



# The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

MARCH 2020  
ISSUE NO 100

*Blokes, jokes, mates and more*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



.Well , what a great month we have had. Very good weekly speaker, Geoffrey Thomas, a very good Ladies and visitors night with Craig Challen, two visits from WAMSA, Bob Coventry along with a film crew to record our Social Tuesdays including some interviews and a good burst from the Rockin Sheddies and Rebecar Habener CEO's assistant sat in as an observer. And add to that some record attendances so it was in all a very good month.

Then on a less buoyant note Secretary Kevin has been under the pump a bit with people complaining to him about somethings that have happened lately.

So from now on I am asking that all complaints and grumbles be directed to me. My contact details are included below. I will also have some cards if anyone wants one.

*John Griffiths*

President

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Phone: 0429 955 229



*Midland Men's Shed Social Tuesday every Tuesday 9.30 to 11.30a*

*in the Baptist Church Hall Bellevue.*

*Contact - Kevin Buckland 0417 961 971*

*PO Box 1035 MIDLAND DC 6936*



## MEMBERSHIP STATS:

TUESDAY MORNINGS	FEBRUARY
Average Attendance for month (Members)	64
% Attendance for Month (Members)	82.1
No. Members 100%	36
Visitors for month	17
Members attend/Week	64
Av Weekly Attendance (Inc Visitors)	68.25
Best Week Attendance	75
New Members	1

### MIDVALE WORKSHOPS:

Total attendance for the month	221
Average daily attendance	13

## DEPRESSED OR LONELY?:

Is one of your Men's Shed mates feeling low?

Speak to someone or let me know that someone needs a quiet word.

Help is at hand.

We now have resources, or can arrange to help if you are struggling to cope with your day to day life.

Roger Patten  
Member Wellbeing Officer  
Midland Men's Shed

## COMING EVENTS:

- March 10th "Scams" - Iris Thomas
- March 24th "Transperth" - David McMahon
- March 25th Tour of the Bickley Observatory
- April 14th "Legal Aid" - Rachel Collins
- April 28th "ED Connect" - Karen Vincent
- May 12th "Building Better Friendships" - Greg Cream
- June 16th "Reptiles" - Eric McCrum
- July 21st 10th Birthday
- August 25th "Cape Horn or Bust" - Fran Taylor
- September 15th "Sandakan Death Marches" - Bob Coventry
- September 23rd "Ageing Disgracefully" - Swan Active Beechboro
- December 15th Christmas Lunch

## JOKING OF COURSE:

*Two old guys, Fred and Sam went to the movies. A few minutes after it started, Fred heard Sam rustling around and he seemed to be searching on the floor under his seat.*

*"What are you doing?" asked Fred.*

*Sam, a little grumpy by this time, replied "I had a caramel in my mouth and it dropped out. I can't find it."*

*Fred told him to forget it because it would be too dirty by now. "But I've got to," said Sam, "my teeth are in it!"*



## CRAIG CHALLEN – THE THAI CAVE RESCUE:

- **Ray Lewis**

On a very warm evening about 60 people, Midland Shed members, their wives and families, gathered at the Bellevue Baptist Church to hear 2019 Australian of the Year, Craig Challen, speak about the rescue of 13 members of the Wild Boars football team from the Tham Luang caves in Chiang Rai, Thailand. At 7:00 pm Craig began with outlining, without any fanfare, what had actually happened at the cave.



He explained that the boys aged 11 - 13 and their 24 year-old coach had cycled to the cave to explore it as a birthday treat for one of the team. They had entered the cave and whilst exploring, a heavy downpour had caused the outer part of the cave to flood. The team was trapped by the rising flood water and had penetrated further into the cave until they found a place where they could rest in safety above the flood. They had stayed there without food or contact with the outside world for eight days from 23 June until 2 July. Craig gave full credit to the two British divers who had discovered the boys on the eighth day and had returned to the cave entrance to inform their parents, and the world, that they were all alive and well. They were trapped about 3 km inside the cave but there was no easy way for them to be rescued. The rescue would have to be carried out fairly quickly within the next few days as the weather forecast for the Chiang Rai area was for heavy monsoonal rain to start within a week or 10 days. The cave would be sealed until October. The team would not be likely to survive.

