



Benalla and District Inc.

## Newsletter – September 2019

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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### Preparing for 2020

It's almost 'Taster Time'! It is possible to attend many courses and activities during October and November as a 'taster'. If you know anyone who is thinking of joining U3A next year, please let them know about this. They need to speak with the convenor first and put their names on the roll when they attend, but do not need to join until next year.

It's also the time when new course ideas emerge and begin to be followed up. Keen coin collector Alex Adkins would like to gauge interest in organising an ongoing **Coin Collectors** group. Other course ideas for 2020 include **Hot Topics**, first piloted in 2018; **Pitman Shorthand** for past users of Pitman Shorthand (this is being run very successfully at U3A Melbourne); an **Art** group in partnership with Broken River Painters at their studio in the Migrant Camp precinct; a **Family History** Group in conjunction with Benalla Family Research group and a group which discusses current series on television, such as Hand Maid's Tale; Poldark; the new Sea Change, & more.

Details of new programs to be offered in 2020 will be discussed at Meet and Mingle in the coming months.

Please contact our Program Coordinator, Terry Case (0427 621 700) if you have ideas for new courses or any other queries. There is also an online **Course and Activities - Suggestion Box** page on the website.

### Group Reports

#### Armchair Traveller

Our August session was conducted by John Ellis who graciously shared with us his good fortune of having won a holiday to North America

This comprised of scenes of San Francisco, New York, Statue of Liberty, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon and Los Angeles. All very interesting!

In September we will hear of and see Neville Gibbs travels of Singapore and Vietnam. In October we will hear again from Bill Parris.

Ray O'Shannessy

#### Art Appreciation

On Monday 5th August we listened to an informative lecture by Meridith from the Gallery on the current set of paintings in the Bennett Gallery.

These largish paintings are all from the Galleries own collection and were curated by Bryony before she left.

All these paintings are by Australian Artists some indigenous and some non indigenous. All depict some semblance of landscape. Some realistic - some indicative. Sharpening the Spears could fall into this category and Incendiary Structure could also be classed as a landscape even though neither have elements of landscape in them.

Meridith's lecture was extremely thought provoking and detailed. We thank her for providing an enjoyable morning.

Neville Gibb

## 'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

The U3A memoir writing workshop program has, from its inception, drawn extensively upon the ABC Open's online '500 Words' project. '500 Words' has provided inspiration and a framework for our sessions four years, providing suggested topics, tips, and links to other people's stories.

The ABC recently discontinued and archived ABC Open's '500 Words' Writing Projects. For the record, this program has proved to be a wonderful resource for U3A Benalla's memoir writing group.

Details of ABC Open's writing topics have been kept for use over time and we have begun to draw on other resources. Semester II's 500 words topics have largely been selected from Joy's book 'Creative Boot Camp'. For example, on Monday 25 August we will be sharing stories on '*Fear of Failure*' and on Monday 23 September '*If only?*' stories. As always, we write about something which, upon reflection, we feel we can comfortably share with others, rather than something which is likely to open old wounds and cause distress.

Our October topic will be the topic set for the Benalla Festival's Writing Competition and relate to this year's festival theme, '*Fiesta of Festivities: a celebration of events and festivals that bring the community together*'. Fliers with full details of the writing competition topic should be available in the community shortly. Some members go on to enter the contest - with a member or two each year typically receiving awards!

Bev Lee

## Bird Watching

On Thursday 12 September 2019, we will visit Killawarra Forest, a box ironbark forest in the northern section of the Warby-Ovens National Park.

Please meet at 9.30am in the car park behind the Seniors building. Killawarra is a great place to visit in springtime, with lots of bird activity and a lovely display of wattles and other native shrubs. For this reason, we will stay and have lunch in the forest, so bring your lunch and a folding chair if you have one.

Report of visit by Goulburn Valley U3A Bird-watching group to Reef Hills State Park on Wednesday 21 August 2019.

Six members of our Benalla Bird-watching group joined the visitors from the GV U3A, on a visit to Reef Hills. We spent a mild, sunny morning in the south west corner of the park. There was a lot of bird activity here, as a number of White Box trees were flowering, attracting a number of honeyeaters and lorikeets. As we walked along the track we came across a number of smaller bush birds, such as wrens, thornbills, treecreepers and sittellas. Most people headed off about lunch time, but some of us also visited a drier part of the park in Wattle Road, finding a few more birds in that area. It was good to have a chance to chat with another group like ours. Perhaps we can arrange another joint activity sometime in the future.

