



Chips Sparks and Arts

The Newsletter of the Bundanoon Men's Shed

No.3 January/ February 2020

Greetings Members and Friends

Our first edition for 2020 will aim for clarity of presentation expressing visionary material filtered through the lens of rich experience, tested by the spectacular skills of members who will frame our Shed's tri-foci throughout the year ahead.

At the Wingecarribee Shire Council's Australia day Celebration Ceremony on Sunday, 26th January, two well-known people, one a Shed Member and the other the wife of a member: Ann McCarter and Geoff McCubbin, received Certificates of Appreciation for their valued and significant contributions to the Bundanoon Community and the Shire. We congratulate them both for this recognition of their valuable service among us all.

We congratulate Ken Hodge on his 90th birthday. Ken's milestone now makes a trinity of nonagenarians in our Shed with Neil McMillian and Bob Bishop. We salute you three and wish you all the best for the years ahead. Quiz question: What do you call someone between 100 and 109?

Welcome to Geoffrey Dowe, our newest member and first for 2020.

Around The Shed

As the new Shed year gets underway, members will notice the results of the recent site cleanup. Thanks to the group of volunteers involved. More work remains to be done.

Fund raising will be on our agenda this year with building projects to undertake and we are awaiting the results of further grant applications in the pipeline. In March, we will be taking part in the Lions Car-Boot Sale; so if you have items to donate or wish to make things suitable for sale, now is the time to get underway. Unfortunately the Werai Farm Club, where we had a significant number of items consigned, has closed down, so we will not have that outlet for sale of our products. Later in the year we anticipate having a Garage sale.

As our regular activities resume, why not investigate one or more of our interest groups or starting a new one? If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions for social or other activities, please pass them on to our Men's Representatives or others on the Committee for consideration. A list of the reps and contact details is being prepared for the notice board.

EVAN SMITH

A Bushfire Evacuee's Experience:

When we decided it was time to evacuate we left behind our home with its resident magpies, butcher birds, parrots, frogs, echidnas, roos, wombats and, of course, too many trees. I am pleased we left early as we avoided the hysteria of the few who left it almost too late and suffered the subsequent smoke and traffic congestion when some roads were closed. Pat and I spent the next two weeks in rural Arcadia away from all the bushfire stress and turmoil.

It is very difficult to show my appreciation of the stalwart group of Bundanoon Men's Shed members who elected to stay on and defend their property. Somehow they found time to patrol their fellow member's homes making sure all was in order as well as filling wheelie bins with water and laying out hoses correctly. In our case, they even kept up the supply of food and water for our wildlife residents, as well as garaging one of our cars. Suffice to say thanks guys, you really are the essence of this men's shed.

Wal Glading

Some more on Bushfires.....some thoughts from John Thyrd

The following collection of information is gleaned mostly from the internet and believed to be reliable.

How a Fire Behaves. This paper is from the VICTORIAN CFA (Country Fire Authority) and provides not only information on Fire behaviour but also issues for those who choose to Stay and Defend (which is not encouraged). <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-fire-behaves>

Investigation into 2003 ACT Bushfires A detailed technical paper but useful for a few basics if you care to read.e.g. *Preliminary studies of the damaged area around Canberra revealed unusually high impact levels of both wind and fire attack, with a significant loss of houses. It appears that most houses were ignited by either ember attack or house-to-house ignition.*https://www.bushfirecrc.com/sites/default/files/downloads/act_bushfire_crc_report.pdf

Ember Attack *Research has shown that the main cause of house fire during a bushfire is from ember attack. Over 85% of fires that destroy homes are started this way, despite the long held view that house fires start by direct flame contact by the bush fire front (CFA 2010).*

"The reasons why a house is burnt to the ground and looks like it's been impacted by a devastating fire isn't really because the fire was so intense... The fuel loads within the house and the fuel load that the house structure itself represents is responsible for all that intense heat. "Usually a house is actually ignited by a fairly small insidious ember... And then the internal fire within that structure develops into quite a ferocious fire which causes all that devastation and damage." (CSIRO 2011)

<https://bluemountainmesh.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/10/EMBER-ATTACK-PROTECTION-Gutter-Mesh-Information-Guide.pdf>

D.I.Y. Bushfire Bunkers and some Commercial offerings – Risky Business Many may recall the story of a resident who successfully survived a bushfire at Balmoral in a makeshift bunker. However, D.I.Y. can be a risky business. This video examines D.I.Y. and some commercial bunkers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBe9XumhYmk>

How Much does a Bunker Cost <https://www.wildfiresafetybunkers.com.au/bunkers.html>

Fire Fighting Appliances and Equipment Performance Specifications How much water does that Fire Truck Carry and how much does it deliver per minute? Those answers can be found here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_South_Wales_Rural_Fire_Service

I hope you found this information useful but remember, ***make informed decisions, take RFS, FRNSW and Police advice***

John Thyrd

Poet's Corner

Troy Gerdes, a farmer from Armidale, shared this adaptation of Dorothea Mackellar's "My Country" poem to Facebook on Saturday, 25th January, 2020.

