



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – November 2021

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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President's Report

How lovely it was during Get Online Week to see so many happy faces celebrating on the verandah behind our room, enjoying a delicious lunch prepared by Hide's Bakery. A couple of new faces and members enjoying a social occasion, we all agreed this must happen again. Well done Margaret and her team, for organising and relaying information to the group.

At Meet and Mingle we also enjoyed a talk by Moussa Taouk who makes Goat Cheese at Winton – Moussa and Victoire's café is now open for Coffee and Crepes on Friday and Saturday.

On more serious matters I hope all our members received the 'Information Page' on how we are dealing with our obligations in regard to vaccinations and attendance at classes. A copy is included at the end of the newsletter. If anyone is concerned, please don't hesitate to ring Geraldine 0408522662 and I will try to answer your query. The Seniors are following the same guidelines as U3A, and as we slowly open up again, although enjoying the activities we have on offer, there are still some members who are very nervous about coming out into the world again.

Don't forget to register for our bus trip to Chrismont Winery for our Christmas breakup. This will be on **Tuesday 23rd November**. \$50 for a 2-course meal and \$10 for the bus, and you will need to have proof of vaccination. A booking form with further details can be found at the end of this newsletter – the contact person is Corrie Witlox 57 62 8225.

Our last Meet and Mingle on Wednesday 17th November usually features a performance by our Singing and Recorder groups. Both groups have been unable to meet to practise and rehearse during lockdown, so there will be no singing concert or recorder recital this year. There will, however, be a Display of Patchwork and Quilts from the Patchwork group and morning tea, so keep the day in mind.

Hopefully 2022 will be considerably better than this year. Stay well and smiling and remember to keep in touch with people who may still be feeling isolated.

Geraldine McCorkell (on behalf of Dorothy)

A reminder to all

All U3A members are now required to show proof of double vaccination of COVID 19 before taking part in a class or activity, either by showing your paper version of 'Certificate of Vaccination' from The Australian Immunisation Register, or by showing the COVID 19 Digital Certificate on your mobile phone. Either one is acceptable.

Please note – the U3A Benalla executive is monitoring changes carefully. The latest version of our Covid Safe Plan is available on the noticeboard outside the U3A website and on the website. The best available information is provided at the time of publication, however, please note that this is subject to change.

Group Reports

A different View of German History

At our September meeting we started by looking at how much smaller Germany is compared to its size before the First World War. Germany is approximately half the size it was in 1913. Germany had large amounts of land removed - some said stolen - by the Treaty of Versailles - and even larger areas of land were removed after World War 2.

So far Germany hasn't complained. They have decided to get on with their lives and try and make up for the misdeeds of the Nazi period.

The Nazi period was dominated by its focus on Anti-Semitism. In every year between 1933 to 1945 there were increasingly onerous laws passed aimed at removing Jewish people from German life. One seemingly insane law passed in 1938 made every male add the name Israel to their names and every female add the name Sarah to their names. As if this wasn't enough as the letter J was already stamped on every Passport and Identification Paper.

The Nazi period is still hard to fathom or explain.

Germany however appears to be coming to terms with its past and has erected several structures which make an attempt to accept that great injustices were perpetrated by the German People. Since reunification Germany has been able to take into consideration all its history and is making an effort to at least reconcile with the past.

At our recent October session, we finally got around to studying the German Democratic Republic. The GDR was a Utopian concept. It had high ideals and is well worth studying. The Wall has now been down for longer than it was up. Berlin is a wonderful vibrant city that is well worth visiting. Most residents under 30 do not know if they now live in either West or East Berlin.

We studied how the Government of the German Democratic Republic was structured, examined its Constitution in detail and noted how it worked in practice.

The GRD had 21 million People when it was set up in 1949. By 1961 it had 17 million people. There was always a constant strain on their capacity to cope with their need for labour as people moved West. The GDR had no natural resources. It had a constant problem with lack of hard currency. They had no assets to offer to the west in exchange for hard currency. Until the riots of 1952 it had to pay reparations to the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, they persisted. Slowly their standard of living rose. Their idea was to set up a Utopian Society based on justice and equality for all. This manifested itself in manufacturing the same car for everyone and providing everyone with an identical apartment.

But, they were always next to West Germany and West Berlin was a gaping hole in the middle of the country. There was nowhere in the GDR where they could not get West German Television. This was monumental distraction.

We looked at some slides taken in 1960 East Berlin and some slides of East Berlin taken 2 years ago.

Please note that a meeting will not be held in November as the date falls on the day of the Christmas Lunch at Chrismont Winery. If an alternative time can be found in early December, I will contact class members to let them know. If we meet, we will examine in detail life inside the GDR.

Neville Gibb

Armchair History – Tudors

Owing to the number of interruptions that this course has had this year, it has been decided that this course will be cancelled for the rest of 2021. The full course will be held in 2022.

Terry Case

Armchair Traveller

The date for our November session coincides with the Melbourne Cup, so all true-blue Aussies have to give way! That brings us to the December gathering which will be on Tuesday 7th December when our presenter will be Brian Greed. Look forward to seeing you all then.

Ray O'Shannessy

Art Appreciation

The 'First Monday' program at the Benalla Gallery is not being offered in November. Keep an eye on the Gallery website for details of December's 'First Monday' session. Hopefully the group will be able to meet in December and once again enjoy a post session catch up at the gallery's café.

Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

October's session began with an exercise using this month's topic '*This (...) Life*', to draw upon current preoccupations, joys, frustrations. Short 'slices of life' stories were written and shared including '*This* ('Jigsaw Playing Lockdown'), ('Proud Mother's'), ('Grass Cutting'), 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'), ('Vexatious'), ('Frustrating Technology Monday'), ('Bureaucratic B.S'), and ('Frustrated Shareholder's') *Life*'.

