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Presidential Ponders

Hello Everybody,

We are coming out of lockdown and I thought that I might take this opportunity to focus on what we are planning for 2022 as we transit into a Covid normal environment.

Reception is **planned** to be manned from **November 8th**. Please keep your phone queries to a minimum until after Monday 15th to give us a chance to get organised

Summer School commencing **10th & 17th January** will be held at U3A. The program is still being worked on by Rosemary Browning, Sue Kelaart, Janet Lee and me. Classes will be posted on our website, via email and hard copies will be available at U3A in November.

Semester 1 will commence February 7th. Some of the exciting new courses that we have planned including:- The Art of Lawn Bowls at Clayton Bowls Club; Line Dancing; Tarot Cards history and meaning of the cards; Beginners Bridge; Lead Lighting workshop, more are still being worked on plus many of your favourites. The following Clubs/Special Interest Groups:- Walking Club; Coffee & Conversation; Discovering Melbourne; Entertainment Group; Victoria Travel Club; Australia Travel Club; Food & Recipes; Cruising and Photography Club will also get started. Hopefully, the bike group and quilting will actually happen in 2022.

We also plan to have an Events Co-ordinator on our committee who's focus will be to expand social get-togethers for our members e.g., BBQ's; an Art show; an Annual Get Away; Tutors morning teas; Cancer Fund Raising event etc. etc. After lockdown, we **NEED FUN**; we need to meet with people; we need to stimulate our brains & our bodies.

Ciao Erika Fleming President

Important Dates



See an important letter on page 4

Tuesday 2nd November CUP DAY Holiday

Monday 8th November Office will be open (we hope) Mon-Fri 10.00-2.30

Friday 26th November at 10:00am via Zoom AGM

Book Lakes Entrance 4 day get-away 6th-10th December (details page 3)

News from The Hub



- *Now is the time to check your U-MAS details*
- *This Week Online still draws the crowds*

Very soon you will be asked to consider what courses you would like to take in 2022 and to renew your membership. This year, all enrolments will be done online via the **U3A Membership Administration Software (U-MAS)**. Fear not, however, there are many folks ready and able to help members navigate this new system.

As a first step, you should log into your membership account via the website and check that all your details are correct. Once that is done, you can concentrate on courses for 2022 as soon as they are posted on U-MAS.

If you need help, ask another member or check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and Quick Guides on the FAQ page. Still stuck? Email us your question to enquiry@u3amoorleigh.org.au and we guarantee a quick reply.

Our Friday variety programme ***This Week Online @ Moorleigh*** continues to draw visitors from several U3As and is growing in popularity. The programme and Zoom link are available from the [Latest News](#) page on the website. Join us on Fridays for a bit of fun and entertainment.

Stay Safe, Stay Connected ... and we look forward to welcoming you soon @ ***The Hub***.

Current Committee

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

General Committee

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

New nominations have already been received for consideration at the AGM - so thank you. Next year is going to be an exciting one, full of new ideas as we grow and emerge from COVID.

New nominations can be emailed to:
president@u3amoorleigh.org.au

The AGM will be held on 26th November via Zoom and proxy vote. Even though the lockdown is over we still have a restriction on room capacity. Information will be emailed or posted out. All current committee members must stand down and re-nominate if they wish to do so.

We hope to have staff in the office from **Monday 8th November**, Mon-Fri between 10.00am - 2.30pm. As you can imagine, there is much to sort so out; so don't all rush at once - be patient! Enrollments will not be until December as the committee are still programming classes.

The Business Page



- If you want to attend face-to-face classes indoors you **MUST** be fully vaccinated. **Enrollment will be blocked on U-MAS** (except for Zoom & outdoor class) unless you can state that you are fully vaccinated. This also applies to all volunteers. Your certification status will be recorded by admin.
- How to obtain your digital vaccination passport is explained on our website thanks to Michael & a paper copy can be obtained from **Phone-1800 653 809** & have your Medicare card handy.
- Volunteers will be learning U-MAS so we can assist members with enrollment. **Instructions are also on the website.** Your membership number is now attached to all your email communications & will be part of your badge in 2022.
- We are looking for speakers and teachers for 2022. A once only talk or more sessions are fine. We are only as good as the activities we can offer, so please email **president@u3amoorleigh.org** if you can help.
- It's not too late to book for the 4 day break at Lakes Entrance in December 6th -10th Big 4 Whikers email info@whikers.com.au or phone 1800 039 006.

Survey Responses for the Messenger

We had a marvelous response to the recent member survey and have a better idea of what you want from a newsletter. Some members think the current Messenger is too long but it looks like it could be getting longer! I also have offers from roving reporters so expect more variety next year. Here is a summary of requests & comments.....

Information on classes/tutors, recipes, jokes & cartoons, gardening advice, book & films reviews, member's art & poetry, U3A constitution & its history, personal advice News at the beginning & a picture of Erika please.

