



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – July 2022

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Please send reports for the newsletter to newsletter.u3abenalla@gmail.com by 25 Jul 2022

President's Report

We are really pleased that the Benalla Rural City Council have installed the Projector in the main auditorium of the Benalla Senior's Centre during the past month. U3A Benalla originally asked for a Community Grant for this piece of equipment in March 2021 and were delighted when the Council took responsibility for the full cost of the equipment as everyone using the Benalla Seniors Centre could benefit from the projector.

However, COVID shutdowns and lack of availability of equipment has meant that it has only been installed during the past month.

During June we had a visit from Martina Ryan from U3A Network Victoria. Martina was visiting several U3A's in North East Victoria, and spent an hour with four members of our committee. Her message was that Network are there to support member U3A's such as Benalla and outlined a variety of aspects that Network could assist us with.

Armchair Traveller is going into recess as people haven't been allowed to travel during the last two years of lockdowns. I would like to thank Ray O'Shannessy for his organisation of the group during the past six years since he took over from the late John Avery. The variety of places shown has been quite remarkable.

Armchair History's 'Tudors' theme is drawing to a close during Semester II, with a small group beginning to work on an Australian History course for next year.

Meg Dillon's semester length 'Russian Literature' course has ended—thank you so much, Meg, for designing and presenting another thought provoking, interesting course for U3A Benalla.

James Harrison, a Ukulele teacher, is our guest speaker at Meet and Mingle on Wednesday 20 July at 10am in our U3A room. James will outline his experiences as a ukulele teacher and will play a few songs for us. He has even agreed to a little Community Singing if the audience would like that. So, for a fun filled Wednesday morning, come along to Meet and Mingle on 20 July. Everyone is welcome.

Margaret Jenkins

President

New Course - 'The Sky's the Limit'

Commencing on Tuesday 2nd August from 2 to 4pm, our new course, *The Sky's the Limit*, is for those with an interest in gliding, flying, the history of aviation, with past lives involving aircraft in some way. Sessions will include guest speakers with backgrounds in aviation and stories to tell, the occasional excursion and more. Class members will play an active role in suggesting & deciding upon monthly session topics/expeditions.

Interested? For information, contact Claire at rudolphclaire@bigpond.com or 0428 151 750—or simply call Len Jeffers on 0407 199 247 to ask him to add your name to the class list, or sign in on the day!!

Group Reports

Armchair History

Our theme, 'Tudors - Power and Religion' is coming to an end, with planning for a new course in Australian History next year to proceed in earnest when classes finish. A small group is already undertaking research for this course. If you would like to be involved, speak to me during class or call me on 0427621700.

Terry Case

Art Appreciation



At our June 'First Monday' we were lucky to listen to a lecture by art conservation expert Robyn Sloggett on Art Restoration. We do not often recognise that restoration and repair can have the excitement that avant-garde Art has. But, in this lecture, we were enlightened.

Restoration and Repair are very important and can be extremely interesting. Victoria has a large collection of Indigenous artifacts, and these have to be maintained. For instance, did you know that Captain Cook collected a large amount of cloth from all over the Pacific on his travels. Cook was interested in most things, no matter how mundane. We were shown examples of both of these extremely interesting collections.

At our next First Monday on the 4th July at 10 am we will hear a talk by 2021 Archibald Prize winner Peter Wegner, coinciding with his exhibition [The Centenarians](#) in the Simpson Gallery.

Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By'

On 'Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery' this week Marcia Hines described her mother as having a wise saying for every occasion. 'Wise sayings' became the prompt for our icebreaker – the stories shared were precious!

We moved on to read a beautifully written Facebook post by writer Arnold Zable which began '*Election Day. May 21, Mid Afternoon. I make my way to Canning Street, Carlton North...*'. Bev explained how using Arnold's post as a prompt and model had encouraged her to write in a more creative way for this month's topic 'Causes' -- '*Election Day. May 21. 7.45 am. I make my way from Benalla to the Tatong Polling Booth, ...*'

Carmyl's 'Cause', '*The Multi-Cultural Program*' was triggered when chatting to a young Japanese woman who had married a local and had lived in her town for four years - "I walk down the street and nobody notices me. They think I'm a tourist. It's as though I'm invisible."

Jenny's 'causes' related to activism in fighting for the staff '*Car Park*' at the Benalla Hospital and, as a parent of primary age school children, acting when '*The Raison d'Etre for 15 Mile Creek Camp was threatened*'.

New member Graham combined 'Causes' and the alternative topic 'Rebellion' in '*A Rebel with a Cause*', a story about conscription set in the Vietnam War era which left us all desperate to find out 'what happened next'! Ray's story of rebellion involved his adhering to ethical principles despite a power imbalance. Bev then delved into the archives, sharing Elizabeth Kearns' delightful story of a childhood rebellion in Ireland.

Catch up stories were also shared, Jenny reading her poem '*Trees*' and Bev Morton her 'prose poem' on 'Community' with the mysterious title '*We Only Meet On Dark Nights*'. We look forward to more catch-up stories being shared in July, including Marg's 'Causes' story on refugees and Barry's story of 'Rebellion'.



Our topic for July is 'Ritual'... "Write about a memorable ritual event in your life (or in which you were involved)- it could be a 21st, making a debut; engagement, wedding, child 's christening, first communion, confirmation or other cultural milestone Why did you choose this particular ritual to write about? What is there about it that is so memorable for you".

The alternate topic is 'Memories Treasure Chest' (1) Create/Draw upon an 'Memories Treasure Chest' in a shoe/other box containing objects and artefacts such as maps, menus, theatre programs, an old report card, vials of perfume, a garment, treasured photographs, a souvenir, an expired passport...(2) Select two items from the treasure chest as creative prompts – what do they mean to you? What were you doing, why; what were you thinking at the time this object related to your life? (250 words for each object)

On a final note, during the session we shared Carmyl's excitement at her son Michael Winkler's shortlisting for the Miles Franklin Literary Award for his book 'Grimmish'. We wish him well!

Bev Lee

Be Connected



This month we explored the Google Earth App. The Unit, 'Exploring Google Earth', is found in the Online Hobbies Section.... 'Google Earth is a computer program that's like an interactive digital atlas. It shows you the whole planet, right down to your own house.' Be Connected's The Google Earth Program gives you information about places and links to find out more.

