



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – February 2020

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Please send all items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by 25 Feb 2020

President's Report

Welcome to 2020! May we all have a great start to the U3A year.

Our Summer School classes were well attended and enjoyed, with Community Singing now timetabled throughout the year.

We have some classes with large numbers, hopefully this will work itself out.

The Good Things Foundation have once again supported our Be Connected program with a grant. This will fund a Social Evening and Meal to be held on Wednesday February 26th following the Be Connected class. All members are welcome.

Be Connected Social Evening and Meal

A great chance for new and old members to meet!

Wednesday February 26 at 5 pm - following the Be Connected Class.

Pizza and Salads plus Cake - Bring Your Own drinks & glasses

All Members Welcome

RSVP Sunday February 23rd

0412263071 or president@u3abenalla.com

Did you miss Enrolment Day? Don't despair! Enrolment kits are available at the RedB4 Book Shop (next to Hide's Bakery) and on the website. Completed Enrolment Application/ Renewal Forms can be left at RedB4 for collection or posted with payment to The Secretary, U3A Benalla, PO Box 674, Benalla 3671.

U3A Benalla and District's Annual General Meeting will be held prior to Meet and Mingle on Wednesday March 18th. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

Dorothy Webber, President

Group Reports

A Different History of Germany

4th Tuesday of the Month – 2.00 to 4.00pm Commences – Tuesday 25 February

New Course in 2020!

Convenor: Neville Gibb

A Taste of Art

2nd & 4th Wednesday – 1 to 4pm – Broken River Painters – Barc Huts Commences - Wednesday 4 March

New Course in 2020!

Convenor: Carol Perry

Armchair History – Tudors

2nd & 4th Friday of the Month – 2.00 to 4.00pm Commences – Friday 14 February

Terry Case returns to the 2nd and 4th Friday timeslot with 'Tudors – Power and Religion'

Convenor: Terry Case

Armchair Traveller

1st Tuesday of the Month – 2.00 to 4.00pm Commences – Tuesday 4 February

I'm pleased to note that there are 18 registrants for the coming 2020 year. The February session will be held on Tuesday 4th at 2 pm. Our host will be Neville Gibb who will speak on one of his many overseas tours. The March session is reserved for David Palmer whose topic is Walking the Camino trail in Spain. Following that I will be looking for contributors from our group and would appreciate anybody who can help out. Best wishes for a satisfying year.

Convenor: Ray O'Shannessy

Art Appreciation

1st Monday of the Month – 10.00 to 11.00am Benalla Art Gallery Commences – Monday 3 February

Join the Art Appreciation group at 'First Mondays' at the Benalla Art Gallery and a coffee catchup in the Gallery Café afterwards. On Monday February 3 Eric Nash will speak about Danila Vasilieff, featured collection artist in the current Ledger Gallery exhibition 'On the Up'.

Convenor: Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

4th Monday 2 to 4 pm. Commences - Monday 24 February.

At our first session on Monday February 24 at 2 pm we will be sharing reminiscences of 500 words or so on 'Something in my life that I am really proud of' and/or 'An Aunt, Uncle or cousin who has a special place in my memory'.

Convenor: Bev Lee

Be Connected – Drop In

1st and 3rd Mondays from 10 am to 12 midday. Commences – Monday 3 February

New Course!

Convenors: Margaret Jenkins and Bill Parris

Be Connected – Summer School

Three sessions of Be Connected were held in January.

Our first session was about the Vic Emergency App. This was in response to the emergency situations facing many Victorians as bushfires raged in the North East and surrounds. Participants downloaded the app and created a watch zone to receive warnings and notifications.

In the second session we expanded our knowledge about Apps learning how to install Apps, move their icons about on our devices and how to delete them.

In our last session we had a lot of fun looking at games on the Be Connected Topic library. These included crosswords, easy threesy, great minds, memory game and spot the difference. Whilst these games are designed for a laptop or desk computer Be Connected are also bringing them to mobile devices in the near future. In this session we also looked at downloading the Words with Friends App and learning how to move the letters around. All these games are great to while away some time and keep our brains active when it is too hot to be outside in the heat.

Overall the Be Connected Summer School was enjoyed by the participants.

