monday morning Exercise Class, held weekly, in a magnificent air-conditioned hall, where we all try to improve our fitness, our mobility and our co-ordination.

We are an enthusiastic group who enjoy the friendly and fun environment.

Everyone is welcome, and there is a cuppa afterwards. See you there.

Have fun.

Helen Jeffree

Exploring the Universe

We listened to the sound of the wind on another planet!

NASA's robotic lander 'Insight' landed on Mars in November 2018. It aims to drill below Mars' surface to measure heat flow and seismic activity, (Mars quakes.) Insight initially recorded the unexpected sounds of the Martian wind blowing across its solar panels. In a video from NASA, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=451JmrOA-v4> this is the first time we have listened to the wind on another planet!

We followed this with the film 'Imaging the Red Planet', from the High Resolution Stereo Camera on the European Space Agency's 'Mars Express' orbiter. Its data has provided spectacular images and global mapping of 80 percent of the Martian surface. We could see ancient water courses from a time millions of years ago when the planet had a warmer and wet climate. One remark was that it looked almost habitable!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2bSruMfXks>

Viewing the desolate landscape of the Moon against the blackness of space, in another first we saw raw footage from cameras on the Chinese Chang'e 4 spacecraft, of the landing on the far side of the Moon on January 3rd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2bSruMfXks>

The moon is tidally locked to the Earth by the Earth's gravity, so the same side always faces us.

Chang'e 4 comprises a lander and a robotic rover that will study the Moon's much rougher far side surface. Radio astronomy data of deep space from observations made from this radio-quiet area will be shared with scientists worldwide.

Radio transmission to Earth is blocked by the Moon on the far side. China National Space Administration had previously placed a communication relay satellite in a stable orbit to communicate between the lander and Earth

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

Our film for discussion at our March class was "Green Book". Everyone enjoyed watching the film, with some strong reactions to the treatment of African-American people in the south of the USA in the 60s – and questions as to how much has or has not changed in the 50 years since.

This film was the winner of the Best Movie at the Academy Awards (although there was some controversy) and Mahershala Ali who played an African-American classical pianist won the award for Best Supporting Actor. We agreed that it was a great film, and Ali's performance was worthy of the award.

The film is based on a true story. Tony Lip, a working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver for Dr Donald Shirley, the classical pianist, on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South. The title of the film comes from the Green Book that listed accommodation available for African-Americans. The film was full of contrasts – Tony a racist Italian bouncer; Dr Shirley an African American; Tony with a close Italian family; Dr Shirley a lonely man; treatment of African-Americans in the north of the USA: treatment in the south. It follows how both the men grow and appreciate the other's strengths. While there were some disturbing scenes as the men face the problems of an African-American in the south of the country, the film had a happy ending with the men becoming close friends until their death, both dying in 2013 within a few months of one another.

Reviews have compared the film with "Driving Miss Daisy" (friendship between an African-American driver with an upper-class employer), but we thought it was closer to "The Help" (showing the difficulties experienced by African-Americans). A very enjoyable movie that we rated as around 3-4 out of 5.

It was decided to select two films for our April class – "Captain Marvel" and "A Dog's Way Home". Everyone is invited to watch at least one of these movies for our April class on 10 April.

Possible discussion points could be around the use of the computer graphics in "Captain Marvel" or comparisons of "A Dog's Way Home" with the lost animal films we have seen in the past.

Joy Shirley

Games

As two times have been advertised for Games, the official time will now be 1.30 pm. I hope this will solve the confusion. Unfortunately I won't be at the April 1st games, hope to make it in May

Dorothy Webber

Garden Appreciation

Wangaratta U3A Garden Appreciation group met some of our Garden group in the Benalla Gardens on the 12th March followed by lunch at the Bowls Club. A good opportunity to swap ideas and chat about 'gardening'!

April – Anzac Day 25TH April – Brown Brothers

As the roads around the Seniors building will be closed off for Anzac Day March we will meet at the **Mitre 10 Car park at 10.00 a.m.**

Morning tea will be at Brown Brothers Vineyard and garden and if enough people come we will have lunch at Whorouly otherwise somewhere local in Milawa. After lunch there could be a mystery visit to somewhere, yet to be organised!!