Here is the link to the bird list for the day, compiled by GV group leader Don Roberts. 31 bird species were recorded. <https://ebird.org/australia/view/checklist/S59168734>

Kathy Costello

## Brain Games

A group of eight gathered to puzzle over patterns and logical sequences, test knowledge and sketch with non-preferred hand or an inverted image thus firing a few new neural pathways. It's always an enjoyable effort.

Elsbeth Maconachie

## Bushwalks

### Easy Walks



#### Glenrowan 7 August, 2019

Five stalwart walkers braved the threat and reality of inclement weather during the walk of the walking trail from Glenrowan to Hamilton Park and return, a total distance of 8 kilometres. Showers came and went but we avoided the worst of them. The route took the us through the upper part of the town along the original Hume Highway route to the southern edge of the Warby range where a lovely view of Mt Buffalo would have been possible on a sunny day. There is even a seat there so one could stop a while to enjoy the scene. We continued on down the hill past several farmlets with a range of animals such as sheep, horses and alpacas who were curiously watching our progress. On return to Glenrowan, the group found a covered table and ate their lunch while protected from the rain. A lovely lady in the neighbouring house thought she would spread some cheer and brought a sample each of goodies she was making for the school children – an act of kindness to be passed on! It was her way of thanking us for being out and about enjoying winter she said. After lunch we explored the old railway station precinct and the historical display and garden depicting the story of Ned Kelly's siege of the pub.

The day concluded with afternoon tea at the Glenrowan Bakery before returning to a very wet Benalla.

Wendy Sturgess

**U3A Easy Walks - Wednesday, 2 October 2019 - Wildflower Walk** Spring is not far away, do come & join us in the Warby National Park or the Reef Hills State Park and enjoy our local wildflowers. Participants please contact Margaret Walshe Ph: 57623906 or 0427005202 by Monday, 30 September; meet at the Seniors Complex, Fawckner Drive at 9.45 am.

Margaret Walshe

### Mid Week Walks



#### Mt Meg: 14 August – Helen Spinks

On the BBC mid-week 8km. Mt. Meg walk, 9 walkers, including 3 out-of-towners, participated. We followed kangaroo tracks, up through timbered slopes and rocky hillsides, to the summit. This walk tested our fitness, but the view from our lunchtime vantage point, overlooking Thoona township, was well worth the effort. Luckily by then the sun had managed to peep through the clouds and we were able to spread out, relax, chat and chew. Instead of retracing our steps, Helen led us downhill to the Deer Proof Fence,

which we then followed back to the cars. We had encountered curious deer, flocks of sheep and kangaroos and discovered small pockets of orchids during the walk. Afternoon tea at Thoona park was welcomed (but we would have also welcomed Public Toilets!) Thanks to Helen Spinks, our able leader.

Beverly Thornell

## Upcoming Mid week Walks

Wednesday 11 September: SEVEN CREEKS/BALMATTAM HILL S-3-3

A pleasant Spring walk at Euroa, following the track each side of Seven Creeks, across the road and up to Balmattam Hill. Level, except for the Hill climb, which is not too arduous and does offer views back to farmland along the Hume Hwy. About 8kms.

Meet at the 'The Centre' Tennis Courts Barkley St

Meet 9.00am Depart 9.15am

Leader: Bev. Thornell. 0447 192 344.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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

September 20<sup>th</sup>

Our monthly lunch will be at Kim Wah Restaurant in Bridge Street at 12 o'clock.

Please contact Shirley 5762 6768 by **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**.

Shirley Kearney

## Collectors



Our theme was Toys and Games and we certainly had a great variety, with dolls, teddy bears, puzzles, and one little toy which waddled down a slope much to everyone's amusement.

John brought along a wind up train set and some track which was given to him when he was nine years old and which had belonged to his father. He also had a container of marbles and a plastic multi-puzzle.

We saw dolls with beautifully beaded and intricately hand knitted gowns which were a work of art, along with a doll which left England in 1949 and was stuffed with straw. There was also Jemima the Cabbage Patch doll complete with clothes. There was an original Barbie, a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reproduction and a Malibu Barbie with

her towel ready for the beach

Janet showed us two dolls one of which was named Alice and was 40 years old. Shirley had an Upside Down doll, a beautiful kite from China and a set of toy soldiers.

