



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – July 2018

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by **25 July, 2018**

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President's Report

Firstly a very big thank you must go to Benalla Rural City for the Grant of \$900 from the Community Grants Program.

After a couple of weeks of problems with the air-conditioning all are now fixed. We have moved into our office space. Thanks to Council for removing the hand-basin and supplying a desk.

As we head into the depths of Winter, make sure to keep those cold and flu bugs away. For those on their annual pilgrimage North, think of us on these cold, frosty mornings.

Please note my new e-mail address is dotwebber2608@gmail.com

Dorothy Webber President

Group Reports

Art Appreciation

This month Peter Warples-Crowe and Megan Evans discussed their current exhibition 'Settlers and Savages' with our art group.

Peter, an Aboriginal man from near Tumbarumba NSW, uses his art to explore the misconception of Aboriginals as 'savages'. His series of mission blankets with copies of nineteenth century etchings starkly confronted this idea. The large study of 'Progress' showing an Aboriginal man being crushed in a mining whim, asks the question: Was the finding of gold in Ballarat progress for Aboriginal people? Likewise the video of Megan and him on the high plains, masked and wearing a possum skin cloak as they acted out their roles of settler and Aboriginal, with Megan obliterating the art works that Peter had drawn on the rock faces. Within these serious charges, Peter confronts the

events with a certain wry humour and irony as he seeks to explore what these deprivations mean to contemporary Aborigines.

Megan, a descendant of squatters in the same area, uses her textile skills to embellish pieces of colonial furniture with beaded scenes including portraits of her grandparents and herself. Using red beads, Megan mutilates the furniture with slashes suggesting the blood spilt in these frontier confrontations. Chairs with carving forks stuck in them, a settee with rifles for legs and a chandelier dripping with red strands of beads cascading from it, further define this idea. Her excellent beaded work on these pieces gives an unsettling contrast of both beauty and horror.

Both artists wanted to debunk the idea of the 'golden light of colonisation' that has pushed Aboriginal history aside to acknowledge the tragedies of settlement. Both artists believe that if both cultures face these facts and listen to these forgotten stories there will be a better chance of settlers and Aborigines moving forward in shared understanding.

Meg Dillon

Bird Watching

U3A Bird watching group finally made it to Euroa on Thursday 31 May, after our planned outing earlier in May was cancelled due to bad weather.

The Euroa Arboretum is located south of the town, between the freeway and the old Hume Highway. Although we had fine weather, there was a cold southerly wind, so our group of seven headed for the Arboretum nursery to check out the plants for sale. They have an impressive range of local native plants propagated mainly from seed collected in the area. After we loaded our purchases into our vehicles, we then went looking for birds. Good

numbers of Superb Fairy-wrens live in the grounds and were easy to see. Not so the other little birds. We had a fleeting glimpse of 2 Weebills, Australia's smallest bird, and heard a Grey Shrike-thrush. Several Red Wattlebirds and White-plumed Honeyeaters were also seen, but it was a good day for bush birds to shelter from the wind.

Our next stop was at the Seven Creeks walking track. We started our walk near the Euroa caravan park, and headed south towards the freeway, enjoying the sunny, sheltered conditions. Best birds here were a male Golden Whistler, a Crimson Rosella and good views of a flock of Striated Thornbills feeding at eye level beside the track. They are usually in the tree tops. In the bird field guide, we compared Weebills and Striated Thornbills, and came away with a better knowledge of two of our smallest bush birds.

We then headed to Seven Creeks Hotel for a welcome hot meal in front of a warm fire, and so ended U3A Bird watching activities for Semester 1. U3A Bird watching resumes on Thursday 13 September 2018.

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

The group spent considerable time on the Wordplay section of the Guardian puzzle section. and had some little time to hone memory skills.

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalks

Easy Walks

Wednesday June 6



Eight walkers travelled through Swanpool to Police Track and the Strathbogie Ranges. We had morning tea beside the road in sunshine before heading over a small creek to start the climb. At first there is a steady south west climb with pine plantations to the right and native bush on the left. The start of the bush track is clearly marked on the left, and has a steady climb to the north west, then south to the viewing area. This is a large rock with a protecting fence and great views

of Whites Rock, Sugarloaf creek and Mount Buffalo in the distance. We lunched here before returning to the cars. The distance was 3.89km. Before leaving the area we visited the Airman's Memorial.

Easy walk July 4th

We will walk the Friends track in the Warby Ranges. We usually travel in an anticlockwise direction, but this time we will try the reverse (which means a down-hill finish). We will leave Barkly Street car park at 9.30. Please ring Vaughan at 5762 1980

Vaughan Cowan

Mid Week Walks

The midweek walk at Lake Moodemere was cancelled due to rain

Mid Week Walk July 11th

Depending on the weather, we hope to walk the Sandy Creek track starting from the Nillahcootie track. The return walking distance is about 8.5km and fairly strenuous. Good boots and poles are recommended. Also bring a towel to put on a log while we have lunch. We will leave the Senior Citizens Car Park at 9.30am. Please ring 5762 1980 before hand

Andrea Stevenson

Chat n' Chew

Once again a local restaurant is opening its doors specially for us - this time the Benalla Curry House in Nunn Street opposite Raffety's.

All welcome to attend on Friday July 20th at 12.00 noon. Preordering requested - please phone Shirley by Tuesday 17th June 5762 6768.

