

**A Night at the Opera: French Style** Contact Meg Dillon 5762 6558

**2nd Wednesday at 7:00 pm** **21 Warana Court**

This season we will take a look at some of the great nineteenth century French composers like Berlioz, Debussy, Ravel and Poulenc who were interested in opera as a musical form. Lovely arias, tuneful music, great singers and performances. As usual the group meets at the presenter's house on a Wednesday evening at 7pm. Drinks and light refreshments are offered. Maximum of 10 participants can be seated.

**Armchair Traveller** Contact Ray O'Shannessy 5762 1559

**1st Tuesday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm** **U3A**

An opportunity to share your traveller's tales with others and to hear theirs, however inspiring or hair-raising. Two sessions are planned this semester.

**Art Appreciation** Contact Neville Gibb 0428 858 688  
Meg Dillon 5762 6558

**1st Monday 10:00 am - 11:00 am** **Benalla Art Gallery**

The group meets at the Benalla Art Gallery where members of the gallery staff discuss items in the gallery's collection, special exhibitions, art genres etc. The group occasionally organizes trips to other galleries.

**'As Time Goes By': Memoir Writing** Contact Beverley Lee 5762 8171

**4th Monday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm** **U3A**

'As Time Goes By' -Memoir Writing sessions provide an outlet and support for members to write about their lives, to tell stories their families may not get around to asking them about. The tasks set are reminiscence oriented and often chosen from ABC Open's '500 words' writing project topics.

**Bird Watching** Contact Kathy Costello 5762 5755  
0447 625 755

**2nd Thursday 9.30 am - 12:00 noon** **Meet Seniors Car Park**

If you would like to know more about birds in the Benalla district and would appreciate help in identifying birds, this group could be for you. The program involves mainly morning walks in local habitats rich in a range of bird life such as Reef Hills, Winton Wetland and Benalla Lake. There will also be one or two all day outings to more distant areas such as the Warby Ranges. Bring along a pair of binoculars to gain more value and enjoyment from this activity.

**Booker Reading Group** Contact Meg Dillon 5762 6558

**3rd Friday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm** **U3A**

The annual Man Booker Prize is awarded to the novel deemed best by an extensive panel of judges in Britain. Writers in both America and post-colonial countries can also enter. Each year the search is narrowed to a Long List of 13 books, then the Short List of 6 from which the winner is chosen. These novels are not for the faint hearted! They often explore contentious contemporary issues or the lives of families or individuals experiencing the difficulties of modern life.

The judges said of the Long List: *All of these books – which take in slavery, ecology, missing persons, inner-city violence, young love, prisons, trauma, race – capture something about a world on the brink. Among their many remarkable qualities is a willingness to take risks with form.* The 2018 winner of the Booker was [The Mars Room](#) by American writer Rachel Kushner. You can google the **2018 Man Booker Long List** to see the complete list. If you are curious about some of the best contemporary fiction of the last year...please join us. You will be expected to obtain your own copy of the books the group chooses to read, either by buying an e-book version, borrowing from a library, or purchasing a hard copy.

**Brain Games**

Contact Elspeth Maconachie

0418 621 764

**2nd Tuesday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**U3A**

It is well established that new skills can help build brain pathways with benefits for memory, confidence, happiness and even falls prevention. Brain Games will offer a variety of entertaining and informative ways to challenge, inform and exercise your brain. Thus we might solve word, number, shape, picture or logic puzzles, take part in a quiz, brainstorm solutions to a dilemma, draw a picture or maybe even learn to juggle! There will be some time spent viewing DVDs or reading articles which explore such topics as illusions and tricks, dementia, brain repair, gender differences, optimism & pessimism, lateral thinking and creativity.

**Bush Walking: Easy Walks**

Contact Wendy Sturgess  
Margaret Walshe

0403 226 649

0427 005 202

**1st Wednesday from April - All Day starting 10:00 am**

**Meet Seniors Car Park**

Easy Walks are aimed at maintaining fitness by introducing people to Bushwalking and giving previous bushwalkers the opportunity to continue bushwalking on shorter and easier tracks. Walks will be approximately 5 kms without a lot of climbing, within an hour's drive of Benalla. Participants will require sturdy shoes & able to carry a backpack containing snack, lunch, adequate water, waterproof jacket & personal items. Members will be required to notify the convenor of attendance 3 days prior to the walk to enable carpooling, travel costs, and other arrangements. Easy Walks will be held on the first Wednesday of each month from April to November and leave from the carpark behind the Senior Complex (U3A), Fawckner Drive at 10 am or as determined by the convenor.

