Benalla and District Inc.

Newsletter – May 2025

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President's Report

On Wednesday 2nd April U3A Benalla delivered a presentation to Benalla Rural City Councillors at an Assembly of Council meeting. The presentation went well. U3A Benalla were requesting more floor space at the Benalla Seniors and Community Centre. We had lots of questions from Councillors afterwards including one from the mayor asking if we had considered fund-raising toward the extension.

This question was discussed at the U3A Benalla Committee meeting on Thursday 10th April and subsequently the Committee has written to the Councillors offering $30,000 as a one-off contribution for an extension which will give U3A an extra room which will accommodate 45 people. This money has been accumulated over a period of 10 years by careful management of U3A finances. The Committee indicated to Councillors that the money is not for the planning period but will be available during the construction phase of the extra room.

The day after our presentation to Council, three Councillors came to see the Patchwork and Craft group at work in Room 1. Dorothy Webber, who is the Convenor of Patchwork and Craft, had about 30 ladies busily sewing. Dorothy pointed out to the Mayor Bernie Hearn, Cr David Blore and Cr Justin King the new patchwork wall hanging which had been made by Corrie Witlox (pictured) and hung in Room 1 during the last month.

The reason for the Councillors' visit was to point out to them how crowded this room can be, and how we need a larger room.

On Tuesday 25th March I attended the North East Regional U3A meeting which was held by Zoom. An interesting fact which came out of the meeting was that U3A Goulburn Valley, which is really Shepparton has 360 members, Albury/Wodonga has 400 members and U3A Benalla had 430 members. Shepparton's population is roughly 70,000 whilst Albury/Wodonga is about 90,000 and Benalla's population is about 14,000. So as a U3A we have proportionally attracted a bigger proportion of our population. Perhaps it is the 48 varied courses which we currently offer. You will be pleased to know that our membership has now reached 449.

Not everything has been good during the month. On Saturday 29th March we found that our laptop and the bag that housed associated equipment used in Room 1 was missing. At the same time as this was discovered,

the TV was found to be on very loudly and the door to Room 1 open. On the following Monday we notified the Benalla Police. The laptop bag and contents has not been found.

My thanks to Bev Lee and Graeme Greed who have worked to keep groups functioning without the laptop, and to Graeme for sourcing a replacement remote for the overhead projector and HDMI cord so quickly.

On a more positive note, on Monday 7th April, I was invited by Horst Gunther to speak about U3A Benalla at the Probus meeting in Violet town. This talk took place at the Community Centre in Violet Town, which was a series of rooms adaptable for many different activities. The talk went well, and I certainly enjoyed meeting all the Probus members.

Margaret Jenkins, President

Group Reports

A Taste of Art

A busy 'fifth Wednesday' in April at 'A Taste of Art' … (more photos on the **A Taste of Art** web page shortly)

Carol Perry

American History

In the third session on April 1st this year, we looked at the beginnings of a number of the first thirteen English colonies on the east coast of northern America. Particular attention was given to the Puritans in Massachusetts and how their beliefs created a very restricted and repressive lifestyle. We read and briefly discussed an article written in 1992 for *Newsweek* magazine about the Tercentenary anniversary of the Salem witch-hunts. A couple of video clips illustrated some of what was covered: one was a short animated, map-based view of how and why England established colonies in America; while the second was a more comprehensive coverage of the first colonies and their struggles and growth.

In the next session on May 6th at 2pm, we will cover some developments in these early colonies and the key causes of the American War of Independence, including discussion of important figures and philosophies.

Barbara Rogers

Art Appreciation

At this month's 'First Monday' session on Monday 7th April at the Benalla Art Gallery, *Simeon Ayres* spoke about his exhibition *A Cartography of the Heart Country - A Courtship of Belonging.*

Simeon's practice is defined by landscapes that are aerial, map-like in perspective, while also encompassing more traditional and pictorial depictions. His pictures are landscapes in the true sense of the word. They depict the land and the watercourses that cover the land. He gives almost an exact record of the landscape. It is extremely interesting to someone who recognises the area portrayed.

This exhibition is of a high standard and well worth looking at.

Join us at the Gallery at 10 am on Monday 5 May when local artist *Anna Mackrell* will "describe her working process, her drawings, collages and oil paintings. Hear how she is influenced by the landscapes around her home in the Strathbogie Ranges. This talk will be held during her exhibition, *A Well Structured Nature,* a retrospective of expressive landscape and flower paintings inspired by the region that she loves".

Neville Gibb

'As Time Goes By' – Memoir Writing

With our third session falling on Easter Monday, stories already submitted on April's topics have been published on-line to make May's class less pressured. Stories from Jan, Max and Merv appear under the broad heading ***'War and Peace'***, a story from Anne has been added to our ***'Anzac Day'*** collection, and a

quirky story from Carmyl, ***'First of April'*** is a 'member's choice'. There's still time to send in stories for *'Anzac Day'*, *'Easter'* or *'Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right'* to be published online.

On April 16th, in a session titled ***'1945'***, five past and current members of As Time Goes By who had written stories in which they remembered the end of the war presented them at *Meet and Mingle*. In a session modelled our class process, an icebreaker led to lots of discussion and stories were projected on to back wall. It was such a privilege to introduce, then listen to, Carmyl Winkler, Bev Morton, Margaret Nelson, Max Tilbury and Ray O'Shannessy sharing their stories. Thank you all!

Two delightful topics on 'Places' are on the agenda for our session on Monday 19th May at 2pm.

- *'A Love Letter to Travel'* The brief: "Write a love letter to travel about one place in the world that is special to you. It can be a popular tourist destination, or a place that's largely overlooked." (You could begin "Dear Madrid,… " etc) OR
- *'My Happy Place'* Describe your happy place, where it is and why it's special to you, in 500 words.

Full details of these topics can be found on the topic list and on the website.

Beverley Lee

Australian Shares & Stock Market

We had 15 members attend our Monday 7th April meeting. The topic we discussed around the room was what will happen with the Trump Tariffs to our shares and superannuation balances. The Australian shares fell 4% Friday and are in a hold pattern today however, tomorrow anything can happen. The XAO (All Ordinaries Index) is down 7% for the March period, and 10% since early February.

The main handout was on gold miners in Australia (330 listed companies on the ASX) with some small miners with incredible share price rises of 400%; while gold bullion rose some 30% over the last six months. There were 14 small gold miners on the handout page 6, all worth watching today and over the next 4 months. All 14 have gained 23% to 150% in the January- February period.

Thanks to Les for his resume of Opthea (OPT) research into retinal diseases and trials that showed early improvement, but under phase 3 trials were disappointing and the company value has now fallen and are in a trading halt.

Wende, your "Silver" choice in the Monthly sheet performed very well. Winner for the month! Gold did ok for Neville.

