



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – December 2023

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President's Report

What a great morning everyone had at Meet and Mingle on Wednesday 15th November. Thank you to the Recorder Group, the Ukulele Group and the Singing for Fun Group for supplying such varied musical entertainment, and also to the members of the Patchwork and Craft Group who brought along some of the work they have done during 2023.

It was so good to see about 60 members of U3A and their friends in the audience. In total I think there were over 100 in the auditorium for the morning, which was great to see.



Congratulations to Bev Lee on her Life Membership of U3A Benalla which was presented at Meet and Mingle. Bev has run our website for the past ten years, taken a huge number of excellent photos for the Website, as well as being a constant assistant to Heather Wallace with the Newsletter. The Website and Newsletter have certainly helped keep our members well informed about what has been happening at U3A Benalla and have contributed to our membership reaching 400 this year.

Bev also initiated our Tech Savvy Seniors programs in 2015, developed and convened our Family Research courses, and has convened the memoir writing group for the past 10 years. A member of the Program Committee and mentor to new Convenors, Bev produces our Convenors A-Z each year and introduced the Course Proposal form often used with new Convenors to outline the course they are going to run.

So, congratulations Bev. You thoroughly deserve the Life Membership.

There are two courses not proceeding in 2024, and I would like to thank John Barry for his unique course "In the Lap of the Gods" and Meg Dillon for her "Jane Austen Book Group". Thank you both for the effort and knowledge you have put into running these fascinating courses.

Also, thank you to Dorothy Webber for running Collectors for several years. Dorothy has had many, many topics for Collectors, and many family heirlooms have been brought along and the stories behind them enjoyed by members of the group. Dorothy is resting Collectors for 2024.

David Palmer has decided that the Wise Guys Book Group is 'back to the drawing board' and won't be offered next year. Thank you, David, for convening a book group for men in 2023.

Groups making transitions to new convenors or adding new co-convenors in 2024, include Tech Savvy - Android, Family Research and Sky's the Limit. Thank you to Ruth Jelliff, Deb Saunders, Andrew McFarlane and others for stepping up when Robyn, Bev and Claire decided to ease back.

In the background the Program Committee have been working toward the program for 2024. We have one entirely new course: *Cooking Solo*. This is going to be convened by Gwen Mildren and Val Whan. The course is designed for men who are cooking for themselves and want to gain some practical skills as well as knowledge about the nutritional benefits of various foods, seasonal cooking and useful gadgets.

Also, in 2024, Ukes4Fun is offering three strands, a new group for beginners 'Getting Started', a weekly strumming group 'Just Jamming', and a 'Drop-in' session for those ready to move on to more complex strumming and chord progressions.

U3A Benalla is getting bigger, and for 2024 we are looking for a Course Co-ordinator to coordinate new course suggestions and support new Convenors, and an Assistant Secretary to help Geraldine with some of her duties as Secretary. For further information on both positions please give me a call on 0424 454 313. The Course Co-ordinator and the Assistant Secretary will be part of the U3A Benalla Committee.

Our Christmas lunch held at the Red Stag on Friday 17th November was a great success. Good food, scenic surrounds and great company made for a delightful day. My thanks to Nicole McFarlane for liaising with the restaurant, and to Corrie Witlox for organising the bookings and the bus.



U3A courses and activities in general start in February 2024. However, Brian Greed has kindly offered to run Community Singing at the Hub at Coinda on Thursday 18th January and Thursday 25th January at 10am. All U3A members are welcome to attend. Both Lifeball and Ukes4Fun resume on Monday 15th January.

Enrolment Day is Wednesday 10th January 2024 in the Auditorium of the Benalla Seniors and Community Centre, from 9.30am to 12 noon. The Committee is hoping that all Convenors will be able to attend so that they can answer questions from new people wanting to join U3A Benalla.

2023 has been a very successful year for U3A Benalla. My sincere thanks to all Convenors for the time and effort they have put into their courses to make them so interesting. It is the Convenors who make U3A in Benalla such a great organisation.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all a Happy Christmas, and look forward to seeing you next year at our U3A Benalla activities.

Margaret Jenkins, President

Group Reports

A Taste of Art

A quick visit to Barc Hut 11, 'Broken River Painters Studio', in early November to take some photos of new 'A Taste of Art' members Mary and Brian being mentored by Leon Pappas and Carol Perry.



Thank you, Carol, Leon, Mike and other Broken River Painters for opening up your studios and being prepared to mentor U3A members keen to experience or revisit 'A Taste of Art'.

Program Committee

Art Appreciation

We are so fortunate to have such a vibrant, highly regarded Art Gallery in Benalla. Exhibitions are constantly changing, usually incorporating an artist's talk at 'First Mondays' from 10 to 11 on the first Monday of the month. For many years this timeslot was the popular U3A 'Art Appreciation' session at the gallery. Since the session became part of the gallery's 'First Mondays' public program, U3A 'Art Appreciation' members form part of the audience each month, often meeting up for coffee after the session in the gallery's cafe.

Join the group at the Gallery at 10 am on Monday 4th December for an [artist talk by landscape artist and arts writer Mark Dober](#). This coincides with Mark's major exhibition at the Gallery - *Wetlands* - and will be followed by a coffee and catch up at the Gallery's atmospheric Munro and Sargent Cafe.

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

With stories including being visited by 'angels', 'trampoline whisperers' or the exuberance of exiled Chilean musicians, our November meeting was a most engaging celebration of our diversity.

Nearing Christmas, it felt significant that four of our memoirs suggested visitations by 'angels'. The unexpected care and professionalism of Jess, provided to Carmyl after a significant fall on the path from a U3A meeting to her home, was close to miraculous. For Ray and his wife Bernadette, unexpected grace was gifted in Sam who became their personal tour guide during a visit to Sydney. Julie, a chaplain at Royal Melbourne offered Heather W comfort and encouragement after a near death event which has become life changing. Graham's chance meeting with a young man in distress found him offering prayers of gratitude.

During our meeting we learned from Lou about the Australorps, the only Australian chicken breed, and how the possession of a chicken toe-punch resulted being handcuffed in Dubai airport. We learned from David about the skill and entrepreneurship of a 'trampoline whisperer'. Phil shared with us his enthusiasm for the year ahead after the satisfactions of a year of family history research and memoir writing. Barry recounted the joy in the birth of his first grandson as the O'Connor family continued to expand but also, came a realization that his branch of the O'Connor family name may disappear into history.

