



Benalla and District Inc.

## Newsletter – May 2019

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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### President's Report

We have received news from Benalla Rural City that solar panels and new internal and external light globes will be installed before the end of June. Our presentation to Council was very well received. We continue with our strong relationship with Council.

A U3A Network Victoria Regional Workshop was held at BPACC on the 1 & 2 April, with 45 in attendance and around 20 staying overnight in town. These Regional meetings are a valuable time to meet and get to know the Executive and members of other U3A's. We all share our highs and lows, with generally more highs than lows. Great work by all who volunteer with U3a.

Thanks to all who have helped me over the past months. After a week away my husband Laurie and I are feeling nice and relaxed.

Dorothy Webber President

### Group Reports

#### A Night at the Opera: French Style

**Bizet's The Pearl Fishers** was our choice this month. Set in exotic Sri Lanka, Leila, a priestess, is taken to a fishing village to invoke the gods to protect the fishermen throughout the fishing season and bring them good catches. Although she lives in the village with them she can have no contact with the villagers or her magic will not work.

One of the fishermen, Zurga, had met her previously and fallen in love with her as had his best friend Nadir. and both had pledged to forgo their love for her to save their friendship. Nadir arrives at the village and immediately Leila and Nadir meet and declare their love. A terrible storm occurs and Zurga finds out about their liaison. He condemns

them to death, but eventually relents and allows them to depart peacefully.

This 2015 production by the New York Metropolitan Opera was beautifully sung and staged.

Meg Dillon

#### Armchair History

The next meeting on 7th May will hear Neville Gibb give a talk on Germany and/or Venice.

I have Bill Paris on standby for a talk in the second semester but volunteers are always welcome.

Please contact me if you are interested.

Ray O'Shannessy

#### 'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

We are still busily writing our 500 word stories on the topic '[Faking It](#)', with stories to be shared after the newsletter deadline. I wonder what people are writing about? More news later!

Our topic for May is based on the theme '*Time*'.... There are so many ways in which we use the word 'time'...'We talk about spare time, stolen time, free time, time well spent, leisure time, wasted time, quality time, holiday time, extra time, not enough time. We say time is precious, for all time, time is short, it was such a waste of time, time flies, time and eternity, we had a good time, take your time, time stood still, where does the time go? How much time do you have? She'll do it in 'her own good time' and more. The brief is to choose and write about an element or two relating to the theme 'Time' which has meaning in terms of an event or events in our life stories.

*Late News:* Next month we are piloting a separate group facilitated by Noelle McCracken to focus on Writing and Publishing Memoirs. Classes will be scheduled as follows:

1.30 to 2.50 '500 Words Stories' - Bev Lee - May topic 'Time' (refer above)  
3.10 to 4.30 'Writing and Publishing Our Memoirs' - Noelle McCracken  
It is possible to attend either or both sessions.

Bev Lee

## Bird Watching

### Outing to Euroa - 11<sup>th</sup> April

10 of our group made the trip to Euroa on a mild autumn morning. As we looked into the Euroa Water Treatment ponds, we saw good numbers of ducks, including Australasian Shoveler, a threatened species in Victoria, and Pink-eared Duck which has a lovely striped body. Also seen were several Hoary-headed Grebe, a pair of Chestnut Teal, and a few Black Duck and Grey Teal. An adjacent pond had 17 Black-fronted Plover on the mudflats. Details of birds recorded at the plant can be viewed on the eBird web site at <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S55195784>



We then headed to the Euroa Arboretum just across the road, where the very dry conditions meant few birds were seen. A White-faced Heron was seen well beside the dam, and a few Red Wattlebirds, Eastern and Crimson Rosellas flew past us. A Grey Fantail was also seen well. Some of us then bought a few plants from the Arboretum nursery. The Arboretum bird list can be viewed on eBird at

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S55195449>

Our next outing will be to Reef Hills State Park on the outskirts of Benalla, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019. We will meet at the Seniors Building car park at 9.30am for a morning walk. We will visit an area of the park that is closed to vehicle access from June to November.

Please wear sturdy shoes and bring your binoculars and any food or drink you require for the morning. A folding chair would also be useful as we plan to spend time watching birds visit one of the dams in the park.

Kathy Costello

## Booker Reading Group

### Everything Under by Daisy Johnson

An interesting first novel by a young author. It deals with the theme of 'memory' as a woman tries to reconstruct the facts about her past.

