



Benalla and District Inc.

## Newsletter – February 2022

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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### President's Report

What a great time we had at Enrolment Day! Lots of members came to enrol for 2022, as well as several new people enquiring about our various courses.

Thank you to all our Convenors for giving up their time and answering questions. It was pleasing to see so many of our members trying new subjects this year.

In 2022 we are offering 44 courses including a new course in Russian Literature as well as the return of Brain Games.

It was also interesting to see the interest in the Info Hub which was staffed by members of Age Friendly Benalla. The Info Hub, which normally runs each Thursday morning at the Benalla Library, tried a special day at our Enrolment. Judging by the number of people who asked questions, they were very happy to be part of Enrolment Day.

I would like to thank Len Jeffers for all his work as Membership Secretary. Len's latest figures show that we currently have 248 members of U3A Benalla including 23 new members and 4 life members.

Our Benalla Citizen of the Year nomination Geraldine McCorkell was one of 14 nominations. The ceremony was different this year, in that only participants and their guests were allowed to attend the ceremony at BPACC, and the event was live streamed for the general community.

The winner of the Benalla Citizen of the Year was Dr Lee Manning. Whilst Geraldine did not win the honour, her nomination gave U3A Benalla as well as Friends of the Library the opportunity to showcase the marvellous work Geraldine has done for both organisations for over a decade. U3A Benalla are certainly grateful for Geraldine's roles as President from 2011-2013, Network Representative in 2016 and Secretary from 2016 to the present. Well done, Geraldine.

U3A Benalla and District's Annual General Meeting will be held prior to Meet and Mingle on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

Whilst a few of our courses started in January, most are beginning in February 2022. Thank you everyone for accepting the requirement for double vaccination to attend our courses.

We look forward to a more continuous year in 2022.

Margaret Jenkins, Vice President

### Covid-19 Vaccination Certificates

This is a message to members who have not yet had the Covid-19 statement on their entry form endorsed by a Club Official.

We have run into a small problem with New and Renewing members submitting membership forms at RedB4 bookshop. Members have ticked that they have had their Covid-19 Vaccinations, but there has been no

option for members to have their Covid-19 vaccination certificate sighted and certified by a Club Official (Convenor or Committee Member) at the bookshop.

**To overcome this please take a copy of your Covid-19 certificate to the first session of each of your classes and have your Convenor mark a “YES” on the subject roll.**

This problem has only occurred to about 15 existing or new members.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Len Jeffers, Membership Officer

## Enrolment Day

### Gallery - 2022



To see more enrolment day photographs, go to

<https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/news/enrolment-day-wednesday-12-january-2022-in-pictures>

## Age Friendly Benalla's 'Age Well in Benalla Info Hub'

An Age Friendly community is one that is good for everyone. By creating a community where older people can live safe, purposeful and healthy lives – in mind and body – we are creating a community where everyone, no matter their age, benefits.

Benalla Rural City, along with most places in the world, has an increasing proportion of its population over 55 years of age and living for much longer and can be supported to remain active, valued and as healthy as possible - in other words, to age well.

An Age Friendly Benalla will be a place where the community - including all its residents, its businesses, all levels of government and organisations mindfully work together to address the challenges and opportunities of ageing well in a rural setting.

One of the Committees of Age Friendly Benalla is the **Age Well in Benalla Info Hub** which is available in the Benalla Library every Thursday morning from 9.30am to 12.30pm. It is a friendly referral service for older people to come for a chat if they have a concern about accessing information to make their lives easier. The Hub looks at linking people to services and facilitating information. It is a community volunteer group.

At the recent U3A enrolment day volunteers from this group set up a table in the Seniors room to promote this service to the Community. It was a great opportunity to promote the info hub and provide guidance to older people in our community. For example, the info hub was able to advise 15 people on the day about the \$250 energy rebate that is currently available and assist with how they can apply for this. The info hub also received a couple of enquiries regarding home assistance, held conversations regarding council exiting out of the Aged & Disability Services and also received interest from a member of the community wishing to join the Age Friendly Benalla Reference Group.



Heather Wallace

## Group Reports

### A Different View of German History

The final session of last year's 'A Different View of German History' course will be held on Friday 18 February at 2pm when we will concentrate on the German Democratic Republic. Or, as it was also called, East Germany. I would like to invite members who have an interest in this topic but did not attend last year to join us on Friday 18 February at 2pm in the U3A meeting room. The session will include a slide presentation of photographs of East Berlin in 1970 which may be of interest.

