



Kangaroo Tales

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF
THE Kangaroo Flat Y Service Club (Women) Inc.
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I guess quite a few of us will have played some form of cards while we have been in lockdown.

Here are some interesting facts and observations about 'playing cards' -

The Chinese invented playing cards in AD 1000

Did you know that the traditional deck of the playing cards is a strikingly coherent form of a calendar?

There are 52 weeks in the year and there are 52 playing cards in a deck.

There are 13 weeks in each season and there are 13 cards in each suit.

There are 4 seasons in a year and 4 suits in the deck.

There are 12 months in a year so there are 12 court cards. (those with faces namely Jack, Queen, King in each suit.)

The red cards represent Day, while black cards represent the Night.

Jacks = 11, Queens = 12, and the Kings = 13, then add up all the sums of $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 13 = 91$.

Multiply this by 4, for the 4 suits, therefore $91 \times 4 = 364$,

Add 1 that is the Joker and you will arrive at the number 365 being the days in a year.

Is this construct a mere coincidence or the sign of great intelligence?

Of interest is the sum of the letters in all the names of the cards, e.g., add up the letters in "one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King" = 52!

The Spades indicated ploughing or working.

The Hearts indicated love for the crops.

The Diamonds indicated reaping the wealth.

The Clubs indicated protection and growth.

Also, in some card games 2 Jokers are used - indicating the Leap year.

This Mathematical Perfection Is Mind Blowing!



Les Campbell has kindly sent us a recipe for her Relish. Les says - I used to make a big batch of relish but have found I can't handle the large quantity anymore. I use this recipe and find it yummy!

Les's Relish

2 x 410g cans Aussie Ardmona Diced Tomatoes
2 large onions diced
1 cooking apple – diced
500g Sugar
1 tablespoon Curry Powder
1 dessertspoon Mustard Powder
1 tablespoon Salt
 $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup White vinegar or Cider Vinegar
1 tablespoon Cornflour mixed to paste with 2 Tablespoons extra vinegar to thicken.



Place 8 ingredients in pan, bring to boil. Stirring. Cook Medium heat for 30 minutes. Stir in cornflour mixture and simmer further 5 minutes. Pour into sterile jars and seal.
Les says - I spray saucepan so it doesn't stick.

Sister Club News

Pauline Verdon has had an email from Anne Munro of the Pictou Y's Menettes Club. Pauline said that Anne reports that things in her hometown seem to be on a par with us in Victoria.

Anne is not well so will be handing over to someone new to correspond with our club. She has been in hospital for a week and has to use a walker, but Pauline is not too sure what is medically wrong. Pauline shall be keeping in touch with her as well as the new Sister Club representative.

Thank you Pauline. We all hope Anne is feeling much better.



October Birthday Girls

6th Jude Rodda
13th Sandra Cook
17th Les Campbell

May your day be filled with joy and laughter as you celebrate your birthday.

May you eat, drink and make merry because you deserve all that and more. Happy Birthday!

Share the Dignity Bags -

Just a reminder that if you are putting together bags for the Share the Dignity program it would be a good idea to include some hand sanitizer. President Bev has the list of items required in the bags if you are unsure of what is needed.

Some things I have learnt or want to do.....

Forms needing to be completed often have blanks and always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency I think I should write, "An ambulance"

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" Just once I want to say, "No, it's for visitors".

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have become really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness.

Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.

by Scott Adams



Club News

Val O'Brien says – Have been busy with my Mosaics and Garden. I was lucky to have met up with my old Mosaic Group circle of friends to celebrate my friend Diana's 80th birthday on Saturday. I had a White Cockatoo visit this morning, and it started eating my flowers. I opened the glass door and he flew away, but all his mates must have been on my roof, so they flew off too. Hope they don't visit again lol. I am making a Mosaics succulents lady, quite challenging, but looking great.



Pauline Verdon says – All is well with the Verdon families.

Marg Stewart says – We shifted into our new home on the 25th August and are slowly getting things in order. Neighbours are friendly, don't quite know all in our street but when things pick up, we will get out a bit more. We are very happy here and close to Lansell shopping centre. Walking most days with the dogs and we are patiently waiting to be able to go and see our Great Grandson Archie as he is now 3 ½ months old.

Marg Millar says – Yes, it is a different year, one we would not hope to repeat. Time flies by. With the easing of some restrictions it is a welcome reprieve. I am still doing craft and have a snuggle rug on the go for one of the grandson's girlfriend. You forget sometime how to do this. We celebrated Father's Day and my Mother's birthday differently this year. Joyce helped with fixing a dress for Mikayla. She is in a wedding party. Excitement for the grandchildren. Fraser is building a house in Maiden Gully. Mikayla is also building in the same street. Our days are much the same. Walking looking after the oldies and watching many shows on Netflix. Weather is improving so I can get in the garden and remove weeds.



Bev Buchan says - As well as other things I have been knitting baby clothes for the Red Cross. They sell them to raise money for research into children's cancer. They sell them at markets and hospitals but because of the virus there is quite a stockpile at the moment.

Hopefully, things will get back to normal soon!!!

