



Benalla and District Inc. Newsletter - February 2017

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Next newsletter deadline – midday **Monday 27th March**
From April – newsletter deadline third Wednesday at midday

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Signing off. The March AGM will see me retiring as President after serving 3 years. I have been fortunate to have a successor keen to have a go and Dorothy Webber has been appointed by the committee as per the constitution for the remainder of my term. I will continue in my other role as Programs Convenor. I want to thank the Committee and members for supporting me during my term and especially Lorraine and Geraldine who were my guides in the transition.

Lorraine Knox carved out a long term role as Secretary, a demanding and important role in our organization. This role was time-consuming and also meant she became the unofficial Membership officer. Lorraine will retire from the position to become an Assistant Secretary. I want to thank Lorraine for her many years in this vital role and her ongoing support for U3A.

John Avery will also retire from the Committee. John has served U3A in a number of key roles and may be best remembered for his seven year stint as President. John was also our long serving Network representative and a font of information on all things to do with U3A. Thanks John for your unstinting and wide-ranging efforts for Benalla U3A.

Thanks to Terry Dillon who took on a newly created role of Membership Officer, creating new computer programs for us which have already sped dissemination of class lists and updates of our membership records.

We will now spend time learning how best to use these programs and fine tune the system for 2018. This reduces the work that was traditionally part of the Secretary's role.

We have at least 27 new members and a membership of over 230.

Reminder to New Members, you are invited to afternoon tea March 17th from 2pm in Room W4, Flexible Learning Centre, Barkly St. This will be a chance to answer queries and hear your suggestions whilst you meet other new members.

Benalla Council should commence work soon on the refurbishment of the Seniors. We will keep you informed in plenty of time for the big move.

Terry Case.



Terry Case and Terry Dillon at U3A Enrolment Day, Cooiinda.

Annual General Meeting March 15th 2017

Nominations are open for the positions of **Secretary** and **Publicity Officer**. These positions become available every two years, alternating with elections for the positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer. All positions can be extended for an additional two years.

A nomination form has been included in this newsletter and is available on the website. Completed nomination forms must be returned to the Secretary, Lorraine Knox, PO Box 674, Benalla 3672 or email lorrain.knox@bigpond.com by close of business on **Wednesday 8th March**.

GROUP REPORTS

Armchair History: Invaders

On a scorching February afternoon we commenced our new season viewing DVDs about the Norman invasion in 1066 and the First Crusade called by Pope Urban in 1095. Religion will again play a prominent part in this history. In a period when the populace was terrified by visions of hell we will investigate how the Church tried to create a new role for the warrior class, as soldiers of God.

Our second February session looks at the impact of the Norman invasion in Wales and Ireland.

Reminder: the Friday afternoon times are 1.15 start, 3.15 finish (to suit our landlord).

Armchair Traveller

The first meeting of Armchair Traveller for 2017 will be held in W4 on Tuesday 21st March. John and Reina will take you on a cruise from Valparaiso (Chile) around Cape Horn, to Buenos Aires (Argentina) with a brief visit to the Falkland Islands. With 22 enrolled we hope for a lively planning session for the remaining four sessions in 2017.

Art Appreciation

All Art Appreciation members were pleased to be back with gatherings at the Benalla Art Gallery on the first Monday of the month. This time Katherine took us through the exhibition in the Bennett gallery of works

by Michelle Nikou. Katherine explained that Michelle took everyday items in a home and treated them in a way that challenged us to think about these items in another way. An example of this treatment was potatoes dipped in lead and then placed on skewers in a glass case - amazing. Then we had neon lights letters stating there was No Vacancy. Not everyone was as enthusiastic as Katherine about this exhibition, but I am sure everyone will love our next showing of wonderful drawings of animals in the wild by Kate Jenvey.

Remember the date - the first Monday of the month 6th March at 10:00 am Benalla Art Gallery. Carole

Editor's note: See the website for Neville's report of Art Appreciation's December gathering at Benalla Gallery.

Bird Watching

USA Birdwatching continues in 2017, with six sessions in April, May, June, September, October and November.

Editors Note: A special thank you to birdwatching convenor Kathy Costello, who responded to a website request from a visitor attached to the USA's gliding team keen to do some birdwatching in Benalla during the World Gliding Championships.

