

Presidential Ponderings for September 2020

Dear All

Here we are in the last two weeks of our stage four restrictions. It has been a rough ride for all of us and it is unclear what rewards may be awaiting us at the end. The new case figures seem to go up and down but regrettably the number of deaths does not decrease fast enough. As long as we all continue to do the right thing, there will be an end to this horror I am certain. So, on with the masks, keep social distancing and only go out for one hour a day. The 5km rule has I know proved to be onerous. I am assuming most of us have no need to gallivant out and about after 8pm! Spare a thought for those who live on their own and have no access to friends or family. It has been very difficult for them. However, we must remember how lucky we are here and how the rest of the world is in a much worse state.

For those of you who are fathers or have fathers, next Sunday will seem a very different day. It should be a special one. My father died last week so for me Fathers' Day will be a day of memories and of positive thoughts about a very long life well lived. As I live on my own with no other close family in Australia, it will be hard to share those memories without even my close friends. My best wishes and thanks to all of you who sent emails of sympathy. He managed 99years and 8months so a very noble innings!

There are a few our members who do not have access to email, so with their permission FCC will contact them by telephone on a regular basis for a welfare check and to pass on any U3A news.

My contacts at FCC have been very supportive of U3A Frankston and I am delighted to report that the Council have waived our rent and expenses for the time being. This has taken the pressure off your committee and particularly the treasurer so that we can focus on what to do when we come back to Karingal Place and resume some classes in the New Year. Anything other than a one off for our birthday is very unlikely. I am sorry because I know how many of you enjoy coming to U3A and meeting with your friends.

Barb McColl has resigned as secretary to the committee. I want to thank her for her hard work over the last 18 months – particularly with the move to KP, the Expo and her work for me personally. We will miss her input. Jo Kidder has kindly agreed to step into the role until the next AGM so if you are a keen secretary and would like to help us, please get in touch.

Our Zoom classes are zooming! We have increased the offerings and I want to thank Graham Wallis who has navigated his way through the technology to enable our tutors to share licences and host classes. We have also asked a couple of the tutors to run second classes and I was very pleased that my second class was so well attended last week. I will run a second class in the middle of the month until further notice.

Seniors Week is scheduled for late October. We have agreed to support FCC by offering a special Zoom class each day to non U3A Frankston members during that week. If you know anyone who is not a member and would like to 'tune in', please contact the office. The talks will include an Overview of U3A, Writing your Memoirs, Be Connected, The life and times of Agatha Christie and a current affairs class. We hope to add an art talk as well. Watch the local paper for details.

The Pandemic Made Me Do It is off to a great start. I have already received some impressive entries. I knew we were a talented lot! Keep them coming either in hard copy or email and I will collate them ready for Seniors Week.

I don't know how many of you watched The Salisbury Poisonings on SBS last week. I found the drama quite mesmerising and strangely prophetic given our peculiar circumstances. It was riveting television.

We are still awaiting news on our grant applications, so fingers crossed everyone. We have done well in the past and we would hope to have a couple of small grants to enable us to continue our laptop program and a few other little projects.

Until I see my class again on Monday or until we meet at KP, I wish you health and happiness and encourage you to stay home and stay safe.

Best wishes

Andrea McCall

President