



## Benalla and District Inc.

### Newsletter – July 2015

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Newsletter deadline: **12.00 noon 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

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#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I am pleased to report that all our courses that use W4 are now running as normal.

The Centre Office is closed, but the Flexible Learning team will have W4 unlocked for morning classes and **we are asking morning groups not to lock the room if there is an afternoon class.** The roll and keys for the cupboard are now located in the top drawer of the vertical file, and need to be returned to the drawer on completion of your class. The whiteboard in W4 lists these changes as a reminder to tutors. If an afternoon class finds the room locked the tutor needs to interrupt the Flexible Learning team and request Michelle who has a master key to open the room. **We do not want to interrupt their classes so please do not lock W4 until the last class finishes!**

I want to thank members of the Committee for their efforts in resolving the crisis.

A short holiday in Alice Springs, warm weather and magnificent walks in the countryside helped re-energize me for semester two, so watch out!

*Terry Case  
President*

#### **GROUP REPORTS**

##### **Armchair History: the Victorians**

I took a brief winter holiday in Alice Springs and left DVDs for Doug Geeson to run the class in my absence. I thought I was well prepared, but a disk I had copied at home had not been "finalised", so it did not play on the W4 machine. It is a good

reminder to check that disks copied on your home recorder are finalised to play on other equipment! Doug being a resourceful person was able to run a successful class, despite my sabotage. Thanks Doug.

##### **Armchair Traveller**

We return to our flying carpets on Tuesday July 21 at 11.45 am – 1.45 pm, when we start by concluding our visit to Norway via YouTube. Then Jane and Bill Parris will take us to Turkey, in particular to re-visit the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. The following session on Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup> will be presented by our President, Terry Case. Terry will take us on a rail journey and trekking in India and Nepal.

##### **Chat n' Chew**

The next Chat 'n Chew will be held at the Bowls Club on Friday 21st August at 11.45 am. Please contact Shirley on 5762 6768 by Tuesday 18th August for bookings or cancellations. All welcome.

**(Please note that the wrong dates have been put in the mailed version of this newsletter which is also headed May and should read July). Please let your friends know that these are the correct dates. My apologies.**

**Judith**

##### **e-Book Group**

Our most recent novel was Fly Away Peter, by David Malouf. In this shimmering work of imagination, one of Australia's most honoured writers conjures a single still moment on the edge of the 20th century in which two unlikely people share a friendship. When Ashley Crowther returns to Australia to manage his father's property, he discovers a timeless landscape of kingfishers and ibises; he also meets Jim Saddler, the young naturalist who

becomes Ashley's guide to his inheritance. Together they discard the differences of personality and class to enter a partnership of wonder. But when war breaks out in Europe, Jim and Ashley are drawn into the obscene enterprise of the trenches, where death falls from the sky and burrows out of the earth. In telling the story of these men, Fly Away Peter combines overwhelmingly sensual imagery with an unblinking consciousness of the worst that history can inflict to produce a novel of lyrical beauty. It concludes with the image of the surfer, captured for one fleeting timeless moment, both a hint of the future, and the realisation by Imogen that 'life just is.'

## **Garden Appreciation**

### July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Meeting at Centre room W4 10 am for a floral arrangement demonstration by Melissa Mounsey from Bloom's on Bridge. Byo morning tea. Lunch at North Eastern Hotel, Nunn Street.

### August – Winter Break

### September 24<sup>th</sup>

Meet at Royal Hotel Car Park 10 am. Byo morning tea. We will visit the garden of Libby McLennan, 43 Arundel Street (next door) then across the road to walk around St Joseph's Church garden, then to retirement village in Bridge Street. Lunch at Royal Hotel.

### October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Magpie Rise, a garden near Yackandandah.

### November 26<sup>th</sup>

Two gardens in Goomalibee. More information September newsletter.

Will be home from holidays end of August.

*Gwen 5762 7017, 0438 627010*

## **Garden (Gourmet) Team**

Bill (motives unclear) joined the team at Tulip St and was a great contributor to another sterling effort. It really is inspiring to have lots of jobs done (or at least started) and we were again lucky with fine weather among many grey days.

Let's hope there's sunshine and another good roll-up on the 20th at Carmel's and at Shirly's on August 10th.

## **Investment Group 2**

The meeting of Investment Group 2 in early July was held a few days into the new financial year. Hence

we looked at trends within various sectors of the market for the past twelve months, and made note of those sectors which had showed an overall positive return for the past year. We also discussed the performance of ASX top 20 stocks versus other categories over the previous twelve months.

