



Benalla and District Inc.

## Newsletter – April 2018

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Please send newsletter items for the newsletter to <mailto:newsletter@u3abenalla.com> by **Monday 28 May 2018**

### President's Report

On Friday, 27th April, I received a letter from Tony McIlroy, C.E.O of Benalla Rural City Council. We have now been allocated office space in the old rest room. We are extremely pleased to finally have an office of our own and have spoken to Elsie Northey at the Council regarding sourcing a desk. We did not succeed in our bid to gain additional storage in the old Red Cross Cupboard. Noise issues also remain unresolved apart from the Recorder group being required by Tony McIlroy to be relocated. We also remain concerned about reports of U3A members being spoken to rudely or confronted in anger by members of the Seniors. Please let me or a member of the committee know immediately if this happens.

Next week John Gebauer is painting the Projection Wall with no charge for materials or his time, because, in his words, "We do a great service to this community". Many thanks to John.

The Training Days for Equipment for Convenors and interested members will be: Tuesday May 1st at 1.30pm, Wednesday May 23rd at 2pm and Tuesday June 5th at 1.30 pm.

Dorothy Webber

President

### Group Reports

#### Armchair Traveller

At our March meeting we visited England and parts of the Australian centre. We meet again at 10.00am on Tuesday May 15. Rupe and Gwen will complete their 4WD journey thru the red centre, particularly Uluru and the Gunbarrel Highway,

then Jan will take us walking again, this time to New Zealand.

John Avery

#### Art Appreciation

An enthusiastic and nostalgic group visited the Milkbar exhibition at the Benalla Gallery. With Director Bryony Nainby behind the counter we enjoyed some old-fashioned lollies and marvelled at the monumental task of the artist in creating hand painted representations of his favourite products at the local milkbar of his teenage years in Melbourne.

But milkbars are still alive and well in Benalla and other regional towns and some interesting exchanges occurred when we tried to identify not only our present milkbars but also those from the past that have closed down. Being able to walk inside the milkbar and remember products and magazines that have disappeared brought back many memories, especially the telecom public phone booth that always seemed to be nearby.

The popular children's activity saw a wall of coloured products that stencilled papers enabled them to produce. Altogether a fun installation for both adults and children and one that attracted up to 800 visitors on one day during the school holidays.

Meg Dillon

#### Bird Watching

First of all, my apologies for bringing the date forward one week for our April outing to Baddaginnie, particularly as changes to the newsletter meant that it was distributed after our outing.

Our group of 14 visited Helen's property to look for the many bush birds that visit her garden. In addition to six bird baths, Helen also has also filled two old bath tubs, which she has stocked with local native water plants, and they provide an attractive place for birds to drink and bathe. Red-browed Finches and Superb Fairy-wrens were easy to find, but some of the shyer birds could be heard calling but did not show themselves with so many people in the garden. Some of the group walked to a nearby wetland, which had dried out over summer, although we did see a Brown Thornbill there, and a group of White-winged Choughs in a nearby revegetation area on the farm. A shady pergola provided a perfect place for a late morning tea.

Many thanks Helen for hosting our visit. We saw or heard about 20 bird species, among them several Rainbow Bee-eaters, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Welcome Swallows, a Kookaburra and a group of 4 Brown-headed Honeyeaters which visited the old bath near the pergola.



A list of the species recorded can be viewed on eBird at:  
<https://ebird.org/australia/view/checklist/S44984511>

#### **Bird watching at Euroa Thursday 10 May**

Please meet at the car park behind the Seniors Building at 9.30am, where we car pool for a trip to Euroa. We will go birding in the morning, followed by lunch at 12.15pm at Seven Creeks Hotel in Euroa. We will do a short walk along Seven Creeks in the town, then visit the Euroa Arboretum on the old Hume Highway south of the town centre. If time permits, we will look through the fence at the adjacent water treatment plant to look for waterbirds on the ponds. As usual, please wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle and binoculars if you have them.

If you are interested in coming to lunch in Euroa, please ring or email me by Tuesday 8 May, so I can confirm numbers with the hotel. Ph 5762 5755 or [coskoy@bigpond.com](mailto:coskoy@bigpond.com)

Please note that our birding program will be in recess over winter. Our first outing for semester 2 will be on Thursday 13 September 2018.

Kathy Costello

### **Brain Games**

After a long break I hope for a good turn up at our May 7th session, especially as we've had two apologies and two "retirements"

Elsbeth Maconachie

### **Bushwalks**

#### **Easy walks**

##### **4 April - Plain Creek, Carters Timber Track**

Despite the lack of prior notice, six keen walkers enjoyed a great day in very attractive bush. We were surprised to see so many campers in the car park, which is over the second bridge after leaving the Mount Buller road, but it was just after Easter. You turn off Mount Buller road to the left where several large tanks are situated, just after passing Saw Mill Settlement.

