



# Chips Sparks and Arts

The Newsletter of the Bundanoon Men's Shed

**Number 6. May, 2020**

## **Greetings Members and Friends**

Few could have predicted last December what has happened both locally and nationwide since then. First, the devastating fires touching, disrupting, and destroying the lives and belongings of a multitude of people. The effects are with us still and will remain so for a long time. Nationwide, Men's Sheds have been at the frontline helping in various practical ways the work of recovery to the encouragement of many, our Shed has done commendable work specially in communicating vital information to residents to enable us all to take refuge in time and to inform us on the situation back home to comfort and relieve our anxiety. We are grateful for everything. Another case of the many owing so much to the few.

Secondly, the COVID 19 Pandemic since January. Few of us anywhere in the world have seen anything so

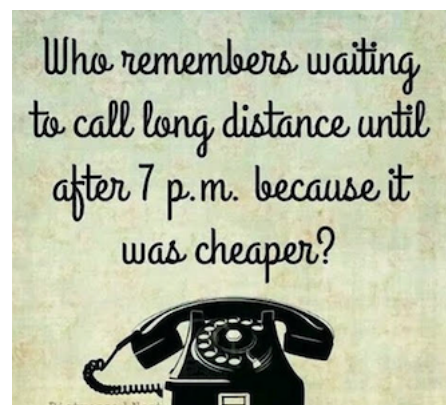
frightening, causing fear and uncertainty, heartache and grieving to so many. The speed and apparent ease of its spread has come out of left field - taking everyone by surprise like the famous left hook of Muhammad Ali. The virus has danced like a butterfly and stung like a bee, so to speak.

Our usual activities in our Shed are 'on hold' and we know not when we will meet there again. But we will - *Deo volente*.

Meanwhile, keep up the good work of encouraging one another with anecdotes, happenings, things found helpful (or not!), phone calls, and humour - *hilaritās*, as Bonhoeffer called it during his incarceration - the cheerfulness of friends which kept him going during the dark times .

Every year the Good Yarn Ladies Commemorate Anzac Day with a special display window to provide a local tribute to those who have served us sacrificially in the various theatres of war. This year, when returned veterans are unable to march or gather in remembrance, the ladies have done our community proud with a wonderful window of remembrance. Anzac Day is a day of reflection, leaving a legacy that has impacted the character and identity of Australia as a nation. Thank you Ladies of the Good Yarn on behalf of us all.

- Gordon.



## Around the Shed

Well, there is certainly not much happening within the Shed these days although a lot more may be happening in our personal sheds where many of us are finding the extra time at home is allowing long postponed tasks to be undertaken and actually completed without the intrusion of the normal day to day activities which give structure and fulfilment to our lives.

We may be reflecting on the privilege we all have of having space in which to spend our "stay at home" obligations, something that many of our friends and families may not have available with apartment or inner city life. I am sure that for all of us, the loss of face to face contact with family and grandchildren is not easy. We have been thrown into the deep end with technology such as Zoom, Whats App and even have taken a selfie or two.

With a promising trend of new Covid-19 cases we can all hope for easing of some restrictions in the coming weeks but when we can meet together remains to be seen.

The only news regarding our Shed is that we have just been allocated a Defibrillator as part of a Commonwealth Department of Health initiative to provide all Sheds with this equipment. There will be much to discuss about this and its role and training is available for those curious.

Thanks Milton for circulating us with information and humour and for those who contributed to those communications.

In the meantime: "We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when...." and keep your hands clean and keep your distance.

*Evan*

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## A great suggestion from Wal:

With work time and downtime now happening in our homes, we're going to have to get creative in seeking out ways to unwind. One place you may not think you can access from home, the library, actually offers plenty of resources that you can take advantage of online. All free, of course.

If you are a member of the Wingecarribee library they have a big range of e-books that you can access. Check out e-books and audiobooks from the comfort of home.

It only recently occurred to me that I could check out books while sitting on my living room couch with a few swipes of a finger. Public libraries everywhere offer both e-books and audiobooks that you can browse and download online. It's pretty much as easy as searching for any normal book on a library's website.

Almost any tablet or phone can read an e-book. Libraries usually use third-party apps to handle the downloads, most commonly Overdrive or cloudlibrary. Visit your local library's website to see which app you'll need, register with your library card, and read to your heart's content.

