



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – July 2021

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by 25 Jul 2021

President's Report

Another lockdown, now for another start up!

All classes resumed on Monday 21st June. Hopefully, we can all continue and enjoy our classes together for the rest of the year. Thank you to all our Convenors for coping with the stop start. I know some of you continued to offer your classes in other ways.

Our Covid Safe Plan is the same as before--sign in with the QR Code using the Services Victoria App or if unable a Sign In sheet is available. We have been working with members keen to learn to use the QR Code as part of the On Target program. If you need help, On Target Drop-In sessions will run on Thursday mornings from 10-12 on the 8th 15th 22nd & 29th July.

A reminder to members of groups who ride-share that the rate for ride-sharing set by the Committee is \$5, to be given to the driver by each passenger, with payment adjusted by agreement for short or longer trips.

We have been successful with a Grant Application to assist with the running costs of our Play Reading Group. U3A Benalla appreciate the support of the Benalla Rural City Council. The financial support from the Council enables us to keep our Annual Registration Fee at one of the lowest in Victoria.

Dorothy Webber

President

Group Reports

A Different View of German History

At our June meeting we went over the Versailles Treaty and the consequences that happened because of it. It is worth noting that a number of wars can be sheeted home to the Treaty of Versailles and the influence our Prime Minister had on it.

We also discussed the Weimar republic. The Weimar republic was a genuine attempt at good government that was never accepted. The Weimar Republic had strict proportional representation. It had strict civil rights for all. It had one vote one value. It had universal suffrage for both males and females. Governments had to have a more than 50% majority in Parliament. A myriad of balances were built in to ensure democracy reigned and no one group could take advantage.

It accepted the conditions of the Versailles Treaty and attempted to comply with its conditions.

It goes without saying that pretty well all political classes, all individual parties and all pressure groups hated it with a passion.

Next month we will discuss the Nazi Period.

We are slowly moving toward the GDR.

Neville Gibb

A Taste of Art



Kim Priest is pictured here with Broken River Painters mentors, Mike O'Connor and Carol Perry, during the 'A Taste of Art' class on a very wintry Wednesday afternoon in late June.

'A Taste of Art' is taking a break during the chilly months of July and August while the Broken River Painters busily prepare for a major exhibition of their work, to be held at the Swanpool Football Club rooms during the SCRAP art festival.

A Taste of Art will recommence in September. New members are also welcome! Contact Carole Perry on 5762 2373 or 0438 111 057.

Carol Perry

Art Appreciation

'An insight into Robert Jacks 'Rhythmic Compositions' with Independent Art Curator & Writer, Kirsty Grant', the 'First Monday' program postponed during the June lock down, will now be held on Monday 5 July from 10 to 11 am in the Bennett Gallery. *Rhythmic Compositions* focuses on Robert Jacks' guitar inspired work of the 1990s and 2000s and includes paintings, sculptures, artist books and works on paper. To secure your place, phone or email Benalla Art Gallery: 03 5760 2619 or gallery@benalla.vic.gov.au.

Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

We are looking forward to hearing and sharing stories on 'A childhood experience' or 'My Other Life' on Monday 28th June. The story collection at <https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/childhood-memory> will be added to after the class.

The topic for our next session Monday 26th July is 'Cringe' – 'Your eyes squint, your cheeks burn red, your teeth grate. Share a personal cringe-worthy tale of woe that you can't quite forget'. The alternative topic, recommended for newer class members, is 'Ideas Piggy Bank'.

1) Create/draw upon an 'Ideas Piggy Bank' such as a shoe box or other box or drawer containing objects and artefacts that enliven your memories, through scent and feel. Maps, menus, theatre programs, an old report card, vials of perfume, a garment, treasured photographs, a souvenir, an expired passport can sometimes trigger a work rich with detail.

(2) Select two items from the piggy bank 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)

Bev Lee

Bushwalking

Easy Walks

Walkers please note, convenors are currently looking at dates to reschedule the **Oxley-Milawa Rail Trail walk** delayed in June by the COVID lockdown. Please check the August newsletter for an update.

Wednesday July 7th: Mystery walk, Dookie

This will be a walk of approximately 7-8km, with a shorter option for amblers, along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Helen has arranged a visit to an interesting mystery destination on the way! We will start and finish the walk in the gardens at Dookie, where there are picnic shelters and toilets, and then follow a loop along the trail. BYO picnic lunch.

