



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – July 2019

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by 25 Jul 2019

President's Report

Our thanks go to Benalla Rural City Council. U3A received \$2500 from the 2019 Community Grants Program. Our submission was to cover the cost of installing and the running for 12 months the NBN plus two cellular wifi tablet devices. 40 grants were awarded at a cost of \$75,841. This is a wonderful initiative of our Council.

Heading in to 2nd Semester thanks go to all our dedicated Conveners. As always you are doing a great job. Activities such as Bushwalking, Winery activities etc. at times require Car Pooling. The payment to the driver is \$5.00 or \$7.50 return trip. If you require further information, ring me 0412 263 071.

As winter rolls on many members head north. I wish you safe travels. I will be away in August so can all calls be directed to Geraldine 0408 522 662.

At Meet & Mingle last week the number of spam calls was discussed. NBN do not ring and threaten to disconnect your service. Stay aware and just hang up. Under no circumstances give control of your computer to anyone who calls.

Dorothy Webber, President

Group Reports

A Night at the Opera: French Style

Joan Sutherland's farewell performance in Giacomo Meyerbeer's *The Huguenots* at the Sydney Opera House in 1990 is available on YouTube and was the selection for June. Great singing and staging - an emotional night for all her fans. The story culminates in the historical St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572 in which thousands of French Huguenots (Protestants) were slaughtered by Catholics in an effort to rid France of Protestant influence. Although the massacre was a historical event, the rest of the action primarily concerns the love between the Catholic Valentine and the Protestant Raoul. Both are caught up in the violence and choose to die together at the end.

Meg Dillon

Art Appreciation

Do remember that the July session has been moved to Monday 8 July. JULY

Meg Dillon and Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

In June our task was to create and bring to class an *'Ideas Piggy Bank'* containing objects and artifacts that enliven our memories, through scent and feel. Treasured family photos, a Brownie Box camera, a brooch, mementos of trips abroad, an imagined blue Malvern Star bike ridden on for the first time, rosary beads, a toy made by a treasured friend, a small folio of papers and newspaper articles found after a father's death,

three wise monkeys, Milk Arrowroot biscuits, and more were presented, with stories about them shared and discussed.

Our 500 words topic for July is “*Your different drummer*” ... How strong is your instinct to go with the flow? When has it served you well? When has it been counter productive?

In 'Writing and Publishing Your Memoirs', Noelle introduced a memoir written by David Malouf as one of many examples of engagingly written memoirs, Noelle certainly has a wonderful 'ideas piggy bank' of possibilities drawn from her experience in the publishing industry which apply to memoir writing.

Our July session will again be a split session, with '*As Time Goes By -500 words*' from 1.30 to 2.50 then '*Writing and Publishing your Memoirs*' from 3.10 to 4.30. From August, there will be three separate writing sessions, all on Monday afternoons. '*Publishing and Writing your Memoirs*' (Noelle McCracken), has been timetabled on the third Monday from 2 to 4 pm, joining '*Creative Writing*' (second Monday 2.30 to 4.30 pm) and '*As Time Goes By - 500 words*' (fourth Monday 2-4 pm). A wonderful menu to choose one or more writing courses from!

Bev Lee

Booker Reading Group

This month's book – *The Long Take* by Robin Robertson- was a big ask for the group. Robinson is a Scottish-American major poet now in his older years who has written about the devastated personal lives of returned American servicemen after World War Two. Walker, a reporter and war casualty meets and interviews many of these men, now down and out, frequently drunk and living on the streets of Los Angeles and San Francisco. He too has frequent flash backs of the carnage and deaths of his platoon members in France. These men have been abandoned by a government who doesn't care about them and abandons them to destitution on their return from the war. The book is written as a long poem in free verse and contains stunning images and poems inserted into the narrative.

Meg Dillon

Brain Games

Despite the winter lull we had ample brain cells to conquer visual, numeric and word challenges. We will be interested to hear more of the book Rae is reading about memory in various cultures, especially those with oral traditions.

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalks

Easy Walks

On Wednesday 1 May, 8 walkers set off in intermittent drizzle to walk part of the trail from Lake Sambell to Lake Kerferd along Silver Creek. Following lunch at the Lake Sambell picnic area, they walked part way back towards the town past several sculptures and through a magnificent tree lined walkway to the memorial Chinese gardens below the Lake Sambell spillway, then followed the lake edge back to the cars. After this walk of about 6 kms, the day concluded with afternoon tea at the Beechworth Bakery. Sad to see that there had been no rain in Benalla on return as Beechworth had been wet most of the day.