Craig explained the difficulties that the diving team faced. The visibility was non-existent, there were currents and eddies, very narrow areas and the long distance, much of which was flooded, of the football team from the entrance. The flooded area was impassable except by using SCUBA equipment. He spoke of the former Thai Navy SEAL, Saman Kunan, who had died in the cave on 5 July after delivering air tanks to the chamber where the team was waiting. He explained that there were so many things that could have gone wrong in cave diving even for an experienced diver and that nobody would know what had really happened to cause his death.

Other things were happening too. A telephone wire was installed to ease communication, guide ropes along the length of the route out of the cave to assist the rescuers. The rescuers were only too aware of the impending monsoon and the hazards that faced should it come earlier than predicted. During the time that the divers were exploring the cave and their options for rescuing them, Craig told us of the other methods that were being put forward to rescue the team. These included looking for other entrances and pumping out ground water in an attempt to allow the flooding in the cave subside. He indicated that more than 50 megalitres of water was being pumped out of the cave and from the groundwater but it made little difference to the water levels. Also, of the ill-fated ideas to get the team out using mechanical means including the Elon Musk torpedo. The terrain and distances involved precluded such devices. One other problem was that members of the team might have been either poor swimmers or unable to swim. Such individuals might panic and cause both rescuer and rescued to drown. The cave rescue team were left with only one solution, the team would be sedated or anaesthetised and swum out accompanied by an experienced cave rescue diver.

A period of intense calculation ensued. Dr Richard Harris, a long-time dive companion was an anaesthetist in Adelaide. Craig was a vet. Both had experience with anaesthetics, Dr Harris with people, Craig with animals. It was decided to use Ketamine as the drug of choice. This had one flaw in that its effect was limited to about 45 minutes and the rescue for each of the team members would take about three hours. After discussion it was decided to use a system of ready-use syringes with graduated dosage so that each of the divers undertaking the rescue could inject a suitable dose at a suitable time along the length of the journey.

On the day of the first rescue Dr Harris spoke to the team and asked who they thought should go first. It turned out later that the team thought it should be the boy who lived furthest away so that he could ride his bike home and tell his parents that everybody was OK. The first child was dressed in a wet suit with a full-face mask attached to a harness and for his accompanying diver to guide and pull the child along the guide rope. They set off to an air tank filled a mix of 80% oxygen and other gas. Some three hours later they both surfaced and the first team member was out alive and well. He was carried from the cave on a stretcher, taken to a waiting ambulance for medical examination and then transported for his onward journey to hospital. There were four boys rescued that day. The procedure was repeated the following day and on the third day, the last four boys were rescued with the team coach being the last member of the team to emerge from the cave. Craig emphasised that the whole rescue had been a team effort by experienced cave rescue divers. Their individual experience had been attained after years of diving in hazardous circumstances. He showed a message from an anonymous source that applauded the rescue as being one carried out by a bunch of middle-aged men working as a team rather than by a bunch of tanned, buff individuals with rippling muscles.

## CRAIG CHALLEN – THE THAI CAVE RESCUE – CONTINUED:

- **Ray Lewis**

The audience members were invited to ask questions which Craig answered with ease and flashes of humour. The meeting closed about 8:00 pm with some members remaining to talk with Craig on an individual basis. Craig came across as self-effacing, someone who doesn't blow his own trumpet, even though he may be entitled. He gave credit to everybody involved in the rescue including the football team members whose predicament had caused the problem. Nor did he mention that he and Dr Harris had been made joint Australians of the Year for 2019 and of his award of the Star of Courage. He is, as I found in previous research, also the holder of the world record for the deepest cave dive. All in all, it was a memorable evening, providing all of the audience with something of value to take away.

