



# Weekly Bulletin

Friday 12 June 2020

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The Management Committee met this week to chart the course that will lead to reopening the Club and its activities. We also canvassed Activity Leaders asking their thoughts on how their activities could return, taking into account both hygiene and social distancing requirements.

As there does not appear yet to be clear direction from Government regarding Senior Groups and their return to operation, we are making decisions to mitigate the concern for Club members, whose demographic remains high risk.

Therefore, it has been decided that current arrangements will continue. The Club will remain closed and groups who meet outside the Club will continue as a social gathering not a Club activity.

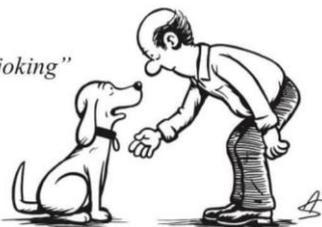
Stage 3 of ACT Recovery Plan is proposed from mid-July and the Management Committee will reassess the Club's position then. Any fallout from the relaxing of lockdown, interstate travel and recent protest gatherings will by then have eventuated.

It is hoped that by waiting a little longer, the Club will be able to recommence all of its activities not just a selected few.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support and may all members and their families continue to stay safe and well.

Phil Burns  
President

"You must be joking"



## STREET ART PROJECT – TUGGERANONG SENIORS CENTRE

The Graffiti Management area within the ACT Government has secured stimulus funding to paint a design on the two walls at the hall end of the Seniors Centre. This has been proposed to discourage the artistic efforts that have adorned the inviting white walls to date.

We have been asked for ideas as to what sort of design we would like, i.e. historic, flora, fauna, etc. and if any of our members are interested in participating in the project.

If you have any theme suggestions or would like to submit a possible design, please send via email: [tugg55plusclub@gmail.com](mailto:tugg55plusclub@gmail.com) by Wednesday 24 June. If you would like to be involved in the painting phase of the project, please also let us know as a meeting will be organised after 24<sup>th</sup> to 'get this party started'!



## MEMBER MEMORY

The jigsaw article last week promoted this delightful memory from one of the lovely Knit-n-Knatter ladies.

*I was a jigsaw fanatic at one time and have recently started a new one. When I was small in the UK my Mum used to buy the English Women's Weekly. Dad had been given a fret saw and so several times he got us to choose a picture from mum's magazines, he would then stick it onto plywood and cut it out to make a jigsaw. The first ones just had curved edges, but he got better and we loved them. No-one else had a dad who could do this.*

Jan Barnham

## **GIVIT – GOODS FOR GOOD**



### **CAUSES**

If you have done some 'spring cleaning' while you have been in home isolation, why not consider donating your unwanted items to a charity that specifically needs them.

GIVIT is a national not-for-profit connecting those who have with those who need. GIVIT matches generosity with genuine need by inspiring and connecting an online network of givers. Through its website, Australian charities are supported as they request essential, quality items on behalf of their clients. GIVIT then matches these requests with items donated by members of the public, ensuring our most vulnerable residents receive exactly what they need, when they need it the most.

Since establishment in 2009, more than 1.3 million items have been donated via GIVIT to assist vulnerable, impoverished and marginalised people around Australia. GIVIT currently has 2,700 charities and community service organisations registered and requesting items for their clients. GIVIT makes giving easy via its free online giving portal [givit.org.au](http://givit.org.au), enabling everyday Australians to see exactly what items are required by vulnerable members of their local community.

During times of disaster, GIVIT provides an effective referral pathway for individuals and organisations to pledge items and services and matches them with requests received via local government agencies and front-line services for those in need. GIVIT has supported residents affected by many major events.

For more information and to see what is needed, visit [givit.org.au](http://givit.org.au)

## **RSPCA – SUPPORTED BY RECORD**



### **STORE DAY**

RECORD Store Day is normally the busiest of the year for Brian "Frog" Harris and his Weston Creek store, Songland, when long lines of vinyl lovers snake through Coleman Court Shopping Centre, from as early as 5.00 am, eager to snag something special.

But this year, like most everything else in the world today, it's going to take a little longer to get your hands on those rare, vinyl treasures because the April event was postponed until at least 20 June.

Harris, who has successfully navigated his bricks-and-mortar record store through the ups and downs of independent retailing, remains positive about the future of the one-day sale, from which he devotes the proceeds to the RSPCA Canberra.

The self-confessed animal lover (and owner of Griffin the cat), "Frog" has been supporting the RSPCA for a decade through sales from the donated music goods.

Last December, he received a list of the things the RSPCA needed and bought \$10,000 worth of equipment for them, so that every single cent raised went to the animals.

So, as he waits to have the Record Store Day confirmed, Harris is asking for donations of unwanted vinyl, DVDs, cassettes, VHS tapes or DVDs for the sale.