Please confirm your attendance by Monday 5th July with Glenys Chessell 0431201077 or gchess@hotmail.com

Remember to bring a hat, drink, snack and picnic lunch, plus walking poles if preferred. Meet at the Seniors'

Complex Carpark, Fawckner Drive at 9.15am. Detailed directions will be provided at carpark. Car sharing is usually available, with a small contribution to costs. Members are asked to confirm with Glen beforehand if they need transport, or can provide it.

Wednesday August 4th: Cremorna Bridge on the Goulburn River

Our August walk will take us to Yarck for an easy walk to the historic Cremorna Bridge. We will have a rest stop at Yarck, and then drive further towards our starting point for the walk, which will be approx 5km and include an easier ambler option.

Please confirm attendance with Glen Chessells as above. Lunch will be a BYO picnic, although there will also be cafe options (and a bookshop!) in Yarck.

If new members are unsure of their ability for these walks, please check with convenors Glen Chessells as above, or Julie McNeill 0407823031, juliemcneill@gmail.com.

Glen Chessells and Julie McNeill

Mid-Week Walks

On Wednesday June 9, while sensible folk were relaxing at home in front of the fire, seven hardy Bushwalkers braved the elements to undertake a 6.81 km walk along **Seven Creeks Apex Walking Track**. Fortunately for us, although it was indeed very cold, the weather (so far) wasn't as bad as predicted.

The first section was a pleasant stroll on each side of Seven Creeks, which was running strongly. After a short break in the park, we continued along Apex Track and crossed over the Euroa/Strathbogie Road to tackle the steep 2.34 km path up Balmattum Hill, still exhibiting damage from a fire 18 months ago.



At the Turntable/Rotunda/Shelter (the jury is still out on the correct name), Maggie checked the radar (so far so good) so we resumed walking uphill, taking care on the slippery path. The distant clouds were looking ominous, so Maggie sensibly rechecked the radar.

It was a shock to discover an impressively coloured pixelated image...indicating a U-turn and a hasty backtrack to the cars. A slightly bedraggled group huddled under the Euroa Park shelter to enjoy arvo. tea and sweet treats

Thanks to all walkers who trusted me enough to be lured from their warm homes to take part in a (surprisingly) pleasant day's outing.

Bev Thornell

Next Mid-Week Walk – Wednesday 14 July - LOGGERS LANE, WARBY RANGES M - 4 - 3

Starting from the Wangandary Road, the track is steepish and undulating to Taylor's track. On the way diverting up a hill to get a view of Wangaratta. Returning via Taylors, Booth Road, and track.

Expect to see some exceptional grass tree habitats. Recommend walking poles and good fitness.

Meet at Barkly St Tennis Courts 9.15 am - Leave Benalla 9.30 am.

Leader: John Boehm 0428 254 801

John Boehm

Chat n' Chew

The **Benalla Golf Club** has been booked for Chat and Chew on 16th July commencing at 12.15pm. If you are attending, please contact Lorraine on 0427 376 991 at least one week prior, as Lorraine has to confirm bookings at this time.

Lorraine Knox

Coin Collectors

Our small group of Coin Collectors is keen to grow and share with likeminded others the exciting and mysterious world of coin collecting. If you have a small or family collection, bring it along and share it with our group.

David displayed a full set of \$1 coins that make up the new Great Australian Coin Hunt. A full set or individual coins can be purchased from the Benalla Post Office. Our local post office displays a regular collection in the PO foyer of recently released coins and medallions from the RAM (Royal Australian Mint).

David circulated the June 2021 monthly catalogue from Downies Collectables. Downies is a large Australian coin and note dealer whose coloured catalogues depict their sale items in great photographic detail. The catalogue is also available on-line.

Rupe presented the group with a set of British coins issued when that country went to decimalisation in 1971. He also circulated a unique Finnish coin set.



Doug advised the group that he visited the Kiewa Street Albury market in June where he discovered four separate coin dealers offering a large range of coins and notes for sale. The Kiewa Street market is in an undercover car park and operates weekly on Sundays. The Group showed interest in visiting the market.

Heather shared some of collection of military memorabilia focused on military coinage and medallions celebrating Australian military milestones.

Gary brought along a number of proof sets and medallions celebrating Australia's centenary and also shared with the group an unusual Swedish proof coin set.

Doug Smith

Collectors

I have been surprised how many Jugs I have! Looking forward to seeing you and your Jugs on Monday 5th July.

Dorothy Webber

Community Singing

Community Singing is fortunate in that it is scheduled on the fourth Thursday morning of each month, which meant for June that we were all able to meet again in the Hub at Coinda.

Like other venues now we were able to use the QR code on arrival, as well as tick ourselves off on the U3A roll.

