



## Benalla and District Inc.

### Newsletter – March 2017

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#### REPORTS

##### **President's Report to the AGM 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

I have served one and a half terms as President and am now resigning from that position.

The Executive Committee has appointed Dorothy Webber as President and she will complete the one year term remaining, before being eligible to stand for President in 2018. Bill Parris is standing as Vice President for a one year term and will be eligible to stand for a two year term in 2018.

Geraldine McCorkell has nominated as Secretary and Corrie Witlox was nominated as Treasurer. Judith Borthwick as Publicity Officer will complete a 2 year term.

I will remain on the Executive as Past President. I want to thank the Executive Committee for their support, particularly Lorraine and Geraldine whose help was greatly appreciated when I was new to the role. John Avery is resigning from the committee After long stints as President and as our Network representative, his experience and knowledge have been of immense value to U3A. I also want to thank Lorraine Knox for the many years she has been our Secretary. Lorraine has seen us through enormous changes in the years she has fulfilled this important role. Most recently Lorraine has been assisting Terry Dillon in revamping our membership records and this will see the Secretary's role transformed as Terry takes on the role of Membership Officer.

I am pleased to be able to report that work is now in progress at the Seniors and we will be able to move to our new home by second semester. The newsletter reports will keep you posted on progress of the project. Much of my time as President was

spent dealing with accommodation issues following the Centre unexpectedly pulling out of the Barkly St site and leaving us with no home. I want to again thank Benalla College & the Flexible Learning Group who came to our aid in that turbulent period. Our future accommodation is now secure due to a partnership with Benalla Council who I also want to thank together with their Chief Executive Tony McIlroy who piloted this project to a successful outcome.

*Terry Case*

##### **Incoming President's Report from Dorothy Webber**

Welcome to my first President's Report. Thank you to the Committee for having faith in me.

I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging year as we make changes and extensions to our program because of our move, in June, to the Senior Citizens building. Renovations to the Senior Citizens rooms have commenced.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terry Case for his three years as President. Terry has been a driving force in our achieving a permanent home. Over the next few weeks I will endeavour to get around to a lot of groups in order to meet those of you I don't know.

*Dorothy Webber*

Please note: Telephone number for Secretary Geraldine McCorkell is 5762 2134 Mobile: 0408 522 662, email [gmccorkell@active8.com.au](mailto:gmccorkell@active8.com.au)

## **Goodbye Bob**

Bob Borschmann died on Friday March 24 whilst watching his much loved Bulldogs in their first 2017 game. Bob was a much loved foundation member of U3A Benalla, having joined in 1988. He remained an active member for the five years before it ceased to function in 1993 due to lack of numbers (about 10 members) and of accommodation.

He immediately rejoined U3A Benalla when it was restarted in 1996. He participated in a number of programs which then were resumed, including 'Investment' and 'Politics'. His crowning achievement was yet to come in 2006 when he helped his wife, Joyce, to establish the long-running and very successful 'Singing for Fun' program, joined later by the 'Harmony Group' program. Both are still continuing with solid support today,

A key contribution was made by Bob several years later when he persuaded the Rotary Club of Benalla to fund the purchase of a quality electronic piano still used at singing sessions each fortnight.

Bob had endured many bouts of ill health for about 30 years, but never let it get in the way of his friendly and cheerful manner. He continued his warm relationship with many U3A members, as well as other organisations including Rotary. Bright and cheery to the end reaching 88, an age he never expected. His long life enriched us all.

*John Avery*

## **Bob's funeral**

Arrangements for Bob Borschmann's commemorative service are as follows:

Friday 31st March, at 11.00am at the Uniting Church.

Joyce would like the U3A "Singing for Fun" group to lead the singing of three songs during the service: "You'll Never Walk Alone", "What a Wonderful World" and "Jerusalem".

Seats will be reserved for the singers at the front of the church on the right hand side.