If during your cleanout, you have some of the items above and would like to donate or would like more information, contact Frog, [Songland Records](http://SonglandRecords) Coleman Court, Weston Creek, 6293 4677.



## **POETTREE POEM OF THE WEEK**

Below is the little poetry offering last week on the gum tree in a front garden near where I live. They are always fun but this one prompted my memory and started me off on another 'Google' journey – this time all about the humble button, one of life's necessities!



### **A JAR OF BUTTONS**

by Ted Kooser

This is from a core sample  
from the floor of the Sea of Mending,  
a cylinder packed with shells  
that over many years  
sank through fathoms of shirts—  
pearl buttons, blue buttons—  
and settled together  
beneath waves of perseverance,  
an ocean upon which  
generations of women set forth,  
under the sails of gingham curtains,  
and, seated side by side  
on decks sometimes salted by tears,  
made small but important repairs.

From *Delights & Shadows*. Copper Canyon Press, 2004



Ted Kooser (b. 1939) is one of America's most highly regarded poets, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 2005 for his eleventh collection, *Delights and Shadows*, and US Poet Laureate from 2004-06. However, this success came late; for much of his writing life, Kooser, while respected, was relatively unknown beyond the poetry world, a fact that feels in keeping with his unostentatious poems about everyday life.

### **SMALL BUT IMPORTANT REPAIRS**

from [Fourteen Lines – online 'Blog'](#)

*A Jar of Buttons was one of my Mother's favourite poems. She read it to me at least 6 or 7 times over the years. She related to many aspects of the poem, its imagery resonating with her experience. The poem is not about sewing in my mind, it is about the role women play in mending so many things in family life, mending relationships, knitting together children's confidence, allowing time for martial fractures to heal and the actual act of creation with thread, buttons and cloth. The art of sewing is an ancient art that I worry is being lost to some degree. It is a healing art, providing sustenance to not only the those clothed by the seamstress, but also nurturing the heart of the one who threads the needle.*



## **THE HISTORY OF THE WESTERN WORLD, HELD WITHIN A BUTTON**



They are invisible everyday items you only notice when they are missing, but for a few centuries' buttons were the status symbols of their time. And, if you know how to read them, buttons are peepholes into fascinating stories from history. Unlike today, in the 18th century buttons were a status symbol and object of adornment worn by men and women.

When Robyn Caddy founded the [Victorian Button Collectors Club](#) in 1996, there was a burgeoning button-collecting culture in the United States, where button competitions are held, but there were no official clubs in Australia. Her passion for buttons started with the discovery of a picture button in her friend's antique shop.

Picture buttons were highly detailed, miniature relief designs often manufactured from metal or wood in England during the 18th century. They would often depict a popular story from folklore, popular culture or religion. Wealthy Victorian women would wear panels of the 'popular culture' picture buttons down their long dresses as fashion items and conversation pieces.

Through her love of buttons, Ms Caddy has developed a huge collection and a great wealth of knowledge. To her, buttons are not just tiny beautiful objects, but intimate historical artefacts.

### **Buttons feature Marie Antoinette's lover**

Fellow collector Andrea Lowenthal collects Count Fersen buttons. The Count was believed to be a lover of Marie Antoinette. By the 1900s, long after Marie Antoinette was executed by guillotine, Count Fersen had become a romantic hero from a bygone era; a tantalising popular culture reference to lithograph on to an early 20th century button - the banished, forbidden lover of a 'promiscuous' French queen.

Buttons can even indicate the death of a royal, such as the black glass buttons that became popular while Queen Victoria was in mourning after the death of her husband, Prince Albert.

### **Buttons around the world**

Historically, decorative buttons were worn across the globe. In South-East Asia, decorated ivory and jade were worn traditionally, then later in Japan, satsuma buttons were sold to western tourists. These were exquisitely decorated, hand-painted ceramic.

Inuit buttons were carved out of bone and walrus tusk into shapes of animals, or etched with images reflecting some of the traditional folklore, worn by Arctic Canadians as toggles.

Buttons are very collectable, so if you have a button tin, you should find out what you have before you dispose of them. But beware, it is easy to become obsessed!



*Count Fersen buttons were manufactured in the early 1900s from lithograph and celluloid*



*Black glass buttons were worn during the mourning of Prince Albert, in the Victorian period.*



*Hand-painted tagua nut (also known as vegetable ivory) souvenir buttons from South America*



## SPOTLIGHT ON CRAFTY CORNER



**CRAFTY CORNER** is a group for people who want a place to meet and share their crafting, enjoy a cuppa, good conversation and meet like-minded people. Meetings have an informal format where you can drop in anytime and stay as long as you want. When activities resume, the group will meet on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month between 10.00am – 2.00pm at Gumnut Cottage.

