



# Weekly Bulletin

Friday 17 April 2020

## **SPOTLIGHT ON THE SHAREMARKET**

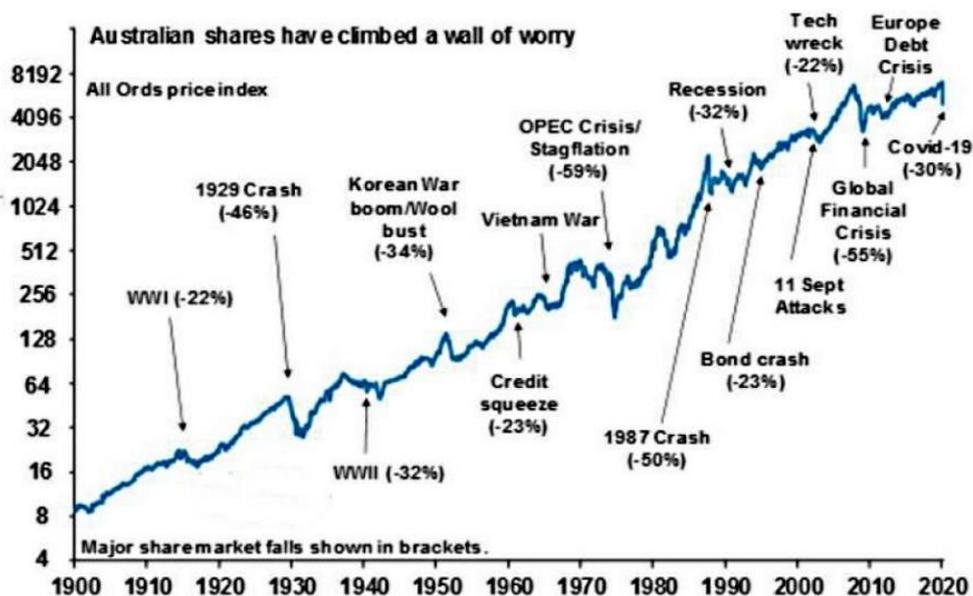
Although our Investor's group folded some time ago, I thought it might be interesting to take a brief look at how the share market has performed during past crises compared to the recent COVID-19 market meltdown. Many of us own shares either directly, or indirectly through our super funds.

At its worse, the Australian share market fell around 30% as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic after reaching an all-time historic high. It has recently regained some of its losses but is still a bit jittery.

The sectors which suffered the most included the banks (-38%), infrastructure (-35%), energy (-45%) and resources (-27%). Other big losers were the travel industry, restaurants, media, retailers, leisure, entertainment and tech stocks. Not so badly hit included healthcare, food, utilities (we still need gas and electricity), telecoms (no way are we going to give up our phones and internet) and gold.

It is interesting to note that during the 1918/1919 Spanish Flu pandemic, the Australian share market actually rose 11.6% in 1918 and 18.4% in 1919 despite the influenza outbreak. The stock market crash of 1929 saw the US market drop by 25% over two days and which led to the great depression. Over the next three years it continued to slide to an 89% loss overall. It did not recover to its previous peak until 24 years later in 1954.

The following graph shows how the Australian market has performed since 1900, highlighting the losses during various world crises including COVID-19



Norm Swanwick

## **MOMENT IN TIME –**

### **THE SPANISH INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC**

On Tuesday 25 March 1919 a Sydney court fined 19-year-old Eileen Leigh 20 shillings for not wearing her face mask on a tram. Her alternative to paying today's equivalent of an \$80 fine was seven days in jail.

The NSW government had mandated masks be worn in trains, trams, ferries, lifts and on crowded streets on February 3, just days after it announced the state had been infected by pneumonic influenza, or the "Spanish Flu".



*A group of volunteers prepare to go door-to-door to help people afflicted with Spanish Flu in Brisbane in 1919*

From the end of January, NSW began imposing a series of stiff regulations banning public assembly that would eventually extend to theatres, "picture shows", churches, schools, dancing halls, skating rinks, billiard saloons and libraries. People with the disease who were not hospitalised were confined to their homes and S.O.S cards were distributed to put in their windows to signal if they needed medical help or food.

The Easter Show was cancelled and the borders with Victoria and Queensland were closed. Soon all states would shut their borders to each other, creating chaos and derailing interstate trade. Western Australia's blockade was so complete it stopped the mail. Unemployment soared.