Teddy bears also featured with one being dressed as a Beefeater and bought at Harrods and another which was hand-made and won in a raffle at Dookie, hence its name 'Dookie'.

These are just some of the items brought along. It will be so interesting to see them all again, plus all the other items brought along this year at our November meeting when we will view a slide-show of items for the whole year.

Our theme for September is Weddings

Judith Borthwick

## Creative Writing

This month our starting challenge was again to fill in the blanks in the outline of a story. This time we all found it more challenging, with some interesting takes on the sense of hiding – whether it was hiding ourselves, our face or an object.

As usual we had a choice of three prompts. Some months, many have focussed on the same topic, but this month each of the topics was used by at least one member of the class. There was a scam phone call, valuable jewels, missing friends or family.

After sharing our writing, we discussed how language has changed, and what this means for some of classics. These are becoming harder to read, particularly for a younger generation where some words have moved out of use, and many others have developed in meaning. For example, how would many younger people react to the use of the word “gay” used in a book from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century where it would mean more like joyful and bright.

Our topics for 9 September are a choice between:

- Yellow leaves crackled underfoot.
- My mother always said that it was better to ask for forgiveness than for permission
- Fences are for climbing.

We are now starting our session at 2:30pm.

Joy Shirley

## e-Book Group

Any story which can combine top level espionage in wartime France, with a triangular love story at the heart of the action must be a winner, and so it is with *The Lavender Keeper*, written by Fiona McIntosh. Vichy France is a dangerous place to be for Luc Bonet, a member of the French resistance, and Lisette Forestier who has been parachuted into France, and instructed by SO6 to seduce Markus Killian, a senior German officer and find out the plans of the German High Command. The problem for Lisette, is that she discovers that she can love two men, Luc and Markus, simultaneously, and is, therefore, in danger of compromising her mission. Fiona McIntosh does a fine job of keeping us in suspense, and her meticulous research into every aspect of the resistance has resulted in an authentic, and atmospheric novel.

Helen Scheller

## Exercises for Fun

These fresh mornings are making exercising a good way to keep warm. Attendance at classes have been good and everyone enjoys the exercises, dance and of course the convivial morning tea following our activities. Exercises for Fun are held each Monday morning from 9.30am to 10.45am. Come and join in the fun.

Helen Jeffree

## Exploring the Universe

### Of Comets and Eclipses

Comets were once considered bad luck. Every 133 years Comet “Swift Tuttle” streams past Earth in its headlong flight to orbit the Sun. Drawn by the Sun’s gravity its speed increases and a long tail of dust develops as the heat of the Sun melts its icy covering. Then in its long elliptical orbit it sails out into the icy wastes of outer space again. In its wake it leaves a trail of debris suspended in space. Every year in August the Earth passes through this trail of dust and rocky fragments on its own journey around the Sun, sending a shower of meteors (or if you prefer, ‘shooting stars’) to burn up in the Earth’s atmosphere. Every August Rupe tries to inspire us to leave our warm beds at 4 a.m. to watch for the Persids meteor showers. No luck so far!

In July a Total Solar Eclipse passed over the European Southern Observatory of La Silla in the high Atacama Desert in Chile. This event had been overshadowed for us by the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Moon Landing, so our August meeting was a chance to catch up with the incredible footage from the large telescopes.

A Total Solar Eclipse is caused by the Moon passing between the Earth and the Sun. We viewed the effect of the Moon’s shadow blanketing the Sun and the ensuing darkness that falls over the land before the sun’s light returns again.

The following film from the European Southern Observatory explains the action and effect of the Moon’s shadow gradually blotting out the light of the Sun: <https://youtu.be/SdjMzB1E8fM>

We watched an edited version of the 4 hour event which ended at sunset. Too long to reproduce here but for a short version of darkness falling upon the land and day being turned into night view this film from the high mountains in Chile: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grUhpSRKc-o>

Bev Morton

## Film and Literature

Our movie for discussion this month was "Red Joan".