Neville Gibb

### A Taste of Art

2nd & 4th Wednesday 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Broken River Painters, Barc Hut #11 - 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Carol Perry

## Armchair History – Tudors

Armchair History is resuming at the Seniors Community Centre in 2022, with the full course 'The Tudors' being offered again. It returns in new timetable slots - the **2nd Monday** and the **4th Thursday** from 10 am to 12 noon, with our first sessions on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February. We'll need to set up our diaries carefully!

Terry Case

## Armchair Traveller

Coming into the new year I have been able to organise programs for the first Semester.

Feb 1st meeting will see an interesting and informative presentation, by Alan Monger, of the wildlife which is abundant in the Galapagos Islands in the mid Pacific.

March 1st meeting will be presented by Brian Vial showing his 2010 Expedition Cruise to ten different coastal locations in P.N.G. This will embrace a vision of the Rabaul volcanoes; The river village of Watom; Madang; the geysers of Ferguson Island; Tifi fjords; and much, much, more.

April 5th meeting. Bill Parris will be in charge and take us through more of his extensive travels.

May 3rd meeting. David Palmer will take us for a stroll around Southern France.

May 9th is my 90th birthday and maybe...just maybe??? there is somebody prepared to carry on as Convenor. We'll see!

Ray O'Shannessy

## Art Appreciation

The 'First Monday' session at the Benalla Art Gallery on 7<sup>th</sup> February from 10 to 11 am includes a screening of Anna White's recent film project, *In my father's garden*, and the opportunity to hear Anna speak about her multidisciplinary art practice.

"Speaking about *In my father's garden*, White says, "In May and June 2020 I spent time with my 87 year old father in his garden in the Strathbogie ranges in Victoria. This video captures this time. It represents the culmination of a lifelong relationship with my father and with his garden, that has been an inspiration for my artistic practice." *In my father's garden* is ...a self-taught piece resulting from a City of Melbourne COVID-19 Quick Response Grant... It is a poetic exploration of family, human connection, the impacts of COVID-19, creative expression, lifelong learning, and a love of gardens, and as such bridges the themes of Benalla's most recent Collection exhibitions, *Re-gathering* and *Re-generation*." Benalla Art Gallery Website

**Registration:** T 03 5760 2619 or [gallery@benalla.vic.gov.au](mailto:gallery@benalla.vic.gov.au) **Cost:** \$2

Join us after the session for coffee at the Gallery's Munro and Sargeant café.

Neville Gibb

## 'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

We are looking forward to hearing memories from returning members on one of three topics set for the holiday period on our return on Monday 28 February at 2 pm -

**#1 One Moment, This Year** Looking back on 2021, what single moment stands out for you? Whether it be loss, love, discovery or disappointment, share your unforgettable moment.

**#2 A Memoir** - 'Head for your bookshelf, the library or an online book-store to retrieve a memoir, preferably one which has meant something to you. When did it enter your life? How did it then, or does it now, relate to your life story?' (If you would like a more detailed framework to write your memoir review, check out '[A Memoir which has meant something to me](#)' from the ATGB web page.)

**#3 'I Was There'...** Have you experienced a significant news, historical or cultural event first-hand? Share your personal piece of history in 500 words.

New members are encouraged to bring along a story, either 'I Was There' (#3 above) or 'New in Town', a great topic to share to introduce yourself if you are relatively new to Benalla. The brief '*Have you ever been the new person in town? Or did someone else's arrival have a profound impact on you? Share your story in 500 words*'. However, it's fine to 'pass' and enjoy the stories shared by others.

Bev Lee

## Be Connected

### Tuesday 8 February is Safer Internet Day – ‘Play It Fair Online’

*Safer Internet Day – ‘Play It Fair Online’*, is a time to consider ‘best practice’ in internet safety in terms of our own online presence as well as protecting ourselves from online scares. The ‘Safety First’ online topic resources on Be Connected will continue to be drawn upon in 2022 and we will continue to regularly raise the issue of protection against scams—a topic at a Meet and Mingle presentation last year.