NB Practice will be held at the Baptist Church, Bridge St, (our usual singing venue) at 10.00am this Thursday (30<sup>th</sup> March).

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

The deadline for articles to be in to Newsletter Editor has been brought forward. As from next month the date will be the third Wednesday of the month (Meet and Mingle Day). Next month this will be 19<sup>th</sup> April, at noon. Items for the April Newsletter to be forwarded to [jlborhwick@bigpond.com](mailto:jlborhwick@bigpond.com) by this date.

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **Armchair History: Invaders.**

We are coming to the end of the Norman period and last week learnt how Henry I (The youngest son of William the Conqueror) left his throne to his daughter Matilda. The barons had pledged to support her but reneged in favor of Stephen (William the Conqueror's grandson).

Henry had married a Scottish princess, called Matilda, that's right mother and daughter are both called Matilda. One of the reasons that the barons did not want Matilda on the throne was her husband was Count of Anjou which was a large French province. Matilda's children were not going to be Normans.

All the ingredients were now in place for a Civil War and continual wars with France for the next hundred years.

### **Armchair Traveller**

We met for the first time for 2017 in March to cruise with Reina and John around Cape Horn in South America. Starting in Santiago, Chile, the cruise went south from Valparaiso around the southern tip, then east to the Falklands Island. It finished in Buenos Aires after 14 days smooth sailing through what is often some of the roughest seas in the world. Much of the Chilean side was in the more sheltered but beautiful fiords protected by west Chilean islands. After two days in Buenos Aires our flight back to Santiago went over the spectacular and rugged Andes in lovely sunny weather.

The rest of the session was devoted to planning the remaining four sessions scheduled for 2017.

Journeys which have been promised include back-packing land trips in Italy and Canada; 4-wheel driving in outback Australia; Cruising to Antarctic; train in U3A. Lots of happy touring.

## Art Appreciation

*Drawn to the Wild: Kate Jenvey*

The Art Group was fortunate to attend a talk given in person by Kate Jenvey who has an exhibition in the Simpson Gallery. Kate's drawings in Graphite and Coloured Pencils are of an exceptionally high quality and a must see. The work is of such quality one wonders if computer graphics might have been involved. Detailed to an exceptional point, painstakingly correct they are of such quality you could call them transformational. But they also have a spiritual aspect to them. We are not just viewing the reproductions of photographs. Art is involved here. Her drawings take the viewer on a journey into the Animals' stories where we feel attuned to their essence. She brings the viewer to the point where we understand we are all creatures in this world together and we need to treat our brother animals as we would treat ourselves. Kate obviously loves animals and we are fortunate that she can use her great skills to bring the animal's plight to our attention.

Bravo Kate. We salute you.

In the Bennett Gallery there is an exhibition that raises the question: What is Art and how do we recognize it? No doubt some of the exhibits are artistic but how much Art is contained therein is the question. This is not a problem isolated to this exhibition. What is considered Art meanders sometimes off on its own journey and this is one example? This is a conundrum for all art galleries. Do we accept that art is moving in this direction and show it as art? Or do we keep showing old work that has been accepted as art? And not show anything new. Unfortunately it takes time before time sorts out what is art and what isn't.

In the Ledger Gallery we are fortunate to have the Brett Whitely exhibition curated by Wendy Whitely. It is fair to say that these are not Brett's best pictures and some of them show evidence of the colours fading. But this is a small criticism. The exhibition is a coup for the Gallery. Whitely was greatly talented and all his art is accessible and pleasing to the eye. He was able produce his own style and to also incorporate many influences into his art. He did capture the mood and atmosphere of his time. He produced paintings that were meant to be appreciated by others. Whitely had the ability to be one of Australia's great artists and it is

unfortunate his life was cut short before he could produce his best work. This exhibition however does give an indication of his great talent. It is worth spending some time in the Gallery contemplating and reflecting on Whiteley's Art.

