



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – August 2018

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by **25 August, 2018**

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President's Report

Mid-Winter and members that are home continue to enjoy what we have to offer. I think it's good to have place to be on a miserable day and friends to share it with. We continue to welcome new members and are closing in on 300.

At our July Meet and Mingle, members were greatly entertained by our guest speaker, Tim Bowtell, and now we all wish we could paint a portrait upside-down.

In Thursday, 25th October, for Seniors month, we are holding a morning tea. More about this later.

We now have a microwave oven in the kitchen beside the fridge.

Dorothy Webber President

Group Reports

Armchair History

This course resumes on the 10th August. (2nd & 4th Fridays 1.30-3.30pm). New participants welcome!

We are in for more bloody history as we complete our review of the War of the Roses and investigate the rise of the Tudors.

I have plenty of DVDs so we can relax as we enjoy our visual feast, no need to enrol, just turn up!

Terry Case (0427 621700)

Art Appreciation

At our July session at the Benalla Art Gallery Bryony informed us about a special exhibition of paintings currently on show at the Gallery by the current Archibald Prize Winner Yvette Coppersmith.

These paintings - all portraits of female relatives of the painter - were painted after the death of a relative and were meant to mitigate against the feelings of loss experienced by the artist. They are all of a high standard and indeed do give the feeling of paintings that could give solace to the viewer once we learn the true story.

Neville Gibb



Bird Watching

The birdwatching group is currently on a break and will return in September.

Brain Games

Brain Games meets on the 1st Monday from 1.30 to 3.30 in the U3A Meeting Room.

Bushwalking

Easy Walks

Wednesday July 4 – Friends Track, Warby Ranges

We had a beautiful sunny day for seven walkers on the Friend's Track in the Warby Ranges. This walk is one that everyone should try. It is used by the

Bushwalking Club to introduce children to walks in the bush. We started from Wenhams Camp. After visiting Quat Quat Lookout to view Wangaratta and the surrounding countryside, we walked on to another clear spot for lunch. We were loath to leave here as it was very pleasant. The next stop was on top of Mount Warby, then a short walk to Wenhams. We walked in a clockwise direction to see if it was easier, but decided the normal anti-clockwise circuit was best!!



Easy walk Wednesday August 1st

We will travel to **Violet Town** to walk along the **Honeysuckle Creek**. Should be very easy and pleasant. We will leave the Senior Citizens car park at 10am. Ring Vaughan beforehand on 5762 1980

Mid-Week Walks

Sandy Creek Track, Wednesday July 11

There were only five walkers for this interesting walk, but it included Graeme and Carol who have not walked with us for some time. They gave us the numbers to enable the walk and are very good company.



Lunch Break at Sandy Creek (Photo: Bev Thornell)

We left the cars up the Nillahcootie track and walked to the Sandy Creek track. After about 1.2km there is a bike track on the left. It is not obvious. (The road turns right and drops steeply – you return along this section). The bike track

descends gradually along a ridge to a very attractive creek crossing. This would not be navigable after heavy rain.

We followed the track and reached the picnic ground for lunch. The return road is interesting with some climbing. You will keep to the right on this track as there are several other tracks heading to the left. Afternoon tea by the lake completed a very pleasant day.

Mid-Week Walk on Wednesday August 8

A pleasant and easy stroll along **Boosey Creek** just south of Katamatite. You will encounter canoe trees, derelict farm machinery, beautiful trees, and hopefully there will be water in the creek.

Leader Susie Buykx 5762 3993.

Please ring for time and departure details

Vaughan Cowan

Chat n' Chew

On Friday 17th August at 12.00 our group will meet for lunch at one of our favourite places - Benalla Golf Club.

All welcome. Contact 5762 6768 by Tuesday 14th August. Thank you.

Shirley Kearney

Collectors



Our theme of 'Flowers' produced a wide variety of beautiful items. One item of particular interest was a painting on the back of a mine detector. It was of great sentimental value to the family, not so much for the painting itself, but the fact that their mother had been a supervisor in a factory which manufactured mine detectors during the Second World War. A very responsible and stressful job.

We also had beautiful items of clothing purchased in Kashmir, beautifully worked tapestries, hand embroidered doilies and handkerchiefs. Janet brought along a delicate silk embroidery of Geraldton Wax which she had had framed as well

as other items. Plates, ornaments, glass flowers, trinket boxes and a lovely vase were also on display and created much interest and discussion.

