



# *CHIPS, SPARKS AND ARTS*

No. 2

December, 2019

## **Greetings Members and Friends.**

- It is December again and the beginning of summer. Already to our north horrific fires have destroyed lives, homes, and thousands of hectares of beautiful country, and with it precious wildlife, trees and plants. There are dire predictions of more to come and it would be foolish to ignore the warnings. All of us would want to express our deep sorrow that Christmas this year will bring little joy to so many grieving families and friends who have lost homes, pets and personal treasures. To those men and women who selflessly give their time and energy to fight these fires to save lives and belongings we offer our heartfelt thanks and praise. And all would want to condemn the heartless carelessness or deliberate lighting of fires which seems to be a contributing factor in more than we realise. Some fires are caused by dry lightning or faulty power lines, some by accident, but human carelessness or maliciousness plays a huge part. We are reminded again to review our own plan in the event of fire approaching our own areas.

We also want to wish everyone a happy celebration of Christmas, Hanukkah, or Family get together Occasion. We are looking forward to our end of year gathering at Evan and Christine's place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>.

- If you are travelling over the holidays take every care to arrive safely. May 2020 be an interesting and fruitful new year with good health throughout. We look forward to our fellowship in Shed and Community activity throughout 2020. Perhaps also a beginning on our planned development which would be a great outcome for all the hard work already done.

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- If you have been watching '*Vanity Fair*' in recent weeks the words "***we live in a world where everyone is striving for what's not worth having***" will be familiar. If that was true in 1847 when W.M.Thackeray wrote it, what might he say about life today?

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## **ENDEAVOUR (Not the TV one!)**

- 2020 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> year since on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1770, an amazing Yorkshireman of humble parentage sailed a modified, flat bottomed coal carrier into the waters of Botany Bay. On board were the trained astronomers who had, the previous year, on the island of Tahiti, marked the transit of Venus; together with one of the cleverest, if not entirely the nicest, botanists the world had so far seen, a man who regarded the ship's Master more as his taxi-driver than a man to be honoured! That day also marked the killing of one of the two brave Gweagal men on shore who resisted the landing party's attempt to plant European feet on their sand. A sad beginning which weighed heavily on Lieutenant Cook's heart because, despite his efforts to avoid confrontation, it is said that he fired the shot. These tall ships passing the coast, but way out to sea, must have caused curiosity and discussion around the fires, but those which came into harbours and bays must have caused deep anxiety and consternation to indigenous peoples. Can we empathise with them? Understand their fear?

(Perhaps the Australian built replica *Endeavour*, 250 years on, will sail into Botany Bay on 29<sup>th</sup> April to a multitude of mixed emotions.)

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## **NEWS around the Shed**

- There is usually something happening in the workshops but there is plenty of scope for more. Have you considered doing the odd job you would normally have done at home at the Shed? You may find you can teach someone a handy

technique or learn a different way of doing things. It is not always the most efficient place to do anything as it is easy to be sidetracked by conversation or a cup of tea....all part of the benefit of working “shoulder to shoulder”.

- The new hobby mill and lathe are being of the protective coating of grease and commissioned and we look forward to seeing the results. \*\*\*

## IDEAS 🤔

- If anyone has ideas of small items we can make for sale and in particular would like to get a few members to assist, let someone on the Committee know. We consign Shed products through the Good Yarn and arrangements are in hand for a similar arrangement with the Werai Farm Club, and possibly another In Marulan.
- Next year we are planning to revive the popular bus trips. The first one is likely to be to Windsor to visit a high-end wood turning business producing intricate and beautiful objects with state-of-the-art CNC equipment (remember our recent Sheduction with Steve Owens). Details to follow.
- Our billiard table is now fully assembled. Thanks to Brian Wright who recently added the pockets (for those players skilful enough to trouble them!!).
- Our library needs relocation so that the table can be placed in its final position and levelled. Would anyone like to volunteer to teach the game of snooker or billiards or run a competition?
- Welcome to our three new Shed Members: **Ron Young** (welcomed last general Meeting), **Stephen Bolliger** and **Peter Krogh**.
- The **Men’s Health Month (WHAM)** talks were well attended. A few of our Shed members were able to attend those on **Arthritis**, **Diabetes** and **Being a Man** in 2020. If there was one message which stood out from the first two it was: *Exercise plus a healthy diet!* The last one was a reminder of the huge amount of change we 70’s+ men have seen in society during our lifetime involving much adjustment in our outlook. Good discussion followed this one.

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- There is a **BOX** at the Shed where contributions to the newsletter may be left or email them to the Shed’s email address.

**Next issue: February.**

## VEGGIEMEN – December 2019

- Summer has definitely arrived, lots of heat and no rain! In this newsletter there are tips on watering, shade and general summer garden maintenance, and the 'What to grow now' list is the same as published last month. My veggie patch is doing very well. We had friends over for lunch this week, and calculated that we were eating 12 home grown vegetable and salad items, all from seed either sown in situ or transplanted from my 'grow light' bench. The highlight of the meal for me was the first new potatoes!