You can plot distances on maps and view in various modes. It must be remembered that none of the real-life images are in real time. They are satellite images taken beforehand - sometimes years ago. So, over the course of two weeks, we familiarised ourselves with Google Earth and went searching and exploring the earth.

And yes, we all found our current and sometimes a previous house that we had lived in.

Jenny Sawyer

Brain Games

This is not for softies as gears and cogs grind almost audibly while we search for neuronal pathways unused for years or in the process of making connections.

Luckily the brain has no pain receptors and enjoys being prompted to improve service provision!

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalking – Easy Walks

Victoria Lake to Shepparton Botanic Gardens: Sadly, the weather defeated us for this walk, with forecasts of hail and strong winds causing us to cancel. The walk has been rescheduled to August, details below.

Wednesday 6th July: Murchison

This walk will begin with a drive to Murchison and an exploration of Riverbank Gardens and Boardwalk. We will then follow the trail along the Goulburn River before taking another track leading to the water's edge, and return the same way, resulting in a walk of 4km. Lunch will be at the Murchison Bakery. For those wishing to continue walking a further 2km, we will meander to the historic cemetery to visit the Italian Ossario, noted for its historic and aesthetic significance.

We will meet at the Seniors' carpark, Fawckner Drive, at 9.30, to leave at 9.45. Please confirm with Glen by Monday 4th July on 0431201077 or gchess@hotmail.com. Remember to bring snacks, a drink and comfortable shoes.

Wednesday 3rd August: Victoria Lake to Shepparton Botanic Gardens

This rescheduled walk will take us along the Goulburn River at Shepparton, starting at Victoria Lake, crossing the new suspension bridge, and enjoying a picnic lunch in the Shepparton Botanic Gardens. Approximately 8km return, the walk is alongside the Goulburn and Broken rivers with plenty of shorter walks to explore in the Gardens including the beautiful Honeysuckle Rise lookout.

We will leave the Seniors' carpark at 9.30 am. Please confirm with Glen by Monday 1st August - BYO picnic lunch.

Car sharing for all walks is usually available, for a small contribution.

Glen Chessells, Julie McNeill

Chat n' Chew

Our June lunch at Kim Wah was a very enjoyable get together with lots of chatter around the table.

July's lunch is at the **Northern Eastern Hotel**, 12 noon Friday 15th July.

For bookings ring Dorothy 0412263071. Catering numbers will be given to the Northo on Wednesday 13th July.

Dorothy Webber

Coin Collectors

Five Members attended our June Coin Collectors meeting while apologies were received from 3 members..

An interesting array of coins was presented and discussed amongst our members and included:

- A 1970 Captain Cook uncirculated 50 cent piece in its original coin case.
- An old Indian coin from the East India Company.
- A unique high quality RAM medallion.
- A 2022 colored \$2 honey bee coin and the 2021 colored \$1Ginger Meggs coin set. These uncirculated coloured coins are very attractive and popular with collectors.
- A rare pre-decimal set of five florins in the original folder.
- A commemorative collection of recently released QE2 Platinum Jubilee 50 cent coins. These are beautiful specimens and unique because of the limited mintage of 7,500.
- A 1988 50 cent piece highlighting the magnificent detail on this coin from the range of 50 cent designs.
- A golden guitar 50 cent piece celebrating 50th anniversary of the Tamworth Country Music Festival.
- An uncirculated 4-coin dinosaur set of \$1 coins with privy marks.

To add some fun and educational interest to our meeting a coin trivia questionnaire was held among those attending with some interesting results, including a perfect score of 10 out of 10.

Our next meeting will include viewing a YouTube video from PJ's Coin Capers.

Doug Smith

Collectors



The theme for our June gathering was salt and pepper shakers and cruet sets; a variety of interesting items were shown and discussed.

A cat lover had four salt and pepper sets featuring cats – all were gifts received at a work Kris Kringle. There was a set of baby deer salt and pepper shakers won on the spinning wheel at the Benalla show many, many years ago.

Many will remember the traditional cut glass cruet sets from years ago. One set had salt and pepper shakers and a mustard pot; there was another similar set that also included two small bottles for vinegar.

Silver salt and pepper shakers were shown, along with a salt cellar with a tiny spoon.

At our meeting on the Monday 4th July, we will be looking for “drinking vessels”, glasses, mugs, tankards, steins, etc. We look forward to you joining our group on that date at 10.00am.

Janet Gourley

Community Singing

Community Singing in the warm Hub at Cooina was enjoyed by all who attended. We were amazed by Brian Greed's ability to play such a variety of songs without any music, and to keep the vocal cords of everyone there well exercised.

Brian chose songs from our regular Song Book 1 for the first session and followed this in the second session with songs from Sammy's Song Book No 1. The participants seemed to really appreciate the variety of Irish, Scottish and Australian songs in Sammy's Song Book.

The next Community Singing will be on Thursday 28 July at 10am in the Hub at Cooina. All welcome.

Margaret Jenkins

Creative Writing

We need to carve out the time to write. For some of us this starts at the beginning of the month; for others, the deadline is what drives them to write. Perhaps some of us are thinking during the month but only put pen to paper (or is that fingers to keyboard) as the deadline approaches. Even so, we are still sharing many differing stories each month.

At the class this month we discussed some questions on writing. Should we plan out our stories, or just start writing? Both approaches are valid. There are terms used for the approaches – planners or pantsers. The meaning of planners is obvious. Pantsers are those who write “by the seat of their pants”. In other words, they have a vague idea and just start writing. The story takes its own path – it does not abide by any rules set down by the author. But this can happen to planners as well.

Another topic discussed was the practice of some authors to move around in time. This can only work if very well written. If not well written it can be either distracting or totally unreadable.

Our challenge:

Often you can add just one letter to the start or end of a word to create a new word. Our challenge this month involved looking at a series of such pairs. For example, using the clues “You find lots of these in a book / Knights wield them” you find the answers “words/swords”.

For our written work to share with the class there were three prompts:

- **Mind the gap**
- **Appearances are often deceiving**
- **The sound of shattering glass**

Of the stories this month, the shattering glass seemed to be the most popular topic, although all were used. We had a romance writer being hacked by a wicked “ghost”, turning her books into pornography by subtly changing a letter or word. One of the shattering glass stories was a kangaroo entering an empty house; another was breaking of a “fine-cut, expensive, and satisfyingly heavy, Scotch glass”. There was even one using the “mind the gap” prompt that showed how many ways and places the term has been used. Another month of interesting and creative writing.

