



Chips Sparks and Arts

The Newsletter of the Bundanoon Men's Shed

No 8 JULY 2020

Welcome Members and Friends

Among the many architectural wonders of Ancient Athens, the Parthenon on top of the Acropolis stood out. It was a temple dedicated to the patron goddess of the city, Athena, a place where she was worshipped and honoured with countless offerings and gifts.

What is perhaps not so well known is that the Parthenon was also the treasury of this citizen state. All taxes imposed upon the citizens were deposited there in various rooms. Farmers paid a percentage from the sale of their olive oil, grain and wine. Silver from the rich mines to the south east, and the booty from countless wars all deposited there. Athens was rich. Athens had charismatic leadership. Athens had won two major wars against the powerful Persia to their east. Athens had some incredibly talented people, world leaders in almost every discipline. And a navy that ruled the waves. Who could not be proud?

But pride, as the saying goes, goes before a fall. Hubris has often paved a path to nemesis. When war broke out in 431 BC between Athens and Sparta, Athenians generally believed it would soon be over. Did they not 'rule the waves'? What happened was that they 'waived the rules' – the most important of which was - know your enemy! A well trained navy was of little use when your enemy was twenty miles inland destroying towns and burning crops.

The war dragged on for over twenty years. The treasury had long since run out of funds. The navy could protect the port city of Pireaus so that grain from Egypt could reach the city but there was no money to pay for imports without borrowing, but who would lend? The Athenians, in lockdown inside the walls, were starving to death. Their charismatic leader Pericles gave one of the finest addresses to the nation ever recorded – at the funeral of their fighting men! Athena had let them down.

In case you are wondering what all this is about. I simply reply that I can see real parallels with our present experience. No doubt you can think of better illustrations. It isn't all that hard. We have been blessed with a low rate of infections. We are blessed to have medical



personnel who have stood at the front line for us throughout a demanding, exhausting time.

We are trying to ration out fairly our economic resources. We would all like to see an end to this crisis we face, but how long might that end be in

coming? We all hope

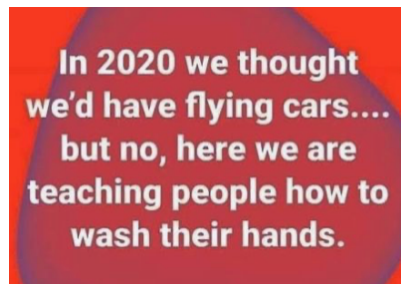
that we haven't lifted our restrictions too soon. We fervently hope that a vaccine will soon be available. But hopes have been dashed before. This 'enemy' needs no allies, fears no one, respects no one, and seeks world domination. Is there a hope that is more secure? The world needs it.

There could never be a better time than now to "lift up our eyes".

Gordon

Around the Shed

During this Covid-19 shutdown period, Men's Sheds have been classified as "Community Centres" Health Order that used by "members of entered a period of number of supervisors security each day, silent, cold, deserted that all was well. It was someone dropped in during such an inspection because they had seen the "OPEN" sign on the front gate, an indication of the importance of the "social" aspect of our group.



and subject to a Public prevented them being the public" and so we hibernation. A small checked the building walking through the empty spaces ensuring telling that at least once,

What a difference the last couple of weeks has seen with the easing of these restrictions. Members now arrive, sign in, sanitise and Shed life resumes with the tearoom having been rearranged to cater for the distancing restrictions. The upstairs area is being encouraged for use for chatting and can accommodate many more. The relaxation to 2m² per person may well enable general meetings to resume upstairs but whether and how that can happen will be sorted out soon by the Committee.

Interest Groups are up and running again with Poetry (discussing Nonsense poems) leading the charge emphasising the importance of the “humanities” in the life of our Shed. A pity it was about “nonsense” which is not a good look in the current political debate. “Apple Devices” is back and our SAT group has changed to 2nd and 4th Mondays. No nonsense there!

However the crowning moment celebrating our return to something approaching normality



was the “HAPPY LUNCH” instigated and executed by Milton in the form of charcoal barbecued leg of lamb with trimmings (courtesy of Brian Wright) on toasted rolls, mint chutney from Bob B and followed by cake from Peter Goulding enjoyed around a

wood fire and a blazing Swedish log from Mike (*see photo, \$10 each ordered from Evan*) and a glass of something.



Meanwhile

Things are progressing with the new “common room” and with the requirements for the Construction Certificate for the extension of the workshop and an accessible toilet. Workshops are operational and if you have ideas or projects or need assistance, let Ray or Bob B know or just come along and get started.

Evan

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A Poem from Geoff

Following the “*Ning Nang Nong*” the Poetry Group had a look at other nonsense verse. Some have a sting in the tail, like this one from Mervyn Peake, who wrote the **Gormenghast** books.

