

Presidential Ponderings for December 2020

Dear All

Congratulations on your phenomenal achievement. I wanted to write these ponderings today with such good news. 28 days without new cases, locally transmitted cases and above all no more loss of life from this wretched virus. Well done to us all for the sacrifices we have made, the losses we have experienced and above all for our resilience. I am so proud to be a Victorian.

As for U3A Frankston – well we are now making decisions regarding our return to KP in 2021. There will be a full COVID plan in place and we would ask all of you to follow it.

Thanks to your previous committees, our financial reserves have enabled us to survive this year with little or no revenue. It has enabled us to continue some classes on Zoom and to keep the facility ticking over. Thank you from us all.

However, this means that 2021 will be a tight year for us as we re-establish ourselves at KP. There will be no grants available to cover our expenses, and so we will need to be imaginative and creative to ensure our survival. Your Committee has sweated over this and we have come up with the following:

- 1 We will continue some classes on Zoom for the foreseeable future**
- 2 Some classes will be on Zoom and Face to Face.**
- 3 Current Memberships will be extended to June 30th as previously advised.**
- 4 We will offer limited classes back at KP in two tranches – January/February to June and July to December. The Tutors will decide the number of weeks.**
- 5 There will be some limited classes offsite.**
- 6 All classes at KP will run in one hour lots, with a 15-minute break in order to avoid crowds and to allow for cleaning.**
- 7 Unfortunately, in the short term, the kitchen facilities will be unavailable**
- 8 For ALL face to face classes we would ask you to make a gold coin donation at each class to help our cash flow.**
- 9 We would ask everyone to re-enrol online only for classes from 18th January onwards and help will be available.**
- 10 We are now putting out appeals for donations, sponsorships and for fundraising ideas:**
 - a. Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings**
 - b. Charity Golf Match**
 - c. Garage sale or book sale**
- 11 The Creative Writing class will be publishing its annual anthology – we hope to sell plenty of copies**
- 12 We have now produced a limited number of a beautiful card for our 35th Birthday – with a painting by Manfred Jung on the cover and a lovely poem by Ann Simic inside. We are selling them for \$3 each and would ask you to consider the purchase of one (or more)- please email me on andrea@andreamccall.com.au if interested.**

In addition to the above, we propose to suspend the decision taken on fees for U3A Frankston made at the AGM in March 2020 and continue with the current arrangement of \$50 per year and class fees until we have built up our reserves again. Membership fees for the balance of 2021 will be \$25 from July to December for all current members. New members will pay \$50 from the beginning of the year.

Regarding the Committee – you are fortunate to have a very active and hardworking group of people.

Dennis Mason, Ian Payne, Manfred Jung, David Dodson, Bob Favoloro, Leonie Price, Jennifer Hume, Graham Wallis and Heather Wallis (our wonderful new Secretary). They have been my rock during this year, and I cannot thank them enough for their support and their commitment. Thank you to Barb McColl who stood down from the committee earlier this year owing to family commitments. I am pleased to welcome Don McDonald to the ranks as one of our delegates to those endless meetings of Network and Region.

I would also like to thank Jo Kidder for her hard work pursuing and applying for any grant possible and looking after Facebook.

To Mark Dunn – our Webmaster and UMAS guru – he is a superman!

To Peter Stirling who keeps the close eye of a Techy on all our equipment.

In 2021 a couple of the above Committee members will step down. In 2022 the President and the Treasurer will also step down. Therefore, I am asking now for any expressions of interest from the membership to join the Committee. I cannot imagine for one minute that 2022 will rank as difficult as 2019 and 2020 have been – no plans to move and hopefully no more lockdowns. Please feel free to contact me to discuss your interest and I ask you to remember that your U3A does not run on its own and it relies on good people like every one of you.

To those tutors not returning next year, a heartfelt thanks from the U3A Frankston membership. Your hard work and dedication have made Frankston one of the best in Victoria. We appreciate you and hope you may consider returning either as a class member or a tutor in the future.

As this year draws to a close, I reflect on what a tough time we have had. 2020 will go down in my diary at least as one of the most difficult of my life. I look forward, therefore, to 2021 with an optimistic eye and a determination that in spite of everything we will survive, and that U3A Frankston will come back stronger. It has been a privilege to be your President this year and I know that I could not have done it without the Committee and the emails of support from you all.

May I take this opportunity early to wish you all the compliments of the season. I hope that you spend quality time with those you care most about – family and friends.

Let us raise a glass to U3A Frankston and to the better world of 2021.

Cheers

Andrea McCall

President