*"I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains
But I gotta tell ya mate, I like it better when it rains
The countryside is dying and there's just no end in sight
And just to rub salt in the wounds, the bush has caught alight.
The landscape is on fire from Brisbane to the Gong,
And everybody's asking "Where the hell did we go wrong?"
But we can get through this one if we help each other out,
Take care of your neighbour, that's what Aussies are about.
The rain is going to fall again, the good times will return.
But living in Australia means, at times it's going to burn.
The RFS, the SES, the firies and police,
all put their lives upon the line to help keep the peace.
So hats off to these heroes and thanks for all you do,
And I hope when this is over we can make it up to you".*

The next Poetry Group meeting: 2pm on Thursday, 20th February at the Shed. -

Geoff McCubbin

NSW Travel Card

The link following will take you to the Government website which explains what a prepaid travel card (value \$250) is, what it may be used for, and who is eligible.

This is a worthwhile piece of information for Shed Members. If you are a full pensioner, you are entitled to a prepaid Travel card for \$250. You are entitled to one this year and one next year.

The card may be used at participating retail outlets such as petrol stations, trains and taxis.

The link is: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/news/statewide-rollout-of-regional-seniors-travel-card/>

If you would like to subscribe to the NSW's Weekly Newsletter which has a number of useful topics the link is:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/news/>

Please ask Brian for any further information
Brian Wright

A Blokes Breakfast

Here is a beaut breakfast for Saturday or Sunday morning:

Lambs Fry (Lamb's Liver) and Figs A Connoisseur's Breakfast

Ingredients:

1 medium lamb's liver
3 ripe fresh figs sliced 1cm thick
2 medium onions sliced 5 mm thick
2 tbs Sesame seed oil
flour, salt, pepper
200mls Beef Stock

Method:

Soak the liver in salted cold water for ½ hour, then remove the outer membrane.

Slice the liver into 12 mm (1/2 inch) thick slices. Roll in the seasoned flour.

Using a non-stick frypan gently cook the figs in a little oil till they become soft and gooey. Reserve.

Now lightly fry the onion rings until they are translucent. Add the floured liver slices and turn the heat down to low. After you have lightly sealed both sides of the liver slices, add the stock and stir gradually until you have a thick sauce. You may not need all the stock.

When there is still the slightest amount of blood appearing on the liver slices this is the time to add the sliced cooked figs. Once the figs have blended with the onions and the liver slices, serve immediately on a warm plate.

TIP: There should be a reddish centre in each slice of the liver when cut.

The golden rule is never overcook liver.

Wal Glading

Quotes of the Month:

1. An oldie:

A Member of Parliament once said to a fellow Member: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease".

To which the man responded: "That, Sir, depends whether I embrace your policies or your mistress".

Who is said to have made the response to the MP?

2. A more recent one: *"I have never voted Liberal in my life".*

(A most amazing statement considering who said it!)

1 point for each right answer. Send to our Shed's email address.

Particulate air pollution, excessive heat and low rainfall has had a devastating effect on my veggie garden, especially the climbing beans (minimal pollination), tomatoes (withered), blackberries and strawberries (blossom and young fruit dying back). Leaves were firstly coated with black bushfire smoke, and now brown dust. Photosynthesis, necessary for healthy plants, is impaired, and hosing off (when permitted!) is not very successful. Root veggies and things at ground level have mostly been spared, and my sweet corn seems not to have been effected. Looking forward to bush beans soon.

Other successes are currently potatoes, carrots, beetroot (including a golden variety), salad items before they bolt in the heat, and tomatoes and cucumbers in the greenhouse (not too happy when temperature reaches 50C!) I have started sowing brassicas under the grow light for cooler times!



Planting in February

Beetroot (<i>also Beets</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Broccoli	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from April
Carrot	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Cauliflower	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from June
Chives (<i>also Garden chives</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Kale (<i>also Borecole</i>)	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from April
Kohlrabi	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Leeks	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from May
Lettuce	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from April
Mustard greens (<i>also gai choy</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from March
Onion	Sow in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from August
Parsley	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from March
Shallots (<i>also Eschalots</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Silverbeet (<i>also Swiss Chard</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from April
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from March

**I'm pottering in
the shed**



I may be some time..