On the monthly selection sheet nine members have chosen a new stock for April—May period. Sue on the Real time trading you lead with MPL (Medibank Private) which held up very well Friday when I did sheets; - but today it fell 6.7% to $4.32. Four members have traded on the Real Time Trading sheet with the three banks (ANZ, WBC & NAB) yet to announce their dividend, which will be known by our May meeting. Woolworths WOW and Challenger CGF both rose Friday and today are still in positive territory.

Our next meeting will be Monday 5 May at 2pm.

Malcolm Sanders

Be Connected – Android

In April, once again, we looked at the never-ending issue of storage space for our photos on our devices. Many of us have found that we have used the space allocated, so we need to know what alternatives, or solutions, there are available.We also looked at emails, folders within emails, and terminology used for functions in emails.

Next month we will use the 'Be Connected' website to continue with the email theme.

Also, by request, we will begin to delve into the world of Facebook and Instagram.

We continue to encourage class members (pictured in April – Trish, Ruth, Jan and Irina) to suggest topics and issues they would like help with.

Ruth Jelliff

Birdwatching

Next outing is a walk around **Lake Benalla** on Thursday 8th May 2025 With a number of new members of the group this year, it seems a good idea to check out the birds around Lake Benalla. We will do the southern section of the walk which is about 2.5km. The water, the Red Gum woodland and the open parklands provide a variety of habitats for birds. And they're used to people walking past.

We will **meet beside the lake at the back of the library at 9 am** (**note earlier time**). As usual, please wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring binoculars if you have them.

Report of outing to Glenrowan Thursday 10th April 2025

At Glenrowan there is an excellent bitumen walking track between the town and Hamilton Park, beside Warby Range Road. Our group of twenty walked the Glenrowan end of the track past an orchard, a winery and the Grey Box trees and shrubs lining the roadside. The weather was fine but hazy from controlled burns in the area.

Our first raptor was a Whistling Kite flying over the orchard, but the second raptor was hard to identify as it flew past us. Thanks to a quick photo by Helen Repacholi with her long lens, and referral to several experienced birding friends, we identified the bird as a dark morph Little Eagle. We also saw 2 Striated Pardalotes at the top of a power pole. The holes in the pole are just right for the tiny pardalotes to enter and build their nests. Traditionally they have nested in small tree hollows. It was useful to compare Welcome Swallows with Tree Martins as they zoomed overhead catching insects. Brown-headed and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Grey Fantail, Spotted Pardalote and Weebill were some of the birds feeding along the roadside. Coffee and cake at the bakery made an enjoyable end to the morning. We recorded 17 bird species.

Here is a link to the eBird list https://ebird.org/checklist/S228401160

Kathy Costello

Brain Games

In April we talked a little about the linear, sequential left and the intuitive, creative right hemispheres of the brain and did a few exercises to limber up both sides.We did a short quiz that suggested our "brain personality" and then two longer tests on Visual Analogies and Word Definitions which might be more challenging depending on whether you find it easier to spot the logic or respond to the imaginative. If you know your weak spots you can seek activities and puzzles that can strengthen abilities to solve problems or see patterns. All good fun and only a little competitive.

Elspeth Maconachie

Bushwalking – Easy Walks

WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL: TAHBILK WINERY WALKABOUT In perfect (25°) weather, a group of 15 Easy Walkers met at Chateau Tahbilk, Nagambie, for a very pleasant 6.8km stroll around the Winery Eco Trails and Wetlands, a carefully preserved 1,214 hectares of the Estate.

The lily lined lagoons and river flats provide valuable habitat for local birdlife and animals. After returning to the historic 1860's built Tahbilk, we gravitated to the Cellar Door, where offered tastings led to some

purchases. Our group returned to Nagambie township for lunch and a coffee. Glen Chessells, our walk leader, must be congratulated for introducing us to a very special part of the Goulburn Valley

EASY WALK WEDNESDAY MAY 7: CHERRY WALK BRIGHT: AUTUMN LEAVES

A very pleasant autumn walk in Bright: the 5.27km Cherry Walk, following a track on both sides of the Ovens River. Lunch at the shelter and then, if time and inclination, a further 3.36lm return Canyon Walk in the opposite direction along the Ovens River. For those not so inclined to walk further, use this time for shopping in Bright. Parking in Bright will be the main Car Park behind the Info Centre, as this has toilets and picnic tables, as well as ample parking.

Meet at the usual parking area behind the U3A/Fire Station at the earlier time of 8.45am, for a 9am start, due to the added distance. Bring lunch, water, hat etc. *Travel cost will be $10.

Contact walk leader Bev Thornell on: 0447193244 at least 3 days beforehand.

June's Easy Walk will be in The Warbys - details next Newsletter

Beverly Thornell

Cards '500'

Cards '500' is held in Room 1 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 2 to 4pm. Please contact Convenor Doug Smith on **0417 527 171** if you are going to be absent. This assists with the setting up of tables.

Car Torque

Car Torque continues to keep up the interest of our group with a good attendance again at our April meeting. Our draw card of course is the great and unique vehicles we are able to showcase at our meetings which we call "Car of the Month". segment

In April we had Rod Cook, a Baddaginnie local, bring along a truly stunning and amazing car – a 1949 MG TC. Rod gave an extensive run down of the car's history and restoration and his passion in owning it. Rod outlined the car's history, summarized as follows-

- MG cars were first produced in 1924
- MG Morris Garages located in Abington, Oxfordshire England produced 10,000 TC's of which 2,000 were exported to the US market
- The MG TC was the first post WW2 model: 1945 -1949
- Rod purchased his TC in 2021
- Its previous owner was a Qantas pilot that had the car fully and meticulously restored over 11 years
- The restoration history has been chronicled in a book with the receipts for all the restoration work which Rod said came with the car and presented to the group for viewing.

Chat Session

- The question of the regulations for the mounting height of rear taillights on cars was raised at our March meeting due to modern cars having a considerable variation in mounting heights to older cars. This was followed up at our April meeting with the answer found in the Australian Design Rule 13/00, which stated a rear light mounting height range above ground of 350mm to 1500mm for motor vehicles.
- VicRoads Registration and Licensing has now been privatized in a joint venture with superannuation companies Macquarie Asset Management, Aware Super and Australian Retirement Trust.
- Putting the wrong fuel in your car (diesel into a petrol car and vice versa) involved considerable discussion of personal experiences. It was agreed a small accidental amount would cause no harm but any large quantity would need to be drained, and the tank flushed by a motor mechanic.
- The question of driver license renewal for those aged over 70 - drivers over the age of 70 can only get a renewal for 3 years compared with 10-year renewals previously for all drivers.

Keep your hands on the wheel.

Doug Smith

Chat n' Chew

We had a lovely lunch at Kim Wah in April, enjoyed by all.

May's 'Chat n' Chew' lunch will take place at the Benalla Golf Club, Benalla/Mansfield Road, on Friday 9 May, arriving at 11.45 am for a 12 midday start.If you wish to attend, call and leave a message or text me on 0427 376 991 by Tuesday 6 May.