Everyone enjoyed the film, although some did not think it was worth a second viewing. It is loosely based on the life of Melita Norwood, a Cold War Spy. It was originally a book by Jennie Rooney who took Melita Norwood's life story and turned it into a spy novel of the Cold War. A statement made by Norwood that she hoped her actions would help "Russia to keep abreast of Britain, America and Germany" was slightly reflected at the end of the film, although perhaps not quite the same intent. Addressing the media Joan Stanley said that her actions had been influenced by the Hiroshima nuclear bomb and her desire to keep the major countries equal and so help keep peace in the world. This is perhaps the closest the film comes to the real life of Melita Norwood.

The film was more about the people than being a spy film which made it more enjoyable than had been expected. The story hung together well with perhaps one exception where at the end Joan's son who had previously rejected his mother, suddenly came out in her support. The performances by the key characters were solid, with Judi Dench performing strongly in her role as the older Joan Stanley. We were left wanting to know more of the story as to how Joan came back to England as the story (not the real life Melita) had her migrating to Australia with her husband.

We went on to discuss the issue around seeing films either based on real life or on books. It was generally agreed that seeing a film when knowing the real story can detract from enjoyment as there is always a tendency to compare the film with previous knowledge.

Our film for discussion at the 11 September August class is a *Late Night*, (with Emma Thompson,) which screens at BPACC between 16 to 23 August.

Joy Shirley

## Garden Appreciation

### September 26<sup>th</sup>

Meet at U3A car park at 9.30.

We are going to Julie Wells farm garden, 52 Box Hill Lane Upotipotpon. Julie's phone number is 0402213052.

Please bring morning tea to share, milk, tea and coffee, hot water will be provided.

Lunch at Violet Town Hotel, 16 Cowslip Street Violet Town (own cost).

### October 24<sup>th</sup>

Meet at U3A Car park at 9.30. Morning tea at our room's before we leave. We are heading off to Beechworth to visit Peter Rucins garden at 13 Spring Street Beechworth.

Lunch to be arranged. *Please advise me if you are coming and if you have any dietary requirements.*

Gwen Turner 5762 7017 or Mobile 0438627010

## Garden Team

A sunny patch gave enough time for pruning and weeding in the front garden before a convivial and tasty afternoon tea at Frank & Vals.

Having gathered on the 5th, we've held off until September and our first session will be at 476 Goomalibee Rd on the 9th. As it's a new venture and a rather blank canvas there'll be room for planning and perhaps planting (if you have cuttings of geranium, salvia or suchlike hardy critters) and if you can stand the racket we have leaves to shred - even a few river gums to plant .

Then there's a fifth September Monday to consider so perhaps we can settle the rest of the year's venues (four if we continue into December).

Elsbeth Maconachie

## German

A reminder that German resumes on Monday 9th September at 12 noon **in the library**.

The next session will be Monday 23 September, same time, same place.

Participants are asked to wear their name badges and bring dictionaries, pen and paper. It would also be a

good idea to revise notes from 1st semester beforehand.

Meanwhile, as many of us as possible hope to go to the German film, „Never Look Away“ being screened in German with English sub-titles at Swanpool Cinema on September 1st.

Pauline Bailey

## History: After the Victorians

Our August session looked at how the British and French made secret deals during WW1 to divide the Ottoman Empire and how they promised both the Arabs and Jews their support and betrayed them. The present Syrian civil war being just one of the many conflicts that can be traced back to colonial meddling.

How do we know about the secret documents? Well after the Russian Revolution the Communists published all the secret documents in the Russian archives. It did not stop the British & French drawing lines on maps causing thousands of people to flee their homes

Terry Case

## Investment

At the August meeting of investment Brian Vial spoke of the combination of low interest rates and the similarities between conditions before the GFC and the current state of the market. He illustrated his talk with the story of Mary, an Irish hotelkeeper who extended credit to her customers who were essentially unemployed alcoholics. The implications of this provided mirth but also showed what can happen when people are unable to repay their debts. One interesting facet of this talk was that in the days following Investment the market has had three sessions where there has been considerable selling off of shares and a substantial fall in the all ordinaries index.

The other segment that was considered at the meeting was some shares which had shown considerable growth during the year to date. However, these gains can be severely slashed if the market continues to adjust to unease in world trade conditions.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 2pm in the U3A room at the Seniors Centre.