**Bush Walking: Mid Week Walks**

Contact John Boehm

0428 254 801

**2nd Wednesday All day from March**

**Meet Barkly Street Car Park**

Walks are organised by the Benalla Bushwalking Club Inc. and are held on the second Wednesday of each month, weather permitting. These walks are suitable for the retired person of reasonable fitness. U3A members wishing to go on these walks need to join the Benalla Bushwalking Club for insurance purposes. Membership fees at present are Single \$30, Family \$40. We pool cars and share transport costs.

**Chat 'n' Chew**

Contact Shirley Kearney

5762 6768

**3rd Friday 11:45 am - 1:45 pm**

**Varied venues**

This group meets once a month at one of Benalla's many eateries for good nosh and a natter. A very popular activity. All U3A members welcome. For catering purposes attendees are required to notify Shirley by the Tuesday prior to each of these Fridays. New members are welcome. For further information ring Shirley - allow a long ring time if you have to leave a message.

**Collectors**

Contact Judith Borthwick

5762 3442

**2nd Monday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

**U3A**

Do you enjoy 'The Collectors' and 'Bargain Hunt' on TV? Have you a collection or the beginnings of one? Collectors is for people who enjoy collecting and seeing the collections of others. Sessions take the form of show and tell with participants bringing along an item or a collection to share with others in the group. Items shown range from the quirky to the beautiful. They may be inherited, be valuable antiques or items purchased from the Op Shop but which you enjoy. It is hoped to have a guest speaker for one session to help us develop skills in identifying and valuing our purchases. Please bring along to the first session one or two of your favourite items and be prepared to show and tell.

**Creative Writing**

Contact Joy Shirley

0417 065 351

**2nd Monday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**U3A**

Do you want to write but don't know where to start? Have you ever thought of writing a short story, a novel, entering a writing competition? **Creative Writing is** a 'guided self-help' creative writing session held on the second Monday of the month between 2:00 and 4:00 pm in the U3A meeting room. Each month we provide a prompt. This can be a starting sentence, a topic, or perhaps a challenge. At the session we then share our writing and seek helpful feedback

**E-book group**

Contact Helen Scheller

5762 3937

**1st Tuesday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon**
**Benalla Library**

Our E-book group is a forum for discussion of books, ranging from classic to contemporary fiction. To access the monthly book choice, participants are welcome to use their own E-readers/tablets, or borrow books from the library (when available). New members are always welcome, and will enjoy the atmosphere of lively debate, morning tea, and a general get together.

**Exercises for Fun**

Contact Helen Jeffree

0490 092 267

**Mondays 9.30 am - 11.30 am**
**U3A**

Have you heard the saying "If you don't move it, you lose it"? Well, these mild exercises to music are fun for all ages and will be held weekly. Come along, enjoy the morning, and socialise with a cuppa after. All members welcome!

**Exploring the Universe**

 Contact Bev Morton  
Jan Andrews

 5764 1245  
0438 624 036

**3rd Tuesday 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm**
**U3A**

Explore and enjoy the wonders of the Cosmos. Journey far into the solar system, courtesy of NASA and other world space agencies who share their discoveries through text and audio visual content. Advanced technologies have given a new perspective of the universe. Now spacecraft travel to the outer reaches of the solar system on voyages of discovery. Special telescopes and cameras return brilliant images, revealing billions of galaxies, star breeding clouds of gas, and weird new planets, some in habitable zones; allowing us to look back in time as the history of the universe is unfolding. What are the stars made of? What is really "OUT THERE?" There is scope for discussion. You don't have to be a scientist--we are all learning. Beginners are welcome.

**Film and Literature**

Contact Joy Shirley

0417 065 351

**2nd Wednesday 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm**
**Various Venues**

Do you enjoy watching movies? Do you find discussing movies adds to your enjoyment? Do you find that you can better understand a movie by hearing and sharing thoughts about the movie? Then come along to our Film and Literature class. In the class we discuss a movie we have watched, treating the movie as a form of literature. In 2019 we will be attending current movies chosen from BPACC's program at a time which suits our individual commitments. A 'Movie Money' voucher from BPACC will enable group members to watch each movie at a cost of \$9.50. We will then catch up at the library or one of Benalla's wonderful coffee shops at 1:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month to discuss the movie.