Australia had been preparing for the pandemic for months, as alarming reports of its spread and death toll emerged from around the globe. After it hit New Zealand in October everyone arriving by sea was quarantined for a week, including ANZACs returning from the First World War.

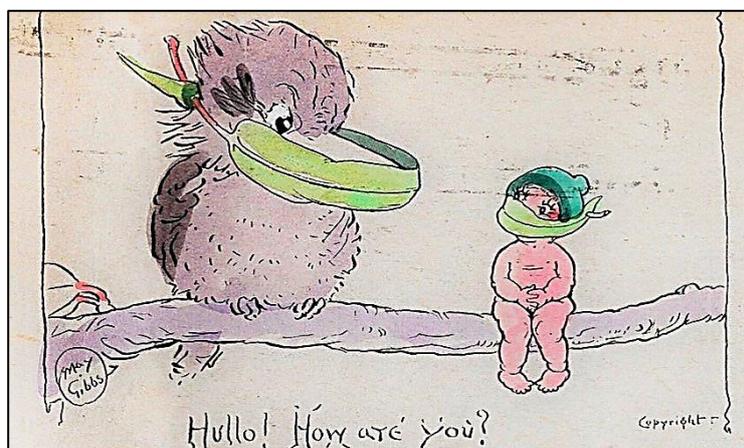
There were a handful of cases in January and February but by the end of March it hit the hundreds. Then came daily reports of new infections and deaths. The disease came in two waves; the first between January and April and the next, more lethal surge, came in the winter months of June and July.

There is evidence that closing the sea borders worked in slowing the spread of the disease and buying the nation time. Western Australia wasn't declared infected until June and Tasmania held out until August and the death toll in Australia was well below that suffered in other parts of the world.

By the end of 1919 Australia reported 12,000 deaths but it was probably closer to 15,000. Worldwide between 50 million and 100 million died, more than were killed in the First World War.

We have come a long way since 1919 but those who say Australia is overreacting to the latest coronavirus have not learned the lessons of history. They are: expect the worst; hope for the best; be prepared; work as a single nation not a collection of colonies; and act quickly.

*Chris Uhlmann – SMH – 3 March 2020*



**Illustration by May Gibbs for a government health campaign poster for Spanish Influenza Pandemic, 1919**

## **OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**

### **'GOING ON A BEAR HUNT!'**

On a lighter note, a mass teddy bear hunt is under way to help distract the millions of children locked down because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Stuffed toys are being placed in windows to give children a fun and safe activity while walking around their neighbourhood with parents.

The hunt is inspired by the much loved 1989 children's book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', written by UK author Michael Rosen and teddies have been spotted around the world.



In houses all over Canberra bears are popping up everywhere, at a social distance of course! ACT Fire & Rescue

have teddy bears riding alongside their firefighters on trucks and



even New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, has joined in, putting two bears in the window of her

family house in Wellington.

So, if you have a bear...join the fun and place him/her in your front window!

'We're going on a bear hunt, we're going to catch a big one...'

### **FOR SALE – BABY BUDGIES**



My daughter has many baby budgies for sale at \$15 each. They make great and easy pets in a house when

company is needed! The budgies are in various colours and are eating seed and salad. Perhaps you have kept your cage and would like a couple to fill it?

I can pick up and deliver or phone Claire on 0403 356 549.

*Liz Dean*

## **COMMUNITY GARDENS - 1**



Community gardens offer people and the community many benefits. They provide opportunities for recreational

gardening, support living sustainably in an urban environment by fostering composting and water usage techniques and they contribute to social and community development.

We live in an era that for many of us, our neighbours are strangers. Community gardens bring people together who live nearby, provide the opportunity to meet, work beside and even form friendships with people who might live down the street, but who you might never have met otherwise.

***Kambah Community Garden*** has been operated by Canberra Organic Growers Society since 2001. It is located adjacent to the Kambah Woolshed and is set in a beautiful park landscape with a view of Mount Taylor.

It has about 27 gardeners allocated individual plots which are put to productive use growing food for themselves and their families.

Gardeners grow food all year round using sustainable organic gardening practices that build and continuously improve the quality of the soil and the environment.

An emphasis is on collaboration within the garden with all plot holders sharing communal vegetable and herb garden cultivation, composting and general maintenance.



