



Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – September 2021

U3A Benalla & District Inc

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Please send all newsletter items for the newsletter to newsletter@u3abenalla.com by 25 Sep 2021

President's Report

About all we can do is be thankful for our beautiful sunny days and enjoy the warmth of the coming Spring. There isn't much else to be joyful about - not being able to see family and friends is extremely sad.

In 'Program News', Monday *Games* has been discontinued, while *The News Fact or Fiction* will no longer be at the Cooina Hub. It will resume in the U3A meeting room at the Seniors Community Centre on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. At this stage, all other courses and activities will stay the same when we open again. If you have any ideas for new courses or activities, please get in touch with any of the Committee.

The Committee is setting up the ability for you to be able to pay your Membership for 2022 online. Direct payment on Registration Day will still be available.

In 'Building News', we recently had a clean-up, sharing the cost of the skip with the Seniors. A job well done. The small meeting room (we are calling room 2) is now equipped with Computer and wall mounted Smart TV. It has been used for drop-in training on Thursday mornings and will continue to be a wonderful extra space for the future. Next year's Program information will state Room 1 or Room 2.

It will soon be October, traditionally a time when we invite friends interested in joining U3A to 'taste' our courses and activities. This offer is open again this year, with pandemic work arounds where necessary. November is also just around the corner! [Chrimont Winery](#) has been booked on Tuesday 23 November for the U3A Benalla end of year celebration - details will be confirmed in upcoming newsletters.

Dorothy Webber, President

Group Reports

A Different View of German History

We have had to postpone our August meeting. Let's hope we will be able to meet in September. If we don't watch out the length of our course will take longer to complete than the GDR was in existence!

When we do meet, we will be concentrating on the Nazi period. The Weimar Republic period which was derogatory term used by Hitler lasted for only 14 years. The Nazi period lasted for roughly the same time. Can we even compare each period?

Neville Gibb

Armchair History – Tudors

A small gathering for Armchair history on August 13th took us to the end of the unfortunate wives of Henry VIII. We watched an interesting documentary on the rise and fall of Henry's enforcer Thomas Cromwell. During his time, Cromwell helped lay the foundation of modern British Government. Cromwell was born in Putney, the son of a rough brewer. By 1502 he had had enough and left England, becoming a mercenary with the French Army and making friends with people in high places. On returning to England, Cromwell was proficient in languages and law. After negotiating a deal with the Vatican on behalf of the Guild Traders, he

quickly came to the notice of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey. Along the way he was elected a Member of Parliament and was co-opted to assist in the 'Kings Great Matter', the annulment of Henry's 18-year marriage to Catherine of Aragon which produced one daughter, Mary, but not the longed-for son. Henry needed an annulment to marry Anne Boleyn. Cardinal Wolsey's fall from power during this time also put Thomas Cromwell on shaky ground. Cromwell showed the King he could be valuable in his negotiations with the Papacy, who rejected Henry's plea for annulment. Henry asked the people to reject the Papacy and in 1532 Parliament was given power to change the nature of the Constitution, creating the Empire of England, with King Henry becoming the supreme head of State. After Henry married Anne Boleyn, he began to eye the great wealth of the Monasteries and religious houses and the revenue that could be obtained from them. Thomas Cromwell oversaw the dissolution of over 800 monasteries and religious houses, an act of great destruction. While all this was taking place, Henry had Anne Boleyn beheaded for treason and adultery and set his sight on Jane Seymour. In a time of great change and uncertainty the Bible was translated into English, Henry approving every Parish to be given an English Bible.

Jane Seymour gave Henry his longed-for son, Edward, but died in the process. The arranged marriage to Ann of Cleaves was the undoing of Thomas Cromwell, whose enemies saw that he was sent off to the Tower and in 1540 was beheaded in front of a large crowd. At our next Armchair History session, we will venture into the lives of Mary and Edward and eventually Mary Queen of Scots.

Geraldine McCormack

Armchair Traveller

Our September gathering will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 7th September (COVID providing) when Brian Greed's DVDs of his trips to Europe and Britain will be shown.

Our August get-together was very well attended. Neville Gibb gave an outstanding viewing and account of a trip to India. Rather than showing landscapes and buildings, Neville concentrated on the lifestyles and culture of Indian citizens from among the lower classes. A real eye-opener Neville! Much appreciated by all.

Ray O'Shannessy

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

With only two days' notice, we moved from a pilot Zoom meeting in June to a scheduled Zoom session in August. We had been looking forward to meeting together again in the U3A meeting room, but that wasn't to be! Zoom suits our sessions rather well, as we can follow the stories on screen while the writer is reading their story to us.

Despite a technical hitch at the beginning, which saw David waiting to join during the break, we had a session rich in storytelling and responses from the group. 'Crash' stories were shared by Barry, Ray and David; with 'Stock and Land' stories shared by the two Bev's, Val, Marg McCrohan, and David (about his 'other life' as a shearer), while a thought provoking 'Cringe' story was shared by Helen. There are new stories on the website from Michelle and Elizabeth - 'Crash'; and Marg Nelson's 'Curved Ball'.

