



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – October 2019

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by 25 Oct 2019

President's Report

On 17th September Lorraine Knox and I attended a **U3A Regional Meeting** in Seymour. Benalla was congratulated on our growing membership and our diverse courses. It's always great to come together with other U3A's and share ideas

October's Meet & Mingle on Wednesday 16th October will be replaced by a **celebration of Seniors Week**. There will be a Morning Tea at 9:30 am sponsored by Age Friendly Benalla & Benalla Rural City Council. This will be followed by a BBQ Lunch at midday sponsored by The Good Things Foundation, with the Be Connected class meeting for their session after lunch. Come to one or come to both! RSVP Dorothy 0412263071 or email president@u3abenalla.com

Meetings have been held with all **users of The Seniors Community Centre** to discuss how best to use the space. More news to come. Happily all users are now welcome to use the automatic doors when they are open.

Convenors' Workshop Friday October 25th 1:30 pm. This is to thank our dedicated volunteers and run training on photocopier, overhead projector, TV, etc.

Housekeeping - The Urn The tap of the urn must be facing the front. If it is left slightly off-centre the tap the tap will leak.

Christmas Lunch 2019 A date for your diary! Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Goorambat Railway Hotel on Wednesday November 27th. Lunch & Bus \$40 - Lunch only \$35. Form will be included in November's Newsletter. For further information or to RSVP, contact Heather Rodgers 5762 4086.

Dorothy Webber, President

Group Reports

Armchair Traveller

Our guest speaker for September was Brian Greed who showed a video of his travels in Europe and Britain. Thanks to Brian for coming in at short notice.

On October 1st we will be entertained by Bill Parris. November is a "no go" because our date falls on Melbourne Cup day, and on December 3rd we will welcome Margaret Jenkins, with a viewing on Norway.

Ray O'Shannessy

Art Appreciation

We have received news from Shanley that the Gallery will not be running a U3A/First Mondays talk on Monday 4th November. This is due to the long weekend, Melbourne Cup Day being Tuesday 5th November. The December talk will run as usual on Monday 2nd December, 10am: Eliza-Jane Gilchrist, *Strange Garden*, in the Simpson Gallery.

Meredith Paez will remind us at the next talk on Monday 7th October, when she will be speaking about the exhibition *Working the Land*. The paintings in this exhibition are historically and culturally diverse but all share a common thread – men and women working the land.

For members keen to come along as a 'taster' in October or December, our long running Art Appreciation sessions have been incorporated in the Gallery's new *First Mondays* sessions held at the Library - cost \$2. Members often get together in the gallery's café for a coffee after the session. All welcome.

Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

Our topic for September was 'If Only?' We found that 'If only?' stories don't have to have sad endings; could be part of a journey which eventually became positive; could be light hearted; could range across the spectrum from personal to the political. A link to some of our 'If Only?' stories will be added to the website shortly. We are still awaiting for the fine detail of Benalla Festival's Writing Competition to be released before beginning stories for our October session. We know it will relate in some way to Benalla Festival's theme for 2019 'Fiesta of Festivities - a celebration of events and festivals that bring the community together'. Our task for November is to keep a note book close by in which we note any 'triggers' which lead us to reminisce about a time in our lives. We may be talking to someone, watching television or a film, driving somewhere, reading a book. We are to choose one to three of these and write about the memories evoked – keeping the total words to 500 – 750 words. As it's taster time – please join or re-join us on 28 October and/or 25 November from 2 to 4 pm. You might like even to bring a story to share!

Bev Lee

Bird Watching

Eight members of our bird watching group made an enjoyable visit to Killawarra Forest at the northern end of the Warby Ranges on 12 September. Instead of our usual morning outing, this time we each brought lunch to make the most of a lovely place for spring bird watching. As we approached the forest, a magnificent Wedge-tailed Eagle flew up from the roadside, carrying a small rabbit. It flew across the road in front of us, then dropped its prey as it was pursued by a magpie.



Our best sighting in the forest was a pair of Hooded Robins flying around Irishtown Track. This is a declining woodland bird that is disappearing from places it has been found in the past. We had good looks at a Pallid Cuckoo calling from high in a dead tree, and were surprised to see a pelican flying over the forest. Some of the other birds we saw included Jacky Winter, Grey Fantail, Rufous Whistler, Dusky Wood swallow and a flock of 18 White-winged Choughs. There were also good numbers of honeyeaters and thornbills which are always a challenge to observe. We also saw a few Leopard Orchids, Pink Fingers and Blue Fingers while walking at the old oval. At one point we were looking for babblers, and someone (was it Bev?) described us as a group of Grey-crowned Babblers. Much laughter.

Next outing -Thursday 10 October 2019 - Chesney Hills

This will be a morning visit to a reserve off Chesney Vale Road. Please meet in the car park behind the seniors building at 9.30am, bringing water and any food you need for the morning. As usual, sturdy shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen are advised.

