



BENALLA

Newsletter – October 2014

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

* Note changed email address

Any changes to courses, tutors/ convenors next year, you need to let me know urgently as timetables and room bookings are being prepared.

I would like to thank Elva Rush and Marj Law who are retiring after successfully running the Film and Literature group.

Meet & Mingle venue; the Committee discussed alternative venues at its October meeting. The Senior Citizens suffers from poor acoustics and whilst we have had grant money to cover the costs of hire this is now running out.

Declining attendance is also a concern. We have decided to have fewer guest speakers, probably two per semester and have much more time for mingling. **The venue for 2015 will be W4.**

Christmas Luncheon. Each year since 1998 members and friends have enjoyed a get-together in November for what now is "The CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON" tradition. This is a great opportunity for members of all our many groups to be together.

This year the wine appreciation group has selected the Red Stag Restaurant at Eurobin as the venue for a fun day in interesting surroundings. The bus leaves Benalla Bus Lines Depot at 11am WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER and will return around 4pm. Price for two course meal and bus fare is \$45 payable to treasurer. Details and booking form to the rear of the newsletter

Railways:-an invitation for members who used to enjoy Bill's Railway Group: join Armchair Travel in November for some Railway travel and keep an eye out for Railway Journeys starting next year.

Terry Case
President

GROUP REPORTS

Armchair History

We have followed the course of the Georgian monarchs as they adapted to their new homeland. They were initially distracted by wars in Europe and gave more power to parliament which resulted in the office of Prime Minister being established.

We have seen how Britain did not succumb to Revolution and Dictatorship, unlike France. Now in our final sessions we will see how George IV (the ex-Prince Regent) became so unpopular.

Fears of rebellion and of a Catholic revolt were not dispelled and as the period ended the English ruling class again felt anxiety.

Next year we start a new course looking at the world of the Victorians, the cast includes:-Dickens, Kipling, Florence Nightingale, Disraeli and Victoria. I invite you to join us!

Armchair Traveler

Our next session will be on November 18th when Geraldine and Terry will discuss travels in Eastern Turkey and the challenging pass through the Taurus Mountains.

Geraldine will review a tour she took travelling in the footsteps of Saint Paul as he travelled through the Roman Empire trying to convert people to the new Christian faith.

Terry will show some video of a trip he made by rail through the Taurus Mountains in Eastern Turkey.

After the break Terry will show some of his video of a Great Railway journey that unlike most can be undertaken easily and cheaply!

Art Appreciation

Shanley Cleeland from the Benalla Art Gallery took these photos the Textile workshop held for the U3A Art Appreciation class led by Jeanie Mc Donagh.



(From the left) Carole Marple co-ordinator with Dick Tivendale, Anthea Cooper, & Artist/Tutor Jeanie Mc.Donagh.



Bill Parris and Trish Roe get to work!

Astronomy

Another month of discussions on diverse topics. Our distinctive Milky Way constellations are moving towards the western horizon with seasonal changes. Mars Rover Curiosity: NASA car size rover, is surveying the red planet, now at Mt Sharp making geological explorations. Voyager 1 Space Probe, launched in 1977, has entered interstellar space. Rosetta, the first space craft to rendezvous with a comet; on 12 November will deploy its lander on the surface of the comet. The lander is designed to complete the most detailed study of a comet ever attempted.

Bev showed a most interesting & intriguing video: An Eruption in Space Time - Black Holes. Witnessed the second for this year Total Luna Eclipse on 8 October. Invited by Astronomy Benalla to a talk by Dr Roland Crocker, Australian Astrophysicist & ANU Researcher who has Benalla connections.

Chat n' Chew

Finished for 2014 – No November luncheon

E Book Group

Our October book was *The Girl Who Fell From The Sky*, by Simon Mawer, a war thriller set in Vichy France in WW2. The heroine, Marion Sutra, is very much cast in the mould of *Girls Own Tales*, being attractive, brave, competent, and resolute in the face of dangers arising from her role as saboteur and

resistance worker. Her missions, to deliver radio crystals to a wireless operator, and to bring back to England an atomic scientist vital to the war effort, are successfully completed, but in a tragic climax, she is betrayed and ends up in the hands of the Gestapo. Simon Mawer is both detailed and accurate in his description of the training of a saboteur and he succeeds brilliantly in evoking the daily terror and loneliness of operatives in wartime France. Nevertheless, it is ultimately, only one more book in the genre of spy thrillers, and possibly not the best utilisation of his considerable talents.

