

Presidential Ponderings

February 2021

I was unsure it would happen, but it did. We are back. I was able to welcome some of you back on the premises at Karingal Place on Monday. It was marvellous to see you all again. Thank you for abiding by the rules of mask wearing, cleaning and steering clear of the kitchen.

I know that some of our classes, even reduced in size, have a couple of vacancies. Please check on the website in case there is something you would like to do. Our tutors are back and eager to re-engage with you. I look forward to seeing some of you in my class on Wednesday. I think we have a couple of spaces so double check if you would like to attend.

For many of us this has been a very long year and who would have imagined it would ever end.

We closed the doors of U3A Frankston on 15th March and we are back on 1st February. Amazing.

From 7th July until 25th October last year we endured the longest and hardest lockdown of anywhere in the world and we survived. Now we eagerly await the arrival of the vaccine and the hopes that we will be safe for the foreseeable future. Fingers crossed. Australia has fared so well compared with other countries and we should pat ourselves on the back.

It has been a privilege being your president over the last 12 months although I have to say it was more than I signed on for! I am so grateful to my marvellous committee and to the others who have offered their help.

We are looking for volunteers for the office to support Leonie. If you are computer literate, happy with the phone system and can spare four hours every fortnight either morning or afternoon, please give Leonie a call. She will be working on a roster over the next few days.

We are also working towards our AGM to be held at the end of March. If there is anyone who would like to be considered for the committee over the next twelve months and who would consider a role as Treasurer or President from 2022 onwards, we would love to hear from you. Our systems have been streamlined, things run smoothly here now, and I can assure you that we will not be moving or having another year like 2020!! Please remember that the club cannot run without a committee and we are all busy people.

Thank you to those who have responded to the request to participate in the U3A survey with RMIT. Much appreciated.

My thanks also to those who have donated copying paper and other things to the office. It all helps to defray some of our costs during this difficult time. Our anniversary cards are now available at the office for \$3. Please consider buying at least one as a small donation to your club.

We will survive as we have done already, thanks to the work of previous committees and I do not anticipate any of the issues other U3As are experiencing. A couple of them have already closed their doors as a result of last year – rest assured we will not, but we need your support to keep going.

Until my next ponderings, stay well and stay safe

Andrea McCall, President