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

Apologies all round - there were so many that I cancelled but I apologise to those who didn't see my email notification in time. We'll be back in October!

Elsbeth Maconachie

Bushwalks

Easy Walks

4 September 2019 - Euroa Arboretum & Seven Creeks Walking Track



A near perfect Spring day was enjoyed in the Euroa area by four enthusiastic participants.

The morning was spent at the Arboretum wandering along & off tracks. We attempted to identify & compare the numerous indigenous plants coming into bloom, some without labels! This was intercepted by frog croaks & other aquatic creatures in the ponds & waterways. The many colourful native birds chirping & feeding on the nectar rich flowers heralded in Spring. A fascinating morning discovering what nature has to offer.

The afternoon was equally as interesting & varied along the northern section of the Seven Creeks Walking Track. This area encompasses the Floodplain Riparian Woodland with areas of revegetation & the creek crossing at The Rockies. We finished at the VC Memorial Park; three bronze statues of Ted Tubb, Alex Burton & Leslie Maygar stand in pride of place, immortalising the bravery of three local area Victoria Cross recipients.

Coming Up - Wednesday, 6 November 2019 - Yarrowonga A walk along the foreshore of Lake Mulwala to Chinamans Island. Originally an area used by the Aborigines to hunt for food & to gather fruit & seeds from the Riverine vegetation. Later a market garden undertaken by the Chinese immigrants. The area has been rehabilitated with walking tracks overlooking the Lake & the Murray River with interpretive signage. Following lunch we will visit the Yarrowonga Weir, completed in 1939; the largest of the 14 weirs along the Murray River downstream of the Hume Reservoir. Lunch: As this will be our last walk for 2019, we will **lunch on the PS Cumberoona** departing 12 midday for a BBQ Lunch and 1.5 hour cruise around Lake Mulwala, cost \$28.00, payment on boarding at 11.45 am. NOTE: Walkers, please meet at the Seniors Complex, Fawckner Drive, Benalla carpark at 8.45 am; bring water & nibbles. People wishing to join us for lunch & cruise only, meet at the PS Cumberoona, Yarrowonga at 11.45 am. As numbers are required by the PS Cumberoona, please confirm booking with Margaret Walshe, ph: 0357623906/0427005202 by Wednesday 30 October '19. U3A Benalla "Taster Time" - Come & enjoy the Mighty Murray River.

Margaret Walshe

Mid Week Walks

Seven Creeks and Balmattum Hill – September 11

On Wednesday September 11th I led a happy group of nine Benalla Bushwalkers along Euroa's 7 Creeks Walk and up Balmattum Hill. The track was steep but well formed.

After several breathers to take photos of the view, we finally made it to the top, where we had lunch. Those of us who still had the energy hopped over the fence and trudged up the paddock to the first group of rocks. From here, we had a bird's eye view across Euroa township and surrounding farmland, all the way to the distant hills. Retracing our steps and crossing the little bridge over Seven Creeks, we followed the track back to the cars and nearby picnic tables.

Afternoon tea here was very welcome. Perfect Spring weather and a great group of (mostly) well-behaved walkers equated to an enjoyable day out.

Good for you Rupert, who skipped all the way up and down...??

Bev Thornell



Upcoming Walk - Wednesday 9th October: Delatite River, Mirimbah Park S-3-3

An easy walk along the Delatite River starting at Mirimbah park, returning the same way. Meet at the 'The Centre' Tennis Courts Barkly Street, 9.00am – Depart 9.15am.

John Boehm

Chat n' Chew

Our lunch time date on the 18th October will be our last for 2019. We will meet at the North East Hotel at 11.45. Ring Shirley Kearney 5762 6768 by Tuesday 15th October to book in.

Shirley has been the convenor of Chat n' Chew since its inception many years ago and needs a break, if nobody takes over from Shirley Chat n' Chew will fold, we desperately need another convenor.

If you are interested talk to one of the executive committee. No experience needed

Shirley Kearney

Collectors



Weddings was our theme and we had a very interesting display of wedding items including wedding gowns, photos and other memorabilia of parents, grandparents, nieces and aunts weddings, as well as photos and memorabilia of our own weddings .

These included a beautiful post-war wedding gown which much admired and a photo of the wedding party with the bride wearing it. There was also a 1960's wedding dress again with a photo of the bride and groom, a wedding album, a decoration from the top of the cake and horseshoes.

A beautiful wedding photo, a doll which decorated the wedding car and a newspaper cutting with a description of the wedding was also shown.

There were also older photos of parent's weddings, grandparent's weddings as well as a newspaper cutting from Trove with details of another grandparent's wedding.

Various other wedding photos and memorabilia led to much discussion and reminiscences of the items displayed as we wandered down memory lane.

