

Presidential Ponderings – March 2023

The Last one

It has been a long four years, but I have finally arrived at the end of my ponderings during my time as your President. It has been a pleasure to find something to write to you each month and to keep in contact with you all. From the feedback I have received, many of you have enjoyed reading them each month.

As you may have noticed we had a minor crisis in Room 1 last week. There was a water leak from the Ladies Toilets and so we have had to evacuate that room for the time being. Graham Wallis and Leonie have done a great job rearranging things and we can only apologise for this minor inconvenience. We will return to the Room as quickly as we can.

The AGM is still scheduled for the 28th March at 1pm and I thank those who have already nominated for your committee. I am sure we could find a space for you if you felt the need to apply. We need you.

There are several world things happening at the moment that make us reflect on how lucky we are to be living here – Ukraine, Turkey and Syria and the loss of refugee lives in the Mediterranean only yesterday. The world is very unsettled now. I feel for those people who have lost everything including their families, their homes and their livelihoods.

Here in Australia, we are gearing up for a referendum later this year. I have therefore asked our Federal Member, Peta Murphy to come to U3A Frankston in a month or so to brief us on the detail. She will of course be putting forward the Yes vote and I will, in the interests of democracy, be seeking someone from the No side. Your vote is vital, whatever that vote may be. Remember that for any referendum to pass in Australia a double majority system applies. That means, majority of people in the majority of states. I pity those who must do the counting!

Your committee is conscious that we are bursting at the seams in some of our classes. We are looking at a variety of options – moving some off site or running some classes from 4.15 – 5.45 on perhaps two nights a week. We think the classes most suited to the later time may be games ones and then you can order in a pizza or something to sustain you! Your comments and views are welcome.

We are about to start our iPad loan scheme. We have been fortunate enough to receive some funding from the Be Connected fund to support this scheme. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this, let us know. The iPads are on loan for up to three months with a SIM card with a download limit. Some training will be given along with some guidebooks, but the responsibility for the care of the equipment is yours. Please indicate your interest by giving your name to the Office.

Well, in signing off from this Ponderings, I wish you all health and happiness. I will of course still be around teaching the odd class or two and doing a guest talk in early May on Agatha Christie. I am sure our paths will still cross.

Thank you again for your support and friendship over the last four years.

Andrea McCall