



Benalla and District Inc.

## Newsletter – April 2023

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## President's Report to Annual General Meeting 2023



2022 has been a year of rebuilding for U3A Benalla after two difficult years of Covid restrictions. In the North East region of Victoria, there are 15 U3A groups stretching from Kilmore to Albury, with a combined membership of 1700. The Goulburn Valley, which includes Shepparton and Mooroopna had the largest number of members in April 2022 with 334. Benalla had 308 members and Albury 307. So, coming out of Covid we were doing very well.

The reason for U3A Benalla's strength is the variety of groups we offer. In 2022 we offered 44 different programs, each co-ordinated by a Convenor who was passionate about their topic. My thanks goes to each of these Convenors for the time they spend organising and presenting their particular program. All the programs are valued.

We have outside programs such as Easy Walks, Bird Watching, Garden Appreciation, the Garden Team who donate their time and effort to helping with a particular member's garden and Wine Appreciation. Then there are many programs held in our U3A room. These include Collectors, Coin Collectors, Politics and Current Affairs, Patchwork, Investment, Stock and Land, German, Play Reading, Tech Savvy Android phones, Tech Savvy Apple Pages, Family Research and others. There are also programs which use other venues such as Art Appreciation which meets in the Benalla Art Gallery, Singing for Fun and Community Singing which meet in the Hub at Coinda, and Chat'n'Chew which meet at various restaurants.

At the March 2023 Committee meeting we learnt that we had 361 members, which is a record high membership for U3A Benalla. 62 of these members have joined U3A Benalla for the first time this year. We have several new programs this year which includes Ukes4Fun which meet every Monday in this Auditorium and strum their Ukuleles around the projector installed by Benalla Rural City Council last year. There is also the Photography course conducted by Rene Martens, Enjoying the Internet with Dawn Stephens, the Wise Guys book group with David Palmer, In the lap of the Gods with John Barry, the Jane Austen Book Club with Meg Dillon, and the Sky's the Limit with Claire Rudolph. Each of these new courses in 2023 have started well with excellent enrolments.

Communication within U3A Benalla is very important. I would like to thank Heather Wallace, our Newsletter Editor and Bev Lee who runs our excellent website. In June 2022 U3A Network, the Victorian governing U3A organisation, ran a photo competition showing activities at various U3A's throughout Victoria. Approximately half the photos came from our website. Well done, Bev. Your work is appreciated not only by members of U3A Benalla but also by the wider U3A community.

Next, I would like to thank the Committee of U3A Benalla. Every person on the Committee has done an excellent job during the last 12 months, and the Committee has been a great help to me in many ways. I would like to particularly thank Geraldine McCorkell our Secretary, Len Jeffers our Membership Secretary, and David Palmer of Publicity Officer. My thanks also to Deb Goodrich who is retiring from the Committee.

I would like to thank Terry Case for his outstanding contribution to U3A Benalla over many years. Terry was President from 2014 to 2017, past President from 2017 to 2021, Convenor of both Politics and Current Affairs and Australian History courses each for over 10 years, and a great supporter of U3A Benalla. For his outstanding contribution, the Committee have decided to award him Life Membership of U3A Benalla.



Looking to the future. Our numbers have increased by over 10% this year. The timetable for our U3A room took four Committee people four hours to organise. Our second room only holds 10 people, so there are only a small number of courses for which this second room can be used.

The U3A Committee think that the expansion of our footprint will become a necessity within the next two years. U3A Benalla's preferred option would be another two rooms at the rear of the current building. We cater for retired or semi-retired people over 55 years of age. In the 2021 census, 46% of Benalla's population were 55 years or older, compared to the Victorian average of 28%. So, the need for our organisation is here. Our current membership of 361 is a record high for U3A Benalla. The number of members in groups such as Garden Appreciation 77, Exercises for Fun 74, Wine Appreciation 66 is impressive. Groups using our U3A room such as Patchwork and Craft with 24 members are at capacity.

Margaret Jenkins,  
President

## Group Reports

### Art Appreciation

At our last First Monday we were fortunate to be lectured by Nina Machielse Hunt regarding the Art situation in Beechworth and specifically about the *Beechworth Contemporary Biennale*.

This was an enjoyable experience as it is obvious Nina is a very energetic person dedicated to art.

Our next first Monday will be *High Plains Drift* by Tony Lloyd.

Neville Gibb

### 'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

Bev began our March session by introducing four books incorporating or exploring memoirs. They were *Stet: An Editor's Life* by Diana Athill, *The Last Australian Childhood* by Kevin Moloney, *Bush School* by Peter O'Brien and *Written by Herself* by Jill Ker Conway.

We were then invited by Bev to reminisce about our experiences of the corner store. Many memories were delightfully unearthed and reminiscences shared.

Trish then read her memoir under the theme of failure. Her failure was in fact the education system's failure. This 'failure' was turned on its head with a will to achieve and a determination to overcome this initial disadvantage.

Graham introduced his father-made wooden table and tapestry inlay as his 'special object' and Phiona revealed the wedding ring of her grandmother and 'warmed' us with reminiscences of her first time away from home with her Nana and Popa.

Neville then challenged us with a juxtaposition between his special objects, his wife and children, and the BBC and The Times, which were also designated as 'special' when he lived in London and then revealed how they lost their sheen as a result of time, politics and Rupert Murdoch.

Barry 'opened' his 'evacuation briefcase' and shared badges and medals that reflected a very interesting life journey. Graeme light-heartedly reminded us of the game Bobs, which many of us had played but an illicit game resulted in the disaster of a broken 'precious' vase. The implications of that event and the ensuing journey for Graeme, were shared intimately with the group. Thank you, Graeme.

Ray lovingly shared another highlight of his life with the awarding of an OAM, his precious gift and Phillip passed around his gold nugget, a result of a leftover envelope from his posted Christmas wishes. On the other hand, Jill shared her determination and focus which resulted in her winning her precious and magnificent mother of pearl cup and saucer.

Finally, Bev shared her special objects uncovered as she prepares for downsizing. The physical records of her academic achievements were unrolled before us revealing a journey of application, growing self-knowledge and fulfillment. A suitable conclusion as our group shared some of the deeper experiences of our lives.

**April Topics: 'Friends and Neighbours'** A chance to write about your childhood home and neighbourhood, friends and neighbours you particularly remember, friends of your parents, community activities and organisations you and other members of your family were involved with and more. Use the opportunity to reflect on the social, economic, political and cultural context of the time. The *alternative topic/s* **'Anzac Day'** Looking back over your lifetime, write about a memory/your memories of Anzac Day (or other memorial day) and its place in the cultural rituals of your family and the communities in which you have lived, moving from the personal to the political if you wish. Or **'Easter'** Looking back over your lifetime, write about your memories of Easter or other religious event and its place in the cultural rituals of your family and the communities in which you have lived.

Graham Jensen

## Be Connected – Managing Money Online

We continued our banking online focus and worked through the *Be Connected* unit Internet Banking, Introduction to Online banking Laptop and Desktop computers. We looked at setting up online banking. This can be done online and or at the bank. There are a few things you need for online banking -

- a bank account and some personal ID
- a computer, smartphone or tablet with up -to -date software
- a secure home internet connection
- a mobile phone number

Next session is on Monday 17th April. Jenny will demonstrate setting up a BPAY biller and making a BPAY payment to Vicroads.