On October 14th we will have an excursion to Dookie to the Doll Museum with lunch at 'The Chateau'

Judith Borthwick

Creative Writing

This month the challenge was set ahead of time. The challenge was to find a word that is not in common use, and then write a sentence that shows the meaning of the word. A few of the words used were invigilator (an exam supervisor), panjandrum (a person who has or claims to have a lot of authority or influence), heliotropism (the directional growth of a plant in response to sunlight) and hypnagogic (relating to the state immediately before falling asleep).

We were also treated to a couple of sentences using the Doric dialect from the north east of Scotland. Fortunately we were also read the English translation. We followed this with a discussion around learning and understanding a second language, and the differences in dialects and terminology between different countries – for example understanding Australian terminology by people coming from other English-speaking countries. It is not only learning a new language that can be confusing, with some examples shared by the class members who moved to Australia.

One of the contributions was around climbing fences – not a specific occasion but touching on the different types of fences we can climb. We concluded that as this gave a range of descriptions, it was definitely

creative writing. Further discussion also around how our writing will always be influenced by our life experiences, things we have seen and books that we have read or films we have watched.

Our topics for **14 October** are a choice between:

The bar was deserted when he entered – just the bar tender cleaning the bar

Jack was large, nearly 200 centimetres tall, a solid man, but far from overweight

Who were these people who seemed to know where they were going but had never been seen in the small town?

And remember, we are now starting our session at **2:30pm**.

Joy Shirley

e-Book Group

John Le Carre acknowledges his debt to Graham Greene in *The Tailor of Panama*, yet his account of life in Panama before the US withdrawal is entirely original, and ingenious. The hapless Harry Pendel, tailor to those who matter, and many who don't, is not entirely who he says he is, and hence easy pickings for the villainous Andrew Osnard, a British spy and one of Le Carre 's most evil creations. Pendel's mission is to provide Intelligence on those most likely to take over the Panama Canal should there be a power vacuum. It becomes increasingly obvious that his reports are complete fabrications, and, as this fragile house of cards collapses, the consequences for his family, close friends, and of course Harry are catastrophic. Everything we expect from a spy thriller is there, villains aplenty, vivid descriptions of Panama, and a twist at the end when evil triumphs.

Helen Scheller

Exercises for Fun

We all know there is no one perfect workout or exercise; everyone is different. Creating an exercise habit is difficult, but finding an enjoyable one, can make it easier to stick to.

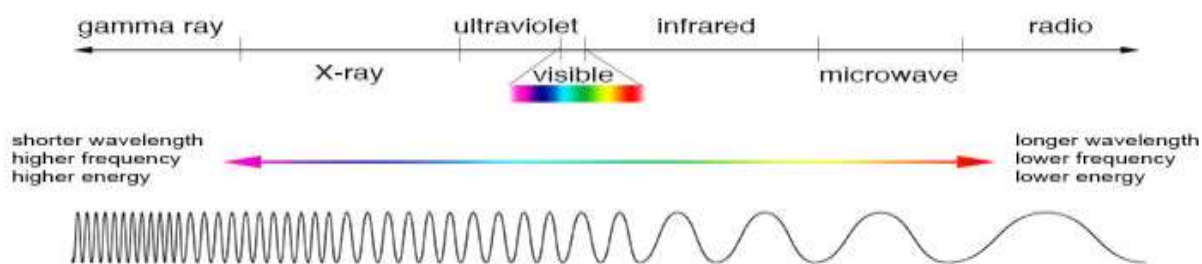
You are invited to come and try our enjoyable Exercise class, to see if it could be for you. We meet 9.30am every Monday in the Senior Citizens room.

Hope to see you there. Have fun

Helen Jeffree

Exploring the Universe

'Light' is powerful electromagnetic radiation emitted from stars and objects in the Universe. Our human eyes see only a very limited amount of the light of the spectrum that comes from the Sun. It is known to us as visible light, yet bees can see pollen in ultra violet light and snakes track their prey at night with infrared vision.



In September we delved into the field of X-ray Astronomy with Rupe presenting 'A History of the Discovery of X-ray Astronomy.'

X-rays are among the most energetic forms of light in the universe; beamed through space by extreme objects, including supernova explosions, colliding stars, neutron stars and supermassive black holes.

In 1962 Riccardo Giacconi, rejected by NASA, led a team funded by the U.S. Air force. They shot a rocket with a detector into space. The flight reached above 80 kms and lasted almost 6 minutes but in that time it pinpointed 9000 year old photons of x-ray light in the constellation of Scorpius. He had found Scorpius X-1, the brightest known enduring x-ray outside the solar system. Giacconi pioneered x-ray telescopes in space. The depth of our atmosphere prevents detection of x-rays on Earth. The Chandra x-ray telescope is in an

elliptical orbit one third of the way to the moon where the Earth can't interfere with its view of the heavens.

