

# Presidential Ponderings

## June Jottings

It is incredible to think that it is over two months since this crisis began and we were unable to all meet at Karingal Place for classes. We may seem to be past the worst, but we must hasten very slowly as your committee continues to work towards a restart date. We are well aware that all of us fall into the high risk category and that the concerns of a second wave are real, but at the same time we must be optimistic that this will pass and we will see a return to a new normal.

In the next week or so, we will be sending out a short survey asking you to let us know how you feel about a return. There will have to be rules and conditions when we do return, but it is important for us to know how you feel. Please complete the survey which we will make as simple as possible and return it with your comments. More details will follow.

I am assuming that many of you have found the changes to our restrictions to be a welcome relief. I know some of you have been able to visit family and even have friends call in. When I had the first lot of visitors it felt quite peculiar, a bit like a scene from a film or a play. We all maintained social distancing and gave air hugs and kisses, but it did seem a little unreal. However, as each day passes, we may begin to feel more comfortable. I am looking forward to enjoying a cup of coffee and a cake with a friend in a local café again. Small business will be pleased to see us I am sure as will the young people needing work.

For those of us who were not born here in Australia, we are often reminded when we see the awful news from overseas of deaths and illness from Covid-19, how lucky we are to be living here. We really have little excuse to complain, although I know it is almost human nature to do so. Let us be so grateful for what we do have, and not miserable about what we do not.

June is the beginning of winter and judging by the weather so far, it is going to be a cold one. The sun is thinner as it filters through our windows and the wind is that much icier. For me, I love the winter flowers and the winter blooms. My Christmas cactus (don't know its real name) is already flowering along with my orchids and azaleas and camellias. The colours of the leaves are beautiful and who knows how soon the little jonquils will appear.

Visits to my father are now longer and more frequent and I am pleased to see him become more animated on my arrival. He must consider the world a rather strange place after his nearly 100 years of living in it. Imagine those changes from the biplane to the jet engine, from the old Bakelite telephone to mobile technology and the advances in medicine. His memory is prodigious, and I am writing notes as quickly as I can to retain these reflections of time past.

I hope all of you are feeling a little more optimistic about things and have coped well with the imposed isolation. We are all thinking of you.

Until we meet again, stay well, stay safe but above all stay connected

Best wishes

Andrea McCall