

## Presidential Ponderings – July Jottings

Brr! Yes, it is right in the middle of winter, and it is cold. I do hope you are able to keep warm and comfortable. I know some of you have caught colds and the dreaded COVID is still with us. Please take great care of yourselves. For those of you enjoying the holiday break, I hope you have had time to catch up with family and friends. I have managed to get to Melbourne and back to enjoy a couple of shows. Sadly, Melbourne is still looking rather sad and most of the restaurants are struggling.

I don't know how many of you would have watched anything to do with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I did. I thought it was a marvellous tribute to a great woman. Friends of mine in London told me that there was a great feeling of optimism and warmth towards her. I bought myself a copy of the Platinum Jubilee Cookbook – glorious illustrations of the various dishes and menus used over the 70 years of her reign. I doubt if I will ever get to make any of them – but you can dream!!

The term ended well, and we are now working on some new ideas for the new term that begins on 11<sup>th</sup> July. We have new courses and of course our guest speakers. I hope some of you are coming along. A particular thank you to Gwen and Robyn who are making the scones for the honey man visit. We are hoping to run the games afternoon again, so if you missed out, let us know. Dates will follow. We are also hoping to partner with a couple of other organisations to use rooms, tutors and of course ideas.

We recently received a small grant to continue to run our BeConnected classes. If you know of anyone who would benefit from updating and learning computer skills – please suggest they contact the office. Thank you to the volunteer tutors.

Does anyone out there have a Food Handlers Certificate? A couple of the committee do, but we would welcome hearing from anyone to assist us in setting up and running our annual Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. It is a great fundraiser and a good way to publicise U3A Frankston. Even if you do not have a certificate, we would love your help.

Our fundraising table in the kitchen at KP is still going well. Please remember to donate and to buy. The goods there are to help keep your refreshments going in the kitchen so please contribute. There are plenty of books there too – we are happy for you to borrow them. If you want to keep one – do a swap or maybe 50cents? Thank you to everyone who has donated and bought things. A particular thank you to the kind people who have donated sanitiser and other bits and pieces to the office.

I am still waiting to hear from several grant applications. Please continue to keep your fingers crossed. I will let you know when we get news – or you may hear me cheering! For those of you who do not realise – our rent and utilities take up almost all our membership fees. We are one of only a handful of U3As in Victoria who pay substantial rent for our premises and so we are always conscious of costs. We lost members during the COVID period and so this year will struggle a little. However, your committee will continue to work hard to ensure our future.

It may seem a little early, but we would be keen to hear from anyone considering standing for the committee in March next year. Yes, it is my last year – and there are others on the committee who would like to stand back after a torrid period. Please consider helping your U3A.

Until my next jottings, best wishes and stay well

Andrea McCall, President