We viewed "First Light of the Chandra X-ray Telescope" showing the excitement as the team saw the first images of the gas exploded from stars and the sources of the expulsion of the elements into space that have produced life here on Earth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omMn85XDQUc>

We finished in a lighter mode with film of a phenomenon named STEVE, a streak of purple light present at times with auroras. It turns out that Steve is not an aurora but is caused by magnetic explosions more than 22,000kms above us hurling streams of hot plasma towards Earth! When the material reaches an altitude of 250 kms above Earth it emits mauve light. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRHwGD-is9U>

Bev Morton

Film and Literature

Our movie for discussion this month was "Late Night".

The film was a piece of light entertainment. There were a couple of excellent performances, with the three most appreciated were Emma Thompson (Katherine), as the bitchy late night television presenter, Mindy Kaling (Molly) as the new writer recruited as she was female and from the sub-continent, and a smaller part by John Lithgow (Walter) who played Katherine's husband.

The film was promoted as a comedy, but mostly we found just a few chuckles, rather than lots of laughter. It did reflect some real-life scenarios which many of us had encountered during our professional lives. And it did remind us of the film "The Devil Wears Prada".

There were a lot of different relationships developed during the film, ranging from Katherine's relationship with her team of writers (all white males, and whose names she did not know, so she gave them numbers), her relationship with Molly as the new token writer, Molly's relationship with her co-writers (who did not welcome her as an interloper) and Katherine's relationship with her husband.

Most of the class rated it as 3 out of 5, although a couple rated it lower.

With the school holidays, films in September and early October are predominately aimed at children. Apart from these, the most interesting for most of the group is "An Australian Dream." This documentary, based on Adam Goodes, does not start screening until just prior to our class, so we decided that we would focus on attending one of the animated films screening towards the end of September. So our film for discussion at the 9 October class is "Abominable", a children's animated film which screens at BPACC between 20 September and 4 October

Joy Shirley

Games

Our small group has lots of fun! You're welcome to come and try. First Monday, 1.30 to 3.30 pm.

Dorothy Webber

Garden Appreciation

October 24th

Meet at U3A car park at 9.30 a.m. A quick morning tea at our room before we head off to Beechworth to visit Peter Rucins' garden at 13 Spring Street Beechworth. We then have a second garden to visit, that of Paul West 4 Fleury Court Beechworth, there is a \$5 entry for this garden.

Lunch will be at the Hibernian Hotel 36 Camp Street Beechworth at your own cost. Please advise me if you are coming and any dietary requirements.

November 28th

Meet at U3A car park at 9.30. Morning tea and our first garden will be at Bill and Helen Squires, 15 McNulty Drive 57626334. Tea, coffee and hot water supplied bring a plate to share.

We will drop into Wilma and Kevin Green's garden to see Kevin's garden art on our way to Geraldine and Garry McCorkell's farm garden for lunch. Our lunch will be catered for, by Helen Kerekes at a cost of \$12 per person.

Please advise me if you are coming and any dietary requirements. Gwen 0438627010 or 5762 7017.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team

We cancelled in early September and I'm sure we'll be luckier on September 30th when we meet at Goomalibee Rd - it was a day of bone-chilling wind and a popular decision.

Elsbeth Maconachie

German - Intermediate

The one hour sessions always flew, but now we are thinking and speaking in German, they go in a whoosh. The pressure of time makes it too easy to lapse into English. Hence, it has been decided to extend the sessions by 15 minutes. On the first meeting of the month i.e. October 14 and November 11, class will start 11.45 a.m. and finish at 1.00 p.m. On the second meeting of the month i.e. October 28 and November 25, class will start at noon and finish at 1.15 p.m. *Participants are asked to amend their diaries accordingly.*

We welcomed a new member, whose first language was German, to our group. His input in just one session has been appreciated.

Two of our members, who have adult children living in Germany, made presentations and then fielded questions in German. These were very interesting and the preparation time was impressive. A third member presented riddles in German, and we had to guess the answer, in German of course.

The smaller group has meant that sessions are of a more informal, tutorial style. Pronunciation is being perfected. In achieving this, a fourth member has taken us back to basics and we are mastering the sounds of the alphabet in German. Other activities have included chess pieces and placements, a crossword puzzle with clues and answers in German, furthering our knowledge of grammar by using adjectives and verbs as nouns, and learning another German song.

It is a great joy that everyone is such a willing and enthusiastic participant; my gratitude to all.

Pauline Bailey

History: After the Victorians

We are reviewing the 1920s and 1930s both in Australia and Europe and the period where all the hopes for peace and prosperity are challenged. The focus will next move to Britain's greatest asset, India "the jewel in the crown" and look at the tactics of the humble revolutionary, Gandhi.

