



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – March 2022

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Please send reports for the newsletter to newsletter.u3abenalla@gmail.com by 25 Mar 2022

President's Report



Thank you to all the Convenors who came to our Convenor's afternoon on Friday 25th February. We had an excellent attendance and shared a lot of information during the afternoon. Our Convenors are very important to U3A Benalla, and this was one way of finding out if there were any problems.

In 2022 Len Jeffers has provided us with a new system of storing lists and Emails for each group in Drop Box. Whilst Drop Box has been previously used by other organisations, it is the first time U3A Benalla has adopted the system. It is hoped that it will provide constantly up to date rolls which can be accessed directly by our Convenors without involving Len.

Our membership has been constantly growing throughout February. We now have 286 members which includes 25 new members. I would encourage you all to wear your badge at each group you attend so the new members can get to know everyone quickly.

A nomination form for U3A Benalla Committee members and other positions for 2022-2023 is included at the back of this Newsletter. Nominations need to be filled out, signed and forwarded to our Secretary, Geraldine McCorkell at gmccorkell@activ8.net.au by Wednesday 9th March 2022. Nominations can also be left at the Redb4 Book Shop in Bridge St., Benalla.

Our **U3A Benalla Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 10am** in our U3A room. The guest speaker at the AGM will be Ms Rosie Koop, Executive Officer of the Benalla Tomorrow Today Foundation, who will also conduct the election of office bearers.

U3A members will have no doubt noticed that Benalla Rural City Council is carrying out road works in Fawckner Drive, outside the Benalla Senior's Centre. These works are happening during March and April 2022, and during this period the Fawckner Street car park is only accessible from Carrier Street South.

Some advance news. We are pleased to announce that John Barry will give U3A Benalla members two special lectures on Friday 6th May and Friday 13th May at 2pm in our U3A room. The topic of the first lecture will be Powers of Attorney (Enduring and Medical) whilst the topic of the second lecture will be about making a Will, Estate planning with a small section on End of Life Directives. John was a senior lawyer until his retirement and with such a background will provide excellent information in these two talks.

Margaret Jenkins
Vice President.

Group Reports

Armchair History – Tudors

The group seemed a little shy, preferring me to do most of the talking. I summed up the Tudor dynasty, emphasising the fear created by violent switches in religious acceptability.

This will lead into looking at Middle Ages attitudes to death, heaven and hell.

Remember the 14th is a holiday so our only March session will be Thursday 24th. After that I hope you'll agree with my preference to shift to our old timeslot of Friday afternoons from April.

Terry Case

Armchair Traveller

At our February gathering a very encouraging number of our members heard Alan Monger's enlightening tale of his (and his daughter's) visit to the Galapagos islands and the amazing wildlife. At the coming March meeting, (Tuesday 1st March at 2 p.m.), Brian Vial and Andrea Stevenson will give a presentation on their 2010 Expedition Cruise to the coastal areas of Papua New Guinea. They will highlight the active volcanoes of Rabaul, Watam, a river village, the busy city of Madang, Ferguson Island geysers, Tufi fjords, Milne Bay and much, much more.

The balance of this Semester is also fully booked.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Ray O'Shannessy

Art Appreciation

At our last well attended meeting at the Benalla Art Gallery we listened to a lecture from Anna White titled *My Father's Garden*. Anna is a local Artist who we hope will agree to talk to us again in the future.

Anna showed a short film actually shot in her Fathers Garden with her doing a dance in the modern idiom. The film had extracts of what it was like after the last bush fire and the degree that the plants and trees can re vegetate.

Anna also explained her development as a painter and her interest in colour and technique. She showed various examples of her paintings. Some of these paintings were done using an unusual method of putting paper down over paint already applied to canvas and the resultant paper after being peeled off becoming the work of art.

The session finished up with a vigorous question and answer period.

Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

Stories have started to be sent in for sharing at our 'post newsletter deadline' class on Monday 28 February. The topics -

#1 One Moment, This Year Looking back on 2021, what single moment stands out for you? Whether it be loss, love, discovery or disappointment, share your unforgettable moment.

#2 A Memoir - 'Head for your bookshelf, the library or an online book-store to retrieve a memoir, preferably one which has meant something to you. When did it enter your life? How did it then, or does it now, relate to your life story?'

#3 'I Was There'... Have you experienced a significant news, historical or cultural event first-hand? Share your personal piece of history in 500 words.

We are looking forward to meeting new members, who have the added option of sharing stories of being 'New in Town'. We'll also be distributing and discussing the topic list for 2022.

Bev Lee

Be Connected

Welcome to all Be Connected participants, old and new. Be Connected has added new courses and topics to the program. The 2022 Course list handout now comprises seven pages. Seeing as we are at the beginning of the year, we have gone back over some of the introductory information. So, we started with 'What is the Internet?' and 'Using the Internet'. It was interesting to reflect on these topics, even for seasoned users who are using the Internet every day.

Jenny Sawyer

Bird Watching

U3A Birdwatching. Visit to Loombah Reservoir, Thursday 10 March.