Community Singing is extremely fortunate to have Brian Greed supplying the music for each morning.

In the first session Brian used the organ and our regular Song Book 1, whilst in the session after morning tea he played the piano and used Sammy's Song Book Part 1. Both sessions were enjoyed by everyone there.

During the morning we welcomed Carmyl Winkler who has recently moved to Benalla from Tallangatta. We hope to see Carmyl at our other Singing sessions in the future.

Margaret Jenkins

Creative Writing

For our June class we returned to the 2020 process of sharing stories and feedback via email.

The June writing topics were:

- **In the distance I could hear the roar of the jeep**
- **He parked the car where he had a clear view of the house**
- **"wickedness and sin" said (name) theatrically**

We generally start the class with a quick writing challenge. We have been looking at the senses and how to describe them to add to our stories. This month the sense was taste, and some class members took the opportunity to write some sentences and share these with the class as well as their stories.

Events in our lives are often the catalyst for our writing, and this month was no different. One of the stories was brought to life after seeing what looked like an unopened parcel in a rubbish bin around the lake. A number of stories dealt with breakdown of family relationships. Unsurprisingly, there was also mention of COVID19 effects.

We will enjoy being able to meet up again for our July class. This is on 12 July. The topics for the class are:

- **He limped along...**
- **The feeling was comfortable as a daydream**
- **He wished he could believe it**

We will be sharing the stories via email ahead of the class, allowing time to read and prepare feedback for discussion when we meet.

Joy Shirley

Demystifying Psychology

Lockdown meant this month's Discussion Group was cancelled. So, we particularly look forward to the July gathering which will be the last for the Semester 1 program and a chance to share morning tea. (Details below).

But we were luckier with the Content session on 18 June when we looked at child development and addiction.

The concept of "child" is relatively modern dating from the 15th century. Moving forward to the more recent era and the notion of "childhood" increases in acceptance and interest characteristics quite distinct from those of adults. The research bank grew, medical knowledge improved, children lived longer which encouraged parental emotional investment, and the legal world offered increasing protection for a child's right to have a childhood. Many more factors contributed to the current view of childhood as a discreet phase of life.

Phillipe Aries – author of *Centuries of Childhood* (1960) – is credited with being the first to record the historical development of the concept of "childhood".

Many theorists have commented on the development of children. We focused on developmental theorists Jean Piaget (1896 – 1980) and Lawrence Kohlberg (1927–1987). Both hypothesised that children move through discrete stages of development in many areas, and that these stages are consistently observable, including moral development.

Paiget's theories can be explored with this experiment. Ask a couple of children of different ages to listen to both the following scenarios, then ask "Who was naughtier?" - Margaret or Marie and why?

Scenario #1

A little girl called Margaret went and took her mother's scissors one day when her mother was out. She played with them for a bit. Then, as she didn't know how to use them properly, she made a little hole in her dress.

Scenario #2

There was once a little girl who was called Marie. She wanted to give her mother a nice surprise and cut out a piece of sewing for her. But she didn't know how to use the scissors properly and cut a big hole in her dress.

Kohlberg (1963) extended Paiget's theory to include 6 life-time stages. It is fascinating viewing the video of Kohlberg's "Theory of Moral Development" and reflect on day-to-day examples of each stage.

See <https://youtu.be/bounwXLkme4>

After a cuppa break, we looked at the potentially fraught topic of addiction. More often the link between addiction and illicit drugs is the focus of family, community and media concern. In this case we looked at some addictions we tend to make fun of ... like chocolate and other carbs. There are cycles for most things

and addiction is no different. The cycles of addiction and change are simple and incredibly useful ways to look at often confusing and discouraging behaviours – of our own and of others.

So, I bet you know the most used drugs in Australia? Along with much more information, the answer is in the slide show on the U3A website. Surprised?

NEXT GATHERING – Discussion Group at Cooina Hub, 10 – 12 noon on 6 July. Bring a share plate to celebrate the end of 2021 Semester 1.

SEMESTER 2 NEWS - 2021 Semester 2 content is different from Semester 1 and begins on **Friday 16 July, 1 to 3pm, at Seniors' building Fawckner Drive**. The timetable and topics are on the U3A Demystifying Psychology website page. Queries and/or enrol by contacting me on 0437 621 575 or janerushworth2101@gmail.com

Jane Rushworth

Exercises for Fun

Our regular Monday morning Exercise group is still going strong.

Even on these cold mornings we all benefit from starting the day with some exercise.