Brain Games

We made a good start to exercising the grey matter (though at least one absentee needs some memory work!) with some beanbag catches honing reaction time, mirror writing and mazes to warm up eyes and concentration and successful recall of where five objects had been hidden. After some talk of left and right brain function we tested logic, number and pattern skills on a medium to demanding set of puzzles and agreed that varied and sociable activity makes for brain fitness.

Q What are the next 3 letters in this series: O T T F F S S ?

clue: count them

answer: E N T

Bushwalking

Easy Walks commence in April. More news in the next newsletter.

Mid-Week Walks commenced the year with a further trip to Mt Buffalo. This time the walk was to The Lookout, The Horn.



The Lookout, The Horn, Mt Buffalo, February 2017

For details of the March walk on Wednesday 8th March, contact Vaughan Cowan on 5762 1980.

Chat n Chew

Welcome to 2017 Chat 'n Chew. Our first lunch for the year was at the Royal Hotel on Friday, February 17th.

Our next lunch will be on **March 17th** at the **Benalla Gliding Club** at 11.45. All welcome, but please notify Shirley on 5762 6768 by Tuesday 14th March if you'd like to attend.

On **April 21st** we will be lunching at **Saigon Station** (ex Vic Hotel). Again, all very welcome, with booking arrangements by Tuesday 15th April with Shirley on 5762 6765 (PS. Phone rings for ages before 101 kicks in).

Thank you, you make a delightful crowd! Shirley.

Collectors



Our first session of Collectors was held in W4 and was very successful. As well as 21 attendees we were pleased to welcome two guests who were visiting Benalla. Most of those who attended brought along one or several items to show us and again we had a large assortment of interesting items and learnt a little of the background of each. Some had researched items on the web and were able to give a short history of when and where they were made. Others had inherited items, or bought them just because they liked them, while some were childhood gifts.

Photos were taken of everything brought along (thank you Bev). Hopefully we will have a slideshow presentation at the end of the year similar to last year which was well received when shown at Collectors and at our February Meet and Mingle.

At our March meeting guest speaker Rupe Cheetham will present some artefacts he collected while working in New Guinea. Members of Collectors are invited to bring along their smallest item and anything else they wish.

E Book Group

We kicked off the year with the cult classic Lucky Jim by Kingsley Amis. This account of the trials and tribulations of a hapless young lecturer in a redbrick university in the provinces, became an instant hit when it was first published in Britain in 1954, and has been popular ever since. Jim Dixon's own ineptitude and lack of confidence inevitably set him on a road to destruction, and he catapults from one disaster to the next. He doesn't like his boss or his manipulative female colleague. Then his luck changes: he's offered a new position, and meets the delectable Christine. We enjoyed the vaudeville aspects of Jim's dilemmas, and were intrigued by the central theme of the nature of luck. All in all, this is a fine novel in the best traditions of English satire.

Exploring the Universe

We have had our first day of the new course 'Exploring the Universe,' which took the form of a round table discussion group with plenty of input and lots of questions.

Rupe had brought a photo of Comet 45P. Glowing green with florescent gas as it streaks across the sky, it passed near Earth this February, safely out of harm's

way at about 30 times the distance of the Earth from the moon.

Comet 45P has an elongated orbit around the sun and visits our skies every 5.2 years when it is drawn from the icy outer reaches of the solar system by the sun's gravity.

As an appetiser for the course, we viewed a short film, "Hubble Ultra Deep Field in 3D." In 1996 scientists pointed the Hubble telescope at what seemed a blank spot in the universe for 10 days. The resulting images surprised them. Now known as the Hubble Ultra deep field; it went back to the early universe and showed millions of galaxies.

Rupe gave an excellent presentation on the sun. Mel produced a sun related, article and Bev found a film from NASA Heliophysics, taken from its in space Solar Dynamics Observatory, a five year time lapse of the sun titled "S D O 5 Years."

A very interesting first day of discussion, talks and audiovisual content. Why not join us?



Film and Literature

This month we watched *The Ghost and Mrs Muir*, based on the 1945 novel by R. A. Dick, the pseudonym for Josephine Leslie.