Jenny Sawyer/Robyn Lukey

## Bird Watching



Fourteen people attended our first outing for 2023 on 9<sup>th</sup> March on a mild, sunny morning. We drove to the base of Mt Samaria, then walked around the Samaria Well campground area and along Brown Rd. A King Parrot flew past our group, then Jim found a few honeyeaters and a small flock of Varied Sittellas in a flowering eucalypt in the campground.

The rest of the bush was initially quiet apart from a few calling White-throated Treecreepers.

We finally started to see groups of birds on our return walk. Three Gang Gang Cockatoos and a flock of Crimson Rosellas landed nearby. Striated Thornbills and Grey Fantails were feeding in a low wattle, and an Eastern Spinebill found some nectar in a flowering mistletoe hanging low over the road. As we drove out of the campground some of us saw a Jacky Winter and Willie Wagtail on the fence of the adjacent paddock.

Altogether 23 species were recorded. Here is the link to the bird list for the morning.

<https://ebird.org/australia/checklist/S131254908>

#### **Next outing to Reef Hills State Park on Thursday 13 April.**

We will meet in the car park behind the Seniors Building at our usual meeting time of 9.30am. Reef Hills is on the outskirts of Benalla and supports a variety of birdlife. The Grey Box is starting to flower and should attract a number of nectar-feeding honeyeaters and lorikeets.

Remember to wear sturdy footwear, and bring any food and drink you require for the morning.

Kathy Costello

### **Brain Games**

I'm confident that all those who came along for neurobics had their brains suitably challenged, with links leaping from across the midline, important in quick thinking as well as physical balance & falls prevention.

Elsbeth Maconachie

### **Bushwalking – Easy Walks**

#### **March report: Corowa/Wahgunyah and Rutherglen**

Our first walk for 2023 saw twenty-one enthusiastic walkers meet at Bangerang Park in Corowa and set off onto the Willows Reserve trail along the Murray Crossing the bridge into Wahgunyah. There were several signs outlining the rich history of the two towns, and despite signs of last year's floods both the track and the river were in beautiful condition. Our 6.3km walk (thank you, Andi!) gave us an appetite for lunch and a cool drink which we had at Rutherglen's Lake Anders capsizing picnic table. A walk around the Lake sculptures completed our day, which our group rounded off with some excellent and refreshing gelati. Thanks to Glen for meticulous planning and maps for this walk!



#### **Wednesday April 5th: Myrtleford Mosaic Trail and Rail Trail**

April 5<sup>th</sup> was originally scheduled for a walk at Merrijig, however after completing a quick recce for the intended Plain Creek loop walk today (Thursday 30 March), I have decided it is not safe enough for our large group after recent rain, and with more forecast for Wednesday. The track is beautiful, but single file, quite muddy and covered with slippery bark and leaves-better delayed for dry weather!

Instead, we will return to the Myrtleford Mosaic Trail, this time starting at Apex Park, walking along the Ovens and crossing Barwidgee Creek to the Rail Trail. While Gapsted Winery might be a bit too far along the trail, we should see some lovely autumn colours, returning for a picnic lunch at Apex Park and completing about 7km in total.

We will leave the Seniors' carpark, Fawckner Dve, at 9am. Please confirm with Julie by text, email or phone message on 0407823031 or [juliemcneill55@gmail.com](mailto:juliemcneill55@gmail.com).

Remember a hat, drinks and a picnic lunch. Car sharing is usually available for a small contribution.

### **Wednesday May 3rd: Lake Sambell, Beechworth**

This is a lovely town walk of about 6km, taking in Beechworth's autumn colours. Starting at the Lake Sambell picnic area, we will walk towards the Chinese Gardens and along the sculpture trail under avenues of autumn toned trees. Walking part of the Lake to Lake trail, we will then return around Lake Sambell for a picnic lunch. After lunch a short drive takes us to the historic Chinese Burning Towers and graves at the Beechworth cemetery, with a gentle walk through the town's past.

Meet in the Seniors' carpark at 9am, with confirmation to Julie as above. As always, our walks can be impacted by weather extremes, so keep an eye on the newsletter/webpage and emails in case of changes!

Julie McNeill

### **Cards '500'**

Cards 500 has rebounded with new energy in 2023. My thanks go to Heather Wallace who started off our Cards 500 segment with a small but enthusiastic group on Saturday afternoons.

The shift of our sessions from Saturdays to Wednesdays has proved popular and increased numbers attending. Sessions run on the third and fifth Wednesdays of the month with us enjoying two sessions in March. Our numbers for 15/3 session saw 13 people attending and 10 for the 29/3 session.

The card game of 500 is an enjoyable game that is flexible enough to accommodate any number of multiple players and not necessarily limited to pairs. If people want to join us just come along before the 2.00pm start time and we will assemble teams based on the numbers present.

Our group is often noisy and bubbles with laughter, clearly showing the fun we have and the therapeutic benefits cards offers to players of all skill levels. We welcome new players and guarantee a fun time. I would like to thank Shirley Kelly for her assistance with running our sessions.

Doug Smith

### **Chat n' Chew**

March's Chat & Chew was very disappointing in numbers smallest ever. But in saying that we had a beautiful meal, and we all enjoyed ourselves.



April's Chat and Chew will be at *Ella Goose* on Friday 21st. Please phone or SMS Lorraine on 0427 376 991 by Monday 17th to confirm your booking. Lorraine can then confirm numbers with Ella Goose.

Lorraine Knox

### **Coin Collectors**

We had 10 attend our coin collectors group held on 27<sup>th</sup> March including a new member.

I have introduced two new segments (*Coin of the Month* and *Coin Trivia*) to complement our usual Show and Tell session where members present a coin and explain it's background.

*Coin of the Month* for March was for members to bring along their oldest dated coin. This yielded some interesting coins and required members to dig deep into their collections. The range of coins included:

1858 Dutch two and half  
 1861 English Queen Victoria  
 1867 French 50 Francs  
 1803 East Indies token coin  
 1799 George 3<sup>rd</sup> farthing  
 1858 French 10 francs  
 1797 English George 3<sup>rd</sup> penny



The 1797 George 3<sup>rd</sup> penny (pictured) was declared the winner and the monthly prize presented to the winner. This coin was called the Cartwheel because of its significant size and weight.

The oldest recorded coin was 495 BC from Zarkle now Messina Sicily. The earliest Christian era coin was from Denmark dated 1234.

Some members of the Group now have the app *Coinoscope* on their mobile phones. This has proved very useful in identifying and clarifying the origin of unfamiliar coins.

The *Trivia Session* consisted of eight questions about Australian coins and was designed as a learning/education experience.

- 1a. Why do some coins have milled edges?
- 1b. What was the first commemorative coin?
2. Why is the 1930 penny so rare?
3. When did the kangaroo appear on the penny and halfpenny & replace the words One Penny and One Half Penny?
4. Why was 50cent 12-sided coin introduced?
5. When were paper one dollar and two dollar paper notes replaced by \$1and \$2 coins?k
6. When were one and two cent coins withdrawn from circulation?
7. Who is on the reverse side of the \$2 coin?
8. What influenced size of \$2 coin?