Being at home, a coffee break activity was inspired by Bev's 'show and tell' of a bottle of tomato relish made by Swanpool's Joan Warnock which reminded her of her grandmother's tomato relish and meals of 'corned beef with relish' from her childhood. Class members were sent to raid their kitchens, returning to hold up and visually share bottles of preserved lemons, relishes made by friends, home-made tomato sauces, yo yo's 'almost as good as my aunt's lamingtons', a cauliflower 'which we always had in Ireland with a salted pork cut'; an old 'knife sharpener used by my father', finishing with Greg's piece de resistance, a bottle of methylated spirits, always used to treat cuts during his childhood.

With 'Right Here, Right Now' a topic next month, we looked back at last year's 'Right Here, Right Now', stories. Most responded to last August's hard lockdown. Once again in hard lockdown, even a quick preview of the stories had quite a powerful effect on us. If you would like to read them, here's the link - u3abenalla.weebly.com/right-here-right-now

Coming up on Monday September 27

'If only I'd...' Even though we are advised not to dwell on 'if only's'... we often do! Write about an 'if only' moment in your life in 500 words, describing the context surrounding it as richly as you can. Choose

something which won't make you depressed, something you feel you have 'dealt with', but at the same time something which shares the impact of even a brief moment in your life.

'Right Here, Right Now' (R) (F) 'A time capsule of the present. Write a story about a situation currently unfolding in your life, right here, right now.'

Bev Lee

Be Connected

U3A Benalla is hoping to have a **Pizza Lunch** at 11.45am on Wednesday 20th October 2021 in the Senior's Centre as part of Get On Line week for U3A members. This will follow Meet and Mingle which will be held at 10am that day.

The theme of this year's Get On Line week is "Get Connected". The Committee understand that this needs to be a COVID safe event and are hoping that lock down will be relaxed by that date.

Margaret Jenkins

Bird Watching

"Below is a note for the September newsletter, in case we can run activities next month. Fingers crossed. Kathy Costello".

Birdwatching outing to Reef Hills Thursday 9 September 9am.

If groups of up to 10 or more are permitted, there will be a Birdwatching walk in Reef Hills State Park Thursday morning on 9 September. Please meet in the car park at the main entrance to Reef Hills. Turn right into Reef Hills Road, on the Midland Highway, just past the freeway entrance to Melbourne and park on the left. We will meet at 9am. Bring any food or drink you need for the morning, a sunhat and binoculars if you have them. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended.

Kathy Costello 0447 625755

Bushwalking

Easy Walks

Covid continues to play havoc with our scheduled walks. Both the Cremona Bridge walk, planned for August, and the Friends Track/ Kwat Kwat Lookout walk, intended for September, will be rescheduled for 2022.

The convenors would like to thank everyone involved in planning both walks, which generally includes mapping, discussion and a reconnaissance walk.

For those not familiar with the Friends' Track, here is a photo to look forward to for 2022!



Report, Wednesday August 4th, Reef Hills

This was a late substitution for the much-anticipated Cremona Bridge walk, due to persistent rain and Covid restrictions.

Luckily the rain held off for the morning and twelve intrepid, and masked, walkers made their way through the Reef Hills tracks. Much wattle, and some wildflowers and interesting fungi made it a very enjoyable walk, and historical commentary from Rupert and others added to our interest.

We had a picnic lunch and managed to complete a very pleasant morning before the rain started again.

Wednesday September 1st Warby Ovens National Park, Friends Track/Kwat Kwat Lookout

This walk was cancelled due to lockdown.

Looking ahead: Wednesday October 6th: Wetlands Walk, Tahbilk

This walk will be through the wetlands at Tahbilk in the grounds of the winery. We will stroll along 6kms of trails and boardwalks, past billabongs and river flats of the Goulburn River. The wetlands support a wide variety of flora and fauna.

Enclosed footwear must be worn. The trails can be slippery if there has been rain, so consider walking poles. A gold coin donation is required at the entrance.

Lunch will be at an eatery in Nagambie.

Please confirm attendance with Glen by Monday 4 October on 0431201077 or gchess@hotmail.com

Meet at the Seniors' Complex Carpark at 9.30am, Fawckner Drive. Members are asked to confirm with Glen if they need transport or can provide it.

Glen Chessells/Julie McNeill

Mid-Week Walks

Mt Pilot Walk – Wednesday 11 August

"My on-again, off-again, on-again walk. Thanks to the relaxation of the regional lockdown, the walk I was leading went ahead. We did three different walks in the Chiltern/Mt. Pilot National Park - White Box Walk, Yeddonba Aboriginal Cultural Site, and Mt. Pilot - around 11km in total. It was so good to get outside and enjoy our beautiful country." *Wendy Baker*



"This month's Benalla Bushwalking Club's mid-week outing included 3 separate walks in the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park. Leader, Wendy Baker, began by taking us around the undulating 8.5km White Box Walk, through remnant Box Ironbark forest, Golden Wattle in full bloom and some hard to spot early wildflowers.

Back at Honeyeater Picnic Area, we tucked into lunch, then drove on to Yeddonba Aboriginal Cultural Site: reached after a 45min. steep climb through huge rocks, past the Milmulyan Lookout, offering panoramic views. The Aboriginal Rock Art viewing platform is closed off at present, but the site is still worth visiting.

