



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – October 2018

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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YOU ARE INVITED TO MORNING TEA WITH U3A BENALLA



THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER

9.30 – 11.30 a.m

Benalla Seniors Citizens Hall

**Be entertained by
Author and Bush Poet
Rhonda Tallnash**

President's Report

With Spring in the air, the Program Committee is busy planning for next year. We are always looking at new courses. If you have one in mind, please let us know.

Our Membership continues to grow. It's very gratifying to be told we have something for everyone.

Mine and the Executive Committee's thanks go to Cheryl Turner for her time on the Committee. We will miss your input, Cheryl. All the best.

Members attending our 'Morning Tea and Poetry Reading' on Thursday 25 October during the Seniors Festival may also like to stay on and enjoy Lunch with members of the Seniors. Lunch needs to be booked and costs \$11.30. Please see the Seniors' notice board for booking.

Dorothy Webber

Our new banner!



Heather Sloane's eye-catching *U3A Benalla and District Banner* is now on display in the U3A Meeting Room!

Group Reports

Armchair History

Do you recall the nursery rhyme that opens with "The king was in his counting house counting out his money"?

This would be an apt summary of the late period of Henry VII's reign. He subdued his nobles by financial blackmail and provided his successors with a royal fortune. Unlike previous monarchs he

checked all accounts and signed off on each. Such meticulous oversight was something new to England and enabled Henry to remain independent of Parliament.

Our next session will look at the lives of three women who were powerful players during the period leading to the end of the Wars of the Roses.

Terry Case

Art Appreciation

Members were excited to meet the curator of the Benalla Gallery's new exhibition "Looking but not Seeing". Kiron Robinson is an art lecturer at the Victorian College of the Arts who specialises in the art of photography.

He has selected twelve contemporary Australian photographers whose work illustrates the new directions in photography. Selfies, the internet and photographic software have revolutionised the way massive numbers of photographs are produced by all of us on our smart phones and uploaded to Facebook, Snapchat etc. Kiron emphasised that we can never see all that is being produced so why are we uploading our photos and who are they for?



Kiron argues that we are producing these images for ourselves rather than for others: the act of making photographs is the real point of our images – creating the world not reflecting it.

Despite this, the twelve photographers he has selected share their images with us in this exhibition. They electronically print, scan, rephotograph, distort and manipulate their images using all the technology made available by programs like PhotoShop, ON1, Corel Paintshop Pro., Cyberlink Photodirector etc. These are photos like you have never seen before – they represent the individual ways the artists have seen and constructed their images.

If you have ever taken a selfie, uploaded your holiday snaps to Facebook or wondered what on earth you are going to do with all these images

sitting on your computer – then come along to the Benalla Gallery and see some of the new possibilities of image making.

The group are to meet on **Monday 8th October** at 10am when Bryony will speak about the 50th Anniversary Exhibition - all works on display from the Gallery's permanent collection, with a focus on those that were first acquired.

Meg Dillon

Bird Watching

U3A birdwatchers visit Upotipotpon Our group was fortunate to visit private property in the Upotipotpon district on Thursday 13 September.

We had a warm sunny spring morning to enjoy a guided walk around the bushland, looking for birds as well as identifying a few waxlip and leopard orchids among the shrub cover. Highlight was a pair of resident Tawny Frogmouths roosting close to the house. We also found a pair of Eastern Yellow Robins, and had close views of a party of White-browed Babblers feeding on the ground. A Collared Sparrowhawk landed high in a tree. There were lots of fresh scratchings of Painted Button-quail, but these shy birds remained elusive. Owner Mike said one bird walked across the driveway as soon as we left the property. We saw a number of Brown Treecreepers, White-plumed Honeyeaters and Superb Fairy-wrens. The locally rare Gilbert's Whistler was heard calling from over the road, but did not show itself. Thanks to owners Ann and Mike. It was a pleasure look for birds on a bush block that retains much of the original native vegetation of the area.

22 bird species recorded on the eBird list
<https://ebird.org/australia/view/checklist/S48712603>



Next outing - Thursday 11 October to Reef Hills State Park* We will meet in the car park behind the Seniors building at 9.30am on Thursday 11 October. As usual, please wear sturdy walking shoes, and bring water, any nibbles you want for the morning, and binoculars if you have them. Although it has been very dry, we should enjoy some good spring birding at our local Reef Hills park. We plan to finish by 12 noon.

**Please note this change to our program. We will visit private property in Glenrowan West in November, and not in October as previously announced.*

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

There will be no October 1st session with the convenor called away. May I suggest instead a walk in the sunshine while counting backwards from 100 to 10 in 3s, or singing a foreign song, as such activities will enliven neural pathways?

In September we covered words, reasoning, memory and visual challenges. If you can't wait until November to check the Spatial and Matrix puzzles, the answers are on pp 149-50 of *Workout for a Balanced Brain* which is in the computer cupboard.