I can now get on with making a few things for our new Great Grandchild who is due in November.

Even with the lockdowns this year seems to be flying by. We will soon be back together girls and we will have lots to share. Looking forward to seeing you all again. Will let you know when all is sorted.

Les Campbell says – My old HP Laptop decided to crash so I have purchased a new HP Prodesktop computer, very happy with the speed and storage size. Forrest Computers managed to transfer all my files, so I am set.

Rob and I managed a Picnic at White Hills gardens with dance friends and I have been out for a Sister lunch at Bradmill cafe. Still managing a walk with friends as long as I have my walking stick for balance. It is so lovely to see the signs of Spring on the trees and daffodils and tulips popping up. Thank goodness all our family have kept well through this time though Jakob was retrenched some weeks ago. However, he starts a new Electrician job shortly in Pakenham. Keep safe everyone, we still must be careful!

Glenda Anset says - We are usually in Queensland for nine weeks over winter but not this year. Barry has a great vegetable garden on the go. We are picking cauliflowers, peas, snow peas and carrots at the moment and he has seven other vegies' growing. They have a taste of their own, much better than bought vegies'. Not much other news. Take care everyone.

Anje Turner says – I'm trying hard to find something positive to say so I will start with our son his wife and two young sons who have at last got back to China after living with his in-laws in Spain for nearly eight months. They are both teachers and were very happy to get back on their own. I am so very pleased to see our numbers going down and have fingers crossed it won't be long and we can resume normality. Take care everyone.

Sue Robinson says – We are planning the great escape at last. After childminding duties last term, we have earned a rest, so we are packing the van and heading off to explore the silo and water tank art trails. We hope to be away for at least four weeks so I hope everyone stays safe and by the time we get back we can meet up again. Stay safe and well everyone.

Shirley Green says – Fabulous that we now have more freedom to move around the State and enjoy eating out with friends. I took advantage of the school holidays break and travelled to Ouyen then Mildura for a short road trip with Sherryl. We viewed silo art, enjoyed the Murray River, ate out at a variety of restaurants and looked at what tourist attractions we could as lots were in Wentworth NSW. We decided that we were good travelling buddies and intend to partner up again.

I also have taken the plunge and purchased a tricycle. It is power assisted and has a wonderful basket on the back. I thought it was great for exercise and safe for older people. It is completely different to a bicycle and has to be steered differently. It is a challenge I am working on.

Joyce Lowe says – Our eldest Granddaughter, Leticia, turned 21 this week and of course there was no party, or even a big family dinner. So sad for her as she was planning this event from the start of the year. However, she has had a couple of small gatherings on different evenings to try and make it special for her. It has been a month since our daughter's family of six have moved out of our place into their new home. They are loving the space and gradually getting all the jobs done that are inevitable when you move into a new place. We spent the first two weeks out there nearly every day and quite a few since then as we have our caravan on site, so it is easier when a few sleepovers are required.

Other than that exciting event, I am still delving deeper into my mother's family history and piecing together all the dates and the stories that I've been told as well as those written on pieces of paper, letters, photos and postcards and trying to sort them into a coherent timeline, to record it all for the future generations.

Chris Waugh says – We have done lots of gardening at Peters place and my house. I had a new heater installed. We have been sharing food with the other residents in the units where I live and making sure they are all ok and don't need any jobs doing! I have been cooking some old recipes and have found them rather yummy.... thinking I should have made them years ago!! Our craft group Zooms twice a week which is a great way to keep in touch with them. Have read lots of books. It has been nice to get lots of memory photos on Facebook from friends over this covid time.... reminding us all of the great holidays we have all been lucky enough to have had.... saying that I do hope we will all have many more too!!! Enjoying springtime and some nice weather and good rainfall. Gardens are looking wonderful...loved Rosalind Park and the beautiful tulips. Nice to just wonder around our local area and appreciate what we have!

Nice to see the kids again... take their dog for a walk...see some friends in some groups we are with. Be nice to catch up with the Y girls again...seems so long. Joyce Lowe did pop in for a little chat the other day which was a surprise and was very nice to see her. Trying to suck in lots of sun and stay healthy as we all are doing, I guess. Stay safe girls and hope it is not too long when we can get together again....miss your smiling faces and interesting conversation! Hope things settle down from now on and we can move on with care.



Dawn Baxter says - I have been gardening, thinning my succulents and am about to put new backing boards on my elk ferns.

We celebrated Graeme's 80th birthday. Due to the restrictions we are currently living with it was a very different celebration to what we had planned. A lot of the family live interstate so they could not come so a few of us went to the National Hotel Courtyard for a lovely lunch

Happy birthday Graeme from all the Y's Menettes!

Jenny Cameron says - Not much has been happening in the Cameron household this month. We did enjoy a walk around the gardens in Bendigo admiring the beautiful beds of tulips. Well worth a visit! It got me all enthused to do some gardening at home. It's a pity that the weeds grow so much faster than the flowers. We're making good use of the green bin.

Me – We are still filling in our days pottering in the garden, walking Molly, Facetiming, and phoning our family and friends. I have been reading more and recently read a book called *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* which was very good. I am also writing the story of Lynden's and my life. Our children have asked me to do it and it is sure testing my memory.