Genre: Romantic fantasy

Plot: an early 1900s story of a young widow who moves to an English seaside village despite the disapproval of her mother-in-law and sister-in-law. She rents Gull Cottage, with a reputation for being haunted. Here she takes up residence with her young daughter and her maid. A friendship forms between the ghost, and the

young widow. She meets an author who captivates her, but she finds he has a wife and children. On her death, the Captain returns.

Characters: Lucy, the widow (Gene Tierney), Captain Gregg, the ghost (Rex Harrison), Anna, the daughter (Natalie Wood), Martha, the maid (Edna Best), Miles Fairley, an author (George Sanders).

Location: Set in a seaside village in England, although filmed in California.

Other: Filmed in 1947 in black and white.

Review: On-line reviews differ in discussion around the genre of the film. One review suggested it covered a range of genres – thriller, comedy, drama, romance, fantasy. We decided that perhaps *romantic fantasy* best described the movie. We all agreed that it was a good portrayal of the period, the early 1900s, with the expectation that the young widow would live with family, not move out on her own. The music was atmospheric, and the scenery spectacular. Although much of the movie was filmed in America, one member thought the scenery was typical of Cornwall. We also had a brief discussion as to whether we notice mistakes in movies, and whether they matter. The answer to both questions was NO. The reason for the question was because in one scene in the movie, a kettle seems to magically move from the left of the stove to the right. No-one else noticed this.

An enjoyable movie, appreciated by us all.

With all the movies we watch we can look at them as literature – literature in a different medium, that of film. This helps to focus the discussion, covering ideas around genre, characters, plot, but also adding the aspects that relate to film, such as cinemascope, music and atmosphere.

Our March session is on **8 March, International Women's Day**, so we plan to watch the movie **Suffragette**. This is a biography around the fight by women in Britain in the early 20th century to gain support for their right to vote. *The movie is over 100 minutes, and to allow time to discuss the movie, we will start the movie at sharply at 1:00pm.*

Garden Appreciation

March 23rd

Coach trip to *Bishopcourt Garden-House* in Clarendon Street, East Melbourne and a visit to Fitzroy Gardens. Meet at Benalla Rose Garden near the Royal Hotel at 7 a.m. Morning tea on arrival at 10.00 a.m.

Tour of house and garden. *Bishopcourt* is the residence of the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne. Facing the Fitzroy Gardens, it has a beautiful English garden. Concluding at approximately midday we will lunch at Poynton's Nursery Café in Essendon after a short time in the Fitzroy Gardens.

Please register early as we can only take 30 to *Bishopscourt*. Cost is \$46 for coach and morning tea, tour of house and garden. Lunch at own cost. We will need payment as possible. *Three spaces still available at time of going to press.*

April 27th First Garden: Meet at 9.30 at 56 Grant Drive, Benalla. Jackie has a large garden with lots of trees and garden beds. Please bring morning tea to share (own cup and hot water). I will provide coffee, tea and milk. **Second Garden:** Green and Grow Nursery and private garden. Depending on numbers attending, lunch will be at the Shady Elm Café or the Benalla Golf Club.



Garden Appreciation members enjoying February's visit to Belvedere Garden, Chesney Vale

Gwen 0438 627 010 or 5762 7017

Garden Team

We had a splendid and hard-working team on a day timed beautifully after a couple of 40 degree days. Much pruning and weeding is now on its way to being turned into mulch (or goat manure) and the ducks enjoyed the snails.

We also enjoyed an afternoon tea of the usual high standard.

The owner of the green-handled *Laser* clippers should contact Elspeth (0418621764) if they wish to see them again before we meet in March at Shirly's garden.

Bring your diary so we can start settling the *batting order*, which will be somewhat similar to the last couple of years but with the chance to swap dates if you already know that you'll be away or especially want the team at, say, rose pruning time.

We look forward next time to meeting new member Ian and welcoming back Jane and Bill.

In the Mood for Opera

A full house turned up to see Joan Sutherland in an Australian Opera production from 1986 of "Daughter of the Regiment" by Donizetti.

We started with this early DVD so that we could appreciate Sutherland's wonderful voice in this jolly story of Marie the baby abandoned on the battlefield who was adopted by the victorious French regiment. She grew up to manage the regiment's canteen and fell in love with Tonio, a handsome young Swiss who joins the regiment in order to be with her. Sulpice the Captain who has acted as her father discovers that a letter left with the baby identified her as the Niece of the Marquis of Berkenfield who just happened to be passing by and asked the regiment to give her safe passage to her castle. Sulpice is bound to tell the Marquis of her niece whom she swiftly claims and takes to her castle to teach her some approved manners and to arrange a wealthy marriage for her.

