



'Tugg Talks' Weekly Bulletin Friday 22 Dec 2023



CLUB CLIPBOARD!

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the Club closes for 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the activity leaders and the office volunteers, and my fellow Management Committee members for their contributions over the past year.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the hardworking members who both care for the Club gardens and organise the Club social and travel events.

As I have said many times, the Club relies solely on its volunteers, and it simply would not function without their collective efforts.

I wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Phil Burns, President

FESTIVE SEASON TIMETABLE



The Club will re-open on

Monday 15 January 2023

While some activity groups are continuing to meet during the break, including the 'outside' activities, please note that both Club premises will be closed from

**Monday 25 Dec to
Monday 1 Jan**

TIMETABLE

Tuesday 1 Jan - Friday 12 Jan

*GC Gumnut Cottage *TSC Tugg Seniors Centre

Day / Date	Time	Activity
Tues 2 Jan	9.00 am	LL Cycling Group
	1.00 pm	Mah-jong – GC
Wed 3 Jan	9.30 am	Cribbage – GC
	10.00 am	'Take 55' Movie Group
Thurs 4 Jan	9.30 am	500 Cards- GC
	1.00 pm	Mah-jong – GC
	3.30 pm	Social Bridge – GC
Fri 5 Jan	9.00 am	Cycling Group
Mon 8 Jan	9.30 am	Bolivia - GC
	2.00 pm	Improvers Bridge - GC
Tues 9 Jan	8.00 am	Active Ex – Men - TSC
	9.10 am	Active Ex – W – TSC
	9.00 am	LL Cycling Group
Wed 10 Jan	1.00 pm	Mah-jong – GC
	9.30 am	Cribbage – GC
Thurs 11 Jan	10.00 am	'Take 55' Movie Group
	9.30 am	500 Cards- GC
Fri 12 Jan	1.00 pm	Mah-jong – GC
	3.30 pm	Social Bridge – GC
	7.30 pm	Online Trivia
Fri 12 Jan	9.00 am	Cycling Group
	9.30 am	Pitch n Putt



The Management Committee,
and our lovely office ladies,
wish all Club Members & their families
a safe, healthy & peaceful Christmas
& holiday season.

We look forward
to enjoying your company in 2024!

AND A WORD FROM ME

The Bulletin will have a little break for a couple of weeks and will return before the Club reopens in January 2024.

Stay safe and well during this Festive Season!

Janelle





'TAKE 55' MOVIE/COFFEE GROUP

Wednesdays – 10.00 am



Until the Club opens again on 15 January, we will continue to have coffee every Wednesday morning (including next week – 27 Dec) at Tuggeranong Vikings at 10.00 am.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Pam Hall



SUMMER CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ

Sunday's Summer Trivia heralded the end of the Club year with over forty people enjoying another social afternoon.

Norm returned as Quiz Master supreme and although there were a few unexpected 'technical' hitches, the questions were as varied and challenging as always.

There were the familiar 'groans' when Norm read out the answers and the Blue Team topped the total, taking the winner glory for the day!

Thanks to Norm and his Trivia team, Rhonda, Rob, and Phil for providing us with a year of questions to exercise our 'grey matter'!

And on that note, one of the questions on Sunday was:

What knot is used to describe a complex or unsolvable problem? which sparked my interest.....

The Gordian Knot

The term "Gordian Knot", often used to describe a complex and seemingly unsolvable problem, can be traced back to a moment in the life of Alexander the Great. According to legend, an incredibly complex knot was used to tie a chariot to a pole outside a palace in the city of Gordium in modern-day Turkey. The knot was said to be tied so intricately that there was no possible way to find where it started or finished, let alone untie it. Given its complexity, the local priest proclaimed that anyone who could one day free the cart from the pole would rule all of Asia.

For years, the wise and the great travelled from all around to solve the puzzle in hopes of claiming the throne. However, one after another, they were defeated and went home disappointed. The puzzle remained unsolved until a young Alexander the Great arrived. Rather than attempting to untie the knot like those before him, Alexander took a different approach - drawing his sword and cutting the knot in half with a single stroke to free the chariot and fulfill the prophecy.

Not meant to be a history lesson or a discussion of knots, the point is to highlight that **a fresh perspective and thinking laterally about a problem can often let you solve something previously intractable** without massive innovation or resources.





Folklore And History of the Christmas Gnome!

'Tis the season for long white beards, reddened noses, pudgy bellies, and red pointed caps. Here come the Christmas gnomes!

But where do these quirky characters come from, how have they become associated with Christmas, and what is our fascination with their distinctive look and charm? Is there a connection with garden gnomes?

What is a Garden Gnome

Gnomes are present in many fairy tales, myths and stories that go back hundreds of years. They are often depicted as pleasant little men who donned pointed hats, had round bellies, and long white beards.