June 2019 – Bullawah Cultural Trail

On a frosty, sunny morning, 6 walkers followed the Bullawah Cultural Trail along the Ovens River, Wangaratta. In the Pangerang language Bullawah (bulla meaning two and wah meaning water) signifies the two suspension bridges crossing the river and the joining of two rivers and the coming together of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Interpretive signage tells of ancient Aboriginal stories, spirituality, culture, sculptures and food including the Bush Tucker Garden; a fascinating journey. Following lunch we checked the nearby start of the Murray to Mountains Rail



Trail, Wangaratta to Bright, another interesting part of our history

Easy Walk – 7 August

On Wednesday 7 August, the Easy Walk group will go to Glenrowan to explore the historic railway station precinct then take the walking trail to Hamilton Park before returning to the cars at Glenrowan township. Please meet at 9.45am on the day in the car park behind the Senior Citizens Centre To confirm attendance, contact Wendy Sturgess on 0403226649 or email wendes47@bigpond.com by the Monday prior to the walk.

Wendy Sturgess

Mid Week Walks

12 June Chick Hill Warby Ranges

This walk was cancelled due to inclement conditions.

Next Walk – Wednesday 10 July Warby Ranges Salisbury Falls S – 3 – 3

Walk up the Salisbury Falls track to Mt Warby and then continue along the Alpine Views track to complete the circuit. With a bit of luck should be able to see snow on the mountains.

Meet at the 'The Centre' Tennis Courts Barkley St at 9.15am for departure at 9.30am. Leader Helen Spinks 5762 3223

John Boehm

Creative Writing

Our starting challenge this month was to provide a prefix for sets of three words. For example, what prefix can match with the words *locate*, *appear* and *band*. The answer was DIS to give *DISlocate*, *DISappear* and *DISband*. Some of the sets were difficult to complete with no-one in the group able to solve all ten sets. Try finding a single prefix for *bus*, *potent* and *impose*!

We had a choice from four topics for our writing, but most people chose the same topic – “The train stopped and everyone...”. Even with the same topic there was a range of stories. These ranged from a model train that constantly fell off the track, to a train ride in Northern Queensland, where the tea break meant getting off the train for billy tea with homemade biscuits, slices and scones.

Our topics for 10 July are a choice between:

- The man's face glared down from the picture frame on the wall.
- We smelled the smoke before we saw the flames.
- Going on this vacation had been a mistake.

We are now starting our session at 2:30pm. This will reduce the amount of time that we need to talk above the sound from the Line Dancing Class.

Joy Shirley

e-Book Group

Nicholas Shakespeare, *The Dancer Upstairs*, 1995

A light-hearted start to the discussion of Shakespeare's novel was in the form of a quick quiz. This served well to jog memories about characters and particular details.

Nicholas Shakespeare is a versatile English writer who spent much of his childhood in South America and the Far East due to his father's role as a diplomat. This text draws from Peruvian political history about Abimael Guzman (named Ezequiel here), the 1980s to 90s revolutionary leader of a Marxist movement, Shining Path.

The author softens disturbing accounts of violent repression and brutality by including a love triangle which, though a little contrived, makes the sequence of events real and decidedly human. This also allows Shakespeare to explore, to a degree, the life and emotions of the key character, a well-educated police officer Colonel Rejas, whose determined pursuit takes twelve years before Ezequiel's eventual capture.

Despite an awkward structural framework - yet satisfyingly circular - and perhaps some lost opportunities to develop increased tension, this novel stimulated a lively discussion and some interest in reading Shakespeare's other works.

Exercises for Fun

Even though we are having below zero degrees temperatures these mornings, our Exercise class is still being very well attended. We have found that beginning the day with exercise, helps us to keep warm, and in good spirits for the rest of the day.

If you wish to join us for a bit of exercise on these cold mornings, we start at 9.30am in the Senior Citizens hall every Monday.

See you there. Have fun

Helen Jeffree

Film and Literature

At our April class we discussed the film **"Top End Wedding"**. This genre is publicised as *Comedy, Romance*. We thought it could also be classified as a tourism film with some great scenery of the northern parts of Australia.