Shirley Kearney

Collectors

A small group had an enjoyable time, sharing items of interest chosen from their collections on the Queen's Birthday public holiday.

Wilma brought along her childhood teddy bear together with her collection of compacts, an exquisite jug and pieces from a dressing table setting; Robyn a 'chamber pot' and memorabilia of her Scottish heritage. New member Faye presented an interesting lithograph by William Dendy Sadler which her family had discovered behind a painting, retrieved and reframed. Janet, who loves 'blue and white', brought along two additions to her Delft collection purchased on a recent trip to Holland. May shared two treasured

items collected during her travels, while Dave presented a glass bottle discovered in a garden and an 'almost depression glass but just a bit later' pretty afternoon tea plate. Bev's basket contained treasures purchased for from 25c to \$10 at the Baddaginnie Op Shop, Lions Car Boot sale and Baptist Church Op Shop.

We thoroughly enjoyed reminiscing as we shared stories about the items and the memories they brought up for us.

The theme for our next session is 'Flowers' - bring along something connected with flowers - vases, paintings of flowers, there are many possibilities.



Wilma Green with her Teddy Bear

Bev Lee

e-Book Group

Again our group met in the cosy corner of the library to discuss Hannah Kent's new novel *'The Good People'*.

Kent is probably one of the best new novelists to emerge recently in Australia, but her books are far from an easy read. She confronts the dark side of the human psyche again with this narrative set in Ireland in the 1820s in a remote village where dire poverty, superstition and hopelessness confront the unlucky inhabitants. A disabled child is cruelly tortured by people who believe he is a changeling stolen by the fairies, a case of infanticide, women who struggle to survive in this harsh environment and one who does escape – but to what? Is anywhere better in this grim place?

Does it have any relevance for us today apart from reminding us of what human nature can descend to if diminished by lack of education and hope?

Kent creates a believable but unpleasant picture of this time but softens it with her lyrical descriptions of the countryside in Western Ireland. If you

enjoyed her first book *"Burial Rights"* you will want to read this.

Meg Dillon

Exercises for Fun

Many in our group have gone to warmer climates to escape Benalla's cold winter, while the rest of us are persevering by continuing to keep ourselves moving, and our muscles working to keep warm, and also enjoying the benefits of exercise amidst good Company. See you on a Monday! Have fun!

Helen Jeffree

Exploring New Operas

Our final opera for this program was Dr. Atomic, an opera first performed in 2005 and written by the American composer John Adams. It explores the tensions and doubts of the group of scientists who developed the first atomic weapon in the Nevada desert in the last days of World War Two.

Bad weather almost forced the group to cancel the crucial last test of the weapon prior to it being used in the war against Japan. While the military commander insisted the test proceed, the meteorologists refused to give the 'all clear' with the weather. Meanwhile scientists were placing bets on whether or not the test would be successful and some were convinced they were in danger if the bomb was prematurely exploded in the bad weather.

Production was by the Nederlands Opera in conjunction with a Chicago opera cohort. Dance enhanced the surreal staging of the opera and Adams musical score was highly praised. As with many modern operas the music played as a continuous background soundscape rising and falling with the tensions expressed in the libretto.

This exploration of twentieth century opera has demonstrated how far the genre has deviated from the joyous and musical treats of the great operas of the nineteenth century. Interesting as the new operas were, our group is looking forward to revelling in the great arias of this by.gone era again

Meg Dillon

Exploring the Universe

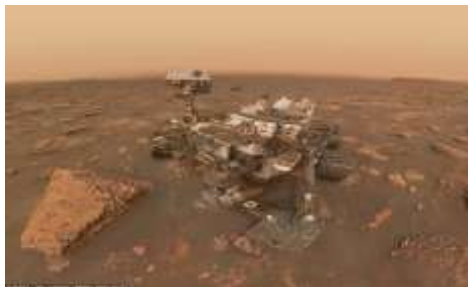
A Dust Storm on Mars and the Search for Habitable Planets

The Planet Mars is entirely shrouded in a massive dust storm that could last for months.

The NASA rover 'Opportunity' that has been analysing rocks in the Endeavour Crater has shut down as it no longer has enough sunlight to power

its solar batteries. Scientists are hoping there will be enough power to wake Opportunity up from its sleep when the dust clears.

On the other side of the planet, the rover 'Curiosity' is unaffected as it is powered by a nuclear battery. Curiosity took this 'selfie' of itself and the dust laden skies of Mars.



The latest bright star in the night sky is really the planet Mars. Its orbit in July will bring it to its closest approach to Earth for 15 years, only 57.6 million kms distant. It's the best time to view the planet through a telescope while its polar cap is on an angle.

Exoplanets are planets that are outside our Solar System. We see a night sky that is teeming with a myriad of stars but there are many more planets in our Milky Way Galaxy than stars. At E.T.U. we viewed a broad selection of films on these alien planets and the methods of detecting them.

The Kepler planet hunting space telescope is about to run out of fuel. In 9 years it has discovered nearly 3000 exoplanets. Its place will be taken by the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite. "TESS" was launched on 18th April 2018.

Tess is a target hunter; it will concentrate on finding planets orbiting the nearest and brightest stars. Its sensitive cameras will map and film almost the entire sky in its two year mission. The next generation telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope will follow up on further studies of selected exoplanets, including analysing their atmosphere in the search for life and habitable worlds.