Neville Gibb

## Bird Watching

### **U3A Bird watching Tuesday 4 April 2017 Lake Benalla**

Our first activity for 2017 will be on **Tuesday 4 April**. We will meet at 10am behind the library, near the BBQ beside the walking track around Lake Benalla. We will walk towards Jaycee Island for a half circuit of the lake, and expect to finish around midday. This is the same walk that got the group started in 2016. The walk around Lake Benalla is an excellent way to introduce the birds of Benalla. For those who attended our activities in 2016, it will be a nice refresher to test your bird watching skills.

### **What to bring**

Binoculars if you have them, sturdy walking shoes, a water bottle and any nibbles you need en route.

### **U3A Bird watching Tuesday 2 May 2017 Chesney Vale**

We will visit private property at Chesney Vale on **Tuesday 2 May**, travelling in convoy from Benalla. Please meet in the car park behind Aldi in Barkly Street at 10am. The Chesney hills are home to a few of the less common bushland birds in our region, and we have a good chance of seeing some of them.

### **What to bring**

Binoculars if you have them, sturdy walking shoes, a water bottle and a picnic lunch. We should be back in Benalla by 1.30pm.

Kathy Costello, Convenor

## Brain Games

Rust can be heard falling off cogs in the brains of those facing the various challenges presented in Brain Games with one apology collecting her homework and thus keeping up with the group.

It is also encouraging that the group continues to gain recruits and that some report improved memory or problem-solving approaches.

## Chat n' Chew



*Judith, Gwen and Convenor Shirley at the Gliding Club*

May 19<sup>th</sup> 11.45 am at the Art Gallery in the Benalla Gardens.

April 21<sup>st</sup> 11.45 am at Saigon Station (in the Victoria Hotel building opposite the Benalla Railway Station). Saigon Station has asked that meals be pre-selected. Shirley will bring their menu to the Gallery lunch on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please phone Shirley on 5762 6768 if you need further information.

## Collectors

Rupe Cheetham was our guest speaker at the March meeting. Rupe brought along a collection of artefacts which he had collected during his time in New Guinea and told us of some his experiences while living and working there for a period of four years. Thanks Rupe.



Dorothy, a keen Richmond supporter brought along many of the pieces she has collected over the years including the knee rug made from Collingwood scarves and her 60 year membership badge. We also had pink depression glass, a musical miniature sewing machine, an unusual fly-catcher, wedding cake decorations which had been on May's parent's wedding cake, trinket boxes and many other items. The theme for the day was 'our smallest collectable' which Dorothy won with her tiny elephants.

We will not have a meeting in April due to Easter and our next meeting will be on Monday May 15<sup>th</sup> in W4. If you have a music box bring it along together with your usual items.

## e-Book Group

Eat, Pray, Love, our March book, is an account of Elizabeth Gilbert's struggle to resurrect her life in the aftermath of a marriage breakdown, supposedly providing inspiration for many women in a similar predicament. It became an immediate bestseller, but we were not impressed. If the object of her forays into Italy, India and Indonesia was to encourage physical and spiritual regeneration, then evidence of this kind of progress wasn't apparent to the reader. Ultimately, it all became a competition: how much food she could devour in Italy; how long she could endure the discipline of meditation in India, and, finally, how she could be the very best lover in Indonesia. If there's a moral here, it is to avoid best sellers. Helen

## Exploring the Universe

The discovery of another solar system with three planets in the habitable zone recently made world news. Seven Earth sized potentially rocky planets were found to be in a tight orbit around an ultra cool red dwarf star, 40 light years away. The planetary system is called Trappist 1 after the Belgium operated robotic telescope in Chile that made the initial discovery of two Planets in 2016. NASA's space telescope "Spitzer" and ground based telescopes found five more. The planets are thought to be tidally locked, i.e. with the same side always facing the star in perpetual daylight. With such a short orbital period, if you were standing on one of them you would see other planets whizzing by in the sky.

Not that we are going there. In spite of NASA's travel posters and the Trappist 1 tee shirt, they are simply too far away!