Margaret Jenkins

## Let's Talk Books

A smaller group than usual arrived for our August chat, but plenty of discussion took place nevertheless. The Outback Writers Festival was entered by Shirley's granddaughter, *His Name Was Mud* by Tracy Liotis and received a good review, a justly proud grandmother. *The Lost City of the Monkey God* a true story written by Douglas Preston was enjoyed and *The True Story of the Horse Soldiers in Afghanistan* told by Doug Stanton was of a deployment of American soldiers after 9/11 who rode with the Afghanistan warriors to defeat the Taliban. A discussion was held on whether the book *Jane Austen* made her look somewhat of a radical. *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* had received a bad review, but those of our group who read this didn't agree. Fiona McIntosh *The Lavender Keeper* and *The French Province* were a good read, whilst *White Out* by Ken Follett was not worth the effort. *The Favourite*, the power struggle between Queen Ann and her best friend Sarah Churchill the Duchess of Marlborough, was enjoyed. Whilst on history, *Behind Closed Doors*, the tragic story of how Wallace Simpson spent her final years. *Her Mothers Daughter* by Nadia Wheatley, an interesting memoir, whilst *Transcription* by Kate Atkinson, had too many people and too many time frames although a good read. *The Envelope* by Maurice Wills, a very sad story of Australian Orphanages from 1930's to the 1950's. *Murder on Easey Street* the cold case murder of two Benalla girls in a house in Collingwood, the house was empty for six years until being sold and renovated. A few more books were read a small group read many books. See you in September.

Geraldine McCorkell

## Lifeball

Lifeball is coming back to life, literally, now the weather is improving, and people are returning from holidays elsewhere. This morning we actually had 13 players.....that hasn't happened for some time, as we ended up playing with as few as 8 on several occasions. Playing half court is taxing, but very funny, so having a full team was just great today, and everyone commented on having a really good time.

We have a Fun and Friendship day coming up in October, at Wangaratta, which will be beaut. We mix with other players from Albury, Deniliquin, Rutherglen, and Myrtleford, and the more we play away, the wider

our circle of friends expand. And the lunch our host teams provide is always wonderful, so it all makes for an excellent day away.

If you want to check us out for yourself, come to the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre at 9.45am on Mondays and find out why we love our game so much!!

Marg Merriman 5762 2967

## Meditation

Meditation is held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, commencing at 4.00pm. Come along and be part of this 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



Our Meet and Mingle speaker for August was Carmel Williams, Financial Information Services from the Department of Human Services.

Carmel provided a lot of information and literature on "Aged Care Fees and Assessments". She was very knowledgeable on the topic and answered many questions.

Further information is available from web site [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au) or 1800 200 422

Our speaker for September is U3A member Brian Vial. Brian will outline his family connection with Papua New Guinea which inspired him to become connected with Primary Education over there.

PNG Schools are greatly under-funded, so Brian has setup a project to get second hand books donated to go over to Goroka schools. He has also instigated a Scholarship Program for needy student

Bill Parris

## Music Appreciation

### **BIG BOLD AND BRASSY**

That's how some might describe the music of Hector Berlioz and Anton Bruckner - the subjects of our August musical adventures. Huge symphonic scores with equally huge orchestras and choirs to perform them were features of much of their compositional work. But it wasn't all like that. Delving deeper you come across a number of works of melodic and lyrical beauty.

All in all, it's been a real venture into the unknown, more or less, for our group (presenter included) to study these composers and their music, and therefore a large, but enjoyable, learning curve in our musical appreciation. You can check it all out on the Musical Appreciation page of our website where you will find links to the programme notes for both composers which also contain the Youtube links for the music that was presented. Enjoy!!

Bill Squire

## Patchwork/ Patchwork for Beginners

The Patchwork for Beginners group met twice monthly in Semester 1, with Heather Sloan leading her beginning learners to develop skills and confidence in creating a simple patchworked item of their choice

Unfortunately ill health has meant Heather is unable to continue to work with the group in Semester 2. Patchwork for Beginners members have been invited to join the regular group which meets on the first and third Thursdays from 1 to 4pm and all day on the 5th Thursday, with additional workshop days periodically during the year.



Heather's wonderful capacity as a teacher to understand the learning needs of individual learners and to continue to keep them engaged with the possibilities of patchwork and quilting was treasured by members of the class.