Terry Case

Investment

At the September meeting of Investment we looked at the Reporting season in August and how it applied to a selected number of stocks. We noted that there was a modest growth in profits for most companies, the dividends in the majority of cases being slightly increased or just maintained. Perhaps this was a follow on from the increased dividends from some companies seen pre-Election.

We also looked at an article by Alan Hull regarding a group of infrastructure companies which continue to build value.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 4th October 2019 at 2pm in the U3A room at the Seniors Centre.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

Sidney Sheldon made an appearance this month in *Stranger in the Mirror*, which was a tad disappointing, this was followed by a Michael Connelly suspense *The Closers*. *A Time for Heroes*, war tales by Frank Barnard was enjoyed by this reader. *The English Assassin* a spy novel by Daniel Silva published in 2002 is the second in the Gabriel Allon series, a good read. *The Tailor and the Shipwright* by Robert Westphal is a true story giving a unique historical account of the convict history and early Sydney, well worth the read. *House for All Seasons*, bequeathed a century old house, four estranged friends return to their hometown, they must stay for a whole season, many secrets revealed. Some audio books enjoyed were *Hello from the Gillespies* by Monica McInerney set on a family property in South Australia, and *Not Bad People* author Brandy Scott, set in a Victorian town.

Henry Himself by Stuart O'Nan, is described as a poignant novel. *The Overstory* written by American author, Richard Powers, who is passionate about the loss of trees in the world. The usual mystery novels,

The Tailor of Panama, John Le Carre divided opinion on this one, *Flesh and Blood* Patricia Cornwall and *The Moscow Sleeper* by Stella Rimington. The autobiography of *Julia Gillard* highlighted difficulties experienced in politics, she was criticised for her clothing and hair and the work hours were long and very pressured. *To Die in Spring* by German author Ralph Rothmann is a brutal coming of age in Nazi Germany. *A Spanner in the Works*, the extraordinary story of Alice Anderson set in the 1920's. Alice was the first woman Motor Mechanic, who had a garage in Cotham Road Kew with an all-woman workforce. An interesting and inspiring read.

We had such an interesting and varied lots of books this month. See you all on the 1st October.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

Benalla Lifeball recently had a Fun and Friendship Day, as the picture shows we had an excellent day.

30 people turned up from the North East of Victoria and southern NSW. We had a great time and the food was the delicious.

We will also be going to the Wangaratta Fun and Friendship Day in October.



Max Powell

0423525565

Meditation

Meditation is held the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, commencing at 4.00pm. Come along and join relaxing group. The benefits of meditation are well known and it is a valuable tool to cope with the hustle and bustle of everyday living

Caroline Sims

Meet and Mingle

Seniors Week Morning Tea

On our Meet and Mingle day Wednesday 16th October we are having a special Morning Tea to celebrate Seniors Week. Our Recorder Group will perform for us and a display of 'Collectables' from our Collectors group will be on display. Many thanks to Benalla Council for providing \$500 towards the cost of this morning tea. This Grant is part of community funding for Seniors Week in Benalla.

BBQ lunch

Following our Morning Tea U3A will launch '**Get Online Week**'. A requirement for this Grant is to hold a function to launch our Get Online Program during the week of the 14th – 18th October.

We will have a BBQ lunch following our Morning Tea at our rooms, so stay on after Morning Tea and learn a bit more about our 'Online' Course and enjoy a very sociable BBQ lunch.

As Technology increasingly takes over our lives the Courses we have run have been well attended and give our members more confidence to cope with all things technical.

Geraldine McCorkell

Music Appreciation

'**Russian Roulette**' was the title given to a recent published interview with visiting conductor Semyon Bychkov regarding the life and death of Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Describing him as a conflicted man because of his inability to repress his homosexuality, Bychkov considers him Russia's first successful composer. Tchaikovsky was born in the foothills of the Ural mountains and steeped in Cossack history. Although he travelled widely as a musical celebrity, he once wrote of himself: "I have never come across anyone more in love with Mother Russia. I love passionately the Russian people, the Russian language, the Russian way of thinking, the beauty of Russian faces, Russian customs". Nevertheless, according to Bychkov, "his unique

ability to look both outwards towards Europe and inwards at Russia, combined with a tendency to gloomy introspection, led his distinctive 'sound' to become for many, the very definition of 'Russian music'".

Both sessions in September were given over to exploring Tchaikovsky's music. When it came to choosing which works would best illustrate his musical life given the time available, perhaps that could be described, too, as an exercise in 'Russian Roulette'.

You can read about our choices on the U3A Music Appreciation web page where also you will find YouTube links to the musical selections.

Bill Squire

Patchwork

All day 9:30 - 4pm Thursday October 31st. This year's project (wall hangings) will be on display at Meet & Mingle 20th November. We have produced some amazing fish - bring them along so we can see them altogether.