James recounted further his journey from Melbourne to Benalla as he and his wife began their 'down-sizing'. Later he narrated how a journey over the Bonnie Doon Bridge triggered memories of his early life in New Zealand, a land of lakes and rivers, of personal survival skills and trout cooked on an open fire. Jill celebrated with us, 'the happiest uninterrupted period in my life' when she and her sister Jan explored the south of England earlier this year, finding compatibility and comfort as they adventured together.

Earlier in our meeting, Heather H engaged us with the personal significance of the prime number 3 (and 9) in her life. She near book-ended our session with **three** books triggering in her 'warm and happy feelings of a wonderful childhood'.

Finally, Bev intrigued us with triggered reflections on her introduction to the music of Chilean exiles while she was teaching English in Madrid at La Casa Inglesa almost fifty years ago, an interest which has continued throughout her life.

Thank you, Bev, for a most engaging, entertaining, educative and energizing year with 'As Time Goes By'.



Graham Jensen

Be Connected

Next year our *Tech Savvy Beginners* and *Tech Advice* courses are coming under the heading 'Be Connected'. 'Be Connected – Android' will be convened by Ruth Jelliff, while 'Be Connected – Tech Advice' will continue to be offered by Robyn Lukey (Android) and Jenny Sawyer (Apple). Jenny is taking time out next year from convening Apple courses, while Robyn has stepped back from convening courses. Thank you, Robyn, for convening Android classes for beginners for the past three years. Your patient approach, interest in innovations and digital wisdom have been greatly appreciated by group members.

Margaret Jenkins

Bird Watching

Our end of year outing on 9 November was to Balmattum Nature Conservation Reserve, on Old Euroa Rd, south-west of Violet Town. It is a grassland reserve with patches of old eucalypts and casuarinas, a good shrub understorey in places and some depressions which fill with water after good rains. We started along a water-filled channel near the southern boundary and were pleased to see two Nankeen Night-Herons there. The heavily streaked juvenile bird landed in a red gum, where Andi got a couple of photos of it. A good start to our wanderings.



White-faced and White-necked Herons were also seen in the reserve. A few Eastern Rosellas, Red-rumped Parrots and Galahs were feeding near the old shearing shed, while a Grey Butcherbird called nearby. Another notable sighting was a male White-winged Triller which called loudly and was finally observed high in a Red Gum. The bird's black and white plumage blended beautifully with the pale branches. We also had views of several Sacred Kingfishers. The botanists were especially interested in the Chocolate Lilies, Blue Devils, Drumsticks and probable Yam Daisies. It would be worth a visit a bit earlier for spring wildflowers.

We recorded 22 bird species. Here is a link to the eBird list: <https://ebird.org/australia/checklist/S155008375>

On the way home we stopped at Violet Town for a welcome coffee and a chat at a local café.

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

If a series starts with an, eb, ar, pr and ay, what 2-letter pair should come next?

What about the numbers 2, 5, 11, 23, 47 and therefore ____?

Supply a word that can follow the first word and precede the second to make a fresh word or phrase, for example, fish & mix can be fish cake and cakemix:

drawing & cushion, hedge & wash, jack & luck, tooth & axe, t & bow

Answers will be available when Brain Games resumes next February.



Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalking – Easy Walks

Friends' Track and Kwat Kwat Lookout

Sometimes things work out for the best! Some problems with the Killawarra track saw a last minute switch to the previously cancelled Friends' Track walk. The result was a memorable day in lovely sunshine, a great end to our walking year.

Sixteen walkers, including two guests, travelled to the Wenhams' Camp site and we set off for the lookout. There were still plenty of wildflowers to be seen, and as we somehow took the long way round, we were treated to some spectacular grass trees growing on the rock faces around us. Consultation and map studying with the more experienced bushwalkers in the group got us back onto the main track, and Kwat Kwat's view over the valleys in the sunshine made for a welcome rest break.



The group split for the return walk to Wenhams, the more energetic group completing the Friends' loop and the rest of us taking the main track. A pleasant lunch in the shade, with afternoon tea at the Hub Cafe on the way home, finished an interesting and enjoyable day.



December: Christmas lunch Wednesday 6th December

Our final meeting will be a lunch at the Tatong Tavern on Wednesday 6th December at 12.30. As numbers need to be confirmed in the week prior, please contact Julie on 0407823031 if you are a late booking. After lunch, Andi will take us on a stroll around Tatong to stretch our legs and see the sights of this lovely village.

Easywalks will return for our first walk in 2024 on Wednesday 6th March. Please keep an eye on the newsletter and website for details-we will look forward to another year of interesting places, tracks and experiences!

Julie McNeill

Cards '500'



Cards 500 has continued to be well supported throughout 2023 with good attendances at both of our monthly sessions. My thanks go to Gordon Bluck for organizing the November sessions while I recovered from spinal fusion back surgery.

Our last cards 500 meeting for 2023 will be on Wednesday 6th December. We will have an afternoon cuppa after playing, to celebrate the coming Christmas festive season and the 2023 end to a very enjoyable year playing cards.

Merry Christmas to you and your families and I look forward to welcoming you back and new members to our group for the 2024 year. Keep shuffling!

Doug Smith

Coin Collectors

Our November meeting, being the last for 2023, was celebrated in style with Christmas only weeks away, the Coin of the Month was specified as something with a Christmas theme.

One of our members had recently purchased from the Benalla Post office a Royal Australia Mint colored uncirculated 2023 50 cent Christmas coin. The coin design features a stunning five-point star in glorious color, framed with detailed sprays of leaves flowers and fruit (see photo).

We were also informed from a member's coin magazine of the legend of Santa Claus according to Turkish tradition originating in the town of Patara, south Turkey, in 1718.



Another member presented a 2015 \$2 Canadian coin that depicted QE2 on the obverse. It was commented on that the QE2 effigy was a very poor image of the monarch and far inferior to that on Australian coins.

One of our regular avid collectors displayed two full sets of colored \$2 coins, which were very similar but with subtle differences including the Tooth Fairy series and the much sought after 2012 and 2022 red poppy coins.

Also circulated were three beautiful sets of \$1 coins in year order from 1984 showing side by side the uncirculated specimen, proof specimen and proof silver coin. A magnificent collection not often seen, with the silver proof coins an absolute standout.

The afternoon was topped off with a cuppa, mince tarts and shortbread biscuits.

Merry Christmas to one and all!



