



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – June 2019

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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

President's Report

Great news! U3A Benalla has been awarded a Community Engagement Grant worth \$1,500 by the Good Things Foundation which runs the 'Be Connected' digital literacy program. The teaching of digital literacy is important for people who have had little or no contact with computers during their working lives. It can help connect family and friends through Emails and the sending of photos. Increasingly we are finding that business wants to communicate and send accounts also by Email.

In Semester 2 U3A Benalla is offering a 'Be Connected' Introduction to the Internet Course for U3A members and other members of the Benalla community aged 55 years or older. We are celebrating our new course and involvement with 'Be Connected' with a one-off sausage sizzle luncheon at 12 noon on Wednesday 3 July. Using our overhead projector we will outline the 'Be Connected' course which follows the barbecue at 2 pm, then weekly each Wednesday at 2 pm during second semester.

CELEBRATE U3A'S INVOLVEMENT WITH 'BE CONNECTED'

FREE BARBECUE LUNCH!

WEDNESDAY JULY 3 at 12 NOON

U3A Meeting Room

Burger & Sausage in Bread; Coffee, Tea & Cake

Members & Friends are welcome

For Catering RSVP 0412 263 071 or 5762 2116 to Dorothy no later than Friday 21 June 2019

Council have installed Solar Panels on the building and will update the lighting at the building in the next few weeks. When I know the dates I will let the Conveners it may impact know. The Program Committee have finalised the Semester 2 timetable, which is attached to this newsletter and included on the website.

I understand there have been a few complaints about members not hearing their convenors. Any Convenor who would like to use the microphone and needs a run through on its use can ring me 0412 263 071

Dorothy Webber President

Group Reports

A Night at the Opera: French Style

Our May opera was Jules Massenet's *Cendrillon*. This is his version of the Cinderella story complete with wicked sisters, handsome prince and a happy ending. First performed in Paris in 1899 and repeated in many opera houses internationally. This tuneful opera was staged as a pantomime as if Cinderella may have dreamt it all. An enjoyable light opera for an Autumn evening

Meg Dillon

Armchair Traveller

Neville Gibb gave a very fine and informative presentation on his travels to Berlin and Venice at the May gathering. While the first semester this year included only 2 meetings it was resolved and approved by the general committee, that we hold monthly meetings during the 2nd semester. The first meeting will be on 2nd July with Bill Paris as guest speaker. I am still looking for volunteers to address the later meetings.

Ray O'Shannessy

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

Our new schedule commenced on 26th May, providing a dedicated timeslot to support people keen to write their memories with a view to publishing them for family and friends. The sharing of '500 words' projects is now commencing at 1.30 pm, followed by a break from 2.50 to 3.10, when 'Writing and Publishing Our Memoirs' begins, facilitated by Noelle McCracken, who worked in publishing for many years. Members can attend either or both sessions.

Our 500 Words stories in May explored ways in which we use the word 'Time'. Some members enjoyed teasing out concepts about time in a quirky way. Joy wrote about a loved family member's different concepts of time; Jenny about memories of the time she was the same age as her grandchild, who had asked her about this; and Wilma about a recent, now cherished experience in which she observed the passing of time through the eyes of mural artist Rhone at his evocative exhibition at the decaying but soon to be restored Burnham Beeches mansion.

The 500 Words project for June is to (1) Create an 'Ideas Piggy Bank' in a shoe box to bring along 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).

The "Writing and publishing our memoirs" group began last month with an avid group of writers keen to make their family story a story their family will want to read! The group will focus on a memoir or family history with a view to publication, with a format and quirks more in style of a novel than perhaps the usual, dare I say boring, family tome.

Bev Lee and Noelle McCracken

Bird Watching

Our trip to Reef Hills State Park on the southern outskirts of Benalla on the 9th May was the final outing for our group this semester. Eight of us, rugged up on a cold, cloudy day, headed to the south west area of the park around Baines and Centre Roads. Red Wattlebirds were present in large numbers, feeding in a few flowering eucalypts and keeping smaller honeyeaters at bay. We had good views of two groups of White-browed Babblers as they crossed the road in front of us. It was much easier than craning our necks looking for small birds in the treetops in poor light. We finally left the Wattlebirds behind, locating several Yellow-tufted and White-naped Honeyeaters in the canopy, as well as two beautiful male Golden Whistlers. Thanks to those who brought some home-made slices for an enjoyable morning tea to finish the outing.