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalks

Easy Walks

Wednesday, 5 September 2018: Kennedy Lane Wildflower Reserve & surrounding area

On a near perfect early spring day, 10 walkers set out from Leader, David McVicar's property to walk along Kennedy Lane & Webster Rd, Lurg.



Several varieties of wattle & hardenbergea were in bloom along the roadside plus homes & farm animals emerging from bushland settings. In the Reserve we also found varieties of grevillea & heaths. Pauline noticed the Grevillia lanigera (red flower) about to burst into bloom whilst Marion's eager eye searched the ground, firstly discovering

leaves then Nodding green hoods struggling in the dry, rocky soil. The bushland would welcome substantial rain!

Lunch was enjoyed on David's patio with the group attempting to identify bird calls & birds in the trees & grevillea bushes? Back along the undulating roadside bush track with pauses to identify the flora. The return was through the property with landscape planting's of native trees and olive groves. Seats were strategically placed tempting us to linger and admire the scenic views of the foothills & the Strathbogie Ranges. Our thanks to leader, David & his friendly dog, Max, who accompanied us, plus convenor, Vaughan for an easy but most interesting 7.4 km walk around nearby Lurg.



Margaret Walsh

Easy walk Wed October 3

We will visit the Reef Hills, and walk Indians road and Johnston's road before visiting the Picnic area for lunch and a wildflower check. We will leave the Senior Citizens Car park at 10.00 am. Ring 5762 1980 to ensure you are not left behind.

Mid Week Walks

Loggers Lane Wednesday September 12 The weather was fine for the 9 walkers to tackle this strenuous walk. We started from Ryan's Lookout, crossed the Devenish - Wangaratta road to the walk. The track is good and gives good views to the North and East. The morning walk had some fairly severe climbs. We reached Taylors track for lunch by a fairly low dam. Then back to Taylors track to Booth road and finally to a bike track which led back to Ryans Car park. The bike track is very attractive, with many wattles flowering. In a week or two the Spurwing Wattles will be flowering. Afternoon tea was followed by a short walk to the lookout. A very good day out.

Mid-week Walk October 10

An extended circular walk through the central Reef Hills and hopefully a visit to some areas you have

not visited. Like the short walk, we will visit the Picnic area. We will leave the Senior Citizens Car park at 10.00 am.



Vaughan Cowan

Chat n' Chew

Our group will meet for lunch on Friday 19th
October at 12 midday at

The North Eastern Hotel

This is our last lunch for 2018. Do come along!
Contact Shirley on 5762 6768 by Tuesday 16
October. Thank you.

Shirley Kearney

Collectors

Collectors were saddened to learn of the passing of valued member Pat Quinn who died recently. Pat brought along many of her treasures to Collectors but members will mostly remember her beautiful silver teapot on a stand. Sincere sympathy is extended to Pat's family.

Our theme for September was 'time' with various items on display. Corrie, who is unable to attend our meeting because of a prior commitment sent along four of her clocks which produced much interest. They were shaped as an aeroplane, a cow, a kiwi and a grandfather clock.



Many watches were on display, some of which were very old, having belonged to grandparents.

We saw a wonderful display of clocks, which included two carriage clocks, one with its case. An Ansonia mantle clock, crystal clocks, a talking clock, a clock with a clear dome inside which Swiss figures danced, a Royal Albert clock, a sewing machine clock an elephant clock and an alarm clock, were just some of the clocks we saw and discussed.

Our theme for October is 'Education/school days' so hopefully some of you will have memorabilia from those days. Exercise books, text books, badges, uniforms, reports, and more !!!

Judith Borthwick

e-Book Group

The Way Back (Kylie Ladd), the story of the abduction of a teenaged girl, is described as a 'gripping psychological drama.' Sadly, few in our group would have thought this was accurate description. This modern day family, consisting of a workaholic mother, a stay at home put upon father, and a lonely, uncommunicative son, appeared just a tad dysfunctional. If anything the daughter Charlie seemed the most normal--horse mad, keen on netball and her new friend Liam. The defining event of her 13 year old life, is her kidnapping by a misunderstood recluse, and its emotional impact on her and her family. This should be the crux of the novel, but doesn't have the impact it should, because the circumstances surrounding her disappearance and eventual discovery lack a certain credibility. We agreed that younger readers may find some of the issues discussed relevant to their lives.

Helen Scheller

Exercises for Fun

It is just so good to attend the Exercises for Fun class! We are all so friendly and keen to get ourselves fit and moving!

We have a wonderful attendance every week and everyone enjoys the exercises!

All members are welcome to come along on a Monday for a "look" and see if its for you.

We start at 9.30 am sharp, and finish with a cuppa and a chat.

Have fun.

Helen Jeffree

Exploring the Universe

In September we became time travellers as we stepped back into the past to view images and film of some of the earliest and most distant galaxies of the Universe captured by the Hubble Space Telescope.

