

## Presidential Ponderings for July 2021

Dear All

I had hoped to be very optimistic for this month, but it seems that nasty little virus is fighting on and proving to be particularly tenacious. This seems very evident from the new Delta strain. The rest of Australia is now experiencing Victoria's level of uncertainty and instability and so we will have to be patient a little longer. It is becoming more apparent that the vaccination is going to be a strong pathway out of this miserable situation, and I can only hope that is true. I do hope you have seriously considered having it for all our sakes.

It is amazing that it is July already. We seem to have lost so much time over the last 12 months with lockdowns and restrictions. Victoria has experienced nearly 6 months of lockdowns of one sort or another. For those of us getting older, that is a big chunk of our lives. Luckily, we have survived.

Can I also remind everyone that we are still looking for a new treasurer to replace Jen and of course someone prepared to take over from me next March? The roles are for one year at a time, so please consider a contribution to your U3A. The jobs are very rewarding and an excellent way of supporting the wonderful people of U3A Frankston.

As for U3A Frankston – firstly may I thank everyone who has renewed their memberships. We were so pleased to see so many of you putting your faith in us for a further six months. Thank you. We are glad to note some of you have enrolled in extra courses and I hope to see you at the Winter Warmer series as well. The only charge for those is for visitors/nonmembers and for the Bee/Honeyman to cover the cost of the scones and honey. Details on all these courses will be available online and on the noticeboard. I believe we are also offering some new courses and I do hope you will consider them.

It is school holidays now and so classes are optional for our hardworking tutors. I was on campus yesterday and we had one class running. It was good to see people taking the opportunity.

My face-to-face class will run on 7<sup>th</sup> July as planned from 11 – 12.30 probably in room 2. For those of you who ordered a copy of Stories at the End of Line – the books are with me and will be available for collection then. My Zoom class will be on 12<sup>th</sup> July as planned.

We will await details from the State Government on 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> July as to restrictions for the new term. Please be assured we will comply with the regulations but do our best to accommodate you. I suspect our off-campus courses like Pilates and Tai Chi and Yoga will be delayed a little further but as they say, 'watch this space'.

As you know, I like to look forward and so I can confirm we are participating in several events later in the year.

Seniors Month is October. We will be having a stall at the Frankston Arts Centre for the Seniors Expo organized by FCC. More details to follow. The date is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to support us, we would love to see you there.

On 13<sup>th</sup> October we will have an Open Day here at Karingal Place. It will run from 10 – 2pm and involve a small display of artworks, crafts and a few stalls from other community groups. More details will be available closer to the date.

Manfred and the Art Classes will be staffing a display at Carrum Downs Shopping Centre on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> October so please put a note in your diary to visit and encourage them.

I understand a few of our members have been unwell, some of them hospitalised. On behalf of all of us at Frankston U3A, we wish you a speedy recovery.

For the rest of us, may I wish you warmth, good food and good friendship. I look forward to seeing many of you back at Karingal Place soon.

Best wishes

Andrea McCall