#### Protect against Scams

Be alert. If you get an email or phone call you suspect is not genuine:

1. **Verify** –Check using contact details you get from a phone book or independent online search.
2. **Avoid clicking links** – before clicking, hover your computer mouse over the URL (web link) and the ‘from’ email address:
  - If an email address doesn’t end with the company’s name and .com after the ‘@’ symbol, it’s likely to be a scam.
  - If a URL is different from the link description, it is probably a scam.
3. **Take your time** – many scams will try to create a sense of urgency. Don’t be rushed into handing over your personal information.
4. **Consider your privacy** – Only provide information such as Medicare numbers and credit card security codes to organisations you can trust. Requests for private data should ring alarm bells.
5. **Report** – If you think you have provided your account details to a scammer, contact your financial institution immediately.

*Be Connected with Jenny Sawyer is held on the 1st & 2nd Wednesday 2:00 to 3:30 pm - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> February*



## Bird Watching

2nd Thursday 9:30 am to 12:00 noon **March, April, May**. Meet Seniors Car Park - 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Kathy Costello

## Brain Games

Brain Games is back, in a new time slot! 4th Tuesday 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm - 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Elsbeth Maconachie

## Bushwalking – Easy Walks

A big welcome to all our new and returning walkers, as we look forward to a year hopefully more settled than 2021. Thanks to Bev Thornell for our first walk of the year, which will see us exploring all that Euroa has to offer.

### Wednesday March 2nd: Seven Creeks Walk and Euroa Arboretum

Our morning walk of approximately 7.5km will take us along the lovely Seven Creeks track, a mostly flat bush track encompassing the Seven Creeks floodplain and woodlands, with a short detour to the Balmattum Hill rotunda and views across the valley. The walk will start from the Seven Creeks park, where we will return for a picnic lunch.

This will be followed by a walk through the Euroa Arboretum, for those interested. This is a revegetated park of woodland and wetland environments, with a variety of walking tracks and picnic areas.

We will meet for the day at the Seniors’ carpark, Fawkner Drive, at 9am. Please confirm with Glen Chessells on 0431201077 or [gchess@hotmail.com](mailto:gchess@hotmail.com).

Remember to bring a hat, drink, and picnic lunch. Walking poles and suitable shoes are recommended.

If new members are unsure of their abilities for these walks, please check with convenors Glen Chessells or Julie McNeill 0407823031.

Car sharing is usually available, with a small contribution to costs. Members are asked to confirm with Glen beforehand if the need transport or can provide it.

Glen Chessells, Julie McNeill

## Chat n' Chew

Chat and Chew will take place at the **Royal Hotel** on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, commencing at 12.15pm. If you wish to attend please contact Lorraine on 0427 376 991 by the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

Lorraine Knox

## Coin Collectors

3rd Monday 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm – 21<sup>st</sup> February

Doug Smith

## Collectors

Collectors provides a wonderful chance to reminisce and share stories about the past while presenting treasured items to the class. Some of our group members are 'collectors extraordinaire' – other members simply enjoy delving into their cupboards, shelves and sheds to find an interesting item or two to capture the theme of the month. Bring along both a treasured item *and* the oldest item in your possession on Monday 7 February from 10am.

Dorothy Webber

## Community Singing

A group of enthusiastic singers met for the first Community Singing of the year at the Hub on the fourth Thursday of January.

Brian Greed who plays both the organ and the piano for the group used a new songbook which he had produced himself. This new book is called Brian's Little Song Book and has a variety of songs in it including many which were on the hit parade in the 1950s.

At the end we had a few songs spontaneously suggested which completed a very enjoyable morning. Our thanks to Brian for producing this new Song Book and for accompanying the group so well. We look forward to the next Community Singing on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 10am at the Hub.

Margaret Jenkins

## Creative Writing

Many of us kept our writing activity up during the Christmas break. We had four prompts to choose from:

- **A breeze swirled, growing thick with the promise of rain**
- **{Evelyn} peered down the long table, searching out {Sally}**
- **From somewhere in the building came the loud clack of a typewriter**
- **By mid-afternoon, the study was already growing dark**

All the prompts were used by at least one person. The use of a typewriter did tend to take us back in time for some stories, although one handled the idea differently – what do you do when the power is out and a school assignment is due in the following day? Using a laptop makes completing the work possible, but how do you print the result. An aunt helps a student by typing the work on an old typewriter in a vacant office in her office building. The niece then decides that is what she wants for her birthday – a typewriter. Old technology can still come in useful sometimes.