I am looking forward to an exciting 2024 U3A year ahead. There will be some interesting changes including the chance for people who aren't collectors, but wish to evaluate their collections, to present them at our monthly meetings. This provides an opportunity to receive valuable advice and commentary from the expertise on offer within our membership, all free of charge.

Happy noodling!

Doug Smith

Collectors

The last meeting for the year was held on November 6 with a theme of dinner sets, more correctly, a sample from an everyday dinner set or a special one or even an oddment. There were beautiful floral edged plates dating from pre-War II; inheritances from relatives; sets bought with engagement money and simply accumulated over the years.

Some were unbranded, others included Noritake, Coalport, Lotte (Norwegian), Doulton, Wedgwood and Johnson – altogether a beautiful array.



The first get together of the Collectors Group was in February 2016 and came about from the enthusiasm of Judith Borthwick. Quite a large number attended; there was no set topic – just a wonderful collection of items special to their owners.

After several years, Dorothy Webber became coordinator and has led the group up to the present. We seem to be running out of topics/ideas and, with a decline in numbers, have decided to have a break in 2024. We thank both Judith and Dorothy for their leadership and look forward to resuming in 2025.



Janet Gourley

Community Singing

Brian Greed chose our regular Song Book 1 for the first part of Community Singing on Thursday 23rd November, and followed this with Sammy's Song Book No 2 for the second part of the morning. With only the name of the song and what key it is in, Brian has no trouble in recalling the music and playing it.

Songs such as "Puff the Magic Dragon" and "Danny Boy" had everyone singing along and enjoying themselves. Thank you, Kieran for announcing the songs and leading a big round of applause for Brian at the end.

The last Community Singing for 2023 will be next Thursday, 30th November at 10am at the Hub at Cooina. All welcome.

During January Brian has offered to play for two sessions of Community Singing. These will be on Thursday 18th January and Thursday 25th January at 10am at the Hub at Cooina. So, if you want an activity during January, come along and join our Community Singing group for a fun morning.

Margaret Jenkins

Creative Writing



Discussion topic: This month we discussed adjectives, and how they can enrich our writing. We looked at adjectives under various categories. During the discussion other words were suggested and it was decided the class members would look at adding new adjectives to the document.

Challenge: Our challenge this month was a second test on the use of colon (:) and semi-colon (;). We had looked at these a few months ago and it was interesting to see how much we remembered.

Our stories: Our stories often result in discussion of issues raised in the stories. One of the prompts was around citrus blossom and perfume, and this was a very popular topic. The stories that resulted were very different. Several of the class also shared the memories that the perfume of the citrus blossom evoked. A theme that occurred a few times was around the question of parentage. For example, there was the secret kept about the mother of a woman whose sister had been fifteen years older – was she really her sister, or could she have, in reality, been her mother? This raised the issue of how times have changed, and the secrets that were kept in the past.

Prompts: To support our ongoing writing, we will be meeting in December. Here is the new set of prompts:

- A lasting gift.
- My white toothpaste glob had all the allure of a flaccid witchetty grub.
- "Well ain't that the truth" she said.
- "Why don't you ever listen!"

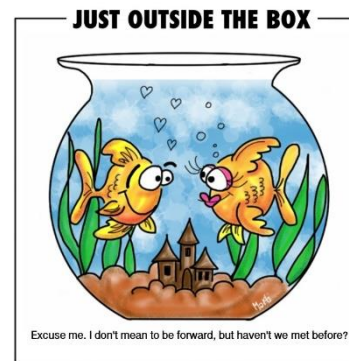
Joy Shirley

Demystifying Psychology Course

2023's five monthly sessions have taken us from psychological concepts to applying the concepts in everyday life. We are closing 2023 with a look at "Intelligence and Memory". The famously brilliant and influential Einstein describes "Intelligence" as *"the ability to think, to learn from experience, to solve problems, and to adapt to new situations."* ^

Memory, on the other hand, is *"the process of forming a memory involves encoding, storing, retaining and subsequently recalling information and past experiences."* *

The two constructs generally work well together .. until they don't. The dates provided in the previous report were "wonky" and created confusion. To those group members who enjoy a good relationship with their memory/intelligences .. thank you for your patience!



The session PowerPoint, which is available on the website, includes:

- Puzzles
- Videos
- Theories of intelligence
- How to do quantitative reasoning
- Problems with IQ tests ..

..... and much more to ponder over as you enjoy a cuppa.

^ (Ref: <https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontopsychology/chapter/9-1-defining-and-measuring-intelligence/>)

*(Ref: <https://www.livescience.com/43713-memory.html>)

UPDATES (please ignore previous)

1. **Tuesday 19th December** 10:00 -12:00 – *Memory and Intelligence Part 2*. U3A room at Benalla Senior's Building
2. **Thursday 21 December** 12:00 – 2:00 – Xmas lunch with the at The Northeastern Hotel (1 Nunn Street, Benalla). Booking name "Jane". Please RSVP to 0437 621 575 or janerushworth2101@gmail.com by Monday 18 December. Note – the Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group will join us.