Heather, thank you so much for offering this course this year - it met a long felt need for a beginning skills course and your capacity to teach and engage the beginning patchwork learners was highly valued and will be missed. We wish you well in your recovery and hope that you are able to join Benalla's U3A Patchwork group again soon.

For more information about the regular Patchwork group, please contact Dorothy Webber on 0412263071.

Dorothy Webber

## Politics and Current Affairs

Prime Minister Morrison got his way at the Pacific Forum and reassurances were given that they can pick fruit in Australia. Did I get that wrong? In Northern Ireland arrangements are being put in place to bring back border and customs posts, what they need is a "Big beautiful wall". The Americans have agreed it is wrong to separate young children and babies from their refugee parents, so they will join their parents in detention, another beautiful idea. The Amazon burns and developed countries who got rid of their forests hand out advice. Greenlanders kill their huskies as there is no need for them in an ice free land, which Trump thinks he might buy. Just business as usual. It will all be fixed before the Barrier reef dies, surely?

If you would like to discuss topics in depth, watch out for "Hot topics" which we hope will return next year. Politics will continue to cover a wide variety of topics generated by our favourite comedians, oops politicians. "Always look on the bright side of life...."

Terry Case

## Publishing Your Writing

Having developed from the Memoir Writing group – this group has morphed again - not as simply publishing memoirs, but looking at editing and refining all writing for publication.

At this stage we are looking mostly at works in progress, and developing ideas and themes for the completion of our stories. So, do join us on the third Monday, 2 – 4, and bring along those discarded writings, be they novels, short stories or even memoirs!

Noelle McCracken

## Recorder Group



Recorder convenor Janet Douglas in action!

With the altos M.I.A. the descants held the fort for the second August session.

Interspersed with our known and familiar songs "The Floral Dance." and "Mozart's Lullaby" provided lots of new learning experiences - new high notes, trills and general pauses - all of which we will be dutifully practising at home.

We had chance to revisit lots of songs from our earlier sessions and finished the session with a new piece, "Lorelei" and the beautiful "Skye Boat Song".

Pat Treleven

## Saturday Cards – 500

The 500 card group on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 of how long the games of cards take). There is a 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

The Singing for Fun group has been enjoying their Thursday morning sessions during August.

We have seen Faith Hicks include some Negro Spiritual songs in her selections, which have been appreciated by all. Brian Greed introduced a much loved old favourite "I'm Gonna Knock on your Door" whilst Margaret Merriman got an enthusiastic response from the group with "High Hopes" and "Shortnin' Bread".

Gwen Barnes has been providing us with great accompaniment on the piano.

We have been missing Patsy Bollard for a couple of sessions due to a log falling onto her leg. Hope to see you again soon Patsy.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the U3A room at the Seniors Centre.

Margaret Jenkins

## Stock and Land



International trade issues in agriculture was the topic chosen by Dennis O'Brien (pictured) for our August meeting.

Dennis focussed on free trade agreements and said Australia was conducting negotiations for agreements with seven countries including India, Indonesia and Gulf nations.

Dr O'Brien said an FTA with the USA was close to resolution recently but fell apart because the US wanted blanket access to swamp our TV and cinema with content, which would probably have eliminated Australian content on our screens.

He also talked about exchange rate changes and how US imposed tariffs affected trade. In Australia, the recently lower Australian dollar against the US dollar, meant that exports from here were cheaper and imports more expensive.

In particular it makes education less expensive for overseas students.

David Palmer

## Sustainability

What happens in 'Sustainability' sessions?. Group members usually discuss well written and researched articles or documentaries selected by convenor John Lloyd, which this month included 'Action now': the farmers standing up against 'wilful ignorance' on climate' Gabrielle Chan in 'The Guardian' July 2 2019; 'We only have one planet, but we're still using it up too fast' Gareth O'Reilly in the Age July 28, 2019; 'The new electricity boom: renewable energy makes staggering leap but can it last?' Adam Morton in The Guardian 29/7/2019. News of current developments related to sustainability in Benalla is shared, such as Renewable Energy Benalla's current workshop series *Reduce Energy Bills and Increase Thermal Efficiency*, which is being held on alternate Tuesdays at the Uniting Church Meeting Room in Carrier Street from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Places are still available - Lighting & Windows (Sept 2) Efficient Hot Water Systems, Heating and Cooling (Sept 16) Appliances & Cooking; Transitioning from Gas (Sept 30) Energy Monitoring, Solar Power & Batteries (October 14). Registrations - phone/SMS Peter on 0418 135 330. Members also share ideas about living sustainably and introduce sources of information they find useful, such as the ['Energy Insiders' podcast](#) by Renew Economy's editor Giles Parkinson leading energy analyst David Leitch. Ask your Google Home Mini (or other home assistant). "OK Google. Play latest episode 'Energy Insiders'". All welcome!