May - May 23rd - Cloud Hill, Olinda

A bus trip with **Benalla Bus Lines** to Cloude Hill Olinda. This is a magnificent garden in the Dandenongs. Stone walls and garden 'rooms' and complete with a nursery.

Meet at Benalla Rose Gardens at 7.30am. **The cost will be \$45 which covers the bus, morning tea, entry and tour.**

Lunch at own cost "Olinda Cafe". Please book and pay by 18th April. Payment can be at Meet and Mingle that week or left at the Redb4 Bookshop in Bridge Street.

Please confirm with Gwen 0438627010 or 5762 7017 if you are attending either of these days.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team

Our afternoon tea was under the grapevine - hard to visualise that so recently we appreciated the added cool from the misting-fan - but I still feel it was the goat who did best as there were many rose prunings for her after our labours at Frank and Val's. We have the April 8th session at Arundel St and will decide there where the last Monday (April 29th) session will be.

Elsbeth Maconachie

German for Beginners

The modern way of learning a language quickly is to listen, think, then speak. To give everyone a reasonable opportunity to speak, I considered it necessary to restrict numbers at 20. To those that missed out, please accept my sincere apologies. Considerable attention has been given to correct pronunciation from the beginning.

However, dispensing with pen and paper was a leap too far for most. Therefore, the method of delivery was slightly modified very early on.

The group is diverse, ranging from absolute beginners to fluent speakers. Hence, although Hochdeutsch is being taught, participants have been constantly exposed to regional variations of dialect. Their application and enthusiasm have been impressive.

A different theme is chosen for the vocabulary each week. In the first 7 weeks, the 3 genders of nouns and their plurals, all 4 cases, present and future tenses of verbs and all things related to number and time will have been explored.

Pauline Bailey

History: After the Victorians

We watched a dvd of slum clearance in London in the late 1890s and subsequent re development for better off tenants. Robert Roberts' book The classic slum provided a firsthand account of what it was like to live in a poor district of a large city and generated comments of what our grandparents told of their upbringing.

Australia at this time was developing the White Australia policy to disqualify Japanese and other Asian immigrants, although they had to be careful to avoid British censure. Queensland initially opposed the other states as labourers from the Pacific Islands were used extensively in that state.

The April session will feature a dvd giving an excellent overview of Europe & America in the period from 1900 to WW1.

Terry Case

History: An Introduction to Civilization

Meet the Romans

It's impossible to cover Roman history of 900 years in four hours of discussion and viewings. Instead we explored a highly selective set of issues that still seem important to historians today. These included Rome as the first mega-city of one million people: how it was supplied from the resources of its conquered territories and how its population lived. We looked at computer recreations of the port of Ostia through which many of the goods arrived to feed and supply everyday needs. We compared the Republican government with the Empire that followed when dictators, styled as Emperors, captured the government of Rome. We explored why the Republic and the Empire both collapsed due to such pressures as the constant warfare on the borders; the pressures of large groups of 'barbarians' invading in order to find land to settle in; massive corruption in the governing classes, the drying up of the supply of slaves that were the 'working class' of the ancient world. Rome grew too big to sustain effective control over its massive territories as its armies shrank and became less loyal and it had no way of being able to use fast communications to manage its territories. Rome was never a democracy but despite this, or maybe because of this, it survived for around 900 years, much of this time being a major power in the Mediterranean.



Meg Dillon

Investment

At the March meeting of Investment we looked at the February Reporting Season for a number of groups of shares. These included shares which showed a substantial price decrease for various reasons after they had reported; shares which gave shareholders a special dividend as well as the usual interim dividend; and shares that showed a substantial price increase after they had reported.

We also looked at the published results from a survey of 850 on-line viewers of Cuffelinks into reactions to the Financial Services Royal Commission. This survey covered how well viewers were satisfied with the recommendations of the Final Report as well as other questions such as whether the Commission should have addressed vertical integration by separating financial advice from product manufacture.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 5 April 2019 at 2pm in the U3A room at the senior's complex.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

The weather during February encouraged much reading among our members, it was too hot outside to do much else.

