



## President's Report - November 2020

### A few words from your President...

Hello everyone - I hope you have been keeping fit during our continued lockdown. The weather hasn't been great lately but hoping for more blue skies and sunny days. I haven't been doing much personally besides walking the dog or pottering around the garden as I work full-time. Online shopping has been in abundance though and sometimes I forget what I've ordered...it's been that many! Happiness is opening a parcel and saying, "I forgot I ordered that!". The joys of lockdown!

The Committee met online on Saturday 24th October and it was a great session. Lots of brainstorming for 2021 and generally it was good just to see friends, even if it was via a small screen. We have set out the VLDA calendar for 2021 and all the events are of course pending lifting of restrictions and abiding by COVID safe regulations as implemented by local councils. This will include numbers allowed at any event. Amongst the items discussed were the following:

The 2020 AGM has been fixed for Saturday 20th February 2021

Portarlington 2021 Social themes -

Friday night is Club T - shirts, Saturday night is Carnivalé at Port - Together Again & Sunday night will be Black with a splash of colour.

Our chosen charity for 2021 is the Black Dog Institute in support of mental health.

Good Friday will be held at Norwood Secondary College in Ringwood on 2nd April 2021

The 25th Annual Gala Ball will be held on Saturday 26th June 2021 and the theme is Silver, Black and White.

Like the rest of Victoria, the Committee will also wait with bated breath as to when we can resume a 'normal' life and look forward to these events which we had to cancel this year. The Committee is planning on having another meeting in December which is when we are hoping for better news that will allow us to start putting into place these much - loved events.

In the meantime, we continue to enjoy the online classes and socials and are very thankful and appreciative of those instructors who make this happen. If we did not have the technology that we have today enabling us to stay connected in the virtual world, this lockdown would be a whole different story and one that I dare not even think about. So, thank you for making this happen for the rest of us, we will always be grateful.

As I sit at my desk and look out the window at the birds flying freely and happily, I am hopeful that we too will be able to enjoy this freedom soon and get together with our loved ones. Stay connected and positive and remember that we are here for each other.

Happy Halloween and enjoy the Melbourne Cup weekend!

*Sumi Sivalingam*

VLDA President