THE TROUBLE WITH GERANIUMS

*The trouble with geraniums
is that they're much too red!
The trouble with my toast is that
it's far too full of bread.*

*The trouble with a diamond
is that it's much too bright.
The same applies to fish and stars
and the electric light.*

*The troubles with the stars I see
lies in the way they fly.
The trouble with myself is all
self-centred in the eye.*

*The trouble with my looking-glass
is that it shows me, me;
there's trouble in all sorts of things
where it should never be.*

*** ***

Day 7 of SOCIAL
Distancing: Struck
up a conversation
with a spider today.
Seems nice. He's a
web designer.

VEGGIEMEN

The shortest day is past, but still two more winter months to come. Most of my veggie gardening activity is confined to weeding, generally tidying up, and indoor activities such as cleaning the greenhouse and planting some onion and leek seeds under my grow light, for transplanting early spring. Below are the few other things you can try planting, but if outdoors choose a sunny and sheltered spot, warm the soil with some black plastic for a couple of days first, and wrap up at night to keep the temperature up a bit.

Planting in July

Cauliflower	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from November
Garlic	Plant cloves	Harvest from November
Mustard greens (<i>also gai choy</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from August
Onion	Plant out (transplant) seedlings or sow seed	Harvest from December
Potato	Plant seed potatoes	Harvest from November
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from August
Spinach (<i>also English spinach</i>)	Sow seed	Harvest from August

Or you can **Grow Sprouts**

Sprouts are small, take up minimal growing space, use little water, are cheap, tasty and easy to grow - they are sprouts. Sprouts include mung beans, alfalfa, lentils and black eyed beans, and it starts with the seed. A seed is a concentrated source of energy and as it germinates, it provides minerals and energy to create a new plant.



As a food source, sprouts provide vitamin A and B, and when they become leafy they provide vitamin C. They're a source of dietary fibre and protein and enzymes. They're easily digestible, so all in all, they're a remarkable food source.

Sprouts are easy to grow. All you need is seed, moisture, warmth and time. There are three main ways of growing sprouts; use a commercial sprouter, which can be bought from nurseries; use jars which is simple; or lastly, sow them in a seed tray.

Try sunflowers and use them in an omelette and they're delicious. Sow them really tightly because they are grown for food and not to plant out in the garden. But most importantly get fresh seed so they sprout quickly.

Sprouts are a very healthy food source. Growing them means you don't need a garden or even much space, just somewhere near a window. You don't even have to be skilled to do it. Kids love watching them grow, so they're great for budding young gardeners.

For full instructions - <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/growing-sprouts/9427534>



QUOTES

For June:

The French quote was identified within a few minutes of the newsletter hitting your in-box. Well done Harvey Grennan who remembers his French lessons at school. A remarkable achievement. OK perhaps Marie Antionette wasn't the first to say it but I was willing to accept any of the 23 others who said it. You would need to be quick to beat Harvey.

The "*Proof of the pudding is in the eating*" proved (sic.) that some sayings go way, way back into the myths of medieval mysticism or even into the deepest dungeons of the dark ages.

Reg and Annette Wade say that "[it's] about assessing the value of something and that is to be found in its outcome". They remind us of the 3 little pigs and their housebuilding efforts "the proof of each one's building is seen in the outcome". A good example that sticks in one's memory!

John Desmond suggests the quotation began around the 14th century. He also provides the interesting remark that his great grandmother when judging at the Narrabri Show sometime in the 1890s, used the phrase which then became popular locally and began to spread around the country. Although John says he cannot substantiate that, nevertheless local country shows were just the most likely place where old sayings from yesteryear were repeated especially where cooking was the subject!

Terry Unger writes "*My mum, my unofficial authority on most things verbal, used the expression on occasion in connection with food not previously experienced or yet tasted. Hence I would have assumed it means something like "don't decry before you try". To take it from the context of food to its wider use: "don't accept or reject something on appearance alone; the value of something is best known in its application". Terry continues: "Since this explanation is based on my and my mum's dubious authority (no reflection on her virtue is implied), let me cite more reliable authorities...."*

Here follows an impressive list of ancient and modern explanations of the meaning of the saying ranging from the 1300s to the late 1900s.

Thank you everyone, especially Ralph Clark, who suggested this quote for the last Newsletter. Ralph has another take on its origin.

For July

1. "If the Honourable gentleman would pay more attention to **what** I say rather than **how I say it**, he might learn something".

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For a laugh

My wife just stopped and said, "You weren't even listening , were you?" I thought to myself... "That's a pretty strange way to start off a conversation".

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Notices in the weekly church bulletin:

Ladies, don't forget the Rummage Sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

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Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married in the church on October 24th, so ending a friendship which began in their schooldays.

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A Mathematical Limerick

$$\frac{12 + 144 + 20 + 3\sqrt{4}}{7} + 5 \times 11 = 9^2 + 0$$

You may have seen this before but send your interpretations to Milton. Solution next month or contact Evan if you are desperate.



Happier Days for ALL. The Team