Details of the 13 bird species recorded at Reef Hills can be viewed on the eBird web site at <https://ebird.org/australia/view/checklist/S56645504>

U3A Birdwatching will take a winter break, resuming on Thursday 12 September, with 2 more outings in October and November. We have also been invited to join the Goulburn Valley U3A Bird-watching group which will visit Benalla on Wednesday 21 August. More details later.

Kathy Costello

Booker Reading Group

Our May reading was with Esi Edugyan's *Washington Black*, the story of a slave boy on a British Caribbean sugar plantation. Washington's skill at drawing was recognised by the plantation owner's brother who stole him away and travelled with him as his assistant. Many adventures followed including a balloon ride that crashed into the sea, time spent with scientists in the Arctic circle, then London, Amsterdam and Morocco. The story explores the idea of freedom, for although Washington was ostensibly free he was burdened by memories of his cruel childhood and his search for his original parents. A thoughtful book enjoyed by most of the group.

Meg Dillon

Brain Games

It's hard to recall what we did in the last session without my book at hand . Guess that means we'd better get back to more memory training next time.

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalks

Easy Walks

The July Easy Walk on 3 July will start at Tarrawingee 'Railway Station' and the group will walk along the rail trail to 'Everton Railway Station'. We will meet at the Seniors complex car park at 9.45am to drive to Tarrawingee. Please confirm your attendance with Wendy Sturgess on 0403226649 by Monday 1 July

Wendy Sturgess/Margaret Walshe

Mid-Week Walks



Leader: Brian Watson (In lieu of John Boehm)

Benalla Bushwalking Club's Mid-Week Walk on Wednesday 8 May took 6 walkers up to Mt. Samaria State Park, with its interesting and diverse forest tracks. Any misgivings we had about the weather were soon dispelled as the early morning mist cleared. A car shuffle meant that we were able to walk an 8 km loop of Wileman Track, to Back Creek Falls (reduced to a trickle). How pleasant it was to walk through the tall timber after the recent rain, to smell the eucalyptus and discover clumps of dainty ferns and colourful fungi on the forest floor. Lunch

at Camphora Camp Site was a welcome respite, before continuing along Wild Dog Creek Falls Track and Summit Track, relieved to find Wendy's car patiently waiting. Thank you, John and understudy Brian, for organising a great walk in the beautiful, nearby Mt. Samaria State Park.

Bev Thornell

Next Mid-Week Walk: Wednesday June 12 Warby Ranges Chick Hill S-4-3

The next Mid-Week walk will be on Wednesday, 12 June, 2019. A circuit walk of about 9km starting on the eastern side of the range to Chick hill, along the top track then back down via Nason track and road to the start. Very pleasant with some stunning views across the Ovens Valley and up to the high country.

Meet at 9.15am for departure at 9.30am at the 'The Centre' Tennis Courts Barkly St

Leader John Boehm 0428 254801

John Boehm

Chat n' Chew

On Friday June 21st our group is being welcomed to the Benalla Art Gallery Cafe for lunch at 12.00 midday. Come along and enjoy the food, view and company.

Pat Gardiner will be in charge as Gwen Turner and I will be sailing down the rivers in Europe. Pat's contact phone number is 0407 848 534.

Shirley Kearney

Collectors

While many of us groaned at the thought of 'Fans' for our May theme a large, varied and very interesting selection was presented.

Most fans had been purchased as travel souvenirs and caused a lot of reminiscing but some were family treasures. Lynne showed us a hand painted fish-skin fan which had belonged to her aunt, a nurse at Tobruk.



John had a selection of fans from the now defunct Benalla Light Opera Co including one from a 1980 production where all cast members had to make their own prop.

Helen had an Interesting selection including one made from animal skin and a large fan purchased in Malaysia but Shirlie (pictured) won the prize for the biggest specimen.

Henry's Scottish themed timber fan caused a lot of interest with its tartan ribbon and thistle decoration.

There will be no meeting in June due to the long weekend. The theme for July is book-marks and pin cushions so we have plenty of time to find those often elusive bookmarks.

Jennifer Campbell and Judith Borthwick

Creative Writing

Our starting challenge this month was an idea from one of the class members. He provided a couple of paragraphs with gaps for us to complete to make a story. The group came up with many and varied ideas as to what could be opened – envelopes, boxes, doors and even coffins – and periods of time – days, weeks, months, years. An interesting exercise to get us thinking!