The BIG change will be when **YOU** send in stories, pictures and poems. Christmas is coming so how about your favourite recipe?

For Your Information

Our constitution and policies are on the web site: see '**About Us**'.

U3A Moorleigh news is mostly in the first three pages .

Here is a photo of Erika Fleming who stood still long enough at one of our promotional days! She won't be happy that I snapped her but here she is!

Send your stories, pictures, hints, reviews etc to:

publicity@u3amoorleigh.org.au



I want to be 14 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas!

U3A Moorleigh needs your support

The following Email has been sent to Councillor Cade & others including, the Mayor. The lack of response to our request for rent relief shows the LGA is not concerned enough about the senior members of this community. Our request has been answered by being "forwarded to the appropriate department."

If you pay rates to Glen Eira will you please support our claim & write/email your local Councillor stating what U3A Moorleigh means to you.

There seems to be more concern for smaller groups such as sporting clubs, scouts and men's sheds than any activity for 'old people'. The Email does not offend but points out the importance of social contacts for all local seniors.

Dear Councillor Cade,

We are most disappointed with the lack of response to our request for some rent relief on the lease for the (U3A) rooms at Moorleigh Village.

We have not had entry for most of this year and the best suggestion seems to be that we reduce the number of rooms to cut costs. This is most impracticable since, with limited numbers allowed due to Covid restrictions, we will need to increase the number of sessions as soon as members are permitted back into the building and we will need those rooms.

Rather than talking about providing for the needs of older community members, we do actually provide social, physical and mental stimulation to those over fifty five years. Any Councillor is welcome to visit & see what we offer. We have over 460 members this year (reduced due to Covid and the lack of ability to provide face-to-face sessions) and compared to many other social groups we cater for more people. A large percentage of our members live alone & U3A is a big source of contact.

We currently need to reduce our fees, due to limited service and the need to spend part of our budget for on-line services making the full payment of our license fee a financial burden. We need any money we can save to advertise and explore options for presenting sessions so we can increase membership; we are completely run by volunteers, so none of our funds are used on personal expenses.We request that you please reconsider our situation.

Find your local representative in the local Glen Eira News on page 2

or at **www.gleneira.vic.gov.au**

Although we are just tenants at Moorleigh, we have had to use **our** funds to replace the very old, dirty and falling curtains and due to the change over to NBN last year we also have to pay to upgrade our phone system. Just thinkwe are paying the council to provide a service!

Calling All MEN

We are very aware that the majority of our members are female so if you are of the second..... oops sorry, male gender, would you like a session where

NO WOMEN ARE ALLOWED?!

We thought you may like to start a **Blokes Book Club** or whatever, where you can read what appeals or just chat about secret men's business. Let us know if you're interested and we can put you in contact with other like minds to discuss what you want to do.

Email me at **publicity@u3amoorleigh.org.au**

Friday On-line

'**This Week Online @ Moorleigh**' is growing in popularity & we have also welcomed visitors from U3A Stonnington. To find us on the website, click '**read more**' to find the program and link.

Last month Sarah Burton from LinkPET told us about a commonwealth scheme to provide assistance with pet-care for people on an aged-care package. Volunteers are matched with a frail senior so the pet gets a walk or groom and the elderly person has social contact; a wonderful idea particularly as a pet is very important to those living alone.. Check the website:

<https://www.linkhc.org.au/pet-program/>

We also heard from Rob Hunter who was 9 days into his first teaching job as a solo country teacher at Wooreen in 1977 when he and his pupils were kidnapped at gun point. Rob spared us the harrowing details and has a marvellous attitude towards life & his captor and now has produced a book and gives regular sessions. See his website:

<https://kidnappedteachertalks.com/>

Since his talk, we have found out that Michael Bonacci's wife went to school with the two-time kidnapper, and that one of our current members is the sister of the Kombi-van driver involved in the incident! It's a small world indeed!

Information goes Viral!

A big '**Thank You**' to Geoffrey Best whose two sessions on virus and vaccinations last month was easy to understand and enlightening. Knowing that scientists had been working on the Corona virus for years in anticipation of an out-break, reassures us that this vaccine is safe, and it's also great to know that the Astra Zeneca vaccine, that most of us probably received, has a longer efficacy than the other two products. U3A members from Stonnington also joined us for this session

There is also a link on the website with a short explanation by Professor Peter Doherty on how a vaccine works and he stresses that it is the body's natural reaction to the vaccine that makes us produce the antibodies and us gives immunity.

Member Trevor Brownrigg has obtained a hard copy of all his vaccinations including Covid. If you don't have a smart phone or just want the paper document contact

1800 653 809 at the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Have your medicare card handy and follow the prompts to talk to a real person. Trevor got his record in the post within ten days. Good one!