Some of the stories were less light-hearted than we sometimes share, but the sadness or darkness was handled well. It has been heartening to see how we have all developed in our writing over the last year.

We are looking forward to welcoming some new members to the class in 2022. I expect that there will be new directions to explore. I have set some topics for our February class for returning members. Of course our new members are also welcome to start writing. Just choose one of the topics and write a story – any length you like.

The topics are:

- The most adorable chocolate brown eyes stared at Susan from the face resting on the desk.
- They walked beside the river while {Charlie} weaved in and out of the reeds.
- The jury retired to consider the verdict

Our first class for the year is on 14 February – St Valentine’s Day

Joy Shirley

## Exercises for Fun

Mondays 9:30 am to 11:30 am Seniors Hall - 31<sup>st</sup> January

Helen Jeffree

## Exploring the Universe

### James Webb Telescope Reaches its Final Destination.

After many years of delays, on December 25, 2022, NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope was launched into space aboard a powerful Ariane 5 rocket from the European space Agencies’ Spaceport in French Guiana, South America. The telescope, three stories high and with a sunshield the size of a tennis court had to be folded up to fit in the nose cone of the rocket.



This is the last view of JWST as it floated away from our blue Planet into the blackness of space. The image was taken by a camera on the rocket. After the launch the telescope had to be unfolded in space; everything had to go to plan and to time.

Thirty minutes after the telescope separated from the rocket the solar array was unfolded to provide power for the telescope. This was followed by the release of the 60 cm dish antenna.

The French Ariane Rocket delivered the telescope on course with such accuracy that the correction burn from one of its hydrazine fuelled thrusters for 65 minutes made up for nearly all the expected velocity shortfall needed to reach its destination. This means that there should be extra fuel for a longer mission.

Back at the Mission Operations Centre of the Space Telescope Science Institute, hundreds of commands were given for movements to deploy the huge, layered sunshield and the 18 segments of the 6.5 metre mirror. This had to be done before reaching the chilly temperatures of deep space. The next phase is to align the huge mirror segments and to power up the instruments. It will be 6 months before we share in the knowledge that the first images will bring.

Now Webb has successfully been inserted into its orbit around the stable position known as Lagrange point 2. This orbit will align the telescope 1.5 million kms from Earth as it orbits the Sun. As it follows our planet on its yearly journey Webb will face out into the depths of space observing different parts of the universe and at all times will be in contact with Earth through the radio telescopes of the Deep Space Network.

To view the official NASA JWST mission trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69uT90tEJdE>

Bev Morton

## Family Research

Following a three-month long break, there will be lots to share on Thursday 24 February in the ‘Pains and Gains’ reports which commence our sessions. Our Family Story topic for sharing after the coffee break is ‘**A sense of place**’. The brief – ‘Write about a place which was important to a number of your forebears. Why did you choose this place? How did it feature in their story, why was it important to them? Share your reflections in 150 to 400 words (no penalties for exceeding), accompanied by a photograph/s, hopefully captured close to the time in which the place featured in one or more of your ancestors’ lives’. Oral presentations fine too!

Bev Lee, Barry McDonald, Wendy Sturgess

## Family Research – Beginners

‘Family Research – Beginners’ will meet for a small group session from 1 to 4 pm on Thursday 3 February in Room 2, the small classroom opposite the U3A meeting room. For the remainder of Term 1 members will

have 'one to one' sessions with the goal of setting up or recommencing work on an online family tree. This will be followed in Term 2 by small group sessions on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays.

Bev Lee

## Film Discussion Group

2nd Wednesday 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm Benalla Library - 9<sup>th</sup> February

Joy Shirley

## Garden Appreciation

Welcome to our new members!

We will be visiting two beautiful gardens on Thursday 24 February, meeting at the U3A car park at 9.30 am to carpool. We'll first visit Sophie Arendt's garden, Hagenauer Lane, Benalla. Sophie has offered to supply morning tea. Then we'll move off to Kerri Straughen's Farm Garden at 368 Benalla-Yarrowonga Road (Diane's Retreat) Benalla, to be followed by a Barbecue Luncheon, the cost a donation to Palliative Care, Benalla. Our grateful thanks to both Sophie and Kerri.

