

Presidential Ponderings November 2020

Dear All

I thought I would wait until the fun of the Melbourne Cup was over before writing this month's ponderings. I hope you enjoyed the limited spectacle and that your winnings or losings were reasonable!

We are now moving towards the end of the most difficult time for all of us. 2020 has been an extraordinarily challenging year, and many of us will wave it goodbye on 31st December with loud cheers. Well done all of you for staying the course and holding the line. We have so much to be grateful for in this magnificent state of ours and like a Phoenix rising from the Ashes, we will be back!

October turned into a busy month for us at U3A Frankston. We had a great Trivia Afternoon with lots of laughs. I have now handed out the prizes and say well done to every participant. Your Committee worked hard to make it a success and I was gratified by the thanks we received.

Seniors Week encouraged a few former members to reconnect with us and we gained a few new ones, so the signs are good for us at U3A Frankston for next year. It is important we keep our name out there in the public arena and I appreciate the efforts all of you make to recommend us to your friends.

It is difficult to know whether we will be returning to KP soon. At this stage, your committee is thinking of a limited return at the beginning of February. We will keep the Zoom classes going indefinitely and will look at the most suitable classes to be held back at KP. We would also like to run a few classes outside and we will have further details on that soon.

November is an interesting month from the historical perspective. We are being bombarded with the US Election at present. It is something I personally find depressing and boring! However, I recognise that the outcome will have an influence on all of our lives for the next four years.

5th November is an important date in British history. It marked the first real terrorist event on British soil when there was an attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament. For a whole variety of reasons, it was unsuccessful and if anyone is interested in the topic, there has recently been a review of the event through newly discovered documents and testimonies. It makes fascinating reading.

In November 1936, the BBC first began television transmission with a large audience of 100!

Her Majesty the Queen married Prince Phillip on 20th November 1947.

On 22nd November 1963, President J F Kennedy was assassinated. And the conspiracy of 'who really shot JFK' lives on. We all remember what we were doing on that day I suspect.

And the one I particularly like, is that on 26th November 1922, Howard Carter uttered those immortal words to his patron, Lord Carnarvon, "wondrous things" on peering through a small hole into the tomb of Tutankhamen.

We'll continue to stay safe, enjoy your newfound freedom and keep in touch

Andrea McCall, President