

Presidential Ponderings for January 2021

Dear All

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021

I hope that you all managed to have a relaxed break with your family and friends over the festive season. It was a short hiatus in an otherwise difficult time. The weather has been a little unsettled and I understand some of your holiday plans may have been thrown into disarray owing to the Covid outbreaks in New South Wales and here in Victoria.

During the break, I managed to catch up on plenty of DVDs, books and recorded programs. Inevitably, I had too much to eat and drink with my friends, but a bit of relaxation with slight overindulgence doesn't hurt does it?

We are now working towards our return to Karingal Place and other rooms offsite, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February. We are also awaiting your enrolments for those classes on 18<sup>th</sup> January and I hope you have all now received the details of how to enrol for your classes. You will see some are running on Zoom still and some on both. Make sure you enrol for the preferred one. It will be first in, best dressed, as our numbers at Karingal Place will be restricted.

We will be complying with a very detailed Covid-19 plan and so would ask you bring sanitiser, gloves, masks and wipes when you come to class to reduce the work on the volunteers. Please do not come to class if you are not feeling well or know someone close who is unwell either. We will ask you to sign in for each class to comply with all legal requirements and the QR code will be in use by FCC on the premises. Please do not turn up for a class unless you are enrolled in it and have been confirmed as such.

This dreadful virus is still lingering on and will do so for many more months. The arrival of the vaccination will give us some relief, but it is not by any means the silver bullet. However, it is obvious that it is a very strong step in the right direction. We must learn to live in a very different world. We are still extremely lucky here in Australia.

Thank you for those who have offered help and donations so far. Every little thing helps. The cards and other items will be available for sale on our return via the office. We are still looking for squares for our quilt.

I will be collating and displaying the "Pandemic Made me do It" contributions soon.

I would also like to thank Bob Favalaro for his help on the program to date. Bob has resigned from the committee and his role as class coordinator owing to family responsibilities. We will miss him, but I believe he will still be involved with the dance, social and golf classes. I understand he may also continue with the BeConnected training as required. Thanks, Bob.

As a result of his resignation, I am pleased to welcome Dave Goldsmith to the committee to help with class coordination. He will be well supported by Graham Wallis and Leonie Price.

2021 will not be an easy year, but I think we will be better equipped both physically and emotionally for what may be thrown at us. Your committee has done a remarkable job and we owe an enormous debt to each and every one of them. Please consider offering a little of your time to us if you can in any capacity and recommend us to your friends.

January is the month when we acknowledge Australia Day and the contribution made by those first settlers. It is a controversial day but important none the less so I hope you will each find time to celebrate it in your own way. For those of us who are migrants, we acknowledge the original residents of this wonderful island, and we are proud to call Australia home.

Australians all, let us rejoice, for we are one and free

To 2021 and to a great year at U3A Frankston

Andrea McCall

President