Abandoned by her mother when she was sixteen, in mid life she goes back to try and find those people she remembers who may have known something about her mother. In this painful journey she meets an unknown older half sibling whom her mother had also abandoned, his adoptive parents, a neighbor with a terrible secret and finally her mother living on a derelict canal boat suffering from dementia. She takes her mother back to live with her, but her reluctance to talk about the past and her memory loss contribute only partially to the sketchy details her mother reveals.

The author split up the chapters into multiple periods of time making it difficult at times to untangle the facts, perhaps a device by the author to emphasize how memory is distorted when we try to reconstruct our past. Not a book for a cosy winter read around the fireplace

Meg Dillon

## Brain Games

Wordplays, networks of numbers and creative image possibilities kept the brain cells active in our April session. Although we were failures at the Islands quiz, we found a few Mensa puzzles easy enough to figure out- with a bit of teamwork, thanks Rae!

Elsbeth Maconachie

## Bushwalks

### Easy Walks

#### Easy Walk 3 April 2018

April's Easy Walk followed the Benalla Lake Walking Track to enable U3A members to attend the



afternoon Funeral Service of Noel Meagher. Starting on the northern section, we explored plantings in the Botanical Gardens and the Aboriginal Community Garden and were inspired by the magnificent remnants of Red River Gum forest. We attempted to identify birds in the trees, on the ground and water! Along the southern section, we wandered off the track to discover loops, nooks and crannies and evidence of early settlement along the waterways. Eight walkers were welcomed, including four new members and I thank all for their contribution to the history of the area.

**Easy Walk Wednesday 5 June, Wangaratta Bullawah Culture Trail**

This walk will take us along the Ovens River discovering Aboriginal stories, sculptures & interpretative signage. A five km or longer walk dependent on weather conditions. Meet at the carpark behind the Benalla Seniors (U3A) Complex at 9.45 am for departure at 10 am. By June, hopefully we will be required to consider wet weather gear! Bring water and something to nibble along the way plus lunch. If attending please contact Margaret Walshe phone: 0357623906 or 0427005202 by Monday, 3 June '19

Wendy Sturgess Margaret Walshe

**Mid Week Walks**

**Wednesday April 10 Beechworth – Woolshed Falls**



April's Mid-Week Walk took place in one of Beechworth's Goldmining areas. Six keen walkers – including new walker Stan (welcome Stan!) – took off from the Powder Magazine, past Spring Creek bridge and the pretty Cascades, to the start of the Reids Creek Walking Track. This track overlooked Spring Creek's historic gold mining sites, as evidenced by areas of deep sluicing, which had created high cliffs above the Creek. After tackling some of the track's steep steps, we all welcomed lunch break at Woolshed Falls picnic area. Return

walk was via the same route. Thanks, John for a well-planned walk – plus the well-planned perfect weather.

**Wednesday 8 May 2019 Mt Samaria – Wileman Track S-3-3**

This easy 8 km track in the Mt Samaria State Park links Back Creek and Wild Dog Creek falls. We will need to do a car shuffle to enable us to get home. Meet at the 'The Centre' Tennis Courts Barkly St. Leave Benalla 9.15am

John Boehm 0428 254801

**Chat n' Chew**

Our May date - Dragon Gate Restaurant at 12.00 midday on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact Shirley by leaving a message with Trish Potter on 5762 1117 by the Tuesday before for bookings or cancellation.

Shirley Kearney

**Collectors**



Our theme for April was 'Animals' and we had quite a menagerie ranging from a Teddy Bear and Bambi bookends to many things in between, including a Lock Ness monster. Corrie had a collection of animals including a metal bird made by her husband. Amongst Shirly's many items were salt and pepper shakers featured in the Carters Book. Janet brought along souvenirs of a 1982 visit to Sweden and John had some quality glass. Lynne's collection included a British Bulldog and a copy of an Egyptian cat.

Robyn brought along a Terrier dog figurine amongst other beautiful items. Jacquie brought along some of her collection of 200 tins which mainly date from the 1970s and back. Some of her earlier ones are from the 1930. The Bushells's Australian tin is one of her oldest. Judith had some quirky items including a frog soap dish, a turtle wearing a top hat which was a pot for a small plant and a cat and dog

which had belonged to her mother-in-law. May theme – ‘Fans’.