If you've had a change of plan after putting your name down, please let me know. And as always, a reminder to include your name in the messages you leave for me.

Lorraine Knox

Coin Collectors

At our April meeting we decided to mix it up a bit and have a look at coins from "across the ditch" (relative sizes above).

Most of our members had a small collection of NZ coins that were shared around the table. We also talked in more detail about New Zealand coins and the Perth Mint.

New Zealand has a similar coin minting history to Australia moving decimal in 1967. To answer the question where are NZ coins minted does not give the obvious answer. NZ coins since 2006 have been minted by the Royal Canadian Mint when the Reserve Bank of New Zealand decided to outsource for cost efficiency.

NZ coins like Australia have interesting native fauna and historical images on their reverse side. Some examples included: 10 cents – Maori carved mask, $1 features 2 of NZ national symbols, kiwi and ponga/silver fern and $2 Kotuki/White heron.

While NZ went decimal in 1967, it has recently changed its coins sizes. Key differences to Australian coins:-

- NZ coins are generally smaller and lighter, especially the 20c and 50c coins.
- NZ $2 is larger than the $1, whereas it's the opposite in Australia.
- Materials differ—New Zealand uses plated steel for smaller denominations; Australia uses cupronickel and aluminium-bronze.
- Australian 50c coins are distinctively large and dodecagonal (12-sided), unlike NZ's round 50c.

Perth Mint: The question often arises as to whether coins produced by the Perth Mint are legal tender. Coins produced by the Perth Mint are considered legal tender in Australia. However, it's important to note that many of these coins are "non-circulating legal tender," meaning they are not intended for everyday transactions. Instead, they are primarily designed for collectors and investors.

Under the Currency Act 1965, the Australian Government authorizes the Perth Mint to mint coins that are legal tender. These coins must bear the approved effigy of the monarch and are redeemable at their face value at the Reserve Bank of Australia or the relevant mint that produced the coin. However, banks are not legally obligated to redeem them. Perth Mint coins include:-

- *Bullion Coins:* These include gold, silver, and platinum coins like the Australian Gold Nugget (also known as the Kangaroo) and the Australian Platinum Koala. While they are legal tender, their market value is primarily determined by the precious metal content, which often exceeds their face value.
- *Collector Coins*: These are produced in limited editions and often feature intricate designs. An example is the Jewelled Turtle coin, which has a face value of $2,500 but is priced at $269,000 due to its rarity and craftsmanship.

In summary while Perth Mint coins are legal tender, they are typically not used for everyday transactions. Their value is largely driven by factors such as metal content, rarity, and collector demand.

Keep noodling.

Doug Smith

Collectors

Our April meeting saw a beautiful display of linen.

A beautifully supper cloth and napkins embroidered by a great aunt as she travelled on the train. A pattern from the Australian women's weekly of state flowers of Western Australia with placemat napkin and coaster. A lovely tablecloth worked in the Willow pattern of blue and white. Tea towels by Pro Hart and Harrods. A lovely table setting from India of placemats and napkins, a wedding present that has never been used. A hand embroidered dressing table set that is still in use today, pillow shams 100 years old. The collection of tea towels consisted of Pro Hart, Harrods, Gold Coast, map of Wales, York Minster, Commonwealth Games 1962, and a set of large tea towels found in an op shop with fun embroidery. Napkins from the 1980s and a baby dress 80 years old.

See you all on 13 May when the topic is TOYS.

Dorothy Webber

Colour Mixing and Watercolour Techniques – Botanical

We are now moving on to creating beautiful, harmonious watercolour pieces using our colour mixing skills. Individual choices of subject are very diverse and colourful – fabulous class!

Margaret Zaal

Community Singing

What a tremendous morning we had at Community Singing in April. Not only did we have a good turn up of U3A members, but we also had at least 10 people from Cooinda plus carers. The Hub was full and everyone enjoyed the morning.

Many thanks to Brian who played the piano for us. What an amazing job he did. Just give him the name of the song and the key it is in, and he starts playing the song instantly. Thank you, Brian for making the morning so successful.

Also thank you to Kieran for announcing the songs.

May has five Thursdays in it. So, we will have Community Singing on Thursday 22nd May and Thursday 29th May at 10am at the Hub at Cooinda. All welcome.

Margaret Jenkins

Creative Writing

"You don't have to be great to start. But you have to start to be great." – Zig Ziglar

Everyone has a story in them; it is up to each of us to find our story and write it down.

Discussion:

The building blocks of writing are words. As we learnt in school, there are different types of words. We discussed some of the more common of these: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, conjunctives. Our discussion included talking about how the usage of words and construction of sentences have changed over the years.

Our challenge:

To further the understanding of the different types of words, we each wrote a sentence of what we had done during the day, and then analysed these to determine which were nouns, verbs etc.

Some of our Stories:

The Sale: A small incident that created a big picture, showing the contrast between country life and the big city. It involved a story by an older lady of her visit to the bargain basement in sale time. It contrasted her experience with the old-style service at home – the city people were not her type of people.

My Kind of People: A story from two perspectives. Two friends tell of their meeting, their early lives, and how one was able to rescue her friends from a coercive sect – not really her type of people.

Autumn: A character experiencing Autumn, his favourite season, after receiving unwelcome news about a cancer diagnosis that meant this would be his last Autumn. After thinking about his relationships, family and friends, came acceptance and a decision to take each day as a bonus and enjoy what was left.

The Lake Visit: The reminiscences after the loss of a long-time friend, visiting one of their regular meeting places by the lake. A beautiful setting was well defined, as were the experiences they had enjoyed during their lives.

A Marvelous Night: The story about a chance encounter and how it evolved. He was an arrogant opportunist; she was a young professional. He invites her to an AFL game, treats her to a fast-food hamburger. All these things she would not normally do. The author talked about how the story took its own path, not how he had planned, with him finding he did not like the girl at all.

Prompts:

Our prompts for our May class are:

- The pie was a big surprise.
- Surely kayaking was easy. I was sure I could make the distance – or so I thought.
- Painting the graffiti was the easy part – not getting caught was the challenge.

Joy Shirley

Demystifying Psychology – Perception

Topic: **Effective Communication**

We had an engaging and good-humoured discussion today about clear and respectful communication — an area we all agreed can make life a whole lot easier when dealing with tricky conversations.

Everyone quickly warmed to the idea of using “I” statements. It sparked a few laughs as we shared examples of how easily conversations can go off the rails when we start pointing fingers. It was clear that speaking from our own experience, rather than blaming others, makes for a much smoother ride.

Active listening also struck a chord. Many of us admitted it’s easy to think we’re listening when really we’re just planning our response. A few tips like reflective listening and giving a good nod or two were well received — though we joked about the risk of nodding off if meetings drag on too long!

We talked about tone too, and everyone agreed that how we say something often matters more than what we say. A few of us shared stories about moments when our best intentions were lost in delivery. Calm voices and a bit of deep breathing were agreed to be handy tools — especially before diving into something sensitive.