As well as the creative stories, we had a couple of pieces on writing. One was the use of body parts as idioms – ‘my brain hurts’, ‘apple of one’s eye’ and so on. The other was around how many people who write are loath to call themselves writers because they are unpublished. Actors, artists and musicians for example are proud to claim their skills, so why are writers not recognised in the same way as amateurs in the other arts.

The topics for our **11 July** class are:

- **The caravan slowed to a cumbersome stop**
- **She sat on the tram, unable to make eye contact**
- **I ran away from home when I was ten**

We are always ready to welcome new storytellers to the class!

Joy Shirley

Exercises for Fun

Are you feeling the cold these mornings? Feeling sluggish? Get energised! Warm up! Come along to our Exercise class and warm up for the remainder of the day!

We begin warming up at 9.30am on Monday’s, in Senior’s Hall. See you there! Have fun!

Helen Jeffree

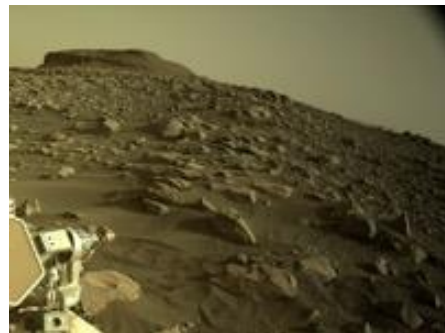
Exploring the Universe

The Planet Mars as we had never seen it before.

Instead of the aerial views from orbiting spacecraft high above the planet, in June we saw higher quality film taken at ground level from NASA’s Perseverance Rover that has been exploring Jezero Crater for the past year. It showed a dry barren, desert world, with rocky ground, mountains and ravines.

We were also shown former rivers and lake beds for Mars in its early years was like Earth with water in abundance. The planet appeared very earth like but being completely devoid of vegetation, to us earthlings also somewhat alien and apocalyptic.

Perseverance is fitted with 16 cameras and two microphones. We listened to the sound of the wind on Mars, to the clank of the rover's metal wheels driving over rocks and its laser zapping rocks for analysis. All relayed to orbiters above the planet, then on to scientists on Earth.



NASA's quest is to find signs of previous microbial life in the rocks of a delta in Jezero crater. There would not have been time for further development before Mars's atmosphere was stripped by the solar wind because of the loss of the planet's magnetism. Conditions then became unsuitable for life to develop further. (*Sorry, no little green men!*)

Mars is tilted, so has seasons. Dust devils dance across the landscape in summer. Escalating winds cause massive dust storms that can engulf the whole planet for months. Known as the Red Planet it is rusting due to iron oxide in the rocks and soil.

As there is no thick atmosphere to trap the Sun's heat, temperatures range from minus 125 C to minus 60 C. Its atmosphere now contains 96% carbon dioxide. The gravity on Mars is about one third that of Earths. References NASA.

Explore Mars Jezero Crater with NASA's Perseverance Rover

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

Open Mic on Mars. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ws1yk9UljC0>

Bev Morton

Family Research

This month, guest speaker Dawn Stephens spoke about using the My Heritage 'Book' feature to produce a book for her husband, children and grandchildren. Dawn described the processes involved, including changing the My Heritage report from pdf to word; the online printing firm she chose, features selected, the cost involved and more. Dawn used a creased photograph of herself as a child to demonstrate My Heritage's photo 'restoration' feature. We had such a laugh when Dawn also applied the 'animation' feature to her photo! Thank you for an engaging and informative presentation, Dawn!

In our *Pains and Gains, Tips and Tricks* segment,

- Malcolm described the processes involved in updating lettering on family headstones and plaques. He spoke about the requirements to provide documents relating to ancestors and self and to sign a Statutory Declaration for the Cemetery Trust as proof of the right to update the plaques. He also stressed the need to involve family & recommended taking photos of the text on headstones, as it can fade over time. Estimated cost? \$150 per headstone. Stonemason = approx. \$350.
- Deb described the 'pain' of having great difficulty finding birth records for the youngest three of her maternal great-great grandmother's six children, however also described a 'gain' via Ancestry, resulting in her now having a name for a previously unidentified g-g-grand aunt in a family photo.
- Marg reported locating an Ancestry family tree which includes her great grandfather, Percy Watson, and confirms a death location in Paris. Options suggested by the Embassy in Paris will hopefully assist her to find his death certificate & burial place.
- Andi shared a family tree diagram she has designed to include in a book for her siblings. We agreed she had achieved her goal of 'including as much information as possible without being cluttered'.
- New member Graham Jensen described having pleasing results using local researchers, most recently in Denmark, in lieu of travelling.
- Graeme Morris, keen to develop a 'glossary' of terms, suggested "typing 'amp' for quick access to the Ampersand symbol. Remember that ampersand is also code".
- Jane, an extremely busy volunteer Secretary of Benalla Family Research, said her gain this month was finally finding time to write her first story for our class!

In our Family Stories segment on 'Myth Busting' or a previous topic, members described

- how finding out that their mother wasn't the oldest child in her family shattered a long-held myth.
- recent research which has resulted in a fascinating hypothesis, however also the concern that 'putting it out there' might create yet another myth!
- how 'calling a friend' helped to gain some clarity about a family myth about the existence of an extremely wealthy relative.
- a family myth that a great, great grandfather was a Ship's Captain (busted) and an 'East India Man' (almost certainly true),

Marg wrote a Eulogy for her great grandmother, Josephine Moore, who experienced the tragic loss of two young children and an adult son, William Leopold Moore. William disappeared in 1906 after going to the races. His body was never found, which had implications for family Wills and caused unresolved grief.

July's family story topic is '*There's No Place Like Home*'. The brief? 'Describe a family tree related home you remember from your childhood or that you have located in your research – where was it, who lived in it, what were your childhood impressions of it if you knew it/as you look at it through a 'family history lens? What has become of it?'

We are thrilled that a new Australian season of '*Who do you think you are?*' is underway - Tuesdays 7.30 pm SBS/SBS on Demand. Highly recommended viewing!