The first activity for 2022 for U3A Birdwatching group will be held on Thursday 10 March. We will make a morning visit to Loombah Reservoir on Upper Ryans Creek Road, birdwatching in the tall forest surrounding the area. We expect to see some birds not found around Benalla. Please meet at the carpark behind the Seniors Building at 9.30, and bring any food and drink you need for the morning. Wear sturdy shoes, and bring binoculars if you have a pair. Please note that we may do a little walking off track.

One option is to join the group enroute, at the corner of Kilfeera Road and Tatong Road, where there is a fire station. You will need to be there by 9.50am. Please email or ring me if you plan to do this.

Look forward to seeing you.

Kathy Costello

Ph 0447 625755 or landline 5762 5755

Brain Games

It was a pleasure to have a larger group presenting for the neurobic workout. We're not aiming for genius - we decided that is vanishingly rare - but the group did show flair in logic, words, numbers, creative thinking and sketching.

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalking – Easy Walks

Wednesday March 2nd: Seven Creeks Walk and Euroa Arboretum.

Our first walk for the year will see us led by Bev along the lovely Seven Creeks track, as described in February's newsletter. With a picnic lunch in the gardens after the 7.5km route, we will then go on to a gentle stroll through the Euroa Arboretum for those interested.

We meet for the day at the Seniors' carpark, Fawkner Drive, at 9am. Please confirm with Glenys Chessells on 0431 201 077 or gchess@hotmail.com.

Remember to bring a picnic lunch, snacks, a drink and comfortable shoes.

Wednesday April 6th: Cremona Bridge and Yarck

April sees us travelling a bit further from home with a walk to the historic Cremona Bridge, led by Andi. This was a much-anticipated walk lost to Covid lockdown last year, the bridge having an interesting local history. We will meet at 9am at the Seniors' carpark for the drive of just over an hour. With a rest stop at Yarck, we go on to Cathkin Station, walking on from there to the bridge for morning tea.



Lunch will be at Yarck Rec Reserve, byo picnic and takeaway from the Giddy Goat available, with a further walk from the Reserve after. Total distance will be approx 6.5km.

Please confirm as above with Glen, by April 4th.

If new members are unsure of their abilities for these walks, please check with convenors Glen Chessells or Julie McNeill 0407823031.

Car sharing is usually available with a small contribution to costs. Members are asked to confirm with Glen beforehand if they need transport, or can provide it.

Glen Chessells, Julie McNeill

Chat n' Chew

It was nice to get together again for Chat and Chew. Next month's Chat and Chew will be held on Friday March 18 at the Benalla Golf Club. Please take note of the time change – 11.45am for a 12.00 Lunch. It would be appreciated if you could ring my mobile 0427376991 to confirm your attendance. If I do not answer, would you leave your name and phone number and I will ring you back.

Lorraine Knox

Coin Collectors

Our Coin Collectors met for the first meeting of 2022 on Monday 21st February at the Senior Citizens rooms. It was nice to see some new faces join our group and of course the return of our regular members. All told we had 8 attend with 2 apologies.

Bill passed around an undated American dollar coin depicting the fourth president of the USA, which is uncommon given most dollar currency is in note form. The coin is thought to be more of a collectors' coin rather one for general circulation.

Wendy presented the group with a number of Australian notes ranging from a pre-decimal one pound note to decimal one and two dollar paper notes now replaced by coins and the old paper five to twenty dollar notes now replaced by polymer notes.

Rupe created some curiosity with the circulating a number of paper notes that were Japanese printed occupation money to be circulated in conquered countries during World War 2 including Australia.

Peter has recently joined our group after being stimulated by his previous visits, to renew his interest in his collecting.

Joy along with Vaughan presented their coin/note album filled with collections over many years from the countries they have previously travelled to. A closer look identified some unusual Australian coins not regularly seen in general circulation.

Doug circulated his RAM (Royal Australian Mint) folders of collectable commemorative decimal currency coins ranging from 20 cents, 50 cents and \$1 including his coloured \$2 collection.

David, an avid coin collector, presented the group with a number of impressive collectable coins. These included 2022 50 cent silver proof golden guitar 50th Tamworth Music festival anniversary; 2005 gold kookaburra; 2021 silver \$1 Mungo Park, 2022 Australian Front Line Workers mint set.

David, who has multiple decimal circulating coins of the same design and date, has kindly offered these to the group at face value. If you let David know what you want he will advise if he can supply from his excess stock, otherwise they go back to the bank.

Doug prepared a 10 question decimal coin trivia quiz to add some further educational value to the afternoon. See below for the answers but have a go first.

Doug's Coin Quiz (ds 27/02/2022)

1. What is on the tails side of 1c, 2c, 5c, 10, 20c, 50c
2. Which is heavier 2 cents or 5 cents
3. When was \$2 coin introduced
4. Which coins has no milled edge
5. How many edges on a 1969 50 cent coin
6. How many effigies of the Queen has there been
7. Which was will Charles effigy face when he becomes king
8. Where are all circulating Australian coins made
9. When were 1 and 2 cents removed from circulation
10. What happened to the withdrawn 1c and 2 cent pieces

Answers: 1: 1c - feather tail glider, 2c- frilled neck lizard, 5c – echidna, 10c – lyrebird, 20c – platypus 2: 2c 3:1988, 4: 1c 2c 1966 50 cent, 5:12, 6: 6, 7: left, 8:RAM, 9:1992, 10: melted down for bronze medals 2000 Sydney Olympics

Doug Smith

Collectors

The first session of Collectors was postponed until Monday 7 March at 10am, when members are invited to bring along something they treasure and something very old. Collectors provides a supportive space in which to reminisce and share stories about the past while presenting treasured items to the class. New and returning members welcome!

