



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – June 2020

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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

President's Report

I hope you are all safe and well, and not feeling too down by the quarantine. At least now we can visit family and friends. We still must practice social distancing.

I know a lot of you are missing the company of your U3A friends and are longing to be back together.

This newsletter contains news that some of the external groups are starting up, while some groups are using Zoom. The Zoom groups are working well, and we may have more on the way. Other contact with members is also happening, with some Convenors ringing and emailing their groups.

The Committee held its first Zoom Meeting recently. It was great to see everyone together, to catch up with Network and other news.

We have received a Community Grant from the Benalla Rural City to replace our old heavy Whiteboard with a light-weight magnetic whiteboard.

As I write, there is no news as to when the Council are going to reopen the building. As you will understand, we cannot plan for restarting at this time because we don't know what the rules will be in the future.

Dorothy Webber, President

Group Reports

Armchair History – Tudors

In the last newsletter I wrote of the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453 and the end of the Eastern Church. The 1400s saw the Portuguese lead maritime exploration in a bid to secure the spice trade with ports in present day India & Indonesia. In 1497 Vasco da Gama found a way of reaching Goa and by 1557 the Portuguese had started to trade with China.

The only map to aid Vasco and other explorers was an Ancient Greek world map, Ptolemy's *Geographia*, a copy of which was rediscovered around this time. It was remarkable in what it got right, including Iceland, Sri Lanka and the Canary Islands. It also showed that Africa could be sailed around, which the Portuguese re-discovered.

A century of exploration led to a new world map, one that could be printed.

Till this point Christians had seen Jerusalem as the centre of the world, a new mental change was the emergence of the notion of being European, rather than Christian. Assumptions and beliefs were contested, and Europeans now thought themselves the centre of the world. The discovery of the Americas made for further adjustments that saw maps that would be familiar today.

By 1625 an English writer was identifying European values as Christian and Christians who lived elsewhere were no longer important.

I have been reading *The Triumph of the West* by J.M. Roberts.

Terry Case

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

'As Time Goes By' provides an outlet and support for members keen to write about their lives and tell stories their families may not get around to asking them about. Some members are continuing to write stories for their 'portfolio' during the Covid-19 break, with submitted stories being shared online through the website.

This month Betty contributed a poem for the newsletter written in response to 'COVID-19', Barry and Margaret reflected on [Anzac Day](#), while Joy, Elizabeth, Ray, Bev and Marg wrote about '[Winging It](#)' or '[Taking the Plunge](#)'. Stories for '[Turning Point](#)' and catch up stories, '[Something I'm Proud Of](#)' and '[My Grandmother](#)' have also been submitted.

Our topic for Monday 22 June is 'I Grew Up In...', an open-ended chance to reminisce about our childhood from all sorts of interesting angles. Email stories to bevlee47@gmail.com.

Bev Lee

Be Connected – Drop In

The value of our Be Connected Drop In sessions has been really emphasised with the need for us all to use our computers and devices so extensively during this COVID-19 lockdown.

Now we are starting to regain normality, but only slowly at the moment. We are going to have to wait until the Benalla Rural City Council opens the Seniors Building before we get back to face to face classes.

It has been suggested that two Be Connected groups might be worthwhile when we get back. The first group are U3A Benalla members who have developed basic skills in using their device and want to expand their knowledge and be able to do more things on them. They have seen the benefit of using Skype, WhatsApp and Face Time and perhaps have started using Zoom for communicating with family.

The second group are those U3A members and others in the Community who have yet to acquire digital skills. Some of these people have heard about U3A digital classes for beginners run by Jenny Sawyer and have indicated that want to join them when face to face groups recommence.

So, at the moment, look after yourselves and we hope we can resume U3A Be Connected again soon.

Margaret Jenkins

Bird Watching

U3A Birdwatching rescheduled to Thursday 11 June 2020. Visit to Winton Wetlands dam wall and outlet channel.

Now that the Victorian government is allowing groups of up to 20 to gather outdoors from 1 June, it is a good opportunity to reactivate our mothballed U3A Birdwatching program.