Tess: A New Era of Exoplanet Exploration. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGvZ6-bM3pQ>

Exoplanets can be very diverse, depending on the closeness of their orbit to the star, as shown by a film from Exeter University U.K.

"Take a virtual Reality Tour of 6 real Exoplanets." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhLExhpXXOE>

We finished the session by viewing the Sun with Astronomy Benalla's new solarscope. Unfortunately there was some high cloud.

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

On a dreary Benalla afternoon, we watched "Little Miss Sunshine." Essentially a road movie with a fractured, somewhat dysfunctional family uniting to get seven-year-old Olive to the "Little Miss Sunshine" Pageant in far off California, the rusted-out VW being just one of their many problems.

With lots of laugh out loud incidents, cringe and shudder reactions and "this could only happen in America" moments we had lots to talk about – winners verses losers, family values, happiness, ageing, philosophy, shattered dreams, mental health and body image. Add in six unique and complex characters and we had a film that, whilst not appealing to every viewer, certainly gave us things to think about.

Pat Treleaven

Games

A Games group has been reinstated on the 4th Wednesday from 10 to 12 using the timeslot previously used by the Recorder Group. Beginning with board games, the group has great potential to fill the hole left by the previous Games group which offered 'indoor games of the non-physical variety' including cards, scrabble and mahjong.

Dorothy Webber

Garden Appreciation

26th July

Meet at 9.30 am in the U3A carpark behind the Seniors building. We will then go to Vintage Hall Café Glenrowan for a discussion on Australian Native Plants and their uses for cooking and wellness.

The use of Australian Native plants for culinary use is a growing trend with many of Australia's top chefs using them in their restaurants.

Pam Stirling has owned a spice company for 14 years, growing, blending and selling spice blends.

Pam will be speaking about:

Wild harvest

Cultivation

Availability

Culinary uses

Wellness.

We will start with morning tea, followed by a discussion with Pam, finishing with lunch at the venue. Both morning tea and lunch are at our own cost. *Dietary needs are catered for.*

August is our winter break.

Gwen Turner 0438627010 or 5762 7017

Garden Team

Please note that when I announce the whereabouts of Marcus and Kirsten's garden I read Mitchell street, visualize Thomas Mitchell and mislead readers by sliding into writing Thomas Street! (Lateral thinking skills can be a trap) Despite my sabotage some useful work was done in pleasant sunshine and some good food rewarded the team.

Early July Shirlie will host and on the fifth Monday Bill and Jane will be home base.

Elspeth Maconachie

Investment

At the June meeting of Investment we looked at a short list of Oil and Gas Energy Shares which had shown substantial gains in 2018 to the end of May. Whilst most of these companies were small cap stocks, the giants of BHP and Rio Tinto also were included as they had gained very close to 40% for the year so far.

The other subject for the afternoon was Residential versus Commercial Property investment. We looked at the various types of property available to choose from, the importance of location, factors to consider when choosing an investment property, ways to enter the market, stability of the investment and taxation considerations. Whilst the list of factors was reasonably simple it hopefully provided some information for thought.

We would like to thank John Gebauer who painted the area of the end wall of our U3A room in white non-reflecting paint. This is the area where the overhead projector shows the projected image from the computer, and the painting has eliminated the glare which we previously had to work with. John did this work for free as he says "U3A Benalla does good work in the community", and we are grateful for his assistance.

Investment Group is having a mid-year break this year and is not having a meeting in July. The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 3 August at 1.30pm in the U3A room at the Seniors Complex in Fawckner Drive Benalla.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

We were a large group of 23 at our Tuesday meeting in June. It was lovely to have Louise Doddrell with us who told of an Anne Frank Exhibition at the Shepparton Library in November/December.

We then roamed from *My Husband and I* – an expose of the Queen's marriage by Ingrid Seward, *Murakami – Katka on the Shore*, *Dark Emu* by Bruce Pascoe written about pre European aboriginal farming sounded quite interesting and created some discussion. *First Person* by Richard Flanagan was deemed to have 'difficult' language. Some other interesting reads were *The Tattoist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris, *The Toymaker* by Liam Pieper was also set in Auschwitz, *The Cactus* by Sarah Haywood, *Iris and Ruby* set in Cairo were all enjoyed. *The Horse Bay* written by Rupert Isaacson was relevant as Graeme Simsion who wrote *The Rosie Project* is coming to the Library. To finish off an autobiography of Judge Michael Kirby and also *The Prisoner* by Kerry Tucker were appreciated. Quite a few other books were discussed, it was a most enjoyable group discussion. See you all on July 3rd at 2 p.m.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

Lifeball continues along its merry way, although things have quietened down somewhat now it's winter.

The worst part about setting up the court at this time of year is handling the metal goalposts on a freezing cold morning!!!

But once we start moving around the court, it doesn't take long to thaw out. A couple of times we have gone out into the carpark to do our warm ups, in the winter sun, and it has been lovely.

Some days ago, we only had 8 players, so we played half-court, and it was just hilarious. This is why we would like to change the name from Lifeball to Laughball. The game begins from outside the goal line, and moves into the middle zone, before going back to the goal zone, where only one goaler can score. Plus having 2 throws in each zone before the ball can move on, is a real challenge, causing much confusion and hilarity, and it really is a great workout for everyone. Everyone was very warmed up at the end, and said how beaut is was to have a change of playing in a more restricted area. And the cuppa at the end of the game gave everyone the opportunity to express their thoughts on playing half court.