I would like to end the year with a **big thank you** to the "Course" group for a satisfying and energetic 2023, and to U3A committee for making Benalla U3A work so smoothly, particularly to Len, Bev and Heather.

~~~~~ All the best for 2024. ~~~~~

## Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group

Our group size waxes and wanes depending on the time of the year. At present the 6-8 regular contributors are enjoying proportionately more chatting time than larger groups can offer.

We look forward to welcoming new members in 2023. Participation in the U3A 5-session Demystifying Psychology Course program is listed as a pre-requisite. In some circumstances that may not be necessary, so please contact the Convener.



We started a discussion about personal and community values and how easy, or otherwise, it might be to consistently apply these values. It was noted that circumstances can impact on our ideals and concluded that history suggests that extreme environments impact on the ideal expression of one's values, and that values can change when priorities change.

Andrew McFarlane posed a curly question which challenged us to individually make a choice and to explain that choice in terms of our earlier values discussion. Andrew described a failing hot air balloon carrying three passengers. The balloon could survive if the load was lightened. One passenger had to go. Andrew's question was "Which passenger? The young health scientist, an environmental scientist, etc etc. ...". As you likely know, there is no one single and correct solution to such a dilemma. How we live in shades of grey can be the challenge.

UPDATE (please ignore previous dates)

**Thursday 21 December** 12:00 – 2:00 – Xmas lunch at The Northeastern Hotel (1 Nunn Street, Benalla). Booking name "Jane". Please RSVP to 0437 621 575 or [janerushworth2101@gmail.com](mailto:janerushworth2101@gmail.com) by Monday 18 December. Note – the Demystifying Psychology Course Group will join us.

I would like to end the year with a **big thank you** to the fearless 'Discussion' group participants who have covered ground recommended 'not suitable' for Xmas, weddings, BBQs and the like. My appreciation to the U3A committee for making Benalla U3A work so smoothly, particularly to Len, Bev and Heather.



Jane Rushworth

## Exercises for Fun

As 2023 comes to a close, I would like to thank Elly for supplying all the music and videos we use every week for our Class. Thank you, Elly. Also, a big thank you to Wilma for helping move the tables & chairs every week and checking that the kitchen is left clean & tidy afterwards. I would also like to thank all of you who attend Exercises for Fun every Monday and make it such a wonderful group to be connected with.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas season and hope to see you all back again in February.

Remember, Enrolment Day is 9.30am to 12 Noon on Wednesday 10 January 2024.



Helen Jeffree

## Exploring the Universe

### Stunning First Images from the Euclid Space Telescope

The European Space Agency revealed the first images from the telescope that will survey vast areas of the sky, back through 10 billion years of cosmic history. Euclid will explore the cosmic structures that make up the unknown 95% of the universe, revealing the mysterious Dark Matter and Dark Energy. With its razor sharp precision, it will swiftly image & measure the shapes of billions of galaxies to make the largest 3D catalogue of the Universe. We look forward to six very interesting years of Euclid's scientific operation.

Euclid captures a much larger area of the sky than Hubble or Webb space telescopes. The first image revealed 100,000 galaxies zoomed through time with crystal clear resolution. In "[Euclid's First Images: The Dazzling Edge of Darkness](#)", ESA Scientists also explain the finer details of a whole galaxy, an irregular galaxy, a globular cluster of millions of stars and finally the famed horse-head nebula.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHWbe82zM8o>

For a much shorter version showing just the five beautiful images, watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijmneNj-fN8&t=4s>

**The largest spaceship ever built**, designed to go to the Moon and take up to 100 people and cargo to Planet Mars, underwent its second test flight on November 18. It was the first pairing of the Space X 'Starship' with the Super Heavy Rocket. To escape the Earth's gravitational field to fly to other planets a rocket propelled spacecraft must attain an exit speed of 11.2 km/second. The escape velocity for orbital flight is 7.9 km/second.

At the last flight test the rocket tore up the launch pad and threw large blocks of concrete in all directions, lost orientation and was detonated. This time the launch pad was safe, the launch successful and the booster separated but exploded. Starship soared to an altitude of 150 kms. After 8 minutes, contact was lost and it was detonated over the ocean. As a test flight this was considered successful.

Most people think that the propellant and gases are the most expensive thing in a rocket launch. Not so! They are only a tiny fraction of the cost. The engines average about 65 % of the cost of the rocket. The Super Heavy Rocket is designed to be fully re-usable.

We watched an excellent Space X presentation of the video of the launch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1wcilQ58hl>

References: European Space Agency, Space X, NASA.

This was 'Exploring the Universe's last session for the year. With all good wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and festive season.

Bev Morton

## Family Research

### Family Research - Advanced

Our final meeting was held at the Benalla Golf Club on 30<sup>th</sup> November. 'Pains and Gains' over the month, reflections on our research this year and plans for next year were informally shared over lunch and a glass of wine or two looking out at the golf course from the deck. Bliss!



Communication with family members or friends has enabled both Malcolm and Barry to add valued information to their family tree this month, as reported on our 'Family Stories' page. Our Canberra based September guest speaker, Alan Henderson, played an important role in facilitating Malcolm's discoveries.

Thank you to all those who have shared family stories on monthly topics over the past three years, a strategy introduced during the Co-vid hiatus which is being scaled down in 2024.

Next year's group, with Jane and Barry convening, will incorporate intermediate learners and has been renamed 'Family Research'. 'Pains and Gains' will continue to feature each month, alongside a program of guest speakers and excursions. A complementary 'Drop In' session each month will provide 'hands on' time and mentoring. Until then – 'Happy Festive Season'.

Bev Lee, Jane Rushworth and Barry O'Connor

### Family Research - Beginners

November's 'First Thursday' drop-in session included a venture into AI, finding property information, adding maternal great aunts and uncles to a family tree, with the 'main feature', the chance to follow up Judy's serendipitous postcards story...

"Recently coming back from Nhill to Benalla we stopped in an Antique, Bric a Brac shop in Warracknabeal and I asked the owner if he had any postcards. He pointed me in the right direction. I didn't have much hope



because in previous experiences I hadn't had any luck. However, I squealed in delight when I came across a postcard mentioning Fish Creek. Looking at the name of the recipient, I discovered it was my grandfather's sister Hazel Maud Evelyn Wooster who died in 1912 from polio aged 16 years. Then I started looking at the rest of the post cards and even back tracked on the earlier ones, discovering another four post cards addressed to Hazel from relatives."

There's a slide presentation of Judy's postcards on the [Family Stories](#) page. Well worth a look!