In danger of the group drowning in despair over technology related bureaucracy and covid (the complexities of registering vaccination certificates on the QR check in app having taken a toll) - Bev Lee shared her feel good '*This (Time Travelling) Life*' story about time spent immersed in the lives of ancestors while adding recently discovered photos to ancestry.com. Neville's '*This (Royal) Life*' story drew us in to the imagined life of the young Queen Elizabeth when she travelled to Benalla in 1954. The daughter of a doctor with a fascination with Ireland and travel, Margaret shared '*A Fortunate Life*' - with apologies to A. B. Facey', a story of life in a large family which moved frequently, an 'inbuilt support group' endowed with good genes and 'a good sense of humour'. Barry's story '*This (Confusing) Life*' addressed the confusion of the messages in the news around the pandemic he has experienced while journaling about it over the past 18 months, and his concerns about the opening up and the journey to follow.

Bev Morton's evocative, quietly humorous story about 'Courage' addressed her fear of heights and its impact on her, particularly during her many travels in Greenland. Elizabeth's '*Right Here, Right Now - I'm Thinking of Saturday Nights*' story took us to Ireland from 1946 to 1956 in a beautiful story about how her resilient family shared Saturday's working together, of bath time on a Saturday night, of her father's skills and philosophies as the family's cobbler. In her story '*Found*' Joy reflects on finding a career as one of the early graduates taking up work in the computer industry as a trainee programmer, a career which culminated in roles in project management, quality control and senior team management.

Some stories on previous topics were also added this month to '[Our Stories](#)' on the website. Topics for our next class on 22 November –

'Found' Use the simple prompt 'Found' to write about something of lasting importance to you which you discovered at some stage of your life. What led up to it, what did you find out, what has it meant to you since? It can be a thing, an idea, a person, the sky's the limit!

'Triggers' (alternative topic) Keep a notebook close by this month in which to note any 'triggers' which led you to reminisce about a time in your lives. You may have been talking to someone, watching television or a film, driving somewhere, reading a book. Choose one to three of these and write about the memories evoked – keeping the total words to 500 – 750 words.

Bev Lee

Be Connected 2021

Over 20 U3A Benalla members attended the Be Connected lunch held on the veranda of the Senior's Centre on Wednesday 20 October 2021. This was part of the Get On-Line week celebrations supported by the Good Things Foundation who run the Be Connected course for the Federal Government.



There were many pleasing aspects of the lunch. First the food from Hide's Bakery was delicious, and the outlook from the veranda of the Senior's Centre was magnificent. U3A Benalla has never used this as a venue before, but on a beautiful sunny October day the setting worked very well.

We also welcomed three new participants Joy Campbell, Terry Campbell and Trish Saker who wish to join our digital classes. We were pleased to see our Android Convenor Robyn Lukey joining in the fun.

Another pleasing aspect of the lunch was the interaction between members who were able to share their skills of attaching a vaccination digital certificate to the Services Victoria App for other members who needed assistance. We also distributed a photocopy of the method for attaching the vaccination certificate to the Services Victoria App to several other members.

The lunch ran until Jenny Sawyer's Apple class commenced, everyone voting that it was a very enjoyable way to celebrate Get On-Line week.

Margaret Jenkins

Bird Watching

Reef Hills State Park, Thursday 11 November 2021

For our last outing for 2021 we will visit Reef Hills State Park, off the Midland Highway south of Benalla, just past the freeway entrance. We were not able to go there in September because of a COVID lockdown. We should see some of the recently arrived spring migrants, as well as the resident birds. The trees and understorey plants are looking good after the consistent rains we have had this year.

Please meet at the carpark behind the Seniors building at 9.30am. Bring any food and drink you require for the morning and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Let me know if you prefer to meet at the entrance to Reef Hills.

Unfortunately, our visit to Winton Wetlands on 14 October was cancelled at short notice. We had a thunderstorm the night before, but it cleared quickly, and it would have been OK as the weather turned out fine the next morning. I'm sorry we missed the opportunity to visit several small wetlands at Winton that have some water and waterbirds in them.

Kathy Costello Mob 0447 625755 Home 5762 5755

Bushwalking

Easy Walks

As the Year Winds Down...

And what a year it has been! Despite the blur of Covid lockdowns and restrictions, we have enjoyed some excellent walking, and can look forward to an interesting year ahead. Christmas plans are still being finalised and will hopefully be discussed on our November walk. Please also remember the general U3A requirement to be double-vaxxed for all activities. Outdoor mask wearing looks like being optional by our November walk.

October Report -Tahbilk Wetlands

As the group set off for the wetlands at Tahbilk near Nagambie, everyone was hopeful that the glorious weather would last, as indeed it did. Upon arrival we signed in for Covid and for the walk. Masked up and socially distanced, we walked past the National Trust-registered White Mulberry Tree and onto the track.

We then crossed the Long Bridge, hewn from timber on the property, as was the original one built in the late 1800's.

During the 6km stroll along the paths and boardwalks, past the billabongs, backwaters and bird hides, the informative signage gave us information on the flora and fauna in different areas along with the Indigenous history and names and uses of the flora. Everyone enjoyed being out in the sunshine with good company and beautiful scenery.



One might wonder why penguins were mentioned quite a bit...let's just say penguin and pelican both start with "p"?. Maybe we'll never again know the ease and fluidity of the pre Covid world! Along with the pelican, black swans and white ibis were among birds spotted.

Those who finished the walk first had time to explore the winery, the underground cellars and the finished product. The day concluded with a picnic lunch by the lake in Nagambie.

Glen Chessells

Wednesday 3rd November: Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, Oxley to Milawa

The group this month will take to the beautiful King Valley, starting at Oxley for a 7 km walk along a relatively flat path to Milawa for lunch. We will spread our picnic - either BYO or bakery - out in a little park behind the main street. Car shuttles will be arranged on the day, and for those looking for more exercise after a relaxing lunch, a further 2km brings us to the Milawa Cheese Company.