Phillipa Gregory received a warm response for her book *The Little House*, this was not one of her Tudor historical novels but a mystery with a great finish. It doesn't disappoint. Franklin and Eleanor once again pleased – a powerful couple in that era. *Burning Fields by Ellie Sinclair* told of a sugar cane farm in North Queensland after the War.

Some interesting and varied reading was done by Lyn who went from *The Last Tzar, The Unusual Life of Edna Walling* and finished with *Ruth Bader Ginsburgh* who was appointed by Bill Clinton as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the USA. A very astute and admired lady.

An unusual read was *Little* by Edward Carey. This unusual story is about an orphan named Marie who was born in Switzerland in 1761 and through many travels in life became the famed Madam Tussaud. A very good read. *The Cutting Room* by Louise Welch a mystery, tells the story of an auctioneer asked to clean out and auction a deceased estate, he found more than he bargained for in the attic! *The Labyrinth of Spirit* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon is the final part of Zafon's historical Spanish quartet *The Cemetery of Forgotten Books*, this is a genre crossing delight. *Young Digger* by Anthony Hill, a Canberra Journalist, the true story from WW1 of a French boy orphaned during the War and how he was bought to Australia, this was reviewed recently and received good press.

The Lady and the Unicorn, history and imagination, the mystery behind the medieval tapestries that hang in the Cluny museum in Paris.

Sarah Thornhill by Kate Grenville, the author of *The Secret River*, was very much enjoyed by Margaret who gave us a great review.

I can't list all the books read, but as you can see the reading is wonderfully varied and interesting

Geraldine McCorkell

Meditation

As we will have had our sixth session now, I believe that some people enjoy the session and find it relaxing, calming and enjoyable. 1st and 3rd Monday - 4pm - 5pm.

Caroline Sims

Music Appreciation

Friday 8th March From Bach who took the high baroque to its absolute height, and was probably the most astonishing technical composer of all time, to Mozart who wrote prolifically and perfectly on a level that's never been rivalled, whose "genius" was so manifest as to dwarf every other composer of his time, to Beethoven who by comparison had to struggle for his craft more than either of the above.

This has been our musical journey so far this year.

Although he wrote far less music than many of his contemporaries and predecessors, it is argued that Beethoven produced music that was somehow richer: richer, simply because in 'struggling for every note on the page' as one critic put it, he "transcended form and reinvented small forms and blew up the symphony forever thereafter".

Beethoven as the bridge between the "classical and the "romantic " periods of composition was the subject of this morning's musical exploration. Bookending the programme with the overture to and the finale of "Fidelio" – the only opera Beethoven produced (and 10 years nearly in the making at that) – we traced his work sequentially from early to later by opus numbers including excerpts from the range of instruments and genres for which he composed.

A number of 'significant' compositions were deliberately omitted from this morning's session with a mind to a larger celebration of Beethoven's contribution to music around the time of the 250th anniversary of his birth next year.

From solo to septet and sonata to symphony, you can view our morning's presentation, complete with Youtube links to the various performances, on the Music Appreciation page of the U3A website.

Bill Squire

Friday 22nd March Bill could not attend this week's music session so I picked the music we were to listen to.

I have long been interested in the contradiction between popular versus excellence in music. Popular does not always equal excellence but sometimes excellent can be popular. Style and substance can come together and when it does it is exceptionally satisfying. I picked music that I felt fell into this category.

As such we listened to music by Johann Strauss Jnr, Antonio Vivaldi, Ludwig Van Beethoven, George Frederick Handel, Dimitri Shostakovich and Lennon and McCartney.

I tried to pick music that in any circumstance would be called genius.

Neville Gibb

Patchwork

Hopefully I will be back to classes in April. A reminder in May we have 5 Thursday's so we'll have our all day class on Thursday 30th 9:30 - 4pm

Dorothy Webber

Politics and Current Affairs

The terrible massacre in New Zealand was used as a political football by the Turkish President. Our Prime Minister was quick to respond as both try to impress voters at forthcoming elections.

