

Presidential Ponderings for March 2022

Dear All

I had hoped to begin the month on a positive note. However, the situation in the Ukraine rather takes the edge off it. I am sure you join with me in sending our hopes and prayers to those involved and to wish them a safe end to these terrible events. If any of you have relatives or friends in the area who are affected, we share your concerns. We have seen events such as these too often in our lifetime and I wonder each time about the consequences of such actions. Our thoughts are also with those fellow Australians caught in the terrible floods in Queensland and northern NSW.

In a lighter vein, I gather that our first few weeks of reopening have gone extremely well. Our thanks again for the work done by Graham as class coordinator and Leonie in the office. Our tutors were up and running quickly and I gather from the feedback that people are very pleased to be back. My Zoom class is also continuing for those still reluctant to return to Karingal Place. Now that the mask rules have been amended, you are no longer obliged to wear them in class, but I would suggest you do if you feel at all anxious or concerned. It has been a very long two years.

You will, by now, have received all the notices regarding our AGM on the 22nd of March. Numbers will be restricted in Room 2, so if you are unsure whether you can get there, please complete a Proxy form and let the Office have it. We appreciate your support and interest in keeping one of the largest U3A associations in Victoria a viable, financial, friendly, respectful and thriving environment continuing for another 35 years. Our trading table will also be available, and I would urge you to either contribute an interesting item or take one home (or both?)

The Art Class will also be displaying their work on the walls of our classrooms. We have some outstanding talent in U3A Frankston.

Our GreenFingers Group (i.e., the gardening group) have met. I gather they are brimming with ideas for our little patch. They would, I am sure, welcome anyone else willing to help. I understand they are looking for terracotta pots with saucers and may need a garden hose. If you can help, please do. What do you think of a special rose to commemorate those members we have lost over the last two years? I understand that there is a rose called Volunteer or the wonderful traditional one called Peace. We have a small budget available and so perhaps this would be something the membership would like?

The Survey questions have been circulated and we look forward to receiving your responses in due course. Your input is invaluable to us, particularly for the Winter Warmer talks as we have some interesting options available.

I ventured to the City of Melbourne last night to the Ballet. I could not believe the number of people around attending concerts, sports events etc. The traffic was horrendous, but it was pleasing to see a little of the Melbourne of old returning. Many of us were still wearing masks and maintaining distance where possible. It will be a long road back for too many of the small businesses in the CBD and beyond.

Thank you again to all of you who respond to these ponderings. I am glad that you appreciate them and that they brighten up your day in a small way at least.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Andrea McCall, President