Last Monday, we had just the 12 players for a team, but I feel our numbers will drop from now till around August, with players being ill, and moving away to warmer climes throughout the cold of our winter.

Do pop in and see why we laugh so much. Every Monday morning we commence playing at 10am,

in the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre, just diagonally across from the railway station.

Just come to watch and have a game if you feel inclined. You will be made welcome!!!

Marg Merriman 5762 2967

Meet and Mingle

Meet and Mingle began with an interesting and extensive news bulletin from Dorothy. Unfortunately our guest speaker Nick Gadd from the Law Reform Commission was unable to attend. Bill Parris very capably filled in, using a large map of Greece on the Smart TV screen to lead us through the itinerary of his and Jane's very recent trip to Greece and the Greek Islands. We all thoroughly enjoyed Bill's commentary and stories, which led to mention of films set in the Greek Islands, particularly *Shirley Valentine*, set on the island of Mykonos. The session by Nick Gadd from the Law Reform Commission will be rescheduled later in the year.



Meet and Mingle with Bill Parris

The speaker at July's Meet and Mingle will be local artist and founding member of North East Artisans, Tim Bowtell.

Bev Lee and Bill Parris

Moments in Australian History

Well folks, we have now finished our journey through some key moments that I selected to illustrate my hypothesis that throughout the nineteenth century we experienced a number of minor rebellions that contributed to the evolution of *democratic political inclusion* in Australia. What is that? We became social democrats earlier than any other country and were a role model to Britain and Europe of relatively peaceful social and political change, resulting in visits by social reformers to discover how we managed to do this.

The military junta that deposed Governor William Bligh in 1808 was quashed by the British government who could not allow the military to govern a colony. This dealt a death blow to the ambitions of officers of the NSW Corps who wished to establish themselves as a colonial elite more powerful than the legitimate governor.

We contrasted the settlement of the Western District of Victoria by free settlers in the 1840s with the earlier convict system that created the first unfree working class in the colony. Former freed convicts merged seamlessly into the general community, most making successful working lives for themselves and their families.

The Eureka Uprising on the Ballarat goldfields in 1854, although a minor skirmish by foreign gold seekers and Irishmen, had the remarkable effect of being one of the catalysts that introduced the right to vote for all adult men, regardless of their wealth or status. Hence colonial parliaments, by the late 1850s, were more able to settle issues of social and economic hardship through the participation of working class voters and members of parliament.

The Kelly Outbreak in the 1870s was a response against the hard times that selectors in North East Victoria were experiencing during an economic depression. This was one problem that the Victorian parliament had been tardy in addressing and this area became notorious for cattle and horse theft. Even after the gang robbed banks and killed three policemen there was still considerable community support for the Kellys, although even their staunchest supporters balked at rising up against the government. Parliamentary government was far from perfect but was seen to be the best option available.

Finally, in the last years of the nineteenth century, as manufacturing and industry became mechanised, strikes were used as negotiating tools between workers and their employers. The shearers' strikes in 1891 and 1894 and the great strike of 1917 as well as a number of lesser confrontations led to the formation of unions that took over direct negotiation with employers. While disruption would exist for several months in some cases, as both groups flexed their muscles these actions provided a solution to negotiating working conditions and led to the formation of the earliest Labor Leagues and the Labor Party.

This summary hasn't the space to provide the subtleties of any of these events. For fuller accounts visit my web site australiancolonialhistory.com. During June, I will be uploading summaries of our sessions and listing the resources we used. Thanks to all who came and participated

Meg Dillon

Music Appreciation

Friday 25th May

During this session we listened to some 16th and 17th Century church music from South America.

Hanaq Pachap Kusikuynin

Los Coflades De La Esteyla

Kyrie (Missa San Ignacio)

Gloria (Missa San Ignacio)

Convidando esta las noche.

This was slightly martial, proselytizing but nevertheless happy music advertising the power of the church.

It was brought to us by an Englishman Jeffrey Skidmore whose passion has been to revive the choral repertoire and make it accessible to as many people as possible.

This music was happy optimistic music and not ostensibly South American – a fusion of music from the heart of Europe set in the Spanish colonies.

In the second hour we listened to The Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky and Mozarts Piano Concerto No 21. Both are fantastic pieces of music.

Mozart's 21st Concerto was written for one of his subscription concerts. It was written to be played in public and to be listened to by the public. By any standard it has withstood the test of time.

Friday 8th June 2018

During this session we listened at length to Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue. This was the first commercial classical example of Jazz Music and this symphony essentially made Jazz acceptable to established Music. Endlessly repetitive and always melodic it bounces along from movement to movement. It is made even more intriguing by often going from instrument to instrument. One leading to another – one melody leading to another. Very American in style it is an example of good 20th century music.

Friday 22nd June.

A session in which we listened to a selection of Opera Arias from Wagner, Verdi Mozart and Beethoven. All extremely enjoyable. Superb Music from Master Music makers. It is always invigorating to listen to the work of geniuses.