New Zealanders seemed shocked that such an evil act could occur in their country, but social media enabled vision of the killings to be transmitted round the world.

Freedom of speech, or freedom to hate, is that the question?

Terry Case

Recorder Group

The tricky lower notes are harder on a recorder so they received some extra practice this session and then it was on to the several new pieces that Janet had for us. Of course we practised our favourites. We are doing rounds and parts quite well now! Some good fun clapping exercises helped us get the 6/8 timing right for Annie's Song and Brian Boru's March. We came home with quite a few new sheets to add to our music repertoire and practice sessions.

Pat Treleaven

Singing for Fun

The March meetings of Singing for Fun have demonstrated the wide variety of songs which are available to our leaders in our three Song books.

Faith Hicks continues to find old songs in Book 1 which we have not sung for many months and which are great to revive.

Brian Greed introduced us to some interesting harmony for "Pedro the Fisherman" whilst Margaret Merriman has had us enjoying several different rounds. Our pianist Gwen Barnes is doing a great job on the piano.

We would like to thank the friend of Terry Dillon who made extra hinges for the shelves in the cupboard which stores our song books. Four shelves are definitely easier to work with.

It is great to see over 35 enthusiastic U3A members at Singing for Fun Group some weeks. However, these great numbers have shown that we need to increase the number of copies of each Song book we have available. We hope you don't mind sharing a book until we have worked through making the extra books. To date we have produced 6 extra copies of Book 2.

The next Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 4 April 2019 at 10am in the U3A Room.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

'Lowlines come under the radar'

When Julie Knight saw the back end of a Lowline bull at the 1995 Seymour Alternative Farming Field days, she said: "I don't know what I like about it but I want what he has".

Julie told our March Stock and Land session that she and husband Greg soon after bought Lowline cattle for their farm. It is at Major Plains between Dookie College and Devenish.

Now 23 years later, as well as selling surplus cattle in the eastern states, she is flushing Wanamara Lowline females for local and overseas embryo buyers after the cream of their genetics.

Julie said the Lowline breed was derived from Angus cattle imported from Canadian stud Glencarnock by the NSW Department of Agriculture in 1929.

The Department wanted to determine whether big or small cattle had higher growth rates and it divided the imports into Lowline, Highline and control groups for that purpose. After 19 years, results were inconclusive, so the Department sold its 154 purebred animals to stud breeders in 1992 and 1993.

As the name suggests Lowline cattle are smaller - about 30 per cent - than most Angus. But Julie said she liked her cattle to be at least 1.2m tall and they generally weigh 600 to 700 kg at 18 months.

She said cattlemen could carry two Lowline cattle in the same area it would take to carry just one

conventional Angus and this was a factor which appealed to her because "I wanted more cows on our small property".

Julie said she didn't really know she had an eye for superior cattle until she bought a bull which was going to be castrated, but later went on to be champion at a Royal Melbourne Lowline feature show.

Last year the Lowline breed society celebrated its 25th anniversary. But Julie thought that was going to slip by relatively un-noticed, so took on with a co-author, the huge job of producing a coffee table sized book, to celebrate the breed's coming of age. Substantial and impressive it sells for \$75 and was launched in June.



Julie Knight holds a copy of the Lowline history which she co-authored.

Julie said Lowline bulls were particularly useful as easy calving sires used over heifers of more conventionally sized beef breeds. One Riverina Wanamara customer, was delighted with the ease of calving Lowline cross calves from her large Hereford heifers. But given the difference in size, she and Julie were amazed that the Lowline bulls were capable of serving them so obviously successfully.

Lowline carcasses are renowned for yielding between 60 and 70 per cent beef: one Wanamara steer yielded 160kg of beef from a 220kg carcass Julie said. As its breeders say: "Grow beef not bone".

David Palmer

Tech Savvy

Tech Savvy Beginners: Apple Devices

We are very excited and thankful that the U3A room is now connected to the NBN. That means

we have more data available delivered at faster speeds.