Janet Gourlay, for Dorothy Webber

Community Singing

Community Singing in February had the usual relaxed atmosphere and was enjoyed by everyone there.

In the first segment Brian Greed used Sammy's Song Book No 1 and accompanied us on the organ.

After morning tea Brian switched to the piano and used Brian's Little Song Book which has a completely different group of songs.

We are all amazed at how Brian recalls each song by just telling him the name of the song and the key it is in. Well done, Brian!

The next Community Singing will be held on Thursday 24th March 2022 at 10am at the Hub in Cooina.

Margaret Jenkins

Creative Writing



We welcomed several new members to the class this month. It was pleasing that even our new members were able to contribute a story for the class to read and discuss.

We had three prompts to choose from:

- **The most adorable chocolate brown eyes stared at Susan from the face resting on the desk.**
- **They walked beside the river while {Charlie} weaved in and out of the reeds.**
- **The jury retired to consider the verdict**

The class is based on creative writing, generally with stories of fiction. But our experiences will always influence our writing, and this month one of the stories was based on a real-life experience written as the memories from childhood but including speculation as to what might have happened. And other stories ranged from shape changing (adorable chocolate brown eyes) to murder (not only using the jury theme). There were animals of course, including cats as well as dogs in and out of the reeds.

The topics for March are:

- **She stood on the balcony**
- **The reflections on the still water of the lake, did not reveal what lay beneath**
- **The hotel was deserted. Salt and pepper shakers sat on the dust covered tables.**

I am eager to see what the new topics bring for our March class. This is on 14 March – a public holiday, but we will be meeting for those who are available.

Joy Shirley

Exercises for Fun

A big welcome to the new faces that have joined our group this year! Welcome back to the old faces too! It is very encouraging to know that so many of us want to get a little more active and improve our fitness.

Our exercises to music are designed for Seniors, so they are very low impact and very enjoyable. You can be as energetic as you like - remember - the more effort you put in, the more energy you burn up.

See you every Monday, starting at 9.30am sharp. Seniors building.

Helen Jeffree

Exploring the Universe

The Class of 2022



At our first session for the year, it was great to see new members joining us with so much interest and enthusiasm. We had a really good afternoon.

We started with a brief history of Astronomy: from the first people who gazed at the night sky. They saw patterns in the stars that became the constellations, the star maps that are still in use today. Through the discoveries that led to Planetary Science, Astrophysics and Cosmology. Today the **definition of Astronomy** in the Oxford dictionary is: The branch of science which deals with celestial objects, space and the physical universe as a whole.

Last year we viewed film of the James Webb Space telescope arriving at the Spaceport in French Guiana.

It was time to catch up with film of the launch of the telescope on its powerful Ariane 5 rocket; including that special moment recorded by a camera on the rocket housing when Webb separated and drifted off into the blackness of space. We also watched film animations of the telescopes deployment, unfolding as it hurtled away from us. It is now orbiting at Lagrange point 2. For those who are curious about these parking spots in space: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wx16nnpSPUo>

Rupe took over for the second half of the program to teach us about the dynamics of our nearest star, the Sun. He set up Astronomy Benalla's solarscope on the lawn and we viewed the sun's seething red sphere of nuclear energy whose atmosphere we live in. There were no sunspots visible. As it turned out they were on the other side of the Sun. Unbeknown to us on that very day 15/02/2022 there was a giant solar eruption on the far side of the sun. A Coronal Mass Ejection with a flare that extended millions of kms away from our planet. This is the image recorded by the ESA/NASA Solar Orbiter Spacecraft.



Bev Morton

Family Research

At our first session in late February, we welcomed four new members and Jane's return.

There was much to share in the 'Pains and Gains' reports which commence our sessions. Margaret Boyle began by updating us on finding news of her mother, who had left her family during the war when Marg

was a toddler. Marg kept us spellbound describing her joy at being able to share stories about her mother with a surviving half-sister discovered following a DNA test.

Other reports also featured 'connections' – whether with others working on the same families; with family historians when visiting local historical societies; or with Facebook user group members discussing issues of interest. Barry O'Connor finally got to look at the rate records at Swan Hill and discovered the facts about the actual land holdings of his Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother O'Connor. He also managed to track down some possible information on where his parents first met.

Our Family Story topic for sharing after the coffee break was '**A sense of place**'. Members shared stories of places important in the lives of their forebears, including Deniliquin; Echuca; Kilmore; Scotland, including the Isle of Skye, the beautiful highland valley of Glenesk, Portree and more; the #3 and #69 tram routes in Melbourne, even ships traversing the high seas. Stories featured included the lives of farmers, crofters, sheep stud owners, blacksmiths, ships doctors, hotel keepers, stone masons, mariners, those in the Flinders Lane rag trade and more.