Dorothy Webber

Politics and Current Affairs

We had a lively discussion provoked by the antics of Trump and his UK disciple Boris. Climate change and the politicization of so many young activists also drew our attention, I wish the politicians would get moving! I find I get more sense out of reading the business pages than the political pieces on this issue. Business big and small are factoring in losses from climate change and lobbying governments around the world to take action.

It is a pleasure to hear more members of the group getting involved and outlining their thoughts on the wide variety of topics we discuss.

Watch out next year for more current affairs as Hot Topics makes a welcome return!

Terry Case

Publishing Your Writing

Much discussion on character profiles and story boards. Only two more sessions this year so hope to see you, with your story, on Monday 21st October at 2.00pm

Noelle McCracken

Recorder Group

How delightful to have two little visitors to Recorder, especially as one came with a violin and was prepared to accompany our songs and then finish the session by playing a song for us.

Time was spent choosing and practising songs in preparation for our playing at Meet and Mingle at their morning tea on Wednesday, October 16th, playing through our growing set of favourites and learning new musical terms and techniques. We now have so many pieces to choose from!

We finished the session with a new piece that led to some very effective sight reading, and a repertoire of pieces to practise, practise, practise.

Pat Treleaven

Saturday Cards – 500

The 500 card group on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month is an enjoyable and relaxing way to spend a Saturday afternoon. The activity commences at 1.30pm and usually finishes around 3.45pm (depending on how long the games of cards take). There is laughter and the occasional 'what did I do that for'.

Players both new and those who used to play are becoming quite proficient in the game. Come along and be part of the fun. Contact Heather Wallace on 0418 353 244

Heather Wallace

Singing for Fun

Members of Singing for Fun are reminded that our concerts are coming around quite quickly. As usual we will be performing for U3A members at the November meeting of Meet and Mingle, which will be on Wednesday 20th November at 10am.

Our concert at Cooina this year is on Thursday 12th December 2019 at 10.30am. This will be followed by our end of year lunch at the Golf Club.

It has also been suggested that we could provide the residents of The Freemason's Homes in Benalla with a concert on Thursday 5th December 2019 at 10am. The Freemason's Homes opened earlier this year and the management of the Freemason's Homes are delighted that we will be performing there as well.

Members of our group were sorry to hear that one of our members Marjorie Geeson sustained a fall while she and Doug were house-sitting in Bundaberg. Marjorie's injuries were assessed in Bundaberg before she was transferred to Brisbane and from there to the Austin Hospital in Melbourne. We all wish you a satisfactory recovery Marjorie.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 3rd October 2019 at 10am in the U3A room at the Seniors Centre.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

Rare breed Drysdales live locally

Wendy Beer, who operates the only Drysdale sheep stud in Australia, spoke to the September Stock and Land session about what is now a rare breed in this country.

She runs four sheep breeds, two of which are studs, on Beersheba Farm, 50 acres of mostly native grasses, on Castle Hill Road, Moorngag. Her other stud is an English Leicester one, flock number 423.

Wendy said the Drysdale breed started in New Zealand in the 1920s when a Romney Marsh breeder identified valued medulated or hollow fibres on a hairy, horned ram lamb.

Horns were vital to identifying the medulated fibre carrying sheep, as were crimps in the fibre in the elbows of lambs; if there is no crimp in elbow wool when they are lambs, they are not Drysdales Wendy said.

New Zealand passed an act of parliament banning the export of Drysdales but a Tasmanian was able to import semen and use that in a Border Leicester flock in Tasmania in the late 1970s.

Drysdale fibre became important to carpet manufacturers because it significantly helped the spinability of the natural fibres they used. But when synthetic fibres became dominant in carpets, the need for Drysdale fibre largely evaporated. "It pretty well killed the Drysdale breed here," Wendy said.

But she maintains her sheep with dogged enthusiasm, supplying a fairly limited, but equally enthusiastic craft/hobby market.

While focussing on hand spinners and fibre crafters, Wendy aims to supply quality raw fleeces, as well as hand dyed fleeces, combed tops and yarns.

Her Drysdales produce two to 2.5kg of outer, inner and mixed yarn per head and it is very like the wool produced by Shetland Island and Icelandic sheep.

She said the wool was difficult to felt because of the medulation but a Tasmanian woman has perfected a method of doing so for craft purposes and showed a sample at the meeting.

Although there are about 10,000 Drysdales in New Zealand, Beersheba is the last pure Drysdale stud in this country. That and border security hurdles to be jumped to import NZ semen, makes sourcing new genetics a difficult proposition, she said.