Our theme was to write a description of a person or place. Some took the opportunity to write about someone they had met or some place they had visited. Others wrote about a place or person that fitted a piece of fiction writing they were working on. It was particularly interesting to hear the descriptions of real people, some of whom were not very pleasant characters. Some even wove in descriptions of multiple people and place in one piece.

Our topics for 10 June are a choice between:

- A one-page effort - Your own written funeral statement to be read at your funeral
- Please tell us a little about yourself.
- It will be here any minute.
- The train stopped and everyone...

The first option was contributed by a class member and he provided his contribution as a sample of what could be done when writing about oneself. Others may decide to write a piece of fiction for any (or all) of the options.

For June, we have decided to start our session at 2:30. This will reduce the amount of time that we need to talk above the sound from the Line Dancing Class

Joy Shirley

Exercises for Fun

Half the year has almost passed, and we continue to enjoy our fitness regime every Monday . All our participants begin with a simple exercise routine and gradually work up to more vigorous steps. The Class is relaxed, without pressure, and there are chairs around the room, if anyone needs a rest. These mild Exercises to music are fun for all, and begin at 9.30 am every Monday morning. We enjoy a Cuppa and chat afterwards. Have Fun!

Helen Jeffree

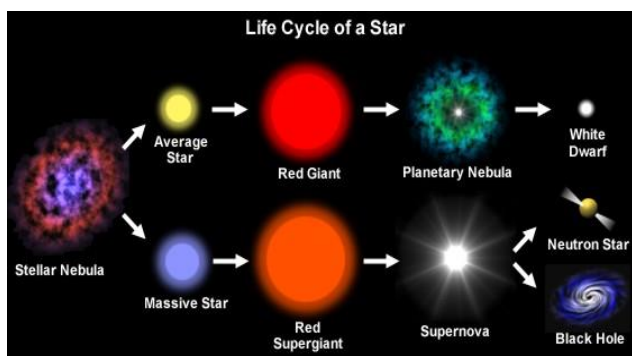
Exploring the Universe

We studied the Birth, Life and Death of Stars in May.

A star like our Sun is a churning nuclear furnace that produces more energy in two minutes than all forms of energy that humanity can use in a year.

Rupe presented a very comprehensive power point presentation on Star Evolution with nine stages. Briefly: Stars are born in a cloud formed by a collapsed star. Dense gas and dust condense into a huge globule which then contracts under its own gravity. Heat produces nuclear reaction and nuclear fusion turns hydrogen into helium. The star becomes a massive nuclear reactor producing heat, energy and light.

Stars are classified by their size and colour. The hottest are white and blue. The cooler stars are red, orange, and yellow. Size predicts the life span of the star. Massive stars are giants, supergiants and hyper giants and have a shorter life of only millions of years. Smaller and medium stars last for billions of years.



We viewed 'Star Size Comparison' which also shows the vastness of the universe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoW8Tf7hTGA>

The more massive stars burn all their hydrogen and helium quickly and then implode into a supernova and the outer shell is blasted away. The star then becomes either a dense neutron star or a black hole.

Our Sun is a medium main sequence yellow star; a star of one solar mass with a life of around 10 billion years. As these stars near the end of their lifespan they will evolve into red giants. When all the helium has burned away the gaseous layer drifts out and becomes a nebula and the core of the star cools, dims and shrinks into a white dwarf. No need to panic and jump onto a spaceship, it won't happen for billions of years and by then we may have travelled to another solar system.

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

At our May class we discussed the film "**Swimming with Men**". This has been promoted as a *Comedy, Drama, Romance*.

Some of the group were a little dubious about how interesting the film would be, but everyone ended up enjoying the film.

A man who is suffering a mid-life crisis finds new meaning in his life as part of an all-male, middle-aged, amateur synchronised swimming team. He had left his wife, believing she was having an affair and had rejected him. As his relationship with the team evolved, he realised the problem was his own fear of growing old; his wife had not rejected him. The relationships within the team also evolved as they all learnt the value of working together and the importance of supporting each other in their different needs.

Our group did not see it as a romance in a traditional sense, but it does fit a wider definition of the term to include relationships and feelings. There was an element of drama, and some humorous moments.