I need to know if you are attending for Catering numbers as well as being able to cater for any Dietary requirements. Please ring me on 0438 627 010, or Email me at [gwenturner243@gmail.com](mailto:gwenturner243@gmail.com).

Our next activity will be on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March when we'll visit Billabong Nursery, Shepparton. Put this in your diaries - more information will be included in the next newsletter.

Gwen Turner

## Garden Team

2nd and 5th Monday 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Various venues - 14<sup>th</sup> February

Elsbeth Maconachie

## German – Advanced

Tuesdays 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm - 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February

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## German - Beginners

Wednesdays 12:15 am to 1:30 pm (Feb/March) - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Pauline Bailey

## Investment

1st Monday 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm - 7<sup>th</sup> February

Margaret Jenkins

## Let's Talk Books

At our last meeting in December a small group enjoyed a chat about books read in the previous month. I am sure many books have been read over the Christmas break as it has been too hot and humid to do much else, and I daresay some have been good, bad or indifferent, but I look forward to hearing about them when we meet at 2 pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February in the Seniors rooms, and also to welcoming some new faces to our group to share a chat about books and afternoon tea.

Geraldine McCorkell

## Lifeball

The best laid plans.... our scheduled, and much anticipated-return to play on January 17th was delayed as Omicron took hold of the virus numbers. We now have a revised start date of Monday 14th February, which will hopefully give players time to organise booster shots.

New and continuing players are asked to contact Marlene Pitts on 0407240943 or Julie McNeill on 0407823031 if there is any uncertainty-we have had a few hiccups this past fortnight but are now back on track-thank you, everyone!

Lifeball is a walking pace ballgame, suited to any level of skill, played weekly at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre at 10am each Monday. It is great fun, and great exercise.



Players both new and returning are reminded to complete enrolment before beginning--forms can be left at Redb4 bookshop.

Julie McNeill

## Meditation

1st & 3rd Monday 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm U3A Room 2 - 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February

Caroline Sims

## Meet and Mingle

John Barry, author of the recently published book “Whatever the Glory” will be the guest speaker at the first Meet and Mingle for 2022 which will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 10am in the U3A Room at the Senior’s Centre.

John will tell us some of the stories behind the publication of the book and share with us some insights into how he collected the stories of the lives and deaths of around 200 men and one woman from Benalla and District who served in the Great War and did not return home.

Previously John has contributed a magnificent series of articles to the Ensign on World War 1. John also taught the well-received semester-length course [‘Over There’](#) several times at U3A Benalla during the anniversary period of the centenary of World War I in 2017 and 2018.



This is an opportunity to ask John questions that you may have and to hear from the author himself.

All U3A members are welcome.

Margaret Jenkins

## Music Appreciation

2nd & 4th Friday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon - 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> February

Bill Squire

## Page Turners

Page Turners eclectic list of good reading for 2022 travels through South Africa, England, Russia, the United States, Afghanistan, Libya and of course samples Australia too! Page Turners returned in January, meeting at the Dillon’s home to discuss ‘The Midnight Library’, by Matt Haig. February brings ‘The Lincoln Highway’ by Amor Towles – ‘Freed from prison, Emmett Watson discovers two friends from prison have stowed away and have different plans for him’.

1st Tuesday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon Meg Dillon's home - 1<sup>st</sup> February

Meg Dillon

## Patchwork

1st & 3rd Thursday 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm 5th Thursday all day - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17 February

Dorothy Webber

## Play Reading

“The Putting Down of Ned Kelly” by Len Kenna, a memorable play we first read in August 2017, is our play reading for Wednesday 2 February, starting at 9.30 am. 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 prison sentence with hard labour in the same prison as her son, Ned, who is awaiting execution. However, she cannot go to him, help him or comfort him in any way.” (*Playreading report, U3A Benalla Newsletter, August 2017*)

Jenny McKenna

## Politics and Current Affairs

2nd & 4th Tuesday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon - 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Terry Case

## Recorder Group

2nd & 4th Wednesday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon - 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Janet Douglas

## Russian Literature

‘A Glimpse at Russian Literature’ from Tsarist Russia begins on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of February with ‘A Hero of our Time’ by Mikhail Lermantov (1840). Life and Love affairs of the Russian elite in pre-revolutionary Russia. Interestingly comparable with Anna Karenina - Tolstoy. We will be meeting in the small U3A classroom from 10 am to 12 noon.