Our Show and Tell session presented a set of 28 coins of all Olympics sports from the 2000 Olympics, a 7 sided UK 50 cent piece, a 2023 PNC Legacy set with an Australia Post mintmark.



Also presented was a 1998 UK two pound bi metal coin. This coin was unusual with the outer yellow metal nickel-brass ring made from 76% copper, 20%zinc and 4% nickel and an inner steel-coloured cupro-nickel disc made from 75% copper, 25% nickel. Of interest is the inscription around the edge of the coin. The design of the coin traces the story of technology. The edge inscription complements this theme: Standing On The Shoulders Of Giants. Taken from a letter written by Sir Isaac Newton in 1676 acknowledging the debt he owed to other scientists "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants". Sir Isaac Newton was also Master of the Royal Mint from 1699 to 1727.

Doug Smith

## Collectors



Some lovely pieces of *China, with a floral design*, were displayed at our March gathering. A nice coffee mug was found in the back of the cupboard. Lovely old Royal Winton Tea Pot. A co/shop find - a large wisteria covered vase, and Grandmothers' Tea Caddies. It was a chance to unpack and once again look at other Treasures. Wonderful trinket boxes, Royal Albert beautifully decorated with violets and others with roses, inspired by old English Gardens. A range of lovely decorated small dishes and wall plate. Some hand painted plates and pretty little jugs, one being Royal Tokyo.

The theme for April's session is '*toys, old or new*'.

Dorothy Webber

## Community Singing

Community Singing is something which is enjoyed by everyone. No preparation, words supplied, music supplied and the vast majority of songs are well known to everyone. It is also pleasing to see so many people from Cooina arriving for Community Singing.

Brian Greed chose the Tram Book of Songs for the first session and followed this up with the new song book he produced during the holiday season for the second session. A huge thank you to Brian from everyone there for his great playing of the songs.

Brian has offered to have Community Singing again next Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March as there are five Thursdays in March. Many thanks Brian. We are all looking forward to it.

Margaret Jenkins

## Creative Writing

Another enjoyable class of writers, able to discuss issues around writing and how to improve.

**Hints:** We discussed the concept of "show don't tell".

*Telling* is when the author informs the reader of information. It doesn't stir the emotions and often the picture may not stay with the reader. It can **tell** emotions, but we don't really enter into the emotions. For example, use of was and felt are sign posts of telling not showing.

*Showing* is creating a picture rather than sharing information. It can be more detailed and wordy, but allows the reader to deduce for themselves what the character is experiencing, and experience it with them. The reader can be more immersed in the journey of the characters. It makes the reader think a bit more. There is more action involved in the picture being created.

An example is:

- She was cranky and angry.
- She slammed down the phone. "I never want to talk to her again."

The second version gives a stronger picture of the emotion.

**Our challenge:** Our challenge this month was to reword a couple of sentences as showing not telling.

For example

"It was a sunny autumn day."

OR

"The dry leaves crunched underfoot, with the sun glinting through the now nearly bare trees."

Here is another example you could try:

"She felt sad."

**Our stories:** A range of varied stories were share for our comments. It is interesting how similar stories can come from different prompts, or very different stories from the same prompt. But this month, it was stories with a similar focus, from a different perspective in a different month. Last month we had a story about the gift of a piano that brought memories of the past that resulted in devastation; this month the story about a piano was exciting and joyful. It was a relief to read this story this month for another reason. Some of our stories were a little on the bleak side.

Feedback on our stories always helps to improve our writing. But there are times when a story becomes the basis of non-writing discussions about the past, or current, issues. One story this month gave rise to a discussion about the role of the father 50-60 years ago in the raising of families.

**Prompts:** The prompts for our April class are:

- It had been quite a while since I'd had to learn something so new and difficult.
- It starts in thirty minutes.
- One of these days, I'm going to say no.

I will be away for the April class, so we have some changed arrangements. The class will share their stories by email, and where possible prepare feedback for the authors on 10 April (the date of the class) and sharing with the class by email.

And in preparation for our May class (when I will have returned) the prompts are:

- It was a square cardboard box resting quietly in the "free box" section at Bunnings.
- I was staring at the ordinary little photograph for some time.
- She found it in the middle of the road and it changed her life.

Joy Shirley

## Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group

Many thanks to the Northo for hosting the second Psychology Discussion Group. 15 U3A members settled into cozy couches and did what we do best ... chat. This was the first time new members had an opportunity to chat (the first session focused on psychological concepts and was very structured), and it was heartening to see how easily topics were raised and diverse thoughts shared and considered.

The groups role is to raise topics for discussion. The convener links discussions with psychological theories, research, ethical considerations etc.

Here is an example of that rhythm:

One discussion caught the groups attention - the Benalla Fawcner Drive re-development concept, survey design, and the impact of the survey participant upper age range being "50+years". The group agreed that this upper age designation potentially ignored lifetime developmental phases and an older person's approach to problems, goals, and situations.

This observation was supported by Erikson's Theory that *"older adults develop a "comprehensive sense of wisdom" by renewing earlier stages of development and developing mature forms of the psychological achievements they that they made throughout the life course"*.

Ref - <https://www.healthline.com/health/parenting/erikson-stages>.

As the hubbub of hotel activity continued around us, a customer approached the group to say how much she had enjoyed listening to our discussion, how impressed she was at the variety of shared conversations and offered us some of her thoughts on a concept known as the "15 Minute City". These links will give you an idea of the direction that conversation took us over the coffee break.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/16/15-minute-city-planning-theory-conspiracists>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-27/the-15-minute-city-conspiracy/102015446>

Join us if this piques your interest .. and you still have space in your 2023 diary. Contact - 0437 621 575.

The next Psychology Discussion Group will be held:

Date/time: 20 April 2:00-4:00 pm

Location: Ruby Blue Café – 67 Nunn Street, Benalla.

**Please note the change of location.**

Jane Rushworth

## Enjoying the Internet

Enjoying the Internet is held on the third Tuesday morning from 10 to 12 in Classroom 1, Seniors Centre.

At our second session in March, we welcomed and introduced two new members to the group. We reviewed some of what we did last month - particularly, screen shots, passwords (password managers, notes, text files), Blue tooth, and YouTube. We then discussed:

1. **Some examples of how we use and enjoy the internet.**
  - a. Property Sales
  - b. GPS Google Maps & White pages
  - c. Google, or search engine of your choice
  - d. Hobbies
    - i. Reading: -Herald Sun, Borrow Box, Audible etc.
    - ii. Family History-Ancestry & My Heritage
    - iii. Cooking-recipes.
2. **Internet safety—video.**
3. **Operating System—keep up to date-- video.**
4. **Free software**
5. **What is a PDF file?**
6. **Viewing and Live Streaming** - A look at the Benalla Council Webpage; viewing a council meeting. Live streaming of Funerals. Other examples of live streaming from the TV Apps.

Detailed [Session 2 Notes](#) are available on the [Enjoying the Internet](#) page of the website.

Dawn Stephens

## Exercises for Fun

Our exercise class begins the week with gentle to moderate activities, that help us keep fit and healthy. When a large number of members attend this class, we are considering the possibility of using a DVD that requires exercising “on the spot”, rather than performing the marching. We start at 9.30am in the Seniors Hall every Monday. All welcome. Have fun.