The list of topics for 2022 was distributed and is now available on the website. The topic for our next class on March 24 is '**Hunch**'. The brief – 'Sometimes when researching we find 'a black hole', however have a fairly strong hunch about a possible resolution of the problem. Our dilemma - we don't want to record it if the evidence isn't strong enough. Describe a fairly strong hunch you continue to have during your research. Who does it involve, why do you think it might apply; what is stopping you from including it in your family tree. (If you have resolved a hunch, you could describe this instead.)'

Bev Lee, Barry O'Connor, Wendy Sturgess

Family Research – Beginners

U3A members arrived at *Family Research - Beginners* with baskets or folders full of resources collected during a family research 'burst of energy', sometimes recently, sometimes decades ago. Some baskets included books or documents donated by other family members, or their own first effort at writing about their family. Most importantly, all brought along stories passed down over generations.

It is always a question of where to start! This year we have asked class members to identify and focus on a person or family branch which needs work, or involves a particular family mystery, 'black hole' or roadblock. We are using the new computer and large screen in the small classroom to develop understanding of ancestry.com, both in one to one and small group sessions.

Hints invariably appear as soon as a core person and father's name are used to establish the tree.

It isn't long before we are reading through source documents which shed light on the person, family mystery, or family branch which is the focus for research. Census results, baptisms, photographs, are reviewed and considered carefully before being accepted and added to the tree – with others ignored or added to the 'maybe' shoebox for future reference. During the process, some class members have discovered a tree commenced once as a 'free trial' is still available on ancestry.

We're very pleased to welcome experienced family researcher Judy Barry as a mentor for the beginners' group. Wendy Sturgess and Barry O'Connor will also be supporting beginners' group members.

Bev Lee

Film Discussion Group

This was our first class for the year, with some new members joining.

The focus for our discussion was the film "**House of Gucci**". The class enjoyed the film. It is based on the life of the Gucci family. When Patrizia Reggiani, an outsider from humble beginnings, marries into the Gucci family, her unbridled ambition begins to unravel their legacy and triggers a reckless spiral of betrayal, decadence, revenge, and ultimately...murder. There was not any one villain or victim. They were all a victim or villain at different stages during the film.

Most of the performances were excellent. Lady Gaga's performance as Patrizia was outstanding – you saw the character she was playing, rather than the actor, which is an indication of a strong performance. One character that did not sit well for us was played as a bit of a buffoon. I am not sure whether this was true to the family, the script or poor interpretation.

Costuming was excellent, and the soundtrack seemed to move with the era. Cars in the film were all fancy sports cars, which reflected the lifestyle of the family.

Simple phrases used to summarise the film included poisonous family, shared disintegration, best action film, emotional, excellent performances. We rated it as 4/5.

Other films watched during the Christmas break were:

“West Side Story”: A remake of the film from the 1960s. The performances were good with excellent photography, sets and dancing.

“Julia”: A documentary on the life of Julia Child. An interesting story of how she became a chef and where it took her.

“Kingsman”: A prequel to the Kingsman films and set in the leadup to the First World War. An enjoyable film, but some of the fight scenes were too long.

There are two films the class members are interested in seeing for discussion at our March class. These are **“Belfast”**, based on growing up in Belfast in the 1960s and **“King Richard”**, based on the story of how Richard Williams coached Serena and Venus to bring them to top ranked tennis players.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation



Our first outing 2022 was fantastic. Firstly, Sophie’s garden and morning tea, followed by Kerri’s garden and lunch - both amazing. Thank you both and your helpers - what a great day!

The money donated to Palliative care was \$308.30.

On March 24th, meet at U3A car park 9.30 to carpool.

We are going to the Botanical Gardens in Shepparton for morning tea - please bring your own morning tea.

Then off to Billabong Gardens and Cafe for Lunch. Please let me know if you are attending and any dietary requirements as I have to make bookings for Lunch.

On April 24th we are planning to meet up with some of U3A Beechworth Group. More information in the next newsletter.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team

It was good to have nearly all the team back and to enjoy the company of new addition, Jim. Given quite hot conditions, Kirsten and Marcus didn't drive us very hard and there was plenty of rehydration and conviviality around the table.

Next month, on the Monday holiday, we'll put in our efforts in Rupe's garden despite two apologies.

Elsbeth Maconachie

German – Advanced



The advanced German group shows the benefit of our keeping in touch through correspondence throughout the lock down periods in previous years. It is a happy and studious group and has tackled quite advanced correspondence, which you can see on our [‘Lessons’ web page on the U3A website](#) if you are interested. It gives me pleasure to help them advance in the German language and it is a 70 year review of my own school days. It’s amazing how much we have stashed away in the back of our brains.

Horst Gunther

German - Beginners

As I write this, we have completed 4 of the proposed 9 sessions. The first lesson started with the alphabet and other sounds in German, as well as common abbreviations, and then progressed to conjugating various verbs in the present tense. Pronunciation was revised at the beginning of the next lesson and has been being perfected ever since.

In the second lesson, we explored German sentence structure in both simple and compound sentences, as well as pronoun changes from the subject to object, both direct and indirect. This was extended to nouns, including gender effect on the definite and indefinite articles, in the next lesson.

Lesson 4 gave us a break by looking at questions, number and time. Our knowledge of verbs was extended to the auxiliary (or helper) verbs.

It’s been a cracking pace, but attendees are to be congratulated on their level of engagement. We are halfway to unlocking the language.