We viewed the u-tubes of "NASA and Trappist 1. A Treasure Trove of Planets Found" and "Trappist 1 Weirdest Habitable World's." A discussion on the methods of detecting planets was followed by the film of the exoplanet hunting telescope Kepler, titled "Kepler's New Universe."

The James Webb Space Telescope due to be launched in 2018 will be able to analyse any atmospheric conditions on the Trappist 1 planets, identifying any chemical fingerprints of water, oxygen or methane if present, the main ingredients of habitability. So – stay tuned!



Rupe had us exercising our grey matter with atoms, electrons, protons, neutrons and quarks; the basic units of matter and the defining structure of all elements, when he presented the history of the discovery of the atom.

Through Professor Brian Cox's films "Spectrography of Stars" and "Star Death and the Creation of Elements," we learnt that everything in the universe including ourselves is created from the same chemical elements produced by dying stars. We are truly made of the dust of stars!

## Garden Appreciation

**April 27<sup>th</sup>** – Meet at 9.30 am at 56 Grant Drive. Benalla, home of Jackie Rubira. The garden has lots of trees and garden beds. Please bring morning tea to share and your own cup.

If you have a thermos flask please bring hot water. Coffee, tea and milk will be provided.

We will then move on to Green and Grow Nursery and their private garden. Depending on numbers attending lunch at either Shady Elm Café or Golf Club.

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Meet at Benalla Gardens at 9.15. Then 'Euroa Garden', home of Beryl Harris, 35 Gobur Street, Euroa. Lunch at Flower Mill, Euroa. Please

bring morning tea to share and your own cup. Hot water, coffee, tea and milk will be provided.

Gwen 0438 627010, 5762 7017

## Garden Team

The Garden Team will on 28<sup>th</sup> March. A report will be included next month.

## Investment Group

The second meeting of Investment for 2017 was in early March and we welcomed three new members namely Louise Doddrell, Brian Vial and Rhonda Manning. The numbers attending our meetings are certainly growing.

February had been Reporting Season for companies listed on the Stock Exchange. Hence we studied a sheet of 30 stocks which had shown dramatic rises or falls in their share price following the company's report to the ASX. Several of these companies had been marked down because the market expected a better result or a better dividend. Expectation by the market plays a significant role in what happens to the share price following a company's report to the ASX.

In our second segment we looked at median house and unit prices in both Benalla and Wangaratta areas as well as in three metropolitan suburbs and other regional areas. Using two websites we were able to look at the average house or unit price for the country town or suburb, the average rent received in each place, the annual growth rate of the property as well as the percentage return on the investment before deductions. We listed what deductions are applicable to houses and units. Using the nine locations studied we found there was a strong negative correlation between the return on investment before deductions and the average annual growth of the value of the property.

*The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 1.15pm in W4.*

## Let's Talk Books

A large group attended our book discussion in March so a great deal of chatter and laughter kept us entertained. Shirley always entertains us with the variety of books read, Bill the Bastard the true story of a brave Lighthorse in WW1, who won the equivalent of a VC for his heroic deeds in battle. The story has a happy ending, he was given to a village and produced many offspring over the next few years. Two of our members had read and listened

to a talking book on Outback Police Stories. Great reading. An article that was enjoyed about a 92 year old lady of Russian descent who with the help of her 21 year grandson feeds up to 500 people in Canberra on Friday and Saturday. They collect food from supermarkets and restaurants and put it to good use. Other books read include Bamboo Heart Island, about prisoners of war, The Secret Son by Jenny Ackland, and the memoirs of Mirka Mora the artist who describes her life as naughty and wicked but lots of fun. Once again Kent Haruf was mentioned as a good author of very enjoyable books. The Italian Detective Inspector Andrea Camilleri, always went home for a delicious lunch as well as solving crimes! We wondered about the lunch. The adventures of Burke and Wills were revisited and a DVD Secrets and Lies was recommended. The Wedding Shawl set in America was the story of family members knitting a piece of a shawl for the bride to wear on her wedding day. Only Saints push Barrows a 1940's story of 2 Salvation Army officers in the UK delivering a bed on a barrow. Me Before You is a look into the life of a quadriplegic which is a follow up to Me After You. Green Mountain written by Bernard O'Reilly is the true story of the plane that crashed into Mt. Tamborine in Queensland. A text book that received very good reviews was the First 100 years. We all enjoyed our time together so don't forget to come on the 4<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00 p.m. in the Library.