David Palmer

Sustainability

At our first session in September there was much discussion about the fires in the Amazon rainforest and the fact that many were deliberately lit to clear land for agricultural use. While these fires are a major concern for the global community we were reminded that many governments around the world were not heeding the warnings from climate scientists. Dr Andrew Glikson, an Earth & Climate scientist at the ANU, writing in *The Age* (27/8/2019) stated, "As fires rage across the Amazon and while forests are ablaze in Siberia, Alaska, Greenland and southern Europe and parts of Australia it would appear parliaments - including Australia's - are preoccupied with economics and international conflicts while they hardly regard the future of civilization as a priority."

Unfortunately, many of the articles studied at Sustainability sessions reinforce this point.

The use of recycling is another topic regularly discussed with a number of members suggesting that Victoria should adopt a system similar to Germany with its better sorting of recyclables. An article by a recycling and waste consultant suggested that Victoria should implement a 4 bin system - organics, glass, other recycling and residual waste. If you live in urban Benalla you already have an organics bin which has been very successful in reducing the amount of material going to landfill.

Discussing the issue of recycling always raises the issue of why Victoria is the only state that has not adopted a container deposit scheme.

Another topic that led to much discussion was the question of energy bills and how they had been rising. This led to information about the Victorian government's energy reforms that were introduced on July 1st, including the Victorian Default Offer and the requirement that energy retailers must inform customers if they are on the best energy plan for their circumstances. (See www.esc.vic.gov.au/getting-best-energy-plan and www.energy.vic.gov.au/victoriandefaultoffer)

As the second Sustainability session for September would clash with the "*Global School Strike 4 Climate*" on September 20, I informed the group that I would not attend the session, as I would be attending a regional 'school strike' to support the young people who are asking adults all over the world to take urgent action on climate change. I encouraged other members of the group to do the same and no doubt this will be a topic for discussion at our first session in October

John Lloyd

Tech Savvy Beginners- Be Connected

Much progress has occurred with our Be Connected program during September. The modules we have looked at include information on Wi-Fi networks, Safety First Skills On Line and more On-line skills including Shopping On-line. We have also gone over how to send Emails to multiple people including the use of cc and bcc where appropriate.

One week during September we welcomed our U3A President Dorothy Webber as a Guest Presenter to Be Connected. Dorothy gave a great presentation on the benefits of Facebook, and shared some of her Facebook skills with the Be Connected members. Thank you Dorothy.

During September we have had a couple of new U3A members join our group which is great. One of the benefits of the Be Connected program is that members can access it at home and go over anything which they have missed or are slightly unsure about.

On Wednesday 16th October 2019 we are holding a BBQ lunch in our U3A room at 12 noon. This is open to all members of the Benalla community over 55 years of age as part of an Australia wide Get OnLine Week. U3A Benalla has received a Grant from the Good Things Foundation who organise Be Connected for running the BBQ. After the BBQ we will demonstrate the range of the Be Connected program and share a couple of worthwhile online skills. All welcome.

Margaret Jenkins

Tech Savvy Community Projects

Are you having a problem with a project you are working on using computers as a volunteer for U3A or other community group? Book in to *Tech Savvy Projects - Community Projects* for help to develop the 'tech savvy' skills you need. You just need to have a project idea in mind so that there is a clear objective for your learning and an outcome at the end. The Tech Savvy Community Projects session is on the third

Friday from 1 to 4 - you can book a dedicated time slot with Bev Lee bevlee47@gmail.com and can stay to work on your project in the company of others for as long as you like.

Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Projects: Family History

Bill Willett from the Benalla Family Research Group attended our session this month. Bill described the wide range of resources they have at their research room at 9 Church Street (open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 to 4) and made lots of suggestions drawing on strategies they use in supporting people who come to them for help with their research. Bill shared stories drawing on his own family history journey, providing examples of techniques he used along the way. He also showed us his folder of documentation compiled using documentation via the Family Tree program and a beautifully framed family tree prepared by one of the group's volunteer researchers. Jane reported on a workshop she had attended on writing family stories which recommended finding your own voice and looking for themes which seem to recur during our research as a way of organizing our writing. We looked at the thematic approach used by Penny Bristol Jones on her website www.digbystories.com and Bev's family history blog website <https://leedevittfh.weebly.com>. Time was also spent reporting back on progress during the month and working quietly on tasks which having a dedicated time in the month makes possible for busy members. Scotland's People once again proved useful in solving family mysteries during the session. If you have Scottish ancestry, their records are a wonderful resource.

Bev Lee

Tech Savvy Talks

At the September Techsavvy Talks meeting we viewed a famous 1965 talk by Richard Feynman, a noted physicist. The lecture was called "Tiny Machines" and was part of a series called "There's Always room at the Bottom". (www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eRCygdW--c) This talk presaged Nanotechnology. We will look at a more detailed and up to date talk on nanotechnology at our next meeting.