## FOCUS ON: GARDENING FOR HEALTH AND NUTRITION

With so much time now on our hands, getting them dirty with soil and seeds is a great way to while away the hours. Watching things grow is very therapeutic as well as adding



nutritious food to our dinner table. Green fingers have already got to work pretty much stripping the stores of plants and seedlings. For the brown

thumbs amongst us here are some tips on starting your own vegetable and fruit garden.

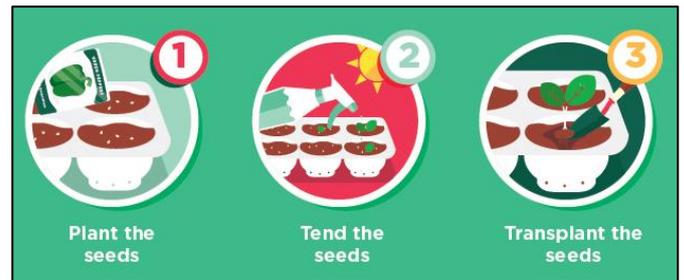
Seed propagation is probably the best bet, as rooted seedlings have already vanished from supermarket shelves & places like Bunnings and nurseries. With winter approaching there is not a lot to choose from. Asian vegetables, onions of all types, peas and broad beans are best suited to survive Canberra winters. Herbs, such as parsley, coriander, and chives may germinate well on warm windowsills. It might yet not be too late to plant carrots, parsnips, broccoli, brussels sprouts and turnips, (the latter delicious raw).



First you need a container for the seed mix. Normal seed trays are hard to come by but anything with drainage holes will do. Plastic plantar boxes are expensive, but most people have old pots lying around. Failing that, take an egg carton, remove the lid, punch in some holes and use both sides as your seed trays.



Ordinary garden soil is too dense and heavy for use as a seed raising mix. Locating bags of commercial mix will be a problem as they have also disappeared from the shelves. But, a small bag of propagating sand, a block of compressed coir, (or peat moss) and a quantity of perlite (or vermiculite) mixed together in equal quantities will provide an excellent medium for raising seed - available from Aisle 26 in Bunnings. Ring ahead to save a wasted journey. If pressed, a small amount of garden soil mixed with peat moss and vermiculite will do.



Water your seed bed well before sowing by standing the tray in another container (an oven tray is good) then bed down your seeds usually to the depth of double the seed width. Cover with a plastic film, (remove at the first signs of germination), and keep moist, again standing occasionally in another tray of water. Should they dry out your seeds will have perished! Place in a warm spot and inspect them daily. Moisture drops on the interior of the plastic is a good sign.

When they have germinated, and the third set of leaves appear it is time to transplant. Plastic buckets and tubs (make some holes), or large pots are good if you have limited garden space. Place some leftover seed mix into the hole as a bed and saturate with water. Position your seedling, add some fertiliser - half a teaspoon, backfill, water well again, mulch and watch them grow.

Next time, some hints on propagating fruit trees from cuttings.



Margaret Kennedy



## **SPOTLIGHT ON - GARDENING CLUB**



**GARDEN CLUB** usually meets at 2.00 pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month (except November) in the DIY area at Bunnings, Tuggeranong.

There, over a complimentary cup of tea or coffee, the friendly staff at Bunnings and the occasional special guest, will answer your questions, discussing different topics of gardening and seasonal plantings. These monthly meetings were originally organised by Alan Nock, a founding member of the Club who has passed away in 2015. This group is a long standing one, meeting for twelve years with Linda Lawrie taking over from Alan.

### **FLASHBACK FRIDAY**

#### **Gardening Club – 2016/17 – Photos: Cheryl Towers**



**Terrarium Hands-on  
Session  
6 Sept 2016**



**Succulents  
7 February 2017**



**Move to DIY due to  
growing nos  
7 March 2017**

#### **Gardening Club – 1 October (2013)**

A small group of gardening enthusiasts meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 2.00 pm at the café at Bunnings. A gardening expert gives a talk about current happenings in the garden, what to plant, what pests to look out for, and other tips for successful gardens producing beautiful flowers and delicious, healthy vegetables.

This session is complimented with a free cuppa, and quite often with free gardening related gifts. Questions are welcomed and usually an appropriate answer is forthcoming!!

