

Covid at Northern Turners

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF NORTHERN TURNERS

As from today, March 14th 2020, there will be no more meetings of the club at Golden Grove High School until further notice. I have made this decision because, considering the age spectrum of our members, we are at much greater risk of mortality from the corona virus than the general population.

In order to keep some sort of continuity of the club's activities, I ask members to take photos of any work which they would normally present at Show and Tell and send to me. I will collate them into a Word document which can then be available to members through the link provided by the Secretary. The pictures could also be on our website or in TurnOut.

Keep your lathes spinning at home – even if you are in quarantine, you can still make beautiful things out of wood!

Tim Smeaton
President

The Northern Turners Lockdown lasted for most of the rest of the year, although most members used the time profitably in their own workshops. An AGM was held in October at a community hall, but Golden Grove High School was still nervous about allowing a return to the pre-covid arrangements so a number of other options were investigated. Fortunately a new arrangement was concluded and we were welcomed by the Torrens Valley Christian School, where we had previously held a number of Weekend Workshops. After some necessary preparations, we commenced meeting there in January 2021.

Covid is still with us three years later, although less disruptive and is largely ignored, despite occasional peaks in case numbers. Most people are vaccinated and mask wearing is encouraged but no longer enforced.

Our resident Poet Laureate's summary of the pandemic and its effects follows on the next page.

Covid-19 assaults the world.

The whole world has collapsed in a spiral
Could it be due to something viral?
A very small object with lots of spines
Corona virus Bill Gates opines
As he predicted five years ago
It won't be bombs which bring us low
But a pesky microbe afflicting us
Caught while travelling on a bus
Or was it a cruise ship Petri dish
Which spread the virus quite quickish.

And although it all began in China
We can't lash out and give them a shiner
We just have to stay self-isolated
Our travel very much truncated
Because we're old, immune impaired
We might be dead, we might be spared!
The government trying to flatten the curve
Spending millions from some reserve
Which means generations will have to pay
For what they're dishing out today,

And if you're working, but made redundant
Job seeker allowance won't be abundant,
And it may come to you by May the first
By then your credit card will be ready to burst
And if you have shares they've lost their value
Your superannuation? That won't save you
So stay at home with someone compatible,
Take up a hobby if your body is able
Jigsaw puzzles have sold out I hear
Joining the toilet paper all disappeared.

How long will it last this viral invasion
Immunologists come up with several equations,
Some say for ever, we must get immune
But a vaccine won't be available soon,
In the meantime IC Units are filled to the brim
Supply of respirators, masks is alarmingly thin
Believe it or not we imported them all
China the source! Hang on, don't I recall
That this pandemic started in some place oriental
Was the viral insertion quite accidental?

Corona virus came from an animal source
In a market in China, wild animals were bought
And put on the table, and the virus transferred
To people, life in a new host occurred
In Wu Han a city which we didn't know
They locked people in, the virus to slow
But it went over the world in just a few days,
Korea, Japan, then Italy invades
Spain's not immune, it has thousands of dead
Coffins lined up, population in dread.

New York epicenter of the US of A
Trump changes his tune from day to day
One minute it'll be over by Easter he states
Then Oops, a little bit more he relates
But no-one can tell what the future will hold
How many will die, the grim reaper behold,
We are lucky right here, our hospitals working
Much better than many, but that virus is lurking
So keep in touch with your friends, email or phone
We must help everyone, don't let them be alone.

Tim Smeaton April 1 2020

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