Lauren and Ned are engaged, they are in love, and they have just ten days to find Lauren's mother who has gone AWOL somewhere in the remote far north of Australia, reunite her parents and pull off their dream wedding.

Generally everyone enjoyed the film. As a romantic comedy it was predictable but was entertaining. It was a family story, emphasising the importance of family, and living without regrets, rather than slapstick comedy. It was typically Australian in many ways, with the depiction of the indigenous community positive. Some of the characters were fun. Lauren's father, upset about his wife's absence, often retreats to the pantry with 1980's music to cry. Ned's dog was very cute. And the development of Lauren's boss from "boss lady" to an important part of the extended family was well covered. The use of TIWI island songs was a bonus. And we enjoyed the quirky approach to the end where the screen displayed a warning that it was not the end, showed some still photos of the "wedding", then confirmed the "real end". Overall, an enjoyable although light film.

In comparing the film with other films, the group thought of "Crocodile Dundee". The story is different but had a similar approach to the Australian humour. We rated it as 3-3.5 out of 5.

Our film for discussion at the 10 July class is a choice between "POMS" currently screening at BPACC OR "Men in Black: International" which screens from 4 July.

Joy Shirley

Games

Join us at 1:30 first Monday of the month for fun and social board games

Dorothy Webber

Garden Team

Deslie's enthusiasm for the group's activity may see similar groups spring up in Gippsland and the Riverina.

I think she'll be able to update them on good progress at her patch on our latest gathering.

We promise to (try to) let Bill take it easy if he's back in time for our next garden, at 6 Tulip St Violet Town, on July 8th, when Terry opts in on a regular basis.

Elsbeth Maconachie

German for Beginners

Following a short period of revision, a range of printed material in German was available to read in our 12th lesson- books, magazines and newsprint. With the assistance of a dictionary (for our vocabulary is necessarily limited for such a short space of time), people were able to understand the content of the articles. I hope they were pleased. I know I was impressed. We even learnt some new words in the process.

Our last lesson produced moments of hilarity as we took on short role plays. Scenarios included haggling at the market place, buying theatre tickets and diarrhoea.

Although there are no lessons over winter, students have been given plenty of ideas as to how their German can be progressed by their own endeavour.

At the time of writing, half the surveys have already been returned. I would like to thank you for your considered responses. It is clear that there is sufficient interest, (dare I say enthusiasm?), for an advanced group to be run in the Spring. Those that are interested/curious are invited to come to a planning session on Monday, 15th July at 11.00am in the library.

Pauline Bailey

History: After the Victorians

Our June meeting DVD focussed on the revolutions that brought Lenin & the Bolsheviks to power in Russia. We saw the hopes and struggles to raise the desperately poor to a higher standard of living, at first applauded by many in the west. The Soviet Union set out to be a world leader that would see revolutions in many other countries; but lost many of its supporters who were horrified by the mass killings. International support crumbled, to be replaced by fear of communism.

Our second program had been produced for an Anzac Day screening. It featured the battlefield cemeteries and included an acknowledgement that Aboriginals were also among the Australian war dead and wounded, but have only recently been acknowledged for their service. Those Aboriginal soldiers who survived were not eligible for Soldier settlement schemes and other support, nor were not allowed to join the RSL, although some branches allowed them to join ex comrades for Anzac Day.

The program asked us to understand the complexities of the war so we do not fall prey to “fairy stories”. The finale was a reading of war poet Siegfried Sassoon’s Aftermath written in 1919. The harrowing poem asks: “Have you forgotten yet?” Sassoon writes of the horrors of the Western Front, the rats & the dead, the terribly wounded and the young boys, now shattered men. “ Look down & swear by the slam of the war, you will never forget.”

The poem concludes : “Do you ever ask if its all going to happen again?” Of course we know that is exactly what happened just 20 years later.