Bound to do her duty and obey the Marquis, Marie gives up hope of marrying Tonio and reluctantly agrees to marry the rich and titled suitor chosen for her. Sadly she has not learnt to behave as a shy and delicate maiden and her rough regimental manners soon shock the mother of her intended husband. Just in the nick of time the regiment marches through with Tonio and

demands that Marie be allowed to marry him. The Marquis agrees and confesses that Marie is really her daughter and not her niece and she should marry for true love.

This Comic Opera was first performed in Paris in 1840, then in Milan, New Orleans, New York and London. By 1847 it fell out of favour until revived by the Royal Opera London in 1966 for Joan Sutherland.

Meg Dillon

Investment

At the first meeting of Investment for 2017 we welcomed four new members to our group, namely Pauline Bailey, Barbara Buchanan, Kathy Costello and Wendy Sturgess. We hope that they enjoy our investment orientated discussions.

To begin the year we looked briefly at the current economic situation facing the share market both in Australia and overseas, and compared this to conditions which had prevailed in February 2016. We spoke about some shares which had shown good growth since our last meeting in November 2016, as well as some stocks which unfortunately had shown marked declines.

Peter Simpson had put together a Performance Spread Sheet from Market Analyst showing the 6 month and 12 month return of 200 shares. We distributed this list to those present so they could check at their leisure how their own shares had performed over the past year.

Our other study for the afternoon was a sheet showing how to Use Commsec to Your Advantage. Many of our members are familiar with this website. However, parts of it have been revamped and these were demonstrated so that members can get as much information from the website as they require.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 3rd March 2017 at 1.15pm in W4.

Let's Talk Books

What a lovely gathering for our first Let's Talk Books for 2017.

It was great to have Louise Doddrell our group and welcome to Rae Jeffers, I hope you enjoy our book chats Rae.

Everyone seems to have done some reading, although Christmas is a busy time and we don't always have time to indulge in quiet moments for reading.

Our Souls at Night written by Kent Haruf was enjoyed and well known by several members of the group. He has other books in the Library so they might be worth a read. *Unlikely Friendships* a book about friendships between dogs and other animals/people, and also along the animal line *A Cat named Bob*, which has been made into a film.

Stephen Fry wrote the mystery *The Book of Dead*, a good one if you enjoy a murder mystery. *Freeing Peter* the book written by Peter Greste's family of the efforts and toll it took on their family to free their son and brother from an Egyptian prison is worth reading. *The Good People* written by Hannah Kent author of *Burial Rites* has been read by some of our group, it is a different style of story telling taken from very old Court cases, this one was set in Ireland and revealed the deep superstition that existed in the time the story was written. Wendy Solomon wrote *Kitty's Despair*. This was built around characters from *Pride and Prejudice*, Wendy also wrote *Portrait of a Duke*. Other books read and enjoyed over the break were *Brooklyn* now a movie, *High and Hidden Place* by Michelle Clare Lucas, *Working Class Boy* Jimmy Barnes biography and *Ubuntu*, the tale of a motor bike ride from one end of Africa to the other. A lot of interesting African culture appeared throughout the book.

Keep reading and if you haven't read any books still come along and hear what everyone else is reading and enjoy a cuppa with us. See you on the 7th March.

Lifeball

Lifeball has begun beautifully this year. We resumed mid-January, as so many players were anxious to start before our usual start date of the first Monday in February.....they had had enough of holiday mode, and wanted to become active again! Which I think is marvellous!!!

So we started playing "Laughball" again, and already we have welcomed 5 new players, which is SO exciting for us!!

Some players who have qualified as umpires have been doing a stint of umpiring from time to time, and all are doing really well.

Our beloved coach, Rupert, is PLAYING again, following his horrendous accident last April, when the medicos were discussing amputating his right leg. But no - he has his leg still, and manages to cover the court really well. He is so tenacious and determined, and makes us really appreciate his efforts. Gwen hasn't played yet, but is regularly umpiring, and we are so delighted that she has returned to us again after all her problems as well.