We will travel to Winton Wetlands to look for birds around the dam wall area off Lake Mokoan Road. Because of social distancing requirements, we will not be car-pooling. If you know how to get there, I suggest you drive in time to meet the group there at 9.45am. It will be a morning walk, so bring binoculars if you have them, any food and water you need for the morning, and wear sturdy shoes. Some parts of the walking track could be a little muddy.

Because the group is limited to 19 (plus leader), please book in with me by 6pm on Wednesday 10 June.

How to get there -

Drive north east through Benalla for a few kilometres and turn left into Yarrawonga Rd. Drive a few kilometres, passing Link Rd and Thales on your left. Take the right turn to Winton Wetlands, along Lake Mokoan Road. You can see the long low old dam wall across the paddocks on your right. Turn right at the first Winton Wetlands sign and wait for the group in the parking area near the road. We will then drive in convoy about a kilometre to the outlet channel, where there is parking for quite a few cars.

For those who would prefer to travel in convoy from Benalla, I will meet you at the carpark behind the Seniors building at 9.30am.

Looking forward to seeing you again, and here's hoping for a mild sunny day.

Kathy Costello

Ph 0447 625755, email coskoy@bigpond.com

Bushwalking

Easy Walks

Welcome back to U3A Easy Walks! Following the lifting of some of the COVID 19 restrictions, Easy Walks will recommence on Wednesday, 17 June 2020 whilst adhering to the appropriate protocols. During the winter months, walks will be held on the first and third Wednesday's of the month, close to Benalla and of shorter duration ... late morning walk followed by BYO lunch.

Wednesday 17th June 2020 - Wangaratta

Our first modified Easy Walk will be held on Wednesday 17th June at Wangaratta. The walk will start at the Scout Park in Vincent Road and the group will walk along the One Mile creek trail northwards and return for a total of approximately 5-6 kms.

We will meet at the car park behind the Senior Citizen's Building at 9.45am for a 10am departure. Please bring your own lunch to have at the conclusion of the walk.

Those wishing to participate are asked to contact Wendy Sturgess no later than Friday 12th June on 0403226649 (leave message if necessary). Maximum numbers will be dictated by the regulations operating on the day and there will be limited car-pooling.

Wednesday, 1 July 2020 - Violet Town

Helen Malone is preparing an interesting walk along the Honeysuckle Creek Walking Track and the Heritage Trail around the oldest surveyed inland town in Victoria followed by BYO lunch. Please confirm your attendance by Monday, 29 June '20 with Margaret Walshe 57623906/0427005202 or mwalshe20@gmail.com. Meet at the carpark behind the Seniors Complex, Fawcner Drive, Benalla at 9.45am for 10am departure.

Proposed Walks

- Wednesday, 15 July 2020 - *Dookie Rail Trail*
- August 2020 - *Winton Wetlands Walking Track*
- Springtime 2020 - *Warby-Ovens National Park*

Wendy and I look forward to seeing you in our great outdoors enjoying each another's company. For further information on Easy Walks go to: <https://u3abenalla.weebly.com> click on A-C > Bush Walking > Easy Walks > About Easy Walks on the right.

Do you have a walk you would like to share with our group? Speak with Wendy or Margaret.

Wendy Sturgess and Margaret Walsh



Mid Week Walks

Mid-Week Walks are resuming in June in accordance with the new government guidelines.

Wednesday 10th June 2020 WANDILIGONG S-3-3

The walk starts at Dougherty Bridge on Morses creek heading to Wandiligong and then on to the 'Diggings' to have a look around and return. Meet at the Tennis Courts Barkly St (behind Aldi)

Meet 8.15 am Leave Benalla 8.30 am

Leader: John Boehm 0428 254801

John Boehm

Collectors

Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown I was lucky enough to visit the Glenrowan Vintage Hall and purchased two Trinket Boxes.

One was a delightful vintage Trinket Box made by Crown China Craft Ltd. with yellow, mauve and pink flowers on the lid of a green pot. It was handmade and painted in England with gold trim around the lid and top of the pot.

This company originated in 1946 in Stoke-on-Trent, England.