Our third walk, from the Mt Pilot Car Park, followed a short, steep path up to the windy Summit. We were treated to spectacular 360° views. A metal compass on a rock plinth points out surrounding landmarks and mountains.

After a windblown photo opportunity, we were happy to return to the shelter of the Car Park for afternoon tea...a Lemon Cake Fest (thank you talented cooks). Thanks also to Wendy for an enjoyable day's walking...in ideal weather." *Bev Thornell*

Wednesday, September 8 - THE PAPS

(Please note – it is almost certain that this walk will be cancelled due to Covid)

A steady climb to both the north and south peaks for stunning views of the surrounding countryside especially across Lake Eildon.

Meet at Barkly St tennis courts 9.00 am Leave Benalla at 9.15 am

Rating: 5 - 4 - 3 (Medium)

Contact: Wendy Baker 0429 780 179

John Boehm

Chat n' Chew

September Chat and Chew will be held at Ella Goose (previously known as Rafferty's) in Nunn Street, Benalla on Friday 17 September commencing at 12.00pm. For bookings, please contact Lorraine on 0427 376 991.

Surely, we will all be out of lock down by that date and it will be time to go out for lunch together.

Lorraine Knox

Coin Collectors

We were fortunate to have another enjoyable face to face meeting on August 16, in between Covid lockdowns.

Our change of meeting time to 1.30pm has been welcomed, with additional people attending and some old faces returning.

At our August meeting I introduced the Group to a YouTube channel run by a Melbourne coin collector called CJ's coin capers. He has produced a number of very interesting videos on all aspects of coin collecting that makes for interesting viewing and is very educational whether you are a beginner or experienced collector.

The video the group viewed was titled "Australian Coins Not Meant for Circulation" It related to coins that were minted as Collectors sets but for some unknown reason ended up in general circulation. These coins often had unique mint or privy marks.

The intention will be to view a coin video at our future meetings that assist members with their knowledge of the coin collecting world.

At our meeting, members presented an interesting variety of show and tell stories.

David circulated several fake Bitcoin examples that drew a laugh from the group. He also handed around a set of 5 1881-1890 realistic but fake British sovereigns.

Gary showed a variety of coins including a 25 year anniversary coin of the fall of the Berlin Wall, British Commonwealth 1974 Olympic Games coin, 2010 50 cent Melbourne Cup coin, 50 cent 2011 60th Anniversary coin of National Service call up.

Wendy had an interesting collection of USA quarters she had collected while overseas from each American state.

Bill had found a 1912 halfpenny in his back yard. He discovered after watching the meeting YouTube video from CJ's Coin Capers, that the coin had a unique double rim called a CUD (coin under developed).

Doug showed his recently purchased coloured \$2 2020 Olympic coin set released through Woolworths stores on 18th August 2021. Woolworths also released in August a coloured \$2 coin for the current Tokyo Para Olympics. All coins can be purchased at Woolies Benalla, if you are quick.

Our Coin Collector group welcomes anyone who has an interest in coins or would like to find out more about their own collection to attend our meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Doug Smith

Collectors



A small and enthusiastic group met in August with a colourful display of Scarves.

As we all know you can't have enough scarves!

When we meet again (???), the theme is Sugar Bowls.

See you on 6th September or 4th October.



Dorothy Webber

Community Singing

Unfortunately, due to lock down, there was no Community Singing with Brian Greed in August. Hopefully we will be able to meet and sing on Thursday 23rd September 2021

Margaret Jenkins

Creative Writing

With the lockdown, we were not able to meet for our August class but shared our stories via email. Then we each provided some comments on our fellow class members' work.

The August writing topics were:

- **Everyone stopped their activities and watched...**
- **When he'd hung up the phone...**
- **Telephone calls were invariably answered by...**

As usual we enjoyed a varied range of stories and pictures created using words.

At our class in July, we spent some time talking about the sense of smell, and some of the class wove smells into their stories for the August class – well done. This helps to create a picture of the scenes. For example, one of the stories was set in a hospital, with including the smell of the disinfectant helping to create the feel of the environment. Another was set in the bed sitter of an old man, describing the “acrid smell of smoke and burning tobacco ... the heavy stale stench of alcohol accompanied by a lingering suggestion of body odour”. With descriptions like this we can see and experience the room. This is what it means to create pictures with words.

Once again, without any collaboration, two class members wrote about a similar topic – children experiencing the circus coming to town.

The topics for our September class are:

- **She had just two choices. She could forget all about it and move on, or ...**
- **I have a friend who says she is the only person in town who ...**
- **They walked down the drive and across the road**

With restrictions once again reduced, we will hopefully meet up for our next class on 13 September.

Joy Shirley

Demystifying Psychology

Demystifying Psychology class members – keep an eye on your emails for messages from Jane and check out the [Demystifying Psychology](#) page on the website next week for Jane's August report.

Exploring the Universe

There are exciting times ahead for 'Exploring the Universe'

The James Webb telescope will be launched into space within the last months of 2021. This telescope will be more powerful than the Hubble Telescope. With its gold coated, beryllium 21.3 ft mirrors and infrared capabilities, it is expected to detect light from the early Universe and see the development of the first stars.