Focusing on the issue, not the person, got some knowing nods around the room. It’s easy to slip into personal comments when emotions run high, but we all agreed it rarely ends well.

Setting boundaries, showing empathy, giving useful feedback, and standing our ground respectfully were all seen as good habits — ones we’ve probably picked up over the years.

In all, it was a lively session with laughter, shared wisdom, and practical ideas. The group seemed genuinely keen to put a few of these tools into practice — or at least have them ready for next time a "difficult" chat rolls around!

NEXT MEETING: 10:00 am – 11:55 am Thursday 15 May U3A Room 1

Jane Rushworth 0437 621 575

Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group

This month's session had the group diving deep — not just into politics, but also into ourselves. With Developmental Theory as our backdrop (thank you, Erikson), we acknowledged we're in the "Integrity vs. Despair" chapter of life. That means we're in prime position to reflect, share hard-won insights, and — let's be honest — call things out when we see them.

The political systems discussion unfolded in layers. We looked at our role as observers: Do we stay politely on the sidelines, or do we "yell" when needed? There was a fair bit of nodding (and some chuckling) as we considered when we've chosen to speak up and when we've let things slide — sometimes out of wisdom, sometimes sheer fatigue.

A recurring theme was how our lens shapes what we see — and how it might change over time. Many of us acknowledged that lived experience (and a few grey hairs) can either sharpen our views or soften them. The Trump era stirred up lively comparisons — was he a product of a broken system or a master of political theatre? Narcissistic personality or cunning strategist? Opinions varied, as you'd expect, but discussion remained respectful, with a few "well, that depends on who you ask" moments that kept things grounded.

We also reflected on history — Hitler's rise, political movements across time — and how these inform our present fears and hopes. Several members contributed fascinating reading suggestions, adding extra layers to our ongoing conversations.

All in all, it was a rich, reflective session — part political unpacking, part life review, and full of shared wisdom (with a good splash of humour thrown in).

Links recommended by participants:

Elaine Ingham: American microbiologist, soil biology researcher and founder of Soil Foodweb Inc. She is known as a leader in soil microbiology.

Reasons why people voted for Trump: Bernie Sanders.

NEXT MEETING: 10:00 am – 11:55am Tuesday 20 May, U3A Room 1

Jane Rushworth 0437 621 575

Exercises for Fun

It is very important to get some kind of exercise daily. We need to exercise to stay fit and strong.

Our exercises to music are ideal for our Seniors age group and encourage us to get motivated to increase our fitness and strength.

Any exercise is better than no exercise, so come along and join us every Monday in the Seniors and Community Centre at 9.30am.

Have fun and get motivated.

Helen Jeffree

Exploring the Universe

A Journey into Deep Space with Euclid and ALMA

In April, our explorations took us from views of the early universe to the huge radio telescope in the Atacama Desert in Chile, with a few visits to newly formed planets and stars along the way.

The European Space Agency's 'Euclid' Space Telescope was launched in 2023, to create a large-scale map of the structure of the universe across space and time, producing the largest cosmic atlas ever made. Stationed 1.5 million km from Earth in the same area as the James Webb and other space telescopes, it has an unobstructed view of deep space.

Webb is like a powerful microscope, allowing scientists to zoom in on specific details in the universe. In a single observation Euclid's wide field camera can record the data from an area of the sky more than one hundred times bigger than that imaged by Webb. We delved into the latest video of data recorded by Euclid. Zooming through deep space, Euclid captures the shapes of hundreds of thousands of galaxies in one view. The different colours reveal their age and distance. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0Urevs5Aw8

The Chajnantor Plateau at an Altitude of 5,000 metres is the site for the Atacama Large Millimetre/ Submillimeter Array, Radio Telescope. Known as ALMA its 66 giant 7 and 12 metre antennas act as a single

telescope with a variable diameter. In this dry uninhabited atmosphere, the "seeing" is excellent. We learnt about its operation and achievements. The ALMA Trailer.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egUa3bGdHDg

Bev Morton

Exploring Writing Children's Books

The April session of the Children's Book Group saw a quieter turnout, with several members unable to attend due to various commitments. Despite the smaller group, the session remained focused and informative, continuing the journey of understanding how to craft compelling stories for young readers.

Activities

This month's discussion centred around understanding how writing style and language differ across key age groups: 0–5, 5–7, and 7–9 years. The group explored how vocabulary, sentence structure, and tone shift to suit the developmental stages of children in each bracket.

In addition, participants examined how illustration styles vary for each age group, considering visual complexity, colour palettes, and character design suited to different reading levels.

The session also included an analysis of current children's books on the market, highlighting popular trends, bestselling genres, and influential authors across the various age categories.

Looking Ahead

The upcoming session will focus on page layouts and styles of book presentation, giving members insight into how visual storytelling complements written content. Importantly, group members will also have the opportunity to present their individual projects, offering a chance to share progress, receive feedback, and celebrate each other's creativity.

Peter Thompson

Family Research – Getting Started

Our group session for April focussed on learning how to search the digitised newspaper collection that can be found in TROVE. Trove, as its name implies, is an online collection of treasures such as newspapers, gazettes, photos, diaries, posters, artwork, letters and maps. It is managed by the National Library of Australia. Thanks to the work of many volunteers including the Benalla Historical Society, old newspapers have been scanned and made accessible through this website. The newspapers contain many family stories including reports on weddings and social events, birth and death notices, advertisements for businesses and local news to name a few.

With the opportunity to search TROVE in class there were a number of exciting discoveries made. These included a funeral notice of an ancestor and a social page that detailed a family wedding with names and descriptions of the outfits worn by the bridal party. The stories and people within these articles offer an insight into our ancestor's life. When we discover them, they become more than just a name on our family tree.

Whilst the one-to--one sessions will take place in week 4 of May, our group session will be taking a break for the month of May.

In June the group session will focus on Shipping Records and other resources that can be found within the Public Records Office of Victoria, commonly referred to as PROV.

Deb Saunders

Film Discussion Group

We discussed several films this month. These were watched variously at Benalla, Swanpool, or on a streaming service

Maria: Maria Callas, the world's greatest opera singer, lives the last days of her life in 1970s Paris, as she confronts her identity. Angelina Jolie did a good job portraying Maria. The film was well structured with some interesting relationships. **It was rated as 3/5**.

Widow Clicquot: After her husband's untimely death, Barbe-Nicole Ponsardin Clicquot flouts convention by assuming the reins of the fledgling wine business they had nurtured together. Another member of the class saw this film this month. Her reaction to the film was different from other members who had previously seen the film. She felt the relationship of the widow with her husband was underplayed. Also, information about what happened with the daughter was not provided. The scenery was good. **It was rated this time as 2/5**.