Judith Borthwick

## Creative Writing

The contributions at our April class were as usual varied and interesting. Some who could not attend sent in their contribution for sharing and feedback.

We started with a quick challenge to write a sentence (or two) using one of the many different meanings of the court (or was that caught?). Many different sentences resulted.

Only two of the topics available were chosen – “the lights of a dozen ships twinkled on the horizon” and “the old man leaned forward over the table”. Some of these are intended to form part of a larger piece of writing in the future. It is interesting to see how our different topics can integrate with other work. And it is pleasing to see how writing fiction is extending people who have previously only written formal reports or memoirs. We can also see how previous experiences and research of historical events are contributing to the writing – for example one of the pieces this month was based on the sinking of the Titanic, the opening of the Empire State Building in New York and the view from the 86<sup>th</sup> floor observatory.

Our topics for May are a choice between:

- Write a description about a person you know or a fictitious character. As well as describing their physical appearance write about their traits as well.
- Write a description about a house, a room or a place you have visited or again it could be a place you create from your own imagination.

Joy Shirley

## e-Book Group

The Fireflies of Autumn: And Other Tales of San Ginese, by Moreno Giovannoni, took us to the olive groves and piazzas of San Ginese, a small village in Tuscany inhabited by some memorable and larger than life characters. Their stories of hardship through famine, feast, and war were touching, funny, sometimes bawdy and irreverent, but never dull. Even when they migrated, they dreamed of home, only to be disillusioned when they did return. This collection of stories is a wonderful tribute to the author's father Ugo, and a moving testament to a way of life that has now disappeared for ever.

Helen Scheller

## Exercises for Fun

This activity, which is held each Monday morning, is a wonderful way to start off the week for its participants. Not only to members benefit from the exercise, the improvement in coordination and learning new dance sequences there is lots of laughter during these activities. Marching is another activity that participants take part in, with a series of routines being completed as well as acknowledging our music man, Mal Jeffree with an ‘eyes right’ during the routine. Exercising is followed by a cuppa and chat at the end of the morning’s activities.

Helen Jeffree

## Exploring the Universe

**Another first! The first image showing evidence of a Black Hole.**



At ‘Exploring the Universe,’ we have had a series of first discoveries this year!

No one can see a black hole. They are completely invisible. Yet now we have an image of the shadow of a black hole in a galaxy 55 million light years from Earth.

Black holes are celestial objects of incredible mass compacted by dense gravity into an extremely small space.

They are surrounded by a bright spinning disk which is a glowing area of intense heat, as stars, light, gas and dust, are pulled inwards by the gravitational field of the black hole. At the inner edge of the disk is the event horizon, a place where space time is accelerated by the extreme gravity and there is no escape from being sucked into the black hole.

Supermassive black holes may have formed when the universe was young. Smaller stellar black holes can be the end product of a collapsed star.

Ten years ago international collaboration brought together over 200 scientists for the Event Horizon Telescope project. (EHT) The aim, to find proof of the existence of black holes. Eight radio telescopes worldwide were linked to create a telescope the size of the planet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pebeogdeui0>

The supermassive black hole chosen is larger than our entire solar system and 6.5 billion times the dense mass of our Sun. It lies in galaxy Messier 87 which was in an accessible area of the sky.

In 2017 the EHT telescopes were completely synchronized in image to within a fraction of a millimetre by the use of an atomic clock. In the chosen window for study there were four clear nights available. It took two years work to compile the huge amount of data and create the image.

This provided a test of Einstein's theory of relativity in the most extreme conditions. His predictions were correct. In Brussels the scientific announcement described the black hole as, "The gates of Hell, the end of space and time."

Who needs science fiction?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omz77qrDjsU>

Bev Morton

## Film and Literature

For our April class we had a choice between "A Dog's Way Home" and "Captain Marvel".

"A Dog's Way Home" is the story of Bella who is confused when sent away from the ones she loved – Lucas, his mother and Olivia. She did not understand that this was only temporary and escaped to try to find her way back. It was shown from the dog's perspective of her adventures in finding her way back home. She met many different animals as well as people on the way, but it was only Bella's voice that was dubbed. The story was lovely, with pleasant and believable characters and magnificent scenery. We gave it a rating of 4 out of 5.