On March 27, we are hosting our annual Fun and Friendship Day, when teams from Deniliquin, Albury, Wangaratta, Rutherglen, Myrtleford, Mansfield and Eildon all come to visit for the day.

We play from 10am, have lunch, which we cater for, and play again till all teams decide to leave to return to their respective homes till the next Fun and Friendship Day, usually around the second half of the year. These Fun days are exactly that, Fun days. Everyone participates in the spirit of the game, and the name, Laughball, is what the game is all about. When the day concludes, everyone involved says what a great day it has been, and looks forward to learning something from the other players when we next meet.

Several folk have "dropped in" to see what happens when we play, so if you would like to as well, there is absolutely no obligation, just come and "vet" us.....if you like what you see, have a go! You will be made most welcome, and hopefully you won't regret it. We are a very amiable crowd, we love our game, and wish for you what we wish for ourselves!!

*Marg Merriman, Secretary
5762 1404 (reasonable times!!)*

Meet and Mingle

Our first Meet and Mingle for 2017 was very well attended. After some announcements a slide presentation was shown of items shown at last year's Collectors. This was previously shown at a meeting of Collectors in September last year and has been well received on both occasions. Judging by the noise level during morning tea many members were pleased to have an opportunity to catch up with friends they had not seen during the summer recess.

Our next Meet and Mingle will be held in W4 at the Flexible Learning Centre on 15th March and will include the Annual General Meeting. Following the AGM Our guest speaker, Claire Rudolph, will set the scene for

Friday's Chat 'N Chew lunch at the Gliding Club. An experienced glider pilot and long term member of the Benalla Gliding Club, Claire will speak and answer questions about gliding, her experiences as a glider pilot and the recent world gliding championships in Benalla.

Music Appreciation

10 February 2017

At our first session John introduced two new members, Les Rodgers and Bill Squires. John's presentation was follows:

- Composer **Vasily Kalinnikov** '*Symphony No 2*' played by the National Orchestra of Ukraine.
- Composer Fats Waller '*Ain't Misbehaving*' played by **Stefan Grappelli's**.
- Composer **Mendelssohn** '*Violin Concerto*' played by Japanese violinist Takako Nishizaki.

24 February

John presented the session, commencing with **Beethoven's** *Symphony #3 'Eroica'*, Concert ge Bow Orchestra, Amsterdam.

After tea break, John played **Fats Waller** playing '*Your feet's too big*'.

We then listened to the the piano concerto of **Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel** (1805-1847), elder sister of Felix.

The session concluded with '*Spiegel im Spiegel*' by **Avo Part** (Estonian) (b 1935) composer of vocal, choral, orchestral and chamber music.



John preparing to present Avo Part's Spiegel im Spiegel

Patchwork

The first Patchwork day for the year was well attended. We are starting on a project with a number of our group using different techniques, it will be very interesting to see the results.



Palais Royale – our project for 2017

Play Reading

Our play for February, 'Twelve Angry Men', chosen and directed by the inimitable Keith Rogers, proved to be an excellent choice. Although written for 12 men, our all female cast members managed to effectively capture the drama of the play. Each playing two roles involved playing opposite oneself, proving hilarious at times. Despite our best efforts at reading each of our parts with different voices for dramatic effect, there were moments when it was impossible to stifle our laughter.

Next session we will view part of Act I of the classic film of 'Twelve Angry Men' to refresh our memories before reading Act II, this time under the direction of Jenny Sawyer as Keith will be away.

Politics and Current Affairs

I wonder if I have Donald Trump to thank for having such a large class this year! He certainly had members stirred up; together with most of the politicians and diplomats around the world. Good news for our P.M. is phone bills might be reduced if Trump continues to hang-up mid call. There is a potential budget saving!

Australian politics did get a look in, but we barely covered some of the events that took place during our break. Politicians travel allowances got a shake-down but we did not get to the mammoth pay packet for the head of Australia Post. Seemingly the more an

organization is run into the ground the bigger the salary, 5 million (plus allowances).

After the meeting I read the first of Trump's team had been forced to resign, off to a good start or was it just the elites undermining him?

I'm still pondering what fake news is: have you read any lately?

This fake newsletter report was sent by Terry Case.