As always, hat, drink, sunscreen and walking poles are recommended.

We will meet at the Seniors' Complex Carpark, Fawkner Drive at 9.15am. Please confirm attendance with Glen Chessells by Monday 1st November on 0431201077 or gchess@hotmail.com

If new members are unsure of their ability for these walks, please check with convenors Glen Chessells as above, or Julie McNeill 0407823031. Car sharing is usually available, with a small contribution to costs.

Glen Chessells and Julie McNeill

Mid Week Walks

The October walk to Ned's Lookout was postponed. Instead, Gill Sydes led a short wildflower walk in the **Killawarra section of the Warby National Park**.

"Many flowers were spotted and photographed, including unusual Bearded Orchids. The walk finished by lunchtime, well before the evening's expected rainstorms.

Unfortunately, we realised there were feral deer in the Warbys. Well done, Annie, for braking in time!" Bev Thornell.

You can check out more photos of this and other Mid-Week Walks on U3A Benalla's [Facebook Page](#) & the [Midweek Walks page](#) on our website.



Next Midweek Walk – Wednesday 10 November – MT BUFFALO

Lake Catani to Chalet via underground river track and return via lake walk.

Meet at Barkly St tennis courts 7.45 am Leave Benalla 8 am.

Rating: S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

Contact: John Boehm 0428 254 801

John Boehm

Coin Collectors

Our Coin Collectors met on Monday 18th October at the Senior Citizens rooms.

We had a roll up of six of our regulars and a visitor Peter, who has renewed his interest in coins, for our show and tell.

Rupe presented the group with a brass razoo. Brass razoo is an Australian phrase that was first recorded in soldiers' slang in World War I. It is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as "a non-existent coin of trivial value". It is commonly used in the expression "I haven't got a brass razoo", meaning the speaker is out of money. It is not legal tender and has no face value.





Gary showed the group two (1988/2006) proof solid gold \$200 coins. The \$200 Australian Gold Coins were a limited release legal tender coin produced by the Royal Australian Mint with a face value of \$200. They contain 10g of 22ct gold (91.67% pure gold), which equates to 0.2948 ounces of 99.99% pure gold. Gary also passed around a silver coin set of four florins (1927, 1951, 1954, 1960)

Wendy showed us three 1984 unopened and uncirculated mint rolls of \$2 and \$1 coins issued by RAM (Royal Australian Mint). Wendy also circulated a number of American coins including a rare American one dollar, 1987 Yellowstone silver \$1, 1999 silver proof \$1 all displayed in attractive cases and purchased from the shop at the Philadelphia Mint in USA.

Bill presented the group with a series of magazines titled "Story of Currency in Australia". They gave an interesting insight on how the price of Australian coinage has increased over the years.

Doug showed his recent RAM purchase from Australia Post of a 2021 \$1 copper uncirculated two-coin set celebrating 110 years of the first Australian Penny (1911 – 1964). He also showed a 2021 six-coin set consisting of four \$2 coloured and two \$1 coins celebrating 30 years of The Wiggles. This coin set was purchased from Woolies Benalla and was good value at \$15.

The Group has been focusing primarily on decimal coins, but it was decided to shift this focus and introduce pre-decimal coins to the next show and tell meetings. David who is currently recovering from surgery will on his return bring along some Variety coins (collectable coins with errors) including a CUD coin (Coin Under Developed), Rotated coins, coins with Privy and Mint marks. Our YouTube videos will also continue when time allows with PJ's Coin Capers channel.

Doug Smith

Collectors

Although the group was quite small in October, a lovely assortment of sugar bowls was presented and discussed.

Collectors provides a wonderful opportunity to reminisce, both when telling the story of items from your own collection and when listening to the memories shared by others.

The next topic – 'Serviette Rings'.



Dorothy Webber

Community Singing

It was really great that Community Singing with Brian Greed actually happened in October. Due to COVID lock downs & restrictions on the number who could meet in the Hub, it was our first session since June.

Thank you to everyone for their cooperation in showing me proof of vaccination as they came into the Hub. Your assistance made that job easy.

In the first half of Community Singing Brian used the Tram Book of Songs and accompanied us on the organ. For the second part of the session Brian used Sammy's Old Time Sing along Book Part 1 and played the songs on the piano.

Everyone enjoyed singing the songs that are known so well. Thank you to Brian for your accompaniment on both the organ and piano.

The final session of Community Singing for 2021 will be on Thursday 25th November 2021 at 10am at the Hub in Coinda.

Margaret Jenkins

Creative Writing

Out of lockdown and we were able to meet face to face again!

The September writing topics were:

- **“But why did William murder his brother?”**
- **She stood in the teeming rain, oblivious of the water soaking through her thin nightie**
- **She opened the envelope uncertain of what to expect**

A couple of class members had mentioned that their work was a first draft and they believe needed some editing. I had found a quote indicating “A crappy first draft is worth more than a non-existing one” which I shared with the class. It was not accredited to anyone that I could see but was worth sharing. I do think that our writing is developing with everyone finding their own writing “voice”.

Our first discussion was about hats – what hats we wear if any, why or why not, what sort of hats we liked or wore. Describing them if possible. Many remembered wearing hats as part of school uniform, particularly berets in the winter for the girls. Then we added the extra challenge of including a hat with description in one of our stories in the near future.

We also had an interesting discussion around how we select names for our stories, including ensuring that the names we use fit the character and the era.

As usual we enjoyed a varied range of stories and pictures created using words. All the topics were used by at least one member of the class. In contrast with recent classes some of the stories were gentler. We did have what could have been a murder but ended up not being; and there was a sequel to a very difficult story about foster and runaway children. There were no duplicated concepts as we have had in previous months.