Pauline Bailey

Investment

At the February meeting of Investment, we welcomed 16 members who included two new members and two returning members.

We looked at the January 2022 Share market correction, and a related article by Shane Oliver about Share Market Falls. On the same theme we mentioned five shares which were regarded by Roger Montgomery as quality shares, his view being that quality shares fall less and recover first in a share market downturn such as we have just experienced.

After our tea break, we had a good discussion regarding what papers or articles each of us follow and read. This probably gave our newer members an insight into what other members consider to be worthwhile advice.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Monday 7th March 2022 at 1.30pm in our U3A room.

Margaret Jenkins

Let’s Talk Books

It was great to be back and welcoming some new members to our group. Quite a range of books were read over the holidays, so here are some of them. *One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin, a funny, heart-warming story of a 17 year old and an 80 year old in a terminally ill ward, worth the read. *The Japanese Lover*, written by evergreen author Isabel Allende, set in 1939, love and sacrifice in a world of change. *The Other Wife* by Michael Robotham, coming to terms with our past and moving on. Also enjoyed was *The Lamplighters* by Emma Stonex. It is 1972 and 3 lightkeepers have vanished from the lighthouse off the coast of Cornwall, what happened to them? Margaret shared a lovely book *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy, beautifully produced and illustrated we could have spent some time reading the quotes and admiring the illustrations. *A Nearly Normal Family* by M. Advarasson, was difficult to read, the Finnish names were hard to follow. Lee Child and James Lee Burke were usual good reads for our mystery lovers, and Colm McCann’s *Let The Great World Spin* a fantastic book about a tightrope walker in 1974 who walked between the World Trade Centre Buildings and those who witnessed or heard about it. *The 20th Man* by Tony Jones, in 1972 a journalist receives a phone call from the ABC about two bombings in Sydney, that takes this thriller from Sydney to the mountains of Yugoslavia. The biography of actress Audrey Hepburn was enjoyed as was *The Washerwoman’s Dream* by Hilarie Lindsay, a classic Australian outback tale. *Caroline Chisholm* by Sarah Boldman 1808 – 1838. A must read if you are interested in Australian history. That is just a sample, oh to have more time to read!

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball



Our minds were stretching as much as our bodies as we returned to play on Feb 14th, as we focussed on a fast and funny half-court game. It has been great to be back, and also to welcome some new players!

We are always happy to welcome more - Lifeball is a walking pace ballgame, suited to any level of skill, and we play weekly at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre at 10am Mondays. It is great fun, and great exercise.

To keep track of each week's numbers, players are asked to let Marlene know on 0407240943 if they will be away.

Julie McNeill

Meditation

It is so good to be able to put an hour aside to let the body and mind relax - meditating to bring us into the moment. This semester Meditation groups will have another leader, Heather Wallace, for a number of sessions when Caroline is not available. If anyone wishes to come to the group, it is held the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 12.00 noon in U3A Room 2 at the Seniors building. You will be most welcome. Wear comfortable clothing. You can take your shoes off and bring a cushion to make the chair more comfortable if you wish. You are sitting down all times, you do not lay on the floor, so there are no worries about getting up.

Caroline Sims, Heather Wallace

Meet and Mingle

Retired lawyer and author, John Barry, told the February Meet and Mingle group about his new book, *Whatever of Glory Those of Benalla and District Who Gave Their Lives in the Great War*. John was praised by several members of the audience afterwards for his articulate and easily heard story of the myths associated with World War 1.

Although the average age of Army volunteers serving in the First World War was 24, quite a lot were 18 to 21 where parental permission was required. But some managed to confuse the system, including those who had not even reached the age of 18. John said when they were discovered the army plucked them off ships and even out of the trenches and sent them home.

Even one army woman, managed to disguise her gender and was only "plucked," as the ship she was on was leaving Sydney. A 17 year old man was not plucked and died on his first day in the trenches.

John's prodigious research into Benalla district people who served in the war showed villages, like Tungamah and Violet Town, were selective in their war memorial listings. They only included people who had made the supreme sacrifice if they had lived in the built-up areas of those towns.

So, John has set to right those and other omissions. From a population of 8795 in 1911, around 1000 young men and 11 young women from the Shire of Benalla and district, volunteered to serve in the Great War. He researched family diaries and military service records, to reveal the lives and deaths of the more than two hundred Benalla and district young people who gave their lives in the Great War. John said some died from diseases, but most died from the effects of artillery shells, machine-gun bullets or gas. One battle, Passchendaele, claimed 36 Benalla men.

David Palmer

The guest speaker at our March Meet and Mingle will be Ms Rosie Koop, Executor Officer of the Benalla Tomorrow Today Foundation. The March meeting, which will also be our Annual General Meeting, will be held on Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 10am in our U3A room at the Benalla Senior's Centre. All welcome

Margaret Jenkins

Music Appreciation

After all the restrictions and limitations imposed over the past couple of years how exciting it is to get off to a new year with the hope of next to no breaks in our schedule. A record number of enrolments this year for our Music Appreciation presentations adds even more to the excitement.

