



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – June 2018

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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President's Report

The Annual Network Presidents Briefing Day was held on 16th May. My thanks go to Margaret Jenkins for attending in my absence. Some points that came out of this meeting are:-

- U3A has 109 branches with 36,000 members in Victoria
- U3A has more members than Mens' Sheds
- Mens' Sheds have received \$4.3 Million in funding since 2010
- Membership fees range from \$40 to \$75 per annum. Benalla is the only group in the state with a membership fee of \$30
- A number of groups receive council funding up to \$1500
- Most councils see U3A as a positive effect on the ageing population
- Funding is a major concern for many U3As
- Some U3As report that Utility charges are up to \$6000 per year

U3A Benalla is indeed fortunate that previous committees have used good management and have been able to show a surplus over several years.

Starting in June the Recorder Group will be meeting at NEA on the second and fourth Wednesday from 10am-12noon.

Any group using a bus for outings must have it approved by the Committee.

A Blu-ray CD/DVD player has been purchased and installed and I hope this solves the problems that have occurred in the past.

As we will need up-to-date figures for grant applications, all convenors of external groups need to get their First Semester records to Geraldine at the end of the semester.

Dorothy Webber, President

From the Editor

Last month some U3a members advised that they did not receive their April Newsletter. On further investigation it became apparent that users with "bigpond.com" addresses appeared to be most affected.

It was also discovered that a few people who thought they had not received their Newsletters were looking for the May edition.

With the advent of the What's On page and a later date for publication it has been decided to update the heading to the month of issue. You won't miss out on a newsletter as there will now be a December edition.

Hopefully this will avoid any further confusion.

The monthly calendar attached to the Newsletter is for the next month for your information and planning.

Heather Wallace

Editor

Thank You

Lorraine Knox would like to thank her many friends in U3A for their support, cards messages and phone calls on the passing of her husband. "It was really appreciated and meant a lot to us all. Many, many thanks. Lorraine."

Group Reports

Armchair Traveller

We met as planned on May 15, and saw video of the finish of one of Gwen and Rup's inland 4WD safari across the "Gunbarrel Highway" and part of the Canning Stock route in West Australia. We also marvelled at what occurs when it rains in the usual desert landscape. We then had a glimpse of the opposite landscape when Marg showed us some of grandeur of Antarctica from the air from aboard a Qantas Jet.

We next meet as scheduled on Tuesday July 17. With a number away on winter holidays, the program has yet to be finalised – any volunteers?

John Avery

Armchair History

Armchair History: Wars of the Roses (The real Game of thrones).

This course will resume on August 10th. We will meet at our regular time, 2nd & 4th Fridays starting at 1.30pm. We use a DVD for part of each session to tell history from different viewpoints then discuss what we have seen. I hope to conclude with the reign of Henry VII (The Winter King).

If you would like to join the group, just show up at our first session. I will be away for a while, but you can contact me after July 10th.

Terry Case

Art Appreciation

Our group was quite excited to find ourselves in the Claridge Studio for this month's art appreciation session. Gallery Director Bryony Nainby had arranged for Dr Julie Gough, an artist, writer and curator to come to Benalla to talk about her own art practice as a Tasmanian Aborigine.

In this session Julie showed many of her photographs that explore amongst other things the notion of 'Absence' in the Tasmanian landscape. Where are the missing people that inhabited the island prior to settlement by Europeans? Julie found traces of them in the evocative nineteenth century placenames that hint at their presence: Black Charlie's Creek, Blackboy, Blackman's Bay, Jacky's Marsh etc. Her photos show fingerboards with the placenames but as well the empty landscape behind

denuded of native vegetation. The absence of people, of native scrub and native animals point to the obliteration of their culture. And yet within Tasmanian society many Aboriginal people live and practice their culture.

As well Julie noted the number of Aboriginal words appropriated as placenames: Karoola, Catagunya, Bungana and Camena to name a few. Many of these were imposed on the landscape in the twentieth century with little regard for their language, origins and meaning.

You may recall Julie's photos in the Gallery several months ago, photos of BBQ shelters in picnic spots that have former Aboriginal cultural associations. Her lecture and photo-show also greatly enhanced our understanding of the current exhibition 'Settlers and Savages' which uses everyday nineteenth century furniture and objects, embellished with gashes and accretions of red beads, symbolising the blood spilt during the clashes between Aborigines and settlers.

These two events led to many thoughtful comments and further understanding of the culture and experiences of the First Australians.

Meg Dillon

Bird Watching

The Birdwatching group's planned trip to Euroa on 10 May was cancelled because of a forecast for wet and windy conditions.

Several people expressed an interest in an alternative date later this month and after receiving feedback, Thursday 31st May was decided upon.

The group will meet at the Seniors' Centre car park a 9.30am, drive to Euroa to visit the Euroa Arboretum, then walk along part of the Seven Creeks track in town, followed by a 12.15pm lunch at Seven Creeks Hotel in Euroa. Here's hoping for a fine and sunny day

There will be a report of the Euroa trip in the next newsletter.