5 Billion Light Years Away From Earth



Early Galaxy Cluster Abell 370.

We viewed images of an early galaxy cluster whose light had left 5 billion light years ago on an enormous journey, ending up on the lens of Hubble. (Just one light year is equal to 9.5 trillion/kms)

The massive galaxy cluster Abell 370 acts as a cosmic magnifying glass, honing in on distant objects in the universe.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_T5SKFrHHY



Galaxy Collision- Milky Way v the Andromeda Galaxy

Four billion years into the future our Milky Way Galaxy as we know it will cease to exist. We are bound for a huge galactic smash with our nearest neighbour the Andromeda Galaxy, which is barrelling towards us at a speed of about 400,000 km/h. Oddly enough, Earth and our solar system should survive, as distances of planets and stars in the new galactic merger will be vast. The merger should stir up gasses which will trigger intense new star formation.

As we will not be here to see it arrive, meet the Andromeda Galaxy in 4K.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udAL48P5NJU>

We studied additional material and film of the Japanese Hyabusa 2 mission to land on a near Earth asteroid (a space rock.) The aim is to return samples to Earth in 2020. NASA has a similar mission heading to another asteroid. Asteroids can be rich in minerals that are scarce on Earth. Is their aim Space mining? Watch this space!

We are a very small group who would love to have new members join us. We meet once a month,

third Tuesday afternoon 1.30 -3.30. You don't have to do anything but listen, watch and enjoy.

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

There were some problems with the computer this month. While this was addressed we discussed the program for the remainder of the year (more of this later). We watched *Ladies in Lavender* so that anyone who needed to leave before the end given the late start, could borrow the DVD to watch in their own time.

The main characters were two sisters, Ursula (played by Judi Dench) and Janet (played by Maggie Smith). With two such talented actors, it was no surprise that everyone enjoyed the movie, rating it as 5 out of 5.

The story is set in Cornwall where the two sisters live by the coast, during the period between the two World Wars. After a violent storm they discover a young Polish man washed up on the beach. They nurse him back to health, discovering that he is a very talented violinist. We thought of the movie as a study of relationships.

The movie is filmed in the UK, predominantly in Cornwall. As a result, there is great scenery, with views of the cottage and garden where the sisters live, as well as waves breaking over the rocks. The music was good, with the violin often being the focus. From a point of view of the characters, there is a contrast between the sisters, with occasional tensions, but also closeness. Ursula longs for some sort of companionship and a close relationship with Andrea. Janet lost her love during the First World War. Another interesting character was their cook and maid Dorcas, played by Miriam Margolyes, who provided a bit of comic relief.

Apart from the main characters, Ursula, Janet, Dorcas, Andrea and Olga (a Russian artist who recognises his talent) most of the supporting roles were predominantly male.

Our October movie will be a visit to BPACC to see *Christopher Robin* (screening until 9 October). This is based on the adult Christopher Robin and his self-discovery in revisiting his life with Pooh and his friends. It should not be confused with the story of AA Milne's life, *Goodbye Christopher Robin*, which was released last year. We will discuss the movie at our scheduled 10 October session.

With several possibly interesting movies screening during October, we have decided that we should again visit BPACC. The movie we will discuss at

our November session will be *The Wife* (screening from 25 October) which is receiving good reviews.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation

On 27th September, the Garden Appreciation Group visited the beautiful, large and inspiring garden of Kathleen Yates, Baddaginnie/Benalla Road. A relatively new project, constructed to complement the new house, it has been a labour of love for Kathleen, her husband and her Dad. In early Spring, the garden looked a picture, with a Waterlily covered pond and little bridge accessing a large Gazebo, several large shade trees, ornamental garden statues, pockets of bulbs, succulents, grasses, lillies and, on the Eastern side, outside the Japanese inspired main bathroom, a gorgeous Japanese garden, largely built by Kathleen's handyman Dad. Kathleen showed us around the house interior, where her decorating prowess and her clever Dad's carpentry skills were evident in every room. Our group gathered on the shady veranda for morning tea. The fluffy sponge disappeared without trace! Lunch venue afterwards was the Royal Hotel. Thank you Kathleen for providing such a lovely Garden to Appreciate.



Bev Thornell

Garden Appreciation on October 25

There has been a change of plan to enable group members to attend the Seniors Festival Morning Tea at the Senior Citizens Community Centre from 9.30 to 11.30am. After morning tea we will head out to May's garden at Warrenbayne.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team

The team pitched in with the usual enthusiasm and expertise and by afternoon teatime there were many satisfying heaps of weeds and prunings to compost, shred and feel pleased about.

With three more sessions this year I suggest the gatherings below;.

October 8th: Val

October 29th: Bill & Jane

November 12th: Marcus & Kirsten

Elsbeth McConachie

Hot Topics

The last gathering of the Hot Topics crew discussed the role of older people in addressing climate change. Bev Lee led the discussion working from material provided by John Lloyd, who was unable to be with us. It was generally agreed we all have a role to play.

