

OAASA Fellowship 2020

While the Corona virus pandemic and social distancing continue, the 2020 Fellowship program for OAASA members also continues. We are adhering to the time, dates and guest speakers listed in an earlier newsletter.

However, as the Naval Military and Air Force Club in Hutt Street, the traditional venue for OAASA Fellowship meetings, is closed until further notice, the Fellowship will use an online tool as our new 'venue' for meetings and to keep members and guests involved, communicating and sharing fellowship and experiences.

The OAASA Fellowship committee currently is using the Zoom App. Though the meeting and guest speaker start at one 'o'clock you need to plan to be seated in front of your screen by about 12.45, and then to stay with your screen for up to about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour, 1.00 – 1.45.

If you do not have computing or emailing facilities of your own, members and guests can meet to share a screen to hear the guest speaker – but remember to maintain social distancing!

Using Zoom for the first time is a learning curve for both speakers and members.

We treated our first meeting with Zoom, on the 30 April, like a trial so the participating group was small. The speaker, Jan Forrest OAM, was emailed a list of email addresses limited to regular Fellowship attendants and members of the OAASA Branch committee. The speaker sent those members an email including a link to Zoom, an ID number and Password. She spoke on a topic she is passionate and expert at, "Attracting butterflies to your garden".

Feedback from our first trial of a Zoom meeting online on 30 April was that it was a great success, very interesting, enjoyable. Members stayed to the end and it was great to see other members engaging.

The speaker checked that participants were connected and had vision and sound. Bryce Saint OAM gave a very eloquent welcome and encouragement, gave John McKellar's apology, introduced the speaker and her topic and eloquently closed the meeting. Jan Forrest, who impressed us with including a PowerPoint presentation, monitored her screen to link in any new arrivals in the "waiting room". Participants shared in a Q and A session.

It truly was an opportunity to see members informally communicating and sharing knowledge and inquiry.

Online tools for meetings may be part of our future and have the advantages of being inclusive, not disadvantaging from communication and sharing passionate topics those who live in rural and remote communities. No one should be isolated, we are all in this together, and the Fellowship will operate to maintain communication with members and guests and offer members a place in which they can share topics they are passionate about.

If speakers wish to integrate a PowerPoint presentation, there are members who can advise them.

Any SA members can participate in Zoom Fellowship sessions by emailing their name and email address to Flavia De Pasquale, a Fellowship committee member. The size of the group is capped at 20.

Keep this article handy for operating the Zoom App. Check the next newsletter for updates on meetings, and confirmation of the date when we return to holding Fellowship meetings at the Naval Military and Air Force Club in Hutt Street.

We have started planning our 2021 guest speaker program. If you have a life experience you are passionate about and have an expertise on and would like to be a Fellowship speaker in 2021 please contact the Fellowship committee to make further enquiries and perhaps book a date.

By Pamela Rajkowski OAM and Flavia De Pasquale OAM

For further information please contact:

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OAASA Fellowship 2020 - GUIDELINES

Here are guidelines on what steps to take to be connected to Fellowship sessions by Zoom.

1. Have an iPhone, iPad, laptop or computer [digital tools] at home, or with you: you will need one that has a camera, microphone and speakers (or you can use headphones).

Sit in a well lit place so your face can be seen on the screen.

2. Download the Zoom App onto your digital tool. Google for instructions on how to do this. When the host emails you a link to connect to the Zoom session, you can use that link to automatically access and download the Zoom app.

The app is also available for manual download here: <https://zoom.us/download>

3. Provide your contact details, particularly your email address, to Fellowship committee member Flavia De Pasquale OAM. She will send a complete list of contacts to the next guest speaker, who is the 'host' of the Zoom meeting.
4. The guest speaker or 'host' will send you a confirmation email before the next meeting date with a link to connect you to the coming Zoom session. Keep that email so that you can click on the link at the date and time the guest speaker is scheduled to commence.
5. Clicking on the link opens the field 'Join the meeting' to connect you to the Zoom group. Enter your personal details and the ID number and password from the email if the fields request it.
6. After clicking on the link, or completing the fields of the Zoom app, wait a few seconds. Your screen may go black temporarily then you will see the face of your host, and then of others as they load up together on the screen. If you come in after the starting time don't give up. The host will see you in the 'waiting room' and add you to the meeting.

7. To be heard and to hear others, and for others to see you, the host will direct you to click on buttons at the bottom of your screen, eg: on the bottom left that says 'video'.
8. Members' skills with using Zoom do range. There may be 'teething problems' for some. If you hear only the speaker and your sound drops out and the meeting does not hear you stay.

If your image drops out of the Zoom app during the meeting and you cannot return, simply go back to your email with the link and try again.

Teething problems will be ironed out as practice continues.
9. The host or guest speaker will talk first so that you know you are on. Be patient as you learn to use the Zoom app. Be careful not to talk over each other. The speaker may 'mute' you during their talk to minimise background noise then 'unmute' you later.
10. Brief protocols will commence promptly. The next voice will be Bryce Saint OAM to do the official welcome, then Professor John McKellar AM Ed will introduce the speaker.
11. The Zoom meeting, as it does at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club meetings, lasts 45 minutes only. Speakers talk for about 20 minutes allowing time for protocols and Q and A for ten minutes.
12. Bryce Saint OAM will thank the speaker, conclude the session and announce you can switch off.

Keep this article handy for operating the Zoom App but keep checking the next newsletters for news and updates on being in Fellowship sessions.