With the Sydney Symphony Orchestra not giving concert performances until March, our February sessions were all selected from the current concert offerings of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Hence our first session saw us acknowledging Chinese New Year with musical compositions by Chinese composers and Chinese vocalists. The major work was a cello concerto by Zhao Jiping featuring Chinese musical instruments playing in combination with traditional western instruments. The session was rounded off with arias from Puccini operas – Boheme, Butterfly, Tosca and Turandot.

The second session picked up on most of the remainder of the MSO February concerts - Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture, Haydn's 6th Symphony, a couple of excerpts from Mascagni's opera Cavalleria Rusticana, Cesar Franck's tone poem Le Chasseur Maudit (The Accursed Hunter), and rounding off with the second of the two Orchestral Suites from Ravel's ballet Daphnis and Chloe.

You can read the programme notes and find links to the music items on the Music Appreciation page on our U3A website.

On a final note, there will not be a Music Appreciation session on Friday 11 March (I will be away taking a short holiday), however I will be home in time for the Friday 25 March session.

Bill Squire

Page Turners

We started our program in January as there were so many interruptions last year.

The Midnight Library, Matt Haig

Would you want to change anything in your life? A path you didn't take? Ever wondered what would have happened differently?

Nora Seed, severely depressed, was transported to the Midnight Library, a fantasy location, when she failed to commit suicide. Here a thousand choices waited her of paths she didn't take: the boyfriend she didn't marry, the band she should have stayed with, a job in America etc. She lives for a few weeks in these alternative worlds and discovers that none of these were as perfect as she suspected they would be. She finally realizes there were things in her real life that could engage her and give her a purpose. Light and engaging story.

The Lincoln Highway, Amor Towles

Emmett Watson, a young man just released from prison, hopes to go to California with his young brother to start a new life. Instead, his plans are hijacked by two likeable but dysfunctional prisoners who escaped from prison when he was released. Hoping to travel by the Lincoln Highway, his intentions are continuously thwarted by the pair who take him and his brother on a series of diversions to suit their own plans. Adventures and tragedies happen along the way.

Our March book is **What Alice Forgot** by Liane Moriarty.

Meg Dillon

Play Reading

Our first play reading for the year brought together some members from previous years and a number of new participants were also welcomed.

The play chosen was *"The Putting Down of Ned Kelly"* by Len Kenna. The first public performance of this play was in Benalla during the Felix Festival in April 1995. John Ellis was able to present signed memorabilia of the occasion and refer to the part Benalla Theatre Company played in the production.

The play tells the story of part of Ned's life, his trial and his execution. It is also the story of pure political power and about men who were prepared to go to any lengths to protect their positions and to deflect attention from their own activities. It is also a story about today and tomorrow, for as long as men strive to rule and put their own interests ahead of the community: dishonesty, injustice and exploitation will become the order of the day.

It is also the story of a mother who is serving a three-year prison sentence with hard labour in the same prison as her son, Ned, who is awaiting execution. However, she cannot go to him, help him or comfort him in any way.

Although a short play, all attendees had an opportunity to read and show their skill. Lively discussion ensued at the completion of the reading and some interesting stories, passed down through generations, were relayed of incidents and meetings with Ned that occurred at the time.

Next month our play is "*Death by Chocolate*" by Paul Freed. A classic murder mystery with a scathing satire of today's health crazes. Should be fun!

Jenny McKenna

Politics and Current Affairs



We're into election mode, checking for reds under our beds and sharpening our wits to sift through the bulldust that might be coming our way. Perhaps tedious but a preferred way to decide a regime!

We wonder if there'll be more independents and hope that won't mean only those with millions to spare.

Terry Case

Russian Literature

Lermontov, "Hero of our Time" Pechorin is a bored and self-obsessed officer part of the Russian elite in 1830s. Lermontov presents him as an anti-hero who is willful, undertakes huge risks, is determined and yet is incapable of feeling deeply about any of the people he meets. He knows he is incapable of feeling empathy, but doesn't understand why. His conduct deteriorates as the novel progresses in the series of incidents in the Caucasus while his regiment is stationed there. He spurns the love of a young society girl, heartlessly kills a fellow officer in a duel and abducts a young Muslim girl and is responsible for her death.

This novel started the critiquing of Russian society that led to later writers like Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky

Meg Dillon

Saturday Cards – 500



What a lot of fun and laughs we had on Saturday!

There were three groups of players and each group had a different outcome on our games. Some reached the score of 500 very quickly and others were still trying to reach the magic number well into the afternoon.

There is lots of room for more players, so please come and join in.

Heather Wallace

Singing for Fun

It was great to get back to Singing at the Hub in February 2022. Our three leaders Brian Greed, Kieran Smith and Margaret Merriman were full of enthusiasm as were all our members.

Unfortunately, we have been without our pianist Gwen Barnes for all of February. Gwen had some family matters to deal with and then had a couple of unfortunate falls, so is currently recovering at home. We wish Gwen all the best and hope to see her at our March meetings.

At our three singing meetings in February Brian Greed and Kieran Smith filled in at the piano in Gwen's absence. We have had a variety of songs during the month, including some rounds conducted by Margaret Merriman. These rounds don't get included very often so had a certain novelty factor to them.

I am sure all the members of Singing would like to say many thanks to Brian and Kieran for their assistance with the piano during February.