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

Nine of us started the May session with various easy & hard word puzzles including cryptic clues and finished with a memory test.

Next time we'll push word and memory skills a bit further and also sharpen left and right brain with visual shapes and sequences.

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalks

Easy Walks

BEECHWORTH - LAKE SAMBELL 2/05/2018

Unfortunately, the usual display of autumn foliage suffered from the continuing summer climate this year. However, it was a great day for a walk.

We had eight walkers, who headed from Lake Sambell toward the many well protected mine shafts and went as far as Silver Creek Caravan Park before retracing our steps to Lake Sambell for lunch. We concluded the day with a circuit of the lake and admiring the improvements to the dam wall. It is a very attractive area.

Judy Cowan

Mid Week Walks

BEECHWORTH HISTORIC PARK WALKS 9/05/2018

We left Benalla in the morning and four cars were necessary to get us all to Beechworth. On arrival we very soon started our walk from the Powder Magazine to One Tree hill, and Ingram's Rock. Then on towards Fiddes Quarry and the Precipice, where we had lunch.

We finished the walk with a strenuous climb up the Cascades. We concluded with afternoon tea at Lake Sambell. A great day was enjoyed by all and many thanks to Vaughan.

Andrea Stevenson



Easy Walk – Wednesday June 6

If the weather is OK we will visit the Rocky Ned Lookout for great views of the Sugarloaf Creek and White's Rock. We will be heading up the police track from Swanpool. We will leave from the Senior Citizen's Car park at 10am.

Vaughan Cowan 5762 1980

Midweek Walk – Wednesday June 13

This walk will follow well-made tracks around Lake Moodemere and along the Murray River through the Lake Moodemere Nature Reserve. We will leave Benalla at 8.30 from the Barkly street carpark.

Leader: Helen Spinks 5762 3223

Chat n' Chew

Friday June 15th - Hollywood Cafe

Andrew from Hollywood Café, has kindly agreed to open his pizza restaurant especially for us. He has done this for a number of years and as the venue will have a new owner in July, it will be a great opportunity for us to thank him.

All welcome to attend on Friday June 15th at 12.00 noon. Numbers need to be in to Shirley by Tuesday 12th June – 5762 6768.

Shirley Kearney

Collectors

Our May meeting was a real nostalgia trip – but then aren't they all - as members shared childhood memories of haircuts with clippers and other items brought back memories, not least a chamber pot.

On display also were some beautiful long kid gloves, much too small to fit anyone in attendance. A pair of over 100 years old crystal candle holders were displayed along with crystal bowls, dressing table sets which included hand mirror and brush sets with matching clothes brushes. We also saw a beautiful and delicate lace cap and a hand smocked nightdress

Our next meeting will be held on June 11th at 10.00 am in the U3A room in the Seniors Community Building. This is a Public Holiday and no theme was set so it's a case of bring whatever you like.



Judith Borthwick

e-Book Group

Every year around about June, we begin to think about our book list for the year ahead. Since we withdrew from the CAE book groups, we no longer have access to their catalogue, hence we compile our own list mostly from reviews. Members of the group submit their selections, and then a final annotated list is drawn up. Our choices are not confined by period or theme, and can be contemporary fiction or classic favourites. Whatever is chosen, we can usually look forward to titles which promote lively discussion, and sometimes the unexpected pleasure of reading a book we not have considered before.

Helen Scheller

Exercises for Fun

It's over three months since we began Exercises for Fun, and our Monday morning Classes are going extremely well, with a very enthusiastic group. We are all familiarising ourselves with the routine and experiencing the benefits of the Morning exercise, and as each week concludes, we can notice the improvement to our fitness.

We have now introduced a very important segment "Cooling down with Carolyn" which includes exercises that help us to relax as we finish our routine.

Our friendly and fun environment finishes with a cuppa and a chat.

It would be so helpful if everyone could remember to wear name tags, as many of us are new to each other. Have Fun!!!

Helen Jeffree

Exploring New Operas

Report on LuLu, Alban Berg

May saw the group watching the New York Metropolitan Opera's production of Alban Berg's *LuLu*.

Set in Berlin in the 1930s the opera traces the rise to wealth of a young woman, LuLu, who is a victim, a criminal, a femme fatale and a naïve young girl.

LuLu initially is married to the rich but elderly Dr. Goll who dies of a stroke when he enters an artists's studio to find that LuLu has succumbed to the artist's advances. However she is now rich and enjoys the benefits of her inheritance in an elegant apartment. She marries the artist who becomes famous but dissatisfied with his life. Her friends from her former days still visit her, including Dr Schon, a former lover, who asks her to cease seeing him as her reputation is scandalous. The artist discovers this past affair with Schon and kills himself. LuLu is unmoved by his death, decides she wants to marry Schon. As the Opera progresses LuLu becomes involved with many other men, most of whom try to tame her but do not succeed.