The name is thought potentially to derive from the Greek word "genomos" meaning "earth-dweller", an accurate description for mythological beings who are used to protect crops, gardens, and buried treasures.

History of the Garden Gnome

The Ancient Rome Garden Gnome

Garden gnomes as we know them today, were first produced in 19th century Germany by sculptor Philip Griebel.

Made of clay (and eventually resin and plastic by the 1970s and 80s), these gnomes were called Gartenzwerge or garden dwarfs. However, the earliest gnome statuary descendants were used in ancient Rome. These were statues of the Roman gods and the most common one was Priapus, a god of fertility derived from Greek mythology.



The gnome statue, and other statues like it, were used in gardens to ensure a bountiful harvest by protecting the animals and plants. They also were said to keep evil spirits away.

The Magical Powers of the Renaissance Gnome

The Renaissance era was the period that gnome folklore and stories were expanded due to the high spirits of the age. It was during this timeline that the gnomes were described as beings with magical powers. At this time, the folklore of garden gnomes coming out at night to help plants evolved.

They were playfully known as "grotesques" and designed to be petite with hunched backs and earned the title of the Italian word "Gobbi"



Rise Of Gnomes in the 18th Century

By the 18th century, garden gnomes were commonly used as a status symbol in the gardens of wealthy families. As time moved forward, the use of gnomes perpetuated thanks to the myths, folklore, and world-wide stories such as German fairy tales. It was in these stories that gnomes were depicted as little creatures with magical powers who helped humans with farming.



Folklore And History of the Christmas Gnome!



Garden Gnomes in the Modern Era

The New Garden Gnome Design

Traditional gnomes continued their rise in popularity up until the world wars. At this time, there was understandably a fall in production, and gnomes did not see a rise in pace again for a couple of decades.

Upon their return, gnomes came back with brighter colours and more smiling faces, and by the 1970s, variations in creation also evolved. Instead of clay or terracotta, gnomes were produced from plastic or resin for a lighter, longer-lasting design.



The Christmas Gnome

Christmas and holiday gnomes are growing in popularity and perhaps this holiday association is due to their resemblance to Santa Claus, as both cherished figures sport a round belly, long white beard, bulbous nose, and red stocking cap. Holiday gnomes can be found in all sorts of seasonal décor, from simple figurines and dolls to candles, ornaments, gift wrap, cards, and more.

Rise Of Gnomes in Pop Culture

Christmas isn't the only connection that gnomes have to modern popular culture. For nearly a century, gnomes and gnome-like figures have been a charming part of entertainment, starting with Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" in 1937, and continuing with the introduction of the blue-skinned, strikingly gnome-like "Smurfs" in 1958.

In early 2004, the online travel agency website Travelocity launched the **Where is My Gnome?** advertising campaign which featured a charming garden gnome who has left his garden in search of adventure.

Throughout the 2000s, gnomes also played major roles in motion pictures including *Amelie* in 2001 and in *Gnomeo and Juliet*, a 2011, animated movie adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The Clint Eastwood drama, 'Gran Torino' introduced "Gus the Original Garden Gnome" in 2008 and gnomes were featured in popular movies like "The Chronicles of Narnia", "The Lord of The Rings", and with one also appearing in a Harry Potter movie.



A Garden Gnome of your own

With an array of gnomes available on the market, you are sure to find one that perfectly represents your sense of humour, passions or to accent the garden, porch or patio. With its rich history, the garden gnome stands ready to protect, charm and flourish in the backyard, garden, or whatever part of earth it dwells, adding colour to our days!



TALKING TASTY!

Pasticcini di mandorle (little, soft, almond biscuits)



Flourless soft almond cookies (Pasticcini di Mandorle) can be soft like marzipan or baked a few minutes more for a slightly crunchy chew. Made with only 4 ingredients, these delicious biscuits are naturally gluten free and ideal for that last minute Christmas gift.

Ingredients

- 300 gms (3¹/₄ cups) almond meal
- 200 gms (2 cups) icing sugar (plus ¹/₂ cup extra for dusting)
- the zest of a large unwaxed lemon
- 2 large eggs gently beaten with a fork
- Food colouring if desired

Method

Mix the ground almonds, icing sugar and lemon zest in a large bowl. Add the beaten egg and then using a fork or your fingers, bring the mixture together into a soft sticky dough.

Dust your hands with icing sugar and then scoop out walnut sized lump of dough (about 30 gms), gently shape and then roll between your palms (with icing sugar) into a ball.

Put them on a baking tray lined with 2 layers of greaseproof paper and dust lightly with icing sugar. Make an indentation into the centre of each ball, either with your thumb or using a whole almond or maraschino cherry.