At our third session we had a solo from "My Fair Lady" sung by Brian Colman. Brian, who is a new member of our Singing Group, has fitted into the group really well.

We were also pleased to see Joyce Borschmann come to our third session after her recent illness.

The next Singing for Fun meeting will be on Thursday 3rd March at 10am at the Hub in Cooida.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

Committed to Sheep

Wallace Binnie, a Thoona Poll Dorset stud breeder for more than half a century, spoke to our Stock and Land group on February 1. He acknowledged he was of an age where it would be quite legitimate for him to retire. But he said the keen interest in their Coledale sheep, of his 13-year old granddaughter, Kirsty, kept him involved in the stud's day to day operations.

They had recently added a particularly vital piece of equipment to enable them both to keep working the sheep, without injuring themselves. (Poll Dorsets have always been big but like other breeds could weigh 80 to 100kg or more these days.)

That lifesaving piece of kit, although expensive, is a mechanical sheep handler. Wallace said that once it drew a sheep into its race, it would automatically clamp the sheep tightly and immovably so it could be drenched, inoculated or ear tagged while standing up, or it could turn the sheep on its side to be dagged or even partially shorn.

The Binnies run between 450 and 480 ewes, on nearly 400ha between Thoona and Devenish, and sell 150 to 160 rams a year at an on-farm sale.

Our speaker for next Tuesday, March 1 at 10am, will be stud beef cattle breeder Tim Karkis. Tim's family started the Riga Angus stud in 1971 at Nillahcootie, so are well into their second half century. Look forward to seeing you then.

David Palmer

Sustainability

At our February sessions the Sustainability Group looked into the history of the sustainability concept and how it has developed since the 1980s. We discussed various definitions and examples of sustainability including the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. We also looked at examples of sustainability strategies at the Australian, State, local, industry and household level noting that most of these only dealt some aspects, such as waste, unlike the comprehensive approach adopted by the United Nations. We also discussed a number of cases where nations have begun to move away from a single economic focus of measuring our wellbeing ('gross domestic product') to including social and environmental components as well, such as Bhutan's concept of 'gross domestic happiness'.

John Lane



Tech Savvy Beginners – Android

We had a productive month for our February 2022 class with some new faces.

We covered -

- What a Smart Home involves and how to setup a Smart Home. We watched the Be Connected video on various Smart Home set ups.
- The importance of revision for every session and that emailing between each other is good practice.
- How to shorten your various words when texting eg R U OK (are you okay).
- How to fill out an on-line PDF form.h
- Connecting your Fit Bit watch to your tablet - yet to be finished.
- Cleaning and deleting files (housekeeping).



Robyn Lukey

Tech Talks

At our last Tech Talks discussed items of interest and watched a selection of videos:

1. A video from 2007 of *Steve Jobs introducing the iPhone to the world*. It is worth reflecting on the impact the iPhone has had on the world. It is now possible for humans in Africa, in South America - indeed anywhere in the world - to be all doing exactly the same thing at the same time on their mobile phones. And communicating with each other. We can thank Steve Jobs for this. Shortly everyone will have a mobile phone and, as Apple has developed and expanded into one of the largest companies in the world, we have to admit it has changed the world.
2. A Video explaining *the true nature of electricity*. The truth is we are still learning about electricity. It doesn't always work as we thought it did. It is still very complicated.
3. A short video showing *extremes of climate*. In Canada it can get so cold everything turns to ice. Even boiling water.

At our next meeting we will be brought up to date on Nuclear Fission and the production of electricity. We will also learn what is occurring with the James Webb telescope.

Neville Gibb

Wine Appreciation

Our first outing for 2022 was on a perfect autumn day. Fifteen members headed to Pizzini's winery where we were shown to our tasting table, beautifully set with an array of glasses, and outside overlooking the grounds. Our sommelier, Chas, introduced himself and then proceeded to impart his expert knowledge of Pizzini wines and make suggestions for wines to taste. We started with five La Famiglia Wines that were fabulous for everyday drinking and one from their Special and Rare wine selection.

Alfredo and Katrina Pizzini planted the first vines on the property in 1978, then in 1994 the first wine under the Pizzini label was produced.

A very leisurely and enjoyable experience.

We then moved to the Mountain View hotel where we sat out in the garden under the shade of the established trees.

The wait staff were very friendly and the service was good and food excellent – very large servings. A very pleasant way to spend the day.

On 23rd March we will be heading to [Politini Wines](#) at 65 Upper King River Road, Cheshunt and lunch at The Ovens, 451 King Valley Rd Cheshunt.

Meeting in the car park behind Aldi at 10.00am. Please let me know if you are coming on 0428 696 408 or nicnackmac90@gmail.com by Sunday 20th March.

Nicole McFarlane



Other

Thank you, John Lloyd



Fifteen years ago, *Sustainability* Convenor John Lloyd joined Benalla U3A and found John Avery's 'Future Energy' class "right up my alley". At the time John was building his house drawing on best practice principles for a sustainable environment, so there was much to share and talk about in the class. The following year John Avery asked John to share the convening role, with John moving from joint convenor to convenor a year later.