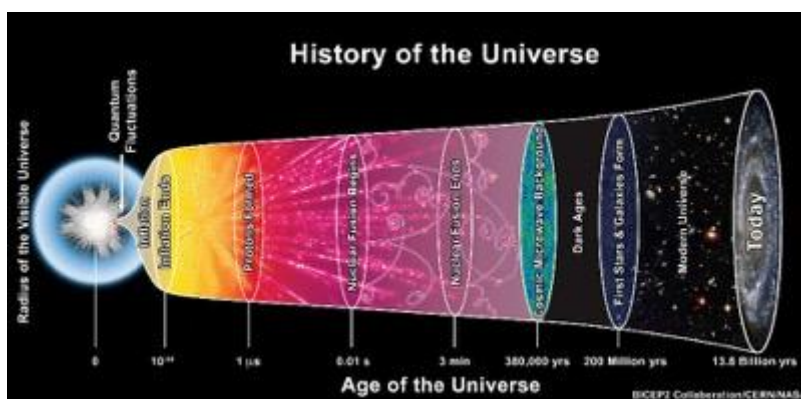
Helen Jeffree

## Exploring the Universe

### The Early Universe The Beginning of Time

In March we journeyed back through time to the birth of the very first stars and beyond; to the beginning of time itself, as we know it.

The current theory is that space was empty, cold and dense before the explosion we call the ‘Big Bang’ which permeated and inflated all of space in the smallest fractions of a second. Hot dense conditions emerged simultaneously through all of space. Particles of electrons, protons and neutrons formed but conditions were far too hot for any developments.



After about 400,000 million years inflation had cooled space to around 3,000 degrees C. Then electrons, protons and neutrons could come together to form the first elements of the Universe, neutral atoms of hydrogen and helium. This is called the Dark Ages, when there was no light in the Universe. After about 100 million years the small dense clouds of hydrogen and helium collapsed under their own gravity, triggering enough heat to start nuclear fusion that led to the formation of the first stars and galaxies.

We can never see the dark ages as there was no light. The first stars were huge, violent and short lived and are long gone but their light is still travelling through the universe as tiny photons of light that hopefully will end up on the huge mirror of the James Webb Telescope.

The earliest light we have seen is the echo of light from the ‘Big Bang.’ The Cosmic Microwave Background was discovered in early 1990. The data revealed a baby picture of the radiation of the early universe and its age of 13.8 billion years. We can’t go beyond that. And that is the beginning of everything; our beautiful planet, ourselves and everything we hold dear!

*References:* European Space Agency, New Scientist Academy, James Hooper Fermilab, University of Chicago.

Rupe took over and rounded off the afternoon with Astronomy. His power point presentation of 'The Constellations of the Ecliptic,' with history and images will help us to identify the constellations and stars in the night sky. Remembering that they are upside down in the Southern Hemisphere

*The Early Universe.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIT-t9IzfPs&t=2s>

Bev Morton

## Family Research

Guest speaker Emeritus Professor Dr Jim Burnell (Biochemistry and Molecular biology) led an intriguing and interesting journey into DNA and its role in explaining "Why we are who we are". We have been fortunate to hear from Jim previously and each of his talks create much interest and prompt many more questions that time allows. Jim spoke about genotypes (genetic material) and phenotypes (observable characteristics or traits), bespoke medicines and treatment plans using DNA, gene expression, and why childhood play in mud is good for us.

If you are thinking about doing your DNA, Jim suggests googling "Genealogy" for a list of commercial companies to find one to suit your needs. As happens, a relevant media story was published in time for Jim's talk. Beethoven's hair has been DNA tested – go to '[Beethoven's DNA from a tuft of hair reveals new insights into his health and family](#)' and '[Beethoven's DNA reveals surprises](#)'

Highlights during our 'Pains and Gains' segment in March included Mal's having connected with a cousin in Mt. Gambier he has not seen since 1993. As a surprise for her, he has extracted her family history from his tree and put it into a special booklet which he had printed by Benalla Printing. Malcolm is also investigating relative Ted Lloyd who, family lore tells, made Ned Kelly's armour.

Barry reported that the Arthur Baird project, which he and other members of the Benalla Family Research Group have been working on for over four years, is now out for public comment. The project will be totally funded by surplus grant monies from an arts grant. Comment can be made on this link:

<https://haveyoursay.benalla.vic.gov.au/proposed-arthur-baird-sculpture> Full details of Arthur and his family history can be found in a copy of the book 'Benalla's Fourth Famous Son', attached to the above link.

Deb was excited to find some shipping records that have provided a number of pieces for her family 'jigsaw'. She has been able to use these records to connect and confirm some of the dates in the family history. Deb also shared the story of her ancestor Bridget Cain, a child of the famine era who endured workhouses as an orphan, arriving in Australia as one of the Irish famine orphan girls sent out under the [Early Grey Sponsorship Scheme](#).

Jane reported that planning is well advanced for Heritage Week 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May. The Benalla Family Research Group will make presentations at the Benalla aged care facilities during this week. Jane also gave details of a considerable library of documents from the Thorburn family, which contains some significant shipping documents from Newcastle Harbour, which has recently been offered to the group.

Wendy has now located some DNA evidence confirming the identity of her Father-in-law and Great-great-grandmother, providing a sense of closure about an apparent 'black hole' in her research and family secret.

Stories were shared on our March theme 'Her Story', stories about mothers, grand or great grandmothers and aunts. New member Susan shared her first story, writing about her grandmother Gertrude Mavis Lewis nee Harvey "Thoughtful, considerate, kind, loyal, emotional, cherished, my grandmother overcame many challenges, was resilient and is always remembered with love." You can read shared stories by clicking on this link - <https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/family-stories>

**April's topics – 'The Anzacs' and other histories of war....** Briefly survey the four 'grandparental' sides of your family reflecting upon their involvement in theatres of war over time. Focus on a particular ancestor in a particular war sharing with us your understanding of his or her experience of war. *(Feel free to adapt the question wording to apply to the story you discovered.)*

**Alternate topic - "Where did I come from...Why am I like I am'** (following on from Jim Burnell's talk) Do you have a trait which you've found (or are still looking to find) among your ancestors? What is the trait? Describe whether and how you discovered them in your family history journey, how this made you feel. It's fine to describe it in a general sense... eg. someone who 'was good with their hands'; 'interested in social justice'; was 'entrepreneurial'. If you have had a DNA test, did this throw any light on this trait?

Barry O'Connor, Jane Rushworth and Bev Lee

## Family Research – Beginners

Meeting on the first Thursday, the beginners' group trialled the use of genograms to 'mind map' family members on paper when becoming confused by family relationships on their family tree. Deb, Gary, Phil and Mary reported on the progress they have made over the month – with lots of learning shared in the process. New class members Margaret and Peter Poels gave us the chance to check out ancestry.com's 'pay per view' for 'World' records, with 10 documents for \$10.99 enabling us to find records of Peter's grandparents in the Netherlands, including the maiden name of a grand-mother Peter hadn't known. Group members working on UK census records enjoyed watching an informative program on the UK Census on You Tube.