Phil continues to go from strength to strength and benefited greatly from 'one-to-one' sessions with Deb this semester, while Margaret, who bravely began working on husband Peter's tree using world records, is gaining confidence using ancestry.com while working on her own, more local, family tree.

Bev Lee, Judy Barry and Deb Saunders

### Family Research - Intermediate

November's 'Third Thursday' session featured Helen's 'Show and Tell' of family history resources collected on her recent trip to England, Ireland and Scotland. There were old letters and photographs; documents in which family members had listed members of their family, past and present, with birth dates; poems; favourite quotations, cartes de visites, a fascinating family tree 'Ancestral Tablet' for eight generations of ancestors published in 1885, and more.

The piece(s) de resistance – two cross stitch samplers created by Helen's husband Chris's great grant aunt in 1811, and another by her daughter, in 1831. One 212 years old, and the other 192!



The samplers were also of interest to the Patchwork and Craft group in the adjacent classroom. We spent some time chatting about the role of samplers in a girls' education and the introduction and use of 'cartes de visite'.

Members and mentors who have attended sessions of the Intermediate Group are invited to join us on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm at Stella Stella (Rambling Rose) for coffee and cake to finish the year.

Finally, we would like to send our condolences to treasured group member Val Harris, whose husband Barry passed away this month. We have been thinking of you, Val.

Bev Lee and Judy Barry

### Film Discussion Group



We discussed three films this month. The films were:

**The Miracle Club:** Set in the 1960's in a hard-knocks community in Dublin. A group of women head to Lourdes, each of them looking for some sort of healing. It was a mixture of serious and humorous. Each of the women achieve healing, mostly around relationships rather than what they thought needed healing. With stars like Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates, this was a film enjoyed by all who attended. Rating: 4/5

**My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3:** Toula, the key character in previous films in the series, travels to Greece to track down her late father's childhood friends. It was a delightful and easy film to watch. It was colourful and refreshing with no swearing and fighting. Rating: 3-5/5

**A Haunting in Venice:** This is the latest Kenneth Branagh portrayal of Hercule Poirot. Poirot is enticed out of retirement to attend a séance. When a series of murders occur, he needs to unravel the mystery. The atmosphere created was excellent and fitted the “haunting” aspect of the story, with many twists and turns. Being set in Venice, the scenery was excellent. Rating: 3-5/5

We plan to meet again in December to discuss further films screened at the Benalla Cinema or perhaps Swanpool.

Joy Shirley

## Garden Appreciation

On Thursday 23rd November we visited two farm gardens, the farm garden of Karen and Peter Nankivell in Old Lurg Rd our first stop. What a relaxing morning - stunning views and garden, morning tea under a shady pergola. We then travelled to Geraldine and Garry McCorkell's farm garden in Samaria Road where we enjoyed a beautiful lunch, catered for by the Pink Ladies, as we sat under the canopy of lovely large trees.



Thank you all for your company this year. It has been a very sad year for some of us and your support is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Bev Lee and Len Jeffers for all your help.

Wishing you all a very happy Xmas and a happy New Year. Happy Gardening!

Gwen Turner

## Garden Team

Melbourne friend Jill joined our 'Fifth Monday' Garden Team session at Terry's on 30 October. Jill took these photos and commented "A very productive hour and a bit!".



In November we enjoyed Karen and Peter's garden where we helped spruce a few details in anticipation of Garden Appreciation's pending visit.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed under a leafy pergola from which we delighted in watching varied birdlife, enhanced by Kathy's wide knowledge.

Elsbeth Maconachie

## German

The size of the German class has grown a little smaller lately, but their eagerness to learn remains strong. They continue to make positive progress and are now engaging more comfortably in regular German conversation in each session. I am delighted to share my knowledge of the German language with them.

Horst Gunther



## Jane Austen Book Club



I started in February asking if it were possible to get too much Jane Austen. After all, films have been made of her novels and her books are always in print and sought after. But why? Isn't she just an early nineteenth century version of a romantic novelist who writes about the girl always getting her man?

Well yes, and no.

Austen does more. She unpicks the fabric of her era and class: the elite group of country gentry - grand estate owners; second sons who had to choose between the parsonage or the military; vain and foolish mothers; sneering aunts; feckless young men looking for an heiress to marry; disappointed girls who married for money and regretted it; pragmatists who married their second choices.

And every now and again one of her heroines marries the right man for love - but this is never guaranteed for the many who seek partners.

Austen cautiously introduces some of the new arrivals - rich and responsible middle-class men and women who help their more socially acceptable, but poor cousins, in the gentry classes. She even whispers once or twice about those whose wealth is made from slave plantations in the Caribbean-- a stain on their wealth as slavery was made illegal in Britain in 1804 and later extended to its colonies in 1834.

While later writers [Dickens, Elliot, Hardy] more robustly investigated the lives of the poor and disenfranchised, Austen chides more gently but still skewers the foolishness and pretensions of a class that had too much leisure on its hands and too little real work to attend to.

A number of us made it to the end looking at the six books or films of her works. I never thought I would read all of Austen, but I have, and it has been an interesting journey.

Meg Dillon

## In the Lap of the Gods

In early November we reviewed that most grievous sin of the ancient Greeks – hubris. Hubris was and is the overweening sense of pride in one's superiority. Zeus always punished hubris.

Bellerophon, one of the earliest of heroes, suffered from hubris. As a task given to him by Iobates, who falsely believed that Bellerophon had dishonoured Iobates' daughter, Bellerophon was ordered to kill the fire-breathing Chimera. This Bellerophon did by capturing Pegasus the flying horse. From its back, he used a lead tipped spear to choke the Chimera.

Afterward he completed other difficult, nay impossible, tasks. Each one puffed him up more with hubris until he believed that he belonged on Mt Olympus with the gods. He attempted to fly Pegasus there, but Zeus sent a gadfly to bite the horse. Bellerophon fell to earth and landed in a thorn bush. Blinded by it, he lived out his life in misery, despised by all. So, hubris always ends.



Because of a quarrel between two princes of Thebes, seven heroes set out to destroy Thebes. Warned in advance that their expedition would end in the death of all of them, they persisted anyway. Their behaviour on the way to, and at the gates of Thebes, was beset with hubris. One even claimed that not even Zeus could prevent him burning the city. One who was promised eternal life threw it away by eating the brain of his still living opponent.

Today, this tragedy of hubris and futility that was the 'Seven against Thebes' is almost unknown yet in ancient times, it was the most popular topic for plays and stories. There are at least six surviving plays about the subject. Every ancient playwright has a surviving play about 'Seven against Thebes.' Almost every ancient author wrote stories about this tragedy which they treated as history.