Terry Case

History: An Introduction to Civilization

We concluded the course in June looking at the radically new Enlightenment ideas on science, politics and the economy that emerged between 1750 and 1899. A century of warfare in Europe between 1800 – 1899 followed as young revolutionaries tried to introduce more democratic participation in governments and sought to reclaim national control in their countries by expelling major powers. The bad news continued with the two world wars in the twentieth century as unfinished business from the previous century spilled over into the industrialized warfare that created the most carnage in Human history. How to stop it? For the first time in many centuries Europe has had peace from warfare for 70 years after the formation of the European Union in the 1950s. Not just a trading block, the EU has enmeshed European economies so that major former enemies (France, Germany and England) would find it impossible and unnecessary to start a war. While Western Civilization has had many bad directions over its 2600years [Warfare, slavery, Serfdom, Colonization and exploitation of the weak, there has never-the-less been a trajectory of progress in the last two hundred years. For a full exploration of our syllabus, go to austaliancolonialhistory.com website

Meg Dillon

Investment

At the June meeting of Investment we welcomed two ex-work colleagues of Margaret Walshe who were staying with her for a few days. At the end of our meeting these ladies spoke quite enthusiastically about our group indicating that there was no such group in either the Eastern suburb or Geelong U3A’s to which they belonged.

The fact that the share market is up over 10% since December 2018 provided the first topic that we considered at the meeting. Initially we looked at which sectors had shown the most increase. Then we delved into those sectors, including Information Technology, Communication, Industrials and Health Care, and brought up the graphs of the stocks which had shown the most increase over the past twelve months.

The second topic for the afternoon was on Assessing Shares before the end of the Financial Year. Whilst each member of our group has their own aim with being interested in the Share Market, the overall aspiration is to make money during the year. Being the last meeting before the end of the Financial Year we

then spoke about balancing our individual capital gains with any capital losses that may have been incurred during the year.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 5th July at 2pm in the U3A room at the Seniors Centre.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

We enjoyed another afternoon discussing books at the Library on the first Tuesday in June. Quite a few have now read the *Jacaranda Retirement Village* by Joanna Nell, as one reader put it, you feel she was following you around. *Going Back* by Munjed al Muderis, the second book by the internationally famous surgeon who has returned to Iraq to change the lives of injured soldiers and civilians. His first book *Walking Free* told his story of his flight as a refugee. Highly recommended. Laurie, our guru on audio books, enjoyed *Oblivion* by Arnaldur Indridas an Icelandic writer of crime fiction. *The Hunting Party* by Washington Black, crime in the Scottish Highlands is doing the rounds of the group. Highly recommended was *The Bedside Book of Birds* by Graeme Gibson, beautifully illustrated birds with lovely 'bird' stories. *The Lady in Gold* by Anne-Marie O'Connor, is the story of a painting by Austrian painter Gustav Klim of Viennese Jewish Society lady Adele Bloch-Bauer which sold for \$135 million and the legal battle to get the painting back after the holocaust. Ian McEwen's *On Chesil Beach* was enjoyed, *The East End Girl* was light entertainment. *The Queen and I* a novel written in 1992 by Sue Townsend about revolving republicanisim in the UK. Rae had a busy month, reading *Truly Madly Guilty*, Liane Moriarty; *Bye Bye Baby*, Fiona McIntosh a good mystery; *Border Districts*, supposedly the final work of author Gerald Murnane, different book to read. *Cardinal* by Louise Milligan an investigative reporter for the ABC, was a compelling read detailing events leading up to the arrest of Cardinal George Pell. Dorothy entertained us with 'changes of words of 60's pop songs and quotes, we finished the day with a good laugh.

Geraldine McCorkell

Meditation

Participants are very involved in this group. The Meditation and learning about the wellness of ourselves and living for the moment is very rewarding. Meditation is held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 4.00pm to 5.00pm.

Caroline Sims

Meet and Mingle

At our June meeting our guest speaker was Bruce Walker, Rotary Club of Benalla President.

His topic was Fruit Fly Management.

Fruit fly have become a pest in Benalla in recent years, although they can't be eradicated they can be managed.

Bruce spoke about:

- . Why manage fruit in our back yard
- . Life cycle of Fruit Fly (about 4 weeks)
- Spraying
- Exclusion (netting fruit & vegetables)
- . Know your enemy
- . What are the options for our home garden
- Trapping

The key message was "Don't give up - we CAN enjoy fruit fly free fruit and vegies".