Meeting on the second Thursday, the continuing group welcomed Mary, who has worked on her family tree 'on paper' for around 30 years. Mary's efforts to transpose work from an immense paper-based tree to ancestry.com provided the opportunity to review the use of hints and how to locate and remove duplicate records. Helen shared news of the death of her 102-year old mother in law, a repository of family wisdom, and also showed us BMD certificates from India, while Val shared exciting progress in finding the mysterious Margaret Hernan, who she now believes may have returned to England with a child in 1857. Avid reader Julie shared information on Griffiths Valuations found in the book titled, *'Farewell My Children – Irish Assisted Emigration to Australia'* by Dr Richard Reid. To celebrate International Women's Day, we previewed the musical documentary *'Bounty Girls'*, recommended by Maggie Hollins and available on the FR-B webpage. Finally, a problem presented by Val led to a practical demonstration of uploading photos from her phone to her laptop, which everyone seemed to find useful.

In April the beginners' group will meet on the first Thursday from 1 to 4 and continue one to one sessions by appointment. Continuing students will meet with Judy Barry at Rambling Rose on the first Thursday from 2 to 3pm and for a hands-on session in Classroom 2 on the second Thursday from 1 to 4pm.

Bev Lee

## Film Discussion Group

The main film for discussion at our March class was "A Man Called Otto". But we also discussed other films members of the class had seen during the month. These include "Banshees of Inisherin", "What's Love got to do with it", "Babylon" and "TÁR".

**"A Man Called Otto"** is a dramatic comedy. Otto is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around. It is based on the Swedish novel 'A Man Called Ove' by Fredrik Backman.

This was a well-received film. Performances by the main characters were well established and interesting. Standouts were Tom Hanks as Otto and Mariana Treviño as his neighbour Marisol. Comedy was woven in at critical times when Otto tried to end his life, with something humorous happening to destroy his attempt each time. Those who had read the book found it did not come up to the standard, but still managed to enjoy the film.

Comments from the class include "brilliant" and "delightful", and could be summed up as "great tale of life ending well". It was generally rated as 4/5.

**"The Banshees of Inisherin"** is classed as a dramatic comedy. Two lifelong friends find themselves at an impasse when one abruptly ends their relationship, with alarming consequences.

The cinematography, music and depiction of poverty in early Ireland were well established. The narrative was quite confronting and quite slow and disappointing. There were good performances by the main characters, played by Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson. Even with these positives, the film was generally rated as only 2-3/5.

**"What's Love got to do with it"** is a romantic comedy. It is the story of different cultures and the approach to love and marriage. Zoe is a documentary maker and dating app addict. Kaz is from a Pakistan background and decides to follow his parents' example and opt for "assisted" marriage.

This was a fun film, starring Lily James (Zoe), Emma Thompson (her mother) and Shazad Latif (Kaz). It was generally enjoyed by those who saw it as a light happy film and rated as around 3/5.

**"Babylon"** and **"TÁR"** were not seen by many in the class. Comments on "Babylon" included it as a believable engaging story of the era and may in the future be seen as a cinema classic. It was confronting with some

rather dark and some unsavoury scenes. “**TÁR**” was an interesting and amazing film in retrospect, with different people seeing different things. It was brilliantly acted though slow to start. It is interesting that the community at large are often puzzled by the storyline and so some external reviews are not complimentary. As I will be away for the April class, the decision was made to each talk about any films they had seen during the month, rather than focus on a specific film. This will also be the process for the May class.

Joy Shirley

## Garden Appreciation

A day trip to Mansfield saw our group visit **Concepts Garden Art Work**, with quite a few interesting ‘garden’ pieces making their way to cars. We then visited the town garden of Helen Hookey where we were in awe of the stone work landscaped into a beautiful garden with a view to surrounding hills and Mt. Battery. Just as the rain arrived, we headed for lunch at the Delatite Hotel and as the rain stopped a browse through the shops in Mansfield completed a sociable and enjoyable day.

We are headed by bus to Bendigo on **April 27<sup>th</sup>**. The cost of \$68 covers travel, entry to **The Great Stupa Gardens** peace park, morning tea and a 2-course lunch at the Bendigo R.S.L. Please let Gwen know if you have any dietary requirements. It will be necessary to book and pay by the end of March or early April. Please ring Gwen’s Mobile 0438627010 if you are intending to come. Payment can be left at the Redb4 Bookshop with your name on the envelope. ***Don’t miss this great trip.***



Corrie Witlox

## Garden Team

There were a few apologies because of the long weekend, but an energetic team of six joined Kathy at her place for a lot of very welcome pruning. After a couple of hours on a warm afternoon, we were ready for afternoon tea. Special thanks to Kirsten. We then helped ourselves to Karen’s magnificent home-grown pears and Rupe’s juicy tomatoes before heading home.

We are next meeting at Terry’s in Violet Town but given Easter Monday it might be worth considering deferring until May when we have two sessions. (Members can look out for an email or message quite soon.)

Elsbeth Maconachie

## German

Sharing my German knowledge with the German group is the highlight of my week. We have this year a combined group of beginners and advanced members and we begin the session with the beginners lektions which is also a review for the advanced members, who act as helpers to the beginners. It works well and good advance is notable. The beginners again receive more information and knowledge of pronunciation by listening to the advanced sessions. The members are keen to further their language skills and the sessions are filled with a good splash of humor, which certainly helps learning.

Horst Gunther

## Jane Austen Book Club

We discussed Austen’s timeline for writing the six novels. She had two periods of intense creativity and work: firstly, writing drafts of what later became *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Northanger Abbey* between 1795 – 98. Then again nine years later, between 1810 – 1817, when she wrote the final versions of her three drafts and the three new novels *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*.

We discussed the characters in *Sense and Sensibility* and how they mirrored some of the “Pseudo Gentry” Jane had lived with at Steventon when she was a girl. The book explores the social responsibilities of finding a life partner and marriage for men and women of those times and that class. Some were cheated and abandoned, others matured and had more tolerable marriages. It was all about money, grand estates and dowries. Love was an afterthought.

We watched the first half of the 1995 film of the novel, sumptuously produced, including Hugh Grant as Colonel Branson, Emma Thompson as Elinor and Greg Wise as the perfidious Willoughby. A romantic comedy version that excluded the satire and sharp observations of the novel. Worth watching though.

April : We will finish watching the film and start our discussion of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Meg Dillon

## In the Lap of the Gods

The most recent class dealt with the 'A' team of the Graeco-Roman gods. These are the twelve larger-than-life anthropomorphic gods who lived on Mt. Olympus. Their Latin names are familiar to most people – Jupiter, Juno, Minerva, Apollo and Diana, Mars, Venus, Vulcan, Bacchus, Neptune, Ceres and Mercury. However, their conduct was nothing to be imitated by humans.

Jupiter was always seducing human women; Juno was forever trying to kill the women that her husband Jupiter had seduced. Diana often played cruel pranks on humans while Apollo and Minerva brought disease and sickness to them. Mars and Minerva brought brutal war. Neptune caused earthquakes and Mercury was a thief who stole from both the gods and humans. Venus (pictured) was the promiscuous goddess of sexual desire but in Roman eyes she was also the goddess of agreements. Perhaps these are much the same thing really. Bacchus was the god of abandoned intoxication. Only Ceres, the goddess of cereal crops, was unreservedly good.

Vesta, the other good goddess, she who ruled the hearth, the family and domestic life, left Olympus so that Bacchus could take her place.