Anora: This film won several Academy Awards. It was re-screened at Benalla as "After Credits Convo" – re-screening of a film people may have missed, with an opportunity after the film to discuss reactions. One member of the class was able to attend to see why it had won so many awards. Her reaction was muted. Could see some good things, but with some things overplayed. It did not gloss over things. Some reviews had suggested it as a "Cinderella story". This was not the case as there was no real happy ending**. It was rated as 3/5,** being not thought as good as some other films that missed out.

The Monkey: When twin brothers Bill and Hal find their father's old monkey toy in the attic, a series of gruesome deaths start. This as seen as a terrible and weird film. There was not much of a plot with a lot of killing and blood everywhere. The twins had very different personalities, and Theo James, who played both roles, did a good job showing the differences. **It was rated as 1/5**.

Black Bag: When intelligence agent Kathryn is suspected of betraying the nation her husband is tasked to find the truth. There were lots of cliches with all characters (all agents) portrayed as killers and liars. The film was well produced. It was a complex plot with some confusion for the viewer. Perhaps it is a film to see more than once to fully understand all the twists and turns. Ratings averaged out as around **3.5/5.**

A Working Man: Levon Cade left his profession behind to work in construction. When a local girl vanishes, he is asked to return to his skills in the world of counterterrorism. It was a one-man show with over-the-top constant action. The acting was not always good, with stereotypical characters. **It was rated as 2/5**

Other films watched were **Snow White**, rated 3/5; **Dogman**, rated 2.5/5; and **A Minecraft Movie**, rated 3/5. All these were aimed a younger audience but can also be entertaining for adults.

Joy Shirley

Garden Appreciation

On 24th April, we enjoyed a lovely morning tea at **Sandra's Nursery** — great coffee! Thank you to Sandra and Clive.

We also had a wonderful tour of the **Benalla Race Club** and a lovely lunch at the **Golf Club**.

Our next outing will be on 22nd May. We will meet at the U3A car park at 9:30am before heading off for a tour of Shepparton's nurseries. We will begin at the **New Echuca Shepparton Plant Farm**, located at 535 Archer Street, Kialla. After visiting the nurseries, we will lunch together at the Pepper Mill Hotel.

Please text (0438 627 010) or email me (gwenturner243@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending.

Gwen Turner

Garden Team

"Please thank the Garden Team. They did such a magnificent job at my place.

It looks so much tidier, and as I walked around today, I could admire the plants rather than be drawn to all the things that needed attention!!! A Willy wagtail and a fantail joined me as I wandered the garden - they must have been appreciating all the effort put in by the garden team too.

So happy to be a part of this great team of people--thank you all so much!

Cheers, Janet" … and

"Hi Elspeth, here are two photos from this afternoon's magnificent effort. How lucky are we to be part of such a happy and productive group of gardeners!"

This sums up how we each feel after the team has been.

Elspeth Maconachie

German

The German group has a new member who has fitted well into the present program. The first talk at the beginning of every weekly session shows a remarkable boost in confidence by individual members. The occasional slipping in of some grammar helps to boost that confidence.

We used free room time for a longer session on the fifth Tuesday to enjoy coffee and cake and listen to some German travel shows, which help the ear to get used to the rhythm of the German language.

We made significant progress this month.

Horst Gunther

Let's Talk Books

Nothing to Envy *by Barbara Demick* a 2009 non-fiction book based on interviews with ordinary people and their lives in North Korea. We all agreed we are lucky to live where we do. ***And the Mountain Echoed*** *by Khalid Hosseini* this is the 3rd book written by Khalid, two brothers travel across the desert to Kabul with their father and have no idea of the fate that awaits them. ***Batavia*** *by Peter Fitzsimmons* the Shipwreck of the Batavia combines the brutality of colonisation with sea faring adventure as usual Peter Fitzsimmons has done

his research very well. ***The Boy from the Woods*** *by Harlem Coben* - 30 years ago Wilde was found as a boy living feral in the woods with no memory; as an adult he still doesn't know his past, there is also the mystery of a missing teenage girl involved. A good one. ***Chanel's Riviera*** *by Anne De Courcy,* Life, Love and the Struggle for Survival on the Cote d'Azur 1930-1944, the title tells it all. ***The Phantom of 5th Avenue*** *by Meryl Gordon,* the mysterious life and scandalous death of heiress Huguette Clark whose father obtained his riches by copper mining. Our Australian Author *Judy Nunn* wrote ***Tiger Men*** - set in and around Hobart, this is the saga of three families leading to the sacrifices of WW1. Judy doesn't fail to write a good story. ***Love Anthony*** *by Lisa Genova*, a friendship that gives a mother the ability to understand the thoughts of her 8-year-old autistic son. On an entirely different level a TV Series on SBS ***The Swap*** is a 3-part series that took place in Brisbane. Ali Kadri the CEO of the Islamic College of Brisbane put forward the idea of 6 Islamic students swapping with 3 pairs of students from Catholic Colleges and a secular State High School, giving students the opportunity to attain unity, respect and understanding of each other and the different lives we all lead. Excellent viewing and a great idea. ***Joice Nankivell – Blue Ribbons, Bitter Bread*** *a biography by Susanna De Vries*. This biography is a tribute to one of Australia's most heroic women who during WW11was an agent for the Allies in Eastern Europe and helped over a 1000 Jews and Poles escape. ***Take Me Home*** *by Karly Lane,* set in the Scottish Highlands a lovely story of family values and self-discovery. ***In the Middle of Nowhere*** *by Terry Underwood* a novel of beating the odds, the power of love and the strength of family ties. Also enjoyed was ***Flame Tree Hill*** *by Mandy Magro* and ***The Whitest Flower*** *by Brendan Graham.* American writer *Stephen King* has written a novella ***Everything's Eventual,*** sounds different but was enjoyed by our reader. ***Hostage*** *by Robert Crais* a small-town thriller, ***The Tribute*** *by John Byron*, a thriller with a serial killer loose in Sydney. ***Book of Souls*** *by Glenn Cooper* a shocking truth lies with the pages of an ancient library locked inside a high security complex under the Nevada Desert. ***I am Pilgrim*** *by Terry Hayes* received a mmmm! Whilst the ***Death of Dora Black*** *by Lanie Anderson* and ***Dead Man's Chest*** *by Kerry Greenwood* were enjoyed. ***Angel of Waterloo*** *by Jackie French,* the soldiers she saved called her `the angel of Waterloo', a powerful novel by a very good author.

Geraldine McCorkell

Mahjong

The Mahjong players are forging ahead with many players "going Mahjong", some up to three times in one session. Whilst we are consolidating the East Wind round, we have yet to learn the scoring.

In a few weeks it will be decision time to find out who wants to start to learn the next three winds. Towards the end of semester, we will have some fun with some mini tournaments too.

Thank you to all the attendees for your enthusiasm and super packing up skills.

Kaye Blore

Meet and Mingle

Our Meet and Mingle gathering on 16 April had a particularly special war time theme in the lead up to Anzac Day on 25th April and the celebration of the 80th anniversary of World War 2.