We followed the track beside the creek for a short distance before turning right at a sign post to climb a short distance to the timber track which still has a few rails visible. All the tracks are well maintained and the magnificent trees kept us cool. There are few bridges crossing the stream and you eventually arrive at a ruined timber bridge where the track reached a road. Just before this is a sign to a waterfall. This track was new to me and was finished in 2016. We decided to see this, and it was well worth the extra distance and some climbing. The falls are very attractive with a vertical drop of about 5 metres plus an extra drop further down.



It includes some very colourful vegetation. The return walk turns right at a signpost with 3 signs on it but doesn't seem to indicate the track down to the creek (although it starts at the sign). We had a very late lunch on the park beside the Delatite River. The distance walked was 7.5km.

## 2 May - Beechworth and Lake Sambell

A quiet stroll through autumn foliage, half way to Lake Kerferd and a walk round Lake Sambell. We will leave the Barkly Street car park at 9.30. Please ring 5762 1980 to facilitate transport.

**6 June – 'Rocky Ned'**, off the Police Track, out Swanpool Way. We will leave at about 10 am from the Seniors Car Park.

Vaughan Cowan

## Mid Week Walks

### 11<sup>th</sup> April – Ovens River Loop, Myrtleford

Nine bushwalkers crossed the swing bridge over the Happy Valley Creek at the Rotary Park, Myrtleford, to follow the Ovens River Trail. The path was shady, the day warm and humid. It passed through native bushland, following the Ovens River.

The river was sometimes bubbly, rocky and narrow, and sometimes still, reflective and deep. There were picturesque views from the two bridges that crossed it. A curly white goat joined us at Apex Park for morning tea. The path continued past the old Big Tree, the Phoenix Tree and under trees beginning to show autumn colours. We lunched at a park in central Myrtleford and then walked back to the cars and afternoon tea.

Helen Spinks

### 9<sup>th</sup> May – Beechworth Autumn Leaves – may include Ingram's Rock Areas

I am hoping to park the cars at the Powder Magazine area and walk to One Tree Hill, Ingram's Rock, Fiddies Quarry, the Precipice and up the Cascades to the cars. Some climbing is required. We will leave the Barkly Street Car Park at 9.00am. Please ring 5762 1980.

Vaughan Cowan

## Chat n' Chew

Details for our next Chat n' Chew are:

Date: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Venue: Benalla Bowls Club at 11.45 a.m.

All welcome.

Please confirm attendance to Shirley Kearney 57626768 by Tuesday midday on 15<sup>th</sup> May

Shirley Kearney

## Collectors

Our April theme for Collectors was 'from the shed/garden'. The largest and very interesting item was a scythe. Well done Lorraine for bringing along this very large item which has been in the family for several generations. Another unusual item was a very modern 'hers' tool kit with the handles of all items being coloured bright pink.

We also had a collection of Royal Family memorabilia and some decorative garden ornaments.

The old tools provided much interest with an old paint pot, tenon saws, a level, secateurs and an old hammer to mention a few.



We also saw an old 'Crouch' fishing reel, an item highly prized by fishermen and collectors and a very large fishing hook.

Our theme for our May 14th meeting will be 'from the bedroom/bathroom'.

Judith Borthwick

## e-Book Group

Robert Drew's recent novel *Whipbird* provided our group with a lot of fun and animated conversations.

The Irish-Australian Cleary family from all over Australia is invited to the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Conor Cleary's arrival at the Ballarat goldfields in the 1850s. Around 2000 of this prolific family arrive at Hugh Cleary's vineyard near Ballarat for the celebration. Hugh, a successful barrister, regards himself as the family's leader since his



elder brother, Sly, a former rock muso, addled by too much booze and drugs, believes he is dead and wanders around seemingly mute.

Drew pokes fun at all the middle class stereotypes in this satire on middle class manners. Thea the unmarried vegetarian doctor, two former bank managers now retired, and Father Ryan all contribute their bitter-sweet stories. Mining workers, film producers, grasping wives; mocking youngsters, Indonesian brides and Chinese husbands all add to the rich mix of this huge family. The pretenders, the disappointed, the pretentious and the mad: they are all here.

We recommend this book as an amusing read to dip into on a winter's afternoon.

Meg Dillon

## Exercises for Fun

Come along at 9.30 am on a Monday morning to enjoy our mild exercises to music, then socialise with a cuppa afterwards. All members welcome! (Ps—a friendly reminder, please wear your name badge.)

Helen Jeffree

## Exploring New Operas



Our small group of enthusiasts saw the DVD of Nicholas Maw's opera *Sophie's Choice* First produced in 2002 Maw presented the story of a Polish refugee Sophie who migrated to New York after the second world war. She is courted by a seemingly charming schizophrenic man, Stingo, and they live together in a boarding house. His frequent rages are painful for the narrator to watch, who wants to protect Sophie and eventually persuades her to run away with him. Here she tells him her dreadful story of incarceration in a concentration camp during the war, where she was forced to make a choice about saving one of her two children and surrendering the other to be taken to the gas chambers. These

experiences have permanently damaged her ability to cope with ordinary life and she leaves the safety offered by narrator to return to Stingo. Within days he hears that Stingo and Sophie have both committed suicide together, each unable to face their demons.