The second half raised the need or otherwise for a Bill or Charter of Human Rights for Australia. This led with a video of the lecture 'The Case for a Charter of Human Rights in Australia' by Gillian Triggs, former President of the Human Rights Commission. (Dean's Lecture Series, The University of Melbourne, 23 July 2018) A heated discussion followed with the group agreeing to disagree on the subject. At our next gathering of Hot Topics we will look at the forward planning for Benalla – what does the future hold and what is our role in that future? Hoping to see you there on Friday October 19th at 1.30pm

Carole Marple

Investment

At the September meeting of Investment we looked at a small number of shares from the August reporting season. We studied the main points reported by those companies, their reported net profit after tax and the dividend they had given shareholders. From their subsequent graphs we could see the effect these points had on their share price since they had reported.

The second topic for the afternoon was "Six things every investor should consider in their investment plan". The subheadings for this included Investment goals, return expectations, exit prices, asset allocation, portfolio monitoring and rebalancing and responding to market events.

During 2018 we have been trying to cover a range of topics to interest the members of Investment Group. With this in mind we also mentioned the visit by Melbourne based stockbrokers Shaw and Partners on Tuesday 18th September 2018.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 5th October at 1.30pm in the U3A room.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

Our September chat began with a biography 'Woman in a Wig: Joan Rosanove QC'. In Melbourne in 1920 Joan was the first woman admitted to the Bar. Being a Hebrew she endured

a great deal of prejudice but persevered to become a QC. Whilst on the topic of strong women, Gail Kelly, the retired CEO of Westpac bank, was discussed, a difficult career for a woman in the corporate world. Also enjoyed was *Under the Southern Cross* by Judy Nunn, a well known Australian author. *The Birdman's Wife* by Melissa Ashley, the wife of John Gould, describes how she illustrated 650 hand lithographs of birds and plants obtained by her husband. A fun book was tabled 'My Mother Always Used to Say'. A book that wasn't well known by Bryce Courtenay *The Family Frying Pan*, is a collection of stories about Migrant families and the recipes they carried with them. The Nobel Prize for Literature author Naguib Fahfouz wrote *Love in the Rain*, set in Cairo. This is a story about Patriotism and the struggle between old and new, highly recommended. Also recommended with intrigue and forgery was *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, by Dominic Smith. A different style of writing with no punctuation and written in the style of the day was the Peter Carey book *The True History of the Kelly Gang*. A book purchased in the Redb4 bookshop was *Dark Places* by Gillian Flynn, who also wrote the popular *Gone Girl*. *The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout played on the interaction of siblings and the integration of Somali migrants in a small town in America, perhaps relevant at this time. *Nancy Wake* by Peter Fitzsimmons was not enjoyed so much, but the biography of Phyllis Frost was well written. Our next meeting is 2nd October. Enjoy your reading.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

To quote from Marg's past reports...

"Lifeball propels itself along with laughter and walking along with a ball. What could be easier??"

"Come along, see (and hear) what we do, and why we love our game so much, this game of LAUGHball."

"Do pop in and see why we laugh so much. Every Monday morning we commence playing at 10am, in the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre, just diagonally across from the railway station. Just come to watch and have a game if you feel inclined. You will be made welcome!!!"

Marg Merriman

Meet and Mingle

Michael Plex was a very popular and well received speaker at our September Meet and Mingle.

Michael spoke at some length about his experience with NBN and advised the group which speed would possibly suit them, as even with four teenagers in the house he did not find it necessary to buy the top speed. At the time of Michael speaking NBN was available for connection in the Benalla West area and should be available in the Benalla East area shortly. His experience of the NBN has been a positive one and something which we will all need to connect to if we wish to maintain a land-line. Many members then asked questions to which Michael replied. Many of our members already knew Michael as they had called on his expertise as an audio-visual technician and guru to help with computer problems.

Michael took time from his very busy schedule to talk at Meet and Mingle and he received a well-earned round of applause at the finish.

Judith Borthwick



Details of our guest speaker/s for October are still being finalized. Keep an eye on the website for further information.

Bill Parris

Music Appreciation

At our first session in September we listened to Russian Music selected by Bill. In the last half of the 19th Century a Nationalist Russian music trend became established. Composers tried to infuse their work with Russian Themes and to challenge the popularity of music from Western Europe. In time in the 20th Century these works have been taken up by the west and are now included in the classical repertoire.

We listened to works by Balakirev, Cui, Borodin, Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov. It was both educational and enjoyable to listen to works by these men.

Bill was expansive in his knowledge of these Russian Artists and we thank him for the copious notes he provided for our pleasure.

At our second session for the month we listened to Beethoven, Chopin and Mozart.

- Beethovens Piano Sonata No 23
- Chopins Polonaise No 6.
- Mozart Piano Concerto in C Op 14.

All were played by Lang Lang and were entirely enjoyable.

