



Chips Sparks and Arts

The Newsletter of the Bundanoon Men's Shed

No 5, 5 April 2020

Greetings, Members and Friends

We hope our latest Newsletter will provide some interesting reading to fill in a few minutes of your day. Thanks to those who have contributed to this issue. Very good wishes to you all from the editorial team. We look forward to face to face contact again as soon as we can.

Gordon Thomas

Around the Shed

Who would have thought it? Almost overnight, all of our Shed activities have been shut down as, in the words of AMSA's insurer ***"it will no longer be legal to open Men's Shed facilities as they are considered to fall within the following category of restricted premises"***. With restrictions on movement and meeting in groups likely to tighten, we need to find other ways of achieving our Shed's aims particularly in promoting the health and wellbeing of our members and our families and community.

For many, the focus of participation has been one of the interest groups where not only is there an opportunity to learn and pass on our insights and skills,

but to have a regular opportunity of sharing experiences, concerns and celebrations with others. For others, the opportunity of having a cup of coffee with someone or to get assistance with a project will have to be foregone. The monthly meeting and barbecue.....cancelled. And for how long?

These are some of the obvious challenges facing Men's Sheds and in fact all community organisations. Our membership is highly networked with other local organisations so the distress of being cut off from all opportunities of getting together beyond the Shed will put strains on us at deeply personal levels.

Whether technology can help us out here is a bit debatable as our demographic features don't bode well for slipping online for FaceTime, Zoom or even Facebook. Who can teach us in the present circumstances? While we have generally mastered emails, messaging and other basics of modern communication, we are well behind our grandchildren...who we now can't see in person! At least we have the phone though still being a bit unclear about what a modem is.

Is there anything positive to come out of this? At best we can acknowledge that "social distancing" and good hand hygiene gives us a very good chance of staying well from a serious threat. It will also come to a conclusion at some point but the "other side" looks a bit bleak especially for our children and grandchildren who will be struggling to grapple with the serious educational, employment and financial consequences.

We can help people in our community by being aware of the particular circumstance that individuals may face, providing whatever practical support is possible (shopping, a phone call, preparing a meal, emotional support) and we also need to be aware that we may be the ones who need this support. Don't be afraid to ask.

On a more mundane level, our grant application to the NSW Government towards funding of part of the workshop extension was unsuccessful. Decisions about where to from here will be made in due course. Not an important matter in the circumstances. Just as our “wall” construction had commenced, it has had to come to a halt due to entry restriction. It can wait.



We have applied for funding from the Council for a much needed hot water system to improve our hygiene measures. It seems detached from today’s reality. Nevertheless we do need to keep an eye to the future and the current events should focus us on our true priorities. In the meantime, keep strong, keep in

touch while staying apart and *wash your hands*.

Evan Smith

Bundanoon Station renamed for ABC TV production this month



Veggiemen - April 2020

It's not just toilet rolls and tissues that are in demand, so too are vegetable seeds and seedlings. It seems that in the uncertain times we are experiencing at the moment, food security has again become a serious consideration.

Looking at this WW2 'Dig for Victory' poster, the planting advice has changed little in 75 years. There's not much in the way of Asian vegetables, so you can add Mustard Greens, Mizuna and Pak Choy.

The problem is, supply. Nurseries and garden warehouses sell out of plants as soon as stock arrives. A good source for well-priced seed is the Reject Shop, if they have some, or the internet.

I have grown from seed and transplanted my brassicas, mostly broccoli, cabbage and cauliflowers. Cabbage white butterflies are around, so the bed is tightly netted. An alternative is to place individual plants around your flower beds, filling up the inevitable end of season spaces. Cauliflowers and cabbages (especially red varieties) are very 'architectural', and will flower for the early spring insects, unless you eat them first!



Planting in April

Beans - broad beans, fava beans (also Fava bean)	Sow seed	Harvest from July
Beetroot (also Beets)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Brussels sprouts	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from July
Cabbage	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Cauliflower	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from July
Chives (also Garden chives)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Collards (also Collard greens, Borekale)	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from June
Corn Salad (also Lamb's lettuce or Mache)	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Garlic	Plant cloves	Harvest from August
Kale (also Borecole)	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from May
Leeks	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from July
Lettuce	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from May
Mizuna (also Japanese Greens, Mitzuna, Mibuna)	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Mustard greens (also gai choy)	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Onion	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from Sept
Pak Choy (also Pak choi)	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Parsley (also curly leaf parsley or flat leaf (Italian) parsley)	Sow seed	Harvest from June
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Rocket (also Arugula/Rucola)	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Shallots (also Eschalots)	Sow seed	Harvest from July
Spinach (also English spinach)	Sow seed	Harvest from May
Turnip	Sow seed	Harvest from May

David Humphrey – 4883 6634

Poet's Corner

Smiling is Infectious by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,
then I realised its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!

