**Editorial: ADFAS Byron Bay - Lecture 1: 2021**

**The Architecture of Mughal India: Palaces, Mosques, Gardens and Mausoleums:**

**Presented by UK lecturer Dr John Stevens via Virtual link**

***Background***

In view of member feedback during 2020, ADFAS Byron opted for a resumption of lectures in our local Bangalow venue. The venue can easily accommodate us even with social distancing in place.

We selected two UK lecturers for virtual screening and six Australian lecturers for face-to-face delivery. In the event that an Australian lecturer is unable to travel, we have secured the option to purchase a digital version. This will be screened in the Hall or provided on request, for members to view at home. It is likely that Our Special Interest Half Day event with Australian lecturer, Charlotte Nattey, will only go ahead if Charlotte attends in person.

***Preparation* - relevant for NSW Societies only**

Apart from signing additional COVID-19 Hire Conditions for our Council managed Community Hall, ADFAS Byron took the additional precaution of downloading the NSW Government COVID Safe electronic check-in.

The application process for registration as a business/organisation is undertaken online and after a few false starts, was relatively straightforward. The application process necessitates answering a series of questions, which upon completion, becomes the organisation’s Safety Plan. There is no fee.

The necessary information and promotional material is then available to the applicant to download, including the business/organisation’s unique COVID Safe check-in QR code. We printed and laminated four copies of the code (A4) for display at the entrance to the venue. The Safety Plan is now printed with a copy on file. Attendees register using their mobile.

We had asked members to register beforehand and from this drew up a list of acceptances + phone numbers. This pre-prepared list saved time in ticking off/ listing attendees. My rough estimate was that at least 80% of attendees checked-in electronically upon arrival and were quite familiar with the process. They do need to be reminded to log off upon departure, but a prompt also alerts them to do so when next using the Service NSW app.

***Screened Virtual Lecture***

ADFAS Byron advertised a return to the A&I Hall for our monthly lecture - albeit a virtual screening. Prior to the event I emailed the lecturer, Dr John Stevens and discussed options for taking questions. He suggested we could try using Zoom so we did.

I had previously tested using my mobile inside the venue as a hotspot for the internet connectivity required to screen the lecture. Fortunately it worked. We set up two lap tops – one for the lecture and another for the Zoom Q and A. Both phone and laptops were connected to power throughout.

I also conducted a test Zoom with John the day before at the same time. Having a chance to chat face-to-face helped considerably and he was able to give me some further background on himself and how he was coping with lockdown in central London during a miserably cold winter.

The eleven hour time difference worked in our favour. Our evening lectures start at 6.30pm (7.30am GMT). This certainly is an issue for east coast societies holding afternoon lectures.

I scheduled the Zoom meeting invitation for immediately after the screened lecture, so our start time was critical. However, John had previously agreed to open the invitation link at the scheduled 8.30am time and sit in the Zoom “waiting room” until invited to join. I also advised I would email him in case of a late start.

As a fall back, I had another meeting with him scheduled for half an hour later.

Prior to the start of the lecture, members were advised of the process and three members agreed to do so. They asked their question while sitting in front of my laptop and the discussion went for about 20 minutes. This showed the questioner and flipped back to the lecturer when he answered. After the last question, we turned the laptop around so he could see the audience - he raised his hand as you instinctively do on Zoom and immediately the audience was on its feet waving, cheering and clapping.

He was absolutely thrilled …… It was magic….

Di Stuart

Chair ADFAS Byron

14 /2 21