Remember, tragedy, in ancient times, meant a series of events that would inevitably end in death of the participants, yet the participants would undertake these events anyway. This was the essence of 'Seven against Thebes'. This tragedy was driven by hubris.

*Postscript - The notes for the tenth and final session of 'In the Lap of the Gods' on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December are now available on the webpage for class members unable to attend who would like to read them.*

John Barry

## Investment

At our November meeting we noted Liontown (LTR) is still bouncing around as the share take-over/purchase saga continues. We could not overlook how Neville's pick last month of Industrial Minerals (IND) has risen 97%, so he wins the pick of the month. Whether it was good judgement or luck, it was a great increase. Also mentioned, Elders share price remains low, possibly from problems of poor foresight and possible debits. They have concentrated on Queensland, upgrading stores and merchandise, and leaving and closing their bread-and-butter stores/farmers in Victoria and New South Wales.

Reports for both Cooper Energy (COE) and Calix Limited (CLX) by some analysts are predicted to have a 100% share price increase over the next 12 months. Neither pay dividends and are small cap shares.

Our long-term selections also lost 1% in value during October. Leading on this portfolio is Margaret W with selection of NXT in positive territory. Our Bendigo 11 sector Watch list is still 12% down on the February purchase prices.



After the break – Liontown (LTR) was reviewed. Last meeting, we predicted Gina Rinehart would upset the offer of \$3.00 per share by American Co. Abermarle, which proved correct. Gina acquired 19% of LTR shares which gave her a seat on the board. Abermarle withdrew their bid, causing the LTR share price to fall from \$3.00 to \$1.60. Bell Potter came forward with an underwriting to cover a \$400m debt, so LTR can now complete their project with the input of Gina and her Hancock Resources.

Azure Minerals, AZS – up 45% since October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 1,200% for the year as SQM from Chile mounted a take-over offer. Gina Rinehart stepped in and purchased 19% of shares. Will SQM abandon their offer? Gina has displayed her faith in Lithium production.

The subject changed to world events and safe investments taking into account the \$250,000 Government guarantee on Bank investments.

We finished this section by viewing Westpac and the \$7.2b profit and 70c dividend announced on the day.

Our short-term selections also lost 1% for the month. Three members changed selections hoping for a turnaround in the next 4 weeks. Good Luck. Two shares - Wildcat Resources (WC8) and Deep Yellow Limited (DYL) - have had gains of approximately 80% in the last 4 months.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm in U3A Classroom 1.

John Hanlon and Malcolm Sanders

## Let's Talk Books

Helen enjoyed novels by Margaret Hickey. Margaret is an award-winning author and playwright from North East Victoria whose rural crime books include *Cutters End*, *Broken Bay* and *Stone Town*. If you are looking for a good read include these in your list of must reads. Another good read was *Glitter and the Gold*, the memoir of Consuelo Vanderbilt, a trans-Atlantic marriage where a wealthy bride was sold to the bidder with the best title that being the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Marlborough. *I will Find You* by Harlan Coben a thriller that Harlan is very good at writing. On the same theme our reader enjoyed *Deadly Intent* by Lynda La Plant, *Cross Country* by James Patterson, *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham and *The Last Hours of Paris* by Ruth Drurat. *Murder Most Fancy*, a humorous crime novel by Kellie McCourt, who also wrote *Heiress on Fire*. Some old favourites



appeared in *Pride and Prejudice*, *A Street Cat Named Bob* by James Bowen and *Daphne Du Maurier*. Michael Trent author of *No Trace* lives in Perth WA. *No Trace* is an outback thriller. His first book *Wild Dogs* was also enjoyed by our reader. *Prettier if She Smiled More* by Toni Jordan is a light-hearted funny book looking at family life and the role of the eldest child. A beautiful little book by *Alan Bennett*, author of the *Lady in the Van*, is titled *The Uncommon Reader*, a quirky story line about the Queen borrowing books from the Library van that visits the Palace, beautiful. Donna Leon has written *Transient Desires*, the new Commissario Brunetti novel, in her inimitable style. *Just Me* by *Sheila Hancock*, about becoming a widow and life with and after her marriage to John Thaw. Don't read *Falling*, by former flight attendant *TJ Newman*, if you are off in a plane any time soon, a thriller. *The Rush* by *Michelle Prak* is an outback thriller with a ferocious storm as the background. Thrillers written about outback Australia are fertile ground for authors at the moment. Our next meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> will be our last for 2023. What a lot of wonderful books and discussions we have had over this year. Thank you for your company! I am sure we will catch up in 2024.

Geraldine McCorkell

## Lifeball

It has been great to welcome some new players following our morning at the Lakeside market, and a story in the Ensign. Of course, we are always ready to welcome more and encourage anyone interested to contact Marlene on 0428210944. We play weekly at the Indoor Rec Centre on Mondays at 10am, with our final game for the year on Monday 27th November. We return on Monday 15th January for another active year!

Our Christmas break up will be on Monday 4th December at 10am at the Hub Cafe, Winton Wetlands. This is our final get together for the year and there will be no game that day-please confirm with Marlene if you haven't already done so. Carpooling will be available.



"Our Female Contingent", November 5<sup>th</sup>

Julie McNeill

## Music Appreciation

Too long, strange, complicated, were words that once were not uncommon when it came to describing some of Beethoven's music. His (one and only) violin concerto proved so difficult at its premiere that the soloist gave up with the piece altogether, choosing instead to improvise. People left the concert feeling confused at best, 'exhausted' at worst. The Violin Concerto didn't sink into utter obscurity, but it was rarely performed in the four decades following its lukewarm debut. When it was performed, reviewers usually talked about how talented the soloist was to pull off such an attempt, rather than praising the concerto itself. Such was our experience as we watched a performance of the concerto so scintillating as to seemingly confine to obscurity the orchestral suite by Australian composer Nigel Westlake and the Mozart symphony that made up the rest of our one and only session for the month (and our final programme for this year). The links to the session notes and video recordings used are posted below and on the website.

[Session Notes](#)   [Westlake - Flying Dream](#)   [Beethoven - Violin Concerto](#)   [Mozart - Symphony No.40](#)

Bill Squire

## Page Turners Book Group

**River of Dreams**, by Anita Heiss, is an interesting novel about the flooding of the Murrumbidgee River in the 1860s. A settler family who loses two brothers and a mother in the flood moves to Wagga to re-establish their farm. The story is told from the point of view of Aboriginal families who work for the family in both places, both in the house and on the farm. They are unappreciated by the settlers, but very much heroes

within their own tribal group. They perform heroic rescues during the flood and are skilled, hardworking and loyal to their own tribal members.

In December we will be reading **Yellowface** by Rebecca F. Kuang