The other was a Trinket Box made by Capodimonte porcelain ware, vintage 1950 handmade and painted in Italy with roses on the lid and gold trim.

Capodimonte porcelain originated in Naples in 1743. This delicate porcelain is easily recognizable for its tiny pastel flowers and elegant figurines.

It is still produced and the vintage items are sought after.



I also obtained from Marketplace on Facebook a piece of Art Deco Carlton Ware.

This plate is called Vert Royale and was manufactured in the 1920's along with Rouge Royale and Bleu Royale.

Carlton Ware was first produced in 1890 in Stoke-on-Trent, England.



We hope that we will soon be able to get together again at Collectors.

Robyn Desmier

Creative Writing

For our Creative Writing class, we have continued writing using a selection of prompts to choose from and sharing our work via email. The class members have been encouraged to share feedback with the authors to help us develop our writing skills.

The topics (there were four this month) to select from for our 11 May class were:

- *He looked at the aircraft with trepidation.*
- *They first met when they were working for a large organisation*
- *They had all come to see and hear the local boy made good.*
- *It was a sunny winter's day by the lake, but the exercise area was quiet and empty.*

Each of the topics was used by at least one member of the class. One theme that came through some of the stories, not surprisingly, was around the impacts or pictures of the current Covid19 pandemic impacts. This included a poem, ending with an optimistic view for the future.

Some of the class also prepared a story covering the May Furious Fiction competition criteria:

- *Your story's first word must be FIVE.*
- *Your story must include something being replaced.*
- *Your story must include the phrase A SILVER LINING ('a' or 'the' is fine).*

As usual, the stories were varied, all with a quite different subject, using the same criteria. They included heading over to Scotland to meet up with a friend who could be new partner late in life, someone with dementia reliving learning to write, a prevented suicide, and changing the words of "Five little ducks" to meet the concerns of a five year old in class.

For our next class, the topics are:

- *It's not unusual to find odd bits of paper tucked into library books for a bookmark, but this time it was a letter.*
- *Henry looked guilty.*
- *Yesterday I would never have guessed that this could be true*

Our next class is scheduled for June 8. Unless there are changes in current restriction that allow us to meet, we will be sharing our stories and feedback via email.

Joy Shirley

Demystifying Psychology

Ten people joined the first Demystifying Psychology "Zoom" Discussion Group on Friday 15 May. Forensic Psychology is the current topic. We started with an outline of a few basic concepts then jumped into some interesting comments and discussions. We are using the free Zoom version so at the 40-minute mark we were logged out ... just as we found our rhythm.

All U3A members are welcome to join these discussion groups as often as you wish. You might be interested in the topics, want to exercise the grey matter, or socialise Jetson style. (Enjoy a "blast to the past" at <https://youtu.be/OidWiHiaskg>). Join us.

The relaxation of Covid19 restrictions to allow visitors to our homes is good news for non-tech members who are interested in this discussion group. This might be an opportunity for tech-savvy members to invite a friend over to join the discussion. Of course, social distancing guidelines continue.

Because forty minutes was not enough time for discussions, future groups will be extended using the method in 5 above. New extended times are:

First Wed of each month – 10am to 12noon. Next discussion group 3 June 2020

Third Friday of each month – 1pm to 3pm. Next discussion group 19 June 2020

These extended times may not fit with some people's diaries. My apologies. Your contribution is welcome so please feel free to join and leave each discussion group as you need to.

For further information on:

- Summary of May 15 group discussion.
- How to participate
- Links to discussion groups

Go to <https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/demystifying-psychology>.

We are all doing a great job in these historical times. Keep well.

Jane Rushworth 0437 621 575

Exploring the Universe

The following article was published by NASA in their May newsletter and seems very appropriate for these times.

A word from NASA.

Many of us are staying home these days, and it's normal to feel kind of cooped up, yearning for wide open spaces and more distant horizons. If you find yourself feeling like that, this might be a good time to remember that we're IN space, cruising through the solar system on our pale blue dot, with a vast, three-dimensional universe all around us. And we have an outstanding view!

Now, we often tend to look at the sky as a curved dome above our heads — a sort of real-life version of a planetarium dome, covered in a carpet of stars. But remember, in reality, it's anything but flat. The night sky is the deepest, most open expanse of space you could possibly look into.

