

Presidential Ponderings

May 2021

Dear All

We have reached May already. The year seems to have flashed by so far! We are back to normal timetable hours and we have increased class numbers and our class offerings. Some of our offsite classes have returned to Karingal Place and the area is jumping with optimism and enthusiasm. It is great to see you all back. There are good things happening too – you may use the kitchen, but I ask you to be responsible for your own washing up and tidying up. Please do not congregate in the kitchen, but you are most welcome to make yourself a cup of coffee or tea. I would suggest you bring your own cup, use it and then take it home. Remember to practise all the usual cleaning procedures to protect us all. Until we are all vaccinated, and this terrible pandemic is under control worldwide, we must continue to be vigilant.

I welcome our new members and our new tutors. We also have a new member of the committee, Ann Williams, who will be responsible for our guest speakers during the winter months. Keep an eye on the email for news about these special events. We are also hoping to expand our BeConnected computer classes working closely with FCC. If you would like to be a tutor or you need a bit of a skills update, speak with the office.

The news from other countries is still very grim. Spare a thought for those Australians still overseas struggling to get home. I especially feel for those with relatives in India. We must continue to protect ourselves and our hard-fought freedoms.

I trust many of you celebrated Anzac Day in your own way. For me, it was the first one without my Dad. I watched the Dawn Service on TV, flew both the Australian and Union Jack flags outside on my veranda and read through the citations written next to his medals. It was a great moment for reflection.

May is Mothers Month. For those of you with mothers, as mothers or with daughters who are mothers, make the most of the Day on 9th May. Those of us from England and Europe are still confused by the date – and particularly by the chrysanthemums (in Belgium they only appear for funerals). Remember, we should celebrate mothers every day, not just one day a year!!

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been back into Melbourne. The place is still quiet, but things are slowly beginning to return to normal. I attended a play at the MTC and a concert at the Hamer Hall as well as a visit to the Ian Potter Centre at Federation Centre for the Australian Impressionists exhibition. I would recommend the exhibition to you all – we have some magnificent artists here and the examples of their work are breathtaking. Many of them are household names, some are not such as Jane Sutherland and Clara Southern. Well worth it!

As the trees begin to shed their leaves, the winter flowers begin to appear from the soil and the sun seems much weaker, we are now moving to the coldest months of the year. It is also a time when we get sniffles, snuffles and can find getting up in the morning and moving around more difficult. Please take care of yourself during these months. If you feel you need extra support, do not hesitate to ask for help or call the experts.

Keep in touch, stay safe and enjoy 'Learning for Life' at U3A Frankston.

Andrea McCall, President