Bev Lee and Jane Rushworth

Family Research – Beginners

This month the small group class reviewed the goals and focus areas they had written down when entering the course and felt comfortable that they had made good progress.

In our *Pains and Gains* segment, Val reported working with tech savvy family members so that her writing up of family history saved in Word many years ago isn't lost. The shipping record for 'Irish John' Hernan remains elusive, however Val now knows more about his early years in Australia. Julie reported greater luck with shipping records, demonstrating quickly finding the shipping list she was looking for in South Australian Shipping Records. Knowing the name of the ship was a great help! Helen is awaiting DNA results and resolving family mysteries concerning her biological grandfather and adoptive brother. Dawn has continued to find documents which add depth to her research, and in one of our sessions shared her enthusiasm and expertise in using My Heritage with the group.

Judy Barry introduced photo restoration this month, describing the work she had done on restoring a series of old photos. We talked about Paint as an accessible tool for those who don't have access to Photoshop; then, at Dawn's suggestion, checked out the new photo restoration feature in My Heritage.

Bev shared a Trove newspaper extract citing the bravery of her great grand uncle, Port Phillip shipping pilot, Captain Henry Taylor, in acting to save the lives of the passengers and crew of the vessel *Earl of Charlemont* in 1852. Mentor Judy Barry suddenly exclaimed ... 'My ancestors were on the shipwreck of the *Earl of Charlemont*!!!' What a coincidence!

It has been a most enjoyable semester working with the small group class; working one to one with beginners commencing their family tree and working alongside mentors Judy Barry and Barry O'Connor.

Bev Lee

Film Discussion Group

With Winter upon us, the numbers in the class were down this month. We discussed only one film – ***Downton Abbey: A new Era***.

Generally, we found the film watchable. This was a feel-good film with no bad actor or character. Not everyone had seen the television series or the previous film. Because of the range of underlying stories that were based on previous events it did not stand alone well. For others who had seen the earlier film, this was thought to be superior.

The main actors are Michelle Dockery (Lady Mary), Maggie Smith (Dowager Violet Grantham), Hugh Bonneville (Robert Grantham) and Elizabeth McGovern (Cora Grantham). As the Dowager, Maggie Smith,

was a real presence, although her physical appearances were not as frequent as in previous shows. It was her story that dominated some of the scenes even though she was not present. One of her classic and true to character statements was “do I look like someone who would turn down a Villa in France?”

The more minor characters were all important to the story as it unfolded. The actors maintained their characters well, with appropriate growth in maturity. The film did provide some tidying up of stories for some of the characters.

The cinematography at the start seemed to be over the top, with a wedding that did not mean much for anyone who was not familiar with the background to the characters. There were a couple of scenes that were not quite as expected. For example, while on a motorboat, there was no indication of wind, with hats not moving and hair not blowing as would be expected. In discussing the soundtrack we decided it was fitting, with no intrusion and not particularly notable.

Our next film class is on **13 July**. We will be discussing the film *Operation Mincemeat*. This is based on a true operation that took place in World War II.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation



What a wonderful outing we had in June, even though it was a rainy and cold day. Firstly, we visited St. Matthew Anglican Church in Albury which was burnt down in November 1991 and has now been restored to its original beauty. Apart from some small changes, such as using pane glass (for extra light and better connection with the garden outside) instead of stained-glass windows, it was a very pleasant experience.

We then paid a visit to Adamshurst Mansion and Gardens in Albury (see photos below). What a hidden gem. Not only the building and gardens, but also the owners of the property, St Matthew's Father Peter and his mother Sandra MacLeod-Miller. Following a variety of activities in its life such as Albury High School Girls' Hostel and a restaurant and function centre, Adamshurst was taken over by the Airforce in 1944 and a Rehabilitation and Day Care Centre in 1978. It is once again a residence and now also a concert venue. The restoration of the gardens has begun, with plantings of crepe myrtle (Indian Lilacs--sometimes called the Pride of India), prytus callryana, magnolias, Wollemia Pine, Bunya Bunya Pine, and other plantings referencing Indian and colonial influences.

We entered the house for morning tea and were treated to a light--hearted 'history' lesson about the house by Father Peter and his mother. Since taking possession of the property, Father Peter has had the house renovated back to its original Indian period and furnished with the same influences.

The Ballroom, which contains a pipe organ from Yorkshire, has hosted some of Australia's greatest musical talents, including Greta Bradman, Sally-Anne Russell, instrumental soloists and ensembles, organists and pianists.

The Library, which has marble flooring and Florentine Blue glass leadlight windows, has recently become home to two harpsicords. We were very lucky to be able to take time to look through the rooms in the house. There was so much to see, memorabilia of Albury's musical and cultural past. Adamshurst as an artistic social and cultural hub has also held musical receptions for the now Governor General, his excellency General David Hurley and Mrs Hurley.

A new grand piano was installed for a recent concert by an up-and-coming young Australian pianist, and we were treated to a couple of tunes by Father Peter. We were also treated to some music by one of the visitors on the day, thank you, Judy.

Lunch was taken at Borella Café, followed by some therapy shopping at Peard's Nursery.

Thank you so much, Gwen, for researching and organising this wonderful outing to Albury. It was much appreciated, as is the work you put into making all the outings for the Garden Appreciation Group so interesting and informative.



Heather Wallace

Coming up -

July 28th **Floral Arrangement - 'From the Garden'** with Melissa Mounsey. If you have anything in the garden that Melissa could use, bring it along, it will be most welcome. We will meet in U3A Room at 9.45am. Please bring a small plate of morning tea to share. Tea and Coffee available for you, lunch at Royal Hotel.

As August will be **Garden Appreciation's winter break** there will no activities during that month.

On September 22nd there will be a **Bus Trip to 'The Falls' in Longwood East**, a stunning garden blooming in between a lake and a Waterfall. If you find walking around difficult, there is a lovely spot to sit.

Lunch, at own cost, will be at Seven Creeks Hotel Euroa after we have been to the falls.

The cost for the Bus, Entry to 'The Falls' garden and Morning tea is \$37.00 per person.

Bookings for Bus Trip - either phone 0438627010, or email Gwen gwenturner243@gmail.com. Money to be in by the first week in September. I will be away from 30 July to 28th August however money can be left at the RedB4 Bookshop next to Hide's Bakery in Bridge Street. Please put your name on the envelope.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team

Call us softies if you like, but in the steely chill, we called off both our June sessions and are hoping it's third time lucky when we try again on July 11th to head for 6 Tulip Street to weed and prune.