Best wishes to those of our members who were unable to attend due to illness. We wish you well and hope to see you soon.

The theme for our August meeting started as Silver but grew to include Copper and Brass and all things metal. Once again this should provide an interesting display and discussion.

Judith Borthwick

e-Book Group

Our latest novel, *The Gulf*, by Anna Spargo-Ryan, is an all too common story of domestic violence and child neglect, but in the hands of this author, is fresh, poignant, and entirely convincing. The most compelling character, is undoubtedly, six year old Ben, a walking encyclopaedia, appreciated by few except his adored sixteen year old sister Skye who understands only too well how vulnerable he is. Both are exposed to the continuing neglect of their flighty mother Linda, and the random brutality of her latest boyfriend, a thug and a petty crook. They have little choice but to escape from this toxic environment, but their flight doesn't end quite as they imagined, and indeed, their future may be as uncertain as their past. Spargo-Ryan writes beautifully, with a natural ear for dialogue, essential to the atmosphere of realism she wants to create.

Helen Scheller

Exercises for Fun

As we struggle to stay warm over the Winter months, we make an effort and get to Exercises for Fun despite the cold weather. We find it's a great way to warm up and beat the Winter "blues".

What a fantastic way to start the day! Keep up the good work!

See you there, Monday's at 9.30am. Cuppa and chat after.

Have fun.

Helen Jeffree.

Exploring the Universe

Two New Discoveries announced in July!

Australian discovery of a new born planet - a first for Astronomy:

Monash University astrophysicists were part of a team using the planet hunting instrument on The Very Large Telescope in Chile that discovered the first confirmed new born planet in a cloud of swirling dust and gas surrounding a young dwarf

star in the constellation of Orion. It is about 370 light years from Earth.



The black disc in the centre of the image is a filter to block the young sun's light so that we can see the new planet PDS 70b, the bright spot on the right. This baby is a gas giant, a few times the mass of Jupiter with a temperature of 1000 C. The interview with Dr Pinte can be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CheZ0UYb1-0>

High Energy Ghost Particle travelled through space for 4 billion years before slamming into an atom in a block of ice at the South Pole:

Deep in the frozen wastes of Antarctica at the South Pole is the U.S. National Science Foundation's IceCube Neutrino Observatory. Instruments for the detection of neutrinos are two and a half kilometres below the ice surface.

Neutrinos are subatomic particles that have no electric charge and having almost no mass can pass through objects, including us. Most come from the Sun but mystery surrounded those thought to come from deep space that slam into Earth constantly. Until now! This neutrino was special. It left enough clues to where it had come from and scientists were ready for it. Telescopes around the world and in space swung into action immediately and traced the signal to the neutrino's home galaxy. It came from a blazar, a distant galaxy with a massive black hole firing electromagnetic energy towards Earth. This new find means that scientists may also be able to trace the origins of cosmic rays which bombard Earth and space.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnazqJWrX6A>

We finished with a Stephen Hawking film 'The Formation of Earth' and Early Earth, covering the evolution of the planet, the emergence of life and the subsequent formation of oxygen in the atmosphere.

In Rupe's Planetary Report we find Mars is still the brightest in the night sky and the dust storm that covered the planet in June has not abated.

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

In July we watched *A Room With a View*

Genre: Romantic satire

Plot: Lucy Honeychurch, a young Englishwoman, is touring Italy with her older cousin. Lucy meets the charming and free-spirited George Emerson. Although intrigued by George, once she's back in England Lucy ponders settling down with the wealthy, staid Cecil Vyse. When George reappears in her life, Lucy must decide between him and Cecil.

Key Characters: Lucy Honeychurch (**Helena Bonham Carter**), Charlotte Bartlett (**Maggie Smith**), George Emerson (**Julian Sands**), Reverend Mr Beebe (**Simon Callow**), Eleanor Lavish (**Judi Dench**), Cecil Vyse (**Daniel Day-Lewis**)

Review: we rated the movie as 4.5 out of 5.

This was a gentle movie, with some wry humour. The key roles were caricatures of early 20th century characters. For example, Charlotte Bartlett as Lucy's chaperon was portrayed as the poor cousin spinster, and Cecil was very much rich and idle. It is also a movie of contrasting characters...George as the passionate and brooding young man and Cecil as passionless and arrogant. All enjoyed the movie, which is not surprising given the quality of the cast. Many of the cast were top actors, having either won or been nominated for Academy Awards. And the movie won three Academy Awards.