Meg Dillon

## Saturday Cards – 500

Once again Saturday Cards – 500 will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. It is a fun way to spend an afternoon – there is lots of laughter, lollies and, of course, several hands of ‘500’. You don’t have to be an experienced player, some of us have learnt as we have played or have been a bit ‘rusty’ as we have not played for years. Everyone is most welcome.

Heather Wallace

## Singing for Fun

1st & 3rd Thursday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon Cooinda Hub - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> February

Margaret Jenkins

## Stock and Land

The speaker for our next meeting on Tuesday 1 February from 10 to 12 midday will be Wallace Binnie, who has been breeding Poll Dorsets at Bungeet (near Thoona) for more than half a century. Wallace, wife Sue and one of their three daughters, run the Coledale stud, annually joining about 450 ewes and selling from 150 to 160 rams a year. Look forward to catching up!

David Palmer

## Sustainability

1st & 3rd Friday 9:30 am to 11:30 am - 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February

John Lane, Frank Dunin

## Tech Savvy Beginners – Apple

3rd Wednesday 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm - 16<sup>th</sup> February

Jenny Sawyer

## Tech Savvy Beginners – Android

1st & 2nd & 3rd Thursday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February

Robyn Lukey

## Tech Talks

2nd Tuesday 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm - 8<sup>th</sup> February

## The News – Fact or Fiction

3rd Tuesday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon - 15<sup>th</sup> February

Brian Harker

## Wine Appreciation

Welcome back and welcome to our new members. Our first wine tasting for the year will be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Delatite Winery, 390 Pollards Rd Mansfield.

I have booked the option that is a hosted wine tasting of around 5-7 wines at \$10.00 per head and the Courtyard menu which includes Antipasto platter, a selection of Flatbreads and a Salad at \$45.00. There is an undercover area should the weather be inclement.

It is necessary to pre-pay for our food component (\$45) by 18<sup>th</sup> February. This can be left in an envelope marked U3a Wine Appreciation group and your name please at Read B4 Bookshop next to Hides Bakery.

A 25% discount applies to wine purchases for any guests who are active Summit Club members or anyone wishing to join.

Meet at the tennis court car park in Barkly Street behind Aldi at 10.00 am. Please contact Nicole by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February to let me know if you will be attending.

I can be contacted on 0428 696 408 or email [nicnakmac90@gmail.com](mailto:nicnakmac90@gmail.com).



Nicole McFarlane

## Website News

The [U3A Benalla and District website](#) continues to be well used, with over 300 'unique visitors' each month. It is a wonderful way to

- Remind ourselves about dates and times – just go to the home page and scroll down the calendar
- Search for people, activities, events– just use the search box at the top of the page
- Reminisce about activities we've participated in with our group/s (Hint: when you get to the bottom of the group's page, just click on 'previous' to go to earlier entries.)
- Find previous newsletters –just check out the side menu on the About/[Newsletter](#) page
- Access the U3A Benalla and District Facebook account – just go to the top menu and click on FB



We are delighted that Jañice Ellis (pictured) has volunteered to work on the website. Jañice is currently learning to add newsletter reports to group web pages. Thank you, Jañice!

I'd also like to thank *Be Connected/Tech Savvy Beginners - Apple* convenor Jenny Sawyer and *Tech Savvy Beginners - Android* convenor Robyn Lukey for incorporating 'learning to use U3A Benalla's website' in their classes.

Last but by no means least, thanks go to the convenors and news correspondents whose newsletter reports are posted on the website each month. What a wonderful resource you provide.

The [U3A Benalla and District](#) page on Facebook has gradually grown to have 200 followers. It's a very gentle site, with a small audience and to date, no trolling. Roving photographers and Facebook contributors Bev Thornell and Andi Stevenson's regular posts are always engaging and provide a wonderful resource for the website. Thank you, Bev and Andi.

On a final note, our 'Facebook Post of the Year 2021', posted in August by Andi Stevenson, features Betty Milligan's poem, 'Here We Go Again'. It received 14 likes, 4 comments and 15 shares!

Bev Lee, Website Manager

## Vale

### *VALE KYOHEI FUJIE 1953 - 2021*

Kyohei Fujiie joined Benalla U3A in January 2018, having lived some years in the district. He would say, "Just call me Fuji," and used that name on his U3A nametag.