The topics for our November class are:

- **{name} turned her attention to the room and looked surprised**
- **Furniture Removalists, no job too big or too small**
- **My brain sloughs this off as unimportant**

With a pathway out of lockdowns, we will hopefully meet up for our next class on 8 November.

Joy Shirley

Demystifying Psychology

Intelligence and Memory – snippets of a bigger story



Intelligence and memory rely on each other.

During October we researched and discussed:

- Definitions of intelligence and memory
- Various types of intelligence – human and animal.
- The role of memory in developing intelligence and how Slime Mould uses both.
- Theories of intelligence with a focus on:
 - Sternberg’s Triarchic Theory
 - Alfred Binet and Theodore Simon’s more complex theory.
- Measuring Intelligence Quotient (I.Q.) and the Stanford-Binet IQ test.
- Ethics and intelligence and memory.
- Brain plasticity

- Games to improve memory.

This is a very short summary of a complex topic for which there are more resources on the website. See the session Powerpoint for more topics, references, videos, and games.

Next gathering: 10 – 12 noon Tuesday 2nd November – Cup Day. Zoom meeting (confirmed).

TOPIC: Why do we do these things? – **The Psychology of Christmas**

- Shopping
- Lights and decorations
- and Jokes.

Jane Rushworth

Exercises for fun

The Exercises for Fun class will resume again next Monday 1st November, now that the restrictions have been lifted.

You are required to show proof of double vaccination of COVID 19 Australian Immunisation Register, or by showing the COVID 19 Digital Certificate on your mobile phone.

Either one is acceptable.

Helen Jeffree

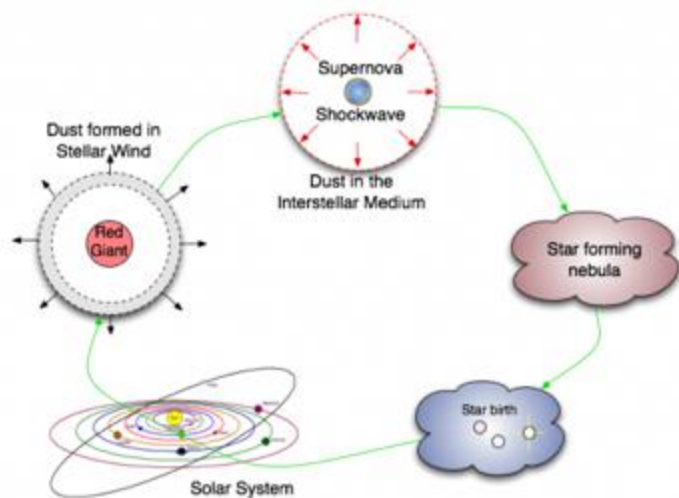
Exploring the Universe

We Studied the Evolution of Stars and Planets.

This is the current theory of the evolution of a Solar System. “Within space there is cool diffused gas and dust that when disturbed by a shock wave come together to form giant molecular clouds. Supersonic turbulence within the clouds leads them to collapse under pressure of immense gravity and produce the heat and energy for star formation. “

When the red supergiant star ‘Betelgeuse’ dimmed 2 years ago the verdict was it had puffed out a cloud of dust that obscured its light.

From The Herschel Space Observatory: “Large stars puff out gas that becomes dust. Cosmic dust consists of tiny particles of solid material floating around in space between the stars. It’s more like smoke, with small particles varying from collections of just a few molecules to grains of 0.1 mm in size. Dust is formed in stars and is then blown off in a slow wind or a massive star explosion.” This diagram shows the cosmic cycle.



A smaller fraction is stardust, consisting of larger resistant minerals that condensed as matter left by stars. The dust is then recycled in the clouds of gas between stars and some of it is consumed when the next generation of stars begin to form.

A star evolves within the collapsing gravity of a molecular cloud of gas and dust. A disk of gas and dust encircles the young **protostar**. The star feeds on the cool gaseous material from the disk and the star’s core eventually becomes hot enough to produce the energy to fuse hydrogen into helium and ignite thermonuclear fusion. The remaining gas is blasted away. This takes around one million years; the more hydrogen in the cloud, the more massive the star. The first image of baby stars has been captured by a powerful radio telescope. <https://www.eso.org/public/videos/eso1916a>

Planets form from the leftovers of star formation by coalescing micro grains and larger clumps of dust within the surrounding dust disc that has been cleared out by the star. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=528BOGuuzik>

During the formation of our solar system most of the dust, rocks and gas circling the sun were pulled together by gravity and formed planets. The remaining material was swept away into the outer reaches of the solar

system; to the icy realms of the Kuiper Belt and the Oort cloud. Here the sun's influence is weaker and there are shards of dust and ice, the fossils of planetary evolution that we know as Asteroids and Comets.

This is of course a very brief description of Cosmic Evolution. We go into much more in our sessions and our films are awesome! Why not join us for some more detail.

Reference: NASA. The European Southern Observatory. Herschel Space Observatory.

Bev Morton

Family Research

Our 'Pains and Gains' reports to the group this month were wide ranging. Barry reported finding his maternal great grandmother's death certificate listing senile decay (or old age) as a cause of death, while David visited the Family History Research Group where he was able to locate the birth certificate of an uncle he was searching for. Marg said that most of her work during the month related to researching the topic for today, however asked the question 'How do you find people who came in via New Zealand?'. This led to lots of discussion and sharing of ideas.

Robyn expressed frustration that a lot of people who are DNA matches don't have family trees online, while others have private trees. We talked about the advantages of public trees, particularly for the sharing of photographs and documents, some of which can be quite rare. Andi described looking for photos and finding sharing helpful, recently finding some photos and documents of a grandfather she knew little about. Andi is currently accessing a lot of BDM certificates and described taking a sharing approach to them. A useful suggestion which all agreed on - to make your tree private while working on it, moving it to public view at other times.