Our wonderful "Music Man", Mel, has retired for the time being, due to ill health. We thank him for his patience and all his efforts, so far. Much appreciated Mel!

We are so lucky that Lin Ryan has kindly volunteered to be the "Music Maker" in his place, for the time being. Thank you, Lin!

A few of our class participants have left us for warmer climates over the Winter months, even though they may encounter COVID 19 restrictions. We wish them safe travels.

We are still required to sign in at the entrance door, and to also tick off our name on the U3a Attendance Roll, every day we attend.

Keep safe. Have fun.



Helen Jeffree

Exploring the Universe

The Planet Venus is an enigma.

Venus is Earth's neighbour but, in some ways, we know more about the surface of the dwarf planet Pluto in the far reaches of the solar system, than we know about the planet next door.

Shining so brightly in the night sky that it's known as the morning and evening star, second only in brightness to the moon, Venus is a rocky volcanic planet that has a thick hellish atmosphere that reflects 70% of the Sun's light. On Earth we have a magnificent view out into the universe. If you were on Venus, you would never see the stars!

Scientists think that Venus may have once supported life. Only five light years away and almost the same size as Earth, with temperatures of 470 C. hot enough to melt lead, why has Venus evolved so differently?

There have been many space craft mapping the surface and studying the atmosphere. The Russians landed probes on the surface in the 1970's and 80's that survived the extreme heat and radiation for no more than 2 hours and theirs are the only images we have of the surface.

Last year Dmitry Rogozin, head of the Russian Space Corporation Roscosmos, told reporters, "Resuming Venus exploration is on our agenda.... We think that Venus is a Russian planet, so we shouldn't lag behind."

NASA and The European Space Agency have announced plans for missions to explore Venus. This will be an extreme challenge for technology.

Last month's 'Exploring the Universe' class was a non-event. We look forward to resuming on Tuesday July 20th at 2 p.m. when amongst other things we will explore the mysterious Planet Venus.

Why not join us? Everyone is welcome.

Bev Morton

Family Research

Eleven people met for a U3A session of Family Research on Thursday 24 June. In the pains and gains session (ie: what was achieved since the last meeting), DNA results (good and "bad"); techniques of using Ancestry tools to enhance research; difficulties encountered with Irish records; shipping records results and stories about sharing of information with family were recounted. Wendy Sturgess brought along a family bible and two old family albums which she recently had beautifully restored and collected since the last meeting.



Jim Burnell, a retired Professor of Molecular Biology at James Cook University, then shared his detailed knowledge on DNA and its regulation. He explained how the interpretation we receive after submitting a test works with identification of our ancestral lineage. He also explained how regulation of the genes impacts in disease processes and the potential for cure. This kept everyone fascinated and many questions were answered.



After the break, members spoke about contacts they had made with new people during their individual research and their ongoing relationship with them, helpful or otherwise, in response to June's topic 'Found'.

Next month's topic is 'I wish I'd met/known'. The brief: 'Sometimes while we are researching we come across someone we wish we'd met or known. Write about them, what intrigued you about them and what questions you would like to ask them if you'd met.'

Wendy Sturgess

Film as Literature

Our film for discussion in June was "Six Minutes to Midnight". Due to the sudden introduction of restrictions not everyone was able to view the film, and we were not able to meet in person to discuss the film. Those who did see it shared their review via email.

East Sussex, Southeast England, August 15, 1939. Seventeen days before WWII, an English teacher disappears from Bexhill-on-Sea's Augusta Victoria College: a prestigious finishing school for the daughters of Germany's most influential, upper-class families. He has made a panicky call about a missing camera before he disappears.

Six days later a new English teacher, Thomas Miller (played by Eddie Izzard), turns up at the school. When he first turns up, the headmistress (Judy Dench) is suspicious of him.

As Miller teaches Adolf Hitler's league of Nazi girls, against the backdrop of the unaccountable disappearance of his predecessor, the new tutor finds himself trying to shed light on the mystery. German spies enter the picture. Now, the clock is ticking, and strange behaviours raise suspicions among colleagues.

It turns out that both the missing teacher and Miller work for the British Government. Judy Dench's character Saturday evening is an innocent, being fooled by the PE teacher who is the German operative. And of course the girls are saved but kept in Britain.

This was promoted as a thriller and drama but missed the mark. There is a scene where Miller is running from the police when he is suspected of killing someone. It ends up being a bit of a "Keystone Cops" scenario, rather than serious chase. This may have been intentional to relieve the tension, but I am not convinced it was the right approach. There was also a scene where Miller is hiding under a desk that I think missed the mark in creating tension.

