

# IDLE CHATTER Mark II

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This newsletter is an initiative of the Quandialla Progress Association

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## Sponsored by Mick & Joy George

### WHAT CAN YOU SAY?

*Another lockdown but one that I think our State required.*

*I know Covid is not close to us at the moment but that can change in a minute, as some other regional NSW towns have found out. After my reflection of what had happened around the world since 1900 in IC 454, I started to think more about The Spanish Flu and how it affected Australia back then. So, I did a little research and came up with some newspaper articles that tells the story of what it was like. The following is part of an article written about the world pandemic, but today, I have only included what was written about Australia.*

### **The World Flu That Killed Millions written by David Mileham Printed in the Daily Telegraph, January 15, 1949**

News of the influenza epidemic which is sweeping across Europe inevitably brings back to our minds the influenza plague that devastated the world after World War I. Health authorities say that the present epidemic is in a mild form – but that’s how the 1918-19 epidemic started too.

**David went on to describe what happened around the world, but I thought what was written about Australia was very interesting.**

By December 1918 when the epidemic was dying down in most countries, it had not yet reached Australia. Australia was the only country in the world to attempt to set up a quarantine defence against the epidemic, and for several months the defence was very successful. Even when the epidemic did, somehow or other, got to Australia, it was of a slightly milder form than that which had ravaged most of the rest of the world.

Nevertheless, during the months of the epidemic’s course through Australia it killed 11,552 people – 233 deaths for every 100,000 people, 24 per cent of the total deaths for the year. And about one in four of the residents of Sydney and Melbourne went down with at least a mild flu attack. About 50,000 Australians fell seriously ill with what by this time was known as “pneumonic influenza.” When Australia was still safe behind the quarantine screen, State and Federal Health experts had already conferred and decided what they would do if the epidemic arrived in Australia. But when the epidemic did arrive in January 1919 the State Governments panicked and forgot to stick by their common decisions.

The first Australian victim of the epidemic was discovered in Melbourne on January 10. But for some reason or other the Victorian Government made no announcement until January 23 and waited until January 28 before declaring itself an “infected State” and taking precautions against the spread of infections to other states. January 28 was too late. A traveller from Melbourne had already brought the flu to Sydney. He was not discovered until January 21, but by that time he had infected several other people, and by January 27 Sydney had enough reported victims for New South Wales to declare itself an “infected State.”

At first New South Wales suspended all land traffic from Victoria, Then the Government set up a four-day quarantine detention camp at Albury, through which all travellers from Victoria were to pass. Queensland closed its borders when news came through that the epidemic had reached New South Wales. Later, when the epidemic had been smuggled across the Queensland border; Queensland opened a seven-day quarantine tent camp at Wallangarra through which all New South Wales visitors were to pass.

Victoria had no restrictions; but the South Australian Government declared an absolute blockade on all traffic with Victoria, whether passenger or freight. In the first panic, the Western Australian Government seized two transcontinental trains. It finally released the passengers from these trains but prohibited all land

traffic into the State. Tasmania imposed a seven-day quarantine on all ships. Other States imposed four-day quarantine on ships.

The border restrictions were rather a farce. They protected Western Australia for a couple of months (though many people managed to sneak across unsupervised parts of the borders between other States). And the restrictions caused much economic disruptions and personal inconvenience, particularly, of course, to the residents of border towns, some of whom could not cross the street because the border ran along it.

In New south Wales the Government tried to restrict travel out of Sydney, which the epidemic had hit hardest (although most country towns reported at least one death). The New South Wales Government closed all churches and schools and all meeting places of every kind – theatres, racecourses, picture shows and so on – in Sydney it allowed only open-air church services.

Many of the country schools became emergency hospitals. In Sydney the Government took over Show ground buildings, drill halls and skating rinks as special emergency hospitals. These hospital's 2000 beds were for serious cases. People with slight attacks had to stay at home. An Influenza Administration Committee was set up to try to arrange some nursing service for people who were ill at home, and to arrange relief for the many families whom sickness had ruined.

The hospitals were seriously short of doctors. A special 500-bed hospital set up in a Randwick racecourse grandstand was never used because there were no doctors to staff it. The Government opened a public vaccination depot and ordered Sydney people to wear masks in all public places.

Deaths and illness and prudent absenteeism caused economic disruption. Nearly two-thirds of the staff of banks and insurance companies, nearly half the shop assistants, and more than 40 per cent of all factory employees went down with influenza. By August 1919 the epidemic was over.