President Margaret Jenkins gave an update on recent activity at U3A. This included: -

- A presentation by Margaret to Benalla Councillors at their meeting on 2nd April to seek funding for an extension to the Benalla Seniors and Community Centre building which is owned by Council. The presentation highlighted the growing needs of U3A and the lack of meeting space.
- Mayor Bernie Hearn along with Councillors King and Blore visited the U3A Patchwork and Craft group on 3rd April and also took the opportunity to view the cramped meeting Room 1, the layout of the present building and how it might be extended.
- 2025 Benalla U3A membership has reached a record high of 449 members, exceeding the 2024 figure of 420.

Margaret then handed the meeting to 'As Time Goes By' convenor Bev Lee who introduced our five guest speakers, all U3A Benalla members.

Bev explained that, amongst the many interesting memoirs written by her members over the years, she'd noticed several stories including memories of World War 2 as seen through the eyes of a child. Readings were then presented by:

Max Tilbury: "They Could Have Been Anzacs" and "The Treasures of Dad's Kit Bags"

Bev Morton: "Childhood Memories Melbourne - Early 1940's"

Margaret Nelson: “I Grew Up in the War Years”

Carmyl Winkler: “Sandy Beach Tasmania 1945”

Ray O’Shannessy: “1945 My Gap Year”

These stories were very emotional and insightful and gave a window into the past and what many of us can relate to as we grew up with wartime parents.

Margaret Nelson, Max Tilbury, Ray O’Shannessy, Carmyl Winkler, Bev Morton

Following these presentations the gathering watched a film titled “Australia and the Second World War” created for Anzac Day 2020 (75th anniversary of the end of WW2) which provided an overview of how the war shaped modern Australia.

Two stories describing childhood memories of the impact of the war were then shared by Bev Morton, *'Childhood Memories, Melbourne 1945' and Max Tilbury 'Looking through a small boy's eyes at the war'...*

If you would like to read the ‘1945’ story collection – here’s the link https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/1945

Coming up in May: **John Weinert** from **Road Safe Shepparton** will be the guest speaker at Meet and Mingle on Wednesday 21st May at 10am in Room 1. His topic will be *Older Drivers in the Community* and will cover topics such as why we need to drive safer cars, medical conditions and medicines, driving safely and the Victoria’s Licensing System. All welcome.

Doug Smith and Margaret Jenkins

Music Appreciation

“May you, dear Spohr, wherever you find real art, and real artists, think with pleasure of me, your friend Beethoven”. In this personal testament to his sometime companion, Beethoven acknowledged a central figure in the development of European concert music. As the nineteenth century progressed Louis Spohr was engaged and feted by the major musical establishments for whom he conducted the steady output of orchestral, solo and chamber works. His reputation clearly rivalled that of Schubert, Schumann, Weber, Berlioz and others.

Time has treated Spohr more shabbily than several of his contemporaries - a contrast from an era (170 years past) when his musical ‘star’ was so much in the ascendant. The story is told of a distinguished visitor - manufacturer and music lover Herr von Tost - arriving one morning at Spohr’s doorstep with an extraordinary proposition: ‘He expressed the wish that everything Spohr should write in Vienna be reckoned as his property for a period of three years, and for which he would be financially rewarded. Spohr was to give him the original manuscripts and make no copies … “they may be performed as often as is possible, but the scores must be borrowed from Tost for each occasion and performed only in his presence”.

One such work was “Nonet in F major”, a composition for nine instruments made up of four strings plus flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon. Tost requested the work to be written in such a way that each instrument would appear in its true character. It was the first composition ever for nine instruments.

Spohr’s “Nonet” was the major focus for our one and only session in April. The remainder of the session comprised a suite from the opera “Carmen” and a Mozart piano concerto with a stunning encore of Liszt’s “Tarantella”. The notes for each and the recordings may be accessed on the Music Appreciation page of our U3A website.

Bill Squire

Page Turners Book Group

'Like Fire Hearted Suns', by Melanie Joosten

An engaging story of the suffragette movement in England before World War One, told through the lives of some of the middle- and working-class women who were affected by it. While Australia gave women the [Federal] vote in 1902, English women had to mount many demonstrations, some violent, endure imprisonment and the forced feeding of those who went on hunger strikes. Women only got the vote in England in 1928, although they could be elected to Parliament in 1918. Some of the suffragettes worked as nurses in Army hospitals during the war or were drafted into factories to support the war effort.

We can be proud that women in Australia, America and other British former colonies received much better opportunities and treatment than those in England.

A good read to catch up on this aspect of feminist history.

Next month: ***'Long Island',*** by Colm Toibin

Meg Dillon

Patchwork and Craft

During April we had the pleasure of a visit from three councillors from Benalla Rural City - Bernie Hearne, David Blore and Justin King - to see our group all hard at work. The variety of work being produced was greatly admired as was the new quilt hanging on the wall. The councillors were also impressed to hear of the number of quilts we have donated to the local community.

There will be three sessions in May - 1st, 15th & 29th. The session on 29th May is from 11am - 4pm.

Dorothy Webber

Photography

We started off by viewing the photo from Kerri (an apology for the class today) of the sun rising or setting at a beach. I then quickly went through a couple of things I have learned about distortion in photos, explaining how Photoshop and Lightroom have options to fix this, followed by a short session with Photoshop to show what it does. We then briefly discussed Nightscape and Start trails before I talked about a free Photo editing application for PC called **RawTherapee**. I haven't really had a lot of time to work with it so I couldn't really advise as to how effective it is, but it does allow us to open most RAW files to edit which is a bonus.

I then started to show 'The Ultimate Beginners' Guide to #rawtherapee' (couldn't show full video as it is over an hour) that went through some basics of use. Here is the link to the video--The Ultimate Beginners' Guide to #rawtherapee. You can also access the video in the resources section of the Photography tab on the U3A website.

All in all, a good class. I'm looking forward to seeing what happens in our last class for the 1st half of the year on Thursday 22 May at 10am.

Rene Martens

Play Reading

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" is a play by Simon Stephens based on the novel of the same name by Mark Haddon. The story concerns a mystery surrounding the death of a neighbour's dog that is investigated by young Christopher Boone.

Christopher is the detective and narrator. He is 15 and has Asperger's, the form of autism. He knows a great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth – he cannot tell

a lie. He hates the colours yellow and brown. More importantly, he hates being touched, and crowds and noise can upset him. This is a major issue in the story. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own. When he finds the neighbour's dog has been killed, he sets off to solve the murder.

The setting is Swindon and London. It explores Christopher's relationships with his parents and school mentor. The play has received a generally warm reception, with most critics impressed by its ability to convey the point of view of the young protagonist and the compassion of his school mentor.

Reading this play was an interesting experience, with many background voices helping to provide the feeling of crowds and noise – issues that Christopher finds upsetting. It is also set as one scene with the interactions Christopher has with the various people shown as they come and go from the stage. This would make for some interesting issues for stage direction. Christopher's character is well drawn as we see his responses and actions depicting his mental and emotional issues.