No performances stood out. Judy Dench will always perform well, but her role was minor. There was potential for a good performance from one of the girls, but the screenplay let this opportunity slip, even though it was important to the end of the film.

The cinematography was the highlight with coastal scenes and wild seas.

The film had potential, but the portrayal was weak with too much predictability. The start was quite slow, without much indication as to where it was going. Overall, we gave it a rating of 2 out of 5.

At our July class we will be discussing "June Again" and "Cruella".

The things we will watch for in viewing the film include:

- Did you enjoy the film? What in particular did you like?
- Was there anything that you did not like?
- What did you think about the cinematography?
- What did you think of the performances? Any strong performances that stand out? Any weak performances that spoil the film?
- Overall rating out of 5.

Joy Shirley

Games

Come in out of the cold! Our room is warm, and the laughter is always warming - Monday 5th July 1:30 pm

Dorothy Webber

Garden Appreciation

June - National Trust House – 'Lake View', Chiltern. Sally our Guide was wonderful, and we found the history of the family who had lived there interesting. Lunch at the Bird 'n Bike was delicious. The chocolate fudge brownie with chocolate sauce wowed us all and was definitely '4 star'. The weather was very kind – the sun came out! All in all, we had an enjoyable day.

July - Please call me on 0438627010 if you would like to join us on 22nd July for a winter outing to the **Mokoan Hub Café at Winton Wetlands**, where we will hear a guest speaker from the Hub and have both morning tea and lunch (Own Cost). We will be leaving the U3A car park at 10.30 am.

August – our annual Winter Break!

Gwen Turner



German

Due to another Covid restriction, we only met once during June.

Having revised all our songs during the semester, we increased our repertoire with the German version of "My Island in the Sun", as popularised by Caterina Valente in the late 1950s. Then we brainstormed all words related to agriculture, having done the same for horticulture the previous month. Again, the ensuing discussion was very interesting and time was quickly up.

We are taking a semester break during July, resuming on Tuesday 10 August. Anyone with an understanding of the German language is welcome to join us then. Contact me if you are interested.

Pauline Bailey

Investment

Due to the COVID lockdown, our June Investment meeting was held via Zoom. It was good that eight members were able to meet up, and we had a great discussion.

John Hanlon had suggested the topic of the month which was how to invest \$300,000 for someone who was just retiring. We had four scenarios presented by different members who had obviously put a lot of thought into their suggestions.

We enjoyed the comments which followed about the suitability or otherwise of certain selected shares. Some of the scenarios even took into account that our theoretical retiree may not have much investment capability. So, a lot of possibilities were covered. Thank you to Malcolm, Bill, John and Les for sharing your investment plans with the rest of the group.

The next meeting of Investment will be in our U3A room on Friday 2nd July 2021 at 2pm.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

We missed our monthly meeting of Let's Talk Books in June as COVID reared its ugly head again. But I will give you a run down on what I have read - *The Paying Guests* written by Sarah Waters. This won the Sunday Times fiction book of the year. Set in 1922 in South London, Mrs. Wray and her discontented daughter are obliged to take in lodgers. A bit different this one, with a few twists but readable. I am also enjoying *The Dictionary of Lost Words*.

On a different page, one of our favourite authors Lucinda Riley of *The Seven Sisters* fame, sadly passed away this month. There has been a rush to purchase her latest book *The Missing Sister*, Big W in Wangaratta sold out several times.

To our good news, we are able to meet in the Library again in July. I look forward to seeing everyone again on Tuesday 6th July at 2 p.m. We are not able to have afternoon tea unfortunately. Our grateful thanks go to Lorraine, who has opened her home to our group for some months. What would we have done without you, Lorraine.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

Once again, we juggled the requirements of lockdown and QR codes to manage some enjoyable half and full court games. It was great to see the numbers returning, and players enjoyed the chance to warm up on some very frosty mornings.

Lifeball is a walking pace ball game, and a fun, safe and active way to keep fit, with lots of laughs. We welcome new players, and convenor Marlene Pitts is available on 0407240943.

New players are asked to check dates with Marlene for July, as several members will be escaping - COVID and lockdowns permitting - for some northern sun.

Julie McNeill

Meditation

Meditation is held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Caroline Sims

Meet and Mingle

Senior Constable Lisa Atkinson from the Benalla Police will be the Guest Speaker at July's Meet and Mingle which will be held on Wednesday 21st July at 10 am in the U3A Room at the Benalla Seniors Centre.