For those with a smart phone I suggest that you download the latest App for **Medicare & Services Victoria**. Once you have your myGov Account the rest is plain sailing.

Also some information from Peter Froment who has been concerned about health risks when we open up. Peter found a website in UK linked to Oxford University and the British Medical Journal [Qcovid Risk Calculator](#) which uses evidence based information to rate your risk of hospitalization. Peter felt reassured and the site sounds reliable.

People don't think I'm that old until they hear me stand up.

Bentleigh Community Liaison.

Zeki Toral from our committee is a busy man as he is also a Rotary member and he has approached our local Probus Club to see if we can assist each other with activities and interests. John Connolly their President has sent us the following information:

Probus is a world wide organisation sponsored by Rotary which provides social and intellectual stimulation for retired and semi-retired members of the community. There are more than 1700 Probus Clubs with more than 125,000 members all over Australia and New Zealand. The Probus Club of Bentleigh is a mixed club open to any member of the community looking for Fun, Friendship and Fellowship.

Probus Clubs are not political, non-sectarian, simple in structure and free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs. Our activities fall into two parts;

1. A formal meeting on the second Thursday of each month; this comprises of a club business session, coffee break and then a guest speaker.
2. Regular outings to places of interest (partners and guests welcome) monthly 'Coffee and Chat', Walking group, Book club regular Theatre, Dine Out etc: We also have an Annual Away trip.

Our regular meeting place has been Bentleigh RSL club however they are undergoing renovations, so at this stage our next meeting is undecided and details will be available on our website when restrictions allow us to meet again. "[Probus Club of Bentleigh](#)" will find us.

Pending further discussion we would hope to form an association beneficial to both our clubs.

John has kindly agreed to put a piece in his club newsletter about U3A Moorleigh.

Are you in this picture? Italian Class 2009



Jan Brasch (standing 2nd right) found this photo from 2009.

Are you in this pic or do you recognise anyone here?

Jan has been inspired by Erika's train story from last month and has her own reminiscence on page 6 - Our first member contribution so 'Well done.'

Thank you!

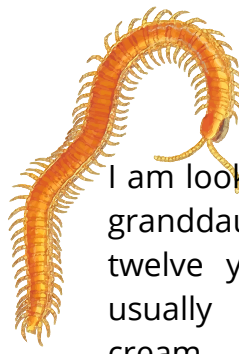
Many people have expressed their appreciation for all the work done by our volunteers. It has been another frustrating year with many plans coming to nought so we also say thanks to you for your continued loyalty.

It will all be worth it next year.

Ten Reasons why English is Weird

- (1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- (2) A farm is used to produce produce.
- (3) The dump was so full they had to refuse more refuse.
- (4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- (5) He could lead if he could get the lead out.
- (6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- (7) Since there is no time like the present, he decided it was time to present the present.
- (8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- (9) At the shot, the dove dove into the bush.
- (10) I did not object to the object..

I wonder what Denise Weiss our English tutor would make of this? What a challenge.



Grandma 's Wishes

I am looking forward to having my four granddaughters, aged seven through to twelve years, back to play soon. We usually play scrabble and make ice cream. A session often involves climbing in, on and under the bed amongst the boxes and scaring the poor old dog. At some stage we go for a walk and bring back treasures; coloured stones, flowers, snails and centipedes all to be examined before they go home. Ahh....happy days I can't wait.

Story by Angela Skelton

Glad the wait is over now.

Jan's Journey

Three days after my eighth birthday our small family moved from Melbourne to Perth where my father was to set up a new branch of a small engineering company. It was dusk & a cold winter's evening when my parents, younger brother & I walked onto the tarmac at Essendon airport to climb aboard the DC3 propeller driven aircraft which would take us across the continent.

I was both excited and a little scared but I suspect my mother was terrified and not looking forward to her first experience of flying. Dad had flown previously to Batavia, once the capital of the Dutch East Indies (now Jakarta in Indonesia) and I remember the nights when mum anxiously awaited his return. In those days the trip to Perth required a stop in Adelaide to refuel. Once the flight resumed we were expected to sleep but my brother suffered earache for the whole trip and only quietened for short periods and no one had much sleep; for an eight year old it was a very long night.

Towards the end of the flight I was rewarded with a most magnificent sight which is still a vivid memory. As we neared our destination fluffy white clouds looking like cotton wool were all I could see from my small window. At first they were just tinged with pink but gained more colour as the sun rose behind us. In those days it took 12 hours to fly from Melbourne to Perth. Two years later the return flight in daytime was far less memorable. It was many years before I experienced another dawn in the air by which time I was in a jet airliner and flying at a much greater height -- nonetheless a wonderful experience & one I long to repeat in the future.

By Jan Brasch (Thanks Jan for being the first member to send a story in.)