Meg Dillon

## Patchwork and Craft

Once again, we had a wonderful display of quilts and great Interest was shown in the craft work displayed at the November Meet & Mingle.



The next day 19 members enjoyed a variety of delicious food and exchanged a gift at our end of year lunch, held earlier this year as I'm going on holiday on 30th November.

Adding Craft to the group this year has had a wonderful impact on us all.

Enjoy the break and 'Merry Christmas!'

Dorothy Webber

## Photography

At the beginning of our last session of U3A Photography for 2023 we talked about images supplied by some members of the group, including Anna's 'Block Arcade' photo. Thank you to Anna, David and Heather, for sending photographs in for discussion and sharing on the [Photo Submissions](#) page of the website.

I then reviewed a few things that we had discussed over the year, but especially two things: 1) look around and don't just grab a photo and 2) that a photo is only the capture of light being reflected by things that we see. Also, we do need to think about what we want to get out of a photo, not just take a photo.



We then went into AI 'photography', which is becoming more prevalent in our society both professionally and from a social point of view. I went through my thoughts on this as I am only just 'dabbling' with it. An AI photograph can be difficult to distinguish from a photo that has been taken with a device and is, therefore, quite the talking point with professional photographers and even magazines like Australian Geographic.

We will see what the New Year brings, with photography sessions being offered again next year at U3A.

Rene Martens

## Play Reading

### 'An Inspector Calls' by J B Priestley

The play is a three-act drama which takes place on a single night in April 1912. The play focuses on the prosperous upper middle-class Birling family, who live in a fictional industrial town. The family is visited by a man calling himself Inspector Goole, who questions the family about the suicide of a young working-class woman. The play acts as a scathing criticism of the hypocrisies of society and reflects Priestley's socialist political principles.

The family consists of Arthur Birling, his wife, Sybil, his daughter Sheila and his son Eric. They have been joined by Gerald Croft to celebrate his engagement to Sheila. As they finish their meal, Inspector Goole arrives, with news of a young woman's death by suicide. What follows is his questioning of everyone about their knowledge of the woman. It appears that each of them had a role in her suicide. As the Inspector



leaves, questions are raised as to whether he really was an inspector, whether there had been only one woman, and whether she was in fact dead. But whether true or not, they had all had some negative interaction with a young woman.

Overall, it seems that only the two young people felt any remorse for how they had treated a young woman, with Gerald not concerned about how he treated a young woman, and the two parents only interested in avoiding the impact any scandal would have on their lives. There is an interesting twist at the very end of the play.

An interesting play highlighting the culture of the era and the blindness of the more affluent to the impacts of their actions on working class people.



We have two one-act plays on December 6th - *Five Freaks a Fiddling* and *Full Steam Ahead* - followed by coffee at the Benalla Art Gallery.

Joy Shirley

## Singing for Fun

What a great concert we had at Meet and Mingle on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you to our leaders Kieran, Brian and Margaret for all the work you had done with us, and also to Gwen for accompanying all those songs. It was a great morning listening to the Recorder Group and the Ukulele Group as well as having all our friends come and listen to us.



There were many favourable comments at the end of the concert. We look as though we will have at least two new members of Singing for Fun next year and also, three former members of Singing for Fun thought they would like to come back in 2024.

We still have our Coinda concert at 10.30am on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, and our Estia concert at 10.30am on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. This will be followed by our break-up lunch at the Golf Club at 12 noon on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. There is also the Remembrance Gathering that we are singing at on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm at Benalla Health.

Thank you to Kieran, Brian, Margaret, Carmyl and Brian for leading the sessions through 2023. You have put considerable effort into choosing the right blend of songs, and then instructing us how to sing them properly. Also, a huge thank you to Gwen for playing so well for us throughout 2023.

Thank you to Deidre for helping with morning tea each Thursday. Also, to Wendy and Trish for sorting the books and putting them away when each session is over. Also, to the guys for rearranging the tables and chairs at the Hub after each session. You have all contributed to the smooth running of Singing for Fun through 2023.

With best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas. Hope to see you all back at the Hub at Coinda for Singing for Fun in 2024.

Margaret Jenkins

## Sky's the Limit

At the end of our first year, we can look back on Richard de Crespigny giving Qantas a serve for its lack of customer service, Wangaratta airport's superb aircraft restoration, Benalla's own artfully presented aviation museum, and more. Our initiating convenor, Claire Rudolph, is handing over the reins completely next year, with Andrew McFarlane joining me as co-convenor. We hope Claire will come along and contribute to our meetings next year and thank her for her role in making 'The Sky's the Limit' a reality.

Our next speaker at 2pm on Tuesday December 5 will be Bruce Cowan of Lake Mokoan. He will talk about the history of flight with audio visual assistance.

A member of the Gliding Club of Victoria, on November 10 Bruce flew 373km at an average speed of 115km/hr in three hours and 50 minutes, over a triangular course north-east of Benalla. His outward leg was just west of the Albury control zone. (Photo with Bruce on right, Benalla Ensign).



David Palmer

## Stock and Land

There is no report for November owing to the Melbourne Cup holiday. Our next meeting, at 10am on Tuesday December 5, will be in the hands of Alistair Cumming who is growing a little-known variety of medicinal eucalyptus. We will meet at the Senior Citizens building and then travel to Alistair's factory in Benalla and later his farm. It will be a joint meeting/excursion with U3A's Sustainability group.

David Palmer

## Sustainability

The sustainability group met twice in November. At our first session John made a presentation about the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. This is due to expire in mid 2024 but is going to fall short of its water saving targets. These were established in the early this century to try claw back water for the environment. Diversions, mainly for irrigation, had stretched river and floodplain health to the point of environmental collapse. Getting water back from consumptive use for environmental purposes, and the manner of delivering 'environmental' flows, has been controversial for over two decades. Legislation to extend the plan for a further three years, which includes reinstating water buy-backs as a means of getting more water available for the environment, has caused enormous ructions amongst the competing forces. In fact, the Victorian Government has pulled out of the inter-governmental agreement. The legislation is currently being reviewed by a Senate committee.