As infrared light can penetrate through dust, the James Webb is expected to peer into star nurseries to bring us the evolution of infant stars and planets cocooned in the dust and gas that created them. The detection of infrared wavelengths will assist in analysing chemical elements in the atmospheres of exoplanets. It will also assess the possibility of life and habitability of other planets beyond our own Solar System.

The James Webb telescope is a joint project between NASA, the European Space Agency with its 22 nations and Canada. It passed its final tests in February 2021 but has been many years on the production line and suffered many setbacks. The immense size of its mirrors and a sunshield the size of a tennis court haven't helped, as they have to be



folded to fit into a nose cone of a rocket and again capable of unfolding in space. This month it will travel by sea to the Hi Tech Space Port in French Guiana, South America where it will be launched into space on an Ariane 5 rocket.

At our August Exploring the Universe we viewed "An Introduction to the James Webb Telescope." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VqG3Jazrfs> .

The Space Port of the European Space Agency is an interesting location in French Guiana. Here the window into Interstellar and Intergalactic Space is revealed in this brilliant time lapse film of 'A starry night at the Ariane 6 Launch Base.' The superstructure for launching the rockets is silhouetted against the night sky. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Cvd_zIOP_I

We also studied the Planet Venus with a lecture to the Explorers Club by NASA Chief Scientist James Garvin. There are three new spacecraft planned to study Venus in the coming years; two from NASA and one from The European Space Agency.

Rupe took us into the mysterious world of particles and even smaller quarks that are the building blocks of the Universe and the newly found tetra quarks!

A tour of the International Space Station finished off a varied and interesting afternoon.

Bev Morton

Family Research

Another Zoom meeting this month because of lockdown restrictions! Seven people were able to participate, with two apologies, in a second 'virtual' session which ended up being very successful. We also welcomed Helen, who joined our session as an observer.

Pains and gains were interesting – from a wife's perspective with ongoing research; difficulty in finding out any information about the person for today's topic; making contact with relatives about family secrets; updating the Monaro Pioneers website about a particular family line; the technique of identifying some common abbreviations used for Christian names which opened up a new avenue of research; to hitting "another dead end" and the use of earlier family connections to further research.

Before getting a cuppa participants were asked to look around their room and choose a family photo to talk about. This threw up wonderful photos and fascinating stories. They included a personal wedding photo, a five generations photo (pictured), a photo of a grandfather during World War 1, an aunt's 70th birthday, a 1941 photo kept by a father during World War 2 and an extremely old photo of an ancestor's sister.



The topic for the month was to discuss a family secret. These stories are compiled on the family research site under the [Family Stories](#) link on our page and are well worth the read.

During the session the dilemma and ethics of sharing information on public forums was discussed. Some of the stories potentially had sensitivities and implications for other possible (unknown) readers. Decisions needed to be made by some class members about what to include in, and indeed whether to include, stories for the website. References on ethical dilemmas were previewed which provide some guidance - [Genealogy 101: Ethics for the Genealogist](#) (blog post) and [National Geneological Society – Guidelines for Sharing with Others](#).

Our new attendee Helen then outlined how direct family links to Benalla discovered during recent family research have made her feel that her move to Strathbogie many years ago and subsequent move to Benalla were preordained.

Next month's topic is: '**Memories Treasure Chest**' - Create or draw upon a 'Memories Treasure Chest' (box, shelf, drawer, old suitcase etc) containing objects and artefacts relating to your family history. Capture the story of two ancestors using items such as maps, menus, theatre programs, an old report card, vials of perfume, a garment, treasured photographs, a souvenir, an expired passport or other object/s. Tell the story of each ancestor and item(s) chosen for them in no more than 250 words per ancestor.

Wendy Sturgess and Bev Lee

Film as Literature

The regional lockdown was lifted the day before our class, and so we were spoilt in being able to meet for our August class. **BUT** with the four-day lockdown leading up to this time, not many were able to see "From the Vine", the film selected to discuss at the class. Class members were instead invited to talk about a film seen recently, a favourite film, or perhaps a film they had not liked. We had a wide range of films to share.

The following are the films that some of the class members talked about:

Dream Horse: A family drama based on a true story. There were moments of comedy with some good performances and cinematography. While formulaic, it was a very watchable film, with those who had seen it rating it as 3-4/5. If you have a chance to see it, do not rush off before the end credits.

From the Vine: A drama, with touches of humour. There was good development of characters. It was set in Italy and had some great cinematography showing the Italian countryside. There was some historical scenes and some animation which may not appeal to all, but which in retrospect were used for a purpose. Rated between 3.5 and 4.5/5.

Man in a Hat: Basically, a comedy, but elements of a travelogue. There was no dialogue, with only an occasional word or grunt. Good usage of facial expression, cinematography and music created the story.

The Wipers Times: A comedy drama based on the true story of a satirical newspaper published on the front lines of World War One. Generally good performances though there were some overdone stereotypes. The cinematography did a good job representing the front line, though at times it was rather dim and dark and hard to see what was going on. Rated as 4/5.