The crash of the 1930s leaves her penniless and she lives precariously in some backstreet rooms that she shares with her father, an old beggar, and a former countess who is also without money. Lu Lu is now very ill and is finally murdered by a man who she brings home. Throughout the opera LuLu is seemingly unmoved by all the tragedies, the wealth, the friends that she encounters and even in her last dire situation she accepts her fate.

The Met's production was stunning with contemporary scenery that matched the fragmented story of her life. A difficult opera for the singers, but well handled by Marlis Petersen as LuLu.

Meg Dillon

Exploring the Universe



Australia is to have its own Space Agency

It was announced by the Federal Government this month and provisions have been made for an Australian Space Agency in the 2018 - 2019 budget.

At 'Exploring the Universe' we were asked what we personally thought of it. The responses were varied and interesting.

Of the 35 member countries that belong to the world wide 'Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, (OECD)' Iceland and Australia are the only two countries that do not have their own Space Agency. New Zealand has beaten us by 2 years!

Australia won't be competing with NASA. The Australian Space Agency will be more like those of the U.K. and Canada. At present we rely on other countries to launch our satellites and we are missing out on creating Australian employment opportunities in an industry that is worth over \$400 billion au, globally per annum. We are reliant on satellite data and among the benefits will be more accurate global positioning systems, more extensive communication in many fields and employment opportunities for our scientists, technicians and university researchers, to name but a few.

The planet Mars is getting a lot of media coverage lately. It no longer seems to be the question of should we go to Mars, but "When will we go to Mars?"

We took our own trip via video, examined the Mars landscape of a crater 102 kms wide through film from the European Space Agency's Orbiter 'Mars Express'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u40I-3wVoaE>

We viewed '50 Years of Mars Exploration' from NASA. (They do not show any of the crash sites of which there have been many!)

The latest space ship on its way to the 'Red Planet' is a NASA Insight Lander that will measure the inner structure of Mars, study the seismology and drill a heat probe into the planet to take its thermal temperature. This can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKLITDmm4NA>

Accompanying the space ship to Mars are two small CubeSat satellites, the first to go into space. They have made radio contact with NASA and transmitting a photo of the Earth and the Moon.

Why is Mars called the Red Planet? Mars is actually rusty! The red colour in its rocks is from iron oxide.

One train of thought is that excessive rain combined with oxygen caused oxidization in the distant past, but no one really knows why.

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

This month we watched the 1946 version of *The Postman Always Rings Twice*

Genre: Crime, Drama, Film-Noir

Plot: The Movie was based on a book by James M Cain. Nick Smith, the middle-aged proprietor of a roadside restaurant, hires drifter Frank Chambers as a handyman. Frank eventually begins an affair with Nick's beautiful wife Cora, who talks Frank into helping her kill Nick, by "accident." But there are always repercussions, as this pair found out.

Key Characters: Cora Smith (**Lana Turner**), Nick Smith (**Cecil Kellaway**), Frank Chambers (**John Garfield**), Arthur Keats (**Hume Cronyn**), Kyle Sackett (**Leon Ames**)

Review: we rated as 3.5 out of 5.

We selected this movie after discussing the term film-noir in April. This term was 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. The performances were good, less wooden than the performances in last month's movie. In comparing the movie with *Please Murder Me*, we found the theme different with Cora, the key female character, much less manipulative than Myra. This time it was the defence lawyer who was manipulative. While Nick and Cora were not an ideal couple, Cora had married him because he was the first person who had mentioned the word marriage, while others in her life were just interested in her beauty. While Cora and Frank do not end up in prison for killing Nick, Cora dies as a result of an authentic accident, and Nick is convicted of her murder. In the final scene, Frank talks about the postman always ringing twice – justice will prevail in the end. The theme was very much about relationships, with twists that kept you guessing, but it was not as dark as *Please Murder me*, and one of our group thought it was more of a melodrama.

Further: Our May movie will be *Little Miss Sunshine* starring Toni Collette. Pat will be running the session as I will be in Scotland. Have a great time.

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. We aim to start promptly at 1:00pm to allow time to discuss the movie.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation

Our winter program begins on June 28th in the U3A rooms. We will begin at 9.45 a.m. to hear guest speaker Marjorie Porter. Marjorie is the author of 'A Seed is planted, Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria From 1848-2014'. This should be a very interesting session. Please bring a small plate to share for morning tea. Lunch to be arranged.

Gwen 5762 7017 or 0438627010.

Garden Team

It being a bit early for the roses, Frank and Val had three helpers in a weeding and tidying blitz.

On June 18th, leaving the long w/end free for family or other frivolities, we will be meeting at Marcus and Kirsten's.