Our July speaker will be Diana from RACV with the topic "Lifestyle - Personal & Home Safety" and will be covering:

- . Everyday security tips
- . When you go away.
- . Outdoor home security advice

Bill Parris

Music Appreciation

"The War of the Romantics"

During the second half of the 19th century a schism developed in Europe between composers who represented a ‘futuristic’ approach to music and those who took a conservative approach. Chief among the first was Franz Liszt, while the latter was headed up by Johannes Brahms. This became known as the “War of the Romantics”. The main debates centred around whether music should be descriptive: something that is inspired by art or literature or other external ideas; or whether music should be simply “pure” or “absolute” or “classical”.

Brahms’ ‘school’, who followed ‘Classical’ principles and looked back to the great masters of the past, such as Bach, Haydn, Mozart and especially Beethoven, were labelled ‘conservatives’. Proponents of the Romantically inspired ‘New German’ music, principally Liszt and company, drew widely on literature and painting, breaking the boundaries of classical forms to make music which was freely expressive in subject matter, structure and harmony.

Our June programmes featured music by each of Liszt and Brahms. You can read the programme notes for each session on the [Music Appreciation](#) page of the website – the notes also contain the You Tube links to the music selections.

As for who was the greater of the two composers, I guess it boils down to personal taste or musical preference.

Bill Squire

Patchwork

We have five Thursdays in August. The session on the 29th August will be an all-day session. We will be making a Collage. Google Susan Carlson for inspiration. We have a few sessions to plan.

We received a thank you letter for our donation of quilts to the Wangaratta Centre Against Violence

Dorothy Webber

Play Reading

We were a small group for our play reading in June. We read a short one act play called “A Pound of Flesh”. Given the name, we assumed that it would be a tale of revenge based on Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice”, perhaps with an element of humour. We were so wrong!

This was the story of a family with the mature aged mother concerned that she had put on weight and her husband no longer found her attractive. While she was busy with help from her daughter finding someone to help her lose weight via pills and exercise, her mother was sure that she was being duped by spies, and her husband was busy finding some supplements to help her increase her weight as he thought her too thin – a “pound of extra flesh” was required. A fun and short play for our June class

Jenny McKenna

Politics and Current Affairs

The usual broad range of topics was covered, starting with the recent AFP raids on journalists houses and offices, and the resultant blow back. Press freedom is going to be an issue for weeks if not months. This led to the possible need for a Bill of Rights, but as this had already been discussed, without conclusion, last year in Hot Topics, it was left for another day.

Next followed the extra election being called in Israel, because the recent election had failed to result in a Government being formed. The political situation in Israel is massively complicated, and any outcome is unpredictable.

The recent election for the EU parliament was anything but uniform, with some countries going Green [Germany and friends] and other moving right [France and many to the South]. The centralist coalition is no longer dominant. The UK vote was another surprise, and makes the Brexit dilemma even trickier, with a no deal outcome looking more likely.

To finish off the first session, a summary of the recent change of Prime Minister in PNG was given. Unrest in our nearest neighbour has been building for 2 or 3 years, as more and more development has been occurring in Port Moresby, with little elsewhere, where over 90% of the population live, largely a

subsistence life. The few developments that have occurred have often been grand, but totally inappropriate. This came to a head last year with APEC and the Maserarties, and then this March, with PM O'Neil centre stage with 31 other world leaders at the Belt and Road extravaganza in Beijing.

On 1st April James Malartae, the deputy PM and Treasurer, resigned and joined the opposition party. Over the next 3 weeks 19 other Government Ministers and members followed. O'Neil closed Parliament for 3 weeks, and put forward various compromises without success, and before Parliament returned he resigned from office. Parliament resumed and James Malartae was elected unanimously by all members of both parties, except for 8 members of the old guard. The change took 7 weeks, but was almost without demonstrations, and the PNG army stayed in their barracks. That afternoon there was dancing in the streets.

PM Malartae was a toddler at the time of independence, is University trained and has business experience. He has wasted no time in setting out his vision for PNG. He wants the undoubted wealth of their country, to be shared by all people, and within 10 years he wants PNG to be the richest Black Christian Country in the World. Time will tell.

After the break Brexit was again the issue, and the Border difficulties that a hard Brexit would lead to in Ireland and perhaps Scotland.

Finally we contemplated whether a recession is probable as some economists predict, or less certain according to others. Back in the 1950s there were only 6 or 7 economists employed in Australia. The bigger banks had one, Canberra had another and perhaps NSW. In those times if you locked them in a room for long enough maybe they would reach consensus.