The next meeting will be at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 1 October. The café can hold about 30 people so let's see if our Club members can fill it, for an hour of fun and information on what it takes to make a great garden.

Due to Melbourne Cup day there will not be a meeting in November, but it will be on again in December.

*Alan Nock*

**“Tuggeranong Talks” September 2013**

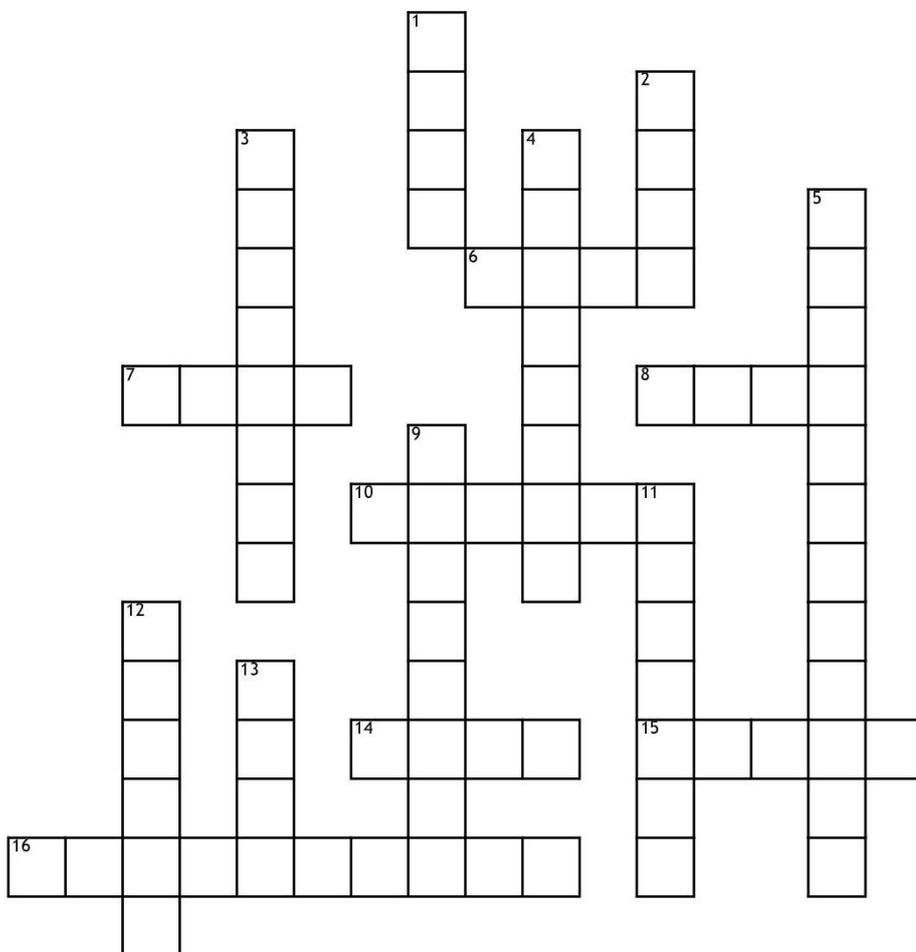
## After isolation



## KAKURO SOLUTION

	9	3	7		1	9
9	6	1	8	5	3	7
7	8		9	1		
	7	9		3	1	
		6	3		3	9
5	9	8	1	3	2	7
9	7		2	1	4	

## GARDEN CROSSWORD



### Across

6. Gardening implement - used by a man with immoral habits, perhaps?
7. Slimy edible plant - the lady's got (green) fingers
8. This small fruit makes a tasty gin (not quick, though!)
10. Athletic bean, perhaps?
14. Add this to the soil for your tomatoes - or maybe to your vodka and tonic?
15. This garden pest is a bit of a cow - an ant's cow, to be precise
16. De-mossing your lawn - frightening it, perhaps?

### Down

1. I support the raspberries - "My name is Michael..." (not !)
2. Water the garden with this (your stockings?!)
3. I'm an umbrella-shaped fun guy!
4. Joining one plant to another means you're working hard!
5. Pink flower - aww, Bill's so cute (5,7)
9. Another word for a courgette
11. Tart plant you can eat - but the leaves make you sick
12. This type of plant lives and dies in a year, alas
13. Citrus fruit - not a pretty sight

**Crossword Solution next week's Bulletin**