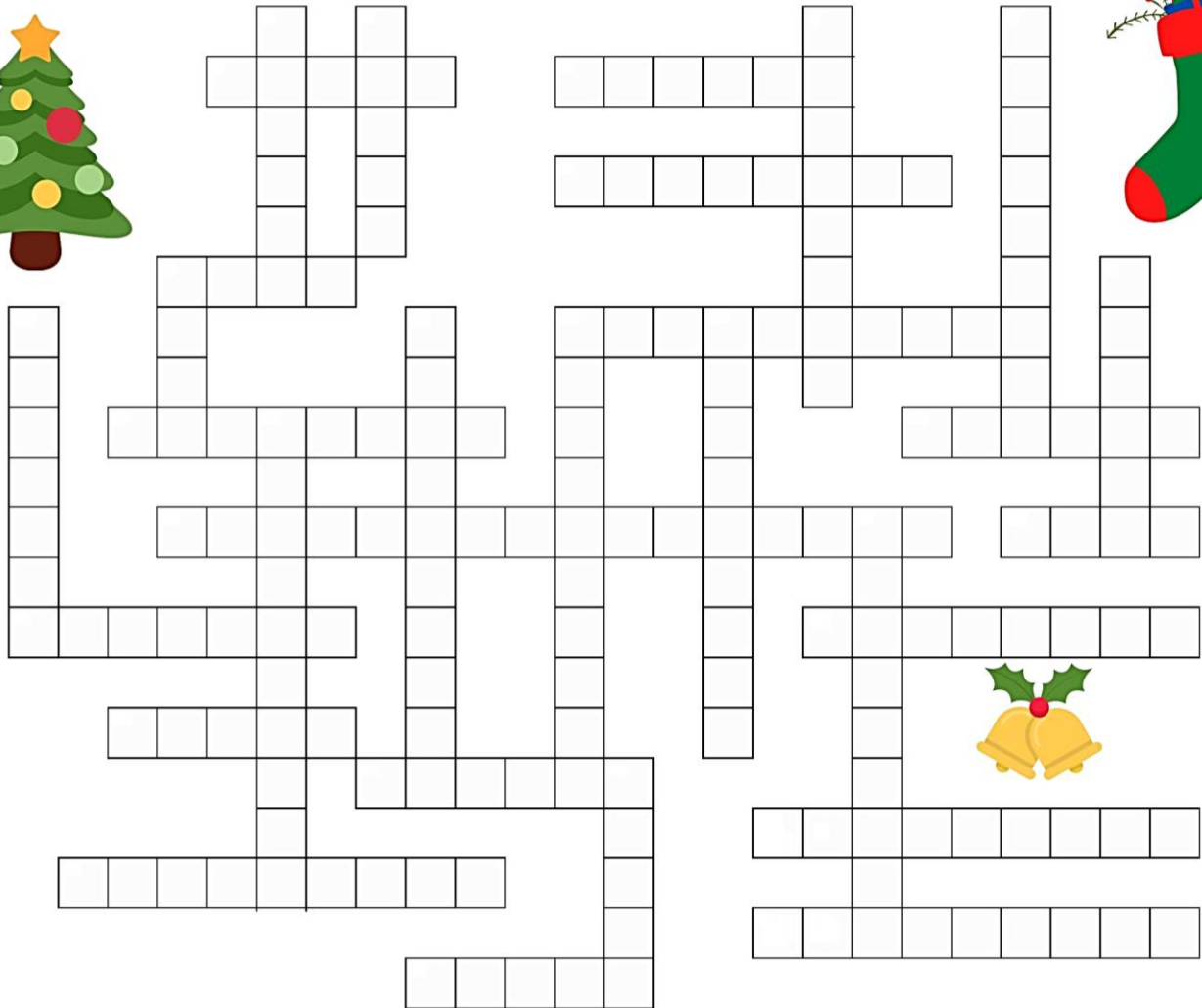
The balls should be well spaced as they swell as they cook. *Makes about 20.*

Bake at 180° for about 15-20 minutes or when they are golden brown underneath and cracked, crisp and very pale gold on top. Longer cooking time will make them crunchier on the outside.



Christmas Fill-In Crossword

Fill in the blanks with the words provided (ignore spaces)



4 letters:

star
tree
snow

5 letters:

elves
holly
jolly
merry
bells

6 letters:

ho ho ho
jingle
wreath
sleigh
candle

7 letters:

cookies
snowman

8 letters:

December
hot cocoa
presents
reindeer

9 letters:

north pole
stockings
candy cane
mistletoe
Christmas
ornaments

10 letters:

Santa Claus
nutcracker
peppermint
poinsettia

16 letters:

gingerbread house



Solution in 2024!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!