In our second hour we watched several YouTube films of the work of Maria Callas. Maria Callas was both a magnificent singer and a magnificent actor. Entirely believable in her many roles – especially

Tosca – such was her greatness audiences watched in breathless silence until it was time to applaud and then they had to be stopped applauding.

Neville Gibb

Over There

This month John reviewed the end of the Great War and discussed the impact and implications of the Versailles Treaty in causing war, including World War Two, right up to the present day.

John also showed the last episode of a coloured French-Canadian documentary about the Great War.

John Barry

Thank you John!

On behalf of both U3A Benalla's Program Committee and the participants in his 'Over There' courses in both Semester II 2017 and Semester 1 2018, I would like to thank John Barry for taking up our invitation to present a course on the Great War. His preparation, passion and delivery were outstanding and made for a most absorbing session each month. We appreciated the notes, bibliographies he produced and the video resources he used. We also valued the way in which he was able to weave in to his narrative stories of Benalla and District soldiers named on the Cenotaph in the Benalla Gardens.

Closer to 11 November this year, John will be contacting us regarding events that the ANZAC Commemorative Committee has planned to celebrate the centenary of the Great War ending and to commemorate the millions who died.

Bev Lee

Patchwork

Thursday, 30th August is our next all-day session. We will be starting on some items for Christmas. Our aim is to start early this year.

Dorothy Webber

Play Reading

Due to the length of recent plays our group has needed time in the subsequent meeting to finish them. Whilst this can be a little inconvenient our group covers it very well and the climax still brings the wonderful drama or humour or tears that emerges from the plays.

We finished an extremely funny play last session entitled "Breath of Spring" by Peter Coke. The play was West End hit in 1958, portraying Dame Beatrice and her lodgers – a posse of posh but

impoverished “paying guests” who hit on a novel way of making money while discovering what jolly good fun it is to be criminals. After finding how easy to snuffle a fur coat or two carelessly left unattended in shops and cafes, they set about their unlikely new career, selling off the stolen goods to donate the proceeds anonymously to assist similarly impoverished friends. In the end, when a policeman turns up to report a fur coat was found in a local cafe all panic breaks out among the house guests. After total confusion, excuses and the police convinced that these people are not the highly organised gang responsible for stealing and selling the fur coats things settle down and house members talked about relaxing holidays overseas. A couple of guests chat about another fund raiser, others gather round. The final line in the play is “Well, my idea is this. We” Much laughter all round.

The next play we started was “Inheritance” by Hannie Rayson, written after two of her block buster successes - “Life after George” and “Hotel Sorrento”. “Inheritance” has been described as a powerful new drama where duty contends with freedom, and the differences of race, gender and generation must be reconciled before the claims on “Allandale” and its families may be settled. Some key characters are the Myrtle twins, Dibs Hamilton and Girlie Delaney who are turning 80 in the very near future. All members of both key families are descending upon the family home in the Mallee district of Victoria to see who will be the one to inherit the family property, “Allandale”, when the ageing Farley has gone. Already our group has had some enormous bouts of laughter at the various situations and as the plot thickens. We all are excited about continuing with this script.

Keith Rogers

Politics and Current Affairs

Whilst Convenor Terry Case is currently overseas three members of the group took up the challenge and have put together informative presentations about the roles in the China Government and its effect on world politics, the prominence of religious and other self-serving groups within the Australian political scene and how Democracy had its day. Local Liberal member Tony Schneider discussed the make up and operation of the Liberal Party and Brian informed the group about the history of the Murray Darling Basin Irrigation policy.

Heather Wallace

Recorder Group

North East Artisans proved to be a warm and colourful venue for Recorder this month. Surrounded as we were by beautiful art work, vases of artistically arranged flowers and fortified by the promising aroma of brewing coffee, the Recorder people warmed up with some now familiar recorder pieces. Then... “The Hungarian Dance.” with its sophisticated tempo changes and squeeze box feel introduced us to folk music. “Ah! Vous Dirai-Je Maman” tricked us with its French title, but it proved to be a nursery song that we knew quite well. When we played it in three parts it sounded amazing! “The Floral Dance” was our piece de resistance and probably the longest piece we have attempted so far. We ended our session with some favourite songs where we are starting to feel more confident with familiar notes and musical concepts. A hard working, but very satisfying session

Pat Treleavan

Singing for Fun

The Singing for Fun group is always adaptable. For our first meeting of June there were a number of people away sick, including our valued pianist Gwen Barnes. Also missing was Patsy Bollard who had several stitches in her leg following an accident in her garden. We hope you recover soon Patsy. Our Leader, Joyce Borschmann was also absent as her son from Queensland was visiting.

However, the singing went on. Faith Hicks enlisted the help of some new conductors namely Rhonda, Rae and Milvi. We enjoyed their assistance. Faith showed us her talents on the piano accompanying the songs she chose. Well done Faith on the piano and also to our new conductors.

Brian Greed used the overhead projector to show the words of some old favourite songs which were currently not in the songbooks. Brian accompanied the songs on the piano himself, and then followed this up with some sing-along songs for which he also played. It was great to see the overhead projector being used by the Singing for Fun group.

Margaret Merriman enlisted the help of Neville Gibb on the piano for a new song for us namely “Old Khancoban”. Following that Brian Greed accompanied the other songs that Margaret chose.

We ended up having a slightly different but very enjoyable morning.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

Sue Campbell spoke at our June meeting about turning a rabbit infested farm at Byawatha, north east of Wangaratta, into a viable farm.