*How similar does this article, sound like what is happening today?*

*Each State reacting, doing their best to combat the influenza, how fast it spread, the economic cost to the country and so on.*

*Naturally today's conditions are different, 100 years of progress later. Our population has vastly increased over that time with many diverse cultures making their home here. It is so much easier to get around Australia today than 100 years ago, making the spread of the virus a problem, as you travel so can the virus. Social Media was non-existent in 1919 but today it is everywhere. Personally, I have nothing against it – it can be helpful, but it seems to be a problem with a lot of misinformation floating around and for some reason a lot of people believe everything they read, leading to mixed messages and anger.*

*We are in a different era but after reading the above article it feels very similar to the Spanish Flu outbreak in Australia, without all the Government assistance that we are so lucky to be receiving if needed. We need to hang in there, work with our Premier and Health Minister Dr Chant who are doing a wonderful job. They don't need all the criticism, they need every person living in NSW to toe the line and follow the restriction orders and get their vaccine jab, and then hopefully we can get this latest outbreak of Delta under control which I might add is sooo infectious, but everyone has to stand up and do their part, even if we are out in the bush.*

*NSW does not need any more Covid cases in regional NSW if we can help it.*

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## NOW FOR SOME HAPPY NEWS

**We have an 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday in Quandialla to Celebrate.....**

Congratulations go to Will Dixon who turned 18  
on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Will and his family celebrated the occasion at home with a fantastic  
“Blue Ute” birthday cake & Pizza.

Not exactly the birthday party any 18 would have been hoping for but I'm  
sure something will be organised when socialising is possible.

On behalf of John and myself and friends in Quandialla I would like to  
wish Will all the Best on celebrating his 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Many Happy Returns Will.



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## LIFE IN QUANDIALLA DURING THE LATEST LOCKDOWN

I have included the following Local Businesses Lockdown Details for you  
NOW THAT THE LOCKDOWN HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST.

**No need to travel during these times when you can pick up milk, bread etc.  
Post your parcel or get your hardware & farm supplies locally.**

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### BLAND HOTEL

The Bland Hotel will be OPEN for Take Away ONLY  
Opening Hours: **12 midday to 2pm – 5pm to 8pm**

The Bistro will be operating for take away meals for lunch & dinner, Mon – Sat.  
Jeremy's famous Pizza on Wednesdays

Plus, there will be pre-made meals available in the fridge that can be taken home and microwaved.  
Bar facilities have naturally ceased but you can still purchase take away cartons, chips, smokes, etc.

**Please Note:** Take away cannot be consumed in or outside the hotel premise.

*Give Dan & Jeremy a call on 63471253 and place your food orders,  
you will then receive an approx. time for pickup.*

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### QUANDIALLA POST OFFICE

Business as usual as Post Offices are deemed essential services.

**Office Hours: 11am to 3pm**

No changes to the services provided at the Quandialla Post Office.

Town mail and mail run deliveries will continue as normal.

Please practice self-distancing while in the office for your own protection and others.

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### GROCERIES AVAILABLE in QUANDIALLA at the BLAND HOTEL

Fresh bread 3 x week    Papers –    Hot coffee!!!!!!    Fruit / Veg & other necessities.  
Best meat pies (available frozen as well) & Car and Truck Batteries & Oil.

### DELTA AGRIBUSINESS

Quandialla Delta Staff would like to reassure everyone they are open for business and are expected to remain that way as essential providers to Agribusiness, and a critical part of the ag supply chain.

**Thank you** – Delta Agribusiness

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## QUANDIALLA BOWLING CLUB

Naturally due to the Government regulations our local club has ceased all trading and will definitely be closed this weekend and next Friday and if the lockdown is extended again the club will remain closed until the lockdown is lifted.

### Update on Club Activities

**Riverina Club Draw & Members Draw:** Both draws will be suspended and will start again on the first Friday that all clubs are able to open.

**Sunday Papers:** This community service will unfortunately cease while the trading restrictions are in force.

*We hope the restrictions are lifted quickly and encourage everybody to visit the club again when re-opened.*

*Please Stay Safe – President & Committee Q.B.C.*

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## AS Ag Contracting

ABN – 73323 278018

Bobcat Hire – Rural Fencing

Stock Work – Mini Loader Hire

Enquiries please phone:

Adam Slater – 0418 272465

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## FREE

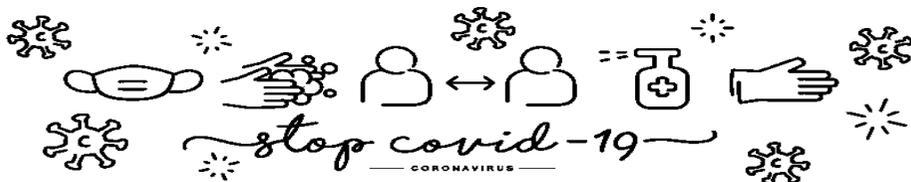
Jerusalem Artichokes  
For cooking and/or planting  
Ring: 63471187

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## Some Lockdown Giggles



Lockdown seems like a Netflix series; just when you think it is over, they release the next season.  
PLUS - Never thought my hands would one day consume more alcohol than my liver ..... ever!!!!



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Cheers until next week ..... **Sue Priestley**