**Games**

Contact Dorothy Webber

5762 2116

**1st Monday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**
**U3A**

This group meets monthly with a focus on board games.

**Garden Appreciation**

Contact Gwen Turner

5762 7017

**4th Thursday 9.30 am to 3.00 pm**
**Various**

We meet once a month to visit gardens in our area and sometimes further afield. Gardens range from private gardens to Botanic Gardens such as Melbourne and Albury. We have also visited Ripponlea, the Victorian Rose Garden at Werribee Park and other special gardens.

**Garden Team**

Contact Elspeth Maconachie

0418 621 764

**2nd & 5th Monday 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**
**Various**

A band of enthusiastic gardeners gathers once a month for an afternoon at each member's garden in rotation. The working bee uses each member's skills and abilities to achieve about six hours effect in an hour and a half. Then we rest on our laurels with tea provided by the host and a home-baked and/or healthy plate from the visitors. We head home a little fitter and inspired, often with a new cutting or garden tip.

**German for beginners**

Contact Pauline Bailey

0434 147 605

**Mondays 12.00 noon - 1.00 pm**

**U3A**

This course should give you a good understanding for basic communication in German. There are no set texts, but a small German-English dictionary would be useful. Notes will be provided at each session. The first 10 weeks will provide the vocabulary and grammar underpinning the language. After a winter recess, we will resume for more advanced learning.

**History: After the Victorians**

Contact Terry Case

0427 621 700

**3rd Tuesday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

**U3A**

The 20th Century saw enormous changes in the period from 1900-1939. From the Boer War and Federation in Australia we then look at the White Australia policy and the fear of Japan as a world power. Germany and the USA overtook Britain as the leading industrial and military power. The Bolshevik Revolution was a turning point not just in W.W.1, but in European history. Socialism, Fascism and Communism challenged existing orders. The British Empire reached its peak in the 1930s, but the belief that Britain had a right to rule was challenged by Gandhi and others.

DVDs will be used to illustrate the sessions.

**History: An Intro to Western Civilization**

Contact Meg Dillon

5762 6558

**2nd & 4th Fridays 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**U3A**

History helps us understand some complex issues, even though it can't and doesn't predict future outcomes.

Today our Western Civilization is strongly attacked as corrupt, militaristic and nihilistic.

But is it? How did it evolve and what aspects of should we embrace and be proud of?

These history sessions will look at the current situation, then briefly explore those past cultures that have created our complex Western world.

**Ancient Greece:** It all started with the Greeks and their vast cultural agenda. Art, sculpture, philosophy, science and much more was developed by this squabbling, argumentative but lively group of city states and colonies, known as the Greek World.

**The Romans:** Masters of war, engineering and administration. Their Pax Romana (The Roman Peace) was spread across Europe in the largest ancient empire prior to the British Empire. The Romans would colonize and civilize other cultures but would brutally suppress any rebellion.

**The Italian Renaissance:** The rich Italian city states of the thirteenth century rediscovered the Ancient World of the Greeks and Romans through their discoveries of surviving sculptures and ancient manuscripts. The result was a reintroduction of many of the achievements of these cultures that had been lost in the previous 1000 years. The Italians built on this foundation advancing both the practice of the arts and that of diplomacy in an era that was fractured by minor wars between the city states and the Papacy.

**The Reformation:** In the early sixteenth century Martin Luther started a vast religious movement protesting against some of the corruption and excesses that had developed in the Catholic Church. The succeeding growth of Protestantism turned many parts of Europe into mercantile hubs where vast wealth started to be made by a merchant class, while more austere religious and communal practices were adopted by whole populations in Northern Europe.

**The Enlightenment:** The age of science burst into being in the eighteenth century in England and France. Gentlemen 'scientists' started to look at the way the physical aspects of our world worked. In France the French Revolution in 1787 followed naturally from this development as the middle classes refused to accept the older corrupt rule of King, Church and nobles. This was the start of our era in which science and government would dominate our thinking and lead to Western democracy as we know it and the vast scientific knowledge that has changed our world and lives.

Discussion and suitable video and other images will be used to convey some of the key attributes of these major historical influences that have formed the Western world.

**Investment**

Contact Margaret Jenkins

5762 6944

**1st Friday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**U3A**

This group includes U3A members who are interested in the share market and want to participate in discussion about investments. Whilst the share market is our primary focus, we often have a related broader investment topic as well at our monthly meeting.