We recognised the Beethoven and Chopin but the Mozart was not known because the music we listened to was by Franz Xaver Mozart.

Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart, also known as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Jr., was the youngest child of six born to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his wife Constanze. He was the younger of his parents' two surviving children.

Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart was only four months old when his father died. He received his early musical education from the Mozart student Johann Nepomuk Hummel, and from Georg Friedrich Albrechtsberger, who had taught Haydn and Beethoven. Antonio Salieri suggested, "the boy has a rare talent for music, and his future might not be inferior to that of his celebrated father."

It was always going to be slightly difficult to fill his father's musical shoes. Franz Xaver was certainly a gifted pianist who toured extensively through the German speaking parts of Europe, but also in Denmark, Russia and Italy, and then spent most of his life as a private music tutor in the Ukraine. He also remained unmarried and had no children, so that particular musical lineage sadly disappeared. In terms of personality, Franz Xaver was very unlike his father. He was introverted, constantly underrated his own talent and feared that whatever he composed would be compared to the compositions of his father, and of course, it was. His father's shadow even followed him after his death. On his tombstone we can read, "May the name of his father be his epitaph, as his veneration for him was the essence of his life."

Franz Xaver composed about 30 compositions, assorted Sonatas, some chamber music and 2 piano concertos, with his music remaining stylistically firmly in the mature musical style of his father. Franz Xaver was never going to be able to escape the shadow of his father, but both composers were born with exceptional musical talent and aptitude into a fertile environment that recognized, encouraged and nurtured that particular talent.

Neville Gibb

Patchwork

A fabulous day last Thursday with Vivienne. Her work and story great to see and hear.

We have booked her to run a workshop in December Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th more details later (will have limited space).



Dorothy Webber

Play Reading

'Witness for the Prosecution' by Agatha Christie

This is both a short story and a play. The story was first given the title 'Witness for the Prosecution' in 1933 and then adapted as a play by Agatha Christie in 1953. There has since been one film and many television adaptations (Check Wikipedia for details).

So far the Benalla U3A play readers have read two Acts, the first being set in chambers of the defence counsel and the second in the courtroom.

Leonard Vole has been accused of the murder of Miss French with whom he did conduct a relationship which he claims was platonic.

Mrs Vole is his alibi for the time of the murder. Her answers under interrogation are not really convincing. She seems to be covering for her husband.....

Oh yes! And Miss French (who was rich) has left her entire estate to Leonard Vole.

We will continue reading 'Witness for the Prosecution' in the October Play Reading session. Wednesday 3rd October.

Jenny Sawyer

Politics and Current Affairs

I think "musical chairs" would be the party game politicians would excel at, but watch out for bullying by the boys! This is usually the stage of the year where I begin to find it harder to find material as we approach the end of the year, yes I know its Spring and we have a way to go! This year we should still be finding new topics as both Victoria and New South Wales will be focused on forthcoming state elections. American politics will be consumed by the half term elections and the continual series of tweets from Trump. Britain may

go to elections early as the Government is torn apart by the lack of progress and consensus caused by Brexit and Boris Johnson. Plenty to keep the Politics class occupied!

Terry Case

Recorder Group

With our trusty recorders under our arms and sessions of recorder practice in place we were ready for our debut performance at The Coffee Club at the nearby C.W.A hall. Unfortunately, a timetable glitch saw us put off to another day.

Janet got us working on some new pieces and before we knew it we were trying new songs, with different parts and rounds, revising notes and learning new ones so any sense of disappointment was changed quite soon to one of achievement.



Our new audience, the portraits in North East Artisan's Gallery 2, certainly enjoyed our performance.

From now on Janet will work with The Beginners and Advanced group together. Please check for emails from Andy for times of extra practices on a Monday afternoon.

Pat Treleaven

Singing for Fun

U3A Benalla was invited to be the guest speaker at the Cooinda AGM on Tuesday 25th September 2018. As part of this presentation the members of the Singing for Fun group were invited to sing. Whilst their performance was not long, it was great to be able to show the variety of songs that we enjoy singing.

One of the interesting aspects of the past month was when our Convenor, Joyce Borschmann decided to show us how a song could be improved by the use of drama. Many of us were unaware that Joyce had been a drama instructor during her teaching career, and were enthralled at the interest that could be added to "Right said Fred"

by Joyce. Hopefully we have learnt a little of what she was showing us and put it into our rendition of that song at Cooinda.

We thank our leaders Faith Hicks, Brian Greed and Margaret Merriman who continue to provide us with ways to improve the songs we are singing.

Just a reminder that we are performing two songs at the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1 on Sunday 11 November 2018 at 2pm in the Benalla Town Hall. Also our end of year performances will be at Meet and Mingle on Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 10am at the Senior Citizens complex, and at Cooinda on Thursday 6 December 2018 at 10.30am.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

Dookie College's relatively new automated dairy at Nalinga, 30km west of Benalla, was the meeting place for 11 of us in September.