This month our group has been doing some internet research each week. (eg. looking at recipes, real estate, local arts events and spring flowering bulbs.) Then we've been using our search information to Bookmark and to enter into our digital calendars.

Currently we are working on the email, camera and photo apps. Just to let you know - We are having a GR8 time learning to use our iPads.

Jenny Sawyer

Tech Savvy Projects: Family History

Family history project directions for the year were identified at our first session in late February, with a month between sessions providing time for members to work towards goals ready to report back to the next session. The project goals are diverse and interesting. It's always a buzz when someone has a breakthrough, always frustrating when a 'black hole' (often a family secret) remains unresolved. We meet on the fourth Thursday from 1 to 2.45pm as a full group, with access to the room & support available until 4pm for those not proceeding to the Tech Savvy Talks catch-up at the Northo. We will meet on Anzac Day in April.

Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Talks

Jennifer Clemow, an Olefins Applications Engineer from Qenos gave us an interesting presentation on the production of various industrial use outputs from the Qenos Melbourne Petrochemical plant. She spoke about the long history of the plant which uses natural gas as the feedstock. Jennifer's role is in the design, development and implementation of computer based control systems to maximise the safety of the plant while at the same time ensuring the profitability of the plant. The presentation was well received and the half hour presentation quickly blew out to an hour with the discussion and many questions that followed.

After the break we viewed [an interview with Bill Gates centred around his role in the Breakthrough Energy Coalition](#). This group was formed at the time of the Paris accord when he lobbied a number of fellow wealthy people to form a coalition to fund innovative research. The research is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and only those research projects which expect to reduce greenhouse gas by half a percent or more are being funded. Two examples which were discussed included the production of meat grown from cells from live animals such as chicken and

wagyu beef. The other example was the funding of a nuclear fusion generator, the holy grail of nuclear power because of its extraordinary efficiency & safety. We ran out of time so will hold over the discussion until later in the semester.

Our next session will be an excursion to the Benalla Gliding Club on Wednesday April 10. We will meet at Gliding Club at 11am.

Les Rodgers

Wine Appreciation



The Wine Appreciation group visited Warrabilia Wines in Rutherglen on 27th March. Owned and run by Andrew Sutherland and his wife Carol (with occasional assistance from Bear the grape-eating dog) the winery has been running for 23 years. Its main flagship are the award winning Durif, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz, but we found that the Riesling and Muscats are pretty good too! Deb and Carol poured us samples of their wines and many bottles of these samples headed home with our group.

Lunch was held at the iconic Pickled Sisters Restaurant at Cofield Winery, where we appreciated the excellent food and coffee. Thanks Keith for organising this enjoyable day out in a popular tourist area, Rutherglen.

Bev Thornell

April 24 –Pizzini Wines at King Valley. Lunch at the Mountain View Hotel. Departing 10am Barkly St Car Park behind Aldi.

May 22 -- Ciavarella Oxley Estate Winery, Oxley. Lunch at King River Cafe. Meet at 10am for 10.15 start at the Barkly St car park behind Aldi.

Keith & Heather Rogers 5762 4086

Program News

New – ‘Tech Savvy Projects--Community Projects’

Are you a volunteer using computer skills in community organisations (including U3A)? Would you like support in learning new skills to assist you

to contribute to newsletters, presentations, social media and websites for the organisation? You will need to be a confident user of the internet

Come along with your device and learning needs to our NBN linked ‘co-working timeslot’ in the U3A meeting room on the third Friday between 12.30 and 4.30pm, work on your project and be supported to achieve your goals. Phone Bev 5762 8171.

Please note--As the first session falls on Good Friday 19th April it has been rescheduled to Wednesday 17 April.

Member News

Vale Wendy Rush

This is a note to recognise the contribution of Wendy Rush to Benalla U3A. Wendy was convenor of U3A Games group for three years to the end of 2015, taking on the role after Sue Hughes stepped down from the position. Wendy died on 27 December 2018 after a long battle with ill health.

