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Presidential Ponders

Hello Everybody,

Last week I learnt that 88% of Victorians over 60 have had their first Covid vaccination and I listened to Dan Andrews explain our roadmap out of lock downs. I think half of Victoria was probably listening and we now have a plan and it looks like 2022 will be at least 'semi-normal'.

I have been onto the accommodation at Lakes Entrance and they have given me some dates to consider in Nov/Dec & will let you know as I finalise this. I'm very determined that I'm going for a four day break this side of Christmas.

A thank you to all those members who filled in our September survey & I will be analyzing and getting in touch with people soon; it will be invaluable for programming which begins in October.

U-MAS will be our system for on-line class enrollment for 2022 & members who cannot use U-MAS, will be supported by IT savvy people in The Hub on enrolment day (date to be decided.) When the committee confirms dates/classes the data base will be updated so check our website regularly at u3amoorleigh.org.au and a BIG THANK YOU to Val English & Michael Bonacci for changing over to this administration system.

We have been sending out regular (weekly) information via email throughout this lock down but some members, especially those with **hotmail or gmail** addresses have not been receiving these; you were definitely not overlooked at our end so check your junk mail.

Lastly, we have been planning a zoom and proxy AGM but if we can have any variation on this we will let you know.

Ciao,

Erika Fleming

Important Dates

Sunday 10th October BBQ and talks (see flier on page 3)

FRIDAY during lock down: "This Week Online" 2:00pm-4:00pm

Click on the website for links to special activities

News from The Hub



- **Have you tried U-MAS yet?**
- **This Week Online @ Moorleigh**

Although it's been a quiet time at **The Hub**, the team has nevertheless been kept busy helping tutors to deliver online courses via Zoom, and helping members with the occasional question regarding the new **U3A Membership Administration Software (U-MAS)**. Login from the website, have a look around at your membership details, change anything you need to change, look at courses and activities, and become comfortable with using U-MAS before enrolments commence for 2022. Need any help? Check out [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and view the Quick Guides below the FAQs. Still can't find an answer? Send us your question to enquiry@u3amoorleigh.org.au for a quick reply.

This Week Online @ Moorleigh continues to draw visitors to the weekly 2-hour variety show, including members from other U3As also isolating at home. The weekly programme and Zoom link are always available from the [Latest News](#) page on our website. Join us on Fridays for a bit of fun and entertainment.

Stay Safe, Stay Connected ... and we'll see you soon @ **The Hub**.

Just once, I want my user password to say.....close enough!

Current Committee

President.....Erika Fleming
Vice President.....Marie Nailon
Secretary.....Cynthia Paciocco
Treasurer...Rachael Golombick
Courses.....Rosemary Browning
Web-Master.. Michael Bonacci
Publicity.....Ann Watts

General Committee

Sue Kelaart, Olive Collingwood
Pauline Clark Ian Kirkwood,
Zeki Toral, Liz Rankin, Janet Lee

The AGM will be held on **Friday 26th November** probably via Zoom. An information pack will be mailed out in October to those not on-line. All current committee members must stand down and re-nominate if they wish to do so. If you are a full member & want to support and grow U3A Moorleigh, please consider nominating either by letter to the office or email to Erika Fleming at:

president@u3amoorleigh.org.au

Annual Fee for 2022

The committee has reviewed the membership fee for 2022 & propose that \$50:00 is very good value. We believe our numbers will fall again & we need to cover costs particularly council rent which has NOT been reduced despite our request. This fee is competitive with other U3A's.

Thank you to the 35 members who have registered their view on a possible name change. Does no-one else have an opinion? Have your say; look on the website and let us know what you think.

The Business Page



- The Covid Policy has been reviewed (again!!) & we have added the need for good ventilation by opening windows between classes. There is also a specific duty list for the hard working class monitor to follow; let's hope we get to use it this year.
- Have you let us know if you are in favour/not in favour of a name change? Look on the web page to respond; this is NOT a vote but will let us know if we have support to proceed with a change.
- Have you looked at U-mas and entered your personal password? The emailed code is a bit slow and I found mine in the Junk mail but it did work. Just think, no more queuing at 7:00am to ensure you get into your chosen course!
- We are looking for tutors for 2022. A once only talk or more sessions. We are only as good as our courses. Email **president@u3amoorleigh.org** if you can help.
- While we remain in lock down we cannot access the office or retrieve phone calls

South Eastern
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION
NETWORK**
recognise, protect, prevent

Unsure of how to support someone
at risk? You're NOT alone.....

Join us for ... **Serious
Fun & Talking Prevention**

FREE BBQ
Door prizes
learn how to bowl
**Tips on looking after
yourself & others**

World Mental Health
Day event
Sunday 10 October 2021
11:00am - 3:00pm
- At The Green -
Murrumbeena Bowls
Club - 10 Blackwood St,
Carnegie

Proudly supported by Glen Eira city council

Erika has been involved with this community network and U3A Moorleigh will help provide the venue for their February event. This BBQ in October at the Murrumbeena Bowling club will be a great day out and there is the chance of a door prize donated by Bunnings. Keep your fingers crossed that it can go ahead and **check Covid regulations closer to the date.**

To register your intention to attend via Eventbrite; see the address below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/serious-fun-talking-prevention-tickets-16103121839>

Friday On-line

If you are at a loose end on **Friday 2pm**, why don't you join us while we're still in lock down? Just go to our website at u3amoorleigh.org.au and check out '**This week Online @ Moorleigh**' and follow the prompts. Michael and Erika are your hosts and we listen to popular music, have a quiz followed by a variety of light-hearted and informative subjects.

In a recent session, U3A member Jenny Stone told us about her time as a surgical nurse on a Mercy ship based in port at Benin, West Africa and we also heard from Alice Mahar a young lady who has founded **The Corner Store Network** situated in Oakleigh to combat food waste and provide social support. Great coffee to be had!