The next meeting of Investment Group 2 will be held on Friday 7 August 2015 at 2pm in W4.

## **Let's Talk Books**

A group of 10 gathered at the Library for our July meeting. Quite a few are away seeking warmer weather and Louise was away ill. Get better very soon Louise we missed you. It is wonderful to listen to the different types of books people love reading. There are obviously favourite authors and it is lovely to have books recommended that people are reading for a second time. A trilogy of Nora Roberts books was swapped and Dave had the librarian put aside a book for me to read, much appreciated. See you all in August and happy reading.

**Geraldine and Lorraine**

## **Lifeball**

Winter time has seen quite a few of our members join the grey nomads in tripping around, going North, West, and South even to Europe. Despite these absentees, our numbers have been sufficient to have our regular Monday afternoon games at 1-30pm at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre, Ackerly Ave. With the cooler conditions it has spurred the members to be perhaps even more active to keep warm. This great activity provides a safe game supplying our three main development needs, physical, mental, and social for retirees. Anyone interested in taking on this game is welcome to join at any time throughout the year. We wish Margaret Merriman all the best for a quick recovery from her home inflicted injury – autographs may be written on the plaster-cast.

Please contact Sec. Marg Merriman 57 62 1404, or Pres. Gerry Herman 57 62 3193 for any further information.

## **Making the most of the Internet**

The Semester 1 'Making the Most of the Internet' course finished on June 9. Our tutor Ian McLeod's internet knowledge provided the basis for a great course, but he would like to 'regroup' before

running another course. Ian's approach was most engaging and he left us with lots of ideas, handouts and YouTube links to follow up as lifelong learners.



Lorraine Knox and Jim McLeod discussing the new U3A website.

The final session included a presentation on the many features offered by Windows Club; an introduction to Windows 10; Open Office and Google Maps. YouTube videos drawn on during the session will continue to be available on ['Ian's Blog'](#) to help us to continue to 'Make the Most of the Internet'.

Thanks Ian for all your work!

Making the Most of the Internet participants may be interested in a new group – working title 'Tech Savvy Seniors'—a 'taster' session will be held on the second Wednesday in August (Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>) from 10 am to 12 midday in W4. For more information contact Bev on 5762 8171.

## Meet and Mingle



Bev Lee launching new U3A website.

Today's Meet and Mingle saw the launch of the new U3A website <http://u3abenalla.weebly.com>.

Bev Lee, who has been instrumental in developing the site, launched the program and explained to a very interested audience just what information is available on the site.

Not only are U3A activities and programs available but district news. There are links to Swan pool Cinema, Benalla Bus Line timetables, the Art Gallery and BPACC to name a few. There are also sections for the various U3A programs and the newsletter.

Following Bev's presentation she introduced a 'Treasure Hunt'. Groups then looked at the website to find the answers. A novel way to make sure we had a good look at this very comprehensive site. There is also a timetable of daily and weekly events which Lorraine has been updating. Bev is to be congratulated on her efforts.

Do take the time to look at our new website. Click on the various tabs and see just how much information is available. A copy of Bev's Treasure Hunt is attached See how you go!!!

## Music Appreciation

Freda presented a Scottish music selection by a group of five musicians entitled 'Taliska'. This included vocal, harp, piano accordion and French horn.

Doug presented a selection of world famous choirs, notably the Mormon, the Welsh male choir and the Brigham Young men's choir.

### 10<sup>th</sup> July

John presented the composer and pianist Enrique Granados (1867-1916). The compositions were Piano Trio op 50, Piano Quintet in G Minor, the Intermezzo from the opera *Goyescas*.

The second composer was Franz Schubert (1797-1828). The presentation was Symphony number 9, entitled Great.

## Singing for Fun

Two of our leaders have been on the sick list for some weeks. Margaret broke her ankle and is still in recovery mode. We hope to have them both back soon. Brian and Gwen have been in charge and have started preparations for our "Sing Outs". The Harmony group will be presenting a programme at the monthly dinner at the Hub Coinda on the 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. When we will be singing some old favourites and some new songs. "Annie's Song and" Down by the riverside" are sounding really good.

## Towards a Sustainable Future

Class members have been busy over the past month attending a range of sustainability focused community activities including the Swanpool Environmental Film Festival; 'The Environment, Climate Change and the Paris Talks' seminar in Euroa and the June meeting of Benalla Sustainable Future Group where guest speaker, Professor Deli Chan, spoke on 'How Australian agriculture can reduce greenhouse gas emissions – the role of nitrogen fertiliser management'.



