

COVID-19 Lockdown Happenings

New Hair Styles came into vogue



During this time Kaaren decided it was the right time to try out a new hair style & colour by becoming a 'granny grey' and letting her natural colour come through by having an extra short hair style. Husband thought something had gone wrong with her brain (even though he is grey & half bald!)

Ian also decided it was time for the upmarket style and is very happy with his curls.

Kaaren and Ash celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with five family and one friend. Kaaren wore her wedding dress because she fitted into it and took a photo of Ash wearing her veil! How is that for some news??

Di Peters spent time knitting beautiful jumpers and making quilted rugs. She does that for a Children's Charity called Treasure Box. Great work Di!



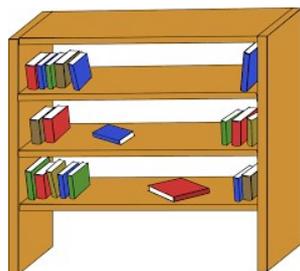
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Maree Schaefer showed a hidden talent writing five children's stories for her grandchildren in Germany. There were adventures with Green Tree frogs, Pelicans, Budgerigars and Pre-historic Cockatoos and How the Platypus was Made. The Grand children loved the stories and as a bonus the two grand daughters wanted to read the stories back to Maree to practice their English and learn new words.

Maree and Brian Schaefer enjoyed long distance Baby Sitting with their grandchildren in Germany. Having completed their home schooling homework the children were kept occupied for several hours on Skype with Maths, English, reading and games, so the parents, also working from home, could do their work uninterrupted.

We don't have to ask Jeff Lawton what he did. He was busy sending out numerous jokes, some hilarious, some questionable. (See sample next column.)

While Kaaren Firth was out shopping, during the COVID 19 restrictions which kept us housebound, her husband decided to empty the large book case. Many of the books were treasured by Kaaren. He did such a thorough job! By the time Kaaren arrived home there was nary a book in sight. He had delivered them to all charity shops in Blackwood that would take them. It's pleasing to note that they are still talking to each other!!



Humour

Lawyers should never ask a Georgia grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer. In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs Jones, do you know me?'

She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher.'

Yes, I know you.'

The lawyer was stunned.

Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, 'Mrs Jones, do you know the defence attorney?'

She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife.'

Yes, I know him.'

The defence attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, 'If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair. Got it?'

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The Chookless House

With the pandemic restrictions in place, I've found time that I never knew existed. With the initial shortage of toilet paper, rice and pasta, I knew what would be next...EGGS. So what I needed were chickens. I did a cost analysis, surveyed the back yard, checked with the neighbours, then drafted up the plan for the Grand Central Chookhouse. Now I'm sure the Greens / environmentalists will be angry, that I've used some of the best Tasmanian Oak, Blackwood and Celery Top Pine to construct an 'all Australian' home. (I've checked to see if I can claim the \$25,000 Home Improvement Grant - pending).

Well!! Would you believe it? Everyone else must have had the same chook idea as me. There's not a chook to be bought in Adelaide or the State, even with the increase in veganism.

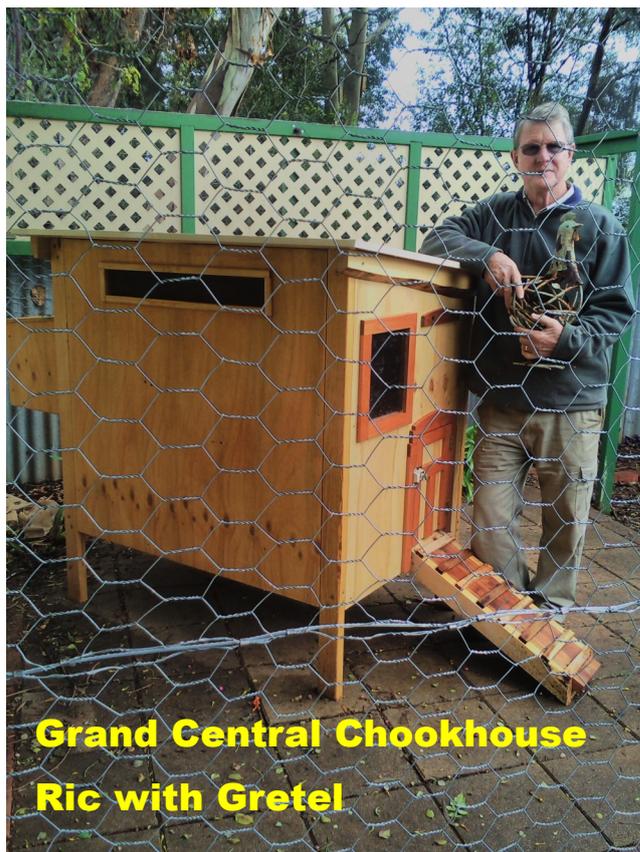
On the bright side our grandchildren quite like playing in the new small cubby house, but are a little confused about the two nesting boxes and perches!

But, meanwhile I have a temporary, compliant resident, hence....

**I have a chook called Gretel,
made from ferrous metal,
She don't cluck, she don't stray,
and of course she don't lay.
But she's found a place to settle.**

So, what have I learned from this great non-event?

1. Don't count your chickens.....
(especially if you have none)



**Grand Central Chookhouse
Ric with Gretel**

But, on the bright side, I now know the answer to the question, "Who came first, the chicken or the egg?"

