



# Chips, Sparks and Arts

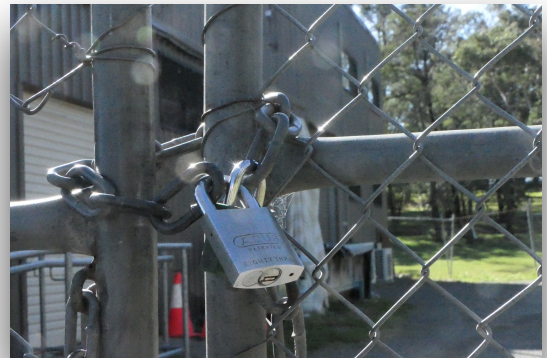
The Newsletter of the Bundanoon Men's Shed

No 9. August 2020

## Greetings Members and Friends

It's some time now since Frank Sinatra sang the hit 'I did it my way'. Can you remember it? It begins:

*And now the end is near  
And so I face the final curtain  
My friend, I'll say it clear  
I'll state my case of which I'm certain  
I've lived a life that's full  
I've travelled each and every  
highway  
And more, much more than this  
I did it my way.....*



It was a song just made for [Old Blue Eyes](#). We enjoyed his voice, his style, his charisma so much that we paid little attention to the words. The lyrics picture a man nearing the end of his life reflecting on all his experiences and standing tall, despite it all because "The record shows, I took the blows, and did it my way".

If there is one thing this most unusual year has shown us it is that fire and virus can quickly dispel the thought that we can cope with whatever life throws at us, not to mention the 'thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to'. The death of someone precious is more than enough to shake us to the core.

That's one of the things I really appreciate about the Shed. Many of us (not all, I hasten to say), are now in the fourth quarter of the game; or between tea and stumps if you prefer cricket; BUT there is a real sense that we are journeying life's highway together, doing it our way, and glad of our vulnerability because trials bring out the best in us. Our lives are precious, so is sharing the journey with friends.

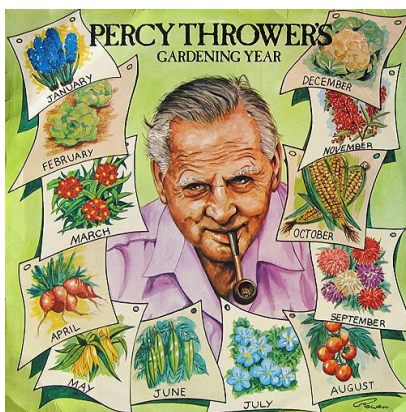
**Gordon**

## Veggiemen – David Humphrey – 4883 6634

Are we over half way through winter? You are never quite sure in the Southern Highlands, and with the 'windy' month still to come. I will be protecting my broad beans from a battering, and thinking about sowing a second crop at the end of the month. The list of seed sowing below is quite extensive, but with the severe frosts I will only be sowing indoors, with the exception of potatoes at the end early September.

### Planting in August

Broad Beans (also Fava bean)	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Cabbage	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from October
Cauliflower	Plant out (transplant) seedlings	Harvest from November
Kohlrabi	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Lettuce	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from October
Mustard greens (also gai choy)	Sow seed	Harvest from September
Onion	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from February
Peas (also Sugar Snap Peas)	Sow seed	Harvest from October
Potato	Plant seed potatoes	Harvest from December
Radish	Sow seed	Harvest from September
Silverbeet (also Swiss Chard)	Start undercover in seed trays and plant out in 4-6 weeks	Harvest from October
Snow Peas (also Mangetout)	Sow seed	Harvest from November
Spinach (also English spinach)	Sow seed	Harvest from September



In the famous words of the renowned English gardener Percy Thrower –

### **“The answer lies in the soil”**

#### Soil Improvement Tips

- Don't cultivate your soil unless it is very compacted. Digging destroys the soil structure by reducing air pockets and drainage spaces which are both necessary in healthy soils.
- When watering use a trigger hose with a spray setting so as not to compact the soil as the water hits. The concentrated pressure of the water stream can close up valuable air spaces.
- Spreading compost and aged manure over your soil (before mulching) will encourage worms in your garden.
- Organic mulches will break down over time adding nutrients to your soil. Straw-based mulches e.g. pea straw and lucerne, break down quickly and are ideal for your fast growing vegetables. Bark and bush mulches have very few nutrients and are best suited to native plants with low nutrient requirements.
- When buying new soil for your garden do not just buy topsoil, buy a soil that is mixed with recycled organics or compost.
- If you have clay soil, consider applying gypsum to break up the soil.
- For sandy soils add compost and aged manures to improve soil structure, water holding capacity and nutrient content.
- Remember to feed the soil and not the plant.

- Invest in a soil pH testing kit. The pH is the test of alkalinity and acidity of the soil. Having the correct pH of the soil can make the nutrients more readily available to the plant. For further details visit [www.SGAonline.org.au](http://www.SGAonline.org.au)

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### **'Around the Shed'**

The last month has seen the impact of the virus on our nation and in particular, Victoria really hit hard. While we teeter on the brink of a second wave, even in our relatively safe position, we need to start thinking about how the likelihood of restrictions on meeting together possibly indefinitely will impact how we function. Can we ever have a bus trip again? Can we ever meet as a full membership on our own premises again? Our first meeting of members finally became possible through the availability of the Bundanoon Club which, for the time being, can accommodate the appropriate numbers and it was good for us to be able to discuss things more directly and almost reacquaint ourselves. Even there, the general discouragement to catching up face-to-face widely imposed by social distancing requirements, was evident. The barbecue lunch back at the Shed was a reminder of former times. "Wal's Lunch" this week at the RSL building was another successful special episode of hospitality with a welcome lamb curry so thank you Wal.