Damian Finnegan, three months into the dairy manager's job, greeted us and provided an articulate and knowledgeable account of the operation.

It is on 89ha (220ac) of clover/ryegrass pasture beside the Broken River and comprises three flood irrigated blocks and some elevated dryland.

The 150 head strong herd calves three times a year and 133 head were producing up to 45L a day each through four Lely Acrobat robotic milkers when we called. Newly calved cows were producing more like 20L a day. The Acrobats allow cows to be milked up to three times a day although the average is about 2.2.

Each cow carries an electronic tag around her neck which pretty much controls how much in bail feed she gets, how the machines adjust the application of cups to her particular udder, where her milk goes (colostrum is labelled, stored and fed to her specific calf), and at every milking, records numerous health indicators like cud chewing activity, temperature and weight.

Many cows were clearly showing their ribs and some Stock and Land members thought they were a bit thin. But Damian said they had recently been body scored at about 4.5, which he said was "pretty high" and more than adequate for maximum milk production and health.

The cows have 20kg of grass, 7kg of pellets and 3kg of hay available to them every day "which is more than they can eat," he said.

This visitor was impressed by the quiet efficiency of the operation; the only dramatic event was the

release over about one minute, of a flood of several thousand litres of recycled water from special silos, to wash down the yards and dairy floor. Because of the short term deleterious effect of effluent applied directly to pastures, it is dewatered and stored and is likely soon to be composted. Some goes to a worm farm.

Damian said the expense of running the operation, had blown out unexpectedly by about \$20,000 in technician's charges, incurred since May when they had to repair wiring chewed by an invasion of rats.

"One wire down and the whole system goes down," Damian said.



There are about 20 Lely Acrobat automatic milking systems in operation around Australia with one dairy having 10 units. But major growth is expected in Tasmania where 18 robotic installations are planned.

The speaker for our next meeting on Tuesday October 2 will be Dr Dennis O'Brien who will speak about animal welfare. Dennis has worked extensively in Asia on agricultural development projects and was in 2002 appointed associate professor and head of the Dookie Campus of the University of Melbourne.

Dennis and wife Gail run Wagyu and Wagyu cross cattle on their farm near Stewarton.

David Palmer

Tech Savvy Beginners 'Be Connected'

This month we used the Be Connected website learning modules to learn about data and connecting to others through Apps such as Whatsapp and Skype.

We did learn that Whatsapp can only be installed onto a mobile phone; not a tablet!

September was the last scheduled session specifically for Android users.

We now invite both Apple and Android users to attend our follow up sessions with Bev Lee (same time and place: 1:30 - 3:30pm)

1. Wednesday 3rd October
2. Wednesday 17th October
3. Wednesday 7th November
4. Wednesday 21st November

This will give registered learners a chance to hone in on particular areas they still would like help with, ie. Searching online, Emailing, Downloading Apps, Using the cameras, Connecting online, and more.....

Happy computing to all Be Connected participants.

Jenny Sawyer

Tech Savvy Projects

Family History projects are featuring at all of our sessions at the moment. It is so good to watch as people develop familiarity with ancestry.com and begin to move around it with greater ease. It's not too long before people with good computer skills feel confident in working on their project at home. Over recent months we have been following our travellers using their 'Find Penguins' travel blogs on the internet during our sessions. 'Find Penguins' is a versatile app which can be used on laptops, tablets and smartphones when travelling. It is quite intuitive to learn for people with good internet skills. 'Tech Savvy Projects' provides an opportunity to get support in setting up a 'Find Penguins' travel blog before you head off if you aren't particularly confident. On returning home, there is the option of creating a beautiful photobook based on the Find Penguins travel blog to keep as a permanent record. While many photobook apps and programs are available, members with intermediate to advanced computer skills are finding Find Penguins a worthwhile option. A reminder to 'Be Connected' short course members, you are welcome to come along to work on your modules at the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 3 to 4.30pm sessions of Tech Savvy Projects.

Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Talks

This month Tech Savvy Talkers looked at the exciting new technology of CRISPR Cas9 for use as a gene editing tool. This technology was awarded "Breakthrough of the Year 2015" by the prestigious *Science* magazine of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

This tool allows editing, ie removing or replacing a single base pair of the 3 billion in a DNA sequence

of the human genome or of course replacing whole genes. The co-inventor of the process, Jennifer Doudna likens it to using a word processor for editing text. The ramifications are far reaching ranging from curing genetic diseases in humans or animals ie blood diseases or types of cancer, creating new types of medication, modifying crops etc. One application of great importance is the ability to eradicate whole species such as the malaria causing mosquito which kills one thousand children a day at present. There could be unforeseen impacts of doing so. This known as a gene drive. Designer humans are also theoretically possible. The great strength of CRISPR is the ease and low cost of using the technology. This also its greatest threat.

There are many moral and ethical issues similar to those for AI and there is a worry that the technology is advancing so quickly that the regulators are unable to keep up.