## **Lifeball**

Lifeball is going along from strength to strength. On Monday, March 27, we are conducting our annual Fun and Friendship Day at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre, starting at 10am.

We will host teams from Deniliquin, Albury, Rutherglen, Wangaratta, Myrtleford, Eildon and Mansfield (and us, of course), about 60+ in number, which will be an exciting number to have join us. Around midday, we will all enjoy a lunch to die for, plus some raffles, and a door prize, and if the day progresses as they have in the past, we will have a wonderful time together. We really should call our great game Laughball instead of Lifeball, because we really do laugh a lot, despite the competition.

We all get along so well, and after some 10 years playing this game, our circle of friends has expanded rapidly and widely.

The game, apart from keeping us flexible and moving, insists we are not permitted to run at any

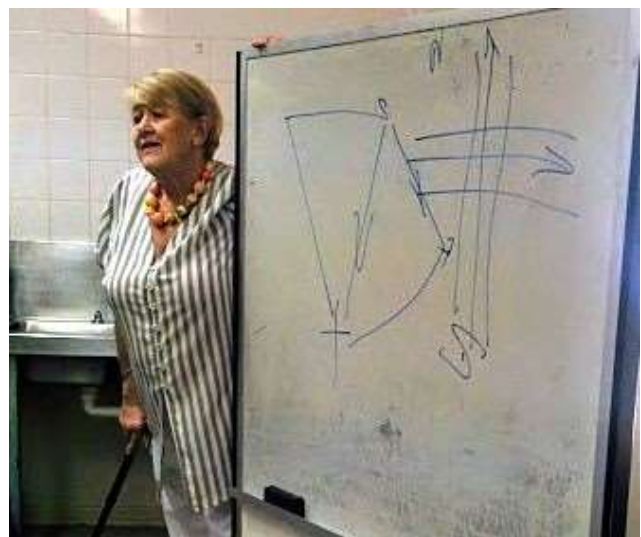
time, so our safety is assured. And as we are also not permitted to move backwards, this is another safety angle, so players are prepared only to move forward.

So come along and watch us, any Monday morning, and if you like what you see, hop in and join us- .you won't be disappointed!!

Marg Merriman, Secretary 5762 2967

## **Meet and Mingle**

Meet and Mingle followed our AGM. Guest speaker was U3A member and glider pilot Claire Rudolph who spoke of her experiences as a pilot and kept us all amused and enthralled. Many thanks Claire.



*Claire Rudolph, guest speaker following the AGM. Claire illustrated her talk with diagrams.*

## **Music Appreciation**

**10 March, 2017**

We welcomed a new member Jan Morgan, and a visitor friend of Freida's, Sue Campbell.

Joan commenced the session with the first half of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's 'Classical Spectacular', conducted by Anthony Inglis and performed at the Rod Laver Arena.

After morning tea, Freida presented a TED ED you tube called 'Music for your Brain' by Anita Collins. This showed what is happening to your brain when listening to your favourite music.

Joan then presented a CD of Maxim Vengerov, Russian Violinist, playing the Bruch Violin Concerto. Doug presented two short segments featuring the Guitar.

1. The Gregorian Brothers
2. Michael Lucarelli

He closed with a DVD of an American Military band playing 'Battle Hymn of the Republic'.

### **24 March 2017**

John presented the session commencing with Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)

Piano Concerto No. 1, Pianist Joseph Banowetz, played by CSR Symphony, Bratislava.