The film was reasonably light and enjoyable, with some thought-provoking moments. Performances were good, including several actors who are more often seen in television series, including Ron Brydon (Would I lie to You, A Cock and Bull Story), Jim Carter (Downton Abbey), Nathaniel Parker (Inspector Lynley).

We rated it as 3.5 out of 5.

Our film for discussion at the 12 June class is "Top End Wedding" screening at BPACC from 30 May. It is an Australian film set in the "Top End" of the country and looks to have some spectacular scenery from this area.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation

JUNE 27th

Meet in the U3A room at 10.00 a.m. Guest speaker will be Vicki Wight from Samaria Rose Farm. Vicki explains growing 2000 Damask Roses for the purpose of making Rosewater and Essential Oil. Come for the beautiful scent of Roses. Vicki will also have some product for sale. Bring a plate to share for morning tea.

JULY 25th

Meet in the U3A room at 10.00 a.m. This will be a swap day, bring some plants, seeds, cuttings, books and bulbs etc. or just come for a cuppa and a chat about gardens.

AUGUST

There will be no Garden Appreciation in August, this is our winter break. We will gather again in September for a Spring garden somewhere around us.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team



The trailer load shows how productive the team can be but perhaps the highlight was the knot-tying demonstration from Marcus - impressively rapid and effective!

We need to decide whether our next gathering, at Deslie's, is on the allotted Monday (long weekend) or is better put back to the third Monday.

Elspeth Maconachie

German for Beginners

During May, we have been singing, story reading, reciting poetry and doing word games. A little history and geography has also been included. Many thanks to Neville Gibb for help with the technology.

There just remain 2 more sessions till the end of semester. These are on June 3 and 17.

All participants will be asked to complete a survey to help inform the future direction of U3A German language provision.

Pauline Bailey

History: An Introduction to Civilization

Our two sessions in May explored firstly, the Protestant Reformation and its electric effect on the rest of Europe. The Printing Press, then in use for sixty years, rapidly spread thousands of copies of Martin Luther's ideas throughout Germany and Europe within months. His translation of the Bible into common German, stimulated other Northern nations to make translations too and quickly expanded the importance of learning to read throughout many countries.

Our second session looked at the extensive system of colonization that followed in this period. Spain, Portugal then England, France and Holland all explored and colonized Asia and the Americas. Colonization mostly benefitted the colonizers as many abuses of the native peoples occurred in every country that experienced European conquest or settlement. The final vestiges of colonization were finally eradicated in

the 1970s. This enormously long engagement between Europe and the rest of the world has resulted in some of the suspicion, even anger, with which some former colonies regard their former European rulers. Videos helped tell the stories of these events:

Meg Dillon

Investment

At the May meeting of Investment one of our members, Brian Vial, gave us an interesting talk on Superannuation and Self-Managed Superannuation Funds. Brian covered the history of Superannuation dating from the time when Paul Keating was Treasurer and mentioned some of the important changes which have occurred since then. Thank you, Brian, for a very informative talk.

The other topic for the afternoon was Exchange Traded Funds. This month we looked at a condensed version of the course on ETFs which is available on the ASX Website. This course is comprehensive and covers ETFs which are involved with shares and sectors of both the Australian and International markets as well as ETFs for Bonds and Commodities. We also mentioned associated information available on the Vanguard and Beta Shares Websites.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 7 June at 2pm in the U3A room at the senior's complex

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

A lovely afternoon spent at the Library discussing our reading for the month. Many thrillers/suspense novels from Jo Nesbo, Stella Rimington, Michael Connelly and Sidney Sheldon.

A favourite read by no less than 3 of our group was *The Single Ladies of the Jacaranda Retirement Village* by Joanna Nell. *A Forgers Tale* by Shaun Greenhalgh, a true story, was very readable. Laurie was pleased to obtain a talking book of the *Black Snake* which challenges the legend of Ned Kelly and was discussed at our last meeting. *The Genius of Birds* by Jennifer Stackhouse was also a pleaser. An interesting read was *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks, the story of King David, as was the true story *Esther* by Jessica North, a Jewish woman transported on the First Fleet who became the servant, lover and then wife of First Lieutenant George Johnson and an influential woman in the colony. Well worth a read. An historical fiction novel *The Nightingale* by Kristen Hannah, two sisters who resisted the German occupation of France. The Women's Weekly even rated a mention, an interesting story about Audrey Hepburn. Another great reading month lies ahead. See you all in June.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

Lifeball continues on its merry way, and we are building towards our annual Fun and Friendship Day, on May 27. Our visiting teams will be coming from Deniliquin, Albury, Wangaratta, Rutherglen, Myrtleford, Mansfield and us. Eildon would have been invited as well, but unfortunately they have folded, which is sad. But when people make the effort to keep things rolling along nicely, and there is no cooperation from the team, I guess folding is the only option, and makes me very sad.