The Bookshop: An excellent – exquisite – film.

A Quiet Place Pt 2: This is a horror film. It provides a precis of the first film in the series, but from a different perspective. The music helped build the tension. It was watchable, with quality actors and rated as 3/5.

Little Women (recent remake): Those who had seen this new version were not impressed and would not recommend it for viewing.

Looking at the upcoming films, there were a two that some class members were interested in seeing, but which one or more members of the class had seen. As there were some screenings of "**From the Vine**" later in the week, and "**Dream Horse**" was again screening later in August, we decided that we would each watch one or both for discussion at our next class on 8 September.

Joy Shirley

Games

The 'first Monday' afternoon Games session has been discontinued for the remainder of the year.

Dorothy Webber

Garden Appreciation

Our Thursday 23rd September trip to the Shepparton Botanical Gardens has been postponed to a later date.

If we come out of lock down by the 23rd, our outing will be to [Park Lane Nursery](#), Wangaratta. Meet at 9.30am at the U3A Car Park. Our morning tea and lunch are yet to be arranged. Please let me know if you are coming.

If we can't go to Park Lane in September, we will go there in October. Happy Gardening!



Gwen Turner 0438 627 010

German

The German group did not meet once in August. The first time we had decided we couldn't and at the very last minute we could have. This was all too rushed. The next time we definitely could not.

By way of revision, we tackled a word find related to the vocabulary explored at the end of semester one.

Pauline Bailey

Investment

Due to lockdown the August meeting of Investment was by Zoom with nine of us online.

Having found last month that the All Ordinaries increased by 24% last financial year, we examined changes in our long-term selections over the same period. We also looked at an extended range of stocks spread over various sectors and ASX Indexes with the aim to understand which stocks had outperformed the overall market. Many of these stocks examined were popular shares which many of our members possibly held.

Both LICs (Listed Investment Companies) and ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds) have an increasing presence in the Australian Stock Market. We looked at the similarities and differences between LICs and ETFs in respect of pay outs and tax obligations.

The next meeting of Investment will be on Friday 3rd September 2021 at 2pm. An Email will be sent nearer to the date to indicate whether it will be in our U3A room or by Zoom.

Margaret Jenkins

Let's Talk Books

Once again, we are on the COVID seesaw. We couldn't find a home for our group in August. So here are a few jewels from some of our members.

Noelle read *Night Letters*, by Robert Dessaix. Every night for 20 nights in a hotel room in Venice, an Australian man recently diagnosed with an incurable disease writes a letter home to a friend. An interesting twist to this story is Noelle discovered that Robert Dessaix lived in Tasmania with his partner Peter Timms, so Noelle presumed the *Night Letters* were written to him. So, then Noelle found Peter Timms' book about Hobart, *In Search of Hobart*, with the introduction by Robert Dessaix, a book with lots of historical information including future plans to establish Hobart as one of the major capital cities in Australia. Good detective work there, Noelle. *The Sunken Road*, by Garry Disher, was well written in the era of the Great Depression but left our reader feeling 'depressed'. We need cheering up at the moment! Thanks, Noelle for your contribution.

Maxine read *Apeirogon*, by Irish author Colum McCann. This book came to notice in Jewish Book Week in a virtual author talk. It explores the conflict in the Middle East with two men who each lost a daughter, one a Palestinian the other an Israeli. This would be worth the read. Also enjoyed and very relevant at the moment, *The Pull of the Stars*, by Irish author Emma Donoghue. In an Ireland ravaged by war and disease, nurse Julia Power works in an understaffed hospital in the city where expectant mothers who have come down with an unfamiliar flu are quarantined together. Mmm!

I read *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri, a family's escape from war torn Syria, very sad and gives an insight into the current situation in Afghanistan. So, for a bit of light relief, I have started some books by English author *Mary Wesley*. Quite entertaining, which is what I need at the moment.

Enjoy your reading and let me know if you are reading anything interesting.

Geraldine McCorkell

Lifeball

In and out of lockdown we went for the month, with players showing remarkable determination to keep attending and enjoying the game! While we are temporarily on hold with the latest lockdown, we will be straight back on the court once allowed. We welcome new players, who can check with convenor Marlene Pitts on 0407 240 943 to confirm dates.

Playing on Monday mornings at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre, Lifeball offers a little bit of competition and a lot of laughs and is a great way to increase fitness.

Julie McNeill

Meet and Mingle

Due to lock down there was no Meet and Mingle in August 2021.

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 10am in our U3A room, restrictions permitting. Guest Speaker Senior Constable Lisa Atkinson from Benalla Police will speak on Scams.

Margaret Jenkins

Music Appreciation

Once again Covid-19 restrictions have got in the way of our twice monthly gatherings. Group members are asked, nevertheless, to keep their hopes up and hats and coats at the ready. Should the restrictions be eased sufficiently to allow us to resume, a programme is ready to go a short notice.

In the meantime, attached is a little snippet one of our number has sent in. Just cut and paste this link - <https://youtu.be/-QUAgpMZkRY> - sit back (or stand up, even, if you feel so moved) and enjoy. With the hope it brightens your day as it did mine.