The only Olympian god who did not live on Mt. Olympus was the chthonic god of death, riches and the underworld. No-one liked to mention him. Who knows? He might take into his head to appear. Euphemistically, the Greeks called him Pluton, the god of riches; the Romans called him Dis Pater, the father of spirits, or Pluto, the god of riches. We, who do not believe in such superstitions, know him as Hades or Thanatos, the god of death.



John Barry

## Investment

At the March meeting we welcomed three new members Don Allen, Val Allen, and Warren Sun.

The updated 11 sector selections from the February meeting were distributed.

The short term and long-term selections were reviewed along with several members adding their selected stocks to our listings. The Energy sector in February was only 1 the 2 sectors that had minor gains, overall, the XAO fell 3.3% in February.

An example how to obtain double dividends was presented. This involves buying one stock before the ex-dividend date then selling that stock post ex dividend then from the proceeds buy a second stock before its ex-dividend date. If both stocks are 100% franked this also increases the returns.

John presented the subject of Short Selling which is one of the most difficult concepts for novice investors to grasp. The goal is to profit from a falling market.

This is done by "borrowing" shares in a company through a stockbroker to sell at the current market price, then buying those shares back later when the shares have fallen. The difference in price is the profit.

You then return the shares to the original shareholder. With a minimum investment of \$50,000.00 its big business and has a huge effect on the market. Stock pickers need to be aware of the Open ASX Short Position list, as this displays the companies targeted. BEAR EFT is a fund that covers this topic.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 2.00pm in our U3A room.

John Hanlon and Malcolm Sanders

## Let's Talk Books

A great variety of books this month including *Edna Walling and her Gardens* a remarkable woman ahead of her time, Edna died in 1983, her gardens live on. We had some poetry from Patsy with a promise of more at

our April gathering. *Botany Bay and the First Fleet* by Alan Frost. A full authentic account of 11 ships carrying 1400 people who set out in 1787 for Botany Bay. *Platform 7* by Louise Doughty a chilling thriller for those who love crime stories, meanwhile Maxine enjoyed Amor Towles and *The Lincoln Highway*. A DVD was a laugh *Good Luck to You Leo Grande*, starring Emma Thompson, a retired schoolteacher is looking for adventure and some sex. On a different level *The Mermaid from Jeju* by Sumi Hahn set on Korea's Jeju Island is a tale of love/loss and history, worthwhile reading. Dorothy enjoyed the third book in the Series by Ginny Bell *The Dover Café Under Fire* the café endured as firebombs fell on Dover during WW11. *The Madonnas of Leningrad* by Debra Dean, Marina now an elderly woman remembers taking refuge in The Hermitage during the siege of Leningrad in 1941. The paintings and artifacts are gone, packed away and shipped out of reach of the German bombs. An excellent read. On a lighter note, *Her Mother's Secret* by Natasha Lester, historical fiction from England to Manhattan in the 1920's to 1940's Natasha rarely fails to deliver a good story. *The Cyrus Series* by Michael Rowbottom, if you enjoy suspense thrillers then criminal psychologist Cyrus Haven is for you. *Before the Coffee Gets Cold – Tales from the Café* by Japanese writer Tashikazu Kawaguchi is a delightful story. An unusual read was *Jane Austen's Sewing Box* by Jenifer Forest, craft projects and stories from Jane Austen novels. Noelle kindly researched the pros and cons of self-publishing for our group, very informative. Keep reading and we will catch up again on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April for another Let's Talk Books.

Geraldine McCorkell

## Lifeball

While numbers are stabilising, we are always happy to see new players and enjoyed having some extra family members along to keep us on our mettle. We continue to swap between full and half court depending on numbers, but it is always a fast, and funny, game.

If you are looking for a new way to keep fit, Lifeball is worth a try. One of many team sports now adapted for older players, it provides a safe and fun way to exercise, with post-game analysis always including a cuppa and a chat.

If you would like to see Lifeball in action, come along to a session, or check out a video featuring our group made a few years ago at <https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/lifeball-video.html>

We play at Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre each Monday at 10am, and convenor Marlene Pitts can be contacted on 0428210944 for more information. Players are asked to check the calendar, or contact Marlene, for an update on Easter dates.

Julie McNeill

## Meet and Mingle

At our March Meet and Mingle, following the AGM and election of office bearers, *Tom Arnold, Community Development Officer from Benalla Rural City Council*, provided a clear and thoughtfully presented background to the current initiative regarding use of public space in the Fawcner Drive lakeside precinct.



Our guest speaker for Meet and Mingle on Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup> is *Sabine Smyth* who has been and continues to be a major force behind the rejuvenation of the *Benalla Migrant Camp* with displays of photos and the history of the Migrant Camp a big part of the history of Benalla.

So come along and listen to Sabine, you will find her most interesting and informative.

Margaret Jenkins

## Music Appreciation

War, love, family, tragedy: you name it and music has it. Add in a dash of artistic influence and a bit of a 'walk in the park' and you have a quick guide to our March programmes. Session One started out with Wagner's overture to Lohengrin – an opera about fairy-tale love that ends in tragedy. Beethoven loved nothing more to relieve the frustrations of his encroaching deafness than to go for a nature walk – the sounds he would hear leading him to compose his sixth (pastoral) symphony. Maurice Ravel wrote a concerto which literally can be played with one hand behind your back. His Concerto for the Left Hand being commissioned by a pianist/soldier who lost an arm fighting in the first world war.

First up in Session Two was Beethoven's Coriolan Overture written for a play about a fifth century Roman general whose 'turncoat' decisions led to his death at the hands of his soldiers – or perhaps he died at his own hand? Brahms, never a violinist, struck up a close friendship with one who was the premier violinist of the day. This led to a violin concerto that is one of the most recorded in the violin repertoire. Its premiere saw Brahms as the conductor of the orchestra and his friend as the soloist. A Brahms encore was composed in honour of another of his friends - an artist who died tragically at a young age. "Nänie" is sometimes referred to as Brahms' "Litte Requiem" (as distinct from his much longer and grander "German Requiem").

To top off the month's musical journey Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' – the inspiration for the name coming from Whistler's painting "Nocturne in Blue and Green". Written in a hurry (most of it on a train journey) and premiered even before the solo part had been put to paper (Gershwin himself being the pianist), the work went on to become an all-time American classic.

You can read the detailed session notes and find the links to the music recordings on the Music Appreciation page of our U3A website.

Bill Squire

## Page Turners Book Group

Our March read '*Demon Copperhead*', a lively and long book in the Barbara Kingsolver style.

Lots of characters, lots of situations held together by the complex story of a young boy from the Appalachians who grew up in a trailer park with his alcoholic and drug addicted mother. Demon takes on the problems of all who he encounters during his progress to young adulthood. He feels guilty when so many of his friends, mentors and a girlfriend are unable to be helped despite his best efforts and sometimes to his own detriment.

There is a happier ending when Demon breaks free from his own addiction to painkillers and uses his art skills to finally get a job and a direction in life and starts to put his own needs before those who have used him.

Worth a read if you are a Kingsolver fan. She often explores the underbelly of American life and those people whom the governments have failed to help in education, healthcare and opportunities.

April 4th: '*Edge of the Solid World*', by Daniel Davis Wood. Two acts of tragedy contrasted: one in the Alps, the other in Sydney.

