

Presidential Ponderings

August 2020

Dear All

The news continues to be sad, challenging and for some fearful. I do hope you are all keeping as well and as cheerful as you can in the circumstances. For those of you with loved ones on the front line as either health carers, educators or in aged care, we are with you and thinking of you. I am acutely aware of those in the Aged Care centre who are under tremendous pressure to guard the most vulnerable of us all. I am happy to say that my father is still safe. We are all aware that this is a community effort and that we will get through this. Please remember to stay safe and stay home where possible and of course wear your mask.

Clearly, we will not be returning to Karingal Place any time soon. We will of course keep you informed.

I have real issues with the COVIDiots out there. I despair of those people who seem to think that the rules don't apply to them and that they are exempt from the sensible behaviour of the rest of us. We need to call them out and I believe they need to realise the folly of their selfish behaviour. If we do not work together, this crisis will go on for many more months.

On a more cheerful note, thank you to the tutors who are embracing Zoom. We have had increased numbers of members prepared to join classes and more tutors taking on more classes. Thank you to you all and I know you once you get used to Zoom, you will enjoy the opportunity to see some of your classmates again. Thank you to Bob and Graham of the committee, who have worked hard to organise these additional classes. I look forward to seeing my class again on Monday morning. We are doing our best to keep in touch with as many of you as possible and I have written to those not on email in the last couple of weeks. Thank you also to the Choir and their cheerful and newsy missive that goes out regularly.

August marks the last official month of Winter. Thank goodness. The days are getting longer but the cold is clearly still with us. The gardens are beginning to wake up and I notice when I see my neighbours out and about (wearing masks of course) walking the dogs or with their families, it reminds me of what a wonderful country we live in and how fortunate we are.

75 years ago, August marked the end of World War 2. It marked the end of a long and traumatic time in the world when many nations came together to prevent such tragedy every happening again. It marked the beginnings of talks about the founding of the United Nations and the desire to create a world organisation working for the betterment of us all in education, health and government. As you know Australia was at the forefront of the early negotiations. We have much to be proud of.

Other interesting dates in August include – the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, demolished in 1989, the greatest rock concert was held at Woodstock (!), Elvis Presley died in 1977 and for the historically curious – Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed Pompeii and Herculaneum in AD79 and then Krakatoa island suffered one of the most catastrophic volcanic eruptions in 1883. The month ends with the birth of Mary Shelley (of Frankenstein fame) on 30th August.

Clearly August is a busy month.

Your committee is looking at some new projects for the next few months. We are applying for grants from the state and federal governments to support your U3A over the next 12 months and if we are successful, we will let you know in due course. One of the projects relates to a Trivia Night to be held on Zoom, another is for our 35th Anniversary. We are also working on a very different project which should involve as many of our members as possible. I am very grateful to Jo Kidder for her diligence over these Grants. The paperwork is daunting, but she has taken on the task willingly. Keep your fingers crossed we are successful. We are fortunate to have such a keen and able bunch of people working on and with your committee. I know you would thank them personally if you could.

Thank you again for the emails, I am glad the Ponderings are well received and appreciated.

My very best wishes to you all whatever your circumstances.

Stay safe, stay home, stay masked and remember the jingle

It's not about me

It's not about you

It's about all of us together and what we need to do.

Andrea McCall

President