

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We probably all thought 2020 and 2021 were amongst the toughest years we have known, but 2022 seems to be moving that bar even higher. Phenomenal amounts of rain have fallen in NSW and South East Queensland in particular. Whilst we see a little bit about these happenings on the TV news in Victoria, it wasn't until a quick trip to NSW and Queensland during the last week that the true magnitude of this has become apparent to me via the local TV news and local newspapers. Many areas are having their highest rainfall on record. Some areas will beat their all time annual rainfall figures by the end of July. All a vast contrast to the 15 mm of rain my town has received in July. For those of you affected I can only offer my best wishes. It must be difficult for many, and simply heartbreaking for others. For some, of course, the rain brings welcome relief after long dry spells. We live in a difficult land, one with so many contrasts. Yet for me it's still the best country in the world to live in.

Being interstate briefly has also brought me new knowledge about Covid. Here in Victoria the number of people in hospital has been slowly rising and is now above 800. I thought that was bad until I saw the numbers in NSW and for Qld. Any hopes that Covid was going away soon seem to have been misplaced. I was pleased, however, to see on the Brisbane news that the EKKA will be proceeding as planned, although I suspect that some special measures may have to be put in place in order to keep people as safe as possible.

On a totally different measure we are again a land of enormous contrasts. Kiddings are already taking place in the north, whilst down in the cold south some members have only just mated the last of their does. Regardless of which end of this harsh but wonderful country that we share I wish you all the best with your kiddings whether that's now or much later in the year. Somehow the world always seems a better place with new kids bouncing around.

Stay Safe, Ian

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