Further: Our August movie will be *Belle* based loosely on the story of Dido Belle, the illegitimate daughter of a Royal Navy captain and a slave woman in the 18th century.

With all the movies we watch, our aim is to focus our discussion, covering ideas around genre, characters, plot, but also adding the aspects that relate to film, such as cinemascope, music and atmosphere. We aim to start promptly at 1:00pm to allow time to discuss the movie.

Joy Shirley

Games

Our Games group is meeting again! The group meets on the 4th Wednesday from 10 to 12 midday & would welcome any donations of board games. The games mornings to date have been thoroughly entertaining and great fun. All welcome!

Dorothy Webber

Garden Appreciation

August

In August we have our winter break.

September 27th

Baddaginnie garden.

Meet at 10 a.m. in U3A car park behind the Seniors building

We will visit the beautiful large inspiring garden of Kathleen Yates, 764 Baddaginnie Benalla Road. Please bring a small plate to share as well as a cup, and hot water in a Thermos (milk, tea and coffee are provided).

Lunch venue to be arranged.

Phone Gwen Turner 5762 70917 or 0438627010

Hot Topics

'Hot Topics' started on the third Friday in July at 1:30 pm with an enthusiastic group of participants ready to discuss our first topic "Where to now for our War Memorial in Canberra". We looked at the issue of whether it should be a place of contemplation or an entertainment museum and who should pay for the extensions, requested by the powers to be who run the AWM, at a cost of 500 million. It has been suggested that producers of war products could be such sponsors.



One of our next topics will be Funding of Foreign Aid. Why do we give aid? Why has it been cut? This topic will be led by Freida Andrews with lots of information to start us off and keep us on track. All welcome to join us on Friday 17th August at the usual place at 1:30 pm.

Carole Marple

Investment

Investment had a break in July but will be meeting on Friday 3rd August at 1.30pm in the U3A room at the Seniors Centre, Faulkner Drive Benalla.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

We began our July meeting with Lorraine having read *The Stealth Raiders*, a book relating to Australian soldiers in the 1918 War, which then led

to a discussion and history lesson on Sir John Monash and the Benalla bridge, most interesting insights to all these events.

We then went on to *Annie Molloy* which Liane Moriarty had written the prologue for. Alice contributed with a chat on *Psychodrama* and also the *Essence of Tai Ji*. *The Queen of Katwe* by Tim Crothers set in the slums of Uganda was a good story now a movie, about a 15 year old girl who learnt to play Chess and went on to play world competitions. *Three Wandering Poms*, 3 girls who came here as Ten pound Poms went off around Australia on Motorbikes.

The Naturalist's Daughter by Tea Cooper, a girl whose father in 1808, did ground breaking studies on the platypus and subsequently died being stung by one, was given the task of taking his findings to Joseph Banks at the Royal Society in London, but unfortunately they wouldn't accept this from a woman. Big discussion followed this revelation.

The Q & A Collection a series written by Margaret Throsby and Peter McCormack was fun, and Lyn spoke about artist Frida Kahlo a Mexican Artist who currently has a painting in the NGV. *Welcome to My Country* written by the daughter of Roy Marika who began the Land Rights Movement, this book was written about aboriginal customs.

Such an interesting meeting of book lovers and some good robust discussions about life in general. See you all in August.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

Lifeball meets every Monday at Benalla's Indoor Recreation Centre in Ackerley Avenue, commencing at 10 am.

Meet and Mingle

Tim Bowtell's Meet and Mingle presentation in July definitely rated highly in the list of the 'top 10 Meet and Mingle presentations' for many of those present. Tim captivated the audience using slides of his work to describe his journey to become an artist, taking us through his love of drawing as a child; his preference for the art subjects at school; his apprenticeship in printing/graphics; his working life in graphic design to his eventual transition from graphic design to art.

Beginning with a slide of his first oil paintings and culminating with a photo of silos he is to paint early next year, Tim described the influence of another local artist, Mike Larkin, and an art course at GOTAFE Wangaratta, in this transition.



Each slide prompted stories about art processes, people and places. Life changes and stories were also interspersed throughout Tim's talk as he shared the significance of parenthood; building his house at Samaria; the role of his boys, Jake and Sam, his partner Kylie, and his mother in his journey.