Elspeth Maconachie

German – Advanced

The German Group has returned from their imaginary trip to Germany and Austria, which included an extended session on the fifth Tuesday in May featuring 'cake and conversation'.



It is back to daily basics in the coming month. We began to use the W questions to start conversation between the members, but we have to overcome a lot of inhibitions. Practice will further that.

The keenness to learn the language is wonderful and makes it a pleasure to front up every week to present new work. I learn a lot too.

Horst Gunther

Investment

At the June meeting of Investment, we reviewed recent events which had influenced changes in the share market in the last month. These included the increase in inflation by 2.1% for the quarter, the volatility of the US market, the China downturn due to their strict COVID policy, the Reserve bank starting to increase rates and the Australian election on May 21 2022.

We noted that the Australian market was down by 5.4% for the year to date. During the past month only the Energy, Material and Industrial sectors had shown an increase overall.

We looked at the major problems facing Australia such as the huge debt that Australia has accumulated during the pandemic, rising food, petrol and energy costs which are contributing to rising inflation, climate change influences and shortage of staff in a number of areas such as hospitality, retail and engineering. We then had a discussion on how this could affect the share market in the next six months and how to cope with the current situation.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Monday 4 July 2022 at 1.30pm in the U3A room.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

A winter afternoon saw our group gather at the Seniors for a chat about what we have been reading during the cold weather. In the sharing of books, it is interesting to listen to comments on books through another's eyes. An example of this was *Scrublands* by Chris Hammond, also *The Ruling House of Monaco* and the rise and fall of the infamous *Kray Twins*. The popular reads this month were - *The Day She Disappeared*, a thriller from Christobel Kent, who also wrote *The Loving Husband*. Tea Cooper wrote *The Fossil Hunter*, historical fiction of scientific discovery and some dark secrets. *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan, a tale of life, loss and resolve. Enjoyed was *The Promise*, a Galgut novel. The Swart family descended from Dutch settlers who came to South Africa in the 17th Century, a good story about a white family and black servants. *The Most Dangerous Animal of All: Searching for my Father... and Finding the Zodiac Killer* was co-written by Gary L Stewart and Susan Mustafa, a tale of obsession, deceit and media manipulation with a real twist in the tale. A very different read, but enjoyed nevertheless, was *The Goddess Chronicle* by Natsuo Kirino, the retelling of the Japanese creation myth. Another unusual book was *The Tale of Murasaki* by Eliza Dalby, an historical novel re-imagining the life of writer Murasaki Shikibu based on her recovered Diaries. Joan delighted us with her choice of books *The Devious Book for Cats* by Joe Garden and *Cleo: How an Uppity Cat Helped Heal a Family* by Helen Brown, both thoroughly enjoyed. A blend of autobiography and memoir by Dr. Richard Shepherd on his time as a top forensic pathologist in Britain was very interesting. On the same theme, *Walking Free*, the true story of Munjed Al Muderis, a refugee to Australia from Iraq who has gone on to become a pioneering surgeon, worth the read. *The Music of Bees* by Helen Garvin, an uplifting novel about friendship. *When I Come Home Again*, by Caroline Scott, is based on a true story of love, loss and longing in the aftermath of War. Some history for our reader was *The Man Inside*, written by Graham Apthorpe, telling of the Japanese soldiers interned in a prisoner of war camp in Cowra and the bloody outbreak that followed. *A Stranger on the Beach* by Michelle Campbell, a psychological thriller, along with *Darkening Skies* by Bronwyn Parry. While we are on that theme, Patricia Cornwall got a mention with *Point of Origin and Unnatural Exposure*. It was agreed that the film of *The Drover's Wife* differed from the book. Monty Roberts, known as *The Man Who Listens to Horses Talks to People*, has written his book *Horse Sense for People*. Monty is well known in his field and advocates with both people and horses that the gentle way is the better way.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

Our games continue to fluctuate between full and half court, as we adjust to varying numbers with the colder weather. Luckily, Lifeball is an adaptable game, and we continue to manage some great exercise and some laughs. If you've always enjoyed team sports, or even if you've never been involved in any, come and join us as we warm up (pictured below) then play a walking pace ballgame weekly at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre, with a warming cuppa, biscuit and chat afterwards.

Coordinator Marlene Pitts is available for further information on 0407240943 or come along at 10am Mondays. Players are also asked to advise Marlene if they will be away.



Julie McNeill

Meditation

Both Caroline and Heather were convenors of the two sessions this month. U3A members are most welcome to be part of this group which is held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 12.00noon to 1.00pm. It is a time to relax both our body and mind and enjoy the serenity that meditation brings.

Heather Wallace

Meet and Mingle

Claire Birch from Indigo Power, spoke about community energy hubs at Meet and Mingle in June.

“Our purpose is, to enable a society that is powered by 100% renewable energy, in a way that supports and empowers communities,” Claire said.

She said about \$160 million paid out of our region alone in electricity bills, was pretty alarming money that could be better paid to local energy providers.

Claire said Indigo Power was community owned by shareholders and most of its work was in North Eastern Victoria and southern NSW through 95 energy hubs, including Benalla.

“With your help, we’re building community energy hubs in towns across this area. We’ve partnered with 15 community energy groups, from Albury to Seymour, to deliver clean energy solutions, community energy hubs, and local renewable generation and storage”, she said.

Customers with solar panels generate the energy that other customers can use, or Indigo Power will generate it at its community-owned solar power systems, she said.

Claire said even people who don’t have solar panels, can still be important participants in a community’s energy hub, and be able to have their electricity supplied by Indigo Power.

Indigo Power is a community of energy users and creators. “Join in by signing up to your community energy hub with our electricity plan. Together we can power our region with 100% renewable energy,” she said.

David Palmer

James Harrison, a Ukulele teacher, is our guest speaker at Meet and Mingle on Wednesday 20 July at 10am in our U3A room. James will outline his experiences as a ukulele teacher and will play a few songs for us. He has even agreed to a little Community Singing if the audience would like that. So, for a fun filled Wednesday morning, come along to Meet and Mingle on 20 July. Everyone is welcome.