She and husband Sandy took over what was known as the rabbit farm in the early 1960s when it was carrying just half a dry sheep equivalent (DSE) to the hectare.

The farm had been denuded of trees to fuel tin mining at Eldorado which exposed the fragile, light, decomposed granite soil and made it even more vulnerable to rabbits.

Even driving over parts of the property was impossible because vehicles crumbled the rabbit warrens.

The Campbells shot, poisoned, blew up, netted and dogged rabbits for 40 years while planting about one million trees and improved pasture species and ripping Yeomans style on the contour, across the 600 acre property. In one early year they laid just short of 100km of 1080 poison trails and Sue remembered the "disgusting smell" of dead rabbits.

In so doing - going from the worst to the best farm in the district - they increased the carrying capacity to about eight DSEs per hectare. So in retrospect "several neighbours wished they'd done what we did," Sue said



Sue's interest in rabbits continues as she monitors the impact of the latest K5 virus in keeping rabbit numbers under control.

She said she had not seen rabbits on their present farm on the Broken River for at least two months. "But it is hard to tell rabbit from platypus burrows on the banks of the Broken," she said.

Sue said it was important that urban people and particularly migrants, understand the impact rabbits can have when numbers increase. "They need to be as aware as we in the country are," she said.

Our speaker for July will be former Labor member of the Victorian Parliament Carole Marple, who will talk about life as the shadow minister of agriculture. Carole's talk will be followed by the sharing of stories about horses on farms. Horses hold almost legendary status on farms as vital working and social components of farm life over the years - we have heard stories from our ancestors and have stories of our own to share.

David Palmer

Tech Savvy

iPad for Beginners

The iPad Beginners Course finished on June 20th. Next month U3A is registering computer beginners, both Apple and Android for a Be Connected Course to run in the second semester. See under for dates.

In iPad Beginners this month we revisited Settings and checked our device used storage and capacity. We also enabled the dictionary function to look up word meanings by highlighting a particular word and tapping on 'look up'.

Next we focused on Travel Apps; there are so many to choose from! So reading the blurb, the ratings and reviews can help with your decision on which one to download. When you do download any App it's easy to delete if its not the the App for you. - Hold, Wait for jiggling, tap the cross and its gone.....Remember to tap the Home Button to stop everything else jiggling.

In our last session we had a go at Bookmarking which is iPad speak for saving an article you want to keep from your browser. Eg. Google

Finally we downloaded a Brain Training App and had lots of fun directing trains in to stations.

Thank you to all participants. I hope you all keep on using your Apple devices with more and more confidence.

SECOND SEMESTER

BE CONNECTED

Registration - Wednesday 4th July 1:30am. U3A Room (Senior Citizens)

Course Dates

APPLE U3A Room 1:30 - 3:30pm

18th July

1st August

15th August

ANDROID U3A Room 1:30 - 3:30pm

29th August

5th September

19th September

Queries - Jenny Sawyer Ph. 0409 545 182

Jenny Sawyer

Tech Savvy Projects

If you are reasonably confident in using your computer or device and have a new goal you would like to achieve on it, think about joining Tech Savvy's 'Other Projects' class in Semester II. While some people are working on web sites, travel blogs and slide shows; and others will begin working on photo books in Semester 2, you could, for example, set up a Facebook account; learn to use the U3A website and FB pages; organise your photos into folders, and so on. Just come along with a learning task which is of interest to you. Tech Savvy's 'Other Projects' sessions are timetabled from 3 to 4.30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays and 1 to 2.30 pm on the 4th Thursday. There is also a Family History focused Tech Savvy Projects group from 1.30 to 3pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. If you think you might like to join 'Tech Savvy Projects' in Semester II, please give Bev a call on 5762 8171.

Tech Savvy Talks

Our last meeting consisted of a short talk about the origins of coffee from about the 15th century onwards. Some surprising facts were that it is the most traded agricultural commodity in the world and the second most traded after petroleum. The industry employs over 100 million people worldwide mainly in the production of green beans in developing countries. Other interesting facts are that it spread across the world quite rapidly after an Islam mystic Brother Baba Budan smuggled seven seeds into Yemen and grew the *Coffea Arabica* bushes. We also looked at the development of roasting and grinding methods which are now quite sophisticated. The evolution of brewing machines started around the beginning of the 20th century with the first true espresso machine being produced in 1947. Technological improvements followed quite rapidly and today's machines, both home and commercial take full advantage of today's technologies. The presentation closed with a short video of a café latte complete with latte art being produced robotically using the latest machines.

Brian Howard showed us some of the model heat engines that he has produced with his great skill.

One works simply on hot water while a second was a miniature steam engine.

Bev lead a discussion on podcasting, which was new to most members. There is a huge range of podcasts available both audio and video based on a great variety of topics and music. Very useful when driving or at night if sleep isn't coming so easily. We will look into this further next semester.

Speaking of next semester we discussed greater involvement by the members of the group and decided that for next semester it might be better if I lead the first hour of a session and others might be able finish the second half with topics of interest to them personally. Because of the absence of a number of members in July it was agreed to have a break that month and start in August with a possible excursion as the first meeting.