At our second session we listened to an [informative podcast in which Michelle Grattan interviewed Greg Combet](#), former Minister for climate change and energy in the Gillard governments and a former Secretary of the ACTU. Greg has recently been appointed as chair of the Australian government's new Net Zero Agency which has been charged with helping regional communities' transition away from fossil fuel industries. The agency started work in July to help communities like those around Hazelwood in Victoria and Liddell in NSW, already dealing with coal power plant closures. It will work with state, territory and local governments, existing regional bodies, unions, industry, investors and First Nations groups to help former fossil fuel industry workers retrain and access support.

*There will be a change of day for our next session* - it will be at 10 am on Tuesday 5 December at U3A. The reason for the change is that we are joining with the Stock and Land group to visit an innovative venture that's being progressing in Benalla. Alistair Cumming has developed a method of milling the leaves from a very specific species of eucalypt to extract substances to be used in the pharmaceutical industry. We'll visit his experimental mill located in Benalla and then visit his farm at Lurg where he has a plantation of the species he uses.

John Lane

## Ukes4Fun

November turned out to be another busy month for the Ukes4Fun Group. The group performed at the end of year U3A Concert alongside the Recorder Group and the Singing for Fun Group. It was a 'full on' morning of musical entertainment and the Ukes really made their presence felt.



The Benalla Theatre Group held a free *'Come and Strum'* day for people interested in playing the ukulele during the Benalla Festival which several Ukes4Fun members attended. A most enjoyable Jamming Session with Stephen Winkler and the Benalla Theatre Company's ukulele players followed in late November.

A Ukulele Jamming and Workshop Day held by the Whittlesea Uke Group in late November was attended by John and Claire, who not only had a good time but attended a number some of the workshops held on the day. Contact is now being made with other Uke Groups asking to be included on their mailing lists for information about Ukulele Jamming Sessions being held in 2024, with an opportunity for members of our Group to attend and gain further experience as well as having fun with like-minded people.

In 2024 we are introducing 'Ukes4Fun--Getting Started', which will consist of 5 x half-hour weekly sessions before Monday's 'Just Jamming' sessions, for members wishing to learn to play the Ukulele. We are also piloting a monthly self-help drop-in for players who have mastered the fundamentals of basic chords and strumming and would like to practice new cord sequences and strumming patterns with others.

Finally, I would like to thank Elly, Neville, Hans and guest presenters John Canty and Michael Dobson who helped keep the group going this year while I was unwell. I'd also like to thank the whole group for achieving what they have and giving me so much pleasure over the last twelve months.



Heather Wallace

## Newsletter Team 2023

It is such a privilege to read the reports from convenors and newsletter correspondents as they arrive for the newsletter each month. They are also a website manager's dream—we never have a problem finding interesting content for our website! Thank you!

We would like to thank Bev Thornell and Andi Stevenson for adding photos of Wine Appreciation, Easy Walks and Birdwatching activities to our Facebook page, which now has 324 followers. The photos also provide a rich source of images of outdoor activities for the newsletter and website. Thank you to convenors and others, including David Palmer and Rene Martens, who have also submitted photos this year.

Thanks also to Membership Officer Len Jeffers for the unflappable ease with which he facilitates communication with members, including emailing the newsletter this year when Heather was unwell.

This year we have tried to ensure that every group has been photographed and represented in the newsletter and on the website's ['Gallery 2023'](#) page. Thank you for being prepared to participate!

### **Remembering John Borthwick**

The Newsletter team would like to send our condolences to former Newsletter Editor Judith Borthwick on the death of her husband John. Judith produced the newsletter for seven years during a period of growth in U3A courses and numbers. During this time, John was an important part of the newsletter production team, playing roles including taking the newsletter to Bill Sykes' then Steph Ryan's office for printing, collecting it for distribution, and more. Always smiling, John was a loved friend of many U3A members and a wonderful advocate for U3A in the community.

Finally, a reminder that the session resources for several courses are included on the website. Horst's ['German Lessons'](#) page is a particular case in point, also Photography's ['Session Resources'](#) and John Barry's ['In the Lap of the Gods'](#). Links to the music listened to each session feature on the [Music Appreciation](#) page, while videos shown have featured on the [Exploring the Universe](#) page for many years. That's just a start... and something to follow up if you find you are missing U3A during the holiday season.

**We hope you have enjoyed this 'bumper' edition of the newsletter. Enjoy your break! Heather and Bev**

# What's On

## December 2023

### Friday, 1 December

14:00 In the Lap of the Gods – 'A tour of the Roman Underworld', then coffee at Zeus

### Monday, 4 December

10:00 Lifeball - Christmas Breakup at the Mokoan Hub, Winton Wetlands  
10:00 Art Appreciation - Mark Dober, 'Wetlands'  
12:00 Ukes4Fun - Jamming Session  
14:00 Investment  
14:00 Let's Talk Books

### Tuesday, 5 December

10:00 Page Turners – 'Yellowface' by Rebecca Kuang  
10:00 Stock and Land - Alastair Cumming 'Medicinal Eucalyptus' (Excursion)  
10:00 Sustainability – Alastair Cumming, 'Medicinal Eucalyptus' (Excursion)  
14:00 Sky's the Limit – Guest speaker, Glider pilot Brian Craven

### Wednesday, 6 December

09:30 Play Reading –Two one-act plays -'Five Freaks a Fiddling' and 'Full Steam Ahead'- followed by coffee at the Art Gallery.  
12:30 Easywalks Christmas Lunch - Tatong Tavern  
14:00 Cards '500'

### Thursday, 7 December

10:30 Singing for Fun Concert - Cooina  
14:00 Family Research - Intermediate - Break Up  
17:00 Singing for Fun - Remembrance Gathering, Benalla Health.

### Monday, 11 December

12:00 Ukes4Fun-final Jamming Session for 2023  
14:00 Creative Writing  
14:00 Garden Team

### Tuesday, 12 December

12:00 German—Break up Lunch at the Royal

### Wednesday, 13 December

14:00 Film Discussion Group

### Thursday, 14 December

10:30 Singing for Fun Concert - Estia Health  
12:00 Singing for Fun Breakup - Benalla Golf Club  
13.30 Executive Meeting

### Tuesday, 19 December

10.00 Demystifying Psychology Course- 'Memory & Intelligence Part 2'.

### Thursday, 21 December

12.00 Demystifying Psychology - Course and Discussion Group – end of year lunch at the North Eastern Hotel, 1 Nunn Street.

### Monday, 25 December

Christmas Day

## January 2024

### Monday, 8 January

14:00 Creative Writing

### Wednesday, 10 January

09:30 'Enrolment Day' – 9.30 am to 12 noon in the Seniors Auditorium

### Monday, 15 January

Life Ball and Ukes resume today!

10:00 Life Ball –Marlene 0428 210 944  
11:00 Ukes4Fun – Getting Started  
12:00 Ukes4Fun – Just Jamming

### Thursday, 18 January 2024

10:00 Community Singing @ Cooina Hub

### Monday, 22 January 2024

10:00 Life Ball – Marlene 0428 210 944  
11:00 Ukes4Fun – Getting Started  
12:00 Ukes4Fun – Just Jamming

### Thursday, 25 January 2024

10:00 Community Singing @ Cooina Hub  
17:00 Newsletter reports due

### Monday, 29 January 2024

10:00 Life Ball – Marlene 0428 210 944  
11:00 Ukes4Fun – Getting Started  
12.00 Ukes for Fun – Just Jamming

*Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year To All!*



*Tina's exquisite, beaded Christmas tree  
decorations at November's Patchwork & Craft  
Display.*