Brian Vial

Recorder Group

We started our session with the now familiar rounds, "Music Alone Shall Live." and "Haste Thee Nymph." followed by the hauntingly beautiful "Auld Lang Syne" "Home Sweet Home." and Brahms's Lullaby." trio. Most of us were singing the words in our heads as we played. Then it was time for music that marched or danced along - cue "Gavotte." and "Allemande," with their musical trills.

Of course we are learning all the time. How interesting to discover all the different musical conventions composers use to save paper. Miss them and you will be consigned to a scenic tour around all the notes! We will certainly be working on "Maggie." again next session.

Another hard working session. It's not every day that people installing solar panels get a recorder concert.

Pat Treleven

Saturday Card Games – 500

The first activity last Saturday was made up of participants ranging from beginners to experienced players of the Card Game 500. A number of players have played 500 previously (many years ago???) and with practice will become more proficient at the game. This activity is held the 1st and 3rd Saturday in the month, in the U3a room at the Seniors Citizens commencing at 1.30pm to 3.30pm (or until the games are finished). If members are interested in participating and having fun on a Saturday afternoon contact Heather Wallace on 0418 353 244.

Heather Wallace

Singing for Fun

At the first meeting of Singing for Fun for June we had a short talk by Jan Osmotherly who is the Evaluator of Age Friendly Benalla. Jan distributed cards from Age Friendly Benalla which asked for our member's opinions on what could be improved in Benalla to make it a more Age Friendly community. The cards can be directly returned to Benalla Rural City Council office in Bridge Street, or brought back to Singing for Fun for return.

At the second session of singing for fun in June our pianist Gwen Barnes was away on holiday. We enjoyed a different format with Brian Greed playing the piano for his selection of songs and also for Lois Jackson to introduce some rounds to the group. Faith Hicks then accompanied her own selection of songs which included "Viva Mexico" which was new for the group.

The final segment of that morning was a great session of Community Singing. Our roughly 35 members turned their chairs 90 degrees so that they could see the words projected on the end wall. Brian Greed played for the Community singing and everyone joined in for the twenty or so songs of the 1950s to 1970s projected on the wall. Several members of the group indicated afterwards that this segment had been really enjoyed.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 4th July 2019 at 10am at the U3A room in the Seniors Centre.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

Australian Whites storm lamb industry

A stabilised blend of White Dorper, Van Rooy, Texel and Poll Dorset genetics, known as Australian Whites, are taking the Australian lamb production sector by storm, Markwood breeder Judy Rooney told the June Stock and Land session.

Because of their productivity and unsurpassed eating quality, they are capturing the attention of farmers everywhere, but in particular young farmers who might otherwise have followed other careers.

Judy said she had previously run Dorpers on her 80ha, but bought five Australian White ewes and one AW ram five years ago. Now she is running close to 400 head and for the first time has sold ewes.

Demand is strong with ewes making from \$3000 to \$4000 each and in her stud, all saleable ewes have been sold by four weeks of age.

Lambing is close to 200 per cent due to quite small lambs which grow quickly, often to a saleable weight of 56kg by four months of age. That means ewes lambing in March will farewell their lambs by the end of spring. Fully mature weight for rams is 130kg and for ewes 80 to 90kg.

The sheep prefer roughage like leaves and bark and when feed is really short, they will grow on 80kg of pellets a day.

Even then, Judy said, they can get almost too fat. After trial and error, best pastures on the 4.6pH soils at Markwood, are fescue based.

Judy said Australian White lamb has an equivalent reputation to Wagyu beef in terms of eating quality: "it's incredibly delicious". The key is low melting point (28 degrees) long chain Omega 3 fat, which is better eating than the 28 to 32 degrees of Wagyu meat's internal fat, she said.

Ram selection is made easier because the meat of rams does not taint until they are at least 15 months old. Judy said she kept 35 rams entire to that age last year and once she had selected the sires she wanted, the meat from the cull rams was entirely acceptable. But they do start working at two months. Another downside is that they tend to get scalded feet. That means a footbath every month.

