

## Presidential Ponderings for February 2022

Dear All

I am sending this out at the end of our first week back at Karingal Place. So far, so good. We have new purifiers in each room (thanks to Graham for installation and to a government grant applied for) and we are continuing to monitor the health and safety of all our members whilst at Karingal Place. We are particularly keeping in contact with the Primary School should there be an outbreak or any issues that may affect us.

Our wonderful gardener, Michael, has moved on and so we are looking for a few people to take up the task. We ask you to keep it tidy, watered regularly and perhaps introduce some flowering plants to brighten up the area. There is a small budget available for plants. Please contact Leonie at the office if you can help us.

The Choir is all set to recommence this year but has decided to defer its start until the beginning of term 2. We are still looking for an accompanist and conductor. Please contact Liz Sagiakos if you are interested. At this stage, unless you are enrolled in another class, you do not need to pay your annual membership until the Choir restarts. If you are unsure, please contact the office.

For those of you only enrolled in a Zoom class (there are two) and no other class, we would ask you to re-join U3A Frankston and pay your membership fee. This helps us defray the costs of the Zoom licences and enables us to offer other classes later in the year that may interest you. Thank you.

Over the next few weeks, we will be sending out a short survey to all current members. This is to ask you about the courses we have, what you would like and to canvass the option of special guest speakers during the winter break. We had several interesting people lined up last year, but a lockdown got in the way. Watch out for the survey – we appreciate your input.

January ended on a high note here in Victoria. We watched a remarkable effort by our wonderful Ash Barty as she gained her third grand slam victory, here on home soil. It rather settled all those cynics who suggest she is a fraud! Whatever your view of the Special Ks versus the M and Ms, the doubles victory gave Australia another trophy. I cannot but admire the tenacity and determination of Rafa Nadal – and I look forward to the day when Medvedev is happy enough to smile! The Ashes were retained (not sure whether I am happy or sad about that) and the women are doing extremely well. I wish our Winter Olympics team all the best in Beijing even though I again have a mixed reaction as to whether they should be there at all.

Life is improving. I ventured into Melbourne last Sunday for lunch at Southbank. It is still too quiet and still a bit shabby. We need the workers back along with the tourists, the international students and the small businesses.

Our AGM in March is fast approaching. We look forward to seeing some of you there (following restrictions, we may ask for several proxies and run a parallel meeting by Zoom). Please consider making or contributing something for our fundraising table – which will be available that whole week.

So, until we all catch up again, I wish you good health and happiness

Andrea McCall

President