Meg Dillon

## Patchwork and Craft

Thanks to Carla Clark we were able to donate 12 Quilts and many Scarves and Beanies to the Ukrainian Community. Carla and her husband have moved back to Mackay. She will be missed.

Valentina Wasil, a Director of the Ukrainian Association of Victoria, Essendon Branch, wrote recently to thank Patchwork group members who made beautiful quilts for displaced Ukrainians.

"I know you wanted these quilts to go to Ukraine, but due to the situation it's very difficult to get things across at the moment. But the displaced Ukrainians in Melbourne are so grateful that all of Australia have given so much. I would like to thank you all for the great job that you do.

Thank you from the Ukrainian Community.

Val (Valentina) Wasil'.

Dorothy Webber

## Photography

It was great to see all the faces at the second session of the Photography Class. We talked about the images that I had received (and members that were present could go over what they did to get the image).



To see these and other images submitted in March go to <https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/photo-submissions>

We then sat down to a few videos that 1) showed settings for Iphone Camera, 2) details for the Photographic Triangle and then 3) Photography Composition. We discussed a few things after each video, as I did feel that there would need to be some explanation. I hope we all got something out of these videos.

See you all at our next meeting! Remember to email Rene your photos that have something to do with what you saw in the videos (again - it isn't compulsory).

Rene Martens

## Play Reading

Our play for March was **"Parramatta Girls"** by Alana Valentine.

Set in 2003, the play is based on the testimony of dozens of old girls from The Girls Training School in Parramatta. It is a dramatization of the experiences of eight inmates and their reunion forty years later. Interspersed with song and storytelling, this is a tribute to mischief and humour in the face of hardship and inequality from award-winning author Alana Valentine.

For the girls, crimes and misdemeanours such as playing truant or running off with a boyfriend could result in being charged with being in moral danger. Young women from dysfunctional families were also "put away". Particularly confronting was that these girls were often charged with being neglected – they were the victims but were the ones punished. This was brought out by the girls playing a court room scene.

The play was confronting, but excellently written. The characters were well drawn and interesting. There were contrasts in characters and backgrounds as to how the girls ended up in the Paramatta Girls Home as it was known. But also contrasts as to the impact their years in the home had on their future lives. The writing was perceptive and inciteful.

In discussion after reading the play some of the class members were able to talk about their experiences with young people who had spent time in a similar institution. And we discussed what, if anything, has changed with the treatment of young people who find themselves with problem behaviour.

Joy Shirley

## Recorder

In our first session this month, we explored the hemiola, which is a conjunction of two different rhythmic patterns. We got the feel of this by doing some Spanish clapping, which is a lot of fun but quite tricky, especially at speed.

Sadly, I missed our second session for the month as I finally got Covid, but the group met as usual and enjoyed playing music together. This is what it's all about!

Janet Douglas

## Singing for Fun

March has seen some bright and happy meetings of Singing for Fun with many songs being enjoyed.

Kieran chose an Al Jolson group of songs one morning, whilst Carmyl had an Australiana theme for one of her sessions. Brian introduced a special part for the men in "Polly Perkins" whilst Margaret started at the

beginning of Book 3 one week. All interesting and varied approaches. Gwen has been providing great accompaniment on the piano for all our Leaders.

We would like to thank Brian for mending the music stand and making it much more stable. Also Wendy for the cake she provided at morning tea one day.

It is a group which contribute in many ways. Thank you to the guys for rearranging the chairs and tables at the end of each session, and to Wendy for putting the books away.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 6th April at 10am at the Hub at Cooina.

Margaret Jenkins

## Sky's the Limit

Doug Williams spoke to our March meeting about his working life, which was almost totally devoted to aviation. He started as an Air Training Corp (ATC) cadet in his late teens before becoming an RAAF national serviceman. He later qualified as a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer (LAME), an aeronautical draftsman for Australian National Airways later Ansett, and a flying instructor for Whittlesea based Executive Airlines. Later he joined RMIT's Department of Aerospace Technology and later became its head. He retired in 1996.

Doug's book, *'War Clouds Over Benalla'*, is now in its second edition.



The next meeting of Sky's the Limit will be on **Wednesday April 5 at 2pm or 1400hrs**, to be guided through the [Benalla Aviation Museum](#), the site of a World War II RAAF pilot training school. I suspect most of you know where it is, but just in case, it is in the big hangar immediately to the east of BPACC. So just to stress again that the time of our April meeting will be at 2pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April instead of Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Our best wishes go to our convenor Claire Rudolph, currently in hospital, for a speedy recovery.

David Palmer, Co-convenor

## Stock and Land

Our planned speaker was facing some urgent health problems with his sheep and was unable to attend our March session. 'Spray Drift' became the topic for the day, with concerned farmers and agricultural experts in videos produced by *Agriculture Victoria* and the *Grain Research and Development Corporation* addressing a growing problem of herbicide sprays drifting off target and particularly killing vines and cotton. Considerable discussion ensued about farmers ingesting harmful herbicides and insecticides over past decades, often with deleterious effects on their health.

We also watched most of the video recording of Dr Greg Moore speaking in Benalla recently on the topic *'Trees are a major asset as the climate changes'*. These videos are on the Stock and Land page of the website if you are interested in following up these topics.



In April, Goorambat Wagyu cattle producer Dom Bayard, will talk about his farming operation.

David Palmer

## Sustainability

At our first session in March the Sustainability group looked at the review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The EPBC Act is the federal government's primary legislation for protecting matters of national environmental significance. These range from protected species and vegetation communities and places such as World Heritage Areas (such as Melbourne's Exhibition Building and Kakadu), amongst others. The review, which was completed in 2019, found the legislation was not working. The condition of all the things that are meant to be protected are declining and continue to decline, particularly those matters in the natural environment. The federal government has responded proposing new legislation. This is to be based on a series of principles including, specific standards for matters of National Environmental Significance against which all decisions will be judged, First Nations engagement and participation in decision making, community engagement and consultation, regional planning and environmental offsets. The new legislation will be available for consultation purposes in mid-2023.

At our second session, members raised items of interest to them for group consideration. Len ran a video and went through other material concerning the problem of carp in our waterways - he was keen to recruit us to the 'carp haters' collective! Other issues included the importance of trees in cooling urban areas and a wacky idea of blowing dust of the moon to provide a 'sunshade' for the earth to limit atmospheric heating.

John Lane

## Tech Advice

Anyone who is a U3A member can obtain some 'one on one' help in operating and using their mobiles, tablets or laptops you can book a time with either Jenny (Apple) **0409 545 182** or Robyn (Android) **0403 164 931** on the 2nd or 3rd Monday of each month - 12:30pm - 1:00pm.

Robyn Lukey/Jenny Sawyer

## Tech Savvy Android – Beginners

March was a busy month with some interesting discussions about travelling overseas and what we should be prepared for as far as technology is concerned. We learnt how to -

- Use Google Maps.
- Save to the Cloud
- Create folders in D Drive of Google Drive.
- Transfer pictures to various storage devices
- Create folders in Gallery/Google pictures.
- Edit pictures – Paint 3D, Ultimate Photo Editor & Microsoft Photos.

We developed our understanding of 'The Cloud', were introduced to Google Drive and also discussed the pros & cons of purchasing a notebook/tablet over a computer/laptop.

Thanks to our helpers Ruth, Janice & Lyn. See you all 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in April.