Protection from too much harsh sun plays an important role in my patch, with a shade cloth over my greenhouse and shade protection for vulnerable veggies such as climbing beans, zucchinis and pumpkins, and any new plantings or seed sowing.

Although a sunny spot is ideal for most fruit and vegetables, many vegetable crops, including beetroot, radish and salad leaves, will grow in shade.

For some crops, protection from summer heat can be a positive advantage. Salad crops, for example, will produce more lush growth and won't run to seed as readily, when grown in shade. If you're after ornamental shade-lovers, for planting in beds, borders and containers, check out our pick of the best shade-loving plants.

Swiss chard - Pick the leaves when young for salads or when larger, as spinach. Protect crops from cold weather with fleece.

All brassicas are tolerant of shade, so as well as cabbages try growing broccoli, spring greens or Brussels sprouts. Net the plants to protect them from cabbage white butterflies.

Beetroots are tolerant of shade, but to get them off to a strong start, sow seeds in modules in bright conditions and then transplant when they're growing well. Sweet-tasting 'Boltardy' is a reliable variety, or try orange 'Burpee's Golden'. Sow seeds every few weeks in spring and summer for a succession of roots.

Loose-leaf lettuces, including oak-leaf types and varieties such as 'Lollo Rosso', plus fast-growing, spicy leaves like mizuna. Once the soil has warmed up in spring, sow outside in small batches every few weeks for continuous cropping.

Kohlrabi – sow seeds little and often, when temperatures are 10°C or above, and water plants regularly. Peel the swollen stems and toss in butter and roast, add to stews or grate raw into salads. The leaves can be eaten like cabbage.



Radishes can be ready to eat within a few weeks of sowing. They're great for adding a spicy kick to salads. Repeat sow for low-effort, non-stop harvests.

Carrots can tolerate afternoon shade. Avoid squashing the leaves when thinning out seedlings, as the scent attracts carrot fly.

Leeks – On shady plots that get morning sun and afternoon shade, you'll be able to grow leeks – they need some sun but can cope with shade. Try reliable, hardy varieties such as 'Musselburgh' and 'Autumn Giant' for heavy crops.

Kale is a hardy crop that tolerates light shade. Grow a range of different shapes and colours, including 'Black Tuscan', 'Red Winter', 'Dwarf Green Curled' and 'Red Curled'. Pick the leaves regularly to encourage more to form.



Broad Beans – Hardy overwintering crops such as broad beans, which get off to a quick start in spring, (I sow mine in autumn along with sugar snap peas) can cope in dappled shade. Early maturing 'Aquadulce Claudia' is ready to pick a month earlier than other varieties.

*David Humphrey*

## Poets Corner:

Geoff McCubbin has chosen something from **Clive James**, who died in London on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 R.I.P.

### ***Cabin Baggage***

*My niece is heading here to stay with us.  
Before she leaves home she takes careful  
stock  
Of what she might not know again for years.  
The berries (so she writes) have been  
brought in,  
But she'll be gone before the peaches come.  
On days of burning sun the air is tinged  
with salt and eucalyptus. 'Why am I  
leaving all this behind? I feel a fool.'  
But I can tell from how she writes things  
down  
The distance will assist her memories  
To take full form. She travels to stay still.  
I wish I'd been that smart before I left.  
Instead, I have to dig deep for a trace  
Of how the beach was red hot underfoot,  
The green gold of the Christmas beetle's  
wing.*

The next Poetry Group meeting will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in February

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## **November Quote #1.**

- Yes, it was from **Hamlet**, by you know who. It formed part of the fatherly advice given by Polonius to his son Laertes before the young man left Denmark for France. Apparently it was a custom of the time to make these long-winded speeches to young people leaving home. Can't imagine it happening today! **The first correct answer** came from our new member Stephen Bolliger. Well done Stephen..

**For December: Quote: #2**

*"I'd rather be a loser than a quitter".*

Who said this – and why?

Email your answers to the Shed. ***admin@bundashed.com***

## For a Laugh 😊

The graduating class of '79 met for their 40<sup>th</sup> reunion at their prestigious Girls School. Their husbands were with them for the Anniversary Dinner. One man noticed that his wife was looking intently at a man at the other end of the table who was drinking a lot. He asked his wife: "Do you know that that man"? "Yes", she said, "We went out for a while until I ended it. My friends tell me that he took to drink then and has been drinking heavily ever since".

"Good Lord", said her husband, "Who would have thought a bloke could go on celebrating for so long?"

(At last report he has been moved out of intensive care)

**Familiar?** The gift of being able to hang onto junk for years and throwing it away a week before you need it.

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I'm starting to think that I'll never be old enough to know better!

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Newsletter Editorial Team: Gordon Thomas, Evan Smith, John Ciregna.  
Contributions welcome.

## Number ONE from our Chairman