Looking toward the west in the hour after sunset, here are the bright objects you'll most likely be able to see: The closest of these objects is the planet Venus in our own solar system, at about 35 million miles from Earth. The next closest is the star Sirius. It's the brightest star in our sky, and also one of the most nearby, at about 9 light years away. Several other bright stars in the May early evening sky are a couple, to a few dozen, light years away. Much farther out is the red giant star that forms the shoulder of Orion, Betelgeuse, at around 500 light years from Earth.

The band of the outer Milky Way stretches across the sky, think about how you're looking outward through the disk of our galaxy, toward its outer edges, thousands of light years away.

The nearest objects are: the Moon, at about 240,000 miles away, then Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, at hundreds of millions of miles. The rapidly rotating star Altair and the star Fomalhaut, with its debris disk and orbiting planet, lie much farther away, at 17 and 25 light years from Earth. And the distant red giant star: Antares, at 554 light years away.

And finally, across the background, visible under very dark skies is the Milky Way. Here, you're looking into the center of the Milky Way galaxy — densely packed with stars and a supermassive black hole, some 27,000 light years from Earth.

The night sky that begins right above your own roof is really the shore of a deep cosmic ocean. Here's hoping this brings some comfort if you feel like you need a little space.

Bev Morton

Film as Literature

This month we again watched a film of our own choosing and then shared a review of our reactions. Of course, there was a wide range of films watched, including a documentary and a TV series. These included *“Lawrence of Arabia”* (which has perhaps not met the test of time), *“A little Chaos”* (set in the time of Louis XIV), *“Dolittle”* (a recent release that did not meet expectations), *“Hunt for the Wilderpeople”* (an adventure/comedy with underlying drama), *“Whisky Galore”* (a remake of a 1949 film), *“Les Misérables”* (good story, good performances and good music making a great film), *“Bonfire of Destiny”* (a Netflix series), *“Diana, Her Story”* (her story from childhood to her death), *“The Devil Wears Prada”* (an engaging comedy/drama), *“The Boy in The Striped Pyjamas”* (set during WWII, an emotionally charged film that makes you think).

The class members continue to enjoy the process and we will continue with this approach until we are able to resume our usual class sessions.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation

What a wonderful Autumn. We had rain, sun and colour in our trees. Winter is time to buy roses, fruit trees and plant seedlings. Getting ready for Spring, the jobs to do include cleaning and sharpening our garden tools, oil wooden handles. Roses are best to prune in late July with a good feed, leave Salvias until after the frost. Cyclamen like a cold spot, the ones in the photo sit on a table outside, they get a bit of sun in the mornings, they belong to a friend of mine, the one on the left is 3 years old. Stay happy and healthy.



Gwen Turner

German

May has been another very busy month in the 6 activity streams.

1. Individual tutorials. These will conclude at the end of May. Elementary group members who elected to pursue this avenue when we went into lockdown will then have sufficient grammar to articulate into the other streams to improve their language skills.

2. & 3. Phone friends and e-penpals were changed for the new month. General everyday spoken or written conversations are the theme.

4. An original article delivered into inboxes most weeks continues to be very popular. The English translation arrives a couple of days later to those who want it. It is also used as a medium for pronunciation practice by phone.

5. The perpetual sentence has the theme of our personal experiences around the coronavirus. Most members have contributed to it now.

6. The play. Act 1 went out at the beginning of the month and parts have been allocated. People who would benefit from pronunciation coaching are honing their parts before the next act comes out at the beginning of the next month. The play reading will proceed in September.

I would like to acknowledge the reliable support and friendship of Janet Martens, who has made it fun to deliver a programme together under challenging circumstances. We extend to Horst Gunther our ongoing support and best wishes as he takes on the role of convenor over winter.

Pauline Bailey

Investment

During the month of May we have had two Zoom Investment meetings with eight members attending both sessions. We also shared our monthly investment grids with two other members by Email. If any other Investment member would like to join the Zoom meeting or receive the grid each month, please send me an Email.