- contributed by: Harry Shannon via Geoff McCubbin



I Love our Panicked Country

I love our panicked country
A land of empty shelves
Where everyone is hunting
For toilet paper elves

The Pasta aisle is empty
The Oats and Wheat-bix gone
What has happened in this country?
When knives come out... forlorn...

We are the lucky country
Or so they used to say,
But when Aussie takes on Aussie
Over dunnie paper, who will pay?

The Virus has us running
For Hand sanitiser and masks
But what about the Aussie way
Looking out for each other I ask?

Bring back my Aussie Homeland
Where when in fire or in flood
We stand by one another
We fight hand and hand in mud

Stop heading to the shops
And buying everything in sight
Remember you're an Aussie
And keep your community tight

Check on all your neighbours
Hand out the toilet rolls
Put some snags out on the barby
And block out the panic trolls.

Contributed by Bob Bishop. Poetry of dubious quality but the sentiment is clear. Origin unknown.



Last Issue's quotes:

Well done Ralph Clark who identified Robert Menzies as the speaker in the second quote. Bob McCarter got the first quote in by the shortest whisker; three others arrived within minutes! Yes, it is Groucho Marx.

(Like many quotes, it is credited to others, but Groucho is the better known).

Great work both of you.

Quotes for April

Who is the character speaking these lines?

1. "To begin my life with the beginning of my life, I record that I was born (as I have been informed and believe) on a Friday, at twelve o'clock at night. It was remarked that the clock began to strike, and I began to cry, simultaneously".
?

Cryptic clue:

Twenty nine in a list, fenced in.

(apologies for this but it's all I could think of at the time. I couldn't do a cryptic crossword to save my life!).

2. "You have not experienced Shakespeare until you have read him in the original Klingon".

Identify where this is from.

(On both quotes an embargo is placed upon Google for 1 week from when you receive this issue!!)

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For a Laugh

A Scotsman went on his first holiday ever to London. Upon return his friend asked how it went.

"Aye, not bad, ah, but they're queer folk down there"

"How d'ya mean"?

"Well, one night a man kept banging and banging on my hotel door, he sounded as if he'd kill me if he could get in".

"That's terrible Andy, what did you do"?

"Nothing, I just went on quietly playing my bagpipes"!

Four friends (the usual suspects plus one) were working overseas. While crossing a paddock one of them kicked his foot on something partly buried which looked like Aladdin's lamp.

For a laugh he rubbed it and said "genie, come out"

To their great surprise she did!

She said, "Normally I grant someone three wishes, but since there are four of you I'll grant you one wish each; who wants to go first"?

"I do", said the Englishman, "I wish I were back home in the loving arms of my sweetheart"! Whoosh..... he was gone.

"I'm next", said the Scotsman, "I wish I was back in my favourite pub having a wee dram with my friends". Whoosh..... he was gone!

The Welshman spoke up: "I wish I were back in my chapel singing *Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah* with our Male Voice Choir". Whoosh.....he was gone.

All went quiet. The genie looked at the Irishman and asked what he wished. "I don't know what to ask for" he said. "I wish my three friends were back here so that they could help me decide"!

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Two women were rushing to get the last seat on the bus. An argument broke out as to who should have it. The conductor tried to pacify them without success. "Let the ugly one have it", the driver shouted. Both remained standing for the rest of the journey.

Apply for the Seniors Energy Rebate

The Seniors Energy Rebate is available for eligible independent retirees to help cover the cost of their electricity.

To be eligible you need to hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC).

CSHCs are means-tested concession cards issued by the:

- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA).

This is annual each financial year, so must be applied for before the end of June for 2019/20.

The Seniors Energy Rebate is \$200 per household, per financial year.

www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-seniors-energy-rebate

LETTER TO THE SHED MEMBERS FROM LOCAL CHEF

Hi Milton,

Some of the men in the shed might find this local service very helpful at \$10 per meal.
Regards Tony

We are offering a weekly meal service as long as we are allowed.

Contactless delivery available if you prefer. Just leave a cooler bag or eski at your door and we will leave your meals there. Cash payment preferred or via bank transfer. Delivery on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Bundanoon only.

**Thai Beef and Potato Massaman with Rice*

**Middle Eastern Chicken and Chickpea Ragout with Cous Cous*

**Sliced Loin of Pork with Roast Vegetables and homemade gravy (gf) \$10 each*

Thank you for your support.

Kelly and Michael Garske from Chef in Your Kitchen catering.

Kelly's mobile is 0416 291 733.