

## October 2022 – Presidential Ponderings

Welcome to Term 4 and to Seniors Month. I bet a few of you were unsure whether we would make it but make it we did and your U3A is going from strength to strength. Thank you to all of you who have stuck with us and who have come back to us. We are increasing our membership numbers, our class offerings and our profile.

Don't forget during this month, we are on our best behaviour. We have an open day on 12<sup>th</sup> October so would ask those of you attending class to be prepared to find a few strangers wandering about. If you have a friend or neighbour interested in us, I will be in Room 3 from 10 – 2 pm to give a short overview of U3A Frankston to anyone interested and we will have coffee and tea available.

Any of you live in the Carrum Downs area? Please visit the shopping centre during the following week and support our art classes who will be exhibiting their magnificent efforts on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Information on our sausage sizzle will also be going out very soon – so volunteers, sharpen your knives, iron your aprons and polish your spatulas. We need you.

On Cup Eve, we have asked the Mayor of Frankston to come and draw our raffle. He will arrive around 12:45 and we will be providing very light refreshments. If you have not yet purchased your tickets, I know Leonie and her team would love to take your money from you!

I know we are still looking for volunteers for the office and for the committee, so please put up your hand. You would be very welcome.

I hope you have enjoyed the short break. I certainly did. I finally made it back overseas for a rapid trip to North Island of New Zealand. Businesses there are doing it tough, just like ours and at one venue, a small country museum, the guide was very tearful as he thanked us for coming back to visit. We have not yet realised the long-term impact of the last two years. The small towns outside the main cities of Auckland and Wellington (particularly Rotorua) were struggling visibly. My compliments to Air New Zealand, we left on time, arrived on time and my luggage was where it was supposed to be. The only hiccup was the shortage of staff at immigration in Auckland. Otherwise well done and a big tick.

2<sup>nd</sup> October marks the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of my arrival here. How things have changed, and not always for the better!! The world news continues to concern. News from Ukraine and Russia is confusing at best – depressing at worst. I believe much of Western Europe will have issues with power over the next few months moving into their winter and we can only hope that the medical facilities will cope with the potential increase in flu, colds and possibly another mutation of Covid. We are fortunate here in Australia that we are protected from much of the problems they face. Long may that be so.

The gardens are going berserk with colour and growth. Clearly the extra rain during the winter months has loosened up the ground. My lawn is covered in freesias and bulbs have emerged from places in flowerbeds I have never seen before! It is a lovely sight.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible during Term 4. I wish you good health and much happiness

Regards

Andrea McCall, President