The e-books and audiobooks aren't the same collection as to what's actually on the shelves at your local library, so there's a chance you can borrow a digital version of a book even if they don't have a physical copy. Plus, there are no late fees because the e-book just disappears when your time is up.



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## Poet's Corner:

*Geoff McCubbin* shares this timely piece in the spirit of Anzac Day

JOHN BETJEMAN

Betjeman was Poet Laureate in Britain 1972-1984, and as well as being the most popular English poet of the 20th century was a well known BBC broadcaster. As a teenager he went to Marlborough College in Wiltshire, which I know because my son David went there for a year as an exchange tutor after doing his HSC. Marlborough was much used by the British military, as officers in India and elsewhere sent their sons to board at school back home. Betjeman wrote much of his life story in a poem, and tells of his school chapel experience during the first World War:

*Before the hymn the Skipper would announce  
The latest names of those who'd lost their lives  
For King and Country and the Dragon School.  
Sometimes his gruff old voice was full of tears  
When a particular favourite had been killed.  
Then we would hear the nickname of the boy,  
'Pongo' or 'Podge', and how he'd played 3Q  
For Oxford and, if only he had lived,  
He might have played for England - which  
he did,  
But in a grimmer game against the Hun.  
And then we'd all look solemn, knowing well*

*There'd be no extra holiday today.  
And we were told we each must do our bit  
And so we knitted shapeless gloves from  
string  
For men in mine-sweepers, and on the map  
We stuck the Allied flags along the Somme;  
Visited wounded soldiers; learned by heart  
Those patriotic lines by Oxenham  
What can a little chap do  
For his country and for you.....*

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## **Veggiemen - May, 2020**

Leaves are falling, but daytime temperatures are holding up well, so the soil is still warm enough for planting. Brassicas are the obvious choice, but also Carrots, Leaks and even Beetroot for a Spring harvest. I have lifted all my Potatoes, and I am preparing the bed for planting Sugersnap Peas and Broad Beans in the middle of the month.

We are eating Carrots, Spinach, Leaks, Bush Beans, and salad items, as well as Potatoes, Onions, and Butternut Pumpkins in storage. With the bush fires my season is much later this year, and I have yet to sow the green manure on next year's Potato bed, which is still full of Pumpkins. I have a very late crop of strawberries, struggling to ripen, and even the blackberries are trying to flower. With the onset of winter, maybe the seasons will to normal, if not everything else!

One of my successes this year was growing pumpkins among my corn, cutting the plants off at ground level after the corn was harvested so as not to disturb the pumpkins and thus letting the sun ripen the crop. Lots of feeding and watering required. Some companion plants, Marigolds,, Nasturtiums, and Sun Flowers (not the tall ones!) may be included to welcome the good guys and discourage the pests!

David Humphrey - 48836634

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## Those Quotes For April

1. The first was the opening paragraph from *David Copperfield*.

My feeble attempt at a cryptic clue: *Number 29 in a list, fenced in* (later **adding** think '**atomic**', worked like this: The atomic number 29 in a list of chemical elements = Copper; and 'fenced in' = field , thus: 'Copperfield' - easy eh?

2. The Second quote was from the long running series *Star Trek, Series 6*. Milton was the first to identify this one. Well done.

**Quotes for May** (in fervent hope of the end of the Covid19 restrictions)

1. "For this relief much thanks. 'Tis bitter cold, And I am sick at heart".

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2. "It has turned out to be an annus horribilis".

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## Joke:

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were on a camping holiday in Scotland. The weather was superb. On the second night as they climbed into their sleeping bags. Holmes said: "Watson, look up and tell me what you see". Watson said, "Well, speaking scientifically, I see miriads of stars, constellations, planets and heavenly bodies forming part of our galaxy with their teaming intricate pathways and patterns.

However, speaking philosophically, I see what humankind has wrestled with since the beginning of recorded history. What does all this mean? What is it made of? Is there any purpose to be discovered?

Speaking theologically, I would say in the words of the Psalmist: 'The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork'.

Tell me what you see Holmes".

A short pause. Holmes said:

"Based on everything you've told me, I'd say someone has nicked our damned tent".