The topic which will be covered is Scams. Senior Constable Atkinson, who is the Community Liaison Officer at Benalla Police, will outline the variety of scams which can be encountered, and ways to cope with them.

Should be an interesting morning. All welcome.

Our guest speaker in August will be Moussa Taouk, who has a goat cheese farm at Glenrowan.

Margaret Jenkins

Music Appreciation

After a month's enforced lay-off, the end of June saw our group pick up with the programme intended for the very day after the lockdown came into effect. The major study was Schumann's one and only cello concerto - a work deemed so difficult at the time that no publisher wanted it. Consequently, it wasn't published until some years after Schumann's death – and even this with some amendments. Today, happily, it's part of the standard concert repertoire. Supporting works by Handel (Arrival of the Queen of Sheba), Vienne (Napoleon Centenary March), Charpentier (Te Deum) and a flash back to childhood with Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf (narrated and all) made up the rest of the programme. Next month will start off with music covering a similar time span – from Bach to Schreker (who's he?) and a couple of points in between. Intrigued? Why not join us? – 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10am – Covid and all that permitting.

Bill Squire

On Target – Learning to Shop Online

The Covid Lockdown interruption in June meant the rescheduling of our final sessions. As we near the end of the course, we are focussing on making sure participants are comfortable with new devices if they have them; can purchase goods online if they wish to; can use the Be Connected modules for self-directed learning after the course and can complete important functions such as using the Victorian Services QR Scan reader. A variety of additional skills related to shopping on-line, such as ordering actual prints of digital photos on-line, have been introduced by Jenny Sawyer and Dorothy Webber.



We would like to thank members of the class who have been supportive of one another and have been so understanding when members have different learning needs.

Class sessions will be replaced by 'Drop In Sessions' in weeks 2, 3, 4 and 5 of July and additional 1-1 mentoring sessions provided before the course concludes on 29 July if needed. Participants will also begin to attend 'Tech Savvy Beginner' and other courses in July.

Bev Lee and Dorothy Webber

Patchwork

I know a lot of you have been missing our classes, so this month we are lucky to have three sessions, 1st & 15th afternoon 1 -4 pm and 29th all day 9:30am - 4pm.

Dorothy Webber

Play Reading

Well, aren't we fortunate to not be involved with live theatre, so much work behind the scenes, and so disappointing for so many who have had to cancel performances. After cancelling our last Play Reading session, do hope we can meet up again on the 7th.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to our very versatile reader Patsy Bollard, who has been confined following a fall.

Jenny McKenna

Politics and Current Affairs

Politics does not rest during the Co-vid lockdowns and our discussions covered the many changes taking place around the world.

Barnaby Joyce back in Cabinet as Leader of the National party is sure to cause some headaches for the Government with his forceful attitude to climate change, coal and water. Should be interesting in the coming months!!!

The implications of the meeting at the recent G7 where Scott Morrison's one on one meeting with US President Joe Biden became a three-way meeting which included Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnston was discussed.

The Government's response (or lack of) to various crises that have occurred in the last few months, ie the Brittany Higgins sexual case, the former Attorney General's case, the withdrawal of Job Seeker, etc. was also the subject of discussion.

The recent Victorian lockdown highlighted the effect on businesses and the mental health of the public. Discussion regarding the lack of housing or accommodation was centred on its effects in the Benalla area. It is reaching a crisis situation in Benalla with many people sleeping in cars, along the riverbanks and in parks, etc. It was pointed out that many of these people were women.

The matter of Employer Paid Superannuation contributions was highlighted. Workers who are on salary packages which includes their Superannuation may find that they may have to contribute the incremental increase in employer contributions out of their salary. Employers will cover the additional contributions as they currently do for employees whose superannuation is in addition to their weekly wages.

The current status of Covid in various countries around the world was also highlighted and the various ways individual governments were handling these outbreaks and the effects on the populations concerned discussed.

Heather Wallace

Recorder Group

A smaller recorder group met while Janet was away, but play was as keen as ever. We took the opportunity to practise some rounds, then each person, in turn, nominated their choice of piece to play. This meant that we played some tunes that had not been played for a long time, which everyone seemed to enjoy.

However, there was no way to avoid "Mice Running Around" which we hope to have nailed by Janet's return.



It is a lively, intricate piece, played in parts, representing mice running everywhere – rather appropriate considering the situation in NSW farming districts.

Our next session is Wednesday 14th July.

Rae Jeffers

Saturday Cards – 500

As with other U3a classes, Saturday Cards did not take place in June. Thank goodness, July has arrived and we can return for some fun, laughter and enjoyment on Saturday 3rd July.