During the first Zoom Investment meeting Brian Greed gave us an interesting talk on Property Investment. We followed this with some discussion on the conditions that had been implemented by the Government during the present financial situation to alleviate hardship.

Before the second Zoom meeting I circulated a Power Point presentation which Les Rodgers had prepared on Bonds. During the meeting Les explained the various slides as Bonds can be a tricky subject to those not familiar with it.

My thanks to both Brian and Les for their presentations which we all enjoyed and both of which contained a great deal of useful information. Zoom meetings are almost like a real meeting in as much as you see all the participants (unless they want to be incognito) and can judge their reactions throughout the meeting.

Investment is going to have their next Zoom meeting on Friday 5th June at 2pm. An invitation to the meeting with a link to connect to it will be sent out on Thursday 4th June 2020. See you there!

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

There is no sign of us being able to meet in the near future, but I am sure that has not stopped us reading lots of books, I saw in the paper last that week Jane Harper has a new book ready for release and as I have enjoyed her previous books I look forward to seeing what this new one will bring.

I have rung a few of our members for their thoughts on their reading this week.

Maxine has enjoyed *Foals Bread* by Gillian Meares, Gillian won many Literary awards for this book, a story of two generations of the Nancarrow family and the high jumping horse circuit before WW11, also enjoyed was *The Choke* by Sophie Laguna, written in the 1970's the story is set in a section of the Murray River known as the Barmah Choke, the lives of hard done by families and one in particular, 10 year old Justine Lee raised by her grandfather, worthwhile reading. *This is Happiness* by Niall Williams, a touching book set in Ireland, a good read. *Love is a Four-Letter Word* by Colin McCann, also set in Ireland, Maxine enjoyed this one too.

Shirley, who loves all things with a bit of history has been busy reading. *Rommel* the German General also known as the Desert Fox, *Women Wartime Spies* by Ann Cramer the brave women who became spies for the Government, not all returned home. *Nancy Wake* a woman larger than life, not enjoyed at all was the *Da Vinci Code*, but Shirley has also indulged in a couple of mystery novels by James Pattison.

Janet has read the crime novel *Harbour Street* by Ann Cleeves, the 6th book in the Vera Stanhope books, the series has been made into a television series, Janet believes it follows the book well.,

The Breaker by Kit Denton, is an audio book, breaker Morant was convicted and executed for murder during the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, but a mystery surrounds the death sentence, he famously said 'shoot straight you

bastards' at his execution. *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne, a novel about the holocaust, as is common with that era this story was very sad.

Trish really enjoyed *Just One Wish* by Rachel Johns, three women, three secrets - a real page turner. If you like dogs *An Unexpected Grace* by Kirsten Kreisler very uplifting, a woman's journey to healing and the soul mate who helps guide her there. We have been very busy, I am still struggling through Wolf Hall, enjoying it, but a lot of concentration needed. Keep well and continue reading.

Geraldine McCorkell

Music Appreciation

The MSO's scheduled programme for May gave us an array of options. We couldn't choose it all, so some will have to wait for another time – perhaps a month when the orchestra was planning to not be so busy. To find out what our music selections were, simply go to the [Music Appreciation](#) page on the U3A website where you will be able to read the stories behind them and find the links to any of music you wish to enjoy.

Bill Squire

Politics and Current Affairs

I was sad to hear that Godfrey Marple died recently. Godfrey and Carole had been active in political affairs and shared their knowledge of how Victorian politics was conducted. Godfrey had a strong understanding of political geography and I was able to draw on his expertise to discuss items such as location of American bases. Godfrey produced maps and was able to show us the location of these outposts of American power as they were re-purposed from containing Russian power to containing the rise of China. In this year of virus and social distancing we have not been able to celebrate his life, but he will be remembered and missed. Farewell comrade!

Our politicians are dusting off their old policies in readiness for their return to "business as usual". The Prime Minister and the Treasurer have been talking about personal responsibility, maximising personal choice and rewarding risk taking as they hope the economy snaps back in place. It seems behind the scenes Westfarmer's CEO is lobbying for company tax cuts and industrial relations reform. Interestingly the fight is also about big business preferences versus the small business lobbies. Despite Liberal leaders saying they are there to support families and small business, it is the Corporate sector who remain the power group.