Our focus area this month was Irish Records. Irish born U3A member and keen family researcher Elizabeth Kearns gave a most informative presentation on Free Irish Records, using a case study and other resources relating to her family to demonstrate the process of discovering a range of documents. Elizabeth answered questions from the group during her presentation and stayed to contribute ideas to people with Irish ancestry who wrote about 'black holes' in their research later in the session. We would really like to thank Elizabeth for the effort she took in preparing the presentation, for the handouts and list of resources prepared as a follow up to her presentation.

Having missed last month's topic 'Family Treasure Chest', Wendy brought in her grandmother's doyleys and a handmade scarecrow doll; while Margaret brought in the treasured items which had featured as photographs last month. Some interesting tips emerged when the seed pearl necklace was handed around - 'wearing pearls helps to retain their lustre', and 'don't put perfume near pearls'.

Stories discussed in the second half of the session related to 'black holes' class members remain perplexed about in their research. The stories shared were most engaging, with lots of hypotheses or hunches for the group to consider, some of which resulted in suggestions which might assist in making a breakthrough. You can read our 'A Black Hole' stories at <https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/family-stories/category/a-black-hole>.

At the end of the session, we discussed planning for 2022. The group would like to continue and were positive about the suggestion of developing a cooperative team approach. Both Wendy and Bev mentioned needing to step back a little next year, Wendy to travel, Bev to 'downsize' and sell her home. Barry has already put his hand up. With almost all class members 'intermediate' to 'advanced' family researchers this year, the 'story telling approach' adopted during Covid was very well received and will almost certainly continue to be a component of the course. The small classroom is now available, so it may be possible to offer small group, hands on sessions for beginners as well next year. Watch this space for further developments.

Next Month's Topic - 'Census' Find one of your favourite families in your family tree. Pick a year for a census in which you describe what you know about where they were living, who was likely to be living there, what their occupations were, what else was happening in the country, world at the time... in fact anything else you know about them then. Create your own census, or draw upon a census document you have found during your research to develop your 'census report' around.

Wendy Sturgess and Bev Lee

Film as Literature

It was a small gathering of the Film group in October. We were able to discuss the film selected for the month – “Buckley’s Chance”.

A year after the loss of his father, 12-year-old Ridley and his mother, Gloria, move from New York City to Western Australia to live with Ridley's estranged grandfather, Spencer. In an attempt to establish a relationship with Ridley, Spencer takes him camping. While there Ridley comes across a wild dog entangled in an old barbed-wire fence and saves the dingo from certain death. This was against all that his grandfather believed and he tried to convince Ridley of his foolishness.

Ridley discovers some intruders planning to burn down his grandfather’s barn and hides in the tray of their vehicle and ends up lost deep in the outback. Here he again comes across the dingo who saves him this time from an attack by a snake. The two develop a bond and both boy and dog work to survive the elements to get Ridley back home.

This was a watchable film, with some elements of tension and humour. There were some errors made in the filming and dialogue. The story was set in Western Australia, but the airport showed a sign “Silver City” which many know is in fact Broken Hill. Editing should have noted this and removed it. And there were several American terms used by rough Australian farmers. Why would a couple of outback farmers use the terms bathroom (toilet or bog), hog (pig) or gas (petrol)? This led us to question if the film was targeted at an American audience.

The lead characters were Bill Nighy (Spencer), Victoria Hill (Gloria), Milan Burch (Ridley) and Kelton Pell (Jules, a farmhand working for Spencer). Performances were reasonable, with a stark contrast between characters of Spencer and Jules. Spencer was hard on Ridley, trying to discipline him, while Jules was more inclined to help him find his own way.

The cinematography showing the deserted outback of Australia provided a good view. There was an element of stereotyping of the Australian outback characters, but this was not as exaggerated as sometimes. In some ways the story was a bit farfetched, but overall it was a watchable film that we rated as 3 out of 5.

With BPACC and other cinemas in regional Victoria open, the film for our November class will be “**Shiva Baby**”, a comedy starring Rachel Sennott, Danny Deferrari and Fred Melamed. And for anyone interested, the latest James bond film, “No Time to Die” opens at BPACC on 25 November. We will need to consider whether this could be the film for discussion for our December class.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation

We had a wonderful outing in late October, commencing with a morning tea at Parklane Nursery. The staff there were very hospitable, putting tables out so that we could sit down for a leisurely morning tea when we arrived. Lunch at the BBQ Garden and Providore in Glenrowan was fabulous. We all felt so relaxed at the end of the day, with good feedback received from everyone.

Our end of year outing features ‘Two Beautiful Gardens’. Meet at the U3A Car Park at 9.30 am on Thursday 25th November from where we will visit two beautiful gardens.

The first - *Corrie Witlox’s garden* - 3 Ibis Court, Benalla. B.Y.O morning tea. The second - *Geraldine and Garry McCorkell’s garden* - 686 Samaria Rd, Benalla. Lunch will be catered by Helen Kerekes - \$12 pp.

I hope you can come to our last outing for the year Please let me know if you are coming and dietary needs. It’s wonderful that Covid19 restrictions have eased and we can visit private gardens once again 🌸🌿😊!

Gwen Turner 0438627010

German

Where would we be without internet and email in these times? Horst has directed us to good resources and advised us on where to focus our private study to overcome deficiencies in our German expression. With good weather and as permitted, a few members have been meeting weekly in the open air. Altogether, everyone is progressing at his/her own pace.

As I write this, we are about to meet to discuss plans for next year. I should be able to report on this next newsletter.

Pauline Bailey

Investment

The October meeting of Investment was held On-Line due to COVID restrictions. This year we have had to be adaptable with using Zoom at very little notice.

We looked at three demographic themes which could shape investments for the future. These were an ageing population, population growth and a growing middle class. One aspect of the discussion was that Australia had the 13th largest economy in the world, but with just over 25 million people it was comparatively rich on a per capita basis. We also noted that the COVID pandemic has seen substantial population movement from the cities to regional areas.