Unlike twentieth century musical theatre [ *Evita*, *Chicago* etc], Opera has travelled a dark path in the last 100 years

Meg Dillon

## Exploring the Universe

Vale Professor Stephen Hawking



Professor Stephen Hawking who died recently aged 76 was the most famous contemporary scientist. Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology at the University of Cambridge until recently, he was one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists and cosmologists that this world has ever seen. His theories revolutionised modern understanding of concepts of the beginning of the universe, relativity and black holes. As an author of many books he brought science to the people. His first book "A Brief History of Time" was translated into 40 languages and sold over 10 million copies.

What is surprising about all this is that he had motor neurone disease for 50 years, had lost his ability to move and speak, yet his mind remained sharp and clear. He communicated via a computer with a voice synthesiser operated by his cheek muscle. There was just so much for him to discover that he never gave up. His ashes will be interred in Westminster abbey alongside Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin.

We viewed an edited shortened version of the film "A Brief History of Mine." narrated by Hawking and his first wife Jane. It's too long to reproduce here but here's a tribute from Space.com

Remembering Professor Stephen Hawking. A Brief Retrospective.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e0asMyLcXs>

Jan gave us a power point presentation on Saturn's moon Titan, a rocky planet like moon with clouds and hydrocarbon lakes.

Rupe in his monthly planetary report where he informs us of the current view of planets and constellations spoke of the annual April 'Lyrid' Meteor Showers. This meteor shower is caused by Earth passing through debris left behind by the trail of the old Comet Thatcher on its journey towards the Sun. First sighted and recorded by Chinese astronomers 2,700 years ago, some of the meteors are only as big grains of sand. The light we see is the meteors burning up when they strike the Earth's atmosphere. (We used to call them shooting stars!)

Bev Morton

## Film and Literature

This month we watched *Please Murder Me*.

**Genre:** Crime, Drama, Film-Noir

**Plot:** A lawyer wins an acquittal for his client, a woman accused of murder. After the verdict, he finds out that she indeed did commit the murder and manipulated him to win her acquittal. Guilt-ridden, and knowing that she can't be tried again for the murder, he devises a plan to bring her to justice.

**Key Characters:** Myra Leeds (**Angela Lansbury**), Craig Carlson (**Raymond Burr**).

**Review:** we rated as 3 out of 5.

The movie seemed to be slow to start. Some of the acting was rigid but was typical of the period in which it was made. As it continued, the movie started to keep us guessing until the end. We realised then that the name of the movie was perhaps Craig Carlson, unable to live with himself, asking/forcing Myra to murder him – please murder me. This allowed him to ease his conscience by ensuring that she would be tried for his murder, after she had wrongly been found not guilty of her husband's murder. Raymond Burr was perfect for the role, and we could see how this formed his entry into his later role on TV as Perry Mason.

We also discussed the term film-noir, a term originally applied to American thriller or detective films made in the period 1944–54, a style or genre

of cinematographic film marked by a mood of pessimism, fatalism, and menace. Similar films could include the 1946 adaptation of the James M Cain novel *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. We decided to watch this movie in May if it could be found.

**Further:** Our May movie will be *The Postman Always Rings Twice* starring Lana Turner and John Garfield. We aim to start watching the movie promptly at 1:00pm so that we have time to discuss the movie.

With all the movies we watch, we look at them as literature – literature in a different medium, the medium 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



*Ballarat Botanical Gardens*

The U3A group had a bus trip on Thursday 26th April to Ballarat Botanical Gardens followed by a beautiful lunch at Pipers Restaurant, then went onto Lambley Nursery & Gardens. Such an inspiring garden and fabulous veggie garden.



*Lambley Nursery and Gardens*

A must-see. Thanks to Gwen for all her organising.

Phyllis Doxey

On May 24<sup>th</sup> we will visit the farm garden of Lyn and Peter Tanner, 222 Quinn Road, Goorambat. We will have morning tea. Please bring a mug and a small plate to share. Hot water, tea, coffee and milk will be provided. Then we are off to Devenish and Goorambat to see the Wall to Wall Art. Lunch at the Railway Hotel, Goorambat. Meet at 9.30am in the U3A car park behind the Seniors building.

Gwen Turner 5762 7017 M 0438 627 010

## Garden Team

We all got to work in Lois's garden but Bill threw himself in with even more than his usual gusto and within minutes had sliced himself with the pruners so it is with relief that I'm glad to report that his swollen thumb is recovering, though slowly.

He may have to take a supervisory role when we gather at Val's for the rose pruning on May 14th.

(Elspeth will be an apology yet again so please decide on a June venue and whether we should gather on the QB Monday or on the third or fourth Mon of the month)

Elspeth Maconachie

## Hot Topics – A new programme in the Second Semester

Do you enjoy discussing current affairs? In today's world of disasters with half-baked solutions we feel that we all have some of the solutions to these problems and yet we have no outlet for our views. Well, we have now! It is called 'Hot Topics' and will cover topics ranging from Reality Television to the Uluru Statement, from Climate Change to Tabloid Journalism, from Euthenasia to the Newstart allowance. Topics discussed will be wide ranging, but there will always be a topic set for a chaired discussion and you will get a chance to prepare your thoughts for the next session. Come along, it will be great to get things 'off your chest'.