Videos that we used are:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdBAHexVYzc

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BXYSgepx7Q

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI_OhvOumT0

Les Rodgers

Towards a Sustainable Future

When our convenor John Lloyd is unable to come to class he always provides articles for us to discuss, however we sometimes become distracted! At our last session, with John in Melbourne at a conference; our ex-VFL player Frank attending the football finals and Kathy 'leading some birdo and plant people from Alexandra at Reef Hills', the remaining members covered many topics. Most related to our focus area of sustainability! Two of our newer members were asked why they had become interested in and so highly value a sustainable environment. A love of nature developed during childhood featured in their responses—a common theme amongst our members. Group members were also asked how they felt their grandchildren were responding to climate change, whether they appear to be depressed or worried about it, resulting in an interesting discussion. Did you know that BSFG's action group 'Renewable Energy Benalla', is 'for Benalla to become a zero net energy town by 2028 by reducing and balancing energy demand with 100% renewable energy supply'. It is approaching its mission from three angles – 'Reducing 1/3', 'Replacing 1/3' and 'Switching 1/3'. Find out more at Renewable Energy Benalla's website - <https://reb.org.au>

Travel Group

This month we welcomed Angela and Rosa to our group. Both ladies are on a mission to get out there a bit more. Rosa gave us an entertaining glimpse at what it's like to actually work on a cruise ship and Stella has been "up the coast practising to live out of a suitcase" in readiness for her next big trip on The Ghan. Dave and Rhonda are having their weekend in Melbourne soon and Henry is back and had some more "big fish" tales to tell about his winter sojourn up north.



Stella at Travel Group's Vine Hotel Lunch

October 17th will be our last travel group meeting at the U3A rooms and the last opportunity to discuss the South Africa details. For anyone still interested in the South Africa trip in about July or August next year the cut-off date for booking and deposits is the end of October. After that we are planning a local dinner get-together before the Christmas obligations are upon us all.

Happy travels!

Judy Perry

Wine Appreciation

On the 26th September Benalla U3A's Wine Appreciation Group revisited Longleat Winery at Murchison. In 2004 Guido and Sandra Vazzoler bought the property, where they now produce 6 red and white high quality wines. On a perfect Spring day, we were all seated on the veranda, where we listened attentively as Guido explained how quality wines are created. Obviously a high degree of technical skill and knowledge of winemaking is a prerequisite. Our group was given tastings of each of the 6 varieties, then Sandra, herself an experienced cheesemaker, served us platters of tasty antipasta, which included some of her cheeses.

To top off a perfect day, we were served Italian slices with coffee. As a postscript, Guido and Sandra will be running organised Food & Wine tours to Italy's Verona region.



Wine Appreciation Wednesday 24 October

Meet at 10.00 am for a leisurely drive to **La Cantina Winery in the King Valley**. Lunch at the Moyhu Hotel. This group outing completes our 21st year of activities.

Bev Thornell and Noel Meagher

Writing Workshop

Creative Writing

Everyone enjoyed the challenge of writing at least once a week. The contributions were shared, with some of them providing good pictures of events or scenes. Then there was an April Fool's joke paragraph and a poem.

For next month the challenge is to find a headline form a news story, not read the story, but write a paragraph fitting to the headline. This could be a fantasy, a mystery, or any thought that comes.

Joy Shirley

Memoir Writing

Our late August meeting began with a 'guest presenter' spot by group member Noelle McCracken. who shared many entertaining memories of her 'Life in Books'. Noelle mentioned knowing 'lots of gossip' from the world of books, but very cleverly, and almost certainly to preserve privacy, 'left that for another time'. Our August topic '[On the Job](#)' –evoked lots of memories, including Bev's memories of teaching English to a class of young lawyers during a politically turbulent period in pre-democracy Madrid; Elizabeth's memories of being at work in Ireland 'waiting with baited breath' during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962; Noelle's descriptions of post retirement adventures as a tour guide; Helen's memories of working in her mother's milk bar and of still occasionally being recognized and asked 'Aren't you Mrs Duggin's daughter?' Stories shared in September on '[How we met](#)' featured Neville's evocative story of his experience of being with Jenny at the birth of their three sons and so meeting each of them for the first time. Neville also engaged us with stories of how he met Lionel Rose and Chips Rafferty! Noelle shared the story of finally meeting 'Miss D. Lite', long a mysterious

name on a mailing list; Bev her first meeting four years ago with her 87 year old half sister Lenore. Joy described getting to know neighbours who became friends and then a street community; David his 'farming forged friendship' with a now lifetime friend who he will be meeting up with on Grand Final Eve this Friday for a 'not too boozy' restaurant meal in Melbourne; Betty meeting her treasured tennis playing male friend and confidante; and Jenny the dawning realisation, in the strangest place and oddest situation, that she had rediscovered a 'preps grade' friend, Josephine Sarah, more than fifty if not sixty decades later.