Margaret Jenkins

Music Appreciation

Hippocrates once said: “the art is long, but life is short”. What he meant is “It takes a long time to acquire the experience necessary to be a master”. The lives and music of some composers would demonstrate how that is not always the case. Here, it could be said that life is short, but the art lives for ever. Of the eight composers whose works we heard in the month of June, four of them died early in life: Schubert (31), Mozart (35), Chopin (39) and Beethoven (57). All four lived in the 100 year period from 1728 to 1828, yet their music seems to be immortal. Of the other four, their ages and music output covered a wider time frame (Corelli was 60 when he died, Grieg 64, Rachmaninoff 70, and Haydn 75) - nearly 300 years from 1653 - 1943. The two youngest were the most prolific in terms of their compositional life – Schubert with some 1500 works to

his name and Mozart perhaps about 1000, although only a little over 600 have been catalogued to date. You can read more about them, the works selected, and listen to the recordings, by turning up the [Music Appreciation](#) page on our U3A website.

Bill Squire

Page Turners

Page Turners has reached the mid-year point, with '*The Midnight Library*' (Matt Haig), '*The Lincoln Highway*' (Amor Towles); '*What Alice Forgot*' (Lianne Moriarty); '*The Promise*' (Damon Galgut); '*The Survivors*' (Jane Harper); '*Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*' (Gail Honeyman); and '*The Keeper of Lost Things*' (Ruth Hogan) discussed during Semester 1.

Semester 2 begins on Tuesday 5th July with '*The Tolstoy Estate*' by Steven Conte. '1941 - the German army sets up a field hospital in Tolstoy's former estate. The small Russian staff is not cowed by their presence.'

For more information, contact Meg on 5762 6558.

Meg Dillon

Patchwork

With the cold weather a small group of dedicated workers has been meeting and showing their talents

July will see a start of a our new '*Floating Star*' mini quilt project--we plan to have some of this work on display in November,



Dorothy Webber

Play Reading

The cooler weather, COVID, travel, and other commitments saw a small group at our Play Reading this month. The chosen play, '*Move Over Mrs Markham*', was a challenge, as the smaller number of members often read the parts of two characters. However, this did not detract from the play, it added to the hilarity!

The play was set in the flat belonging to Mr and Mrs Markham, who were to be out for the evening. In their absence several illicit rendezvous were planned at the flat, unbeknown to each couple.

The complications and intricacies which followed when each pair of hopeless lovers converged in the bedroom of the Markham's, creating chaos, deception and much laughter. Fast exits and arrivals added to the confusion, not just in the play but with the readers! All agreed it would be a great play on stage but did not prove as effective when simply read.

As we move into the second half of the year, we are so fortunate to have a variety of live performances available in Benalla and Wangaratta. David Hobson performed at BPACC in June and a monologue, Ned Kelly's Mother, was held at the historic Benalla Court House last weekend. A fantastic show, "[The World of Musicals](#)" will be performed at Wangaratta PAC on July 9th, before its Melbourne season.

Keep warm, keep well and look forward to our next play in July.

Jenny McKenna

Politics and Current Affairs

Our group has explored many areas of politics during our sessions this month. The Teals and how they would operate in Parliament – as a joint voice or as individuals as they presented to the electorate. The loss of power by the Liberal Party and how they will attempt to recover from their defeat, will they attempt to move in a different political direction, when will they become an effective opposition party.

The current situation with the Aging population of Australia, the NDIS, the changes to the local Age providers following the withdrawal of Federal funding.

We also looked at American politics and way the country is being torn apart, with the recent Gun Legislation and the overturning the Abortion legislation Roe v Wade.

Also, the British Parliament was also delved into, with Boris Johnson again surviving a vote of no confidence. The terrible Ukrainian war that is currently taking place was also discussed in depth.

It was a very interesting month of politics.

Heather Wallace

Recorder Group

Over the last couple of months, we have been playing some pieces that have more complicated arrangements, especially rhythmically. This presents extra challenges for a group of players, but it is so rewarding when it all comes together beautifully. It involves careful listening and great awareness of the whole group. Great life skills to be practising!

Well done and thank you to all the hard-working players.

Janet Douglas

Russian Literature

Our June meeting was cancelled due to me isolating because of a covid contact.

The Master and Margarite is a thinly disguised parody of the Stalinist years, banned for many years in Russia. Unable to directly criticize the regime, the author instead debunked the main Literary and Theatre's organising bodies.

Only their officials were allowed in good restaurants, had pleasant flats in Moscow and country houses. In part2 an unrelated old European myth was reprised of two of the main characters becoming witches and attending a Witches Sabbath. Stalin as Satan?

Not a book for the faint hearted, but if you are curious about the Stalin years you might take a look.

Meg Dillon

Saturday Cards – 500

Saturday cards are held the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 1.30pm – 3.30pm, in the U3a room at the Senior Citizens facility. Come along, you will be most welcome.

Heather Wallace

Singing for Fun



What a wonderful variety of songs we have had during June. Carmyl chose some songs of conflict as well songs of peace and lovely lilting melodies such as "All Through the Night". In one session Brian chose several Seekers songs which are always enjoyed, while Kieran and Margaret have chosen a range of bright cheery songs. Gwen as always has been helpful with providing great musical accompaniment.

We are pleased to report that Margaret Merriman is recovering well from COVID apart from the fact that her voice is still affected. We are very hopeful that she will be back for the next session of Singing for Fun.

We had a visit from David Palmer and Bev Lee at our third session of the month as we are hoping some publicity will encourage other singers to join our group in Semester 2. Our Leaders put quite a deal of effort into the songs they choose for their segments and at the Hub we have good acoustics, a warm environment and a great place to meet.

So, if you would like to Sing for Fun come and join us at the Hub at Cooina on the first three Thursday mornings of the month at 10am. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7 July 2022.



Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

Of 700 wild dogs Scott Stow and his 17 state-wide colleagues have caught recently in Victoria, only 20 per cent were identified as dingoes; the rest were crossbreds.

Based at Whitfield for two and a half years, a village that is pretty central for his dog catching operations, Scott is employed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

He told Stock and Land he uses two dogs of his own to detect where wild dogs have marked their territory. Then he largely uses those detections to determine where he places his rubber jawed foothold traps.