Heather Wallace

Singing for Fun

Due to the COVID lockdown we have been unable to hold our Singing for Fun or Harmony Sessions in June 2021. Singing for Fun will resume on Thursday 1st July and Harmony will start on Thursday 8th July at 10am in The Hub at Cooinda. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

The next Stock and Land will be on Tuesday July 6 at 10am. Our speaker will be stud cattle breeder, Karen Morham of Morham Maine Anjous, Lurg. Karen and her husband Brien have exported semen from one of their own Maine Anjou bulls to North America and New Zealand.

David Palmer

Tech Savvy Beginners – Android

Tech Savvy Beginners (Android Phones) is taking a break in July while convenor Robyn and mentors are working with the *On Target – Learning to Shop Online* group but will resume in August. More sessions are being offered in Semester II as well as a change of time slot. The class will now meet on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursday morning from 10 am to 12 noon in the U3A Meeting Room. Classes will commence on Thursday 5 August. New students are welcome to join the class. Although the focus is on using Android Phones, it is fine to bring along your Android tablet or laptop. If you enjoy and are already skilled at using Android phones, please think about volunteering as a mentor to provide one to one support to learners during class times. For more information, to let us know you will be attending, or would like to volunteer, please call convenor Robyn Lukey on 0403 164 931.

Robyn Lukey

Wine Appreciation

This Wine Appreciation outing was actually a Research Project! Were those glowing Facebook reviews of Warrabilla Wines really accurate? Well, our group, armed with clipboards and learned expressions, in the end had to agree; those reviews were indeed well deserved. Seated at long, beautifully crafted tables made from slices of polished Red Gum, we were welcomed by the friendly, enthusiastic Cellar Door team of Laura and Deb, who shared their extensive knowledge of wines and winemaking with us while we sampled generous samples of each varietal, all meeting with nods of approval. Even Keith, nurturing a bandaged hand, was still able to raise the odd glass or two.

Now for the History and Technical Stuff... A family owned and run affair in Rutherglen, Winemaker and owner, Andrew Sutherland Smith and his wife, Carol, started Warrabilla in 1991. The Cellar Door was opened at its current site west of Rutherglen five years later. The Winery prides itself on producing robust reds of distinction, particularly its flagship Durif. With an annual crush of approximately 150 tons of fruit each year, Warrabilla Wines' low yielding vines (1.5 to 2 tons per acre) ensure maximum ripening and concentration of colour, flavour and tannin. Whilst the wines are designed for long term cellaring, they are also well balanced and (fortunately) easy to drink at an early age. Andrew's skills as a Winemaker have been recognised many times in Wine Shows around Australia, with a string of trophies and medals to his credit.



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Now for Lunch... The U3A group was now in a mellow mood and ready for lunch. The Rogers had chosen the Stonegrill Restaurant in Corowa's Hotel Australia.

Crossing the Border proved hassle-free and the venue in the Main Street easy to locate (unlike the Winery location for one missing carload!)

The Hotel is historic and the main dining room, with its original stained-glass windows, warm and cosy, but due to group numbers, we had to be seated in a side room. Most of us were happy with our meal choices from the blackboard Seniors Special options.

Thanks to Keith and Heather, our hard-working convenors, U3A members enjoyed yet another Wine Appreciation outing.

Bev Thornell

Coming up in July – We are going to **Sam Miranda Winery** at Oxley next month, Wednesday, 28th July for tasting followed by lunch. Because we are only going to Oxley, we will leave a little later at 10.30.

Heather and Keith Rogers 5762 4086

Program News - Summary of Semester II adjustments

Enrolling in Different Units in Semester II

Would you like to enrol in a new unit in Semester 2? Please let the convenor know about your interest in enrolling in their unit. You will find their contact details on the course page on the website, in the [Program Guide](#) and in the [Semester II Timetable with Dates 2021](#). If you are given the go-ahead, add your name to the new roll when you first attend class.

Demystifying Psychology A five session course is being offered in Semester II with a first session common to the Semester I course, but with different content in sessions 2 to 5 to enable last semester's students to rejoin the class. The first session is on **Friday 16 July, 1 to 3pm, at Seniors' building Fawckner Drive**. The timetable and topics are on the U3A [Demystifying Psychology](#) website page. Queries and/or enroll by contacting Jane 0437 621 575 or janerushworth2101@gmail.com.

Other Course News

A Taste of Art is taking a winter break in July and August while the Broken River Painters busily prepare for their major exhibition of work at Swanpool during the SCRAP art festival. A Taste of Art will recommence in September. New members are also welcome! Contact Carole Perry on 5762 2373 or 0438 111 057.