Please note: Our November class will take place on Nov.5th, due to Cup Day. Please remember to bring your selections for 2015.

Film and Literature

We viewed the Tim Cope's documentary "Off the Rails" an epic adventure of two young men peddling 10,000km on recumbent bicycles across Russia, Siberia, Mongolia and Northern China to finish in Tiananmen Square. They experienced incredible difficulties, but with help from the friendly local villagers they succeeded in their journey.

Our next meeting which will be on the 12th November and as it is the last class for the year we would love to see all our members, even if you have not been able to attend some of the classes, let's make it a fun class, Elva and Marj will provide party nibbles so no need to bring anything but yourselves, we look forward to seeing you there.

Something to think about for next year, Elva and Marj will not be taking the Film & Literature class next year, it is an opportunity for someone, or two people, to develop the class into their own style. It is a very enjoyable and rewarding time, and Elva and Marj have had a great experience in leading the group. If anyone is interested in this please contact Terry Case on 5762 1700



Saturday Night Fever

Irmgard Alt, 79, und Siegfried Gallasch, 87

A German retirement community produced a calendar where seniors recreated famous movie scenes. The Contilia Retirement Group in Essen, Germany made a wonderful calendar stars being a few of their seniors.

The shoot was done with professional stylists and photographers to make sure everything looked as cool as possible. The oldest senior involved with the calendar was 98 years old.

Garden Appreciation

October 23rd, 9.30am meet at car park. To Kerry Marsden Rowan St, Wangaratta. 57 214888. BYO morning tea, Kerry will have the urn on. Kerry & Keith have a large garden with many interesting plants.

Later to Park Lane Nursery, Park Lane Wangaratta. Lunch at Clay's kitchen 34A Ovens st, 57 222308.

November 27th Meet at Benalla Rose garden 09.30 for our morning tea; byo. Then to Strathbogie Huntley Farm Roses Nursery. 15 Main st, Strathbogie. 0429 149173, lunch at Nursery café.

We had a great day at Samaria Farm in September. Morning tea with tasty delights and a tour with enthusiastic Vicki. Thanks to Vicki & Allan for making us so welcome. Lunch a Geraldine's followed by a lovely afternoon.

Samaria Farm Open Days:- November 8th + 9th. 10am-5pm.

Garden Team

Weeding is still easy and the team worked to good effect at Kathy's. Some of us were lucky enough to receive excess vegetable seedlings from others' plantings and my goat enjoyed her bunch of geranium cuttings while the ducks were thrilled by the snail collection!

We'll be at Shirlie's in November but it seems Val cannot escape her Monday meeting so our final 2014 session might be at Jane's on December 1st.

Investment Group 1

At the September meeting members were delighted when it was reported that our group had been successful in its entry in the Sunday Age Shares Race. During September in week three the entry under the supervision of Graham Mitchell obtained first place so congratulations are in order.

Investment Group 2

Investment Group 2 met in early October and discussed the decline in the share market during September. We observed that not all shares had been equally affected. However the decrease overall had been of the order of five per cent during the month. We also had a comprehensive talk on mining stocks in the Australian market by Bill - thank you for expanding our knowledge on the mining side of the market.

The next meeting of Investment Group 2 will be on Friday 7th November at 2pm in W4.

Lifeball

It was gratifying to find everything was as it should be after I returned from 3 wonderful weeks in Kenya. We have only 10 players on each of the past 2 weeks, but that's fine - we are all so adaptable, and find that, with smaller numbers, we are made to work that little bit harder to score our goals. Rupert and Gwen are away, but we don't miss Rupert's leadership all that much, because he has trained us so well that we simply play as if he were amongst us. We have received an invitation from Rutherglen for

their Fun and Friendship Day at the end of October, so several of us will be going to enjoy yet another day of good play and comradeship. These "away" days are very popular, we meet old friends and make new ones, all because of our mutual love of Lifeball! You really should give us a try!! Marg Merriman 5762-1404

Meet and Mingle

The November meeting will feature a display of quilts from the Patchwork Group and musical treats from Singing for fun members.