Singing for Fun

At our first meeting our Leader Joyce Borschmann welcomed everyone to Singing for Fun for 2017 and introduced Rae Jeffers who is new to Benalla from Mildura.

Joyce thanked Margaret Howard who has been our Treasurer for approximately 10 years. Margaret has done an excellent job of collecting money, paying expenses of the group and keeping a petty cash book of all the transactions involved. Many thanks Margaret for a significant contribution to the group over many years. In 2017 this job is going to be taken over by Peter Simpson.

Singing for Fun is very fortunate to have our pianist Gwen Barnes, who does an excellent job of accompanying the group, and our Musical Leaders Faith Hicks, Brian Greed and Margaret Merriman full of enthusiasm for the coming year. Everyone enjoyed the community singing and round singing at our first meeting of the year.

The Harmony group which meets on the second Thursday of the month started learning portions of some new songs which everyone seemed to enjoy at their first meeting.

Unfortunately Singing for Fun on 16th February was cancelled due to a *funeral in the Baptist Church*.

The next Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 2nd March at 10am in the Baptist Church, Bridge Street Benalla.

Tech Savvy Beginners

With over 30 people enrolling for Tech Savvy Beginners participants have been divided into two groups; Apple and Android. There there will now be 5 consecutive sessions for each group starting off with the Apple group.

So far we've looked at buttons and ports, logged onto to the U3A WiFi, added to the contact list and researched the Benalla U3A website. We are learning to love our devices!

Tech Savvy Plus

Tech Savvy Plus with Terry Dillon meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 1.30 to 3.30 pm in W4. For further information, contact Terry on 0419343129.

Tech Savvy Talks

Our February session began with a Ted Talk by inspirational lawyer and academic Professor Ron McCallum *'How Technology Taught Me to Read'*. Ron's presentation particularly resonated with class member Peter Simpson. Because Peter is legally blind, Peter has utilized many of the computer based adaptive technologies described by Ron. Peter shared memories of playing 'blind cricket' with Ron as a teenager using a cane ball which contained bottle tops and metal wickets which resounded loudly when hit. This discussion was followed by a most informative presentation by Les Rodgers on 'The Internet of Things'(IoT). The group agreed to continue our practice of commencing with a TED talk on a stimulating topic followed by a guest presentation and suggested future talks on topics including Brent's Electric Paddock Vehicle; an Update on the NBN Rollout; Facebook and Security; and Options for Baseload and Renewables. Towards the end of the month Les piloted our (optional) discussion group at Rustik café. Les reported that discussion ranged across many topics including high frequency radio and 'ham' radio. "We also learned something about life on Willis Island. A pleasant hour quickly passed by three people with similar interests".

Our next meeting on Wednesday 8th February will incorporate a visit to the home of Terry Dillon to see examples of IoT connectivity, including the use of Chromecasting.

Towards a Sustainable Future

10 years ago this month John Avery gave notice of a new class *'Future Energy'* which then class member and our current convenor John Lloyd two years or so later convened as *'Towards a Sustainable Future'*. Our archivist Corrie found this in the February 2007 Newsletter ... *"Future Energy: ... a meeting of prospective participants is called for Thursday March*

19th to commence planning the content of this challenging subject. Contact John Avery on 5762 1818 to discuss your ideas."

Although we try to leave party political discussion to the Politics class, our February participants couldn't help discussing the current national and international hurly burly of environmental politics, particularly the debate about (supposedly) 'clean coal'. We reflected, from the perspective of parents, grandparents and great grandparents, whether the world being left to our descendants is a better world than we were left with by our parents, and clearly had concerns. We speculated as to whether the policies of the Federal Coalition government may become increasingly irrelevant as practical initiatives by consumers, non-fossil fuel based businesses, communities, states, regional authorities and local governments come into play. News of such initiatives is escalating, including John's good news story this month about a new wind turbine with oscillating blades which mimic the figure-8 motion of the wings of a hovering hummingbird. We continue to look out for and monitor such good news stories and will be taking a particular interest in initiatives recommended as part of the new 'Renewable Energy for Benalla' project.

On a final note - thanks to Judith Borthwick for submitting John's article and photo of our group to the Ensign recently!