During the coffee break, Doug presented a short clip of an exceptional 13 year old soprano, Amira Willhagen, who won 'Hollands Got Talent' at the age of 9.

John continued with a track from Django Reinhart, Classical Jazz Guitarist, playing 'Sweet Georgia Brown' recorded in 1939.

We then played Symphonic Poem No. 4 by Lithuanian composer Mieczyslaw Karlowicz (1876 – 1909).

We finished with Tchaikovsky's 'The Tempest'.

### **Patchwork**

Our project for this year is progressing well. Some have barely started and some are finished and most are in between. Everyone is enjoying the process. Our Show and Tell has surprised and delighted us as members show their side project. Many photos are on the website.

### **Politics**

In February last year I wrote "It is a pity that public and political pressure does not seem sufficient to make some companies pay tax." I presented a table of the top 10 Australian companies who pay no tax and their annual profits. How can companies whose profits range from 14 billion dollars to 4 billion dollars pay no tax?"

This year I reflect on how Centrelink sends debt collectors to pursue people, most of whom do not have real debts. Our politicians dare not pursue the exporters of our Natural Gas which we are now giving away! Is this what the mantra of "market forces" is meant to produce, a timid response to large companies?

### **Play Reading**

Our March session saw us, again in jury mode, reading Act II of 'Twelve Angry Men'. We began by watching part of the classic Henry Fonda movie to refresh our memories of the position of each juror in

terms of 'reasonable doubt' at the end of Act I, then commenced reading. Compelling writing led us to explore the play's themes of racist bias; class bias; cultural bias; the misconceptions which influence people; the value of the jury system and the principle of reasonable doubt. As with Act I, we found ourselves chuckling as members who were taking two parts with shared dialogue adopted different voices in reading their roles. After the coffee break we discussed possible plays for next month, checking out possibilities through the [Victorian Drama League's online catalogue](#)

This can be searched by author or title, provides a synopsis of the selected play and numbers of male and female roles involved. Our next play reading on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 9.45 am could be fun, with 'Calendar Girls' the selected play.

### **Singing for Fun**

At our third meeting in March we welcomed back Faith Hicks after a recent stay in hospital. She had us singing rounds very enthusiastically and introduced us to a five part round called "Instruments" which we enjoyed and kept the five parts functioning quite well.

Our Harmony Group this month enjoyed learning a new arrangement of "The Rhythm of Life" which had been skillfully put together by Brian Greed. His arrangement of the song has eight modules and we were able to learn three of these modules at our March Harmony meeting.

Our pianist Gwen Barnes ably helped at Harmony with a variety of songs which we had previously learnt. Gwen's astute ear is really important in picking up small errors that can be easily corrected. Margaret Merriman guided us through "Hallelujah" which had been suggested by Neville Gibb. Whilst the timing is unusual, Gwen's brackets on top of the words helped considerably. No doubt we will improve with another couple of sessions. "Right Said Fred" and "Purple People Eater" were introduced to Singing for Fun this year by Brian. The vast majority of people at Singing for Fun seemed to have already sung and enjoyed both songs in years gone by.

*Our next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 10am in the Benalla Baptist Church.*

## Tech Savvy



*Dorothy and Marcia practicing 'selfies'*

### Tech Savvy Beginners

At the first March session we all emailed our internet friend Jenny Three. We also tried an alternative method to typing and dictated our message to Siri, who was a bit hard of hearing when lots of people were talking. We then looked at using Google maps for walking, car and public transport directions for getting to places. During our second session we reviewed using the internet by checking out the resources on the Tech Savvy Beginners page on the U3A website. We then added more people to our contacts list; sent them emails, and checked out the camera features of our iPads and iPhones, particularly the front facing camera. We had fun taking selfies before taking photos of the class. Next we'll move on to the two methods of attaching photos to emails.