I think Bill & Jane will be back in Australia for the early July session and given a fifth July Monday, on the 30th we might get back to Shirlie's place but these dates can be switched

Elsbeth Maconachie

Investment

At the May meeting of Investment we had a video segment from Beta Shares to follow up the Bonds theme from our April meeting. The information provided a practical example of bonds able to be purchased through the ASX.

We also discussed some aspects of the Banking Royal Commission. There were several comments on the prosecutors we have seen in the news displaying their great delivery of questions to the large investment and financial companies. We considered a few possible outcomes and realised that there could be much more information to unfold before the Commission is over.

The end of April marked a third of the year of 2018 and because of that we chose to look at the progress that various Sectors of the Share Market have made to that date. We looked at some Large cap stocks, Mid range stocks and Small cap stocks in the Energy, Materials and Health Care sectors which had out

performed many other stocks in those sectors and the rest of the Market.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

This month we roamed through Brothels, mysteries, Convicts and memoirs. The Life of Pam Eyres took the reader through the poverty of her early home life and the class situation in Britain. The 5 books in the series of the Clifton Chronicles by Jeffrey Archer drew comment as did Tracks on My Face by Barbara Holborow who was a magistrate in the Childrens Court for many years. Twist of Fate by Joanna Rees was set in Germany in 1971. Also enjoyed by several members of the group was the Monsarrat Series by Meg and Tom Keneally, there are three in the series written about convict days in Sydney and Tasmania, very readable and well researched. Gallipoli Street, Mary Anne O'Connor, set in a street in Sydney, 3 families who were neighbours over the periods of the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt gave an insight into the poverty in Ireland, Frank's brother Malachy also wrote on the same topic. Our Listening Book recommend this month was short stories by Agatha Christie. Another Political history read titled Munich by Robert Harris contained some facts about the ill fated Munich Agreement as well as having a good storyline. There's a Bear in There is written by Merridy Eastman, an actor in the childrens program Playschool, who found herself employed as a receptionist in a Brothel. The Birds at My Table, author Darryl Jones looked at people's habit of feeding birds – do we do that because it makes us feel good or for the benefit of the birds? Such a variety of reading this month, keep up the good work. See you first Tuesday in June.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball



We had our Fun and Friendship Day on May 7, with teams arriving from Albury, Wangaratta, Eildon, Rutherglen, Myrtleford, Mansfield and, of course, us - around 50 all up.

The games were played with much laughter and exuberance, and when we stopped for lunch, all players said how much pleasure they had in their games.

Lunch was brilliant - something we do really well - with soups, sandwiches, slices, cream cakes and everything in between. We had too much food this year, so anyone who wanted took a small plate and filled it with whatever they chose, and paid \$5 for the privilege, the collected amount was donated to a local charity.

The sad news however was the resignation of our coach Rupert Cheetham, who has been there for us since we began 14 years ago, and who has guided and coached us with enthusiasm and attention to rules and regulations since the inception. His guidance will be greatly missed!

Marg Merriman 5762 2967 Mob 0438 509 121

Meet and Mingle

May's Meet and Mingle, chaired by Geraldine McCorkell, featured John Lloyd, President of Benalla Sustainable Future Group, Renewable Energy Benalla (REB) and convenor of U3A's Towards a Sustainable Future Group.

In a most informative session, John described Yackandandah's progress in working towards going off the grid and Renewable Energy Benalla's vision of Benalla becoming a net zero energy town by 2028. He advised not to buy solar panels from companies who cold call providing offers over the phone, but to shop locally, and told us about workshops organised by REB aimed at achieving a reduction in power use in Benalla through efficiency measures. The workshops 'Wipe out Electricity and Gas Bills' are being held at the Benalla Golf Club on Tuesday May 22, June 26, July 24 & August 21 from 7 to 9pm.

At our meeting on the 20th June, Nick Gadd, from the Law Reform Commission, will present on two areas – *Disputes with Neighbours* (with a focus on trees) and *Funeral/Burial Instructions*. Nick has asked us to let our members know that he will not be able to provide specific legal advice to anyone on particular legal problems.

Geraldine McCorkell and Bill Parris

Moments in Australian History

In May we used photo and film resources to look at Marvellous Melbourne in the 1880s. This was the end of the long economic boom that started in the

1860s. Throughout that period the Victorian colonial government, industrialists and home owners had borrowed massive amounts of money from overseas investors to fuel this boom. We still see some of the extraordinary buildings they erected: the State Library/Art Gallery; the exhibition building; government house, the State Treasury and Parliament to name but a few. Hospitals and asylums as well as an ambitious sewerage plan that pumped sewage over to the Spotswood Pumping Plant [now the Spotswood Science Museum] as well as a huge railway network that spanned the state including many uneconomic branch lines. Industry moved into bigger factories in the outer suburbs of Preston, Brunswick and Footscray and workers followed this, investing in family homes.

