

## Presidential Ponderings January 2022

Welcome to the New Year. I hope you all enjoyed some quality time with your family and friends. No doubt we overindulged a little during the silly season – too much of some things and perhaps not enough of others. I enjoyed the company of close friends and neighbours but was always conscious of distance and no hugs!!

Thank you particularly to those who have already paid their subscriptions for 2022. It was gratifying to see so many of you supporting us already. Thank you to the tutors who have again volunteered their valuable time. A gentle reminder that it is enrolments on 12<sup>th</sup> January – your chance to enrol in as many classes as you are able. We have some new offerings this year and there will be more as the year goes on so do have a look and see what appeals to you.

At this stage even though the Omicron strain of Covid seems to be running rampant, there are no changes to our rules except we would like everyone to wear a mask indoors as much as possible. I know that it can be inconvenient and uncomfortable, but it is in the interests of us all. Many of you will have already had your booster shots – can I urge you all to make the appointment.

Our AGM is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March; and we hope to have a small fundraising stall in the garden area. Several of our members have already made things to sell, and I would hope we would have some plants available as well. If anyone has a gift from Christmas (new and unused of course) that they would be happy to donate, we welcome it. Our opportunities for fundraising have been non-existent over the last two years, so this gives us a chance to bank a bit of money for the next rainy day.

No doubt you have all experienced some of the discomfort from the heatwave over the new year weekend. We are continually reminded of our climate here in Australia but at least we did not have bushfires followed by snow as witnessed in Colorado last week. Mother nature constantly tells us that she is in charge, not us!!

Reading is one of my constant companions and has continued to be so over the holiday period. I highly recommend the John le Carre posthumous novel – *Silverview*. His writing has always intrigued me, and I found this one of his best.

Television has varied in quality and variety, but I have thoroughly enjoyed catching up on all the *Death in Paradise* episodes on Foxtel and loved the complexity of the spies in *Red Election* on SBS. I have to say though that the ending has me bewildered and I can only assume series 2 is on its way. I ventured to the Cinema to see the last of Daniel Craig's James Bond movies. I loved it as of course the goodies always win. For those of you who enjoy the theatre, it was a real joy to return to the MTC to watch *As You Like It*. The performance was an excellent way to break us back in. I don't know how many of you support the Frankston Theatre Group. I thoroughly enjoyed their offering for the year end of *Bloody Murder*.

How many of you have visited Melbourne recently? I found it sad and slightly depressing – empty streets and deserted shops. I was glad to see that the NGV was well patronised, and the Chanel exhibition was magnificent. The clothes were of an era long gone but were beautifully presented.

Well, enough from me. I welcome you back to 2022 and to what we hope will be a great year for us all and for U3A Frankston.

Andrea McCall, President