As well, foxes have been a problem at Markwood, with stacked derelict cars on Judy's boundary providing perfect cover; she shot 17 foxes one night on her farm. Her answer has been to introduce eight Maremma dogs to live with the sheep and one even killed a kangaroo which impinged on one flock. "If I check with a spotlight, I can often see foxes running around my boundary to avoid the Marremas," she said. "I haven't lost a lamb to a fox in seven years".

But Judy said introducing the \$1200 a head Maremmas was not a bed of roses; it took six months to bond them to the sheep. However they have a life expectancy of 15 years. Judy will be holding an open day on her farm towards the end of October



David Palmer

Sustainability

Following on from discussion about e-waste this month, the following information was found on the Benalla Rural City website, along with some information about batteries.

"From 1 July 2019, the Victorian Government has banned all e-waste to landfill. This means that you can no longer put electronic waste in your red bin.

What is e-waste?

E-waste is any item with a plug, battery or power cord that is no longer working or wanted. This includes large appliances, such as fridges and washing machines, to batteries, watches, remote controls and old lamps. [You can find more examples of e-waste at sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://sustainability.vic.gov.au)

What should I do with e-waste?

Is it still in working order? You might be able to donate, sell or give away your electronic waste.

If not, you can dispose of it at the Benalla Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre. We have specific e-waste cages available for you to dispose of e-waste materials. If you're coming with other items, we recommend you separate your waste first.

How do I dispose of batteries?

We can't accept household batteries at the Benalla Landfill. However, you can dispose of these at our local ALDI supermarket. You can find out more on [ALDI's battery recycling page](#).

Large batteries, such as automotive batteries, can be disposed of at Benalla Landfill."

John Lloyd

Tech Savvy Beginners- Apple Devices

Sadly, Tech Savvy Beginners iPads is finishing at the end of June. U3A is offering an Android course in the same time slot for the remainder of the year. So a message to all the iPadders is to keep on using your devices for news reading, emailing, messaging, bookmarking, Face Timing, Pod casting, taking photos, filming, keeping a digital diary, adding to your Contact list, surfing the web, booking tickets, buying stuff, downloading apps, Note taking, reading maps, etc, etc.

If there is something you want to do on your iPad and are not sure try Google!

Here are the instructions (from the 9TO5Mac website) to load an Apple gift card onto your device.



1. Open the App Store
2. Tap on your profile picture in the top right corner
3. Tap Redeem Gift Card or Code
4. Use the camera or enter your gift card code
5. If you enter it manually, tap Redeem in the top right corner

This credit can be used for any Apple products - more iCloud storage, apps, Ebooks, music, films.

Also a 'Thank You' to all of the participants who have been instrumental in my iPad learning journey too; I have now discovered Pod Casts.

Jenny Sawyer

Tech Savvy Projects: Family History

The pilot sessions of 'Tech Savvy Projects--Community Projects' have now ended, with the course now fully timetabled for the third Friday from 1 to 4pm in Semester 2. Projects can be wide ranging - bring along something you would like to work on (or are already working on) as part of volunteering for a community organisation of some sort, including U3A!

'Tech Savvy Projects--Family History' sessions continue to result in people making discoveries which give them much pleasure, even though there are frustrations which can occur along the way. This is a small

class, with members appreciating taking time out from other demands to learn more about, or spend focused time working on, their family history.

Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Talks

Tech Savvy Talks this month was about Space.

There has been great interest in Space over the last few years in Australia almost entirely lead by private organisations rather than the government. This interest has been fanned by low earth orbiting satellite technology which is very much cheaper to implement than geosynchronous satellites mainly used for communications in the past and are of course still being used. The pressure from private organisations forced the government to establish The Australian Space Agency last year. It is part of the Department of Innovation and Science, with a staff of 20 and a budget of \$20 m.

The reason for this is that with low earth orbiting (Leo's) the orbit radius is only of the order of 1000 km above the earth compared with 22,600 for the geosynchronous case. This means that much smaller and lower powered, hence cheaper satellites can be used. However with the nonsynchronous satellites a much larger number of satellites is needed to provide continuous coverage at any point on the earth.

Leo's have been launched both from the International Space Station and by Elon Musk's series of large recoverable rockets from his SpaceX program. The first 60 of an expected 10,000 plus satellites was recently launched which is to provide a global internet service.