There was considerable interest in nanotechnology in the 1990s without any groundbreaking outcome. More recently interest has increased with the application of nanotechnology to biology. An example is the recent possible breakthrough by Australian researchers in producing a method of using nanotechnology to attack micro plastics in the ocean. The large plastic waste mass in the oceans is said to be comprised of up to 94% micro plastics. There is considerable concern about this getting into the food chain via seafood etc. We viewed a summary of the paper with subsequent discussion. (www.pbs.org/newshour/science/this-new-nanotech-could-help-clean-up-earths-microplastics)

Finally we viewed a 25 minute video from Skynews, basically a presentation by Telstra on what's happening with 5g. Telstra's website now shows maps of where 5g is being rolled out in the various regions at the present time. (www.skynews.com.au/details/608440939800)

Les Rodgers

Wine Appreciation

This month's U3A Wine Appreciation group met at Anderson Winery in Rutherglen. Opening in 1993, experienced Winemaker Howard Anderson and his daughter Christobelle make a wide range of small batch hand-crafted premium wines. With only 8 high yielding hectares of vines, using no imported grapes, and more importantly, minimal irrigation, Anderson creates superbly refined red wines, plus some whites...and a rather smooth Muscat! We enjoyed socialising in the wine cellar, tasting and buying. Then our hungry group drove to the nearby historic town of Chiltern. Lunch was served in the small dining room of the partly renovated Telegraph Hotel. Thanks to duo Heather and Keith Rogers, we enjoyed another day out.

On Wednesday October 23rd we will meet at 10 am in the car park behind Aldi to visit Gapsted Winery near Myrtleford, with lunch at a nearby hotel. Please contact Heather by Sunday 20th if you will be attending.

Keith & Heather 5762 4086

Program News

In 2020, Hot Topics will be returning. This activity will look at current affairs as they happen in Australia and around the world. **There will be news about courses for 2020 in future newsletters and on the website.**

What's On

Tuesday, 1 October

- 10:00 E-Book Group
- 10:00 Stock and Land
- 14:00 Armchair Traveller - Bill Parris
- 14:00 Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 2 October

- 09:30 Play Reading
- 09:45 Easy Walks - Spring Wildflower Walk
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

Thursday, 3 October

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 4 October

- 09:30 Sustainability
- 14:00 Investment

Saturday, 5 October

- 13:30 500 Card games

Monday, 7 October

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 10:00 Art Appreciation- 'Working The Land'
- 13:30 Games
- 16:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 8 October

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs
- 14:00 Brain Games

Wednesday, 9 October

- 09:00 Recorder - 'Learning New Notes'
- 09:00 Bush Walking - Delatite River, Mirimba
- 10:00 Recorder - 'Full Group'
- 11:00 Tech Savvy Talks
- 13:30 Film and Literature - Abominable
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

Thursday, 10 October

- 09:30 Birdwatching – Chesney Hills
- 10:00 Harmony Group
- 13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 11 October

- 10:00 Music Appreciation

Monday, 14 October

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Collectors: Dookie Doll Museum, Chateau
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 11:45 German - Intermediate
- 14:00 Garden Team
- 14:30 Creative Writing

Tuesday, 15 October

- 10:00 History - After the Victorians
- 14:00 Exploring the Universe

Wednesday, 16 October

- 10:00 Meet & Mingle - Seniors Week Celebration
- 12:00 'Get Online Week' – BBQ & Information
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

Thursday, 17 October

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 18 October

- 09:30 Sustainability
- 11:45 Chat n' Chew - North East Hotel
- 13:00 Tech Savvy Projects - Community Projects

Saturday, 19 October

- 13:30 500 Card games

Monday, 21 October

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 14:00 Publishing Your Writing
- 16:00 Meditation

Tuesday, 22 October

- 10:00 Politics & Current Affairs

Wednesday, 23 October

- 10:00 Wine Appreciation – Gapsted Winery
- 10:00 Recorder
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

Thursday, 24 October

- 09:30 Garden Appreciation - Beechworth
- 13:00 Tech Savvy Projects - Family History
- 15:00 Tech Savvy Talks at the Northo

Friday, 25 October

- 10:00 Music Appreciation
- 01:30 Convenors' Workshop

Monday, 28 October

- 09:30 Exercises for Fun
- 10:00 Lifeball
- 11:00 German - Intermediate
- 14:00 As Time Goes By – 'Fiesta'

Wednesday, 30 October

- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

Thursday, 31 October

- 09:30 Patchwork

Friday, 1 November

- 09:30 Sustainability
- 14:00 Investment

Saturday, 2 November

- 13:30 500 Card games

Monday, 4 November

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

Wednesday, 6 November

- 09:30 Play Reading
- 10:00 Easy Walks –Yarrowonga /Lake Mulwala
- 14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

Thursday, 7 November

- 10:00 Singing for Fun
- 13:00 Patchwork

Friday, 8 November

- 10:00 Music Appreciation