Les Rodgers



The photo of Brian Howard's model of a heat engine using steam was taken by Malcolm Sanders

Les Rodgers

Towards a Sustainable Future

Over the past month the topics of plastic and recycling have featured among the articles we have read and our discussions. 'Plastic Free July' is almost here; the new series of 'The War on Waste' is just about to appear on the ABC and the community will soon be adjusting to the new single use plastic bag free practices of the major supermarkets. In our 'third age' we find ourselves reverting to the plastic bag free environments of our 'first age' when string bags and baskets were the order of the day! You may have seen Plastic Wise Benalla's 'upcycled bags' being made at the Drill Hall by volunteers, including a number of our U3A members. The bags cost \$5 and are available at Fruits 'n Fare, the West End Post Office, One Wild Apple, Benalla Aquatic Centre and Blooms on Bridge. The change from single use plastic bags by the supermarkets is just the start – it is quite possible we'll soon be taking our own containers with us when we purchase take-away, meat from the butchers, and more. As well as reading and discussing articles of interest, we've kept abreast

of local news related to sustainability, including the Church Street Surgery receiving the Benalla Business Networks' Environmentally Sustainable Business award this year; the monthly building efficiency workshops being held by Renewable Energy Benalla; the uptake of the Mondo battery ready solar bulk buy offer; and the proposed solar farm at Winton. Many U3A members attended the Swanpool Environmental Film Festival recently - our class members will no doubt be discussing the excellent speakers and films shown with John at our next session.

Bev Lee

Travel Group

Winter sees many of our group away travelling to, hopefully, warmer places. We are busy planning our travels to exotic places for next year as we have now reached the time that allows us to take advantage of booking well ahead.

At the June meeting we discussed three major options for next year. A nine-day bus tour in May to Coffs Harbour. An August two week trip to South Africa, incorporating Kruger National Park to Cape Town with one night on the Shongololo Express train. A cruise on the Yangtze River in China with options for extensions to other places in China. Pricing and further details are being put together should be in for the July group meeting.

Important dates to remember:

July 10th is the closing date for everyone interested in the August 3-night Melbourne getaway.

August 1st is the closing date for the March 2019 Tasmania Cruise.

Judy Perry

0428 118 853

Wine Appreciation

Wednesday 25 July 2018

Meet before 10.00 am for travel to Rutherglen and cellar door of Rutherglen Estates.

Lunch is at Hub Sixty Two in Chiltern.

Keith/Heather 57624086

Noel 57623149.

Writing Workshop

With Joy holidaying overseas and our scheduled day falling on a public holiday we only had three of our writers "in residence".

We enjoyed contributions from Betty with a beautifully written piece on "We didn't know that it would be our last sunset at the lake". Neville's

memoir piece on Family Rituals reflected on traditions or regular routines being a continuum in providing solace for some but in doing so, excluding others. Jenny wrote on a story reflecting emotions eg fear, determination. The story illustrated the terror and fear of a Vietnamese family escaping from their country.

Our varied subjects promoted quite a lot of discussion, before a move was made to the North Eastern for a warming beverage. This was planned to be our last day at the North Eastern as Creative Writing will now extend for 2 hours at our U3A room. The tasks for the 1.30 to 3.30 pm session on 9th July are –

1. Write a story using one of the following prompts:
 - Two years ago, I swore I would never come back here again
 - Helen looked up from her reading and her book fell from her lap
 - I was not ready to admit defeat
2. Add to a paragraph supplied.

In late May our *Memoir Writing* group felt enormously privileged to hear about the people chosen for the topic *Someone who Shaped Me*. Our June 25 topic, Family Rituals, 'the weird and wonderful things that you do together that only your family understand', will almost certainly result in an equally absorbing and memory provoking session.

The 500 word memoir topic for July 23rd is [A Scary Moment](#) – 'Your heart pounds, your hair stands on end... Tell us a story about a moment when you were truly terrified.' (Remember self care - share something which you aren't still quite traumatised about.)

In answer to a 'Frequently Asked Question', If you are thinking of joining Writing Workshop It is quite acceptable to go to either Memoir Writing or Creative Writing – or both!

Bev Lee and Jenny McKenna

Program News

Keen to enrol in another course? Contact the convenor to see if spaces are available.

Investment, Tech Savvy Talks & Armchair History are taking a break in July. **Birdwatching** is on a break until September.

'History' Programs - Thank you to both John Barry **'Over There'** and Meg Dillon **'Some Moments in Australian History'** for designing and delivering such wonderfully provoking and enlightening history related courses during Semester 1. Terry Case returns on the 2nd and 4th Friday on August 10 with **'Armchair History'** - 'The War of the Roses - The Real Game of Thrones'. If you would like to join the group, just show up at the first session.

Games – A Games group has been reinstated on the 4th Wednesday from 10 am to 12 midday –for more information, look under 'Games'.