**Let's Talk Books**

Contact Geraldine McCorkell

5762 2134

**1st Tuesday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**
**Benalla Library**

Have you read a good book you would like to share with others? Bring your book along to the Benalla Library and tell the group about it. This is a casual discussion group about books/papers/magazines we have read and enjoyed. You will hear about books others have read that you may be interested in reading also.

**Lifeball**

Contact Marlene Pitts

5762 1721

**Mondays 10:00 am - 11:30 am (\*9.30am summer months)**
**Indoor Recreation Centre**

Lifeball is a game adapted from basketball which is suitable for all ages and abilities and has regular and enthusiastic participants. For those who think that competitive sport is now beyond you this is the game for you.

**Meditation**

Contact Caroline Sims

0438 624 891

**1st & 3rd Mondays 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**
**U3A**
**Meet and Mingle**

 Contact Bill Parris  
 Dorothy Webber

 0417 329 278  
 5762 2116

**3rd Wednesday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**
**U3A**

This is a general social gathering of members to have morning tea, a chat, and listen to a guest speaker. It is not a formal business meeting, but a short time will be allocated for news from the Executive and program groups. All members welcome.

**Member Services Group**

Contact Dorothy Webber

5762 2116

**1st Tuesday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**  
**4th Thursday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**
**U3A Meeting Room**
**Music Appreciation**

Contact Bill Squire

5762 6334

**2nd & 4th Friday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon**
**U3A**

Should you enjoy listening to and discussing classical music in a relaxed atmosphere this might be the group for you. Each session we explore the life and music of at least one composer. We listen to their great works, discuss their musical style and approach, and learn about their life story. Notes relating to the composers and their music are provided to assist your listening and learning experience. If you would like to know more about and enjoy some of the music that has helped shape our world then you would like this group. We would welcome you joining us.

**Patchwork**

Contact Dorothy Webber

5762 2116

**1st & 3rd Thursday 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm**  
**5th Thursday All Day**
**U3A**

Participants provide their own fabric and sewing aids. New members will be introduced to patching and quilting techniques. (See also Patchwork: Beginners).

**Patchwork: Beginners**

Contact Heather Sloan

5762 4777

**1st Tuesday 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm**  
**4th & 5th Tuesdays 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**
**U3A**

The course will cover the basics of patchwork and quilting whilst making a small panel. It is designed for people with no experience of patchwork and does not require a sewing machine. By the end of the semester participants will have the skills to make a basic quilt

**Play Reading**

Contact Jenny McKenna

5762 6855

**1st Wednesday 9.30 am - 12.00 noon**
**U3A**

Have you always enjoyed drama and going to the theatre? Perhaps you have had previous experience in a theatre environment, or always wanted to. During monthly sessions the group will read chosen plays and share news of theatre experiences in a relaxed classroom setting. You won't have to learn lines!

**Politics and Current Affairs**

Contact Terry Case

0427 621 700

**2nd & 4th Tuesday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon**
**U3A**

Join our discussions as we dissect local, state, federal and world affairs.

**Recorder Group**

Contact Janet Douglas

 5767 2257  
0427 080 351

**2nd Wednesday 9:00 am – 11:00 am**
**U3A**
**4th Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon**

"I wish I hadn't given up learning music, the violin, piano, recorder, guitar!" Music teacher Janet Douglas says she would be very wealthy if she received \$1 every time she heard an older person say this! Janet believes it's never too late to learn music or to learn a musical instrument and considers the recorder a good choice as it is such an accessible instrument. A group for beginners to intermediate, there will also be scope for more proficient users of the recorder to play together and mentor others. Unlike most U3A courses, there will be homework. You will need to practise - there's no other way to learn and improve!

**Singing for Fun**

Contact Margaret Jenkins

5762 6944

**1st & 3rd Thursday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**
**U3A**

The only criteria for joining this group is that you like singing. You do not need to be able to read music. We sing for fun and we find it a great sharing experience.

**Singing for Fun: Harmony group**

Contact Margaret Jenkins

5762 6944

**2nd Thursday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**
**U3A**

The only criteria for joining this group is that you like singing. You do not need to be able to read music. We sing for fun and we find it a great sharing experience.