Members are reminded of the Tech Savvy Apple Devices Courses for Beginners and Intermediates and also of the Be Connected-Drop In Course all of which commence in February

Convenors: Jenny Sawyer and Margaret Jenkins

Bird Watching

2nd Thursday from March - 9.30am to 12.30 pm First meeting for 2020 – Thursday 12 March

The birdwatching group will meet for three outings in Semester 1, 2020. These will run in March, April and May. Our first birdwatching outing will be a morning walk at Lake Benalla on **Thursday 12 March 2020**. For most of our outings we meet at the car park behind the Seniors Community Building, but for this one please meet at the edge of the lake behind the library, at 9.30am.

If you have binoculars please bring them. You should also wear sturdy walking shoes and a hat. Bring a water bottle and any food you require for the morning.

Please note that if it is a day of Total Fire Ban, the activity will automatically be cancelled

Convenor: Kathy Costello

Brain Games

2nd Tuesday of the Month – 2.00 to 4.00pm Commences - Tuesday 11 November

Convenor: Elspeth Maconachie

Bushwalking

Easy Walks

1st Wednesday of the Month from March– all day Commences – Wednesday 4 March

Wednesday 4 March 2020, Murray River, Mulwala & Yarrawonga

The proposed trip to Bright & Mt Buffalo has been postponed due to the bushfires. The March walk will now be along the Murray River downstream of the Yarrawonga Weir. The walking trails will take us into typical red gum forests with shady statuesque trees along the mighty Murray River. Please confirm your attendance by Monday, 2 March with Margaret Walshe, 57623906/0427 005 202 or mwalshe20@gmail.com Meet at the Seniors Complex, Fawckner Drive carpark at 9.00 am.

If new members are unsure of their ability for these walks, please check with the Convenors. There will be an opportunity for a car shuttle on this first walk of the year.

In case of an emergency, please add phone numbers of Convenors to your mobile phone contacts: Wendy Sturgess 0403 226 649; Margaret Walshe 0427 005 202

Convenors: Wendy Sturgess and Margaret Walshe

Mid Week Walks

2nd Wednesday of the Month – all day Commences – Wednesday 12 February

Wednesday 12 February 2020: Mt Buffalo S-3-3

Lake Catani to Chalet via underground river track and return via lake walk. Should access to the road to Mt Buffalo be closed still, an alternative walk will be arranged

Meet at the Tennis Courts Barkly St (behind Aldi)

Leave Meet 7.45am Benalla 8 am

Leader: John Boehm 0428 254801

Convenor: John Boehm

Chat n' Chew

3rd Friday of the Month – 11.45am to 1.45pm – First meeting: Friday 21st February

Following tradition, the first Chat 'N Chew gathering for the year will be held at **The Royal Hotel** on the third Friday, which in 2020 falls on Friday 21st February, at 11.45 am. Please contact Lorraine Knox on 5762 1531 by Tuesday 18th February for bookings or cancellations.

Convenor: Lorraine Knox

Coin Collectors

3rd Wednesday of the Month – 12.15 to 1.45 Commences: Wednesday 19 February

Welcome to the 2020 year for the Coin Collectors Group.

After enrolments it is very pleasing to have 12 people wishing to participate in the group. Our meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, the first being the 19th February 12.15 pm to 1.45 pm. As it is a lunchtime period it is okay to bring a bite to eat along and tea and coffee will be available.

For our first meeting I am suggesting we bring along any coin/ coins you have found, bought or received over the Christmas period for showing and comments. There is a list of topics which can be discussed and organised into a six-month programme.

Looking forward to seeing you all on 19th February.

Convenor: Alex Adkins

Collectors

2nd Monday of the Month – 10.00 – 12 noon Commences: Monday 10 February

Collectors is starting the year with the theme - 'Favourite items – new or old'.

Convenor: Dorothy Webber

Community Singing

4th Thursday of the Month – 10.00 – 11.30am. Next session: Thursday 27 February

Due to a kind offer by Brian Greed we were able to offer three sessions of Community Singing during January. Brian ran the sessions from the piano. Everyone joined in singing with great gusto and had a great time.

During the three sessions we used community songs from our regular Singing Book 1 and Book 2. Brian also provided us with a Bar Sheet which had about 40 songs on it. In the final session we used the overhead projector to project the words of songs onto the end wall from a USB.