Music Appreciation

Over the past 2 sessions the featured composers have been Francis Poulenc (French, 1899-1963), and Aram Khachaturian (Russian, 1903-78). We were given brief summaries of their lives and works, and enjoyed a selection of their compositions. As well we heard Albinoni's beautiful Adagio, used as theme music for "Gallipoli" and many other movies, Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1, and a selection of songs by Australian soprano Yvonne Kenny. Next sessions will feature the composers by Joaquin Rodrigo (Spain 1901-99) and Dmitry Shostakovich (Russia 1906-75).

Politics and Current Affairs

Unfortunately National Party candidate Steph Ryan failed to turn up to the September session, leaving tutor Laurence Neal to ad lib!

On the 28th October our political guest will be ALP candidate Claire Malcolm.

Walks



"Marion and Heather admiring a Love Creeper – *Comesperma volubile*, which was climbing up a young Silver Wattle" (photo by Margaret Jenkins on the Mount Tatong walk)..

Short Walk Wednesday 1st October

The strong winds from the previous day had abated, and the sun was out again for nine participants who started down Schulz Road (off Tiger Hill Road) to reach Mount Tatong. It was good to have Margaret back to test her new knee, and Heather, after exploring South America. We also had Chloe, who was on school holidays. It is not a difficult walk, on mainly four wheel drive tracks, but requires a bit of bush-bashing near the end. There were magnificent views from the top as we sat on a rocky outcrop for lunch. We were amazed by the many flowers along the track, counting 6 different Orchids and 3 Creepers, among many other flowering plants.

Salisbury Falls walk- 8.10.2014

We walked up the rocky path to the falls, picturesque, with gurgling water, ponds with pobblebonk frogs, and the distant view of Mount Buffalo. As we continued on towards Mt. Warby the country was more open, with scraggly Blakleys red gum and soft spring grass. Many wildflowers were in bloom, including fringe lilies, Billy buttons, Grevillea alpina, the local spur-wing wattle, spider orchids, daphne heath, yam daisy, goodenia, bulbine lilies,

sun orchids. Most spectacular were the tall spikes of the flowering grass trees, some at least fifteen feet high.

Nine point three kilometres felt a bit like ten kilometres as we walked down and back to the cars, but the eleven people, including two new walkers all decided it was a good day! A great afternoon tea was shared at the Glenrowan park, with Ned's station in the distance. Thanks to Vaughan and Marion for their leadership.- Heather Lloyd

Short Walk Wednesday November 5

We will probably be walking in the Reef Hills, but it will depend on conditions and weather at that time. We will leave the Centre car park at 10.00am. Please ring 5762 1980 to let me know if you will be walking.

Mid-week walk Wednesday November 12

We will be walking to Mount Dunn, on the Buffalo plateau. The walk begins at the Lake Catani car park, then on to Long Plain track which will lead us to Mt. Dunn. Most of the walk is a gentle amble through Snow-grass plains and Snow-gum woodlands, before quite a steep climb to Mt. Dunn's rocky summit. This is a 9km walk. Ring John Boehm on 5762 4941 or 0428 254 801 beforehand. Be at the Centre car park at 8.00am for an 8.15 departure.



John and Clare at the bar during The Wine Appreciation group's trip to Morris's at Rutherglen. (photo by Beverley Lee)

Wine Appreciation

Wednesday 22 October 2014
Meet at car park at 10 am and journey to Pennyweight Winery at Beechworth. For the first time in the 16 years of our U3a winery visits there will be a tasting fee of \$5 reluctantly accepted on this occasion.
Lunch is at Hotel Nicholas where the menu has choice in the \$9 to \$16 range available.

Please return this form together with your payment to The Centre office in an envelope addressed to Treasurer U3A by 12.00 noon 18th November, or bring it with you to Meet and Mingle at the Senior Citizens rooms on Wednesday 19th November.

Christmas Luncheon Red Stag Restaurant

Wednesday 26 November 2014



Bus leaves Benalla Bus Lines
at 11.00 am

Our thanks to Bill Sykes MP and staff for the printing of this newsletter.

Cost \$45
(includes bus and two course lunch)

I/We will be attending the Christmas luncheon

(Please print)
.....
.....
Phone Number

Partners welcome

I/We will be travelling on the bus.

YES NO

Any special dietary requirements