Bill Squire

Patchwork

Hopefully we will be able to meet in September. If we can, there is a '5th Thursday' on the 30th, providing an opportunity for us to spend all day together.

I thank you all for your support - I know if I'm not able to be with you, someone will step up as Convenor.

Dorothy Webber

Patchworker Deb is pictured here with her 'panel of the month' project.



Play Reading

Lovely to catch up with our members in August, although a somewhat disrupted year, thoughts go to those who work in live theatre. How difficult it has been for so many, yet plans have continued when able and hopes remain high for future productions. Perhaps next year we may be able to attend some local performances.

Our enthusiastic group embraced the reading of the play, *A Lady Mislead*. First performed in the 1950's and written by Kenneth Horne, the story involved two unmarried sisters renting a country cottage, seeking peace and quiet whilst one was recovering from a nervous breakdown. Within a short time, police arrive and start looking for the dismembered wife of the previous tenant. Their quiet life becomes chaotic when the meek and timid husband of the supposed victim, arrives. Classed as a comedy thriller the play provided many amusing incidents, which all agreed would be delightful when performed on stage.

Unfortunately, due to lockdown we will be unable to meet for Play Reading on September 1st. Keep well, enjoy the sunshine and the colours and beauty of Spring.

See you all in October!

Jenny McKenna

Singing for Fun

We managed one Harmony and one Singing for Fun session during August, which we all enjoyed. Perhaps these lock downs make us appreciate what we are able to fit in while still complying with the COVID restrictions.

During these sessions we were introduced to two new songs. Brian Greed used the Harmony session to start us on "The Black Hills of Dakota" which has got a great melody and an elevated soprano part. Margaret Merriman introduced us to "Speed Your Journey" which has got a lilting melody and is a great song. Kieran Smith had us singing some Australian songs which are always enjoyed by the group.

We thank Gwen Barnes for being so versatile in accompanying whatever is chosen by the leaders.

At Singing for Fun, we welcomed back two members who had been away sick for several months. Gina Behrens had been away since last year, whilst Patsy Bollard has been recovering from a fall for two months. Great to see both Gina and Patsy back with us.

We also welcomed Brian Colman to the group. Brian, who recently moved to Benalla, has a history of being involved with musical productions. We hope you enjoy singing with our group Brian.

Thank you, Tomoko Fujiie for the flute performance we were treated to during morning tea at Singing for Fun. The different abilities of people in this group which they are willing to share really adds to the enjoyment we all get from attending.

We will send an Email when the next Singing for Fun session is allowed. In the meantime, keep safe and we look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Margaret Jenkins

Stock and Land

Sue Campbell's Lifetime of Land Care



Sue Campbell, OAM, was a return speaker to our August Stock and Land meeting, ostensibly on the subject of Landcare.

A semi-retired landscape architect, conservationist and Benalla farmer, Sue was awarded her Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to conservation and the environment since the 1960s, in the 2015 Australia Day Honours.

Sue founded her practice Susan Campbell Landscape Architects in 1964. Prior to that, she was the landscape architect for the Victorian Housing Commission from 1962 to 1966. In 1966, Campbell became the inaugural member of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA). From 1974 to 1990, she was chief landscape architect for the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation.

Sue was a member of the Streetscape Committee for the City of Wangaratta throughout 1990s as well as member of the Steering Committee for the Benalla Rural City Environment Strategy Plan in 2012. Sue has also served on the boards of Conservation Volunteers Australia since 1984 and Greening Australia since 1989

Sue has been quoted as saying that even as a child, she was involved in the environment. "I used to get into endless trouble for picking up spiders and snakes," she said.

Much later, for about 16 years, Sue was in charge of replanting and revegetating Albury Wodonga Development Corporation land, which included planting about two million trees.

Her projects have included farm planning, urban design, large-scale landscape projects and urban forestry. She has also been an environmental farmer for 45 years and is the recipient of the Rural Press Landcare Primary Producer Award and Victorian Sustainable Farm Award. She was president of the Victorian Farm Tree and Landcare Association, 2010–2011.

Sue talked about the important Landcare people she has been involved with.

Then, with the Stock and Land group's prompting, Sue talked about ripping, blowing up and bull-doing rabbit warrens on their previously owned rabbit infested farm the other side of Wangaratta, the theme of her previous guest appearance.

Thank you, Sue, for another most enjoyable and informative session.

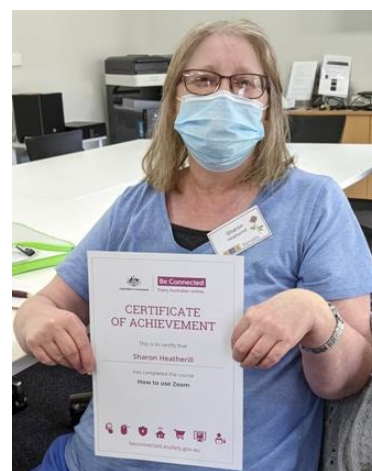
David Palmer

Tech Savvy Beginners – Android

Our new timetable commenced in August - first, second and third Thursdays from 10 to 12 - with class members from the 'On Target' short course joining the class.