*Semester 2 - 3rd Friday from 1.30 to 3.30 pm*  
*Convenors - Carole Marple and Joan Laing*

## Investment

At the April monthly meeting of Investment we looked at shares which had excellent dividends of 6-8% (such as the big four banks and Telstra) versus their share price performance over the past twelve months. We found that several of these past dividend favourite shares had lost 9 to 15% of their capital in the past twelve months. As an

alternative we found other shares (such as ASX, RIO and BHP) which had produced around 4% dividend but still had retained or even increased their share price over the past twelve months.

In the second session we looked at some information on Bonds provided by FIIG securities. This firm offers an over the counter service for buying Bonds as distinct from those Bonds which can be purchased on the Stock Exchange through your normal broker or on-line broking service.

At the May meeting of Investment we have a small follow up segment on Bonds including a You-Tube talk which has been provided by one of our members.

Margaret Jenkins

## Let's Talk Books

A wide range of books this month encouraged much conversation. Tom Keneally seemed to win the vote as the most read author this month, with *The Daughters of Mars*, *The Crimes of the Father* and *The Power Game* the third book in the Monsarrat Series written by Meg and Tom Keneally.

*9 Parts of Desire* by Geraldine Brooks was enlightening as far as religious views of Islam, their teaching and culture and the many restrictions on women. A memoir written by Suzy Zail about her father the jeweller Emil Braun, *The Tattooed Flower* was sad and uplifting at the same time. *The Tainted Trial of Farah Jama* by Julie Szego created some discussion, this book had been read in some of the CAE book groups. Laurie, the only gentleman in our group, contributed with a description of a very interesting talking book *Offline* by Anne Holt a Norwegian author, highlighting the ill feeling against Islam. *The Household Guide to Dying* by Debra Adelaide was an uplifting experience. Michael Connelly and the Harry Bosch popular series rated a mention, whilst Karen Joy Fowler wrote *We are all Completely Beside Ourselves*, nominated for the Man Booker Prize. It is beautifully written, if a little different in subject matter. It is extraordinary how many different genres authors can write and command our interest. Our next gathering is 1<sup>st</sup> May at 2.00 p.m. Happy reading everyone.

Geraldine McCorkell

## Lifeball

We are having a lovely time at Lifeball at present. We have some new players, and the return of one after surgery. The beauty of this game is you can only walk - running gets you



penalised!! - so every player is relieved that speed is penalised also. We can be as slow as we choose, but no player wants to be that slow!!

We are preparing for our annual Fun and Friendship Day at the Sports Centre in Ackerly Avenue on May 7.

We will have teams from Deniliquin, Albury, Wangaratta, Myrtleford, Rutherglen, Mansfield, Eildon, and of course, ourselves. We start at around 10am, have an absolutely lovely lunch, and finish around 2pm. It is a super day, and the developing friendships amongst players is a great side issue to the game.

Last week we played at Myrtleford, and had a wonderful day. We always enjoy visiting there, as they are all so hospitable, and the drive is always so lovely as well. They turn on their famous soups for lunch, and because Brian and Colleen were unable to attend, Rupert had a cream cake to make up for the piece Brian would have had had he been there!

We are anticipating around 50 for our day, and I really recommend that you pop in to see how our game is played, and the enthusiasm with which we play it!

If you want to know more, contact me, I am only too happy to discuss our fun game.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May as part of our Fun and Friendship Day activity Lifeball will be unveiling their new Banner. An invitation is extended to all U3A members to be part of this event.

Marg Merriman 5762 2967

## Meet and Mingle

An Update on Renewable Energy in Benalla Area will be the topic at the next Meet & Mingle on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May commencing a 10.00am

Bill Parris

## Moments in Australian History

In April we continued our journey by looking at a 1950s movie made in the Benalla district about the Kelly Outbreak. I posed the theory that the last stand at Glenrowan represented a bank robbery gone wrong, unlike Ned's previous successful robberies at Euroa and Jerilderie. The gang had been on the run for sixteen months and were broke and exhausted when they planned one last heist in Benalla, perhaps planning on moving

interstate to start fresh lives afterwards. But at Glenrowan, initially intended to be a diversion of police power prior to the robbery the next day, absolutely everything went wrong that could possibly happen. The resultant chaos led to the gang's deaths and Ned's capture. I can recommend the recent book *Glenrowan* by Ian W Shaw, available in our local library, for a well-researched narrative of the gang's last two years of mayhem.

We moved onto looking at *The Big Hole in the Ground*, a summary of how mining has dominated our economy and opportunities. Prospecting for gold was dominated by individuals and small groups of around five men who moved across Victoria looking for new fields throughout the nineteenth century. We looked at short videos of the Kalgoorlie gold rushes of the late 1890s comparing them to the earlier Victorian rushes in the 1850s. But Deep lead mining took over and we moved onto the more dangerous job of mining copper up to 1000feet underground for large companies. The 1912 Mine disaster at Mt Lyall in Tasmania and the 1946 strike at the Mt Isa copper mines in Queensland provided some interesting contrast to gold mining. Amazing footage exists of these incidents that helps us go back in time to better relive these incidents.