Be Connected – The registration/orientation session for Be Connected is being held Wed 4th July at 1.30. Sessions 1.30 to 3.30 pm as follows:
Short Course for Apple users:
Wednesday 18 July; 1 & 15th August
Short Course for Android users:
Wednesday 29 August; 5 & 19 September
'Drop in' October/November
Contact Jenny 0409545182

Hot Topics commences in Semester 2. Do you enjoy discussing current affairs? Topics will be wide ranging, but there will always be a topic set for a chaired discussion & time to prepare your thoughts. 3rd Frid 1.30 to 3.30pm. Contact Carole 5762 6165 or joan@spectak.co

'Media Team' – Volunteer Required

If you have time available in the last week of the month, have efficient word processing and internet skills and an interest in developing or maintaining skills in working on websites, please consider joining our 'Media Team'. While a number of people are now able to back up as Newsletter Editor if required, we urgently need a volunteer prepared to train and work as a back-up person uploading newsletter reports and photos and updating the U3A Calendar for the website. If you are interested, please contact Bev on 5762 8171

Bev Lee

Community News

Swanpool Art Festival - 3 to 19 August 2018

The Swanpool Community Development Association is moving on from their successful involvement in the Bald Archy Touring Exhibition

to deliver their own exhibition and art prize in 2018.

'SCRAP - Swanpool Creative Recycled Art Prize' is 'Swanpool's fabulous, fearsome, funny and frolicking art challenge to Australian artists in the use of recycled materials' Commencing with a Gala Opening on Friday 3rd August, it will continue at Swanpool Memorial Hall alongside community exhibitions by Benalla Camera Club (at the Swanpool Bowls Club) and Broken River Painters (at the Albert Heaney Oval Rooms) from Saturday 4th August to Sunday 19th August 2018.

Swanpool's catering team will again provide delicious morning and afternoon teas, and light and main lunches. See you there!

Let us Entertain You (LUEY) presents Shirley Valentine!

Friday 6 and Saturday 7 July at 8pm; Sunday 8 July at 2 pm. Benalla Town Hall.

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU INC.

PRESENTS WILLY RUSSELL'S...

SHIRLEY VALENTINE

6th and 7th July – 8pm

8th July – 2pm

Tickets \$25

Benalla Town Hall 2018

www.trybookings.com/VQZV

Recommended for ages 14+

or

Lucy Lu Boutique Benalla
(cash only)



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Thank You

Steph Ryan and her office staff
for the printing of hard copies of our newsletter
for mailing out and distribution.

What's On

Monday, 2 July

9:30am Exercises for Fun
9:30am Lifeball
10:00am Art Appreciation
1:30pm Brain Games

Tuesday, 3 July

10:00am E-Book Group
10:00am Stock and Land - Carole Marple, former Shadow Minister for Agriculture
1:30pm Member Services
2:00pm Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 4 July

9:30am Easy Walks - 'Friends' track, Warby Ranges
9:30am Play Reading- 'Inheritance' by Hannie Rayson
1:30pm Tech Savvy Beginners - 'Be Connected' registration

Thursday, 5 July

10:00am Singing for Fun
1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, 6 July

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future
8:00pm Shirley Valentine (LUEY)

Saturday, 7 July

8:00pm Shirley Valentine (LUEY)

Sunday, 8 July

2:00pm Shirley Valentine (LUEY)

Monday, 9 July

9:30am Exercises for Fun
9:30am Lifeball
10:00am Collectors - Theme 'Flowers'
1:30pm Creative Writing (Writing Workshop) - new 2-hour timeslot
2:00pm Garden Team - 'Shirlie's'

Tuesday, 10 July

Travel Group - closing date August 3-night getaway
10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
1:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History
3:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'Other Projects'

Wednesday, 11 July

9:30am Mid Week Walk - Sandy Creek Track, Nillahcootie
10:00am Recorder Group @ North East Artisans
1:00pm Film and Literature

Thursday, 12 July

10:00am Singing for Fun - Harmony Group
1:30pm Executive Meeting

Friday, 13 July

10:00am Music Appreciation

Monday, 16 July

9:30am Exercises for Fun
9:30am Lifeball
1:30pm Program Services

Tuesday, 17 July

10:00am Armchair Traveller

1:30pm Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 18 July

10:00am Meet and Mingle - Guest Speaker - artist Tim Bowtell
12:15pm Travel Group
1:30pm Tech Savvy Beginners - 'Be Connected' Apple Users - Short Course - Session 1

Thursday, 19 July

10:00am Singing for Fun
1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, 20 July

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future
12:00pm Chat n' Chew - Benalla Curry House, Nunn Street
1:30pm 'Hot Topics'

Monday, 23 July

9:30am Exercises for Fun
9:30am Lifeball
1:30pm Writing Workshop - 'A Scary Moment'

Tuesday, 24 July

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
3:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'Other Projects'

Wednesday, 25 July

10:00am Wine Appreciation - Rutherglen Estates with lunch at Hub Sixty Two in Chiltern
10:00am Games - we've reinstated Games, beginning with board games!
10:00am Recorder Group @ North East Artisans
12:00pm Newsletter Deadline
2:00pm Member Services Group

Thursday, 26 July

9:30am Garden Appreciation - Vintage Hall Cafe 'Australian Native Plants and their uses for cooking and wellness'
9:30am Member Services
1:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'Other Projects'
3:00pm Tech Savvy Talkers @ The Northo

Friday, 27 July

10:00am Music Appreciation

Monday, 30 July

9:30am Exercises for Fun
9:30am Lifeball
2:00pm Garden Team - 'Bill and Jane's'

Wednesday, 1 August

Travel Group - Closing date for the March 2019 Tasmania Cruise

9:30am Easy Walks

9:30am Play Reading

1:30pm Tech Savvy Beginners - 'Be Connected' - Apple Users Short Course - Session 2

Thursday, 2 August

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, 3 August

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future
1:30pm Investment