We had a most productive month, beginning by achieving 'House Keeping' tasks on our devices. When certain Apps stop working, this can easily be fixed following our House Keeping procedures. We also:

- Added email accounts to tablets
- Sent & received emails
- Downloaded apps
- Looked at & downloaded What's App
- Checked out Voice recording & Video
- 'Zoomed'
- Added replacement passwords
- Downloaded music
- Read PDF documents on our devices
- Discussed the Australia Post scam
- Created folders in Google Drive
- Printed from mobile phone to the new wireless printer



- and more!

Revision is also included at every session.

See you all soon, Covid permitting.

Robyn Lukey

Tech Talks

At our last Tech Talks we opened with a short video from Jeremy Clarkson where he was shown driving in China and making the prophecy that the UK was doomed. He emphasised his point by repeating Doomed - Doomed in much the same way as Private Fraser. He was explaining how China has set up both a rail system and a freeway system that criss-crosses the country which is quite a way ahead of the UK. Clarkson is loath to ever give praise to any country apart from England, so this was surprising to hear. From what he showed on the video he was only stating the obvious, however.

We then watched the American TV personality Jay Leno show off some of his car collection. Leno has used his success in the Media to indulge his passion for cars and has quite a collection.

Leno test drove a 2020 Electric Ford Focus and gave it good marks. This is a car that is available to the public and should be available in Australia in the future.

He then demonstrated his 1909 Baker Electric by taking it out on the roads around his house. This electric car had a range of 100 miles and had the look of a genuine horseless carriage but nevertheless worked quite well and was popular in its day. It did not survive the development of the internal combustion manufacturing industry.

He also demonstrated a genuine hybrid car from 1900 that worked by using an internal combustion engine to drive an electric motor that provided the power to drive the car. Much the same as a modern diesel electric train engine works. But this was in 1900. This was an expensive car and not many were made.

Nevertheless, it worked well, and he explained not much restoration work was required on the mechanical parts.

We finished up by showing a documentary that was made in 1964 where Arthur C Clarke predicted what would happen in the future. We then jumped ahead to his message to the world just before he died where he opened by saying that he had completed 89 revolutions of the Sun. We all indulge in space travel and he predicted it will become quite common in the future.

Neville Gibb

The News – Fact or Fiction

When classes resume after the current lockdown, *The News – Fact or Fiction*, held on the third Tuesday from 10 – 12, will return to the U3A Meeting Room in the Seniors Community Centre.

Brian Harker

Wine Appreciation

We are going to [Sam Miranda Winery](#), Oxley, on Wednesday 22nd September. This is our third try, so we do hope it goes ahead this time! We will meet at the usual place, but an hour later, at 10.30 am.

[Chrismont Winery](#) has been booked for the U3A Benalla end of year celebration on Tuesday 23 November. The cost of the 2-course meal will be \$50 and the bus fare \$10. The bus will leave the depot at 11.00am. More details in upcoming newsletters.

Keith & Heather Rogers 5762 4086

‘Covid Chronicles’

It could be another long month! Would you like to contribute to our new section ‘Covid Chronicles’ next month? Send thoughts, poems, stories, photos and more to bevelee47@gmail.com! Examples –

What is amusing, distracting, interesting you during Covid?

Betty Milligan writes poetry! Just in case you didn’t see it on our FB page, here’s Betty’s latest poem...

Here We Go Again!

Well here I am in Lockdown Number Six,
All the jobs are done, nothing else to fix.
I’ll order up an extra case of red,
And stay another hour in bed.
Soil’s too soggy to dig or feed,
And unless it’s fine I can’t weed.
Writing and painting - I can do that,
And yell at the telly, or talk to the cat!
No visitors allowed is Daniel’s plea.
Without technology, where would I be?
My hair is growing out of control -
Might have to get out the mixing bowl.
Let’s hope the idiots stay inside
And to the rules they do abide.

Betty Milligan, Creative Writing

What do you find has been helping you to cope with lockdowns, what has been keeping you sane?

Gwen Turner, Garden Appreciation Convenor – “Gardening (and reading). When I go out into the garden, I forget about everything. When it’s cool and over-cast I read, but I need sunshine and love gardening!”

Heather Wallace, Saturday 500 Convenor – “I’ve given my lounge area a new look, selling the darker furniture on Benalla Buy and Sell, changing the colours of the rugs and cushions, lightening it up. It looks and makes me feel altogether different.”

What is driving you to distraction?

Heather Wallace, newsletter editor “I can’t pick my own flowers or plants at Bunnings or Mitre10 – I like to choose the colours... collecting them from Click and Collect means I have to take what I’m given!”

...over to you!

Program News

Program Changes

Program changes caused by changing pandemic regulations are updated regularly on the front page of the website. At the time of publication *all groups and activities, other than those conducted by Zoom or the sharing of work by email, have been cancelled for the duration of the lockdown.* Hopefully this restriction does not have to be extended. Our [Covid Safe Plan](#) is continually being revised.

As mentioned elsewhere - Monday *Games* has been discontinued, while *The News Fact or Fiction* will return to meeting at the Seniors Community Centre on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

At this stage, all other courses and activities will stay the same when we open again.