Coin Collectors' new convenor Doug Smith is keen to contact members from the pilot program in 2019 and the Co-vid disrupted class of 2020 to discover if a later time slot on a Monday might suit them. Coin Collectors currently meets from 10 to 12 on the third Monday, a time which clashes with both Lifeball and Exercises for Fun. Coin Collectors could meet later in the day on the third Monday, possibly between 1.30 and 3.30 pm, if this suited members. Please contact Doug Smith on 0417 527 171.

Garden Appreciation will be taking their annual winter break in August.

German is taking a semester break during July, resuming on Tuesday 10 August. Anyone with an understanding of the German language is welcome to join then. Contact Pauline if you are interested.

Tech Savvy Beginners (Android) will resume in August with more sessions and a changed time slot. The class will now meet on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursday morning from 10 am to 12 noon in the U3A Meeting Room. Classes will commence on Thursday 5 August. New students are welcome to join. For more information, please call convenor Robyn Lukey on 0403 164 931.

What's On

Thursday, 1 July

- 10:00 On Target - Learning to Shop On-Line
- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 1:00 Patchwork

Friday, 2 July

- 9:30 Sustainability
- 2:00 Investment

Saturday, 3 July

- 1:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 5 July

- 9:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Collectors - 'Jugs'
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 10:00 Art Appreciation - 'Rhythmic Compositions'
- 1:30 Games
- 4:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 6 July

- 10:00 Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group @TheHub 'Bring a Plate' Final Sem 1 Session
- 10:00 Page Turners
- 10:00 Stock and Land - Main Anjou cattle
- 2:00 Armchair Traveller
- 2:00 Let's Talk Books – (We're at the Library!)

Wednesday, 7 July

- 9:15 Easy Walks - Mystery Walk, Dookie
- 9:30 Play Reading
- 2:00 Be Connected

Thursday, 8 July

- 10:00 Harmony Group @ The Hub
- 10:00 On Target Drop In #1
- 1:30 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 9 July

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 2:00 Armchair History - The Hub

Monday, 12 July

- 9:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 2:00 Creative Writing
- 2:00 Garden Team

Tuesday, 13 July

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs @ The Hub
- 2:00 Tech Talks

Wednesday, 14 July

- 9:15 Mid-Week Walks - Loggers Lane, Warby's
- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 1:30 Film as Literature - 'June Again' and 'Cruella'
- 2:00 Be Connected

Thursday, 15 July

- 10:00 On Target Drop In #2
- 10:00 Singing for Fun @ The Hub
- 1:00 Patchwork

Friday, 16 July

- 9:30 Sustainability
- 12:15 Chat 'n Chew - Benalla Golf Club
- 1:00 Demystifying Psychology - Session 1, Sem II

Saturday, 17 July

- 1:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 19 July

- 9:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Coin Collectors
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 4:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 20 July

- 10:00 The News - Fact or Fiction
- 2:00 Exploring the Universe - The Planet Venus

Wednesday, 21 July

- 10:00 Meet and Mingle - 'Scams' - Benalla Police
- 2:00 Tech Savvy Beginners 2021 (Apple)

Thursday, 22 July

- 9:30 Garden Appreciation - Mokoan Hub
- 10:00 On Target Drop In #3-
- 10:00 Community Singing @ The Hub
- 1:00 Family Research - 'I wish I'd met/known...'

Friday, 23 July

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 2:00 Armchair History

Sunday, 25 July

- 5:00 Newsletter reports due today

Monday, 26 July

- 9:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 2:00 As Time Goes By - Memoir Writing - 'Cringe'

Tuesday, 27 July

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs @ The Hub
- 2:00 A Different View of German History

Wednesday, 28 July

- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 10:30 Wine Apprec'n - Sam Miranda, Oxley
- 2:00 Tech Savvy Beginners 2021 (Apple)

Thursday, 29 July

- 9:30 Patchwork - All Day Session
- 10:00 On Target Drop In #4 (F) Small Class Room

Monday, 2 August

- 9:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Collectors
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 10:00 Art Appreciation
- 1:30 Games
- 4:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 3 August

- 10:00 Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group
- 10:00 Page Turners
- 10:00 Stock and Land
- 2:00 Armchair Traveller
- 2:00 Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 4 August

- 9:15 Easy Walks Cremorna Bridge, Goulburn River
- 9:30 Play Reading
- 2:00 Be Connected

Thursday, 5 August

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners (Android)
- 1:00 Patchwork