Meg Dillon

## Music Appreciation

**13<sup>th</sup> April** - Because of the continuing problems our group has had with both faulty equipment and interruption from the main hall at the Senior Citizens this week's Music Appreciation was held at the home of John Avery. This week John presented work from Polish Composer Karol Mikuli. This man was a devotee of Frederick Chopin who gained acceptance in his lifetime as a concert pianist. We listened to music that was not as melodic or romantic as Chopin but was sweet and balanced and well worth listening to. Mikuli has been completely ignored since his death and is unfortunately currently not listed in any repertoire. We listened to this on John's sound system.

We then listened to the complete Bach Sonata in E Minor BWV 1023 for Violin and Basso in 3 movements. This is a lesser known work of Bach's. But as Bach wrote such a substantial body of work some of his music is not played as much as some of his more popular work is and, as a consequence, is not so well known. But never the

less well worth the listen. This work was played on a Bose Wave Music System and showed how miraculous some music systems can be. Such rich sound out of such small a system.

**27<sup>th</sup> April** - Our unknown composer today was Thomas Dyke Ackland Tellefsen. This Norwegian was another pupil of Chopin who became a teacher himself as well as a virtuoso piano player. We listened to his Violin Sonata No 1 in G Minor. This had lots of violin music in it as well as piano music. If he was a pupil of Chopin he was not influenced much by him in this instance. The music was clean and melodic.

We then listened to Mahlers 5th Symphony. Its a while before you get to the Adagietto but its worth the wait. Lots of unresolved chords blending from one into another which is the Mahler trademark. This music was used as the soundtrack in Visconti's Death In Venice and is perfect to have in the background while experiencing Venice. Seems to sum the place up perfectly.

We experimented with playing parts of Mahler on the Bose sound system as well as a sound bar. Hopefully we now have all our technical problems sorted out.

Neville Gibb

## Over There

The recent session of 'Over There' saw John speak on the issues with logistics in the Great War. He dealt not only with getting supplies to the troops at the front line but also varying efforts adopted by different countries to keep their factories working in the absence of so many men. Germany and Russia used forced labour from the countries they had invaded. Britain and France used women in the factories and Chinese coolies and Indians, paid a pittance, to load and unload supplies on the docks and behind the lines. Women's wages were forty percent of men's.

Germany never went to a total war-footing so John also described some of the ersatzstoffen (replacement products) that were used to feed and clothe Germans during that period. 500,000 died of starvation.

In the next session, John will speak about the Generals, the so-called 'Donkeys', the class system in the British and Australian army, and Australians behaving badly. He will also show the next part of the French-Canadian documentary.

John Barry

## Patchwork

Thanks to the donations we received we now have 20+ quilts to take to Moira Kelly on May 15th. The table-runners are coming along nicely with some already completed. Thursday, May 31st is our next all-day session, 9.30am to 4pm

Dorothy Webber

## Play Reading

The play for May is *Breath of Spring*, a snap decision based on the recommendation of the volunteer at the Victorian Drama League. Our choice had been 84 Charing Cross Road but as it is being performed in Melbourne shortly all the available scripts are in use.

Jenny McKenna

## Politics and Current Affairs

"No report this month, I'm all Trumped out, but watch out for "Hot topics" in semester 2".

Terry Case

## Recorder Group

It is said that the playing of a musical instrument has the ability to light up every area of the brain.

Well, light up our brains we did as we worked through 'La Mourisque,' counting beats and remembering that the sign : means go back to the start. 'London's Burning' is now an old friend whereas 'Brian Boru's March saw us clapping beats and learning 6/8 time. 'Trio for Recorders' and 'Minni Amor,' both three-parters are starting to sound good, and don't you admire people who can play top A on a recorder. Phew!!

For Homework we have 'The Floral Dance' and 'Skye Boat Song.'

With no lesson in late April due to ANZAC Day, there's lots of practice to do in preparation for our lunch hour session on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May!

Pat Treleaven

## Singing for Fun

During April we welcomed Rick Hann to our Musical Leader's group. Rick, who has an extensive background in choral singing, commenced his program with several Australian favourites including "Botany Bay" which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Faith Hicks introduced us this month to a favourite song of hers "Puttin' on the Ritz". Its syncopated



melody will take us a little while to pick up. However, it certainly has a catchy tune.

Margaret Merriman chose "The Three Bells" as one of her songs during April. Brian Greed has introduced the group to the "Whippenproof Song" during one session and the Collingwood Theme Song on another occasion. Singing for Fun is great on variety. Our pianist Gwen Barnes copes very well with all the songs chosen.

Members are reminded that the Vocal Dimension Group from Wangaratta is performing in the Benalla Town Hall on Saturday 5 May at 2.30pm. Tickets are \$15 at the door. This group has visited Benalla several times and always puts together a great afternoon's entertainment.