New Courses and Activities for 2022

Do you have an idea for a new course or activity? If so, talk to a committee member who will raise it for you at the next executive meeting. If you would like some help developing a [program proposal](#), contact Bev Lee on 5762 8171 or bevlee47@gmail.com. One idea which we’d like to follow up is a Ukelele group – could you, or do you know anyone who could, teach Ukelele?

Learn how to Join or Host Zoom Meetings

Would you like to learn how to join or host Zoom meetings? We’ve added some ‘self help’ resources to the website - <https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/using-zoom.html> - offer individual mentoring and are planning to offer a Zoom short course of two sessions in future. Interested? Call Margaret on 5762 6944 or fill in the on line form on the website - <https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/news/are-you-interested-in-learning-how-to-attend-zoom-meetings>.

Online Energy Saving Workshop



Get your energy bill under control

VICTORIA
State Government

Free workshops for U3A groups, run by COTA and the Energy Info Hub.

Participants will:

- Find out **four simple steps to save** on electricity and gas bills.
- Get help to apply for the Victorian Government's **\$250 electricity payment.**

Members keen to save on electricity and gas bills and members on Centrelink Pensioner or DVA Veteran Concession Payment (or card) interested in accessing the \$250 Power Saving Bonus are invited to a **free 30-45 minute online workshop on Monday 27 September at 1pm.**

The workshop is being offered by the Independent [Energy Info Hub](#) and Council of the Ageing (COTA), in partnership with Victorian Government, to support older people to control their energy bills and apply for the \$250 Power Saving Bonus.

To express interest in attending, RSVP Beverley Lee on 0478607838 or bevlee47@gmail.com by 20 September.

You will then receive an email invitation with a link to use to join the meeting on your chosen device at home. If the Seniors building is open, we will also screen the meeting to people who would like to attend in a group setting.

What's On*

**Subject to changing pandemic regulations*

Wednesday, 1 September

09:15 Lockdown/Easy Walks – Warby Ovens NP
09:30 Lockdown/Play Reading
14:00 Lockdown/Be Connected

Thursday, 2 September

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

Friday, 3 September

09:30 Lockdown/Sustainability
14:00 Zoom/Investment

Saturday, 4 September

13:30 Lockdown/Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 6 September

09:30 Lockdown/Exercises for Fun
10:00 Lockdown/Collectors
10:00 Lockdown/Lifeball
10:00 Lockdown/Art Appreciation
16:00 Lockdown/Meditation

Tuesday, 7 September

10:00 Zoom/Demystifying Psychology
10:00 Lockdown/Page Turners
10:00 Lockdown/Stock and Land
14:00 Lockdown/Armchair Traveller
14:00 Lockdown/Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 8 September

09:00 Lockdown?/Mid-Week Walks – The PAPS
10:00 Lockdown/Recorder Group
13:30 Sharing by Email/Film as Literature
14:00 Lockdown/Be Connected

Thursday, 9 September

09:00 Lockdown?/Birdwatching – Reef Hills
10:00 Lockdown/Harmony Group @ The Hub
10:00 Lockdown/Tech Savvy Beginners (Android)
13:30 Zoom/Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 10 September

10:00 Music Appreciation
14:00 Armchair History - The Hub

Monday, 13 September

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

Tuesday, 14 September

10:00 Politics & Current Affairs @ The Hub
12:15 German
14:00 Tech Talks

Wednesday, 15 September

10:00 Meet and Mingle - 'Scams', Benalla Police
14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners 2021 (Apple)

Thursday, 16 September

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

Friday, 17 September

09:30 Sustainability
11:45 Chat 'n Chew – Ella Goose, Nunn Street

13:00 Demystifying Psychology

Saturday, 18 September

13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 20 September

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

Tuesday, 21 September

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

Wednesday, 22 September

10:30 Wine Appreciation – Sam Miranda, Oxley
10:00 Recorder Group
14:00 Tech Savvy Beginners 2021 (Apple)

Thursday, 23 September

09:30 Garden Appreciation – Park Lane Nursery
10:00 Community Singing @ The Hub
13:00 Family Research - Memories Treasure Chest

Friday, 24 September

10:00 Music Appreciation
14:00 Armchair History

Saturday, 25 September

17:00 Newsletter reports due today

Monday, 27 September

09:30 Exercises for Fun
10:00 Lifeball
13:00 Energy Saving Workshop - COTA
14:00 As Time Goes By - Memoir Writing

Tuesday, 28 September

10:00 Politics & Current Affairs @ The Hub
12:15 German
14:00 A Different View of German History

Thursday, 30 September

Patchwork (All Day Session)

Friday, 1 October

09:30 Sustainability
14:00 Investment

Saturday, 2 October

13:30 Saturday Games - '500'

Monday, 4 October

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

Tuesday, 5 October

10:00 Demystifying Psychology
10:00 Page Turners
10:00 Stock and Land
14:00 Armchair Traveller
14:00 Let's Talk Books

Wednesday, 6 October

09:30 Easy Walks – Wetlands Walk, Tahbilk
09:30 Play Reading
14:00 Be Connected

Thursday, 7 October

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