At least for those able to attend the meeting, an update on the progress of our building plans was welcomed as we awaited approval from the Commonwealth, subsequently confirmed, that our \$17,000 grant from Stronger Communities could be redirected from the workshop extension to provision of an alternative and more economical "Project Shed" in the location of the previously proposed storage shed agreed to many months ago. One major reason for the rethink was our lack of success with a NSW Government grant which was to supplement the \$17,000 for the accessible toilet and workshop extension.

The unfortunate outcome was that the covered outdoor area could not be included at this stage but the accessible toilet is well and truly ready to go as originally included in the

funding. Further detailed costings for the covered area are already being obtained and separate fund raising will be part of future discussions with members.

A meeting **next week** will determine the next step and some background information and the plan being examined by the Committee has been circulated for that meeting where the appropriate action will be decided.

In a week or so our hot water system will be installed making for better hygiene and cleaning. Thanks WSC for our Community Assistance grant.

Those who venture upstairs will now be able to have a game of billiards or snooker with the table moved out which also allows access to our well stocked library. There is a chess board (no pieces) for those who enjoy a game (with no pieces) and our TV. Want to spend an hour breading or chatting, head upstairs (12 maximum). Tea and coffee and a biscuit if you're quick. We have a dart Board!



The first Shed Shop went ahead at short notice and this is proposed on a trial basis to operate on the first Saturday each month. We received \$600 and disposed of a significant amount of items including some made by members. We can sell whatever can be provided. Vegetables from your garden, marmalade if that is your skill or products from the workshops or art. We may consider consignment of more valuable items. Any suggestions? Brian's prototype Covid face mask didn't sell.



Shed life, though different, remains active and positive and at such stressful times, a place where at least we can do something practical in support of each other; to talk, share, make, repair, paint, play, regroup, unwind, unburden, joke, teach, learn, laugh and perhaps weep....and even disagree! I hope to see you there some time soon.

**Evan Smith**

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### Quotes from our last edition:

We are delighted with the many responses we had to the Mathematical Limerick. A former Shed member, Ken Hillier, was the first to respond and **Harvey Grennan** was the first current member to solve it. Well done both of you.

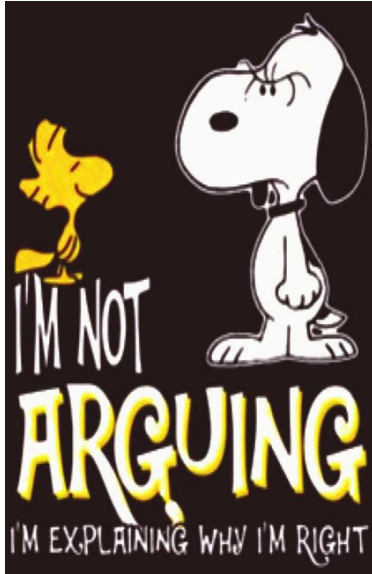
The "**correct**" interpretation was

*A dozen, a gross and a score,  
Plus three times the square root of four,  
Divided by seven  
Plus five times eleven  
Is nine squared and not a bit more*

From **Ken Hillier**:

*A dozen, a dozen dozen and a score  
Plus three times the root of four  
All divided by seven  
Plus five by eleven  
Equals nine squared and nothing more*





### **And from Gordon:**

*A dozen, a gross and a score  
Who knows the square root of four?  
I gave up on math  
Read Sylvia Plath  
A happier choice for sure.*

*The **last word** on this voluminous correspondence about the limerick goes to **Steve Owens** who, in iconoclastic fashion, destroyed the flow of the winning version by pointing out that the square root of 4 is + or- 2 which just doesn't fit the conventional limerick!*

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### **The other quote:**

***“If the Honorable gentleman would pay more attention..... .”** .These words were spoken by Meryl Streep in the film ‘The Iron Lady’ portraying Margaret Thatcher. Whether the Lady herself ever said anything like that I don't know. I thought those words from the film might have stuck in someone's mind.*

I confess the early Meryl Streep films made a deep impression on me. Sophie's Choice and Kramer v. Kramer are among my favourites.

This month's quote:

***“A house divided against itself cannot stand”***

In a recent ABC Foreign Correspondent these words were attributed to Abraham Lincoln. Most apt considering America at the time of the Civil War. But was he the first to say them?

We have two contestants for Quote champion on two correct answers. If one of you is the first to get this one you will win. Otherwise I'll have to cut the Mars Bar in half! We have two contestants for Quote champion on two correct answers. If one of you is the first to get this one you will win. Otherwise I'll have to cut the Mars Bar in half!

### **From Milton** (not of "Paradise Lost")

*Here are the two alternative limericks from my son in law, Rob Macdonald,*

*You start by adding the top line  
Then to divide by 7 is fine  
You add five times eleven  
Then curse up at heaven  
'Cause you realise you've wasted your time*

*I'm sure the real one is some clever use of names for each of those numbers but words were always my stronger suit so... another for you.*

*Add up the first 3 numbers you see  
Then times the square root of 4 by 3  
But then you'll be vexed  
With what to do next  
Cause the whole thing's like Greek to me!*

# BIMS ART

ALL ACTION . . . . . on Fridays  
At the BUNDANOON RSL



Photos JC  
2019