So if you're an experienced crafter or want to learn a new skill, put the date in your diary to come along when the Club reopens; bring your current project, UFOs, or materials to start a new project, whether its card-making, quilting, scrapbooking, appliqué, embroidery, rubber stamping, jewellery-making or any other craft activity. We hope to see you there!

*Group Facilitator: Lois Good*

### DIY BUTTON BOWL

Create a beautiful piece of art using your button 'stash' and a balloon. Button bowls can be used to hold some light objects such as candies, chocolates, accessories, tissues and so on. Or just decorate your table or give as a gift...Enjoy!

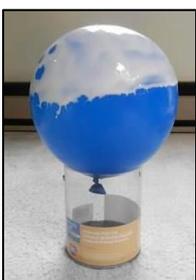
#### **What You Need:**

Buttons of desired colours and sizes – use whatever buttons you like the most.

Balloon / White glue - anything that dries clear / Large paint brush / Scissors / Cup or Can

#### **Instructions:**

1. Blow up a balloon to the desired size you want your bowl to be and place it knot side down into a cup, can or jar.



2. Cover half of the balloon with glue using a paintbrush. You might have to alternate holding the balloon by the knot for a few minutes then setting it knot-side-down in your cup or can so the glue has an even coat and does not drip off.

3. Let the glue dry completely forming a layer of rubber-like protection between the balloon and your layer of buttons.

4. After this first layer is completely dry, apply a second coat of glue. Starting at the top of the balloon, working your way down toward the knot, attach buttons to this layer as close together as you can fit them. Continue until your half a balloon is covered with beautiful buttons.



5. Once all the desired buttons are attached turn your button covered balloon upside down in your cup so that the knot is in the air and the buttons are balanced on the lip of the cup - this is to keep your buttons from sliding down the balloon while they dry. Let the layer of glue and buttons dry completely- usually requires about 4 or 5 hours.

6. Once the second layer of glue and buttons is completely dry, coat the buttons over again with a third layer of glue. Allow this third layer of glue to dry completely (**let it sit overnight**) and if desired you can apply a fourth layer of glue to strengthen your bowl even more.

7. When your bowl is entirely dry, cut the knot on the balloon to slowly let the air out. Sometimes glue drips down, so peel it back and snip any unwanted glue bits away from the button edge with scissors.





### **BRIGHT AS BUTTONS BISCUITS**

Cute and beautifully buttery, these shortbread buttons are perfect for a little snack or a lovely gift!

#### ***Ingredients***

- 125g butter, at room temperature
- ½ cup icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1¼ cups plain flour
- 2 tbsp cornflour
- Extra flour, to knead

#### ***Method***

1. Preheat oven to 160°C. Line an oven tray with baking paper. Put butter, sugar and vanilla in a large bowl and beat with an electric hand mixer until light and creamy. Sift flours over butter mixture. Stir until well combined and a soft dough forms. Turn out dough onto a lightly-floured surface and knead until smooth.
2. Roll out dough, between 2 sheets of baking paper, until 5mm thick. Using a 5 cm round cutter, cut rounds from dough. Press remaining dough together, re-roll and cut out enough shapes to make 24 in total. Transfer rounds to prepared tray, spacing 2 cm apart.
3. Using a chopstick, make 2-4 small holes in centre of each biscuit to make 'buttons'. You can also use a 4cm cutter to mark a circle 5 mm in from edge, taking care not to cut too deeply into dough.
4. Bake biscuits for 15 minutes or until firm to touch. Cool biscuits completely on tray. Serve, store in glass jar or wrap as gifts.

*Courtesy of Better Homes and Gardens*

### **WORD JUMBLE**

T	S	R
A	G	U
E	R	O

**TARGET: GOOD 12; VERY GOOD 15; EXCELLENT 18; GENIUS 21**

How many words of four letters or more can you make from these nine letters? Each letter may be used only once. The centre letter must be included. No slang, foreign or capitalised words, hyphens, apostrophes, or plurals ending in 's'. Only one form of a verb can be used, e.g. 'ring', but not 'rings' or 'ringing'.

***Answers next week's Bulletin***

### **WHO AM I? – Answer!**

I am Rachel Page Elliott. I was not only a dissectologist (jigsaw puzzler) from childhood but was an expert maker of jigsaw puzzles. I took up cutting wooden jigsaw puzzles when I was in my seventies and started creating my own designs for family and friends. But it was my love for dogs, particularly Golden Retrievers and my research into canine movement that led to my 30-year career as a researcher, author, videographer and international lecturer



Rachel Page Elliott with one of her puzzles - 1992