We also noted that CommSec had produced a list of 22 income producing stocks, all with returns of 3.6% or above. The majority of the charts of these stocks were going sideways and included some banks, shopping centres and some industrial stocks.

Due to the fact that the numbers allowed in the Senior's Centre are currently capped at 30, and the Senior Citizens are playing bowls on a Friday afternoon, we have changed our meeting time to 1.30pm on the first Monday of the month. So, we are looking forward to seeing you all on Monday 1 November 2021 at 1.30pm.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

How nice it was to have a 'book' chat in the Seniors room in early October. Some of the offerings we have read are: *The Diaries of Samuel Pepys* (author) Robert Latham (Editor) and William Mathews (Editor). Robert and William deciphered each passage and phrase in the Diaries. Samuel's Diary is one of the principal sources of aspects of the history of its period, covering some of the most dramatic events in English History, the London Fire, The Great Plague, the Restoration of Charles 11 and the Dutch Wars. One for the History buffs among us. *The Riviera House* by Natasha Lester, Paris 1939 a young woman risks her life to record the Nazis pillage of fine art works in WW2. This was worth the read. *The Perfect Wife* by JP Delaney set in the near future in a world of tech start-ups and robotics. Mmm! A bit different. On the other hand, *Wolfe Island* by Lucy Treloars is an excellent read. This is a story about love and the ties that bind us to others, set off the NE coast of the USA it also looks at a changing world. *When Meredith Went Away* by Meredith Appleyard. Meredith takes us into the heart of rural Australia and the struggles and unbreakable bonds of the Fairley family. *In the Garden of Spite* by Camilla Bruce, a novel of the Black Widow of La Porte where you look into the mind of a serial killer. Lock the doors after reading this one. *A Search in Secret Egypt* by Professor Paul Brunton. The Professor narrates encounters with the mysteries and magic of ancient Egypt. His interviews with Muslim leaders remain relevant today. If you have an interest in Egypt this would be satisfying. *Stasiland* by Anna Funder is a powerful account of personal stories of the resistance against the dictatorship of Communism in East Germany behind the Iron Curtain. Anna Funder also wrote *All That I Am*. Shirley also enjoyed a series of 'little' books, *The Snow Goose*, *The Words of Nelson Mandela*, *Very California* and *A Three Dog Life*. So, a little something for everyone in this month's report.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

With the return of indoor community sport on 21st October we were finally able to dust ourselves off, mentally and physically, and return to the court. Much laughter was heard as we stretched unused muscles and tried to focus attention on where the ball was! It was great to see such a good turnout and we hope to sharpen our skills in the weeks left before Christmas. As always, new players are welcome to come and join us- Lifeball is a walking pace game suitable for any skill level and is tremendous fun. We play at 10am Mondays at the Indoor Recreation Centre--for further information please contact convenor Marlene Pitts on 0407240943.



Covid Safe Lunch in the Gardens – 27 Sept

Players are reminded that they must be double vaxxed as per general U3A policy.

Julie McNeill

Meet and Mingle

At the October Meet and Mingle we welcomed Moussa Taouk who with his wife runs a goat farm at Winton. Moussa was an enthusiastic person who gave us an in depth talk on farming practices at his farm, how they have to comply with various regulations, looking after the goats and the making of cheese from the milk produced.

There were a good number of questions from the audience about the various aspects that Moussa described, which added to the enjoyment of his talk. With his wife their latest marketing venture is a café serving French style crepes which is open between 11am and 4pm on Friday and Saturdays at 21 Bowers Road, Winton, which is just off the freeway.

November Meet and Mingle will feature a quilt display from the Patchwork Group and will be held on Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 10am in the main auditorium of the Senior's Centre.

Due to the fact that the Singing for Fun group have had very limited meetings this year, there will be no singing concert at the November Meet and Mingle.

Margaret Jenkins

Music Appreciation

Finally, a full month's programme after all the stop-start imposed by the on again, off again restrictions because of the Pandemic.

The first of our two programmes featured Mahler's 4th Symphony (or part of it because of its length) – a delightful, almost Schubertian work recalling Mahler's childhood and finishing with melodies from another work "The Youth's Magic Horn" in which Mahler imagines a child's view of heaven. Other shorter works were a selection of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances, Copland's Appalachian Spring (which had absolutely nothing to do with Spring in the Appalachian Mountains) and "O Fortuna" which book-ended Carl Orff's Carmina Burana - first as a ballet and ending as a concert piece for choir and orchestra. An added feature was that all works were recordings by youth orchestras and/or choirs.

Our second programme opened with an Overture by New Zealand composer Dougals Lilburn written to celebrate the centenary of The Waitangi Treaty – New Zealand's founding document. The major work was Mozart's Grand Sestetto Concertante – an arrangement for sextet of his earlier Grand Sinfonie Concertante, Schubert's Offertorium written to accompany the procession of the gifts in the Christian celebration of the Mass, a short work by Bach – a musical offering for Prussian king Frederick the Great based on impromptus for a melody given him by the king, and finally a quartet for English Horn by contemporary French composer Jean Francaix.

All in all, a wonderful mixed bag spanning the centuries. Links to the music recordings and the session notes are available on the [Music Appreciation](#) page of the U3A website.

Bill Squire

Page Turners

Page Turners offer their condolences to Pat Treleavan on the recent passing of her husband. We understand friends will be able to gather to celebrate his life once the covid restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, her many friends in U3A and Page Turners send her their best wishes in this sad time.

Patchwork

Patchworkers are busily preparing for the Display of Patchwork and Quilts at 'Meet and Mingle' on Wednesday 17 November. If you'd like to view some of our work in progress over the year, check out the [Patchwork page](#) on the website!