We thought we could possibly change the name from Lifeball to Laughball, because the games has us all laughing at the most inopportune times!!!

And we will be able to christen our brand new tops, with thanks to Max Powell, who organised them on our behalf. They are rather smart, and we think we will look super in our new regalia!!

Why don't you come and see us playing, any Monday at the Indoor Recreation Centre, at 10am. It is such an easy game, as running will be penalised, as will bouncing the ball, and the rules are all to reward safety on the court!!

Great fun!! Talk to Marg, on 5762 2967 or 0438 509 121, or Gerry, or Max

Marg Merriman

Meditation

1st and 3rd Monday of each month at Senior Citizens commencing at 4.00pm

Sessions of Meditation and Relaxation do vary week to week.

Caroline Sims

Meet and Mingle

Our guest speaker in May was Elise Wood, Manager of our YMCA run Aquatic Centre. Elise offered the following information:

“The Benalla Aquatic Centre opened as an Indoor Aquatic Facility in November 1997.

As part of the YMCA we are more than just an Aquatic Centre.

We offer

Swim Lessons, Infant Lessons, Private Lessons, Gym, Personal Training, Gym Programs

Yoga, Boxing, Tai Chi, Mega Circuit, Aqua Aerobics, Gentle Aqua, Stroke Development – these are but a few.

There are different membership options depending on the need, wants and usage of the individual.”

Elise also provided a handout about the centre and a free pass to come and try it out. Several of the handouts were left for our members to pick up.



Bruce Walker, President of the Rotary Club of Benalla will be next months (Wed 19th June) speaker, he will present information about the Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) and how to control it on your property.

Bill Parris

Music Appreciation

Two musicians of the romantic period were our focus for May – Felix Mendelssohn and Robert Schumann lived at the same time as each other. The music that came from both of them is firmly classical in form and romantic in nature. But there the similarity fades.

Much of Felix Mendelssohn’s music came as a result of his travels. He toured Europe visiting a number of countries where he sketched musical fragments later to be turned into concert works, which is why a number of them bear titles suggesting these countries (the titles are not his doing, but publisher’s- he hated the idea). For example, he visited Scotland, writing the seeds for his Scottish Symphony and the Fingal's Cave overture (following a trip to visit the Isle of Staffa, near Mull) and meeting Sir Walter Scott. He sketched his Italian Symphony while visiting Rome and Naples.

Although some of Mendelssohn’s compositions were clearly inspired by external events and bear highly descriptive titles, he shied away from any programmatic interpretations voicing the opinion that music was to be interpreted by the listener.

Schumann on the other hand composed a far amount of music that was programmatic – much of it evocative of the love of his life, Clara. Schumann was not so widely travelled and his compositional life was sporadic due to health issues (he was bi-polar) and periods of separation from Clara (her father took to all sorts of measures early on keep them apart and discourage any relationship). His early works of piano miniatures and songs in earlier years gave way, in the later years, through Clara’s inspiration and encouragement to symphonies, concertos, string quartets, and stand-alone concert overtures and more.

You can read more detail of the lives and music of both composers on the Music Appreciation Page of the U3A website. There you will find also links to Youtube for the music we listened to at both sessions.

Bill Squire

Play Reading

Numbers have dropped a little with members heading off for warmer days! The play reading for the month of May was “It was odd!” The play was written over 50 years ago and although it was enjoyed by all, the difference in social expectations and the roles of the cast were of a time past where respect for elders and the authority of a parent were of utmost importance. We will be having a one act play with a cast of 5 or 6 for the month of June and will revert back to two act play in July when numbers increase. Any new would be thespians welcome!

Politics and Current Affairs

May has been a busy month for Australian Politics. The week prior to the election we discussed the likely outcomes for parties in the election, its effect locally and internationally.

Following the election the group discussed the news polls, how information is gleaned from the public, the change from landlines to mobile phones and its effect on polling, and how the parties view the polling. Following the election result the question asked is 'where do we go from here?'