We were pleasantly surprised to see that between 20 and 30 members came to each session. We feel this demonstrates that U3A sessions are needed during January and that members like to sing in a relaxed atmosphere.

Due to the success of these Community Singing sessions and a kind offer from Brian Greed to continue playing for these sessions, our President, Dorothy Webber has arranged for a Community Singing session on a regular basis on the fourth Thursday morning at 10am. These sessions will commence on February 27th and will be for about an hour and a quarter with a break for morning tea. All welcome.

Convenor: Margaret Jenkins

Creative Writing

2nd Monday of the Month – 2.00 to 4.00pm Commences: Monday 10 February

Convenor: Joy Shirley

Demystifying Psychology

3rd Friday of the Month – 2.00 to 4.00pm Commences: Friday 21 February

New Course!

Convenor: Jane Rushworth

Exercises for Fun

Every Monday – 9.30 to 11.30am – Seniors Auditorium Commences: Monday 3 February

Convenor: Helen Jeffree

Exploring the Universe

3rd Tuesday of the Month – 2.00 to 4.00pm Commences: Tuesday 18 February

Convenor: Bev Morton

Film as Literature

2nd Wednesday of the Month – 1.30 to 3.00pm Benalla Library Commences: Wednesday 12 February

Convenor: Joy Shirley

Games

1st Monday of the Month – 1.30 to 3.30pm Commences: Monday 3 February

Convenor: Dorothy Webber

Garden Appreciation

4th Thursday of the Month – 9.30am to 3.00pm First meeting for 2020 – Thursday 27 February

Our first Garden Appreciation for 2020 is on the 27th February. We will meet at Gwen Turner's home at Unit 2, 67 Arundel Street at 9.30 a.m. Tea/coffee and milk will be provided, but a plate of morning tea to share would be appreciated. From Gwen's we move onto Cath Marriott's home and garden at 17 McConnan Street. Lunch will be at the Golf Club, numbers are needed for lunch so please phone Gwen on 5762 7017 or 0438627010.

Convenor: Gwen Turner

Garden Team

2nd & 5th Monday of the Month – 2.00 to 4.00pm Various Venues Commences: Monday 10 February

Convenor: Elspeth Maconachie

German

Elementary February

2nd Monday 12 to 1.30 pm 4th Monday 10 to 11.30 am Commences: Monday 10 February

Conversation

2nd Monday 12.00 to 1.30pm (Library) 4th Monday 12.00 to 1.30pm (U3A) Commences: Monday 10 Feb

Both groups – Elementary and Conversation - are of about equal size with about half new and half returning members in each. For both groups, participants will need some form of notetaking and a German/English-English/German dictionary.

The topic for the first conversation group of the year is the weather. Starting with ordinary day to day conversation, the dialogue will move into more extreme weather events, such as floods, bushfires, earthquakes and tsunamis, ending with climate change. *Participants need to come prepared with a list of the relevant vocabulary.* Janet will be taking this in the library.

Simultaneously, the elementary group will be meeting in the U3A room with Pauline. Topics will be pronunciation, verbs in the present tense and adverbs

Convenor: Pauline Bailey

Investment

1st Friday of the Month – 2.00pm to 4.00pm Commences – Friday 7 February

Convenor: Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

1st Tuesday of the Month – 2 to 4 pm Benalla Library First meeting for 2020 – Tuesday 4 February

Hopefully many books have been read over the Christmas break. Our first meeting is at the Library on the 4th February at 2 p.m. We will meet on the first Tuesday of every month.

Convenor: Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

Each Monday – 9.45am to 11.30am Indoor Recreation Centre Commenced Monday 13 January

Convenor: Max Powell

Meditation

1st and 3rd Monday of the Month – 4.00 to 5.00pm Commences – Monday 3 February

Convenor: Caroline Sims

Meet and Mingle

3rd Wednesday of the Month – 10.00am to 12 noon. First meeting for 2020 – Wednesday 19 February

S.O.S. Save Our Station. At our first Meet and Mingle for 2020 Suzie Pearce, spokesperson for Better Benalla Rail, will present reasons for their opposition to Australian Rail Track Corporation's (ARTC) plans to increase the size on our railway overpass to enable 1.8km double-stacked freight trains transit Benalla.