We have two topics for October. The first follows our tradition of writing a story or poem on the topic set for the Benalla Writing Competition, with some members submitting their work to the competition. The theme for this years Festival, '*Our Backyard – a celebration of special places and spaces*', is the focus of the writing competition. Our other October topic is '[Personal Challenge](#)' The brief - '*Often the most rewarding challenges are the ones we set ourselves. Share a story about stepping outside your comfort zone in the name of self-improvement.*'

Bev Lee

Program News

Advanced Care Planning 2

Following a successful session on Advanced Care Planning in October 2017 and requests from members, U3A Benalla is offering a single session course, **Advanced Care Planning 2**, on Friday 30 November between 9.30 am and 12 noon in the U3A Room at the Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre. The session is designed to continue the conversation with professionals regarding pre determined care options, enabling people to better communicate their wishes with family and allied professionals. The course is being offered in conjunction with Damian Feehan, Funeral Director, N.J.Todd; Brendan Smith, Smith Dosser Accountants; and Benalla Health's Palliative Care and Loss and Grief Counselling services. Enquiries regarding the session may be made by contacting Margaret Walshe on 5762 3906 or email margaretwalshe@bigpond.com

Thank You

Steph Ryan and her office staff

for the printing of hard copies of our newsletter
for mailing out and distribution.

What's On

Monday, 1 October

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
10:00am Art Appreciation rescheduled to next week
1:30pm Brain Games - no session today

Tuesday, 2 October

10:00am E-Book Group
10:00am Stock&Land-Dennis O'Brien:Animal Welfare
2:00pm Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 3 October

9:30am Play Reading - 'Witness for the Prosecution'
10:00am Easy Walks - Reef Hills (wildflower check)
1:30pm Tech Savvy 'Be Connected' Follow Up #1

Thursday, 4 October

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

Friday, 5 October

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future
1:30pm Investment

Monday, 8 October

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Collectors - 'Education/School Days'
10:00am Lifeball
10:00am Art Appreciation – Benalla Art Gallery's '50th Anniversary Exhibition'
1:30pm Creative Writing
2:00pm Garden Team - 'Val'

Tuesday, 9 October

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
1:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History
3:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'Other Projects'
3:00pm Be Connected @Tech Savvy Projects

Wednesday, 10 October

10:00am Mid Week Walk - Reef Hills - circular walk
10:00am Recorder Group @ North East Artisans
10:00am Tech Savvy Talks
1:00pm Film and Literature - 'Christopher Robin'

Thursday, 11 October

9:30am Birdwatching - Reef Hills
10:00am Singing for Fun - Harmony Group
2:30pm Executive Meeting

Friday, 12 October

10:00am Music Appreciation
1:30pm Armchair History

Monday, 15 October

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball

Tuesday, 16 October

1:30pm Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 17 October

10:00am Meet and Mingle Speaker to be Confirmed
12:15pm Travel Group
1:30pm Tech Savvy 'Be Connected' Follow Up #2

Thursday, 18 October

10:00am Singing for Fun

1:00pm Patchwork

Friday, 19 October

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future
12:00pm Chat n' Chew - North Eastern Hotel
1:30pm Hot Topics – 'Forward Planning for Benalla'

Monday, 22 October

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
1:30pm Writing Workshop - 'Our Back Yard' and 'Personal Challenge'

Tuesday, 23 October

10:00am Politics & Current Affairs
1:30pm Tech Savvy Projects - Family History
3:00pm Tech Savvy Projects - 'Other Projects'
3:00pm Be Connected @Tech Savvy Projects

Wednesday, 24 October

10:00am Wine Appreciation - La Cantina, King Valley
10:00am Games
10:00am Recorder Group @ North East Artisans
2:00pm Member Services Group

Thursday, 25 October

9:30am Garden Appreciation – Morning Tea & Poetry Reading followed by May's garden at Warrenbayne
9:30am Seniors Fest– U3A Morning Tea & Poetry Reading
12:00pm Newsletter Deadline
1:00pm Tech Savvy Projects
3:00pm Tech Savvy Talkers @ The Northo

Friday, 26 October

10:00am Music Appreciation
1:30pm Armchair History

Monday, 29 October

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
2:00pm Garden Team - 'Bill and Jane'

Thursday, 1 November

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

Friday, 2 November

9:30am Towards a Sustainable Future
1:30pm Investment

Monday, 5 November

9:30am Exercises for Fun
10:00am Lifeball
10:00am Art Appreciation
1:30pm Brain Games

Wednesday, 7 November

9:30am Easy Walks
9:30am Play Reading
1:30pm Tech Savvy 'Be Connected' Follow Up #3

Thursday, 8 November

9:30am Birdwatching - Glenrowan West
10:00am Singing for Fun - Harmony Group
2:30pm Executive Meeting

Friday, 9 November

10:00am Music Appreciation
1:30pm Armchair History