Marjie Patton showed me this delicious recipe to try. The author is VJ Cooks – look her up on the internet for more ideas. *I haven't tried it yet Marjie but I will very soon.*

Lemon delicious self-saucing dessert – Serves 4 to 6

You can make it in one dish or individual ramekins as the recipe will work for both.

Ingredients

75g (2.7oz) butter, melted

1 tbsp lemon zest

1/3 cup lemon juice

3 eggs separated

1 cup milk

1 cup caster sugar

½ cup self-raising flour

1 tbsp icing sugar

Cream or ice cream (or both) to serve

Instructions

Preheat oven to 170°C (340°F) fan forced. Grease an ovenproof dish or 4-6 ramekins (Depending on size).

Place the butter, lemon zest, lemon juice, egg yolks and milk in a bowl then whisk to combine. Sift in caster sugar and flour then stir again.

In a clean bowl use a mixer or electric beater to beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Fold half of the egg white into the lemon mixture then gently fold in the rest.

Spoon mixture into prepared dish or ramekins and place in a larger baking dish. Pour enough boiling water into baking dish to come halfway up the sides of the smaller dishes. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden and just set. Dust with icing sugar and serve with cream or ice cream.



I read in *The Friendship Book of Francis Gay 2002* this piece by J.M. Robertson

It's never easy to be glad
When all around is gloom.
It's never easy to prevent
What pessimists may groom.
It's never easy to put right
What's wrong as time goes by,
Although it's never easy
At least it's worth a try.

Hello from California and Louise Coleman of the Fresno Central Y's Menettes!

Our fires are still burning but the containment numbers are going up. They think it will be the end of October before it is under control. Besides the fire, there are a lot of trees that have to be taken down and water, sewer and electricity has to be restored. One of our friends was able to go home, but the smoke was so bad that he had to leave again.

Take care and stay safe. I hope you are doing well, tell all your club members hello from us.

You will see on the following page that I have been asking Louise about the USA Elections.....

USA Elections

Every two years we have national elections where we elect representatives and some senators. Every four years we elect a new President. That is what is going on now as I am sure you have heard. Our two candidates are Trump and Biden. Right now, we are at what I call the “ugly stage.” The election is November 3rd so all we are getting on TV are ads telling why we should vote for someone or something or why we shouldn’t. After a while, you can repeat the ads without looking!!

In a regular presidential election, the voting polls would be open on election day from 7 am to 8 pm. If you are a registered voter, you were assigned a voting place close to where you live. You went there, were given a ballot which you marked in a booth and it was dropped into a secured box to be electronically counted after the polls closed. Usually you knew the results by midnight.

Last year, California switched to mail in only voting. If we were registered, we received a ballot about 30 days before election day. You could send it back in the mail or there were a few official places where you could drop it off. This year a lot of states are talking about doing mail only voting but instead of just sending a ballot to a registered voter they will send ballots to an address so some places could get 3 or 4 ballots that anyone could mark and send back. The other problem with mail voting is that our mail service is not very reliable. Sometimes our mail comes after dark and the carrier is wearing a hiking light and every once in a while, he just skips a day for delivery.

In our area, we can mail our ballots, take them to a voting centre or drop them in voting drop boxes that will be around town. Our ballots are supposed to arrive the first part of October. I saw on the news that some states are already doing in person voting. So, you can see, our country has no continuity when it comes to voting. I don’t think we will know the results for many days after November 3rd and I don’t think the outcome is going to be accepted by many people. I have been around 70 + years and there are many days that I am ashamed of the way people in this country act.

I went back to Louise with more questions – sorry Louise!

Thank you for sending me the info on your election. The mail just going to an address doesn’t sound a good option. How do they know if it is a genuine vote? Does every State add up their votes and the person who wins the most States is then President?

Our Prime Minister is decided by the party he / she is in with a secret vote.

I am glad you were able to understand my email about our elections. The answer to your question about who wins is both yes and no. For all of our elections for congress and local offices, the candidate with the most votes is the winner. The only exception is for the office of President. When our constitution was written 200 + years ago, the writers put in something called the electoral college to be used only to elect the President. Somehow, they envisioned our country to be large, but the location of the population would not be equal. Right now, California and New York and maybe Texas have more population than the other states put together. This means they would control who becomes President. With the electoral college, all 50 states get to determine the winner. The college only meets every 4 years right after our general election. Each state sends a certain number of delegates and they must vote the way the votes were counted in their state. My husband and I talked about it and we have no idea how the delegates are chosen but I think I voted for some a long time ago. In some states the candidate who won the most votes gets all the delegates, in others they get a percentage of the delegates depending on the percentage of votes they won. The delegates must vote the way the election turned out in their state even if they don’t support the winner. So, in our presidential election it is not how many votes you won but in how many states you were the winner. This way small states are just as important as large ones. Now that I have you totally confused you can see why things are so crazy in the US.

Thank you so much, Louise. I do hope you get a peaceful result to the election!



*Stay Safe and Well,
Bye for now,
Joy*