On power of a different sort there have been major changes in investment in coal, a recent court case that lasted 7 years which will see a 75% reduction in output from its remaining coal fired power plants and no further investment in coal. Austria also announced it is now joining a number of other European countries in being coal free and Japan is making a policy reversal as its 3 largest banks refuse any new investment in coal.

Major drivers of this change are large companies and their shareholders. In Europe BP & Shell have ceased investing in carbon to be carbon neutral in line with the Paris climate targets. Australian companies are beginning to come under pressure as some of the world's largest wealth funds divest themselves of Australian companies connected with coal. Allianz, one of the largest insurance group will no longer insure companies with coal assets, this includes the railways and ports. Talk is no longer of new investments, but stranded assets.

Strange to say I am finding more about politics in the business news: we might have to refocus the group! Meanwhile spare a thought for the garment factory workers in Bangladesh. They export to companies like Target. Due to the virus the world retail market is collapsing and workers in one of the world's poorest countries are left with no pay and a government that cannot afford welfare. Couple this with what is possibly the largest refugee population in the world and the virus, and a catastrophe seems in the making.

Who cares?

Terry Case

Singing for Fun

We are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel with the return of children to schools and five people allowed to meet inside. We need to get to the stage of 50 people being able to meet inside before the Benalla Rural City Council are likely to re-open the Seniors Building and Singing for Fun can resume.

What are we going to look like post COVID-19 restrictions? Undoubtedly Singing for Fun will need to remain in the main auditorium as over 25 people are not going to be able to social distance in the current U3A room.

With social distancing still in place morning tea will be difficult to manage. Perhaps it will mean that when we come back, we bring our own small bottle of water so that we can have a break and mingle with social distancing. More on this when available.

In the meantime, I am sure that we are all be looking forward to the time when we are back in the building and enjoying Singing for Fun, Harmony and Community Singing again.

For now, look after yourselves and stay safe.

Margaret Jenkins

Tech Savvy Projects: Family Research

Family Research is an ideal pursuit during the Covid-19 break – a chance to become immersed in recording and finding family connections on ancestry.com; to get that DNA test; to sort out all those family documents into folders; to write up stories with photographs to go in a family history blog; to finish that family history book for the family. It is wonderful that a new series of ‘Who Do You Think You Are’ is now screening on SBS (Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm). Recommended viewing for group members, it could well tide us over until we are able to meet again.

Beverley Lee and Wendy Sturgess

Wine Appreciation

Reading through the newsletter while adding reports to the website, I noticed *Film as Literature* and *Let’s Talk Books* class members have shared news of films they have been viewing and books they have been reading while in social isolation. With no report of planned visits in the newsletter for Wine Appreciation, a somewhat quirky question sprang to mind... “I wonder what *Wine Appreciation* members have been drinking while in isolation?”! I decided to make a few calls...

My first call was to Margaret Jenkins... “What do I have in the fridge? Tarzali Reisling 2019... because I like it! It’s good to have a bottle in the fridge in case friends call in. Also, Tarzali is the first winery I visited when I joined Wine Appreciation”.

My next call was to Wendy Sturgess, “What do I have in fridge? Point Leo Estate Pinot Grigio. I tasted, enjoyed and bought some when I took my sister there just before the lock up. It’s a beautiful drop. Hopefully, I can find someone to enjoy it with me”.

Next, Marg Walshe... “What wine am I currently drinking...?” (...sounds of Margaret going to the fridge...) “Cofield Provincial Parcel, Beechworth Chardonnay, 2015. I was given it by lovely neighbours recently. It’s rather a nice wine, very smooth, with ‘rich flavours of citrus and apple, a complex texture and a crisp palate’.”

Ray O’Shannessy responded thoughtfully, “I’ve been drinking Gapsted Pinot Grigio which I bought at a recent Wine Appreciation visit. It’s very nice, I’m enjoying it very much.”