Answer - The Chook house

Rick

**The 'COVID Wall' was introduced to
comply with Social Distance rules**



Around the Traps

It's four months now since Covid19 suddenly and brutally forced itself into our lives and sent us scurrying back into the safety of our own homes, rarely venturing out except to buy food and forage for toilet paper. As I prepared to write this article I thought there would be little to report but that proved not to be the case.

Recently I have had a long discussion with **Penny McTaggart** about **Andrew** who is currently in Calvary Hospital quite seriously ill. That he has had bad luck is a gross understatement. Four years ago Andrew had a lung scan because of a persistent cough. Nothing was found amiss but his cough has persisted to the point that Penny insisted that he have another scan this year soon after Covid19 struck. This time the scan showed a large tumour in the upper lobe of his right lung. Sadly, a review of the scan four years ago revealed that the tumour was indeed there but missed at that time. It is a rare slow growing tumour but, given four years, it had grown considerably. There have been further complications. An urgent operation was arranged but the surgeon broke his wrist just prior, resulting in a three week delay. His upper right lobe was removed along with some of his bottom lobe. Since then he has had problems with clots, pulmonary embolism and probable stroke. He still looks forward to resuming some bowling with Penny at Hawthorn but it sounds like it will be a while yet. Penny feels that there is "not much going forward" at the moment. Penny sounds like she is coping reasonably well but it must be a considerable strain for her. Currently she is the only one admitted to the hospital to visit him but she really feels that he would benefit from some visits from his close friends. Penny is working to bring that about. Andrew is a very popular member of our club and I am sure everyone of us wishes Andrew and Penny all the best as they fight their way through this very taxing time.

A few days ago I was contacted by **Bev Allison** who thought that members of the club would appreciate an update on the welfare of **Noel**. Noel has been a member of the Hawthorn Bowling Club for many, many years. He was a regular pennant player both Wednesdays and Saturdays and was generous with his time in serving the club off the green as well. He is a Life Member of the Club. Unfortunately, he developed Parkinsons disease a couple of years ago which finally forced him to retire from bowls. His condition continued to deteriorate to the point where he has been taken in care into Kalyra Aged Care facility. His health was further compromised when he developed Lewi body dementia, a condition which tends to occur with Parkinsons disease. Bev lives at Kalyra as well which means she has easy access to see Noel. She tells me that he can have "up" days and "down" days and sometimes he remembers her and other times he may not. Those of us who knew him will remember him fondly.

For many, the enforced restrictions associated with Covid19 were accompanied with a sense of increased relaxation which flowed into improved family focused activities and an increased sense of time to "smell the roses". But not for all. **Michael Nimon** was not having such a great time and in the end he was driven to email me in an effort to express his frustration. He wrote (and I quote) "On March28, I had operations to remove a cancerous lesion from my face and a Carpal tunnel operation on my left hand. One week later I had 2 root canal treatments for my teeth and the week after that I was walking when I got bitten by a dog and had four visits to the doc after that". He concluded "Can anything else go wrong?" The word "bus" immediately sprang to mind but I chose not to share that with Michael at the time, preferring to wait till he was a little more settled. Instead, I reassured him that I felt he was at the end of his run of bad

Around the Traps (cont'd)

luck and that indeed has proved to be the case.

But Michael was not the only one having dog problems. Word has reached me that **Tait Jenkin** has also had a run in with a dog. From what I can glean, whilst walking, Tait came across two women who were being harassed by a really bad-tempered dog. Tait went to their rescue and it would seem that the dog turned his attention to Tait and repeatedly sank his canines into his legs. Tait ended up with nasty lacerations on both legs and also somehow injured his back. He was last reported to be walking rather gingerly on crutches. We wish him a speedy recovery I presume he has had a booster Tetanus injection.

Happily, there are some nice things to report.

Eddy Ward had his back operation on the 25th March and it seems to have gone well. He tells me he is "coming good" and is now up and about. He still has a bit of weakness in his left knee but nevertheless, feels he would be able to play bowls now if necessary. So by the time we get to the run up to pennants he will be ready to go.

Cedric Williams tells me that he "much more up and about". He had been having trouble with his balance but says that it is returning and he no longer has to use a walking stick. He is looking forward to the coming bowling season and the end of his run of bad luck and that indeed has proved to be the case.

I caught up with **Kevin Richards** on his 90th birthday. He was off to a family gathering to celebrate. He says he has been a bit up and down but is confident we will be seeing him when the weather warms up.

STOP PRESS

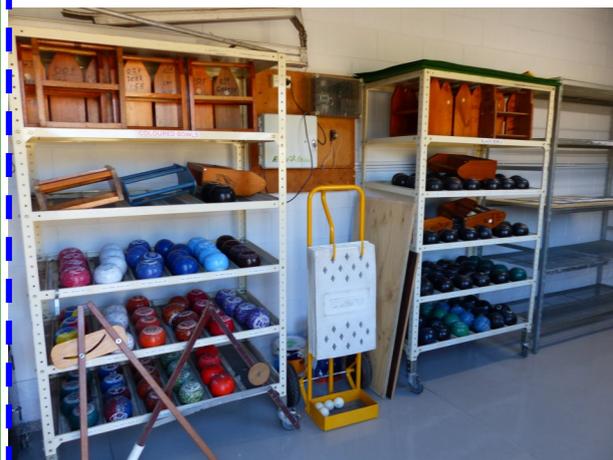
Latest information to hand is that **Peter Kingston** has very recently fronted up for an angiogram at Ashford hospital.

The doctors were not pleased and so next day he had a double by-pass. Apparently all went well and he is now home again.

Bob Wadsworth

More Upgrades

The Renovated Bowls Shed



Bar Frontage - close up



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