"Captain Marvel" was a totally different film. Carol Danvers becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes when Earth is caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races. There is an unexpected twist around the mid-point of the film which possibly makes it more interesting. Performances by the stars were excellent, and the computer graphics is getting better as the technology evolves. It led to discussions around the introduction of female super heroes (Marvel has done it before) and the comparison between super hero and science fiction films. Overall it was reasonably interesting, a typical Marvel story. We rated it as 3.5 out of 5.

Our film for discussion at the May class is "Swimming with Men"

Joy Shirley

## Games

Join us at Games on Monday May 6th at 1:30 pm for a friendly afternoon.

Dorothy Webber

## Garden Appreciation

There are still some seats left on the bus for our trip to Cloudehill in Olinda on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. You don't have to be a member of Garden Appreciation to come on this lovely day out.

We meet at the Benalla Rose Gardens at 7.30 am.

**The cost will be \$45 which covers the bus, morning tea, entry and tour of the magnificent gardens.**

Lunch, at your own cost, will be at Olinda Café. It is necessary to book and pay by 18<sup>th</sup> April. Payment can be left at the Redb4 bookshop in Bridge Street. **Please confirm with Gwen 0438627010 or 5762 7017 if you are joining us.**

Gwen Turner

## Garden Team

We worked well at Kathy's garden among a generous scatter of birdbaths, which I hope won't be quite as desperately needed from now on.

By publication we'll have been to Mitchell St and be almost at Gray St.

\*special note of thanks from the goat to Kathy, who brought a bag of some of her tastiest weeds to Brain Games next day!

Elsbeth Maconachie

## German for Beginners

The 9 week crash course in German is over. We resume on Monday 6 May, after which there are a further 3 sessions at fortnightly intervals, to consolidate our learning.

Pauline Bailey

## History: After the Victorians

We looked in more detail at Australia's development of the White Australia policy to disqualify Japanese and other Asian immigrants. The South China Morning Post had an article on Anzac Day about a Chinese migrant who had tried to join the Australian army at this time. He had been refused by Victorian recruiting centres on numerous occasions. He persisted and tried his luck in NSW where he was accepted, the army doctor merely noting he had dark skin and avoiding mention of his Chinese characteristics.

Aborigines were also banned from joining the army, but in recent years more is becoming known about those who were accepted, however surviving veterans were usually denied medical and financial

support that others received on their return. This morning I heard a report of yet another who had succeeded in enlisting and fought on the Western Front.

We also discussed Australia's invitation to the American navy to send their new battleship fleet to Australia in 1909. The Australian Government had to be careful to avoid British censure, as the British Government were very much against the American naval visits to the British Empire. Now an Australian naval ship has joined others from around the world celebrating China's navy 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Terry Case

## History: An Introduction to Western Civilization

### The start of Modern Europe:

We have arrived at the Italian Renaissance and explored its explosion of knowledge in the Arts as it's scholars rediscover Ancient Greek and Roman texts and artefacts. But whom does this knowledge benefit? Scholars and rich merchants participate but the general population just enjoys the spectacles and the beautiful public buildings that patrons donate to their city states in Northern Italy. More significant may be the banking reforms introduced by the Medici of Florence and their establishment of an international European bank with the gold florin as the major trading currency of Europe. Bankers also to the Popes, they introduced many of the modern banking practices that are still in use today: audits, double entry book keeping etc. Of more impact on the average person, was the **Black Death** which reduced Europe's population by half between 1346 and 1353. But it brought advantages too. Feudalism was almost entirely wiped out as the scarcity of laborers enabled them to dictate new and better terms of employment. Port cities grew, labor saving inventions appeared and much more. One of these inventions was **Gutenberg's printing press**, which revolutionized access to written information for all who could read.

Meg Dillon

## Investment

At the March meeting of Investment we welcomed two new members to our group.

On a sad note, during the last month one of our members Noel Meagher passed away. Noel had been a valued member of our Investment group for three years and made many useful contributions to our discussions. We will miss you Noel.

The first three months of this year have seen an increase in the All Ordinaries Index. Hence we looked at a table of Shares worth Considering. There were a number of aspects to this table of over 20 individual shares which have been mentioned this year. These factors included the yield, franking and return to shareholders over the last one and three years. Our members from their experience then added more stocks to the table which was very helpful to the group.