They seek support from us for their alternative plan to move the XPT track so that trains can travel straight through Benalla.

Convenor: Bill Parris

Music Appreciation

2nd & 4th Friday of the Month – 10.00am to 12.00 noon Commences Friday 14 February

Convenor: Bill Squire

Page Turners

1st Tuesday of the Month – 10.00am to 12 noon Benalla Library Commences Tuesday 4 February

E-books welcomes 2020 with a new name 'Page Turners'!

Convenor: Helen Scheller

Patchwork

1st & 3rd Thursday of the Month – 1.00 – 4.00pm Commences – Thursday 6 February

5th Thursday of the Month – All day

Convenor: Dorothy Webber

Play Reading

1st Wednesday of the Month – 9.30am to 12 noon. Commences Wednesday 5 February

Convenor: Jenny McKenna

Politics and Current Affairs

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month – 10.00 to 12 noon Commences Tuesday 11 February

Convenor: Terry Case

Recorder Group

2nd Wednesday of the Month – 9.00am to 11.00am. Commences: Wednesday 12 February

4th Wednesday of the Month – 10.00am to 12 noon

Convenor: Janet Douglas

Saturday Cards – 500

1st and 3rd Saturdays – 1.30 to 3.30 pm – First sessions for 2020: Saturday 1st and 15th February

After a successful trial the last 6 months of 2019, Saturday Cards, playing the game 500, will be held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, commencing at 1.30pm to 3.30pm. The game is open to beginners as well as regular players of the game. Afternoon tea will be available (as well as lollies to keep up the energy levels), together with lots of laughs, lots of mumbling when things don't go as they should. Come and join us for a pleasant afternoon with likeminded players.

Convenor: Heather Wallace

Singing for Fun

1st & 3rd Thursday – 10.00am to 12 noon (9.30am start in February) Commences Thursday 6 February

A reminder that when we resume we will be meeting in the Main Auditorium instead of the U3A Room for our three sessions in February. This is a trial arrangement to see if we are more comfortable in less cramped conditions than in our U3A room. Our sessions on Thursday 6th, 13th and 20th February will commence at 9.30am and run until 11.30am. This time change is to work with the senior's group who have their Thursday lunch starting at 11.45am.

Convenor: Margaret Jenkins

Singing for Fun – Harmony Group

2nd Thursday – 10.00am to 12 noon (9.30am start in February) Commences Thursday 13 February

Convenor: Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

1st Tuesday of the Month – 10.00am to 12 noon Commences: Tuesday 4 February

Our first meeting for 2020 will be Tuesday, February 4, at 10am. Our speaker will be Snow Barlow from the [Baddaginnie Run Winery](#). He will talk about making wine in an increasingly challenging climate. Snow is Professor of Horticulture and Viticulture at the University of Melbourne, with a PhD in Soil-Plant-Water relations from Oregon State University. Together with his partner Winsome McCaughey, he operates a commercial farm incorporating vineyards, grazing and farm forestry enterprises in the Strathbogie Ranges and markets wine under the Baddaginnie Run label.

Convenor: David Palmer

Sustainability

1st & 3rd Friday of the Month – 9.30 to 11.30am Commences – Friday 7 February

Convenor: John Lloyd

Tech Savvy Apple Devices – Beginners

2nd & 3rd & 4th Wednesday of the Month – 2.00pm to 4.00pm Commences – Wednesday 12 February

Convenor: Jenny Sawyer

Tech Savvy Apple Devices – Intermediate

1st Wednesday of the Month – 2.00pm to 4.00pm Commences: Wednesday 5 February

New Course!

Convenor: Jenny Sawyer

Tech Savvy Community Projects

3rd Monday of the Month – 1.00 to 4.00pm Commences: Monday 17 February

Participants please note that there has been a change in the timetable for Community Projects, with a move from the originally scheduled time of 10 to 12 on the 4th Thursday to the 3rd Monday from 1 to 4 pm.

Convenor: Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Family Research

4th Thursday of the Month – 1.00 to 4.00pm Commences: Thursday 27 February

Convenor: Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Talks

2nd Wednesday of the Month – 11.00am to 1.00pm. Commences: Wednesday 12 February

Convenor: Neville Gibb

The News – Fact or Fiction

New Course!

