

## Presidential Ponderings

After nearly 40 hours of traumatic travelling I managed to get home early Saturday morning. Airports and services were closing and tumbling behind me and I slept on a concrete floor at Paris airport in the absence of any seats after a mercy flight from Marrakech. My thanks to the people involved in our rescue – particularly DFAT, APT and the ABC. It is a long story perhaps one day for a guest lecture!

Most of my fellow travellers were resigned to a difficult time as we struggled to come home. Different cultures reacted differently – the Italians, French and Spanish were in the main hysterical, the British resigned and polite, the Americans aggressive, the Germans disciplined and as for us Aussies – well we were trying to find the lighter side. A sense of humour is after all a type of survival. My travelling companion and I did our best to keep our spirits up!

They say that travel broadens the mind – not sure I want that sort of broadening.

For us all, we now have a difficult few months ahead. I will be in contact with your committee later today and we will make some awkward decisions. All that I ask is that you follow the instructions given out by those more expert than me – such as social isolation (I am in lockdown till 3<sup>rd</sup> April) and of course social distancing. If any of you is in dire straits then seek medical help as quickly as possible and make sure you are listening to the radio or the television or whatever medium you choose to stay aware of the situation. Keep in contact with friends and family by skype or phone or any means and stay connected to the outside world.

We are in the hands of a force more powerful than us and we must trust that the experts will do their best.

Remember this – it will pass. This uncertainty will end and we will, whether in a year or longer, get back to some sort of normality.

For those of you with strong religious beliefs, I commend you to send a prayer. To those others, then the strength of positive thought will get you through.

The thoughts of every member of the U3A Frankston Family are directed at each and every one of us. **WE WILL PREVAIL AND WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS.**

Andrea McCall

President