Thank you, Tim, for a memorable presentation.

Our rescheduled session with Nick Gadd from the Law Reform Commission will be held on August 15. Nick will present on two areas

- *Disputes with Neighbours* (focusing on trees)
- *Funeral/Burial Instructions*

Nick will not be able to provide specific legal advice to anyone on particular legal problems.

On September 19, Michael Plex, a highly regarded local computer specialist who provides valued training and technical support for older people using computers, will be our guest speaker. Michael has agreed to present information on the effects of the NBN service to our computers and phone services and his experiences so far with clients from Benalla who are using the new service.

Bev Lee and Bill Parris

Music Appreciation

John Avery was unable to attend because of illness. We wish John a speedy recovery. We were also able to welcome a new attendee.

This week we listened to the 4 movements of Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Flat Major.

This is a very melodic piece full of rhythmic themes. It is considered a difficult piece to play but this does not lessen the enjoyment it produces.

We also listened to music by Erich Korngold. Korngold was a refugee from Europe who came to America in 1934 and wrote music for Hollywood. His music has had a good shelf life and is very enjoyable to listen to. Some of his classical pieces were included in his Hollywood themes and are

sometimes recognisable to people who remember old movies.

In the second hour we listened to selections from classic operas finishing up with four selections from Mozart.

Neville Gibb

Patchwork

On September 6th we will have a show and tell of all our table runners before they are entered in the Benalla Show. On that day we will be having a guest speaker, Vivienne Shepherd, who will be showing a video and talk about the weekend quilting retreat that she runs.

Dorothy Webber

Play Reading

Play Reading meets on the 1st Monday from 9.30 to 12 midday in the U3A Meeting Room.

Keith Rogers and Jenny McKenna

Politics and Current Affairs

After having a break I have resumed hosting the group which continued meeting in my absence. We now have members offering topics, giving the group a new focus.

A spin off from Politics is the new "Hot topics" group, which got off to a good start, check their report!

Whilst in Britain I found the media was dominated by World Cup football, together with Brexit and how Trump treated the Queen & P.M. Theresa May. The Queen of course is not going to comment on Trump's lack of courtesy, but for those who note how she dresses there was a message – the Queen wore two brooches at different meetings with Trump, both were presented to her by the Obamas! What do you think of that Mr President?

Terry Case

Recorder Group

France was aspiring to soccer glory on the world stage. In Benalla, armed with our trusty descants, altos and tenor recorders, Coach Janet had The Beginners and More Advanced Recorder Players ready to take on the French Music Team.

'Turn the Glasses Over' and 'London's Burning' provided an efficient warm up and showed good strong team work with all players coming in at the right time and hitting all the right notes.

Then it was the French contingent.

'La Mourisque' was a challenge, especially when Coach Janet had us play it again and a little faster. 'Au Clair de la Lune' had some effective team plays which resulted in beautiful harmonies. With 'J'ai du Bon Tabac' were learnt 'slurring' (not to be confused with sledging). The French tried to trick us with the quaintly named, 'Ah! Vous Durai Je Maman' but we saw it for what it was - basically 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.' We played it beautifully - a real game winner!

With the French team defeated we had a short play with the English - 'The Floral Dance' had us counting beats and rests. We danced a little with the tricky tempo Hungarians courtesy of Brahm's 'Hungarian Dance No 5' and finished with the beautiful Scottish 'Skye Boat Song'.

Well done team. Well done Coach Janet.

Pat Treleven



"After a good bout of recorder-playing, a cuppa at the NEA café is just the thing. Well earned!" Andrea

For our next session The Beginners will start at 10:00 a.m. with The More Advanced coming in at 10:45.

Janet Douglas

Singing for Fun

What a wonderful surprise to hear the new Kawai CN37 digital piano in operation at our last meeting in July. Our thanks go to Brian Greed, Joyce Borschmann and Gwen Barnes for their submission to the U3A Benalla Committee, and to Brian Greed for overseeing the installation of the piano following their successful submission. The tone the piano produces is very good, and it also has the ability to transpose songs and retain songs which have been previously played which may assist the group in the future.

This month our numbers may have been down slightly but those who have been present have enjoyed the songs presented by our four

conductors Faith Hicks, Rick Hann, Brian Greed and Margaret Merriman.