John convened 'Towards a Sustainable Future', now 'Sustainability', for 13 years. On occasions, when busy on projects including his Presidency of the Benalla Sustainable Futures Group, John considered pulling back. However, he highly valued the loyal group of interested class members who had come to know one another very well and delighted in his sessions (...despite having to occasionally remind them, 'Now, this isn't the politics class...', to prevent a discussion on an environmental issue becoming derailed!)

John's continued interest and extensive reading on environmental issues set the scene for each fortnightly session. He arrived at each class with evidence-based articles from reputable writers to photocopy, distribute and discuss with class members. During the Pandemic, John distributed these articles on-line to members before sessions, some of which he facilitated using 'Zoom'.

After turning 80, further 'down shifting' was in order, but the U3A 'Sustainability' group remained high on John's agenda. However, John and Freida have now decided to leave their beautiful sustainably built home at Chesney Vale to move closer to Freida's family in the Bendigo/Castlemaine. ...

Thank you so much for sharing your passion for a sustainable future, John.

Concerned that future generations will suffer from our inaction, you prompted us to consider, "*What did you do once you knew?*" inspired by a poem by Drew Dillinger you found particularly challenging

*It's 3:23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my great great grandchildren
won't let me sleep,
my great great grandchildren
ask me in dreams
What did you do while the planet was plundered?
What did you do when the earth was unravelling?
Surely you did something
when the seasons started failing?
as the mammals, reptiles and birds were all dying?
Did you fill the streets with protest
when democracy was stolen?
**what did you do
once you knew?***

You once wrote "We need to make our voice heard, to fight for our world. We need to give hope to future generations. How will we answer our grandchildren when they ask, "What did you do once you knew?"

Well John, there is no doubt that your great great grandchildren would feel very proud that you did everything you possibly could once you knew.

Thank you for your passion and unswerving, dedicated contribution towards a sustainable future.

Beverley Lee

What's On

Tuesday, 1 March

- 10:00 Page Turners – 'What Alice Forgot'
- 10:00 Stock and Land – Tim Karkis, Riga Angus Stud
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Armchair Traveller - PNG Coastal Expedition

Wednesday, 2 March

- 09:00 Easy Walks - 7Creeks Walk/Euroa Arboretum
- 09:30 Play Reading – 'Death by Chocolate'
- 12:15 German - Beginners
- 14:00 Be Connected

Thursday, 3 March

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Family Research - Beginners
- 13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 4 March

- 09:30 Sustainability

Monday, 7 March

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Collectors – 'Treasured Item & Oldest Item'
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 10:00 Art Appreciation
- 12:00 Meditation
- 13:30 Investment
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books

Tuesday, 8 March

- 10:00 Politics and Current Affairs
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Tech Talks--Nuclear Fission/Webb Telescope

Wednesday, 9 March-- Committee Nominations due

- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 10:00 Russian Literature
- 12:15 German - Beginners
- 13:30 'A Taste of Art'
- 14:00 Be Connected
- 14:00 Film Discussion Group

Thursday, 10 March

- 09:30 Birdwatching
- 10:00 Harmony Group
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Family Research - Beginners
- 13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, 12 March

- 13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 14 March – Labour Day (TBC)

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 14:00 Creative Writing (Confirmed)
- 14:00 Garden Team

Tuesday, 15 March

- 10:00 The News - Fact or Fiction
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 16 March

- 10:00 AGM/Meet & Mingle--Tomorrow Today Fnd

- 12:15 German - Beginners

- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Apple

Thursday, 17 March

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Android
- 13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 18 March

- 09:30 Sustainability
- 11:45 Chat 'n Chew – Benalla Golf Club

Monday, 21 March

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 12:00 Meditation
- 13:30 Coin Collectors

Tuesday, 22 March

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Brain Games

Wednesday, 23 March

- 10:00 Wine Appreciation - Politini Wines
- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 12:15 German - Beginners
- 13:30 'A Taste of Art'

Thursday, 24 March

- 09:30 Garden Appr'n - Billabong Nursery, Shepp'n
- 10:00 Armchair History
- 10:00 Community Singing

Friday, 25 March

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 17:00 Newsletter reports due today

Saturday, 26 March

- 13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 28 March

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 14:00 As Time Goes By--'Trees'/'Childh'd Memory'

Tuesday, 29 March

- 12:15 German - Advanced

Wednesday, 30 March

- 12:15 German - Beginners

Thursday, 31 March

- 09:30 Patchwork - all day workshop (TBC)

Friday, 1 April

- 09:30 Sustainability

Monday, 4 April

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Collectors
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 10:00 Art Appreciation
- 12:00 Meditation
- 13:30 Investment
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books

Tuesday, 5 April

- 10:00 Page Turners
- 10:00 Stock and Land
- 12:15 German - Advanced
- 14:00 Armchair Traveller - Bill Parris



BENALLA
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Nomination Form

2022 Executive Positions/Committee

Person Nominated.....

Proposed Role

(President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity Officer, Elected Member, Other)

Proposer (name)..... (signature)

Seconder (name) (signature)

Nominee I am currently a financial member of U3A Benalla Inc. and accept nomination for this position.

Address.....

Telephone/s.....

Signature

Date

**Return to the Secretary, U3A Benalla Inc. P O Box 674, Benalla, 3672 or
RedB4 Bookshop (next to Hide's Bakery) by Wednesday 9th March 2022**

U3A Benalla Inc. AOO366548