Bev Lee

## Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

During August as a group we have made considerable progress with our Be Connected Course. We have been looking at the module Getting Started Online and have covered segments on Using the Internet, Using Email, Using search engines and an Introduction to Internet Safety.

We have also taken a photograph with our devices and sent it to a family member.

Later in the month we looked at All About Apps and we all downloaded the ABC iView app onto our devices.

One encouraging aspect of the group is the way everyone is coming each week. We all understand that we are not going to retain everything that is presented each week. However, by constantly coming each Wednesday afternoon we are all making considerable improvement to our computer skills

Margaret Jenkins

## Tech Savvy Projects

### Community Projects

Would you like to develop new computer skills to help you to work on a community project? Our first Community Projects' class member Robyn volunteered to take the photographs at Collectors this year, Her aim? To compile a presentation of each month's collection for viewing by the Collectors group at the final session for the year. Robyn has learnt lots of skills related to working with photographs and preparing power point presentations and recently presented a mid-project Power Point presentation to the Collectors group. Robyn's success was evident in Collectors' last newsletter report ... "Robyn showed a slide show of our first four months of Collectors. We were so impressed we asked her to show them again. Many thanks, Robyn... We are looking forward to seeing the slide show of our whole year, complete with music, in November". If you are working on a 'community project' involving computer skills to complete and would like some support, contact Bev at [bevee47@gmail.com](mailto:bevee47@gmail.com) to book in!

### Family History

Family History projects appear to go through different phases. An early 'trial' phase is often followed by an intensive working phase with a high level of motivation and lots of reinforcing and addictive 'Ah Ha' moments. This can be followed by plateaus and lulls, then renewed waves of enthusiasm. 'Tech Savvy Projects--Family History' provides a supportive space in which to work on family history projects whatever phase you are in, with complete freedom to come and go when you have a 'lull' or other priorities intervene. Another plus of attending this group? Family historians often comment that family members and friends don't always show the levels of interest, enthusiasm and support for their successes they expected! 'Tech Savvy Projects--Family History' group provides a supportive space for class members to talk about and share what they are working on with others, as well as gaining support from each other!

Bev Lee

## Tech Savvy Talks

This month we looked at the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in providing reports and recommendations to governments concerning climate change. The most recent reports are AS 5 (Assessment Report 5) of 2013 and SR 1.5 of 2018 (Special Report 1.5). Also released earlier this year was IPCC 2019 a Special Report on Climate Change and Land. We considered the importance of Climate Transient Response and socio-economic factors leading to earth system computer models and projections for future warming. Mitigation and adaption strategies outlined in the reports rely heavily on Bio Energy and Carbon Capture and Storage.

Carbon Capture is one of the features of a new type of natural gas-based turbine electricity generation based on the Allam Cycle. A demonstration 50 mW system came online in Texas, USA last year and there is a proposal for a future 300 mW plant in New Zealand.

The system relies on burning natural gas with pure oxygen at high pressure in a combustor, producing super critical CO<sub>2</sub> feeding into a conventional type of turbine at 300 bar pressure and 1150 degrees C temperature. The output of the turbine is completely recovered and most of it is 'recuperated' and fed back into the oxygen and natural gas mixture in the combustor. Only a relatively small amount of CO<sub>2</sub> is not reused, but it is fully captured and there are no emissions of gas to the atmosphere. Water is also an output.

[www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/) [www.ipcc.ch/sr15/download/](http://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/download/) [www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/)  
<https://qz.com/1136533/a-radical-startup-has-invented-the-worlds-first-zero-emissions-fossil-fuel-power-plant/>

Les Rodgers

## Wine Appreciation



The U3A Wine Appreciation group met at Myrtleford's Michelini Wines, in the Alpine Valley wine region.