It couldn't last. Wheat and wool prices started to drop, British investors withdrew their capital making huge losses, unemployment rose, the price of land and houses crashed and in 1893 the banking system also crashed. NSW and Victoria were worst hit but the depression lasted in the cities till Federation in 1900.

Meanwhile in western NSW and central Queensland a drought caused havoc in the wool industry in marginal areas. We looked at the Shearers Strike of 1891 aided by some great folksongs of the era to gauge the effects on the working class shearers. Strike breakers were brought in, men on the wharves went on strike and police numbers were increased to control huge camps of shearers. Although the strike failed after many weeks, it resulted in the formation of the first Labour Party in the world whose aim was to represent working families and the campaign to get working class men to register to vote.

Meg Dillon

Music Appreciation

This week's unknown composer was Carl Filtsch. Filtsch was a child prodigy who was compared to Mozart. A genuine boy wonder who was admired by Liszt and was a pupil of Chopin. He was influenced by Chopin to the point where it was not possible to distinguish between the two.

Unfortunately Filtsch died when he was only 14 years old and his surviving music gives an indication of just how talented he was. He published various piano and string music and we were fortunate to listen to a selection.

We then compared the two composers music by listening to Chopin's Sonata for Cello and Piano in C Minor Opus 63 and Chopin's Polonaise Brilliant in C Major.

After this we listened to various more popular pieces:

- the Flower Duet from the Opera Lakme. This music by Leo Delibes premiered in 1883 and has survived because of Joan Sutherland and the musics use in commercial advertising.
- The Depth of the Temple Duet from Bizets Pearl Fishers. We listened to both Aretha Franklin and Pavorotti singing Nesso Dorma.
- Maria Callas singing a Oh Mio Babbino Caro by Pucini and Un Aura Amorosa by Mozart. Both these pieces are exceedingly beautiful and sounded wonderful through our new sound system.

We finished up listening to the first 15 minutes of The Marriage of Figaro.

Neville Gibb

Over There

This month John reviewed the records of mutinies in the Russian, French, Italian, British and Australian armies in the Great War. Although more frequent, Australian mutinies tended to arise because soldiers believed that they were working men, albeit with rifles, and so entitled to working men's conditions.

The so-called Colonial mutiny at the vast transit and training camp at Etaples was an exception. There an Australian soldier led a riot and mutiny in which New Zealand and British troops joined enthusiastically. When the dust cleared and the mutiny was suppressed, the Australian ended with a term of imprisonment. The New Zealanders and British were shot.

John showed the next episode of a French-Canadian documentary about the Great War

In the next class, John will deal with end of the War, the Treaty of Versailles and the consequences of the Treaty. The Treaty has affected the world's geopolitics for almost a century and continues to affect geopolitics.

John Barry

Patchwork

On 15th May, Margaret, Beth and I, with Tom as our chauffeur, delivered our quilts to Moira Kelly's Personal Assistant, Marilyn, in Whittlesea. She was overwhelmed by the number and beautiful work in the quilts presented. Thank you to all who were able to contribute.

Dorothy Webber

Politics and Current Affairs

At our last meeting we viewed [Planet America](#) to help us unravel Donald Trump's thinking (!) on breaking the Iranian deal and why it will affect companies and countries who trade with Iran.

Writing this report three days later I hear Trump is now saying he will not meet with the North Koreans, yet the night before his Secretary of State and the Chinese Foreign Minister both said all was ready for the summit! Can world leaders believe what Trump says?

I am having a short break, group members will run the sessions whilst I am away.

Terry Case

Recorder Group

'One day, all of this will come quite naturally,' a perplexed driving instructor once muttered to me as I clumsily tried to coordinate changing gears whilst manoeuvring the car, remembering the road rules and reading the traffic.

And so it is with recorder playing as we are busy coordinating the finger placement whilst reading the notes, working out the tempo and music signs and playing with the other recorder people.

Under Janet's (non perplexed) tuition 'London's Burning,' 'Turn the Glasses Over' and 'Mon Amor' are now relatively easy driving. 'La Mourisque' has some tricky signs. Who knew : means do a quick u turn? Some of the signs are actually written in Latin! Looking at you, D.C al Fine! Tricky. 'Au Clair de la Lune' showed some good sight reading.

'Brian Boru's March' had a couple of people exceeding the speed limits but this was soon brought under control. 'We went out' showed our versatility as we masterfully swapped parts. We are starting to drive this recorder quite well.

Pat Treleaven

From June 13th the Recorder Group will be meeting on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm

at North East Artisans. There are some car parking spaces in the car park behind the NEA building in Fawckner

Singing for Fun

The variety of songs at Singing for Fun is always great. Rick Hann introduced the group to some Gilbert and Sullivan during May, which is something new and which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Brian Greed started us with a new song "Sweet Caroline" during May. Most of us remembered the song and it was not too difficult to pick up the tune and the lyrics.

Margaret Merriman and Faith Hicks have been choosing a good variety of songs. As usual Gwen Barnes has been accompanying us on the piano.