One of the events which happened in the past month is that the yield of the 10 year Treasury bond fell below the yield on a 90-day Treasury bill. This is an unusual event and we will be monitoring the situation to see if the yield curve inversion is maintained for a full quarter, not merely for a few days.

The other topic for the afternoon involved Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). Recently there have been reports that ETFs have become more actively traded in the US than stocks. So we looked at an article which talked about Five Things to know before you invest in EFTs.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 3 May 2019 at 2pm in the U3A Room at the Seniors Complex.

Margaret Jenkins

## Let's Talk Books

A lovely Autumn Day found us in the Library talking books. We had some excellent recommendations this month. [The Woman in the Window](#) by A J Finn, [Where They Found Her](#) by Kimberley McCreight. A good story of a woman who had lost her baby and returned to journalism, her first assignment being to report on the finding of a dead baby behind the University much to her husband's concern. [The Bulldog Track](#) by Peter Phelps. A grandson's story of resilience and survival during World War 11. Peter's grandfather Tom Phelps was a gold miner in PNG and 75 years later Peter tells his story. An excellent book. [The Pearl Thief](#) by Fiona McIntosh, part fiction and part fact. Asked to assist with curating the antique jewellery of the Louvre in 1963 some Byzantine pearls are loaned to the museum, revelations set off a hunt for a Nazi. From Prague to the Tuileries of Paris to the Yorkshire moors a very good read. [The Black Snake](#) written by Leo Kennedy, the great grandson of Sergeant Michael Kennedy, who was shot by the Kelly gang at Stringybark Creek. This book challenges the legend of Ned Kelly and was an excellent read, well worth a look. [Milko](#), the well known Castles family in Benalla, a good story of not only the Castles and the

milk run but some local football history and other items of interest. Pacific by Simon Winchester, a non fiction book written in the period from the 1950's to now. From surf boards, Coral reefs and atom bombs, dictators, fading empires and the emergence of new super powers! Beyond Illusions – set in Vietnam, a romance which was described as 'a bit soppy'. Mrs. Kennedy and Me by Clint Hill, Jacquie Kennedy's Secret Service man, showing a different side to the glamorous life we read about. Any Ordinary Day by Lee Sales, when people are asked to find resilience they think they haven't got. Clipper Ships by Rob Mundle set in the 1930's transporting gold seekers from California to Melbourne. A very good read. There were quite a few more books discussed but we would take up the whole newsletter. Keep reading and see you on the 7<sup>th</sup> May

Geraldine McCorkell

## Lifeball

Lifeball has been somewhat "heated" recently, such that it has been necessary to turn on air conditioning to help us cope with the continuing heat!

Our teams haven't had full numbers either, but because we are so adaptable that is all fine, and we cope with flying colours. There are contingencies for dealing with smaller numbers, so it makes the game so much easier to play.

We still play at 10am, after a recent discussion as to whether we would change times, so the status quo was acceptable to just about everyone. Our beloved Val has returned from Sth Africa (again!!!!) and has lost none of her infectious enthusiasm, which makes us all laugh all the time! If only she would try to throw more goals!!

We have been invited to a Fun and Friendship day at Albury on May 1, which will be beaut, as Albury hasn't hosted one for the past two years. And we are hosting our own Day on May 27, and invitations will be sent to Deniliquin, Albury, Rutherglen, Wangaratta, Mansfield, Eildon, Myrtleford, and of course, ourselves, so probably around 50 people will attend!! It takes much organisation, but we have an extremely co-operative group of players, who help whenever and wherever they are needed, so the day always works like clockwork.

If you want to know more, contact me at - [margaret.merriman@yahoo.com.au](mailto:margaret.merriman@yahoo.com.au) or [03 5762 2967](tel:0357622967) and I will gladly sell us to you, or come along every Monday morning at 10am to watch (and even play) if you wish, at the stadium!

Extra dates - May 1 - Wednesday - Fun and Friendship Day at the Lauren Jackson Stadium in Albury, admission \$7 as usual.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May, our own Fun and Friendship Day, at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre in Ackerly Avenue. More details later

Marg Merriman

## Meet and Mingle

Our April M&M meeting was very interesting with Collector, Rhonda Diffey talking about and displaying many of her historic fan collection and an old music box and a late addition of a second speaker, Jenni Cogger of Goulburn Murray Credit Union (GMCU).