Four generations of Michelini, beginning with newly arrived migrant Eno, from Italy's Trentino region, have crafted a variety of cool climate red, white, and sparkling wines, including new Italian varietals, from extensive vines in the Buckland Valley. We were warmly welcomed inside the Cellar Door and offered wines to taste, plus an

outline of the long history of Michelini Wines. Once outside, winemaker Matt pointed out the machinery and storage vats used in wine production, followed by a glimpse of the tiny lab room and its instrumentation. It was a happy and relaxed group who decamped to the nearby Cafe Fez, with its iconic, colourful Moroccan decor. An extensive Middle Eastern menu offered us a multitude of mouth-watering watering choices. Unfortunately, there was little time afterwards to browse the vast array of handicrafts and furniture in the rear showroom. Full marks to Heather and Keith, for today's choice of venues

Bev Thornell

**Coming up on Wednesday 25 September** - Anderson's Winery in Rutherglen, followed by lunch at a hotel in Chiltern. Meet Aldi Carpart at 10.00am as usual. Attendees to contact either Heather or Keith Rogers on 7562 4806 no later than Sunday prior to the activity for catering numbers to be finalised

Keith & Heather 5762 4086

## Program News

### To all Convenors

A meeting will be held for all course Convenors on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at 2.00pm. Further information will be in next month's Newsletter.

## Community News

### COIN COLLECTING

People over the years have bags, boxes or tins of old coins of pre decimal and decimal currency. My interest started in the early 1960's when Australia went to decimal currency in February 1966, and I am still collecting today.

If this is an interest or hobby of yours and you would like to discuss the significance of coins and notes with all their different designs that commemorate the events and people that create a history of Australia perhaps we could look at forming a group with U3A.

To gauge the interest in coin collecting could you please contact me, **Alex Adkins** on 576262457, Mobile 0427820287 with the view of having a meeting and organising an ongoing U3A Coin Collectors group.

# What's On

## Monday, 2 September

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

## Tuesday, 3 September

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

## Wednesday, 4 September

09:30 Play Reading  
09:45 Easy Walks - Euroa Arboretum & VC  
Memorial Park  
14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

## Thursday, 5 September

10:00 Singing for Fun  
13:00 Patchwork

## Friday, 6 September

09:30 Sustainability  
14:00 Investment

## Saturday, 7 September

13:30 500 Card Game – U3a Room

## Monday, 9 September

09:30 Exercises for Fun  
10:00 Collectors – Theme: Weddings.  
10:00 Lifeball  
12:00 German  
14:00 Garden Team  
14:30 Creative Writing

## Tuesday, 10 September

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

## Wednesday, 11 September

09:00 Recorder - 'Learning New Notes'  
09:30 Bush Walking - Mid Week Walks - Seven  
Creeks/Balmattam Hill S-3-3  
10:00 Recorder - 'Full Group'  
11:00 Tech Savvy Talks  
13:30 Film and Literature – Film: Late Night  
14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

## Thursday, 12 September

09:30 Birdwatching - Killawarra Forest  
10:00 Harmony Group  
13:30 Executive Committee Meeting

## Friday, 13 September

10:00 Music Appreciation

## Monday, 16 September

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

## Tuesday, 17 September

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

## Wednesday, 18 September

10:00 Meet and Mingle - Brian Vial  
14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

## Thursday, 19 September

10:00 Singing for Fun  
13:00 Patchwork

## Friday, 20 September

09:30 Sustainability  
11:45 Chat n' Chew - Kim Wah Restaurant  
13:00 Tech Savvy - Community Projects

## Saturday, 21 September

13:30 500 Card Game – U3a Room

## Monday, 23 September

09:30 Exercises for Fun  
10:00 Lifeball  
12:00 German  
14:00 As Time Goes By - '...if only' stories

## Tuesday, 24 September

09:30 Beginners Patchwork  
10:00 Politics & Current Affairs

## Wednesday, 25 September

10:00 Wine Appreciation- Andersons, Rutherglen  
10:00 Recorder  
14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners - Be Connected

## Thursday, 26 September

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

## Friday, 27 September

10:00 Music Appreciation

## Monday, 30 September

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

## Tuesday, 1 October

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

## Wednesday, 2 October

09:30 Play Reading  
10:00 Easy Walks – 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 Game – U3a