### Tech Savvy Plus

Tech Savvy Plus seems to be finding its feet – with Terry's curriculum taking the group into new territory. Even if we're not sure whether we'll use all of Terry's apps, Bev, who is taking some classes for Terry, reassures us that 'transferable skills' are involved! We started by having a good look at Fuel Buddy, which a number of members thought they'd have liked to have known about while they were still active in the workforce. We then considered WiFi and reviewed Slides; with Frank demonstrating a slide show he completed using Slides. Although John and Bill weren't at the last class, both recognized that their understanding and skills in using PowerPoint would be transferable to Slides.

After some shared problem solving, Bev used her smart phone and a Chrome Cast dongle connected to the large screen television to broadcast Terry's slide show from Google Drive, YouTube videos and some programs on I-View. Purchase of a Chrome Caster at around \$60 can effectively make a digital television into a 'smart TV'.

Next session, again with Bev, will include reviewing Bluetooth and spending time on photo apps for IOS and Android devices, including a new one recommended by Terry called Snap seed.

### Tech Savvy Talks

This month Les Rodgers presented another informative on session on the Internet of Things (Iota), commencing with the Ted Talk ['How Arduino is open-sourcing imagination'](#) by Massimo Bazozi. Following the coffee break, the group headed to Terry Dillon's home where Terry demonstrated lots of examples of connectivity, including Chrome casting. At least one person has borrowed a Chromecast to try.



The alternate fortnight discussion group at Rustic Café facilitated by Les grew this month from three to five members. Les reports that he, David, Len, Peter and Brent "talked about the requirement of the NBN for a VDSL2 modem which would likely be provided by an ISP, who may also provide a wifi router as part of that. Experience suggests the wifi router provided by the ISP may not meet everyone's needs for speed and security. We explored some of the offerings available and found the Google wifi particularly interesting in terms of security and adequate speed (throughput around 100 mb/s) as well as ease of setup. Google wifi was released overseas late last year and is much in demand. It is not yet available in Australia. Another interesting one not yet



available is the F-Secure SENSE. It is to be released around the middle of this year. Both Google and the SENSE need to be continuously on line for updating of security patches and offer protection against a wide range of possible intrusions. Google updating is free while SENSE will cost \$8 per month. Both of these claim to protect home networks including any IoT things which are very vulnerable in some cases". At our next regular session on the Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10 am in W4 Brent will be discussing and demonstrating the electric farm vehicle which he assembled, powers with solar power and uses on his farm – perhaps you'll see us trialling it in the car park behind Aldi!

## **Towards a Sustainable Future**

There is never a dull moment or slow news day for this class. Some headlines for this month's reading included 'The Angry Summer'; 'Snowy Hydro surge – Turnbull's plan for \$2b expansion'; 'SA's state-first plan overturns a decade of power play'; 'Energy costs eclipse carbon-price levels – Action urged over surge in power prices'; 'Tesla says its batteries could fix Australia's energy problems in just 100 days' and more. We continue to look out for positive case studies, this month reading about Samso, an island in Denmark which is carbon neutral and runs on renewable energy, with power and profits flowing back into the community. Next month we are heading to Brian Howard's after our coffee break to see a model built by Brian which demonstrates three different ways of generating power from the sun.

## **Walks**

### **Bushwalking**

#### **Mid-week walk March 8, 2017**

Seven BBWC walkers took advantage of the perfect autumn weather to undertake a walk on Mount Stirling. The forecast temperature for Benalla was about 31 degrees compared with a pleasant 17 degrees for the mountain.

We left the cars at about 10am at Telephone Box Junction and headed off through the Alpine Ash forest. We encountered some horse riding groups and a few intrepid mountain bikers on this section before lunch. All enjoyed spectacular views of Mount Buller Village and summit.

At lunch we encountered the first of many students from the Timbertop campus of the Geelong Grammar School who were undertaking overnight(s) hiking activities. Their youthful enthusiasm for their task while carrying their large backpacks impressed us.