### Rhonda Diffey



Rhonda is a passionate collector and one of her favourite collections is historic fans, many from the 1700's.

The fan display presented caused much interest as we found out that fans were used for much more than cooling. They were used for conversations, sometimes very provocatively - eg. held to the right side of the head in a certain manner could mean that the person was free and interested in cavorting. Many different sorts of fans were explained and demonstrated - paddle, feather, etc. A variety of materials were used to make them including ivory, wood, bone, mother of pearl, leather and feathers. Many were hand painted with landscapes, biblical and historical scenes. Some were decorated with a different picture on each side. Extensive fine and detailed carving was done to the ivory, bone, mother of pearl and wood.

Rhonda is interested in joining our Collectors Group in the future when she can find the time.

### Jenni Cogger

U3A do our banking with GMCU and with the closing of Westpac Bank, Jenni Cogger, the GMCU branch Manager was keen to let members know about it and what they provide. Jenni spoke about the following:

Goulburn Murray Credit Union (GMCU) is different to a bank as it has no external shareholders; profits made by GMCU go back into providing convenient and accessible products, services and support to our community.

“We offer high quality, professional, old fashioned service supported by new technology.”

When you hold an account with GMCU:

- You speak with very experienced staff – Benalla Branch staff have over 60 years of banking experience between them
- Your funds are Government Guaranteed as part of the Australian Government’s Financial Claims Scheme
- You have the choice of Term Deposits, Savings and Transaction Accounts, Loans, Insurance and International products
- Your regular payments can be deposited directly into your account
- Call the branch direct or drop in – no call centres
- Your bills can be paid from your account at the counter
- Access your funds all over Australia as well as overseas
- If you want to learn some of the new technology – we can teach you. If you don’t we have a full range of products that support you as well.
- You help us to support your local community by sponsorship of clubs; events, free club accounts, as well as our staff working and volunteering in many positions in the community.

Open 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday. “GMCU is committed to staying and supporting your community. Come and see us to discuss your banking.”

### **May Meeting**

Our speaker for May will be Elise Wood, Centre Manager of Benalla Aquatic Centre. Elise will talk about the many activities that are available at the Centre, the benefits you can gain from participating and the costs applicable for the various types of memberships available.

Bill Parris

### **Music Appreciation**

The early romantic period - more or less the first half of the 19th century - saw the birth of numerous composers whose works still feature prominently in the experience of today’s music listening generation.

In music, Romanticism contributed to a status shift in the role of the composer. While composers of the previous (classical) period were more likely to be in the employ of the wealthy (eg. Bach and Mozart), the Romantic movement saw composers become artists in their own right.

If the composers of the classical period held the belief of logical order and clarity, the Romantics believed in allowing their imagination and passion to soar spontaneously and interpret it through their works.

April saw us explore the music of Schubert and Chopin - two such composers whose lives occupied the same period of time (save for about five years), yet whose music was widely different in its expression.

Franz Schubert wrote about 600 lieder (German songs) as well as instrumental and choral music, whereas Frederic Chopin is best known for his beautiful character pieces for solo piano.

Why not explore, then, as we did, the compositions of these two music greats and visit the Music Appreciation page in the U3A website. There you will find a potted history of Schubert and Chopin, a few details of what lay behind some of their music and Youtube links to the music we enjoyed.

Bill Squire

### **Patchwork**

A reminder of May’s ‘fifth Thursday’ session – all day Thursday 30 May from 9:30am - 4pm We always see a great range of work on these days.

Dorothy Webber

### **Politics and Current Affairs**

We took stock of the first week of the election campaign and the politicians who for good or bad had drawn attention to themselves. The campaigning was meant to go into overdrive after Easter but the terrible attacks in Sri Lanka have drawn attention away from our trifling concerns. I think it shows yet again in Australia, that there is more that unites us than divides us.

Terry Case

### **Recorder Group**

“Music Alone Shall Live.” proved to be an apt title as we made a lively progress through marches, lullabies, dances, rounds and airs. The descants, altos and tenors combined to play beautifully in songs with 2 and 3 parts, the altos getting special attention with some music written just for them. There was time to learn some tricky new notes and



then..."And now let's play it a little faster," which we did ... with varying amounts of success.

A hardworking session with lots of new pieces to practise and master. Thank you, Janet and Fujiie.