We have seen a couple of new people joining the Singing for Fun group during the month. Perhaps it is the friendly group of people or perhaps it is that we meet on a Thursday morning at 10am. Whatever the reason, it is good to welcome new members to our choir.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

With the Middle East live sheep export scandal still making news, it was heartening for our group to visit a sheep enterprise where the livestock live long valued lives.

Nine of our number visited the Toland poll Merino stud north west of Violet Town on May 1 and discovered that the Tolands keep some of their ewes producing lambs to an age of nine or 10, at a time when many sheep men cull their breeders when they are just five or six.

The Toland family, who run the enterprise, thanks to individual 15 digit electronic ear tags on every sheep, know how each sheep is bred and can tweak breeding and feeding strategies to maximise wool production and quality. The aim is to produce 18 micron wool.

Pregnant ewes were due to be scanned about two weeks after our visit with an important objective being able to draft ewes carrying twins into a separate mob so they could be fed more than those carrying singles. Between 40 and 50 per cent of mature ewes produce twins. That is about 750 ewes from the flock of about 1700.

But Phil Toland told the group, that with nutrition somewhat restricted by the lack so far of a real autumn break, he expected lambs to number about 2000 this year.

Generally sales of wool, rams and surplus sheep, each produce income of about \$200,000 a year. About 200 rams average \$1000 each while the average price of wool from each sheep is between \$70 and \$80. Surplus ewes sell for about \$100 each.

The main part of the farm covers 1300 acres of largely flat heavy carrying country while there is 700 acres of hillier and lighter ironstone country, several kilometres to the north west where the Tolands run all of their young sheep.



Our June speaker will be member Sue Campbell, who with husband Sandy, for 34 years focussed on turning what was known as the rabbit farm' near Byawatha carrying half a sheep to the acre, into a much more viable one carrying about six sheep to the acre. They won the battle in 2003 when the 700 acre property, Coo loongatta, was declared rabbit free. Sue will talk about the battle and related issues on Tuesday June 5 at 10am.

David Palmer

Tech Savvy

iPad for Beginners

We are nearing the end of our Semester I course and next month will be deciding whether to go on to enrol in 'Be Connected' which is running on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 1.30 to 3.30 pm in Semester II.

Be Connected is an Australian Government initiative comprising online learning modules which help to make the most out of being online. The Apple Users in our group can take up the short course for Apple Users from 1:30pm - 3:30pm on Wednesdays 18th July; 1st and 15th August and join in the drop in sessions which follow. Jenny will provide more information and take registrations for Apple Users

at the end of Semester 1's 'Ipad for Beginners' course.

There is more information about the full *Be Connected* program in 'Program News'.

Jenny Sawyer

Tech Savvy Projects

Sometimes the demands on our members – health and wellbeing; family connectedness and grandparenting responsibilities; travelling north or overseas; farewelling old friends for the final time—mean that U3A class numbers can vary, particularly at this time of the year. This is certainly affecting Tech Savvy Projects. We are still happily proceeding with Family History Projects from 1.30 to 3 pm and 'Other Projects' from 3 to 4.30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. There's also an 'Other Projects' slot from 1 to 2.30 pm on the 4th Thursday. If you would like to join, we do have spaces as some people are now running their projects independently while others are travelling overseas. If you would like to join 'Tech Savvy Projects' in Semester II, please give Bev a call on 5762 8171.

Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Talks

Seeing that the instigator of quantum computing, Richard Feynman, would have been 100 years old this month and our Australian of the year Michelle Simmons, is a whiz on quantum computing, quantum computing was the focus of our May session. As part of a most informative session presented by Les, we watched a presentation by Richard Feynman ['Probability & Uncertainty – the Quantum Mechanical View of Nature'](#) on You Tube, followed by a video segment [Women in Science - Michelle Simmons](#).

Throughout May there have been many emails between members about next steps in terms of the NBN, with some members now choosing from available plans, receiving new routers, being connected, monitoring internet speeds and comparing them with what they have been used to. NBN and related topics were also shared at a most convivial 'Tech Savvy Talkers at the Northo' session in late May. Members are asked to put their thinking hats on then contact Les on 5762 7600 with a technology/science related topic of interest they could add to the agenda for 15 minutes at our session on 13th June. It could be a 'show and tell'; a book review; Ted Talk or documentary of interest or a presentation on a topic about which you are

intrigued or have a passion. This isn't compulsory, but a great opportunity to give Les a break if you have a topic you'd be happy to present on.