The status of Brexit and the European Union stimulated good debate on where the UK can go from here. We also touched on the political scene in Israel, as well as the tariff outcomes between USA and China. Also interesting is the situation between Trump and Iran.

Heather Wallace

Recorder Group

We started our session with the now familiar rounds, "Music Alone Shall Live" and "Haste Thee Nymph", followed by the hauntingly beautiful "Auld Lang Syne" "Home Sweet Home" and "Brahm's Lullaby" trio. Most of us were singing the words in our heads as we played. Then it was time for music that marched or danced along - cue "Gavotte." and "Allemande," with their musical trills. Of course we are learning all the time. How interesting to discover all the different musical conventions composers use to save paper. Miss them and you will be consigned to a scenic tour around all the notes! We will certainly be working on "Maggie" again next session. Another hard working session. It's not every day that people installing solar panels get a recorder concert.

Pat Treleaven

Singing for Fun

May has been a month for a variety of songs, both old and new.

Margaret Merriman paid tribute to Doris Day in May with a selection of songs Doris Day made popular. She has also introduced us to "The Exodus Song".

Brian Greed included several of the Seeker's songs this month, including "Mamma Mia" and "Georgie Girl". These are always sung with great gusto and enjoyed by our group.

We have been missing Faith Hicks who is recovering from a bout of the 'flu. We look forward to seeing you again next month Faith.

Gwen Barnes has been providing great accompaniment on the piano.

The number of men in the group now almost equals the number of ladies which is quite an achievement for the guys. This further expands the range of songs which can be chosen.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 6 June at 10am in the U3A room at the seniors centre.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land – 'Bees swarm on almonds'

A keeper of 300 queen breeding beehives, David Briggs of Glenrowan, told the May U3A Stock and Land group that the transfer of hives to pollinate the forests of almond trees in the Murray Valley, was the biggest migration of livestock in the southern hemisphere.

Most of the something like 150,000 colonies, which are moved onto almond orchards there in August, normally overwinter in the warmer than the rest of Victoria Mallee to be in good condition for the upcoming task. "Ideally they'll be placed on a north facing, dry and warm sandy bank," David said.

Canola is the next big pollination thing – "one of the best" - for beekeepers and bees, after almonds. Adequate honey bees will see a canola crop yield 15% more oil than crops relying on native bees, David said. Going rates to hire hives is \$110 a hive for almonds and \$100 for canola.

There are about 4000 public land bee sites around Victoria although this number was only the result of quite strenuous renegotiations with the Victorian government in 2013.

David said clear fell tree harvesting by Vic Forests, loss of annual flowering plants, mono cultures, loss of weeds and use of herbicides in gardens and on farms, were significantly depleting pollination opportunities for honey bees.

David particularly named neonicotinoid insecticides as particularly threatening bee numbers. "Gaucho is the main one used on farms but garden use [of herbicides] to destroy weeds is practically as bad".

In a nominal six week lifetime, one honey bee will produce about 5mls or a teaspoon full of honey. Of that time she will spend about three weeks in the hive and three weeks foraging up to 10km from the hive. In an hour she will typically travel 20km.

David said he had a closed bee breeding population. He selects the 10 best daughters from a hive and artificially inseminates them to superior but unrelated males to maintain genetic variation.

In Western Australia, the best colonies and drones are annually taken to Rottnest Island off Fremantle, where they can be bred remote from interlopers.



David Briggs and a grevillea – "heaven for bees" - outside the Senior Citizens building

David Palmer

Sustainability

In our last newsletter, President Dorothy Webber wrote "We have received news from Benalla Rural City that solar panels and new internal and external light globes will be installed before the end of June". A Sustainability group member captured the action as solar panels were installed on the roof recently. Another contribution towards Renewable Energy Benalla's vision of Benalla becoming '100% renewable energy by 2028'!



Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Beginners- Apple Devices

Over the last month we have been revising previously learnt iPad skills and also learning new ones. We've visited the camera, photo, email, safari, calendar and Apple News Apps again.

We had a history lesson and watched a couple of YouTube clips about Steve Jobs and Xerox and the Apple Company. Very interesting! We checked out the Settings app and looked at iCloud, General, our iPad storage and our battery status.

Now that we are feeling more confident about apps, we have followed up with installing and deleting apps. A good tip is to check whether or not the app is free, read the description and most importantly read the reviews.