An interesting play enjoyed by the class.

Our play for May is **"Crown Matrimonial"** by Royce Ryton. Set in Marlborough House between 1936 and 1945, the play focuses on the private family drama of Edward V111 and the Royal family leading up to his abdication.

Joy Shirley and Shirley Swallow

Politics and Current Affairs

At our most recent Politics session we digressed a little and discussed recent Chinese History.
The Topics: - Opium Wars, Formation of the Communist Party of China, Long March, War with Japan, Civil War, Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, Deng Xiaoping, Command Economy, Tiananmen, Xi Jinping.

We also touched on Helen Haines and her statement about Whistle Blowers

Neville Gibb

Recorder Group

Have you ever played the Descant recorder? This is the size recorder you might have played in school, or when teaching in primary schools. Perhaps you play the flute or other instrument and would like to try the recorder? Maybe you have played the Soprano, which is the smallest commonly used Recorder, although it is pipped by the titchy Sopranino, and apparently there is one even smaller called a Garklein. Perhaps you've played the larger Alto, or Treble, which Rae, Andi and Kazuko play. Then there is the Tenor, giving a beautiful deeper note, on which Pat, Sally and Janet often perform. Janet also has a Bass Recorder for when the music calls for it.

If you would like to join our group, please contact Janet on 0427 080 351, or pop into our class - 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 10 am to 11.30 am - check the calendar on the home page of the website for date details.

Andi Stevenson, Janet Douglas and Bev Lee

Singing for Fun

April has seen most of the Leaders adopting themes for their selection of songs for Singing for Fun. My thanks to Wendy (with a theme of flowers), Carmyl (theme Australian Songs), Ross (themes of TV music and Crooners) and Kieran and Margaret for their leading of the group.

My thanks also to Gwen for playing twice for Singing for Fun in April, and for Deb for playing the piano once.

It was appropriate on our third Thursday we had a series of religious songs which included Amazing Grace, The Holy City and Hallelujah.

Ross explained to the Group about Crooners who he admired, and how their music was often jazzed up a little in the repetition of each song. Everyone seemed very interested in this advice.

We were pleased to see Ian Grace back at Singing. Ian has been in and out of hospital for several weeks, and it was great that he could be with us on the third Thursday.

The next meeting of Singing for Fun will be on Thursday 1st May ay 10am at the Hub at Cooinda

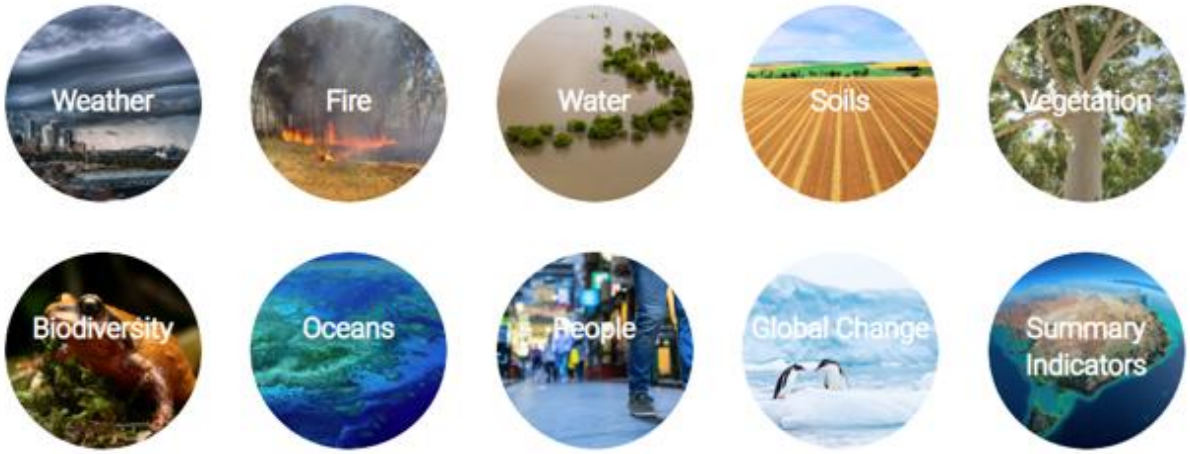
Margaret Jenkins

Spanish

We are so fortunate to have Alejandro Diaz as the convenor of the Spanish class. With a young family and working full time, his life is very busy! Somehow, he manages to fit in taking our class on Saturdays as a way of contributing to the community. To follow the progress of the Spanish class, simply go to the **'Spanish'** page on the web site. Alejo's email reminders to class each week of homework for the following week can be found there, along with links to resources, photographs of the class in action and the whiteboard showing concepts covered. Conjugating verbs is a current focus!

Stock and Land/Sustainability

Due to the Good Friday holiday, the Stock and Land & Sustainability group met only once in April. We discussed a wide range of issues based on articles circulated to group members prior, but our focus was on the recently published **Australia's Environment Report 2024**. This was published by the Australian National University (Fenner School) and the Australian and Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN). The report can be found at ***this link***. The topics covered are shown in the following diagram



The key 'take out' of the report was reasonably positive. The National Environmental Condition Score (ECS) rose by 0.6 points out of ten to reach 7.7 points, completing the first sequence of four above-average years since records started in 2000. ECS scores increased from 2023 in most states and territories, except South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. The greatest declines were in South Australia, from 6.7 to 3.8, and in Victoria, from 8.8 to 6.1. The greatest increase was in NSW, from 5.8 to 7.0. Conditions in WA improved from just below average to just above average. This overall improvement can be largely put down to good weather conditions (especially rainfall) over much of the continent for several seasons.

Just a plug for our upcoming session scheduled for 16 May. We will be having an excursion to **Yin Barun, a mixed product farm on the Broken River** near Swanpool. Mark Foletta will be our host. In 2023, Mark won a national award for excellence for diversification and sustainability.

John Lane

Tech Talks

At our April session we were introduced to Linux by Steve Davies. Linux is an open-source operating system. It is a computer system available for all to use. It is free for anyone to use. It competes with both Microsoft and Apple. Today, it has a massive user base and is used in the world's 500 most powerful supercomputers. Users gravitate toward it for its versatility and security capabilities, among other reasons. The Linux kernel is maintained by a worldwide community of open-source enthusiasts and has hundreds of unique users.

The Linux system is extremely important if relatively unknown and we thank Steve for bringing it to our attention. It is obvious that Steve is extremely skilled in its use. He demonstrated how attachments can be added when required. He showed that the desktop can be made identical to both Microsoft and Apple. He emphasised that both Microsoft and Apple use the same "kernel" as Linux and their systems are based on Linux software.

We thank Steve for his input and look forward to further explanation from him.

Neville Gibb

Train Buffs

With our regular meeting for April falling on Good Friday we have not met for this month.