3rd Tuesday of the Month – 10.00am to 12 noon. Commences: Tuesday 18 February

Convenor: Brian Harker

Wine Appreciation

4th Wednesday of the Month – all day. Commences: Wednesday 26 February

We have booked into **Sam Miranda Winery** for our first outing on Wednesday, 26th February.

We will leave the car park at 10.30. We will be dining at the Winery from an a la carte menu.

Convenors: Keith & Heather Rogers 5762 4086

Plus - Bridge Lessons 2020 - Benalla Bridge Club

Do you enjoy playing cards? If so Bridge may be for you. Benalla Bridge Club is offering a Beginners' course of six lessons on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9pm commencing Tuesday 4 February at the Seniors Centre.

Cost is \$80 payable at the first lesson and includes an instruction book. Further lessons will follow for those interested. For information & bookings please phone Barbara 0427 419 686 or 57621 5759

What's On

Saturday, 1 February

13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 3 February

09:30 Exercises for Fun

09:45 Lifeball

10:00 Be Connected Drop In

10:00 Art Appreciation: Danila Vasilieff 'On the Up'

13:30 Games

16:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 4 February

10:00 Page Turners

10:00 Stock and Land - Snow Barlow, Baddaginnie Run Winery

14:00 Armchair Traveller

14:00 Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 5 February

09:30 Play Reading

14:00 Tech Savvy Apple Devices - Intermediate

Thursday, 6 February

9:30 Singing for Fun

13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 7 February

09:30 Sustainability

14:00 Investment

Monday, 10 February

09:30 Exercises for Fun

09:45 Lifeball

10:00 Collectors – 'Favourite items – New or Old'

12:00 German – Conversation – 'The Weather'

12:30 German - Elementary

14:00 Creative Writing

14:00 Garden Team

Tuesday, 11 February

10:00 Politics & Current Affairs

14:00 Brain Games

Wednesday, 12 February

07:45 Bush Walking - Mid Week Walks - Mt Buffalo

09:00 Recorder Group

11:00 Tech Savvy Talks

13:30 Film as Literature - 'A film we watched over the holiday break'

14:00 Tech Savvy Apple Devices - Beginners

Thursday, 13 February

9:30 Singing for Fun - Harmony Group

13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 14 February

10:00 Music Appreciation

14:00 Armchair History – Tudors

Saturday, 15 February

13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 17 February

09:30 Exercises for Fun

09:45 Lifeball

10:00 Be Connected Drop In

13:00 Tech Savvy Community Projects

16:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 18 February

10:00 The News - Fact or Fiction?

14:00 Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 19 February

10:00 Meet and Mingle – Better Benalla Rail

12:15 Coin Collectors

14:00 Tech Savvy Apple Devices - Beginner

Thursday, 20 February

9:30 Singing for Fun

Friday, 21 February

09:30 Sustainability

11:45 Chat 'n Chew - The Royal Hotel

14:00 Demystifying Psychology

Monday, 24 February

09:30 Exercises for Fun

09:45 Lifeball

10:00 German - Elementary

12:00 German - Conversation

14:00 'As Time Goes By' Memoir Writing

Tuesday, 25 February

10:00 Politics & Current Affairs

14:00 Different History of Germany

Wednesday, 26 February

10:00 Wine Appreciation - Sam Miranda Winery

10:00 Recorder Group

14:00 Tech Savvy Apple Devices – Beginners

17:00 ***Be Connected Social Evening & Meal***

Thursday, 27 February

09:30 Garden Appreciation

10:00 Community Singing

13:00 Tech Savvy Family Research

Friday, 28 February

10:00 Music Appreciation

14:00 Armchair History - Tudors

Monday, 2 March

09:30 Exercises for Fun

09:45 Lifeball

10:00 Be Connected Drop In

10:00 Art Appreciation

13:30 Games

16:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 3 March

10:00 Page Turners

10:00 Stock and Land

14:00 Armchair Traveller – Walking the Camino

14:00 Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 4 March

09:30 Play Reading

09:00 Easy Walks - Murray River, Yarrawonga

13:00 A Taste of Art - Broken River Painters

14:00 Tech Savvy Apple Devices - Intermediate

Thursday, 5 March

10:00 Singing for Fun

13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 6 March

09:30 Sustainability

14:00 Investment