Lastly we began exploring the world of podcasts. So many to choose from.... We initially searched the Australian ABC selection, but when I say 'world' that is literally the case. Podcasts can be sourced from all over the world. Amazing!

Jenny Sawyer

Tech Savvy Projects: Family History

'Tech Savvy Projects - Family History' aims to support participants to use internet based programs, particularly ancestry.com, to research their family history. We have been approached by a number U3A members who have already done a lot of work on their family history who would like to deepen their understanding and skills in geneology. If you have skills in geneology and would be happy to either develop a 'Geneology' course or facilitate a guided self support group, please contact Bev Lee on 5762 8171.

Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Talks

As an introduction to cryptocurrency, Bitcoin and Blockchain, we were fascinated by a video from Coldfusion explaining how money works. Banks, particularly central banks have never been popular for, many years. Little seems to have changed. They have always operated in great secrecy and in the case of central banks with unlimited power. They are responsible to nobody. The only countries in the world without a central bank are North Korea, Iran and Cuba. Until the late 20th century all countries currencies were tied to the US dollar and the various central banks held reserves in \$US. The Federal Reserve was in turn backed by gold. In 1971 President Nixon severed the connection between the \$US and gold. The \$US is now backed by...nothing In turn currencies tied to the \$US are also backed by nothing. Australia was also in the same situation until 1983 when Treasurer Keating floated the \$A. The producer of the Coldfusion blamed the 1939 recession on the actions of the Federal Reserve and the GFC in 2008 was partly blamed on the Federal Reserve, for lowering interest rates to an unheard of (until then) 1%. Modern economies are debt economies and rely on debt for successful functioning. Without debt there is no new money!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQUhJTxK5mA

The crash of 2008 inspired the enigmatic Satoshi Nakamoto to develop a proposal for a crypto currency

called Bitcoin in a 9 page seminal paper called 'Bitcoin: A Peer to Peer Electronic Cash System'. In January 2009, the bitcoin network came into existence with Satoshi Nakamoto mining the genesis block of bitcoin with a reward of 50 bitcoins. A second Coldfusion video briefly describes Bitcoin and explains at some length, what else the Blockchain/Distributed Ledger Technology could also be used for. After a break we had a closer look at the nuts and bolts of Bitcoin, including cryptographic hashes and double key digital signatures. The application of Distributed Ledger Technology to Australia's ASX was also considered and the reasons why it was different. For example the ASX implementation is highly centralised and not peer to peer, it is not immutable, that is entries can be edited, and also there are legal aspects together with the fact that the required throughput is hundreds of thousands of transactions per day which Bitcoin's Blockchain cannot match. Many commentators liken the introduction of Bitcoin and Blockchain of equal importance to the introduction of the internet.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDNN0uH2Z3o/ <https://demoblockchain.org/coinbase/>

Les Rodgers

Wine Appreciation

May – ‘A lovely autumn day for Morrison’s Winery Glenrowa’

“A lovely autumn day for U3A Wine Appreciation at Bob & Diane Morrison’s Winery, Glenrowan in the nearby granite Warby Ranges, looking east towards the Alps. Winery & home are surrounded by plantings of indigenous plants, that have survived the dry summer on rain water & mulch of grape seeds & crushed skins” Marg Walshe on Facebook

Coming up in June – Indigo Wines and Everton Pub (to be confirmed)

As the newsletter goes to press, Keith and Heather Rogers, just back from a month away, are busily making arrangements for the next Wine Appreciation visit on Wednesday June 26. They are checking out 'Indigo Wines' which is near Everton en route to Beechworth from Benalla and considering the Everton Pub as the lunch venue. Apparently the lunch there was very good on a previous visit. Pencil these in to your diary and keep an eye on the website for confirmation. Meet at the car park behind Aldi at the customary time of 9.30 am, but again, check the website or call Keith and Heather on 5762 4086.

Program News

‘Saturday Session’– Come and play the card game 500

Many people have mentioned that they stay home on Saturdays and as they are not interested in sport are looking for something to do. Interest has been expressed in conducting an activity on Saturday afternoons in the U3a Rooms at the Senior Citizens building.

It is proposed to play the card game 500 to kickstart this afternoon of fun. It will be a social activity, commencing at 1.30pm to 3.30pm with afternoon tea provided.