Margaret Jenkins

## Stock and Land

Harvesting was the theme of two presentations to Stock and Land in April - harvesting agricultural radio audiences on one hand and sub. clover seed on the other.



Libby Price, former ABC broadcaster and editor of the Benalla Ensign and now editor and presenter on ACE commercial radio, described her work in the media while retired local farmer Lock Lidgerwood outlined the challenges of growing subterranean clover seed and harvesting it in hot dry conditions mid-summer.

Adelaide born Libby took to horses early and had a job lined up as groom to the 1980 Moscow Olympics equestrian team which fell apart when Australia boycotted the games. But she did similar work for several polo teams and still rides recreationally on a Benalla farm.

After Agricultural College, and at the third attempt, Libby joined the ABC's rural department and eventually worked on TV programs as well. She told the U3A group the main tool of radio recording was a Nagra tape recorder which reproduced sound beautifully but weighed 5kg. It was so heavy that job applicants were supposedly

selected on the soundness of their backs. Nowadays Libby said, the ubiquitous iPhone did all the heavy lifting, including the ability to eliminate or subdue background noise.

Lock Lidgerwood grew up on a fairly typical wheat and sheep family farm at Devenish in the 1950s and 1960s. The difference was a significant investment by his father in sub. clover harvesting equipment. Because the seed is generally deposited underground, it must literally be dug up and separated from soil.

The advent of all-crop harvesters revolutionised the process and over his working lifetime he added significant equipment tweaks to make the process easier and more profitable.

Given the hot and dusty conditions of working machinery in high summer, fires and thirst were constant challenges. Not surprisingly, various strategically placed pubs featured in Loch's presentation.

Next month's Stock and Land will comprise a visit to the Toland family's Merino stud at Violet Town on May 1.

David Palmer

## Tech Savvy

### iPad for Beginners

This month we revised using the calendar, the contact list and sending emails with photos attached on our iPads and phones. We then looked further into the options bar that appears in emails when you hold your finger on the screen.

We discovered: Select, Select All, Insert Photo or Video.

Then after selecting text in an email we could use a new bar of options such as:

Cut, Copy, Bold, Italics and Underline.

So many choices!

Most participants managed to select copy and paste text from an email to a new email page.

Next session, Wednesday 2nd May, we are running a forum with guest presenter Margaret Jenkins (Convenor of the Investment Group) on banking and payments online.

Unfortunately the Week 3 Session of Tech Savvy Beginners Apple on Wednesday 16th May is cancelled. A make-up session will be held in week 5 on Wednesday 30th May.

Tech Savvy Beginners will then continue Wednesday 6th June.

### **BE CONNECTED is coming.....**

Be Connected is an Australian Government initiative to help people make the most out of being online. We will be going through some online learning modules to give you better skills when using the internet.

Be Connected will run during Semester II and incorporate two short courses; one for Apple Users and another for Android users.

The Be Connected Course for **Apple** users will be on the following dates:

DATES	Wednesday	18th July
	Wednesday	1st August
	Wednesday	15th August

The Be Connected Course for **Android** users will be on the following dates

DATES	Wednesday	29th August
	Wednesday	5th September
	Wednesday	19th September

### **Tech Savvy Projects**

The aim of Tech Savvy Projects is for members to complete a project of interest using information technology. This proved challenging in our first month when the WiFi modem in our room didn't cope with the demand, however we've made a transition to smaller groups and some one to one sessions so WiFi difficulties have become less of an issue. Members come in with their devices and work quietly away at their chosen project, with support from others in the group. We use the front screen to project and discuss progress on family trees on ancestry.com or examples of other work completed. Some members come to one of the two Tuesday afternoon - Family History and Other Projects - some stay all afternoon, taking time out from other demands to pursue their

project, whether it is family history, a blog, or a slide show. We have moved to a more relaxed learning environment - we even had Mozart playing quietly in the background through the sound bar at last Thursday's session!

Bev Lee

### **Tech Savvy Talks**

'Digital Assistants' were on the agenda at a recent Thursday afternoon coffee meeting and at our regular session this month. There are four main alternatives, which are Amazon, Apple, Google and Microsoft. Of these Amazon's 'Alexa' appears to be the most innovative, with an enhanced voice recognition algorithm able to recognize individual account owner's voices and proposed use of the owner's voice as a password for access to the account. Up to ten different voices can be recorded.

We watched a short video clip demonstrating how to set up Alexa with the latest version of the digital assistant. The video also demonstrated how Alexa would only recognize the account owner's voice and rejected others. However, it also showed how it could be foiled by a recording of the owner's voice. Since Amazon is also considering developing a finance capacity which will be similar to Paypal using Alexa, further enhancement of the security will be needed.

#### *Amazon's Alexa Wants Person to Person Payments*



Our TED Talk this time was by Scott Galloway, a Professor of marketing from NYU. The talk was entitled ["How Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google manipulate our emotions."](#)

The combined market capitalization of Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google is now greater than the GDP of India (and Australia). In a spectacular and controversial rant, Scott Galloway shared insights and eye-opening stats about their dominance and motivation. Some interesting discussion followed the video.