*Frank at U3A Sustainable Future Group's Recycling Facility Excursion*

In class we have continued to read about and discuss issues including the Pope's plea for action on climate change; the long term trend in global warming, despite speeding up and down between decades; and the recently released Lowy report indicating increased concern of Australians with global warming and greater willingness to bear significant costs of tackling climate change. It was heartening to read of the upcoming climate round table of industry bodies (including the Australian Industry Group and the Business Council of Australia), energy suppliers, climate activists and the welfare lobby. There appears to be a shared concern 'to set the path for policies that reduce financial risk, encourage investment in low and zero carbon technologies, and help to avoid an increase in global temperature of greater than 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels' (Mark Kenny and Lisa Cox, *The Age*, 29 June 2015). The highlight of the month was the class excursion to the recycling facilities in our region. Those who attended this Council sponsored activity found it most informative and returned highly recommending it to others.

## Walks

**MIDWEEK WALK WED. 8 JULY.**

Eleven bushwalkers were fortunate to have a cold but sunny start on 8<sup>th</sup> July for their winter walk up to the two "Paps" peaks. After turning off the Maroondah Hwy and entering through two gates into the Paps Reserve, we parked the cars and commenced the climb up the summit mudstone gravel road. We passed thru an open forest of long leaved box trees prior to taking the right turn to the main summit. The group then split into two, where three stopped to admire the magnificent view towards Mansfield and beyond to Mt Buller while eight others climbed the steeper part to the 680m high summit where a forest of communication aerals had been erected.

Here, time was taken for a quick morning tea whilst watching a Wedgetail Eagle, soar effortlessly overhead of the northern slopes. We returned to meet up again with the other walkers, prior to heading south towards the lower of the two Paps peaks. On arrival it was tucker time, so we sat down on the grassy area and whilst eating, admired the great vista to the south of the various branches of Lake Eildon. The afternoon saw us initially take several short cuts, rock scrambling and dodging in and out of trees to save walking down the winding road. On arriving at the cars the usual well catered cakes & biscuits afternoon tea and coffee was devoured before returning home. Thanks Sue for a well conducted walk. Rupe Cheetham

**EASY WALK WED. 5 AUG.**

We are going to Yarrowonga, hopefully to see Lake Mulwala at its normal level again. The first walk is in Gorman Park, an area below the weir wall between the river, and the billabong beside the golf links. The area has recently been upgraded as a walking /bicycle area. After this we drive to the Yacht Club to walk to Chinaman's Island for lunch and another walk. We will leave Benalla at 9.30am. Please ring Vaughan at 5762 1980 beforehand.

**MIDWEEK WALK WED. 12 AUG.**

We will be doing the Flagstaff walk in the Stanley State Forest. It is a very attractive area and should not be too hard. Leader: Vaughan Cowan. Please ring 5762 1980. Meet at 8.30am for 8.45 departure.



## **Wine Appreciation**

Wednesday 22 July

Meet at 10 am to travel to Whitfield and the Darling Estate Winery.

Lunch at the Mountain View Hotel. Keith 5762 4086

Wednesday 26 August

Meet at 10 am and travel to Baarrooka **Estate winery** at Strathbogie.

Lunch at Euroa, Noel 57623149.

Still need confirmation from winery for this,  
Noel Meagher 5762 3149

## **Writing Workshop**

The 500 words topic for a most enjoyable June workshop, led by Carole, was *'I quit'*. Stories shared included quitting the need to be accountable for household cleanness and picture book neatness; deciding to quit a long football career; and quitting 'not being a slob'! July's *'Lost and Found'* stories will be presented on the day this newsletter is sent out. It will be interesting to share stories of a time we each lost something we owned, treasured or believed in; our search to find it; feelings about the loss and rediscovery; the lengths we went to, to get it back and whether our lives changed as a result. On Monday August 17<sup>th</sup> between 2 and 4 pm we will be sharing *'Car Stories'*—perhaps you would like to write 500 words and come along and share your reflections? *'So many formative moments happen in cars – tell us about a memorable experience you had in yours. It could be your first taste of P-plate freedom, a revealing in-transit conversation, or how an accident, a flat tyre, or parking ticket set off a chain of events in your day...or?'* Some *'Car Stories'* are already appearing on ABC Open's 500 word project page. If you would like to read some of our writing, click on ['Blogs'](#) in the Writing Workshop area of the new website.