Robyn Lukey

## Tech Savvy Apple – Pages



We began our March session with a YouTube clip demonstrating the Pages program on three different Apple devices; the iPhone, the iPad and the Macbook laptop. Essentially Pages is the same with some differences in the layout on the toolbar.

### Getting Started with Pages on the Mac, iPad, and iPhone

Dan's Tutorials - [https://www.youtube.com/live/Ox8tFFpUQ\\_c?feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/live/Ox8tFFpUQ_c?feature=share)

Then we got busy on our devices and practised our skills at

- Making a Folder
- Naming a Folder
- Creating a document inside the Folder
- Naming a document
- Deleting a Folder



New challenges this month were to learn how to make columns, use the header and number pages.

Jenny Sawyer

## Ukes4Fun

We have learnt the various ways to strum our Ukuleles, the main chords which are used in most songs for the ukulele and have had singalongs with a few of the easier songs. The group was invited to attend the weekly Jigarre Uke Session to take part in some jamming sessions to see how they are run, as this is the next stage of our learning process. The Jigarre Convenor also invited the group to the Jammin' sessions which are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month - open to everybody playing a musical instrument to participate, they are attended by musicians from Victoria and NSW. Once we start jamming sessions in Benalla it will be a lot of fun for all.

Heather Wallace

## Wine Appreciation

A lovely morning of wine tasting was held at **Gapsted Winery** for our March outing where 25 of us enjoyed the view across the vineyard, the good wines and great company. Paul, our Taster, was excellent at describing each of the wines we tasted.

We then made our way to Café Fez in Myrtleford where we enjoyed a variety of delicious middle eastern fare.



April's (28<sup>th</sup>) winery is **Francesco Wines** at 1005 Upper King River Rd Cheshunt, an Italian family run vineyard. Our Tasting is booked for 11.00 and there is no tasting charge.

We will lunch at the Mountain View Hotel/Whitfield Hotel 4 King Valley Road, 3733 Whitfield.

Please note: the hotel now has a new system re payment. Each table will be given a bill, no split payment, so I am guessing cash will be helpful.

As usual we will meet in the car park behind Aldi at 10.00. RSVP by Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to phone/text 0428 696 408 or email [nicnakmac90@gmail.com](mailto:nicnakmac90@gmail.com). Until then, stay safe and have fun.

Nicole McFarlane

## Wise Guys Book Group

A distinct preference for military books, which emerged at our inaugural meeting last month, continued at our March session. Brian talked about the Empire Air Training Scheme centred on Canada, which trained 131,000 air crew during WWII. Then Neville positively mentioned a volume by Winston Churchill, outlining his WWII experiences. Neville also mentioned he was reading Bill Birtles' book, *'The Truth About China: Propaganda Patriotism and the Search for Answers'*. He said the book becomes less interesting once Birtles, the ABC's China correspondent, was expelled from China in 2020. That prompted some discussion about what threat China poses for Australia's security. Also, Frank recounted his experiences as a "nasho" in the 1950s. He believes compulsory national military service should be in place. Books still on the table for discussion in future sessions include *'The Ballad of Abdul Wade'* by Ryan Butta; *'Undoctored'* by Adam Kay, *'The Secret Code Breakers of Central Bureau'* by David Dufty, and *'The Private Life of Spies'*, by Alexander McColl Smith. Group members are asked to bring along a book or books by their favourite author, in addition to what they are reading at the moment, to our next session on 23 April.

David Palmer

# What's On

Please note – there are three public holidays in April\*; activities are generally cancelled on these days unless otherwise arranged with the class.

## Monday, 3 April

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Collectors – *'Toys, old or new'*
- 10:00 Lifeball - Marlene 0407 240 943
- 10:00 Art Appreciation - Tony Lloyd, Artist Talk - *'High Plains Drift'* exhibition
- 12:45 Ukes4Fun
- 14:00 Investment
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books

## Tuesday, 4 April

- 10:00 Page Turners - *'Edge of the Solid World'*, Daniel Davis Wood
- 10:00 Stock and Land - *Goorambat Wagyu cattle producer Dom Bayard*
- 12:15 German
- 14:00 (Sky's the Limit—changed to tomorrow\*)

## Wednesday, 5 April

- 09:00 Easywalks - *Myrtleford Mosaic Walk/Rail Trail*
- 09:30 Play Reading
- 13:30 A Taste of Art
- 14:00 \*Sky's the Limit - *Benalla Aviation Museum*

## Thursday, 6 April

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Family Research - Beginners
- 13:00 Patchwork and Craft

## \*Friday, 7 April

Easter Friday

## \*Monday, 10 April

Easter Monday

## Tuesday, 11 April

- 10:00 Politics and Current Affairs
- 12:15 German
- 14:00 Jane Austen Book Club - *'Sense and Sensibility'* and *'Pride and Prejudice'*
- 14:00 Tech Talks

## Wednesday, 12 April

- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 14:00 Film Discussion Group
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Apple - Pages

## Thursday, 13 April

- 09:30 Birdwatching – *'Reef Hills'*
- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Family Research - Beginners
- 13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

## Friday, 14 April

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 14:00 Australian History

## Monday, 17 April

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball - Marlene 0407 240 943
- 11:30 Be Connected - Managing Money Online
- 12:30 Tech Advice

- 12:45 Ukes4Fun
- 14:00 As Time Goes By - Memoir Writing

## Tuesday, 18 April

- 10:00 Enjoying the Internet
- 12:15 German
- 14:00 Exploring the Universe

## Wednesday, 19 April

- 10:00 Meet and Mingle – Guest Speaker *Sabine Smyth, Benalla Migrant Camp*
- 13:30 A Taste of Art
- 14:00 Cards '500'

## Thursday, 20 April

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Patchwork and Craft
- 14:00 Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group – NB. Venue - Ruby Blue Cafe, 67 Nunn Street

## Friday, 21 April

- 10:00 Wine Appreciation – Francesco Wines, Cheshunt
- 10:00 Sustainability
- 11:45 Chat 'n Chew – *Ella Goose Restaurant*

## Monday, 24 April

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball - Marlene 0407 240 943
- 12:45 Ukes4Fun
- 13:30 Coin Collectors - Coin of the Month *'Most Attractive'*

## \*Tuesday, 25 April – Anzac Day Public Holiday

- 17:00 Newsletter reports due

## Wednesday, 26 April

- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 14:00 Wise Guys Book Group - *'Favourite Author'*

## Thursday, 27 April

- 08:00 Garden Appreciation – *Great Stupa Gardens* - Bus Trip to Bendigo
- 10:00 Photography
- 10:00 Community Singing
- 13:00 Family Research
- 13:00 Patchwork and Craft

## Friday, 28 April

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 14:00 Australian History

## Monday, 1 May

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Collectors
- 10:00 Lifeball - Marlene 0407 240 943
- 10:00 Art Appreciation
- 12:45 Ukes4Fun
- 14:00 Investment
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books

## Tuesday, 2 May

- 10:00 Page Turners - *'Stone Sky Gold Mountain'*
- 10:00 Stock and Land
- 12:15 German
- 14:00 Sky's the Limit

## Wednesday, 3 May

- 09:00 Easywalks - *Lake Sambell, Beechworth*
- 09:30 Play Reading
- 13:30 A Taste of Art