



## President's Update Colin Thomas

The COVID-19 'curveball' continues to disrupt activities for the Society (and Australia in general) on an ongoing basis. Clearly with the number of positive cases in the various states, interstate travel will be severely limited for the balance of the 2021 calendar year. This is particularly disappointing as the NSW, VIC and TAS branches all had exciting events arranged for September and October. Your Board chose to sit and wait to ensure no members were inconvenienced any more than they had to be by making interstate travel arrangements and then having to cancel. The current situation means all proposed events are postponed at this stage. Fortunately, the tours of Bathurst in NSW and Ballarat/Camperdown in VIC were able to occur without any issues between outbreaks. This was just pure luck it would seem. Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend, as I was in VIC, greatly enjoyed the fellowship of our members.

If the vaccination roll-out continues as expected the next major event will be held in NSW in March 2022. Further information will be provided in respect to this when the Board are convinced the event will not have to be cancelled. State branches will hold events wherever possible within the COVID-19 constraints of that state between now and then.

At the most recent Board meeting held 11 August it was agreed the planning meeting and face-to-face AGM proposed for October will also be too high-risk to hold. As such our hard-working Secretary Lynda Summers will arrange a Zoom conference which any member will be able to join. The AGM has been set for 7pm Wednesday 13 October. At this time, we will be holding two AGMs; one for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 following which the second AGM for the period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 will occur. The reason for the two AGMs is bringing the Society's financial year into actual financial years from the previous calendar year reporting periods. This was necessary for ease in regulatory reporting for incorporated entities and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). The Board trusts all members can understand why this was necessary.

As members will recall from previous updates in *Australiana* it is my intention to hold a face-to-face planning meeting at the first available opportunity. This was scheduled to occur November 2020 however again due to COVID-19 constraints will not occur this year. The Board realise ongoing change is necessary and decided at our last meeting to commence review of the Australiana website as this is one matter which can be progressed without face-to-face meetings. As such a Committee of the Board comprising Vice President Andrew Simpson, Editor John Wade, NSW Chair Robert Hannan and our IT consultant Adam Free was formed. As President I am an ex-officio member of any Committee and will be involved in the very early stages with Lynda Summers participating as required. In order to commence the review the Committee and Board is seeking information from **any member who wishes to provide any input whatsoever. As such please document your thoughts including provision of details of any websites which you particularly like or any other matter and forward this information by close of business Tuesday 31 August to [info@australiana.org.au](mailto:info@australiana.org.au)**. Please be assured all information will be taken into consideration by the Committee.

The Board and Editor apologise for the delay in forwarding August's issue of *Australiana*. Again COVID-19 has caused issues in this regard. As a tempter our Editor John Wade has provided the following information detailing what you can expect. We trust you all understand constraints within which COVID-19 affects ongoing operations.