**Stock & Land**

Contact David Palmer

5762 4468

**1st Tuesday 10.00 am -12.00 noon**
**U3A**

Are you a regular watcher of Country Wide or reader of Stock and Land or The Weekly Times? Did you grow up on, run, still run, or downshift into Benalla from a farm? Perhaps you studied/taught food and agriculture related courses or worked in an area related to agriculture? Or perhaps, like most of us, you are interested in where food comes from. This group aims to provide a regular forum for members with interest and experience in agriculture to discuss agricultural issues and current developments in farming. Monthly two-hour sessions will feature well informed speakers from particular areas of farming who will share their story, their understanding of current issues and developments in their field of farming. This will be followed by questions and discussion. The group will also discuss current news and events in farming and share stories of our farms.

### Sustainability

Contact John Lloyd

5765 2476

1st & 3rd Friday 9:30 am -11:30 am

U3A

The human impact on our planet has, in recent times, become the concern of governments and ordinary people world-wide and has resulted in many questions about the sustainability of our present lifestyle. This course aims to explore topics such as global warming and climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, clean energy options, the challenge of population growth, sustainable agricultural practices, water use, sustainable use of resources, sustainable and energy efficient building design and various economic and lifestyle issues. From time to time we might also focus on the politics of climate change a topic that can hardly be ignored. Our sessions during the year will examine different aspects of these major topics with a focus on looking towards a sustainable future. No prior knowledge of these topics is required just a general interest in the issues around climate change and sustainability. With discussion of these topics throughout the year you will find that you become better informed about these issues.

### Tech Savvy Beginners 'Be Connected' Summer School

Contact Jenny Sawyer

0409 545 182

9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th January 10:00 am - 11:00 am

U3A

During the summer break, there will be continuing **Be Connected** sessions for members with portable computing devices - smart phones, tablets, ipads, laptops. If you weren't able to attend any or all of the previous sessions last semester and you would like to extend your computing knowledge and skills, we are running four sessions in January on Wednesday mornings at the U3A room. **Be Connected** has added extra modules to their course including Online Hobbies; Apps and Games

### Tech Savvy Beginners: Apple Devices

Contact Jenny Sawyer

0409 545 182

Wednesdays 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (not school holidays)

U3A

Yes, Tech Savvy Beginners is on again for anyone who has an Apple phone or iPad or is thinking about purchasing one. We have iPads available for borrowing. In 2019 the Tech Savvy Course will run weekly on Wednesdays from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Each session we will explore different functions with a hands-on approach; or I should say 'fingers on' approach. Topics will include Rebooting, Settings, Internet data, Internet research, Staying in touch through the internet, Camera, Photos, Money transactions, Apps (Apps that come with your device and Apps you can choose yourself/The App Store). There will be mentors to assist and give individual help. Participants are encouraged to share their knowledge and skills with others as well.

### Tech Savvy Projects: Family History

Contact Beverley Lee

5762 8171

4th Thursday 1:00 pm - 2:45 pm

U3A

Tech Savvy Projects (Family History) provides the opportunity for members to develop skills in using internet based family history resources including Ancestry.com; My Heritage; Trove; Scotland's People; online Births/Deaths/Marriages to research their family history. Group members who travel overseas are encouraged to develop photobooks drawing upon travel blog programs such as Fine Penguins. Small group sessions.

### Tech Savvy Talks

Contact Les Rodgers

5762 7600

2nd Wednesday 11.00 am - 1.00 pm

U3A (Wed)

4th Thursday 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

The Northo' (Thu)

Are you reasonably Tech Savvy; interested in technological developments and keen to continue developing your knowledge base? Then the Tech Savvy Talks group may be of interest. Monthly sessions include viewing of topical TED Talks; presentations on topics of interest by class members or guest speakers; shared news of developments across a range of technologies such as robotics; alternative options to baseload energy; driverless cars; alternative vehicles and more. Topics discussed include developments in science as well as technology. An optional Tech Savvy Talkers discussion group meets at 'The Northo' on the 4th Thursday from 3 pm to 4 pm.

**Wine Appreciation**

Contact Noel Meagher 5762 3149  
Keith and Heather Rogers 5762 4086

**4th Wednesday - All Day****Meet at Barkly Street Tennis Carpark**

This group meets monthly for a trip to explore the wineries of the North East and learn more about the varieties of wines and the people who make them. We meet once a month on the fourth Wednesday gathering at Benalla College's Barkly Street car park on the tennis court behind Aldi for car-pooling. Lunch is also part of the excursion, sometimes at a local pub and other times somewhere a bit grander.

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