Play Reading

Our Play Reading group numbered seven this month, nonetheless some very competent performances were presented. We read *Falling from Grace*, a play written by noted Australian playwright Hannie Rayson. The play portrayed female power in medicine, media and the office, positions held by best friends in the

professional world. While juggling careers, families and lovers the friendships are tested. An enjoyable play which produced much discussion about offensive language in modern theatre and what is appropriate.

November promises to be a month with fewer COVID restrictions, we may even be able to have a coffee!

Our condolences to fellow member Pat on the passing of her dear husband, our thoughts are with you Pat.

Jenny McKenna

Politics and Current Affairs

The group met for the first time in many months in October to try and make sense of both the World and Australian politics and current affairs. Many subjects were covered during the session in an effort to get a handle on Climate Change, the handling of Co-vid recovery, discussion on the demise of a Premier and its effects, the riots in Victoria, changes to legislation, and the handling of various issues by the Prime Minister. We also discussed local government politics and its effects on the local community.

Please note that a meeting will not be held on Tuesday 23 November as the date falls on the day of the Christmas Lunch at Chrismont Winery. There will be two more meetings this year - Tuesday 9th November and Tuesday 14th December.

Heather Wallace

Recorder

At long last we were finally able to meet in late October to have the joy of making music together again. We played some old favourites and a couple of new tunes. It will be so good to meet a few more times before the end of the year. We were all sad to hear about Pat's husband and send her our condolences. Pat is a treasured member of the Recorder group.

Janet Douglas

Saturday Cards – 500

'Saturday Cards – 500' is now meeting on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays and will recommence on Saturday 13th November in the U3a room in the Seniors building commencing at 1.30pm. It will be so good to be back and enjoying one and others company again. It is open to all U3a members, so come along and have some fun.

You are required to show proof of double vaccination of COVID 19 before you can enter, either by showing your paper version of 'Certificate of Vaccination' from the Australian Immunisation Register or by showing the COVID 19 digital Certificate on your mobile phone. Either one is acceptable.

Heather Wallace

Singing for Fun

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions on the number of people who could meet in The Hub, there have been no Singing for Fun or Harmony sessions during October.

As some COVID restrictions have now been lifted, due to 70% of the population being vaccinated, Singing for Fun will recommence on Thursday 4 November 2021 at 10am.

Due to Public Health regulations, we are required to see your double vaccination certificate, either on your phone or a paper copy, as you sign the attendance list. This is part of our Duty of Care for participating U3A Benalla members, and we ask for your co-operation with this request.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

We were looking forward to hearing from Scott Stowe in early October about his role in wild dog management in North-East Victoria. Unfortunately, Covid 19 restrictions impacting on workers meant that Scott couldn't attend, but we are hoping to reschedule his talk early next year.

Stock and Land's tradition of celebrating the Melbourne Cup with a holiday on Cup Day continues this year! There will, however, be a session on Tuesday 7th December. Details will be emailed to group members when confirmed.

David Palmer

Tech Savvy Beginners – Android

We had a productive month for our three October classes & it was great to see some new faces.

We covered -

- Transferring photos from one device to another.
- Installing Services Victoria QR code app.
- Saving favourites in Services Victoria QR code & how to use those favourites.
- Adding your Covid Certificate to Services Victoria QR code.
- Creating a My Gov account.
- Linking Medicare to Services Victoria QR code to view your Covid Certificate.
- Housekeeping on laptops.
- Send & receive emails.
- Revision.



Robyn Lukey

Tech Savvy Beginners – Be Connected

In October we have had two sessions of Be Connected. It was pleasing to revisit the Be Connected website and see that there were new modules added to the Topic Library.

We spent the first week exploring one of these; 'Using the Cloud'. This provides great explanation of the cloud in general and most of the content was in the form of short instructive videos.

Following on from the general explanation there were further units which were you could choose for either Apple or Android. For Apple users cloud storage was through iCloud. For Android users the cloud storage was through Google Account.

The following week we delved back to an earlier topic; 'Data'. We looked at how you can check your data allowance and usage on your devices. Then discussed using your devices to stream TV, films, music and sport.

So the apps for ABC iView and other free to air TV stations are free and the content is free, but the data usage is not.

The apps for Stan and other streaming services are free, but the content and the data usage are not.



Jenny Sawyer

Tech Talks

At our next Tech Talks Brian Greed will show off his recently manufactured Barrel Organ. This is a show and tell that deserves a wide audience. Brian has built a fully functional Barrel Organ in his workshop and if regulations permit he may be busking in the main street at Christmas.. He will explain the workings etc to all who attend our next meeting. We look forward to it.

At our last Tech Talks held Tuesday 12th October we covered a range of interests.

We started by watching a report on the expansion of the new Chinese high speed train system. In the past 20 years China has built a completely new high speed rail network that now criss-crosses the country. Some discussion was initiated on my part because I believe that Australia can learn from the example of others.

We then watched a prediction on 7 new Technologies that will be widespread by 2030. This is only a short time into the future and we can only wait and see if any of the predictions come true. One prediction was that cars will become driverless and pooled. Another was that white collar jobs will be replaced by robots. Another was that phones will become smaller and more powerful to the point where they will be able to be implanted.

We watched documentaries on Henry Ford and Nicolas Tesla. Tesla had a tragic life and suffered from harsh treatment handed out by his jealous competitor Thomas Edison. He died in obscure poverty. However, in recent times his name has been brought back into public knowledge by the naming of a certain car.

We also watched an educational video on how gold is manufactured in far off space and transported to our planet.

We came back to earth by considering a problem we all share - how do we dispose of our waste?

In Australia we tend to dispose of our waste by putting it in landfill. In Malaysia they have developed a portable technology that burns it. All waste no matter what can be disposed of by burning and the claim is that the technology developed in Malaysia produces a cleaner waste than normal and all polluted air is washed clean. Some cities in Europe also burn their waste and use the energy generated to power their electrical needs. They have strict pollution controls which they must adhere to.

