

Presidential Ponderings – November 2022

What an incredibly busy October Seniors Month we have all had. It was the start of Term 4 which began with a bang when U3A Frankston was nominated in three categories for the FCC volunteer awards and I was thrilled and humbled to win the Leadership award. The following day was our Open Day which, thanks to all of you, was a great success. The mayor came to visit, and we picked up 8 new members, including a volunteer for the office and a couple of renewals.

The following Monday some of your committee staffed a kiosk at Karingal Hub for GetOnline week. We met up with a few old friends and had some positive enquiries too.

On the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Manfred and his team of talented artists exhibited their work at Carrum Downs shopping centre. I believe there were a few sales and lots of interest. Thanks to everyone. You can see some images from the day on our website Gallery page at [Gallery | U3A Frankston](#)

On the Friday, I visited the Frankston Probus group. I spoke about the life of Agatha Christie but did a sales job on U3A Frankston as well and there was plenty of positive interest.

Last Tuesday saw a photo opportunity at the new Seniors Activity Space next door to us in Wingham Park. Get out the lycra everyone and spring into action!!

As I write this, we have a team setting up for our Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Frankston. Thank you to Terry for organising all this.

Monday 31st as a grand finale is the draw of our raffle and the mayor will be doing the honours. We will publish a list of winners and then please come to the office to collect your prize.

Thankfully, November should be a little quieter. There are new courses being scheduled for next year and we are hoping you will all renew your memberships when the dates are published. It has been a tough three years for us all, but we must now look optimistically forward.

I wanted to write a little about volunteering this time. I know many of us have multiple calls on our time, but I do want to reinforce how rewarding being a volunteer can be. Some of our members are Meals on Wheels deliverers, some serve on this and other committees, some work in the office, some are tutors. Volunteers are the lifeblood of any community, and your community needs your support and help more than ever. If you have a couple of hours to spare even only on a monthly basis, please consider it. U3A Frankston needs new committee members from next March, and I know that there are a multitude of organisations around us always looking for an extra pair of hands.

If any of you live in Mount Eliza, for example, we need help at the Neighbourhood House and the Over 55s. There are multiple Men's Sheds around the area looking for help and I know that Frankston City Council desperately needs volunteers for several organisations such as the Visitor Information Centre.

We have decided that this year we need a Christmas Party and the date for your diary is Thursday 15th December at Karingal Place from 4pm – 6:30pm. We would hope a couple of our musical groups will perform and if anyone would like to bring a plate, you would be very welcome to. We will serve tea, coffee and soft drinks as KP alcohol-free. There will also be light refreshments, thanks to Robyn Gould.

November is always an interesting month around and about. We become obsessed with horse racing for a short while and currently there are international cricket matches to amuse you too.

It is also time for reflection on 11th November for those around the world who have given their lives in war. Regardless of nationality, cause or religion, history tells us that war takes a terrible toll on everyone, and we are witnessing that now in the Ukraine as that fight enters its 11th month.

Spare a thought also to other Australians who are battling the rising waters. Here in Northern Victoria, the devastation is terrible. People have just experienced two years of hardship, were beginning to restart their lives and their businesses, only to have them taken away again through the harshness of our weather. I think of them often – imagine the farmer losing his entire crop, a shopkeeper losing her entire stock and a family losing their entire home including their beloved pets. We are strong and we will recover, but I am reminded of an Enid Blyton character from my youth called Mr WobblyMan – he was hit many times but always bounced back. I wonder how many hits our friends and fellow citizens can take? Spare a thought for them all.

On a happier note, thank you all again for your support of us at U3A Frankston. We appreciate your comments, your greetings and of course your attendance at classes. Please stay safe and healthy and keep in touch

Best wishes

Andrea McCall

President