If you have a request for a particular song/activity let me know (publicity email) and there is lots of news on our web page so don't miss out.

Letters

Hi, Thank you for all the efforts you are all making to keep us in the loop during lock down. I really appreciate it and am looking forward to checking out the Friday afternoon activities.

I am in the choir and Val (Suhr) is doing a wonderful job finding great video clips for us to keep our spirits up. The best part of doing choir on Zoom is that I can sing as loudly and badly as I want! (Viv C)

We have great tutors who are willing to go that extra bit to keep members engaged. I hope you've caught up with our entertainment on Friday via the website?

I visited The Corner Store Network & was very impressed with the set up. I donated 2 boxes of lemons (given to me by a friend)...& spent \$50:00 on gift packs & jams etc. I am looking forward to going back for a coffee one day. (Dorothy A)

A great company to support.

Seniors Festival

We had an exciting program planned for 2021 October's Seniors Festival; well you know what happened to that !!! The Festival organiser's have cancelled face-to-face activities planned in the city, and U3A Moorleigh had the option to withdraw from the online promotion however, we have proceeded with the advert and our special events can hopefully be held later in the year. I would like to thank Ken, Renate and Elisabeth from the drawing and pastel classes for their offer of art demonstrations and Michael and Nick for extra IT sessions and film shows and Ian B for his marketing ideas. Check the website seniorsonline.vic.gov.au and seniorsfestivalgleneira.vic.gov.au We will let you know if we can reschedule.

Common sense is not a gift; it is a punishment because you have to deal with all the people who don't have it!

A Childhood Journey

At the end of the cane cutting season, we left Innisfail and headed back to Brisbane; this meant travelling by train.

The carriage we settled in consisted of two padded long seats, curved at the ends where they jutted out into the corridor. There was no such thing as privacy as everyone walking past could see exactly what was happening in the so called carriage. Above the seats were long luggage racks consisting of a brass frame with string crossed webbing. We shared our carriage with another family and my memory tells me that the journey took 3 days and 2 nights to travel from Innisfail to Roma Street station in Brisbane -- a long time for a young family.

My memories of the journey are;

Us older kids with our heads out the window, having a game where the winner was the last person to keep their eyes wide open as the cinders blew back from the engine.

A toilet that was very scary as it opened directly onto the track.

The train slowing down when it came across gangs of rail workers. You could see the big grey canvas tents of the workers set back a little into the bush. People hung out of the train windows to talk to them and to pass on news or a precious newspaper, to take a letter for posting or to pass on fruit or cake to the workers.

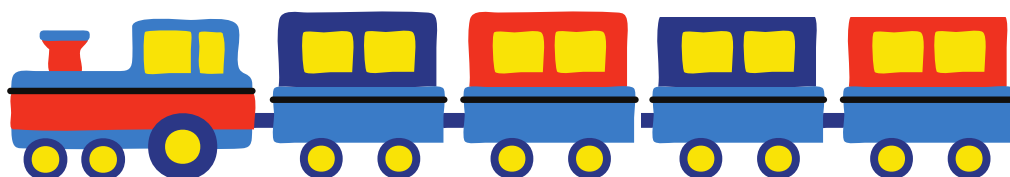
Each big railway station had a dining room equipped with tables on which stood steel jugs of water & thick white plates stamped with the logo of Queensland Railway. Waitresses rushed to get orders out in the short time the train was in the station & people crowded into the ablutions area to get a wash. At the smaller stations, vendors would be up & down the platform carrying large trays of pies & sausage rolls & of course cups of tea. My memory of Innisfail was that it had the best, most generous sausage rolls of any station on the line; they came from a great Italian bakery in town.

Sleeping was a case of adults stretching out on the long seats, babes put in an open suitcase on the floor & older kids wrapped up & arranged along the luggage racks!

The beginning of the trip was all excitement & at the end a universal sigh of relief when the train finally chugged under the soot covered roof of Roma Street station.

Subsequently this train was replaced by a diesel train, The Sunlander; comfortable but not so exciting.

Story by Erika Fleming **Does anyone else have childhood or travel memories they want to share?**



I've reached an age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me

Phone Buddies

U3A Moorleigh was concerned about the isolation of members who have no access to a computer and so no news of our U3A. Following up a suggestion from one of our members, Carole Cheng our front office co-ordinator has implemented the **Phone Buddy** system to keep members informed about our upcoming plans and specific programs but more importantly to make that social contact during these times of extended isolation and loneliness while in lock down.

Front office volunteers were contacted at home and every one of them were happy to take on this caring and positive role and the members involved were delighted with the plan. Each volunteer will regularly contact their 3-4 buddies for an update and friendly chat. Thank you to all our great volunteers...always so willing to support U3A Moorleigh and its members and thank you Carole for organising it all.



Vaccination Passport

We know that the government is planning to provide confirmation of full Covid vaccination with a 'passport' that displays your status. This may be a mandatory requirement for U3A membership so please think about your well-being and freedom. If you haven't had your vaccinations yet your future activities may be at limited.

Trevor Brownrigg tells us there is a new pneumonia vaccine more suitable for our age group. Discuss your options with your GP when your next dose is due.

When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "East".

Of course I talk to myself... sometimes I need expert advice.

Things are more like they are today than they ever were before.



A tree that can fill the span of a man was once a small sapling.
A terrace nine stories, high was built from hands full of sand.
A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

(Lao Tzu)



A MAN WHO WAS GRANTED TWO WISHES, ASKED FOR THE BEST DRINK AND THE BEST WOMAN EVER.
THE NEXT MOMENT HE WAS GIVEN A GLASS OF MINERAL WATER BY MOTHER THERESE.