Bev Lee and Les Rodgers

Towards a Sustainable Future

John was in Melbourne at a conference related to Community Energy Projects at our last session, however left some articles and the comment 'No doubt the group will find plenty to talk about'. We did indeed! Decision making about solar energy featured, with Bill pleased that his decision to update an evaporative cooler and install a heat pump on his solar hot water service had led to a significant reduction in the electricity bill and generating significant renewable energy for the grid. Another member reported that, while keen to become involved in the REB/Mondo Power battery and microgrid ready bulk buy offer, he had been ethically advised by the assessor that their current array of was sufficient for their needs and to add more could become quite expensive with recent changes in requirements re cabling. Another member wondered whether he should make any changes to the array of 18 panels on his house with a rate for selling to the grid of 70c a day to 2025 – the group advised him against making changes as he might lose this rate.

Agriculture and biodiversity also featured, with environmentally aware farmer Brian summing up his concerns as "We do need some trees". Brian is deeply concerned that soon the only trees near where he farms will be along the roads; that even those strips are being cleared and trees being trimmed up to make easy access and manoeuvring of big machines. He's worried that the trees are being singed badly when stubble is burned; that bird life and shade for cattle are being lost; and is worried that many croppers 'Just don't like trees'.

We talked about what people were reading, with books discussed and shared including 'Dark Emu', 'Cry of the Reed Warbler' and 'The Biggest Estate on Earth - How Aborigines made Australia' and 'The Hydrogen Economy'. Kathy's contribution of handouts comparing the services of Wangaratta and Shepparton's recycling transfer stations created lots of interest.

Reading of John's recommended articles 'Who are Australia's largest carbon emitters?'; 'Solar and Wind could ease Australia's water shortage' and 'The new 100% recyclable packaging target is no use if our waste isn't actually recycled' followed the break. We left with Frank's recommendation to

listen to [The Changing Face of Agriculture and Food System into the 21st Century](#) a lecture by Professor Mark Howden, which is available on line.

Bev Lee

Travel Group

Our regular meeting in May was concentrated on our future “destinations” with some good practical input from members.



Our May bus trip to Eildon was a great day with Peter Brown volunteering to drive the bus. Thank you Peter. First stop was at the Yark Bakery then on to the mountains for a scenic drive up to Foggs Lookout on Mt Pinnager. Back down we drove over the wall at Eildon to our picnic spot at the Lions Club Barbeque facility right on the pondage where Brian officiated as Head Chef. Lunch was very pleasant and relaxing. Henry, who went fishing, said “he threw his fish back” but we don’t believe that! Another scenic drive got us up to the power stations at Rubicon and return to Alexandra for a quick browse through the bookshop and coffee, and cake of course. Pleasant day with great company and barely a silent moment.

The next outing is to the Vine Hotel in Wangaratta on Saturday 30th June for lunch. We will take the bus again if enough people to fill it.

Judy Perry

Wine Appreciation

Wednesday 27th June

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



May visit to Brown Brothers, Milawa--Photo: Margaret Walsh

Wednesday 25 July 10.00 am meeting for travel to Rutherglen and visit Rutherglen Estates, the largest wine producer in the area.

Lunch at Tuileries café.

Keith & Heather 5762 4086

Writing Workshop

Our creative writing session was smaller this month, but some interesting contributions were shared. Prompts for topics were “I could hear a growl” or “I reached into my pocket”. Only one person decided to use the growl as the subject of her story – a trapped possum. The others all concentrated on what was in their pocket. These included a nonsense rhyme, the different keys over the years, and lack of trust causing an engagement ring to be returned. For June, the topics to choose from are:

- A conversation with someone who is new to Australia and does not quite understand the Aussie sayings
- A story incorporating an emotion eg fear, excitement, happy, sad, determination etc
- Using the prompt “We didn’t know that it would be our last sunset at the lake”

The Creative Writing sessions in June and July will be run by Jenny McKenna.

As the newsletter deadline approaches we are all beavering away trying to finish our story for May’s Memoir session - [Someone who Shaped Me](#) ‘How did you become who you are? Think about someone who’s influenced your life and get typing’. This will be followed on June 25 with stories about [Family Rituals](#) ‘What are the weird and wonderful things that you do together that only your family understand? Tell us about your family ritual’. The possibilities are endless!

June's catch up session at the Northo at 2.30 on June 11 will be the last for the time being as we are offering Creative Writing across the 1.30 to 3.30pm session on the 2nd Monday in Semester II. We have happy memories of our Northo catch ups over the last few years, however with many of our participants also attending Creative Writing, it's time for a change.

Joy Shirley and Bev Lee

Program News

BE CONNECTED – 1st and 3rd Wed 1.30 to 3.30 pm

Be Connected is an Australian Government program comprising online learning modules which help to make the most out of being online. Be Connected will run during Semester II and include two short courses; one for Apple Users and another for Android users

Apple users - 1:30pm - 3:30pm on Wednesdays 18th July; 1st and 15th August

Android users - 1:30pm - 3:30pm on Wednesdays 29th August, 5th and 19th September.

These will be followed up by 'Drop In' sessions at which you can begin work on new modules.