We also followed up on the 5G mobile demonstration by Telstra at the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games using some cutting-edge technology. We noted the evolution of Telstra from a telephone company to a data services company which will involve the “shuttering” of 2500 local telephone exchanges and converting the remainder to distributed data centres. There will also be additional data centres located between the major data centres and the local facilities. This is needed for *edge computing* vis a vis *cloud computing* where fast acting low maintenance transmission is required for the IOT. Fifty percent of mobile traffic is still expected to go over the 4G network.

Les Rodgers

## Towards a Sustainable Future

We all look forward to meeting up each fortnight to update our understanding of current concerns and developments in relation to a sustainable future, with reading selected by our convenor underpinning our learning. There is always much to cover and our discussions are well informed and thought provoking.

This year we have been following the steps being taken towards a zero net energy future for Benalla by Renewable Energy Benalla. During the month a number of members of our group and other U3A members attended information sessions held by Renewable Energy Benalla and Mondo Power regarding their battery ready solar bulk buy offer for Benalla residents and businesses. We understand there is still some time register interest in this offer, with [information about the Benalla project available on the Mondo Power website](#).

Wearing his 'other hat' as President of the Benalla Sustainable Future Group and member of Renewable Energy Benalla, our convenor John Lloyd will be the guest speaker at Meet & Mingle on May 16, John will present *'An Update on Renewable Energy in the Benalla Area'*

Bev Lee

## Travel Group

Welcome to our new members. If you are a single person or just travelling without a partner ...that's what this group is about. As well as all you people who have a partner. We all would all like to go somewhere but it's a daunting exercise if you know no-one.

I have just returned from Fiji and shared with 2 other ladies. Cost each for the 14 day cruise was about \$1650 each. We parked the car in the undercover carpark at Albury. That cost \$230 for the fortnight. The flight to Sydney and return cost \$350 each which was far too much I think.

However I have come back with details of a Repositioning Cruise (next year) 37 days from Singapore to Southampton for \$6,039.00 per twin share. (For all you professional cruisers) Available from me or at the next meeting. And details of New Zealand and Japan for next year.

The next meeting is Wed 16<sup>th</sup> May. And a reminder the payment for the Eildon Social Bar B Q is due now. We will do a scenic drive around the area and 'drop a line' or 'sink a few' and get to know each other. You never know who you need to share a room with in the future. It is purely a social exercise in a magnificent setting. The barbeque shed is under cover, clean with good seating and tables. Fishing ramp is suitable for disabled and is 15 steps away.

Judy Perry

## Wine Appreciation

*Wednesday 23 May*

Meet at 10.30 am in the carpark for visit to Browns Milawa winery. Lunch will be a 2-course at King River café.

*Wednesday 27 June*

Meet at 10.00 am in the carpark for travel to Mansfield and Delatite Wines. Lunch in town to be confirmed



Keith & Heather 5762 4086

## Writing Workshop

*'What I was wearing...'* proved quite a delight at our monthly 'Memoirs' based session. Memories were shared about the choice of wedding and bridesmaid's dresses; being a 13 year old boy in a department store dressing room while mother and father selected a first suit for family occasions; the uniform worn as a young child on the first day of school to the starched veil worn when graduating

as a nursing sister; the vexed choice of an outfit to wear to a daughter's wedding; the 'wearing of grief' and a mother's choice of outfit for the Melbourne Cup; and a 'what I was wearing ... was covered in soot'... story following a fire in an apartment building. Betty wrote her memories as a delightful poem, 'The Clothes I wore', which began 'When I was a little girl and lived just up the track, In a small weatherboard cottage with gum trees out the back'... The project for our next 500 Word Memoirs session on May 28 is [Someone who Shaped Me](#) The brief: How did you become who you are? Think about someone who's influenced your life and start writing.

Our Creative Writing group started their session on April 9th sharing children's stories placed in the North East. These included a little boy making friends with the ducks around the Benalla Lake, a stray kitten eventually finding a home, a baby spoonbill whose beak was too large for his head and a family from Upotipotpon getting caught on a train in their pyjamas. We discussed the language used and the age that the stories would suit. For example, should the language be simpler, depending on the age that the story was aimed at. The group then discussed possible projects for the next session on May 14. "We will all write on a paragraph that will then be handed on to the next person to add to, with the aim of having some interesting stories by the end of the year. We can also choose one of two categories to write about – 'I reached into my pocket' OR 'I could hear a growl'."

Bev Lee and Joy Shirley

## Program News

Two new activities will be conducted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester –

**The first activity is HOT TOPICS** – 3rd Friday of the Month – 1.30pm to 3.30pm – the Convenors are Carole Marple and Joan Laing.

Do you enjoy discussing current affairs? In today's world of disasters with half-baked solutions we feel that we all have some of the solutions to these problems and yet we have no outlet for our views. Well, we have now! It is called 'Hot Topics' and will cover topics ranging from Reality Television to the Uluru Statement, from Climate Change to Tabloid Journalism, from Euthanasia to the Newstart allowance. Topics discussed will be wide ranging, but there will always be a topic set for a chaired discussion and you will get a chance

to prepare your thoughts for the next session. Come along, It will be great to get things 'off your chest'.