[The mission to create a searchable database of earth's surface](#)

[Gwynne Shotwell – Space X's plan to fly you across the globe in 30 minutes](#)

www.businessinsider.com.au/spacex-starlink-satellite-internet-how-it-works-2019-5

Les Rodgers

Wine Appreciation

In late June the U3A Wine Appreciation group met at Indigo Vineyard, located at Everton Upper, on a perfect winter's day. This Vineyard, which James Halliday has rated a 5-star winery, has 46 hectares planted to 11 different varieties of grapes. Settled into the cosy wine tasting veranda, host Alan explain that the Vineyard has two different labels, Blue and Red. Grapes are sourced from their own vineyard, supplemented from their Cowra Vineyard. We were treated to generous samples of these wines, plus plates of nibbles. Reluctantly, we tore ourselves away from this welcome space to drive to Wangaratta, and lunch at the modernised RSL Hotel by the river. Thanks again, Heather and Keith, for (at last) scheduling a visit to Indigo Vineyard. Well worth a visit, readers!



Bev Thornell

On July 25th we will visit **Jones' Jones Winery & Vineyard, 61 Jones Road, Rutherglen.**

Jones Winery, one of the oldest and smallest wineries in the Rutherglen District, was established in 1860 by a German migrant named Fritz Ruhe.

Lunch will be at a nearby venue : to be announced.

Meet at Aldi Car Park at 10.00 am as usual.

Ring Heather & Keith Rogers : 5762 4086 by Sunday, 21st July.

*Please note: It is important for those intending to join Wine Appreciation outings to ensure that they notify the Rogers AT LEAST 3 days prior to the day, to enable catering numbers to be finalised.

Keith & Heather 5762 4086

What's On

Friday, 5 July

- 09:30 Sustainability
- 14:00 Investment

Saturday, 6 July

- 13:30 Saturday Session – Card games - 500

Monday, 8 July

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Collectors: Book-marks & Pin Cushions
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 10:00 Art Appreciation
- 14:00 Garden Team
- 14:30 Creative Writing

Tuesday, 9 July

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs
- 14:00 Brain Games

Wednesday, 10 July

- 09:00 Recorder - 'Learning New Notes'
- 09:15 Bush Walking - Mid Week Walks - Salisbury Falls Warby Ranges
- 10:00 Recorder - 'Full Group'
- 11:00 Tech Savvy Talks
- 13:30 Film and Literature – 'POMS' or 'Men in Black'
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected
*Android Devices

Thursday, 11 July

- 10:00 Harmony Group
- 13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 12 July

- 10:00 Music Appreciation

Monday, 15 July

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 14:00 Program Group - Timetable
- 16:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 16 July

- 10:00 History - After the Victorians
- 14:00 Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 17 July

- 10:00 Meet and Mingle
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected
*Android Devices

Thursday, 18 July

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 19 July

- 09:30 Sustainability
- 11:45 Chat n' Chew
- 12:30 Tech Savvy Projects - Community Projects

Saturday, 20 July

- 13:30 Saturday Session – Card games - 500

Monday, 22 July

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 13:30 As Time Goes By 'Your different drummer'
- 15:10 Writing and Publishing Memoirs

Tuesday, 23 July

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs
- 13:00 Beginners Patchwork

Wednesday, 24 July

- 10:00 Recorder
- 10:00 Wine Appreciation – Jones Winery & Vineyard, Rutherglen
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected -
*Android Devices

Thursday, 25 July

- 10:00 Garden Appreciation* Winter Program at U3A
- 13:00 Tech Savvy Projects - Family History
- 15:00 Tech Savvy Talks at the Northo

Friday, 26 July

- 10:00 Music Appreciation

Monday, 29 July

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 14:00 Garden Team

Tuesday, 30 July

- 09:30 Beginners Patchwork

Wednesday, 31 July

- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected -
*Android Devices

Thursday, 1 August

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 2 August

- 09:30 Sustainability
- 14:00 Investment

Saturday, 3 August

- 13:30 Saturday Session – Card Games - 500

Monday, 5 August

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 10:00 Art Appreciation
- 13:30 Games
- 16:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 6 August

- 10:00 E-Book Group
- 10:00 Stock and Land
- 12:00 Beginners' Patchwork
- 14:00 Armchair Traveller
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 7 August

- 09:00 Bushwalking - Easy Walks - Glenrowan