This activity will commence on 6th July and will be held each Saturday from that date onwards. If you are interested in attending please contact Heather Wallace on 0418 353 244

Tech Savvy Beginners – ‘Be Connected’ for Android Devices in Semester 2

Jenny Sawyer’s weekly *Tech Savvy Beginners – Apple Devices* finishes at the end of Semester 1. Jenny and her class members have found the shift to weekly sessions worthwhile. Tech Savvy for Beginners sessions will continue on Wednesday afternoons in Semester 2 when Margaret Jenkins, supported by tech savvy mentors, will present a course drawing upon the ‘Be Connected’ online program with a particular focus on Android devices. For further information, contact Margaret on 5762 6944.

Member News

Bill Parris

Our Vice President, Bill Parris, is currently in the Epworth Hospital in Box Hill recovering from major surgery after his quick thinking specialist recognised that an anticipated operation could not be delayed until scheduled. Bill is recovering well and we look forward to seeing him back at U3A soon. Get well, Bill.

Noel Meagher

Memories of Noel Meagher are reflected in a slide show of photographs from U3A Benalla's website collection now available on the website. Taken from June 2014 to December 2018 they feature Noel's interest areas of Investment, Music Appreciation, Politics, Wine Appreciation and Christmas lunches. A very intelligent and thoughtful 'life longer learner', Noel will be missed at U3A. Rest peacefully, Noel.



What's On

Monday, 3 June

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
10:00am Art Appreciation
12:00pm German for Beginners
1:30pm Games
2:00pm Garden Team (Alternate to Queens Birthday)
4:00pm Meditation

Tuesday, 4 June

10:00am E-Book Group
10:am Stock and Land
12:00pm Beginners' Patchwork
2:00pm Let's Talk Books
2:00pm Member Services Group

Wednesday, 5 June

9:30am Play Reading
9:45am Easy Walks - Bullawah Cultural Trail,
Wangaratta
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)

Thursday, 6 June

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

Friday, 7 June

9:30am Sustainability
2:00pm Investment

Monday, 10 June

9:30am Exercises for Fun
2:30pm Creative Writing

Tuesday, 11 June

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
2:00pm Brain Games

Wednesday, 12 June

9:00am Recorder - 'Learning New Notes'
9:15am Mid Week Walks – Warby Ranges - Chick Hill
10:00am Recorder - 'Full Group'
11:00am Tech Savvy Talks
1:30pm Film and Literature
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)
7:00pm A Night at the Opera - French Style

Thursday, 13 June

10:00am Harmony Group
1:30pm Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 14 June

10:00am Music Appreciation
2:00pm History - An Intro. to Western Civilization

Monday, 17 June

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
12:00pm German for Beginners
2:00pm Program Group
4:00pm Meditation

Tuesday, 18 June

10:00am History - After the Victorians
2:00pm Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 19 June

10:00am Meet & Mingle - Qld. Fruit Fly Presentation
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)

Thursday, 20 June

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

Friday, 21 June

9:30am Sustainability
11:45am Chat n' Chew - Benalla Art Gallery
12:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Community Projects
2:00pm Booker Reading Group

Monday, 24 June

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
1:30pm As Time Goes By – Ideas Piggy Bank
3:10pm Writing and Publishing Memoirs

Tuesday, 25 June

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
2:00pm Beginners' Patchwork

Wednesday, 26 June

9:30am Wine Appreciation - Indigo Wines, Everton
Upper/Beechworth & Everton Pub (To be confirmed)
10:00am Recorder
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)

Thursday, 27 June

10:00am Garden Appreciation - Vicki Wright, Samaria
Rose Farm
1:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History
3:00pm Tech Savvy Talks at the Northo

Friday, 28 June

10:00am Music Appreciation
2:00pm History - An Intro. to Western Civilization

Monday, 1 July

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
10:00am Art Appreciation
1:30pm Games
4:00pm Meditation

Tuesday, 2 July

10:00am E-Book Group
10:00am Stock and Land
12:00pm Beginners' Patchwork
2:00pm Armchair Traveller
2:00pm Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 3 July

9:30am Play Reading
9:45am Bushwalking - Easy Walks – Tarrawingee to
Everton Rail Trail
12:00pm 'Be Connected' Barbecue Celebration
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected -
*Android Devices

Thursday, 4 July

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

Friday, 5 July

9:30am Sustainability
2:00pm Investment

Saturday, 6 July

1:30pm Saturday Session - '500' and other activities