He even caught one of his own dogs but was able to find and release it after a couple of hours. With a week's recuperation, the dog was able to resume detection duties.

Scott said a major hazard of the job was the number of traps, cameras and dogs that are stolen by bushwalkers and others. Sometimes the thieves are captured by a \$300 camera and when that happens with clear pictures, Scott refers the pictures to police.

Asked why dogs were stolen from traps, Scott reminded us that each wild dog scalp attracts a \$120 payment from the Victorian government. When he catches a dog, he takes a sample for DNA testing, weighs it, and if it's a bitch, estimates roughly how many pups it has had.

Scott said he and fellow wild dog experts could only work 3km into Crown land from private property. That meant there was a vast area of forest where many wild dogs were virtually untouched. He said he and his colleagues were barely keeping a lid on wild dog numbers and the only ones they tackled, were dogs attacking farm animals.

Our Stock and Land speaker for on Tuesday 5th July at 10 am will be Warwick Bone. He will talk about permaculture and holistic farming in some depth.



David Palmer

Sustainability

The Sustainability Group met on the 4th and 18th of June. At our first session we looked at various attempts to value biodiversity. In Australia we generally measure our 'wealth' in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is a purely a measure of economic performance of various industry and service sectors within our economy. Many people are concerned that this measure takes little or no account of environmental or social aspects of our society. Some countries have begun moving away from GDP to a more comprehensive and inclusive measure of social wellbeing. In our session we looked at some attempts at establishing systems for valuing environmental attributes. Two we considered were the Wentworth Group system of environmental accounting and the United Nations 'system of environmental-economic accounting', the latter being worked on by the governments of Australia.

In our second session we had two topics to discuss. The first dealt with the megatrends that the world is facing. Megatrends are macroeconomic and geostrategic forces that are shaping the world. Presently most pundits see the key issues we face in the long term as being clearly in the sustainability basket; climate change, natural resource scarcity, population growth, pollution, waste and a circular economy amongst others. Our second topic concerned the land use planning and development system, in particular how, and whether, it can protect good quality agricultural land from being converted to non-agricultural forms of land use.

John Lane

Tech Savvy Beginners – Android

During June we covered:

- What a URL means (Uniform Resource Locator).
- How to copy & paste from the Internet & Word Documents.
- What ctrl C (copy) & ctrl P (paste) means.
- Shopping online using SnapFish.
- Importing photos into SnapFish to make gifts.
- What are Cookies.
- Different Web Browsers eg Chrome, Safari & Edge.
- How can I block ads on web pages?
- Cookies and why am I asked to accept them?
- Everything you need to know about scams.



Robyn Lukey

Tech Savvy Beginners – Device ‘Lending Library’

Do you have a friend of who lacks confidence in using modern devices? Would you be happy to mentor them to develop their confidence in using an iPad or Android tablet? We have devices available to lend. Having a friend as a mentor can be a very reassuring way to develop skills on new devices. Support via our Be Connected & Tech Savvy Beginners courses would be available.

Interested? Please call Jenny (Apple devices) on 0409 545 182 or Robyn (Android devices) on 0403 164 931.

Tech Talks

Neville was unavoidably absent in June, but we soldiered on & discussed Small Modular Nuclear Reactors. We found there were fifty products under development or licensed in ten countries using six technologies. We discussed the technologies, including light water reactors (current generation three technology), Molten Salt Reactors, High Temperature Gas Reactors and Sodium Fast Reactors.

This later group are generation four reactors and more next decade technology, although they have been in development dating back to the 1950-60s.

Generation three reactors are inefficient in the use of uranium ore. They generally use fissile U235 which is only 1% of uranium ore while non fissile U238 is 99%. Consequently, there is long term nuclear waste to be carefully stored.

Generation four reactors are much more efficient, able to burn nuclear waste from generation three reactors and in some cases transmute U238 to fuel within a reactor, eventually leaving a small amount of very short-term nuclear waste.

Les Rodgers

Wine Appreciation

“June's visit was to Baileys Winery, which is now owned by Australian family company, Casella Wines. Seated at a long table inside the historic Cellar Door, beside the welcome open fire, we were treated to a long, leisurely Wine Tasting, under the tutelage of young Dylan. From the long list of excellent Baileys Reds and Fortifieds, some of which have won prestigious awards, the tastings offered were much appreciated by the group. The two Baileys Muscats were utterly luscious, especially the Rare Old Muscat!

After this relaxing event, we drove into Glenrowan to lunch at the cosy Vintage Cafe, where we chose from the menu, waited on by friendly staff. “ Bev Thornell



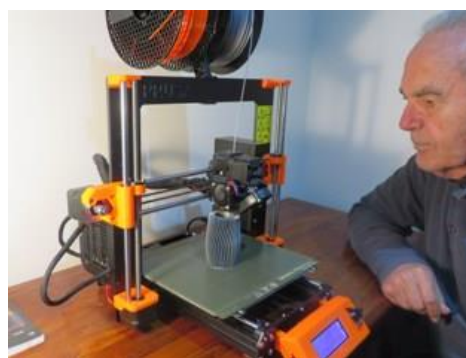
Next month on 27th July we are off to [Fowles Winery](#), Lambing Gully Road, Avenel, for tastings and lunch. Meet in the car park behind Aldi's at 10.00 a.m.

RSVP's by Sunday 24th July to phone/text 0428 696 408 or email nicnakmac90@gmail.com.

Nicole McFarlane

Other news this month...

Tech Talks member, Len Jeffers, reports printing a vase from his new 3D printing machine, a present from his children.



Andi Stevenson posted recently on Facebook that the Recorder Group recently added a Base Recorder to their instrument collection!