At our March meeting our guest speaker Max Tilbury gave an interesting talk on his 40 years career in the Victorian Railways. This was followed by a discussion on the Southern Aurora Accident at Violet Town in !969. At our next meeting we are having an excursion to the site of the accident and to the Memorial Park that has been established at Violet Town, which gives a good depiction of the event.

We will meet in the car park beside the Seniors and Community Centre at 1.45-2.00pm Friday 16th May and arrange car-pooling for the trip there and return.

Athol Graham

Ukes4Fun – Just Jamming

Playing the ukulele is such fun. Our sessions during the month were once again well attended. Trish brought her Banjo Uke to the session, adding depth to some of the American and Australian Heritage songs we were singing. We were fortunate enough to include a visitor from New South Wales during the month, her input helping us to expand our enjoyment of playing the ukulele. There are a few Ukulele workshops happening at the moment which some members of the group will be attending. We look forward to hearing about these workshops and learning more about the tricks of playing the ukulele.

Heather Wallace

Wine Appreciation

This month we will be off to visit **La Cantina Winery** in the King Valley on **Friday the 16th of May**. This is a family-owned vineyard with a long Italian heritage. The Corsini Family have been farming in the King Valley for about 60 years. The wines they make are a little different in that they are preservative free, meaning no hang over, well maybe smaller hang over depending how much is drunk. There will be a tasting fee of $5.00 for those tasting, payable on the day.

Following the tastings lunch will be at the **Mountain View Hotel** a short drive away in Whitfield. The hotel is owned by the Pizzini family who also own a winery in the region. For those who have never eaten here the food is of a very high standard at reasonable pub prices.

The group will meet at the Seniors and Community Centre car park at 10.00 am as usual before proceeding to the winery.

Garry Smith 0428765591

Other News

National Volunteers Week

May 19 to 25 is National Volunteers Week in Victoria!

Thank you to all those who volunteer in some way for U3A Benalla –our Convenors (at least 35) and Committee of Management members immediately spring to mind, however there are so many more. From members who provide technical support, take photographs, help to set up rooms and equipment, bring along cakes and slices for special occasions to those who stay behind to make sure the kitchen is tidy after tea breaks, and more.

The technical support/advice provided by members including Graeme Greed, Bev Lee, Rene Martens, Elly Smith, Neville Gibb and others is highly valued.

And then there are our wonderful photographers, with Andi Stevenson, Bev Thornell, Rene Martens and Bev Lee contributing regularly, while other members contribute photos for special events and occasions.

Thank you all so much!

Tech support volunteer, Graeme Greed.

What's On in May

THURSDAY 1ST MAY,
10:00 Singing for Fun
10:00 Be Connected - Android
13:00 Patchwork and Craft
FRIDAY 2ND MAY
10:00 Sustainability
14:00 Exploring Writing Children's Books
SATURDAY 3RD MAY
12:00 Spanish
MONDAY 5TH MAY
09:30 Exercises for Fun
10:00 Art Appreciation - Anna Mackrell
'A Well Structured Nature'
11:15 Mahjong (Auditorium)
11:30 Ukes4Fun - Just Jamming
14:00 Australian Stocks and Share Market
14:00 Let's Talk Books
TUESDAY 6TH MAY
10:00 Page Turners - 'Long Island', by Colm Toibin
12:15 German
14:00 American History.
WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY
09:00 Easy Walks - Cherry Tree Walk Bright - Autumn Leaves
09:30 Play Reading 'Crown Matrimonial'
14:00 Cards '500'
THURSDAY 8TH MAY
09:00 Birdwatching - Lake Benalla (meet at lake behind Library)
10:00 Singing for Fun
10:00 Be Connected - Android
13:30 Executive Committee Meeting
FRIDAY 9TH MAY
10:00 Music Appreciation
11:45 Chat 'n Chew – 'Benalla Golf Club'
SATURDAY 10TH MAY
12:00 Spanish
MONDAY 12TH MAY
09:30 Exercises for Fun
11:15 Mahjong (Auditorium)
11:30 Ukes4Fun - Just Jamming
14:00 Creative Writing
14:00 Garden Team
TUESDAY 13TH MAY
10:00 Politics and Current Affairs
12:15 German
14:00 Collectors - 'Toys'
14:00 Tech Talks (Room 2)
WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY
10:00 Recorder
10:00 Colour Mixing & Watercolour Techniques - Botanical #1 (Auditorium)
10:00 Recorder Group
13:00 Colour Mixing & Watercolour Techniques - Botanical#2 (Rm 2)
13:30 A Taste of Art
14:00 Film Discussion Group
THURSDAY 15TH MAY
10:00 Demystifying Psychology - Perception
10:00 Singing for Fun
13:00 Patchwork and Craft
FRIDAY 16TH MAY
10:00 Wine Appreciation – 'La Cantina' Winery with lunch at Pizzini's 'Mountain View Hotel'
10:00 Sustainability/Stock and Land -Excursion to 'Yin Barun' mixed product farm on the Mansfield Road
13:45 Train Buffs -Excursion to site of Southern Aurora Accident (1969) and Memorial Park in Violet Town
SATURDAY 17TH MAY
12:00 Spanish
MONDAY 19TH MAY
09:30 Exercises for Fun
11:15 Mahjong (Auditorium)
11:30 Ukes4Fun - Just Jamming
14:00 As Time Goes By - Memoir Writing
TUESDAY 20TH MAY
10:00 Demystifying Psychology Discussion Group
12:15 German
14:00 Exploring the Universe
WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY
10:00 Meet and Mingle – 'Older Drivers in the Community'
14:00 Cards '500'
THURSDAY 22ND MAY
09:30 Garden Appreciation –
'A Tour of Shepparton's Nurseries'
10:00 Photography
10:00 Community Singing
14:00 Car Torque
FRIDAY 23RD MAY
10:00 Music Appreciation
SATURDAY 24TH MAY
12:00 Spanish
MONDAY 26TH MAY
Newsletter Reports Due Today
09:30 Exercises for Fun
11:15 Mahjong (Auditorium)
11:30 Ukes4Fun - Just
13:00 Family Research - Getting Started (1:1 Appointments)
14:00 Coin Collectors
14:00 Garden Team
TUESDAY 27TH MAY
10:00 Politics & Current Affairs
12:15 German
13:00 Family Research - Getting Started (1:1 Appointments)
14:00 Brain Games
WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY
10:00 Colour Mixing and Watercolour Techniques - Botanical #1 (Auditorium)
10:00 Recorder Group
13:00 Colour Mixing and Watercolour Techniques - Botanical#2 (Rm 1)
13:30 A Taste of Art
THURSDAY 29TH MAY
10:00 Community Singing
11:00 Patchwork and Craft
SATURDAY 31ST MAY
12:00 Spanish
MONDAY 2ND JUNE
09:30 Exercises for Fun
10:00 Art Appreciation
11:15 Mahjong (Auditorium)
11:30 Ukes4Fun - Just Jamming
14:00 Australian Stocks and Share Market
14:00 Let's Talk Books