To register your interest in Be Connected

- Contact Jenny Sawyer on 0409545182. Jenny will also take registrations for Apple Users at the end of Semester 1's 'Ipad for Beginners' course.
- Add your name to the Expression of Interest list in the Roll Book in U3A Meeting Room &/or
- Attend the Be Connected Registration Session on **Wednesday July 4th from 1.30 to 2.30** in the U3A meeting room.

HOT TOPICS – 3rd Friday– 1.30 to 3.30pm

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 Gross National Happiness 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'.

To register your interest in 'Hot Topics'

- Add your name to the list in the front of the thought Roll Book in the U3A Meeting Room
- Contact Carole Marple 5762 6165 or email Joan Laing joan@spectak.com who will add your name to their list.

Community News

Suicide Prevention

There is a Suicide Prevention session at Benalla Bowls Club on **Thursday, June 14** from 10am till 2pm. This session is aimed at the older members of the community and topics include: *What do I Do, What do I Say*. Please ring Dorothy on 0412263071 or 57622116 if you wish to attend as numbers are required for catering purposes.

Swanpool Art Festival

The Swanpool Community Development Association is moving on from their successful involvement in the Bald Archy Touring Exhibition to deliver their own exhibition and art prize in 2018. 'SCRAP - Swanpool Creative Recycled Art Prize' is 'Swanpool's fabulous, fearsome, funny and frolicking art challenge to Australian artists in the use of recycled materials' Commencing with a Gala Opening on Friday 3rd August, it will continue at Swanpool Memorial Hall alongside community with exhibitions by Benalla Camera Club at the Swanpool Bowls Club and Broken River Painters at the Albert Heaney Oval Rooms from Saturday 4th August to Sunday 19th August 2018.

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 June

Friday, 1 June

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future

1:30pm Investment

Monday, 4 June

9:30am Exercises for Fun

9:30am Lifeball

10:00am Art Appreciation

1:30pm Brain Games

Tuesday, 5 June

10:00am E-Book Group

10:00am Stock and Land - Sue Campbell on the battle to achieve a rabbit free farm

1:30pm Equipment Training for Convenors

1:30pm Member Services Group

2:00pm Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 6 June

9:30am Play Reading

10:00am Easy Walks - 'Rocky Ned'

1:30pm iPad for Beginners

Thursday, 7 June

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, 8 June

10:00am Music Appreciation

1:30pm Moments in Australian History

Monday, 11 June - Queen's Birthday Holiday

9:30am Lifeball

10:00am Collectors - 'Bring whatever you like'

1:00pm Creative Writing (Writing Workshop)

2:30pm Writing Workshop @ 'The Northo'

Tuesday, 12 June

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs

1:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History

3:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'Other Projects'

Wednesday, 13 June

8:30am Mid Week Walk - Lake Moodemere

10:00am Recorder Group @ North East Artisans

10:00am Tech Savvy Talks - Short presentations by group members on areas of interest

1:00pm Film and Literature – 'Little Miss Sunshine'

7:00pm Exploring New Operas

Thursday, 14 June

10:00am Suicide Prevention Workshop - BBC

10:00am Singing for Fun - Harmony Group

1:30pm Executive Meeting

Friday, 15 June

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future

12:00pm Chat n' Chew - Hollywood Cafe

1:30pm 'Over There' - The end of the War and the Treaty of Versailles

Monday, 18 June

9:30am Exercises for Fun

9:30am Lifeball

1:30pm Program Services

2:00pm Garden Team @ Marcus and Kirsten's

Tuesday, 19 June

1:30pm Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 20 June

10:00am Meet and Mingle - Guest Speaker: Nick

Gadd, Law Reform Commission

12:15pm Travel Group

1:30pm iPad for Beginners

Thursday, 21 June

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, 22 June

10:00am Music Appreciation

1:30pm Moments in Australian History

Monday, 25 June

9:30am Exercises for Fun

9:30am Lifeball

1:30pm Writing Workshop - 'Family Rituals'

Tuesday, 26 June

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs

Wednesday, 27 June

10:00am Wine Appreciation - Mansfield and Delatite Wines

10:00am Recorder Group @ North East Artisans

2:00pm Member Services Group

Thursday, 28 June

9:45am Garden Appreciation: U3A Room. Speaker Marjorie Porter, author 'A Seed is Planted, Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria From 1848-2014'

12:00pm Newsletter Deadline

1:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'E-Shed'

3:00pm Tech Savvy Talkers @ The Northo

Saturday, 30 June

Travel Group: Lunch at The Vine Hotel, Wangaratta

Monday, 2 July

9:30am Exercises for Fun

9:30am Lifeball

10:00am Art Appreciation

1:30pm Brain Games

Tuesday, 3 July

10:00am E-Book Group

10:00am Stock and Land

1:30pm Member Services Group

2:00pm Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 4 July

9:30am Easy Walks

9:30am Play Reading

1:30pm Tech Savvy Beginners: *Be Connected* regst

Thursday, 5 July

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, 6 July

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future

1:30pm Investment