It would be in Australia's interests if we began to consider such schemes.

Neville Gibb

Wine Appreciation

What better way to spend a perfect Spring day than to visit Sam Miranda Winery, Oxley. Our U3A Wine Appreciation group met there for our Wine Tasting and lunch.

It was such a busy day for the venue that our habitual informative talk and Wine Tasting was unexpectedly brief. However, we all enjoyed being out again as a group that we felt compensated.

The delicious Italian food and new Italian wine varietals were a standout.

Thanks to Meg Dillon for stepping in for Heather and Keith, who were unable to take charge or to attend, due to ill health.

Bev Thornell



There will be no November U3A Wine Appreciation, as the U3A Christmas breakup lunch will be held next month. Details and the booking form are on the next page. This year the lunch is being held on a **Tuesday** not a Wednesday, and the forms are due on Wednesday 10th November, not at Meet and Mingle. The contact person for bookings for the lunch is Corrie Witlox – phone 5762 8225.

Covid-19 Vaccination Requirements

The following Information Page was emailed to current members on October 21, 2022.

ATTENTION TO ALL U3A BENALLA EXISTING AND PROSPECTIVE 2022 MEMBERS U3A MEMBERS COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

Benalla U3A Committee, on advice from the U3A Network Melbourne, wish to impart the following information to U3A Benalla existing members and new members in 2022.

- In line with State and Local Government requirements it will be mandatory for U3A Benalla members attending U3A activities to produce evidence of being fully vaccinated.
- Any unvaccinated member of U3A Benalla will not be able to attend, this includes members unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons.
- U3A members **MUST NOT** attend classes if they have any symptoms that might suggest they have COVID-19.
- Your privacy in this matter will be fully respected.
- The Committee will continue to update our COVID Policy to reflect current directives.

It is our Duty of Care to provide this protection to our Convenors and members.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to ring Geraldine 0408522662 or Margaret 5762 6944

Christmas is coming.....



U3A BENALLA CHRISTMAS LUNCH/BREAKUP

Hosted by the U3A Wine Appreciation Group

When: TUESDAY 23rd November 2021

Where: Chrismont Winery

Cost: Meal and bus \$60.00 – own transport \$50.00

The bus will leave from the Benalla Bus Depot at 11.00 am sharp.

Name/s: _____

By Bus: \$60 pp _____ **Cheque:** _____ **Cash:** _____

Own Transport \$50 pp _____ **Cheque:** _____ **Cash:** _____

Please return completed form together with your payment - either:

- Post to U3A, PO Box 674, Benalla, 3672
- Leave at RedB4 bookshop (next to Hide's Bakery) in an envelope marked U3A Christmas luncheon

Payment to be received by no later than Wednesday 10th November

For further information: Corrie Witlox: 0357 62 8225

You are required to show proof of double vaccination of COVID 19 before you can enter the bus or winery, either by showing your paper version of "Certificate of Vaccination" from Australian Immunisation Register, or by showing the COVID 19 Digital Certificate on your mobile phone. Either one is acceptable.

What's On*

* Please note that this Calendar is based on the best available information at the time of publication and is subject to change.

Monday, 1 November

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun – Recommences!
- 10:00 Collectors – ‘Serviette Rings’
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 10:00 No Session/Art Appreciation
- 13:30 Investment (New Time Slot)
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books- Seniors Auditorium
- 16:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 2 November – Cup Day

- 10:00 Demystifying Psychology - Zoom – The Psychology of Christmas
- 10:00 Page Turners
- 10:00 Cancelled/Stock and Land
- 14:00 Cancelled/Armchair Traveller

Wednesday, 3 November

- 09:30 Easy Walks – Rail Trail, Oxley to Milawa
- 09:30 Play Reading
- 13:30 A Taste of Art
- 14:00 Be Connected

Thursday, 4 November

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

Friday, 5 November

- 09:30 Sustainability

Monday, 8 November

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

Tuesday, 9 November

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs
- 12:15 German
- 14:00 Tech Talks

Wednesday, 10 November

- 07:45 Mid-Week Walks – Mt Buffalo
- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 13:30 Film as Literature – Shiva Baby
- 14:00 Be Connected

Thursday, 11 November

- 09:30 Birdwatching – Reef Hills State Park
- 10:00 Harmony Group @ The Hub
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners (Android)
- 13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 12 November

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 14:00 Cancelled/Armchair History

Saturday, 13 November

- 13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 15 November

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 13:30 Coin Collectors
- 16:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 16 November

- 10:00 The News - Fact or Fiction
- 14:00 Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 17 November

- 10:00 Meet and Mingle – Display of Patchwork and Quilts and Morning Tea – all welcome!
- 13:30 A Taste of Art
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners 2021 (Apple)

Thursday, 18 November

- 10:00 Singing for Fun @ The Hub
- 10:00 Tech Savvy Beginners (Android)
- 13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 19 November

- 09:30 Sustainability
- 11:45 Chat 'n Chew
- 13:00 Demystifying Psychology – Course Session

Monday, 22 November

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 14:00 As Time Goes By - Memoir Writing

Tuesday, 23 November

- 11:00 U3A Christmas Luncheon, Chrismont Winery - Bus Leaves Benalla Bus Lines at 11am sharp

Wednesday, 24 November

- 10:00 Recorder Group
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners 2021(Apple)

Thursday, 25 November

- 09:30 Garden Appreciation – ‘Two Beautiful Gardens’
- 10:00 Community Singing @ The Hub
- 13:00 Family Research
- 17:00 Newsletter reports due today

Friday, 26 November

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 14:00 Cancelled/Armchair History

Saturday, 27 November

- 13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 29 November

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball

Wednesday, 1 December

- 09:30 Easy Walks
- 09:30 Play Reading
- 13:30 A Taste of Art
- 14:00 Be Connected