The first half hour or so after lunch was relatively steep going requiring a few rest stops. Soon though we arrived at the rock cairn marking Mount Winstanley and enjoyed the alpine views while appreciating the magnificent veteran snow gums that were a feature of this section.

We returned via Razorback Hut arriving back at the cars around 4pm. Vaughan observed that sections of the walk were a little more difficult than he remembered, but we were all feeling pleased with ourselves and experienced a real sense of achievement.



*The photo was taken on March 8 on the Razorback Trail in the Mount Stirling area. The group were resting and looking towards Mount Buller and the surrounding hills.*

Many thanks to Vaughan Cowan for leading yet another interesting and enjoyable midweek bushwalk.

David Harvey

#### **EasyWalk Wed April 5**

We will visit the Northern Beaches in Wangaratta. It is a mainly tree-sheltered walk beside the Ovens River. Some new artwork and a native garden have been added since our last visit. We will leave the Centre Car park at 10am. Please ring Vaughan at 5762 1980 beforehand so we can check transport.

#### **Mid-week walk April Wed 12**

We will walk from the Wild dog car park to the top of Mount Samaria, then back on part of the Wileman track. We will visit the falls if there is

enough water in the creek. We will leave the Centre car park at 9.30am. Please ring Vaughan on 5762 1980 to check numbers and arrange transport.

### **PS from Margaret Walshe**

Convenor of Easy Walks and Midweek Walks, Vaughan Cowan and his wife, Marion do a preliminary check on all walks. Whilst hiking on Mt Samaria (our April walk), Marion fractured her ankle. We wish Marion a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her out on the tracks again.

### **Wine Appreciation**



*Louise Doddell (centre) with Max Robertson and May Willan.--- Louise, the founding member of U3A Wine Appreciation, was very happy that after many years it still has a strong following.*

*Photo: Phyllis Doxey*

#### Wednesday 26 April

Meet in carpark at 10 am for travel to Primerano Wines Cheshunt.  
Lunch at Mountain View Hotel Whitfield.

#### Wednesday 24 May

Meet in car park at 10 am for visit to Piano Piano Wines, Everton Upper  
Lunch in Plough Restaurant Tarringingee.  
Suggestions wanted re venue for our end-of-year group luncheon. Must book soon. Noel.

Noel 57623149 Keith and Heather 57624086

### **Writing Workshop**

Our optional café catch up meeting at the Northo was well attended, with seven participants gathering on Labour Day to share contributions including Pat's stories on the theme 'Shut Up'; a timely and fascinating article Shirley found on the many uses of the word 'up'; Joy's story on the alternative topic 'I Broke It'; and readings from some cleverly written '100 word novels' published in a recent 'Monthly'. Bev explained that it is best to keep our regular topic stories until they are shared in class, though they can always be shared at the café catch up afterwards if we are unable to present them on the nominated day. By the time the next newsletter comes out our stories on our March topic, 'Stock and Land', will have been shared.

The topic for our regular meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30 pm is '[Failure](#)' – the brief – 'Write about a failure you've experienced – from the commonplace to the catastrophic' – in 500 words.

### **Some Dates for your Diary**

1. **Saturday the 29th July 2017** – A Christmas in July at the Swanpool Memorial Hall – a fund raiser for the Swanpool Oval Committee – a delicious two course dinner plus drinks will be on offer – Ticket prices still to be determined but if any Members enjoyed our Christmas in July during the Bald Archy then you will also enjoy this Evening , the same Caterers and the same atmosphere.
2. **Saturday the 26th August 2017 to 10th September 2017 (inclusive)** --The 2017 Swanpool Bald Archy Exhibition – open 10:00am till 4:00pm daily – Entry is \$5.00 Adults and \$4.00 Concession – Morning and Afternoon Tea plus a light Lunch and a main Lunch will be available however the Menu has not been finalised as yet.

**Our thanks go to Steph Ryan MP and the staff at her Benalla Office for the printing of this newsletter.**