*Some of the U3A members at Meet and Mingle Website launch - July 2015*

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

# Getting to know the U3A Website - Treasure Hunt

Web address: <http://u3abenalla.weebly.com>

Write your answer in the right hand column.

<b>Home Page</b>	How many courses/activities are being run by U3A Benalla and District this year.	
	Where on the home page can you find a hint for increasing the size of text?	
Calendar/ Agenda (right hand column)	Which classes are being held on Monday July 20 <sup>th</sup> ?	
	Who is speaking to the Art Appreciation Group on July 20th?	
	What is the July topic for Writing Workshop members on July 20th?	
'Inside' links on bottom of home page.	On which group page is Judith's article 'Poppies for Anzac Day' located?	
	Click on the link and play the Lifeball Video*. How many goals are thrown during the video? Name <b>one</b> of the players who throws a goal. ( <i>Nb *leave Lifeball video questions if video doesn't play properly</i> )	
<b>Benalla</b>	What is the time at the Benalla Station (Hint –see slide show at top of the page)	
	When is the AGM of Friends of the Library?	
	How long is the piece of music played at BPACC in the YouTube video?	
	Using 'What, When and Where' – when does the first Benalla West bus leave the ANZ bank on week mornings?	
<b>Benalla and District</b>	When is the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz and Blues this year?	
	Finish with the surname of a highly regarded Jazz musician appearing at the festival 'Dave Douglas and Paul .....	
	<i>Bonus Points:</i> What is a Diddly Bow?	
	When is Winton Raceway's next 'Test and Tune' day?	
	Which two films will be screened when the Swanpool Cinema reopens in late August?	
<b>Our U3A</b>	Where is the next U3A Network Victoria conference being held?	

	Who is the U3A Benalla and District delegate to U3A Network Victoria meetings?	
	<i>Bonus points:</i> How many U3A policy documents can be downloaded using the link at the bottom of this page?	
Newsletter	<b>Using the June Newsletter button, open the newsletter.</b>	
	Where is the Wine Appreciation group going in late July?	
	<i>Bonus Points:</i> Where else on the website could you find this information?	
	When is the deadline for the Newsletter each month?	
Members' News	Finish this line... "Before you criticize, ....."	
	What was Vaughan Cowan congratulated for?	
<b>Join Us</b>	Where can you find a link to the Membership Form?	
<b>Groups A-Z</b>	<b>Take a look around at the different group pages.</b>	
<b>A-E</b>	Scroll down the posts in 'Armchair History'. Which was a momentous year for which three famous Victorians?	
	Which country will feature at 'Armchair Travel' on July 21 <sup>st</sup> ?	
	Where is this week's bushwalking group heading to?	
	Which restaurant is the venue for the upcoming Chat 'N Chew lunch?	
	Name two films the Comparative Religion class have watched this year.	
<b>F-L</b>	What's on the agenda at the Garden Appreciation group's meeting next week?	
	Whose garden will the Garden Team be working on on July 20 <sup>th</sup> ?	
	What was the overall market trend at the time of Investment 2's early June meeting?	
	What followed on from Let's Talk Books	

	discussion of 'The Mothers'	
<b>M-Z</b>	Using the drop down menu, locate Making the Most of the Internet, then follow the arrow on the right to click on 'Ian's Blog'. Where is the most recently added 'Drone' video taken?	
	Which song did Brian introduce recently to Singing for Fun's Harmony Group?	
	Which group has added a Twitter feed? (Hint – again look at drop down menu for groups with an arrow on the right – this represents an added page)	
	Locate Writing Workshop then 'Blogs'. What is the topic/theme of Carole and David's most recent blog.	
<b>Links</b>	Who is the current President of Goulburn Valley U3A?	
<b>Gallery</b>	Spend some time looking around – then – answer this question - How many photos are in the Group Activities 2015 slide show?	
<b>Search Button</b> (on header of each page)	You heard that someone did a talk on bees. Use the search box to find out who this was.	
	Put the term Grandparents in the Search box at the top of the page. Who had a grandmother called 'Jess'?	
	Spend time finding people, topics and things of interest using the search button.	
<b>Contact Us (Optional)</b>	Finally, go to the Contact Box. Using the email address of someone in your group, send off a message writing a sentence or two about how you found this activity.	

Solutions can be found on the web page.