

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

JULY JOTTINGS

Dear All

Well another month has gone by and the news has regrettably got worse. I think all of us had hoped that the virus would have settled and that there would be light at the end of the tunnel. I would suggest that the light has now moved much further away. Your committee cannot and will not risk the life and safety of any of you by moving too fast to re-open U3A Frankston at Karingal Place and I know that you will support our decision.

At this stage therefore, we cannot commit to any restart date for classes. I am guided by the medical advice I have received from DHHS and from discussions with FCC. We can only hope that our wonderful medical staff can control this and look after us all until a vaccine or solution is found. This situation is putting serious financial strain on us as we are still committed to pay rent, even though we are not at Karingal Place but at least our other expenses are reduced. We are therefore pursuing every available avenue for grants and for support. We would ask you to be patient.

For all of you, the continued restrictions are frustrating and particularly as many of the local Aged Care Facilities have been placed back into lockdown as a precaution even though Frankston and Mornington Shire have recorded no cases for over 30 days. This means many of you, like me, cannot visit their loved ones again and this will be an added stress for us over the next few weeks. For those of you with family in the so -called hotspots, this will be doubly upsetting for you. We are all thinking of you.

Over the next few weeks, as we cope with the changing circumstances, I ask you to look after yourselves and particularly take care of your mental health. It will be easy to lose your temper, become frustrated with the situation and then seek to take it out on others. Please be gentle and kind to everyone and try to remember that as a community we will get through this. If you are feeling overwhelmed by circumstances, I urge you to seek professional help.

A newsletter is coming out in a week or so and we will be continuing our classes on Zoom where possible. Thank you to those who have contributed, particularly Marian de Souza, Anne Simic and Manfred Jung who have displayed their artistic talent by contributing to our 35th Anniversary celebration we hope will go ahead in mid- October.

My best wishes and thoughts to you all and thank you to all of you who have emailed me your words of support.

Stay home, stay safe and above all stay in touch

Andrea McCall

President