A keen and talented Scrabble player, Wendy also filled in for the card players if they were short of players. And she supplied plenty of nibbles to keep up our minds sharp.

Wendy was very proud of her two sons and six grandchildren. We miss her bright personality and positive attitude to life, despite the challenges of her failing health in recent times.

Kathy Costello and Alice Bell

Newsletter News

A notice to members This is the last newsletter for members who have not paid their 2019 membership.

A notice to Convenors and Newsletter Correspondents

- The email address for newsletter reports is now newsletter@u3abenalla.com.
- Please make sure the new address is in your contacts list & remove previous addresses as they are no longer operational.

A reminder to convenors and newsletter correspondents - if reports are not received by the newsletter deadline it will generally be assumed a report is not required for that month.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Newsletter Editor Heather Wallace newsletter@u3abenalla.com or 0418 353 244.

What's On

Monday, 1 April

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
10:00am Art Appreciation - 'All that Remains'
12:00pm German for Beginners
1:30pm Games
4:00pm Meditation

Tuesday, 2 April

10:00am E-Book Group
10:00am Stock and Land
12:00pm Beginners' Patchwork
2:00pm Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 3 April

9:30am Play Reading
9:45am Easy Walks - Lake Benalla Walking Track
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)

Thursday, 4 April

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

Friday, 5 April

9:30am Sustainability
2:00pm Investment

Monday, 8 April

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Collectors - 'Animals'
10:00am Lifeball
12:00pm German for Beginners
2:00pm Creative Writing
2:00pm Garden Team - 'Arundel Street'

Tuesday, 9 April

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
2:00pm Brain Games

Wednesday, 10 April

9:00am Recorder - 'Learning New Notes'
9:15am Mid Week Walks - Woolshed Falls, Beechworth
10:00am Recorder - 'Full Group'
11:00am Tech Savvy Talks - Benalla Gliding Club Visit
1:30pm Film and Literature - 'Captain Marvel' and 'A Dog's Way Home'
7:00pm A Night at the Opera - French Style

Thursday, 11 April

9:30am Birdwatching - Euroa Water Treatment Plant & Arboretum
10:00am Harmony Group
1:30pm Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 12 April

10:00am Music Appreciation
2:00pm History - Introduction to Western Civilization

Monday, 15 April

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
4:00pm Meditation

Tuesday, 16 April

10:00am History - After the Victorians - Europe & America in the period from 1900 to WW1
2:00pm Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 17 April

10:00am Meet and Mingle
12:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Community Projects

Thursday, 18 April

10:00am Singing for Fun
1:00pm Patchwork
2:00pm Booker Reading Group - 'Everything Under' by Daisy Johnson

Tuesday, 23 April

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
2:00pm Beginners' Patchwork

Wednesday, 24 April

10:00am Wine Appreciation - Pizzini Wines, King Valley. Lunch at Mountain View Hotel.
10:00am Recorder
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)

Thursday, 25 April

10:00am Garden Appreciation - Brown Brothers, Milawa - meet at Mitre 10 Car Park at 10am
1:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History

Friday, 26 April

10:00am Music Appreciation
2:00pm An Introduction to Western Civilization

Monday, 29 April

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
2:00pm As Time Goes By - 'Faking It' (rescheduled from Easter Monday)
2:00pm Garden Team

Tuesday, 30 April

2:00pm Beginners' Patchwork (5th Tuesday session)

Wednesday, 1 May

9:30am Play Reading
9:45am Easy Walks - Lake Sambell, Beechworth
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)

Thursday, 2 May

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

Friday, 3 May

9:30am Sustainability
2:00pm Investment

Monday, 6 May

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
10:00am Art Appreciation - Collection Digitization
12:00pm German for Beginners
1:30pm Games
4:00pm Meditation

Tuesday, 7 May

10:00am E-Book Group
10:00am Stock and Land – David Briggs on Bees
12:00pm Beginners' Patchwork
2:00pm Armchair Traveller - Neville Gibb 'Germany and/or Venice'
2:00pm Let's Talk Books