**The second activity is BE CONNECTED** which is an Australian Government initiative to help people make the most out of being online. We will be going through some online learning modules to give you better skills when using the internet.

Be Connected will run during Semester II and include two short courses; one for Apple Users and another for Android users

The Be Connected Course for Apple users will be held at 1:30pm - 3:30pm on Wednesdays 18th July, 1st and 15<sup>th</sup> August

The Be Connected Course for Android users will be held at 1:30pm - 3:30pm on Wednesdays 29th August, 5th September and 19th September

To Be Connected online can mean:

- Talking to family and friends who live far away
- Keeping up to date with what's happening in your community
- Shopping online safely and securely
- Following interests and hobbies online

## Thank you

This year saw the commencement of a long awaited 'hands on' music group with the introduction of the Recorder Group. We would like to thank the family of Stella Wharton for their donation of a truly wonderful collection of recorders of different sizes and tones.



We would also like to thank Judith Borthwick for donating two recorders played by her sons many years ago.

### Thank You

**Steph Ryan and her office staff**

for the printing of hard copies of our newsletter for mailing out and distribution.



# What's On in May

## Tuesday, May 1

10:00am E-Book Group  
10:00am Stock and Land - Toland Merino Stud  
1:30pm Equipment Training for Convenors  
2:00pm Let's Talk Books

## Wednesday, May 2

9:30am Easy Walks - Beechworth & Lake Sambell  
9:30am Play Reading - 'Breath of Spring'  
12:00pm Recorder Group  
1:30pm iPad for Beginners - Banking and Payments Online

## Thursday, May 3

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

## Friday, May 4

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

## Monday, May 7

9:30am Exercises for Fun  
10:00am Lifeball - Unveiling of our New Banner!  
10:00am Lifeball - 'Fun and Friendship Day'  
10:00am Art Appreciation  
1:30pm Brain Games

## Tuesday, May 8

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs  
1:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History  
3:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'Other Projects'

## Wednesday, May 9

9:00am Mid Week Walk - Beechworth in Autumn  
10:00am Tech Savvy Talks  
1:00pm Film and Literature - The Postman Always Rings Twice  
7:00pm Exploring New Operas

## Thursday, May 10

9:30am Birdwatching - Euroa, including Arboretum  
10:00am Singing for Fun - Harmony Group  
1:30pm Executive Meeting

## Friday, May 11

10:00am Music Appreciation  
1:30pm Moments in Australian History

## Monday, May 14

9:30am Exercises for Fun  
9:30am Lifeball  
10:00am Collectors – 'From the Bedroom/Bathroom'  
1:00pm Creative Writing (Writing Workshop)  
2:00pm Garden Team - 'Rose Pruning at Val's'  
2:30pm Writing Workshop @ 'The Northo'

## Tuesday, May 15

10:00am Armchair Traveller  
1:30pm Exploring the Universe

## Wednesday, May 16

10:00am Meet and Mingle - Update on Renewable Energy in the Benalla Area  
12:15pm Travel Group

## Thursday, May 17

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00pm Patchwork

## Friday, May 18

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future  
11:45am Chat n' Chew - Benalla Bowls Club  
1:30pm 'Over There' – 'Australians Behaving Badly'

## Monday, May 21

9:30am Exercises for Fun  
9:30am Lifeball  
1:30pm Program Services

## Tuesday, May 22

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs  
1:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History  
3:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'Other Projects'

## Wednesday, May 23

10:00am Recorder Group  
10:30am Wine Appreciation - Brown Brothers, Milawa and the King River Cafe  
2:00pm Equipment Training for Convenors

## Thursday, May 24

9:30am Garden Appreciation - Goorambat  
9:30am Member Services  
1:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'E-Shed'  
3:00pm Tech Savvy Talkers at 'The Northo'

## Friday, May 25

10:00am Music Appreciation  
1:30pm Moments in Australian History

## Monday, May 28

9:30am Exercises for Fun  
9:30am Lifeball  
12:00pm Newsletter Deadline  
1:30pm Writing Workshop - 'Someone Who Shaped Me'

## Wednesday, May 30

10:00am iPad for Beginners (Make up session)

## Thursday, May 31

Travel Group's Eildon Social Barbecue  
9:30am Patchwork - 'All Day Session'

## Friday, June 1

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

## Monday, June 4

9:30am Exercises for Fun  
9:30am Lifeball  
10:00am Art Appreciation  
1:30pm Brain Games

## Tuesday, June 5

10:00am E-Book Group  
10:00am Stock and Land  
1:30pm Equipment Training for Convenors  
1:30pm Membership Services Group  
2:00pm Let's Talk Books

## Wednesday, June 6

9:30am Play Reading  
10:00am Easy Walks - 'Rocky Ned' Swanpool  
12:00pm Recorder Group  
1:30pm iPad for Beginners