Pat Treleaven

## Singing for Fun

This month has seen a good attendance by our male singers which is very encouraging. Songs like Ol' Man River have been included in the program by Margaret Merriman to utilise their voices.

Faith Hicks encouraged members of the Group to choose their favourite songs at one of the sessions, whilst Brian Greed introduced the song Cabaret.

Gwen Barnes has been providing accompaniment on the piano.

It is good to see both Gwen Cheetham and Patsy Bollard back with us after being away for a couple of weeks.

During the past month we have added another six copies of Harmony book 1 to our collection, so we should not have to share Harmony books in the near future.

Members are reminded of the forthcoming Benalla Dramatic production of Robin the Hood in the Benalla Town Hall over two weekends from 24 May to 1 June 2019. For more information visit the website [www.benallatheatrecompany.org.au](http://www.benallatheatrecompany.org.au)

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 2 May 2019 at 10am in our U3A room.

Margaret Jenkins

## Stock and Land

### Spring harvested rose blooms make Samaria oil special

As with all agricultural crops, production is one thing but proper focussed marketing is everything to a successful enterprise.

In Allan and Vicki Wright's Samaria Farm essential oils enterprise, their best market is for rosewater and is in Japan. But that presents special problems, not least in getting the product better known there.

At our April meeting they said Japanese women were passionate about their skin and particularly their faces. So the ones who knew about Samaria Farm's rosewater and lemon oil, liked them because they were organic, Australian and gentle on their skin.

Vicki said she and Allan were the only people in Australia to distil lemons to produce lemon oil. "It will stop your skin burning," she said.

Their farm is 22 acres of red volcanic soil on a hill near Moorngag and is the perfect environment for 400 olive trees, Seville oranges, lemon myrtle trees and most notably, 2000 specially grafted Damascus bush roses.

Vicki said harvesting of rose flowers started at daybreak in late October and ran through November every day until 9am.

Blooms are placed in a stainless steel drum with water which is then heated on a gas ring. The steam generated collects the essential oils in two to three hours to produce 100 to 120ml rosewater. They can then distil that further to produce 3 to 5ml of rose oil worth \$100 per millilitre.

But rosewater is the most viable product and half or what they produce they market as a facial mist in Japan, mainly to young women. "But we need to get our brand better known," Vicki said.



Allan and Vicki Wright

To that end the Wrights will hold a rosewater festival in November on the Samaria property.

David Palmer

## Tech Savvy Beginners--Apple Devices



This is the Tech Savvy Group in a March Session where we are learning to use the time lapse feature in the Camera App on our iPads. You can set either

3 seconds or 10 seconds to ensure you, the photographer are also in the photo. We have also spent time using the email App, learning to attach photos, use the Cancel option to save a draft copy and use the Reply option.

We also tried dictating a message to Siri but she got a bit confused with the background noise. Also Siri does need to be set up on your device so that she recognises your voice. We have had a two week break and are back iPadding on Wednesday 24th April.

Jenny Sawyer

## Tech Savvy Projects: Family History

Five people gathered on Anzac Day afternoon to work on their Family History projects using ancestry.com - with members taking it in turn to connect their laptop through its HDMI port to the overhead projector, making sharing of progress to date and problem solving easy and enjoyable. The speed and internet connectivity we now have in the U3A meeting room is excellent. This is in stark contrast to the first Tech Savvy Projects class held in 2018 when class members could barely access the internet if at all and the connection through the laptop to the overhead projector froze. Thank you so much to the U3A Executive for being proactive in arranging for the installation of the NBN!

Bev Lee

## Tech Savvy Talks

The Tech Savvy Talks group had the pleasure of spending the April meeting at the Benalla Gliding Club, courtesy of Tim Shirley, vice president, Gliding Club of Victoria.

Tim started by asking what our interests were being under the impression we were interested only in computer things. Our reply was ..."everything".

So we had a wide ranging talk from Tim, initially covering the various essential technologies involved in communications and instrumentation such as altimeter, compass, airspeed indicator, variometer, specialized "Sat Nav", emergency position beacon, piece of string over the canopy, etc.

Tim didn't get very far before the questions started coming related to finding and staying on various sized thermals, the effects of terrain, being strongly forced upwards when crossing mountains, glide ratio, the effect of flying along ridges, for example along the cliffs of Dover, or flying from one end of New Zealand to the other.



