

October Ponderings

Dear All

I thought it advisable to give you an update of things, if possible.

2nd October marks the 40th anniversary of my arrival here in Australia. It has been a fascinating forty years. I have seen Prime Ministers and Premiers come and go – from banana republic to basket case and from the world's most liveable city to the world's most locked down. Life is nothing but a seesaw! We have won and lost international sporting events, our arts community has become the envy of the world (although in the present climate, it is struggling a bit) and our country has blossomed. My congratulations to the Demons on breaking the drought and commiserations to the Bulldogs. I now await the Ashes across the summer (and go into conflict as to who to support).

I have been very grateful to all the wonderful people I have met and worked with during these 40 years, people from all walks of life, different styles of life and education and yet above all a commitment to this wonderful country of ours.

We are a diverse and fascinating collection of people and by that, I mean those of you who are members of U3A Frankston. We have come through a very difficult couple of years – moving premises and settling in, then enduring nearly two years of uncertainty of classes. I am optimistic that we are nearing the end of the tunnel. We will make it to the end and 2022 will be a great year of consolidation and stability.

For those of you considering joining our committee or even taking on the role of President, can I assure you it is one of the most interesting and rewarding tasks you could consider in retirement. Your team are all wonderful and their achievements are many.

At this stage, your committee is working towards reopening on 5th November. I understand that is our goal and we should hope to achieve it. Most of our age group are now double vaccinated and I think by that date many of the other users of Karingal Place will be as well. I am in touch with Frankston City Council to ensure we are kept informed.

Until that date, our Zoom classes will continue, and I am very grateful to all the tutors who have kept us informed over the last months. They are an invaluable asset to U3AF, and I cannot thank them enough. From the comments I have received from some of you, you also hold them in high regard.

Until we meet again, I wish you all the best. Please join us on Zoom and above all keep in touch with us.

Best wishes

Andrea McCall

President