



President's Message

News Bulletin - January 2021

Welcome to 2021 Term 1! I hope your 2021 has started well and like the rest of us, you are full of enthusiasm for a much better year this year!

I am truly filled with anticipation as we re-commence in-person meetings and classes again after 12 months of social distancing. I somehow feel quite starved of people contact and personally, am quite excited to be in the buzz again, hearing your news, meeting new members, making new friends and always, always, learning. We welcome our new members as we also welcome new tutors bringing and sharing their expertise and knowledge in several new classes offered this year.

It's time to renew. Most have already renewed their memberships and enrolled in courses, some are still waiting to be accepted into courses due to overwhelming demand. If you have not been looking at our program, you may be interested to know that there are many courses with vacancies, so do check out our website so you don't miss out on some of our new courses!

Now, as we return to class, first things first.

Your health and your safety are of utmost importance to us. As we slowly emerge and return to some normality, please be mindful that our actions may lead us to significant consequences for others. I feel it necessary to remind you of the importance to respect and observe all restrictions imposed upon us so that we can safely stay (and play) together and not put others at risk.

So, seriously, if you are sick, please stay home.

I am seeking your cooperation on your return to ensure a smooth transition, in particular:

1. *Contact Tracing*

Our tutors will be advised to ensure that only members who have been enrolled and accepted into the course are allowed to attend classes. Class sizes are strictly within the rules defined by the facilities and room sizes. Everyone attending classes **MUST** record and sign in on arrival.

Please Do Not sign in for others. Attendance sheets are kept for contact tracing purposes.

2. *Social Distancing and Face Masks*

The current restrictions are such that where social distancing is not possible, face masks must be worn. If you don't have one, you may not be allowed in to class. We understand that may impact some of our classes and if necessary, we may have to delay commencement of some classes. We will keep you informed if your class is affected. We will not be supplying face masks – please remember to bring your own. Even where the rules around face masks are relaxed, you should always have one with you.

3. *Sanitisers*

We will provide all tutors with sanitisers for your use. Please use the sanitisers on entry and intermittently during the duration of the class.

4. *Use of Kitchen Facilities and Sharing food*

Some facilities including Monash facilities and Oak Tree Hill Retirement Village have already given us strict instructions against sharing food or having communal food platters, also of limited/restricted use of their kitchen facilities. All members, please bring your own drinking and food requirements to class and please **DO NOT SHARE FOOD**.

Office opening hours

We have scaled down our office opening hours; the office at 355 Wellington Road is open only on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30am till 2pm and on Wednesdays, from 9:30am till noon. Outside of these hours, the office phone will not be attended to either. If you have any pressing matter you need addressed, I encourage you to send us an email instead.

I am very much looking forward to returning to normal, but at the same time, I am also very keen that we all do the right thing so we can all comfortably stay healthy together.

Once again, Welcome back!

Yours truly

Ann Findlay, President