I think Tim felt like some respite and decided to show us around his own personal glider, a very fine aircraft. Again he was met with a barrage of questions but we had the impression it was a labour of love this time. We heard about water ballast, air brakes, flaps, those funny shaped things at the wing tips etc. We greatly appreciated the time that Tim spent with us and a big thank you to Tim.

Les Rodgers

## Wine Appreciation



U3A Wine Appreciation group met in late April at Pizzini's Cellar Door in the King Valley, a very picturesque and productive area. Pizzini has an attractive new cellar door and landscaped gardens, ideal for hosting their regular special events. Our group lined up at the counter for Caroline to pour tastings of Pizzini's extensive range of white and red wines. Selections of these accompanied us home. Nearby Mountainview Hotel was the venue for an al fresco lunch in ideal weather. We all agreed the food was delicious and service friendly and efficient. Keith asked our group to pause for a toast to our late co-organiser, Noel, who will be missed. Thanks Keith and Heather...you've done it again!

Bev Thornell

**Wednesday 22 May** We will visit Morrison's Winery at Glenrowan, followed by lunch at the Glenrowan Pub. Meet at 10 am in the car park behind Aldi.

Heather and Keith Rogers 5762 4086.

# What's On

## Wednesday, 1 May

9:30am Play Reading  
9:45am Bushwalking - Easy Walks - Lake Sambell, Beechworth  
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)

## Thursday, 2 May

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

## Friday, 3 May

9:30am Sustainability  
2:00pm Investment

## Monday, 6 May

9:30am Exercises for Fun  
10:00am Lifeball  
10:00am Art Appreciation - Collection Digitization  
12:00pm German for Beginners  
1:30pm Games  
4:00pm Meditation

## Tuesday, 7 May

10:00am E-Book Group  
10:00am Stock and Land – David Briggs, North East Apiarists Association  
12:00pm Beginners' Patchwork  
2:00pm Armchair Traveller - Neville Gibb 'Germany and/or Venice'  
2:00pm Let's Talk Books

## Wednesday, 8 May

9:00am Recorder - 'Learning New Notes'  
9:15am Mid Week Walks - Mt Samaria - Wileman Track  
10:00am Recorder - 'Full Group'  
11:00am Tech Savvy Talks 'Blockchain'  
1:30pm Film and Literature - 'Swimming With Men'  
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)  
7:00pm A Night at the Opera - French Style

## Thursday, 9 May

9:30am Birdwatching - Reef Hills State Park  
10:00am Harmony Group  
1:30pm Executive Committee Meeting

## Friday, 10 May

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

## Monday, 13 May

9:30am Exercises for Fun  
10:00am Collectors 'Fans'  
10:00am Lifeball  
2:00pm Creative Writing - 'A Fictitious Character' or a 'House, Room or Place you have visited'  
2:00pm Garden Team

## Tuesday, 14 May

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

## Wednesday, 15 May

10:00am Meet and Mingle - Elise Wood, Benalla Aquatic Centre  
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)

## Thursday, 16 May

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

## Friday, 17 May

9:30am Sustainability  
12:00pm Chat n' Chew - Dragon Gate Restaurant  
12:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Community Projects  
2:00pm Booker Reading Group

## Monday, 20 May

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

## Tuesday, 21 May

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

## Wednesday, 22 May

10:00am Wine Appreciation – Morrisons', Glenrowan  
10:00am Recorder  
2:00pm Tech Savvy Beginners (Apple Devices)

## Thursday, 23 May

7:30am Garden Appreciation – Cloudehill, Olinda  
10:00am Member Services Group  
1:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History  
3:00pm Tech Savvy Talks at the Northo

## Friday, 24 May

10:00am Music Appreciation  
2:00pm History – Introduction to Western Civilization

## Monday, 27 May

9:30am Exercises for Fun  
10:00am Lifeball - Our Own 'Fun and Friendship Day'  
1:30pm As Time Goes By - 'Time'  
3:10pm Writing and Publishing Memoirs

## Tuesday, 28 May

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

## Thursday, 30 May

9:30am Patchwork - 'Fifth Thursday' all day session

## Monday, 3 June

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

## Tuesday, 4 June

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

## Wednesday, 5 June

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

## Thursday, 6 June

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

## Friday, 7 June

9:30am Sustainability  
2:00pm Investment