What's On

Friday, 1 July

10:00 Sustainability

Monday, 4 July

09:30 Exercises for Fun

10:00 Collectors – 'Drinking Vessels'

10:00 Lifeball

10:00 Art Appreciation – Peter Wegner, 'The Centenarians'

12:00 Meditation

13:30 Investment

14:00 Let's Talk Books

Tuesday, 5 July

10:00 Page Turners

10:00 Stock and Land – 'Permaculture'

12:15 German - Advanced

Wednesday, 6 July

09:30 Easy Walks - Murchison

09:30 Play Reading

14:00 Be Connected

Thursday, 7 July

10:00 Singing for Fun

10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android

13:00 Family Research - Beginners

13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 8 July

10:00 Music Appreciation

14:00 Armchair History

Saturday, 9 July

13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 11 July

09:30 Exercises for Fun

10:00 Lifeball

14:00 Creative Writing

14:00 Garden Team

Tuesday, 12 July

10:00 Politics and Current Affairs

12:15 German - Advanced

14:00 Tech Talks

Wednesday, 13 July

10:00 Recorder Group

13:30 'A Taste of Art'

14:00 Be Connected

14:00 Film Discussion– 'Operation Mincemeat'

Thursday, 14 July

10:00 Singing for Fun

10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android

13:00 Family Research - Beginners

13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 15 July

10:00 Sustainability

12:00 Chat 'n Chew – 'The Northo'

Monday, 18 July

09:30 Exercises for Fun

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10:00 Lifeball

12:00 Meditation

13:30 Coin Collectors

Tuesday, 19 July

10:00 The News - Fact or Fiction

12:15 German - Advanced

14:00 Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 20 July

10:00 Meet and Mingle--Ukulele: James Harrison

14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Apple

Thursday, 21 July

10:00 Singing for Fun

10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android

13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 22 July

10:00 Music Appreciation

14:00 Armchair History

Saturday, 23 July

13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 25 July

09:30 Exercises for Fun

10:00 Lifeball

14:00 As Time Goes By - 'Ritual'/'Treasure Chest'

17:00 Newsletter reports due today

Tuesday, 26 July

10:00 Politics & Current Affairs

12:15 German - Advanced

14:00 Brain Games

Wednesday, 27 July

10:00 Wine Appr'n – Fowles' Winery, Avenel

10:00 Recorder Group

13:30 'A Taste of Art'

Thursday, 28 July

10:00 Garden Appreciation – 'From the Garden'
Flower Arranging – Melissa Mounsey

10:00 Community Singing

13:00 Family Research

Monday, 1 August

09:30 Exercises for Fun

10:00 Collectors

10:00 Lifeball

10:00 Art Appreciation

12:00 Meditation

13:30 Investment

14:00 Let's Talk Books

Tuesday, 2 August

10:00 Page Turners

10:00 Stock and Land

12:15 German – Advanced

14:00 **New! The Sky's the Limit**

Wednesday, 3 August

09:30 Easy Walks - Shepparton - Victoria Lake to
Botanical Gardens

09:30 Play Reading

14:00 Be Connected

U3A FULL TIMETABLE SEMESTER 2 - 2022
 Location codes: **U3A** or **Seniors Hall** **Cooinda Hub** **Other Venues**

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Mon	Exercises for Fun 9:30-11:30am	Exercises for Fun 9:30-11:30am	Exercises for Fun 9:30-11:30am	Exercises for Fun 9:30-11:30am	Exercises for Fun 9:30-11:30am
	Lifeball 10-11:30am	Lifeball 10-11:30am	Lifeball 10-11:30am	Lifeball 10-11:30am	Lifeball 10-11:30am
	Art Appreciation 10-11am				
	Collectors 10-12noon Rm 1				
	Meditation 12-1pm Rm 2		Meditation 12-1pm Rm 2	'As Time Goes By'- Memoir Writing 2-4pm Rm 1	
	Investment 1:30-3:30pm Rm 1	Creative Writing 2-4pm Rm 1	Coin Collectors 1:30-3:30pm Rm 1		
	Let's Talk Books 2-4pm (Hall)	Garden Team 2-4pm			Garden Team 2-4pm
Tue	Page Turners 10-12noon	Politics & Current Affairs 10-12noon Rm 1	The News - Fact or Fiction 10-12noon Rm 1	Politics & Current Affairs 10-12noon Rm 1	
	Stock and Land 10-12noon Rm 1				
	German-Advanced 12:15-1:30pm Rm 1	German-Advanced 12:15-1:30pm Rm 1	German-Advanced 12:15-1:30pm Rm 1	German-Advanced 12:15-1:30pm Rm 1	German-Advanced 12:15-1:30pm Rm 1
	The Sky's the Limit 2-4pm Rm 1 (From Aug)	Tech Talks 2-4pm Rm 1	Exploring the Universe 2-4pm Rm 1	Brain Games 2-4pm Rm 1	
Wed	Bush Walking - Easy Walks All day			Wine Appreciation All Day	
	Play Reading 9:30-12noon Rm 1	Recorder Group 10-12noon Rm 1	Meet & Mingle 10-12noon Rm 1	Recorder Group 10-12noon Rm 1	
	'A Taste of Art' 1:30-4:30pm (Sept to Nov)	'A Taste of Art' 1:30-4:30pm (Jul, Aug)	'A Taste of Art' 1:30-4:30pm (Sept to Nov)	'A Taste of Art' 1:30-4:30pm (Jul, Aug)	'A Taste of Art' 1:30-4:30pm (Nov)
		Film Discussion Group 2:00-3:30pm (Benalla Library)			
	Be Connected 2:00-3:30pm Rm 1	Be Connected 2:00-3:30pm Rm 1	Tech Savvy Beginners - Apple 2:00-3:30pm Rm 1		
Thur		Birdwatching 9:30-12noon (Sept-Nov)		Garden Appreciation All day	Patchwork All day Rm 1
	Singing for Fun 10-12noon	Singing for Fun 10-12noon	Singing for Fun 10-12noon	Community Singing 10-11:15am	
	Tech Savvy Beginners Android 10-12noon Rm 1	Tech Savvy Beginners Android 10-12noon Rm 1	Tech Savvy Beginners Android 10-12noon Rm 1		
	Patchwork 1-4pm Rm 1	Executive 1:30-3:30pm Rm 1	Patchwork 1-4pm Rm 1	Family Research 1-4pm Rm 1	
	Family Research - Beginners 1-4pm Room 2	Family Research - Beginners 1-4pm Room 2			
Fri	Sustainability 10-12noon Rm 1	Music Appreciation 10-12noon Rm 1	Sustainability 10-12noon Rm 1	Music Appreciation 10-12noon Rm 1	
			Chat N' Chew 11.45-1.45pm		
		Armchair History 2-4pm Rm 1		Armchair History 2-4pm Rm 1	
Sat		Saturday Games '500' 1:30-3:30pm		Saturday Games '500' 1:30-3:30pm	