Sometimes it is an old song which gets sung with great gusto which adds to the spirit of the morning. Such was the choice of "She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain when she Comes".

Our thanks go to Joyce and Gwen for providing the cakes to celebrate the new piano and Anne and Milvi's birthdays.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

Carole Marple, Benalla resident and one time Labour Party politician in the Victorian parliament, told us about her political career at our July meeting.



Carole said her introduction to politics was prompted by her mother telling her she could meet nice boys if she went to Young Liberals meetings. But Carole said after one visit, she got the impression that all they did was drink and play around.

As a new teacher Carole described becoming concerned about class sizes of 50 children and not receiving the same pay as new male teachers. Carole joined the Victorian Teachers' Union and soon found most of her friends belonged to the Australian Labor Party and she joined too.

In due course Carole's father died and her mother decided to cut up the family farm on the Goomalibee Road. Carole had by then become quite involved in the ALP.

Carole and her husband Godfrey decided to move to Melbourne, where Godfrey had a job in the wool industry, after Carole was appointed to the Noxious Weeds Board by Joan Kirner. While at the Noxious Weeds Board Carole was instrumental in the development of the Land Care Program.

Finding herself in the new seat of Altona, the area where the Marples lived, Carole decided to fight

for the position of ALP candidate. She took it on and won.

Eventually Leader of the Opposition John Brumby asked Carole to be Shadow Minister for Agriculture and in that role Carole travelled round the state, largely to Victorian Farmers Federation meetings. Partly because the minister in power was not happy about it and partly because she left her handbag behind, she remembers opening an agricultural show in the Mallee. Not a lot of those though.

Carole was the first female in the shadow agriculture role and while the ALP was not hugely popular in country areas, some farmers, probably more inclined towards the coalition, "were supporting me because I was a woman having a go". Quite often farmers said they seldom saw Carole in the countryside but Carole said "the reason was they never asked me".

Representing the country side as a woman in the Labor party gave Carole great satisfaction. Carole said the aspect of being a politician she really liked was making speeches in parliament. "I loved the to and fro of it," she said.

After Carole lost the seat of Altona, largely because of factional fighting, she left the ALP for a while in disgust. But because many of her Benalla friends were in it, she later rejoined.

The next Stock and Land speaker, on Tuesday August 7, will be Devenish farmer and silo art visionary, Kevin Mitchell.

David Palmer

Tech Savvy

'Be Connected'

Welcome to U3A and non U3A participants in the U3A Benalla Be Connected program.

So far we have conducted two sessions; the first dedicated to enrolment and registration, the second to familiarise participants with logging on and logging off procedures and commence some modules in the Beginner section of the course.

The internet has been serving us well and we have been able to view modules that include short video presentations.

Participants will now be encouraged to tailor an individual Be Connected program for their specific needs.

There are mentors at hand ready to help participants with the course.

The current course has two more sessions timetabled - **Wednesday 1st & 15th August**.

Extra sessions can be timetabled if the need arises.



Could this be the computing course for you?

Do you want to know more about the using your laptop, tablet or smartphone?

Do you want to know more about the internet, emailing, internet safety and using social media?

BE CONNECTED could help.

If you haven't yet registered or enrolled there is another BE CONNECTED Course being conducted at U3A Benalla on Wednesday afternoons starting **29th August**.

(There is no registration fee for Be Connected)

Jenny Sawyer Ph: 0409 545 182

Tech Savvy Projects

The four Family History group members present at our late July session of Tech Savvy Projects had a very productive time. The internet was working well, everyone seemed to make new discoveries and new things were tried.

Robyn had taken up her previous session's challenge to add photographs to her family tree on ancestry.com, inspiring others to do this. We were all particularly impressed that Robyn had achieved this on her oldish iPhone. Val found a naturalisation certificate index for Frank's Polish grandfather, while Jan, following up the possibility that the best man at her grandfather's wedding may have been his brother, found a shipping record in migration documents verifying that this was indeed the case. Wendy caught up on lost time on her family tree project as she has been away, and we checked out and discussed her Find Penguins travel blog of three recent trips, soon to become photobooks.

The Tech Savvy Projects Family History group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 1.30 to 3 pm, but often continue working on their projects through the general Tech Savvy Projects

session from 3 to 4.30 pm, when people working on other projects join in.