Wine Appreciation

What's in store for 2017? In our 20th year, our program aims to provide variety between the larger wineries and some newer venues. In February we commenced with a visit to Tarzarli vineyard at Warrenbayne, tasting a selection of wines in a scenic setting under gum trees, followed by lunch for early bird bookings at Samaria Farm.



Wednesday 22 March 2017

Meet at the car park on the tennis court behind Aldi at 10 am to travel through Avenel toward Nagambie and *Chateau Tahbilk Winery*.

Lunch is at *Nagambie Rowing Club Restaurant* (the Wetlands café is not open on Wednesdays)

Wednesday 26 April 2017

Meet at car park on the tennis court behind Aldi at 10 am to travel along the King Valley to 480 Upper King Valley Road, Cheshunt for our first visit to [Primerano Wines](#) and hear from Dominic and Frank.

Lunch at *Mountain View Hotel*, Whitfield.

For more information about Wine Appreciation, phone Noel Meagher (5762 3149) or Keith & Heather Rogers (5762 4086).

Writing Workshop

We welcomed new members Elizabeth, Helen, Mardi and Ray to our first meeting on 27th February. After some introductory activities and 'housekeeping' we became quite immersed in sharing and listening to each other's memories of being 'New in Town'. Contexts included being new in Canberra; outback Australia; coastal NSW; London and Madrid as well as being 'New in Benalla'. While most pieces were written as memoirs, Neville took the opportunity to create a fictional story from the viewpoint of a young girl watching her mother, new to town, wanting her family to 'make a good impression'.

The topic for our March 27th session is '*Stock and Land*' – 'Tell us about a significant memory involving farming, agriculture or rural life. You must include mention of at least one animal or crop and one piece of farm equipment. If you haven't lived on a farm, you might like to write about a long remembered visit to or experience of a farm or agriculture, something referencing rural life, ideally set in the north east. It could even be about memories of a visit to an agricultural show or about backyard chooks in urban settings. Write about something you haven't written about before which you'd like to share with your family and others'.

We will meet for a coffee and catch up at the North Eastern Hotel on Monday 13th March from 2.30 to 3.30.

Publicity and Media

- The deadline for the next newsletter is **Monday 27th March** at midday. Judith Borthwick will be acting editor for this newsletter. Please email reports to Judith at jlborthwick@bigpond.com.au or send them to u3abenallanewsletter@gmail.com
- As **from April** the newsletter deadline will be the **third Wednesday at midday** (Meet & Mingle day)
- '**Position Vacant**' - Do you have competent computer skills, and even better, some experience with websites? We are looking out for someone with competent computer skills – word processing and internet - to join our team. Please call Bev on 5762 8171 for more information.
- **U3A Benalla and District** on Facebook. We are currently piloting a community site on Facebook—if you are a Facebook person it would be wonderful if you could 'Like' our site and give us your feedback.
- **Thank you** to convenors and newsletter correspondents for your reports and to Terry Dillon; Margaret Walshe; Phyllis Doxey; Bev Thornell; Judith Borthwick; Bev Lee and Dorothy Webber for submitting photographs for newsletter & website.

Thank you

I would like to thank all the U3A members who rang, visited, sent cards and flowers, picked me up to take me into Benalla when needed and some who also cooked for us when I came home from hospital. I count myself very fortunate to have such good friends in U3A who cared enough to do all these wonderful things. I am now on my way to full recovery and will be taking part in the usual run of U3A activities at the beginning of March. Just a reminder for everyone who receives a Bowel Cancer Test Kit in the mail to please do it and send it off!! With grateful thanks

Geraldine McCorkell

Our thanks go to Steph Ryan MP and the staff at her Benalla Office for printing this newsletter.



BENALLA
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Nomination Form

2017 Executive Committee Positions*

Person Nominated

Proposed Role

(President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary*, Publicity Officer*, Elected Member, Other)

Proposer (name)..... (signature)

Seconder (name)..... (signature)

Nominee I am currently a financial member of U3A Benalla Inc. and I accept nomination for this position.

Address.....

Telephone/s.....

Signature

Date

**Return to the Secretary, U3A Benalla Inc. P O Box 674, Benalla, 3672 or
RedB4 Bookshop (next to Hide's Bakery) by Wednesday 8th March, 2017**

U3A Benalla Inc. AOO366548