

Presidential Ponderings for April 2022

Dear All

Well, the AGM has been and gone and for those of you who missed it, your committee is as follows

Andrea McCall (President for her last year)

Dennis Mason (Vice President)

Mary Martin (Treasurer)

Heather Wallis (Secretary)

Leonie Price (Office Manager)

Graham Wallis (Class Coordinator)

Anne Williams

Terry Morrison-Story

Manfred Jung

David Dodson

Derek Hewitt

We look forward to a peaceful, productive and profitable year! Please continue to give us your help and support. Thank you for your words of encouragement.

We are very pleased to announce that the U3A Frankston Choir will be restarting after Easter. It has been a long break for them. If you are interested in becoming part of this wonderful social group, please let the office know.

Classes are going well, and I understand from Graham that we have a few new offerings for later in the year. Anne is working on the Winter Warmers, and we thank you for the excellent response we received to our survey. Your suggestions were very helpful.

Sadly, the news from Ukraine continues to dominate many of our thoughts. We are so lucky to live where we do and to feel as safe as we do. Let us hope some fair and reasonable solution is reached soon before too many more people lose their lives and their homes.

We are now well and truly into autumn. The leaves are beginning to change colour and the evenings are drawing in. Don't forget to alter your clocks this weekend. I know that for the first few days we are all a little disorientated and I gather it is even worse for our fur babies (cats and dogs) who find their mealtimes disrupted. No doubt my cat, Lara, will keep reminding me when she is hungry.

I don't know how many of you are interested in the Oscars. I can take them or leave them, but I was particularly interested in the issue of Chris Rock insulting the wife of Will Smith and Will's reaction. I believe times are changing and so are attitudes and reactions to behaviour. Personally, I consider both men equally culpable. Bad behaviour must be called out – but violence must never be the response. Let us hope something positive comes out of the episode.

The Memorial to Shane Warne, was, I believe, quite moving. To have lost someone so young is always tragic and he was, in many ways, an inspiration to many young sports fans. He will be missed. We seem to have lost several young people recently in some very tragic circumstances – sports people, politicians, rock stars. It is a stark reminder that we should seize every day and enjoy it to the maximum. After two years of limbo – this is even more important.

April is the month for flu vaccinations, and I understand we are also eligible for our second Covid booster. I urge all of you to listen to your medical advice and continue to take care of yourselves.

Until next month, may I wish you a very happy Easter (not too many lovely chocolates) and a happy time with your loved ones

Best wishes

Andrea McCall