My final call was to Keith and Heather Rodgers, convenors of the Wine Appreciation group. “What are we drinking with our meal tonight? Mudgee Creek 2018 Shiraz. It’s a lovely red, we only drink nice red! Life’s too short to drink cheap wine (Keith adds in the background ‘and white wine’). The alcohol content is 14% which is good...that’s 8 standard drinks in bottle. It’s fairly powerful.”

I asked Heather about any plans for future group visits to wineries ... “We don’t think it’s worth arranging visits until we can enjoy sitting at a restaurant together. We’re not interested until the situation is back closer to normal. It might be a couple of months. We’re not interested in social distancing when we are meeting to have a social occasion.”

In the meantime, other Wine Appreciation members are, like Margaret, Wendy, Margaret, Ray, Keith and Heather, highly likely to be continuing to appreciate good wine while in social isolation.

Beverley Lee - with thanks to Margaret, Wendy, Marg, Ray, Keith and Heather for participating and for having a chuckle when asked the question!

Member News

Vale Godfrey Marple



It was extremely sad to hear that Godfrey Marple passed away on Wednesday 13 May. Memories of Godfrey are reflected in a [slide show](#) of photographs currently on the website. They reflect Godfrey's involvement and enjoyment of U3A, his love for his wife and soulmate Carole and his lifelong dedication to the wool industry.

Godfrey, in partnership with Carole, clearly enjoyed convening Art Appreciation for a number of years, continuing to attend after handing over the convenor role to Neville Gibb and Meg Dillon at the end of 2017. Godfrey was also a long-standing member of Terry Case's Politics and Current Affairs class.

When Carole joined Writing Workshop in 2015, Godfrey 'sat in', then quickly decided to join himself. The sharing of stories about their working lives in the rural sector by Godfrey, David Palmer and Ian Burkinshaw sparked the flame that resulted in David being encouraged to offer the 'Stock and Land' course in 2018. You can find some of the stories Godfrey shared on [Godfrey's page in 'Our Stories'](#) on the website.

Until relatively recently Godfrey was a judge at the Benalla Agricultural Show and still clearly treasured times spent working with sheep and wool. Godfrey drew on his networks in the wool industry in arranging an excursion for the Stock and Land group to the Toland Merino Stud, a highlight for all participants.

Godfrey will be sadly missed. Carole, please know that you have our love and support at this sad time.

Beverley Lee

Convenor, Writing Workshop 2015-2019

Class member, Stock and Land 2018-2019

Media Team

Newsletter and Website News

Vale Ken Whan A commemoration of Ken's involvement with U3A will be included in our next newsletter.

Apology – Unfortunately [Jacquie Schwinde's report for Collectors](#), [Janet Marten's report for German Conversation](#) and all photos submitted for [Garden Team](#) weren't included in last month's newsletter. We have added them to each group's website page and [amended the May 2020 Newsletter](#) to include them.

Convenors - please continue to send in **reports** if you have made alternative arrangements for your groups to continue or if you have things to report on (for example, events occurring when 'Exploring the Universe')

Members – we'd love you to contribute musings on Covid-19, stories, interesting 'snippets', photos of creative projects you have been working on, and more

Please send items to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by 25th June.

Also – don't forget to Follow us on Facebook - facebook.com/U3abenalla/ - and 'like' some of our posts.

This Time Last Year!

What was happening at U3A Benalla in June 2019?

Link here to the [June 2019 Newsletter](#) for some reminiscence therapy!

'Musings during the Pandemic'

'Covid-19'

It was a sunny autumn day as I walked beside the lake,
The exercise area empty due to the corona virus outbreak.
Red and white striped tape issued a warning, using it is banned.
All restrictions put in place are much the same across the lands.
This curse called corona, or COVID 19 to use its scientific name
Has spread its invisible tentacles as it plays its lethal game.
Few now walk the streets without some justification,
As everyone must do their bit to stop this infestation.
We must practise social distancing and be aware of good hygiene
Sanitizing or washing hands with soap and water is a safe routine.
For those in nonessential jobs we must stay home in isolation,
But we can all help each other make the most of this situation.
And besides, think of all those nuisance jobs that can be done.
Or get yourself a dose of natural vitamin D, by relaxing in the sun.
Flying solo can get difficult for those who are living home alone,
But there is Skype, Face time, Zoom and of course the telephone.
Now that we are almost through the tunnel, there is light ahead,
The fear is gradually fading and being replaced with hope instead.
So, as I leave the lake behind me and my home is within my sight
I believe we'll have our freedom and the world will win the fight.
And all the tapes will be removed as we reclaim our rightful space.
So once again together we can 'meet and mingle'... and embrace.

