

Presidential Ponderings for December 2022

After seeking advice, your Committee have made the decision to continue the requirement for Covid-19 vaccinations for next year 2023. We are also strongly recommending that you continue to wear masks in class where feasible. It is quite apparent that the crisis has not yet passed and so given that we are all in the high-risk age group, we are being extra cautious. Our responsibility for you all is paramount and we ask you to consider not only your health but that of those around you. Many thanks.

As a result of this decision, I regret we have decided to cancel the Christmas Party. I know that will be a disappointment for many of you, but we cannot be responsible for a 'super spreader' event that may spoil everyone's enjoyment over the holiday.

We are into the last couple of weeks of Term 4, and I would like to thank all of our tutors for their very hard work keeping our members motivated and interested. It is not easy when the weather tends to put you off. Thank you from us all.

Our fundraising efforts continue. Our little pop-up kiosk will remain in the kitchen so if you have anything to donate – please feel free. We are also running a Lucky Lollies jar – guess the contents for \$1 and the jar and the lollies are yours. We will notify the winner on 16th December.

In the next week or so, details relating to the renewal of memberships and the enrolment for classes will be issued. Graham Wallis has worked tirelessly on our timetable, and we have some interesting courses continuing and some new ones arriving. We are also continuing our popular Guest Speaker slots and are planning some interesting excursions. Please take some time to have a look at the website.

Positive Ageing (part of Frankston City Council) have again donated 5 free memberships. They will allocate three of them, but if you know of anyone else who would benefit from a free membership – through loneliness or financial hardship, let us know.

I don't know about you, but I do find this ghastly weather very tiring and very depressing. The gardens are drenched, the ground muddy and the constant grey skies make being enthusiastic about going outside, particularly difficult. However, spare a thought for those families and businesses in other parts of Australia, who are coming to terms with the flooding. Nothing could be worse than sweeping mud and water out of your home and trying to assess the state of what is left.

Our thoughts are also with those families in Java after the recent earthquake. Many children lost their lives, and the grief of the parents must be incalculable. It reminds us how lucky we are when we feel inclined to whinge and moan!!

When you receive this, I will have returned from another week's break. I have every intention of reading, sleeping and enjoying some warm weather. It has been a tough two years for us all and I would urge you to take great care of yourself and those around you.

I hope to catch up with a few of you before the end of the year, but if I do not see you, may I wish you the compliments of the season and a safe and happy time with your loved ones.

Best wishes – Andrea McCall, President