He and Tomoko joined the U3A Recorder Group. They played various instruments, and were already involved with community performances, to which they invited the Recorder Players. Fuji had a good sense of rhythm and was very insistent on keeping time in the pieces played. He added to the U3A group's repertoire by adapting some musical pieces for the recorder.

Fuji and Tomoko joined the U3A Easy Walks bushwalking group, delighting in the outings and the beauty of the countryside. Fuji organised walks with very precise planning, measuring distances, drawing maps, and highlighting points of interest. He also shared with the group information and photos of walks he and Tomoko had done in State and National Parks. An enthusiastic and talented photographer, some of Fuji's photos have featured on the U3A website.

As Margaret Walshe said, "Fuji, thank you for sharing your love of the Australian bush with fellow U3A walkers."

The U3A Easy Walks bushwalking group will schedule a repeat of the Mt Pilot walk Fuji had choreographed so well in April 2021.



Andrea Stevenson

# What's On

## Tuesday, 1 February

- 10:00 Page Turners – 'The Lincoln Highway'
- 10:00 Stock & Land – Wallace Binnie, Coledale Poll Dorset Stud
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Armchair Traveller – 'The Galapagos Islands'

## Wednesday, 2 February

- 09:30 Play Reading – 'The Putting Down of Ned Kelly'
- 12:15 German - Beginners
- 14:00 Be Connected

## Thursday, 3 February

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Family Research - Beginners
- 13:00 Patchwork

## Friday, 4 February

- 09:30 Sustainability

## Monday, 7 February

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Collectors – 'A Treasured Item and The Oldest Item in my Collection'
- 10:00 Art Appreciation - 'In My Father's Garden' - Anna White – Benalla Art Gallery
- 12:00 Meditation
- 13:30 Investment
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books

## Tuesday, 8 February

- Safer Internet Day
- 10:00 Russian Literature – 'A Hero of Our Time'
- 10:00 Politics and Current Affairs
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Tech Talks

## Wednesday, 9 February

- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 12:15 German - Beginners
- 13:30 'A Taste of Art'
- 14:00 Be Connected
- 14:00 Film Discussion Group

## Thursday, 10 February

- 10:00 Harmony Group
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Family Research - Beginners
- 13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

## Friday, 11 February

- 10:00 Music Appreciation

## Saturday, 12 February

- 13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

## Monday, 14 February

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Armchair History
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 14:00 Creative Writing
- 14:00 Garden Team

## Tuesday, 15 February

- 10:00 The News - Fact or Fiction
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Exploring the Universe

## Wednesday, 16 February

- 10:00 Meet & Mingle 'Whatever the Glory' John Barry
- 12:15 German - Beginners
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Apple

## Thursday, 17 February

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Patchwork

## Friday, 18 February

- 09:30 Sustainability
- 11:45 Chat 'n Chew - 'The Royal'
- 14:00 A Different View of German History – The German Democratic Republic (All Welcome)

## Monday, 21 February

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 12:00 Meditation
- 13:30 Coin Collectors

## Tuesday, 22 February

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Brain Games

## Wednesday, 23 February

- 10:00 Wine Appreciation: Delatite Winery, Mansfield
- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 12:15 German - Beginners
- 13:30 'A Taste of Art'
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners 2021 (Apple)

## Thursday, 24 February

- 09:30 Garden App'n - Two Beautiful Benalla gardens
- 10:00 Armchair History
- 10:00 Community Singing @ The Hub
- 13:00 Family Research – 'A Sense of Place'

## Friday, 25 February

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 17:00 Newsletter reports due today

## Saturday, 26 February

- 13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

## Monday, 28 February

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 14:00 As Time Goes By - Memoir Writing

## Tuesday, 1 March

- 10:00 Page Turners – 'What Alice Forgot'
- 10:00 Stock and Land
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Armchair Traveller – 'Papua NG Coastal Expedition Cruise' Brian Vial

## Wednesday, 2 March

- 09:00 Easy Walks - Seven Creeks Walk and the Euroa Arboretum
- 09:30 Play Reading
- 12:15 German - Beginners
- 14:00 Be Connected

## Thursday, 3 March

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Family Research - Beginners
- 13:00 Patchwork

## Friday, 4 March

- 09:30 Sustainability