Betty Milligan, May 2020

Covid-19 and the household economy...

I've just heard on the news that the GDP figures will be released tomorrow. Headlines of 'Gloom' and 'Doom' about percentage losses in paid production levels resulting from the corona virus pandemic abound.

Musing from my armchair, with a glass of 'buy local' wine bought through the new on-line 'Buy from Benalla' website beside me, I wonder about the accuracy of the GDP figures in terms of truly measuring production. An example used in Economics classes rings in my ears – if a person employs a paid housekeeper, GDP will increase; if they go on to marry and not pay this housekeeper, GDP will fall, although household production will remain the same.

COVID-19 regulations have clearly resulted in an increase in household production, production which is not paid for and therefore not included in GDP. Meals and coffees purchased in restaurants and cafes, which were included in GDP, are largely being produced at home. Office space is now being provided by households; children are being mentored if not taught at home. Videos and books which were sitting as 'stocks or inventory' are now being viewed; tasks previously in the too hard basket being tackled which will make future life operate more efficiently and effectively. Clothes are being mended, or produced; old projects completed, new projects around the house commenced and so much more.

While sales of the materials needed to complete production by households will go up and be included in GDP, the labour involved will not. Not being able to use our cars will mean that GDP as reflected by petrol

sales will fall, even factoring in the reduction in petrol price; while at the same time there is a benefit in the reduction in pollution and green house gas emissions.

I wonder if some economists will point out that GDP figures are flawed in not measuring household production, which will clearly have increased during the COVID- 19 hiatus, and that it is possible to develop imputed values for this production. I very much doubt that this will happen. So, when I hear commentary about the GDP figures tomorrow, while obviously concerned about economic recovery, I will be taking some of the hype with a grain of salt!

“Armchair Economist (name supplied)”

What’s On...?

Covid-19 break – online sharing, ‘Zoom’ meetings, ‘working from home’ and the gradual introduction of external activities using social distancing.

Tuesday, 2 June

7:30 pm 'Who do you think you are?' - Tech Savvy Family Research

Wednesday, 3 June

10:00 am Demystifying Psychology Zoom Discussion Group

Friday, 5 June

2:00 pm Investment - Zoom Meeting

Monday, 8 June

2:00 pm Creative Writing - Sharing of stories and feedback using email

Tuesday, 9 June

7:30 pm 'Who do you think you are?' - Tech Savvy Family Research

Wednesday, 10 June

8:15 am Mid-Week Walks - Wandiligong

Thursday, 11 June

9:45 am Birdwatching - Winton Wetland Dam Wall area and outlet channel

Friday, 12 June

10:00 am Music Appreciation – notes and recordings available to members

Tuesday, 16 June

7:30 pm 'Who do you think you are?' - Tech Savvy Family Research

Wednesday, 17 June

9:45 am Easy Walks - One Mile Creek Trail, Wangaratta

Friday, 19 June

1:00 pm Demystifying Psychology Zoom Discussion Group

3:15 pm Investment - Zoom Meeting

Monday, 22 June

2:00 pm As Time Goes By - "I Grew Up In"... - stories due in

Tuesday, 23 June

7:30 pm 'Who do you think you are?' - Tech Savvy Family Research

Thursday, 25 June

12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline - aim - to get reports in by midday today!

Friday, 26 June

10:00 am Music Appreciation – notes and recordings available to members

Tuesday, 30 June

7:30 pm 'Who do you think you are?' - Tech Savvy Family Research

Wednesday, 1 July

9:45 am Easy Walks - Violet Town

10:00 am Demystifying Psychology Zoom Discussion Group

Friday, 3 July

2:00 pm Investment - Zoom Meeting