The '4th Thursday' session from 1 to 2.30 pm is a slow starter in terms of numbers, but is providing a useful space for members to share ideas, consider new projects and work on improving blogs and slideshows.

Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Talks

Tech Savvy Talks will return from a winter break on Wednesday August 8th, meeting at 9.15 am in the car park for an excursion to GOTAFE's Innovation Hub in Wangaratta. Then on Thursday August 23rd the 'Tech Savvy Talkers' will meet at 'The Northo' at 3pm to catch up on items and issues of interest.

Les Rodgers

Towards a Sustainable Future

As we follow current developments in relation to a sustainable future we pick up many new ideas and concepts related to sustainability. The concept of the circular economy was used in an article read in July titled 'Rethinking recycling: could a circular economy solve the problem?'. (Naaman Zhou, The Guardian, 15 July 2018). A circular economy is one in which everything used in an economy is recycled within it, an economy in which everything which enters recycling is 'reincarnated'. A particular example cited is that of glass, which can almost be entirely reused if crushed back into sand. We read that the circular economy is job creating, with the chief executive of the Waste Management Association of Australia stating "Studies have found repeatedly that, for every one job in landfill and 10,000 tons of waste, over four are created by resource recovery". The article also considered the concept of 'end of life product stewardship' important, with onus being put back on the manufacturer, and included the need for government procurement to be made from recycled materials.

John suggested that our sessions could be produced as an 'episode of 'Grumpy Old People'! However, we do look out for good news and were pleased to read in July's edition of 'Council News' that Benalla is doing well in terms of reducing landfill; that our organics composting has saved more than 3 million kilograms of carbon dioxide (the equivalent of 27,210 tanks of petrol); and that Benalla Rural City has received a grant for \$440,000 as part of a \$900,000 upgrade for the

construction of a Transfer Station and improvement to the internal road structure.

The role of community energy in Benalla is continuing to be discussed, with a Community Energy Forum to be held at BPACC on Friday 3 August at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

Bev Lee

Travel Group

Most members are still away for the winter. We have been invited by Benalla Travel to the film night they are hosting for Scenic river Cruises in Europe. It will be at BPACC on 22nd August from 6-8pm. Please rsvp to Benalla Travel on 5762 3187 before 20th August for catering. This is a great way to plan not being here next year and find out what's on offer.

The 2019 Tasmania cruise now has a changed date. It will be February 24th for the 5 night cruise from Melbourne to Hobart, Port Arthur and Burnie. And the good news is the price is \$599 per person twin share with a free upgrade to ocean view if the booking is made soon. We have already booked four cabins.

Other plans for South Africa and Yangtze River cruise in 2019 are still having their details refined.

Judy Perry

Wine Appreciation

Wednesday August 22nd

Meet at 10.30 am to go to [Baddaginnie Run](#). Lunch will be available on the property – places are restricted to 25. Book in early with Keith and Heather if you wish to have lunch.

Keith & Heather 5762 4086

Writing Workshop

Creative Writing

All roads lead north, as the exodus of members of U3A heading for warmer waters continues. Enthusiasts of various subjects continue to meet, some with fewer numbers. Our creative writers group met with only three stalwarts this month, but nonetheless three varying stories were produced with the following topics providing fresh and interesting discussion. A fourth story was relayed by Joy from Scotland!

1. *Two years ago I swore I would never come back here again.*
2. *Helen looked up from her reading and her book fell from her lap.*
3. *I was not ready to admit defeat.*

From a chance encounter bringing romance, a disastrous holiday, a determination to achieve and the results of a dream, the topics provided a wide array of imagination and flare.

The Creative Writers Group now meet every 2nd Monday at 1.30. Our prompts for writing for August are

1. *Why wasn't I surprised that the light switch didn't work either **or***
2. *Rain turned the narrow path into a stream of mud and dead leaves **or***
3. *Open a favourite book at random, write down the first sentence you see, and use it as the first sentence of a story.*

New members always welcome.

Jenny McKenna

Memoir Writing

In late June our *Memoir Writing* group shared stories about Family Rituals, 'the weird and wonderful things that you do together that only your family understand'. Most of us found it difficult to highlight a 'standout' family ritual, but as we shared stories found they often related to the preparing and sharing of meals, from the making of scones with grandchildren, to the meals prepared for Christmas (including memories of three pences and six pences in plum puddings), to the tradition of drinking a cup of tea with two milk arrowroot biscuits across the generations (not to be dunked in public of course!).

Our late July stories about 'A Scary Moment' 'Your heart pounds, your hair stands on end... Tell us a story about a moment when you were truly terrified.' often related to memories of fear experienced as children living in the country. Stories were shared of being a child fearful of strange cows in a field on the way home from school which looked just like those seen in a dream the night before; that 'foxes eat little girls'; of something which frightened them while they were collecting flowers in a druid like ring of rhododendron bushes, and more.

Our next topic is '[On the Job](#)' 'We spend much of our lives working. Our job, for better or worse, helps define us. Write a first-person story about a day at work you'll never forget'.

The theme for the Benalla Festival is—'Our Back Yard – A Celebration of Spaces and Places'. The brief for the Festival's writing competition will be added as an additional topic to be shared in October or November.

Bev Lee

What's On - August

Wednesday, 1 August

9:30am Play Reading – 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

10:00am Easy Walks - Honeysuckle Creek, V. Town

1:30pm 'Be Connected' Apple Users Short Course #2

Thursday, 2 August

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, 3 August

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future

1:30pm Investment

7:30pm Towards a Sustainable Future - Community Energy Forum at BPACC

Monday, 6 August

9:30am Exercises for Fun

10:00am Lifeball

10:00am Art Appreciation

1:30pm Brain Games

Tuesday, 7 August

10:00am E-Book Group

10:00am Stock and Land - Kevin Mitchell, Devenish farmer & silo art visionary

1:30pm Membership Services

2:00pm Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 8 August

9:15am Tech Savvy Talks - excursion to GOTAFE's Innovation Hub, Wangaratta

9:30am Mid Week Walk - Boosey Creek

10:00am Recorder Group @ North East Artisans – Beginners at 10; 'more advanced' join in at 10.45am

1:00pm Film and Literature - 'Belle'

Thursday, 9 August

10:00am Singing for Fun - Harmony Group

1:30pm Executive Meeting

Friday, 10 August

10:00am Music Appreciation

1:30pm Armchair History Resumes

Monday, 13 August

9:30am Exercises for Fun

10:00am Lifeball

10:00am Collectors - 'All things metal'

1:30pm Creative Writing

2:00pm Garden Team

Tuesday, 14 August

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs

1:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History

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

Wednesday, 15 August

10:00am Meet and Mingle - Law Reform Commission - Nick Gadd

12:15pm Travel Group

1:30pm 'Be Connected' Apple Users Short Course #3

Thursday, 16 August

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, 17 August

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future

12:00pm Chat n' Chew - Benalla Golf Club

1:30pm 'Hot Topics' - Funding Foreign Aid

Monday, 20 August

9:30am Exercises for Fun

10:00am Lifeball

1:30pm Program Services

Tuesday, 21 August

1:30pm Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 22 August

10:00am Games

10:00am Recorder Group @ North East Artisans

10:30am Wine Appreciation - 'Baddaginnie Run'

2:00pm Member Services Group

6:00pm Travel Group: River Cruises in Europe-BPACC

Thursday, 23 August

9:30am Member Services

1:00pm Tech Savvy Projects

3:00pm Tech Savvy Talkers @ The Northo

Friday, 24 August

10:00am Music Appreciation

1:30pm Armchair History

Saturday, 25 August

12:00pm Newsletter Deadline

Monday, 27 August

9:30am Exercises for Fun

10:00am Lifeball

1:30pm Writing Workshop - Memoirs - '*On the Job*'

Tuesday, 28 August

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs

1:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History

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

Wednesday, 29 August

1:30pm 'Be Connected' Android Users Short Crse #1

Thursday, 30 August

10:00am Patchwork - day session – Christmas Items

Monday, 3 September

9:30am Exercises for Fun

10:00am Lifeball

10:00am Art Appreciation

1:30pm Brain Games

Tuesday, 4 September

10:00am E-Book Group

10:00am Stock and Land

1:30pm Membership Services

2:00pm Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 5 September

9:30am Easy Walks

9:30am Play Reading

1:30pm 'Be Connected' Android Users Short Crse #2

Thursday, 6 September

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00pm Patchwork - 'Table Runners' plus Speaker

Vivienne Shepherd on Weekend Quilting Retreats

Friday, 7 September

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future

1:30pm Investment