## PARACORDING:

Are there any members interested in learning the skill of paracording? This involves decorative knot work for bracelets, handle wraps, dog leads, key tags etc. If yes, please contact Brian or Paul Ramshaw at the Workshop on Fridays where this skill is going to be taught..



## MY FIRST CAR:

- **Dane Hall**

I left school at 14 and started working.

After saving I bought my first car in 1951. It was a 1930 Singer 9 and cost £10 - my father lent me half the cost.

Initially it looked something like this, but rather old and required gentle loving care. I completely dismantled it, body and motor, then fitted cord rings and new bearings to the conrods.

The motor was rather unusual, as it was thermal-cooled and had no water pump or fan. The motor had an overhead camshaft and a timing chain. The magneto was fitted on one side of the engine block and a third brush generator on the other.

As it was magneto ignition it was a simple matter of cranking, therefore as I was out of funds, I did not buy a battery for some time. It was necessary to short out the generator.

I learned a lot about motors during this time as my father left it all up to me. The body was rather small and I had difficulty sitting in the seat so initially I removed the rear part of the body and strapped a plank across the chassis.

I drove it this way for some time until I made a wooden back section using pine boards and ply.

I drove this car for the next couple of years until I finally turned 17 and was able to get my license and become a legal driver.



## HAND WASHING:

Washing your hands may seem rather unsophisticated compared to today's medical advances, but it works. Washing your hands reduces the rate of bacterial and viral infections by  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and gastrointestinal infections by 80%. "Frequent hand-washing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of infectious disease," say the Centres for Disease Control.

You should wash your hands before, during, and after food preparation; before eating; after using the bathroom; and after touching pets, animals, or waste of any kind. To wash your hands: apply soap and rub your hands together vigorously for 10-15 seconds not forgetting under your finger nails, rinse and dry your hands after. Hand Sanitizer is always on the table containing the Coffee Mugs on Tuesdays.



## TUESDAYS:

- **Pete Arnell**

I awake in the morning, stretch, and in doing so my calf muscles cramp up. This is the signal for me to, unceremoniously stagger out of bed and totter round the bedroom, hoping to relax the muscles and relieve the pain. Some days this can be the extent of my Physical exercise for the day. Lets face it, easing cramp can be quite tiring, it takes a lot out of you. {Just look at the Dockers forward line, how they fall away in the last quarter} I then wander into the Kitchen for breakfast and my Sustagen, I then sit and stare at my pill container, where each compartment is identified with a letter, today it is the letter "T". This means it's TUESDAY. Great this means for the next 3 or more hours I have no chores, like servicing the car, cleaning the Pool, or moving the house 2 metres to the left, which will please the better half and her FENG SHUI fixation. NO!! TUESDAY is Men's Shed day, where I join other escapees from these chores. Its my extended Smoko, my Mini Holiday, So with a spring in my step, I enter the Hall, to sign in, I survey the room already laid out with tables and chairs, I sit at my usual table, facing the entrance seeing other Sheddners arrive, a lot of old faces, and a few new ones, which is good to see. To those who I owe money to, I avoid eye contact, To those who owe me money, I try to gain their attention, by waving my arms vigorously about, but to no avail. The room is starting to fill-up, the noise level is increasing, a queue is forming at the hot water urn, where men are ignoring their Doctor's advice, by making Coffee that will accompany the sugary biscuits and cholesterol bearing cake, that will be laid out on the tables and will be pounced upon by a pack of hungry Sheddners, and anything that resembles chocolate is snatched from the plate by the usual suspects. \*\*\* {Which leads me to ask a Question: I wonder what the collective Noun is for Sheddners that are faced with a plate filled with chocolate biscuits and Fruit cake.}\*\*\* Perhaps a "Scavenge of Sheddners".



I've sat at the same table for over 4 or 5 years ,WHY,? because I feel comfortable, being surrounded by the same faces, I know I would be welcome at any other table, that's a given and perhaps one day I might. But for the present I'm happy. being in the company of an eclectic mix of knowledge and talent and skills. Where over the years I've come to learn, who's had joint replacements, open heart surgery, how many stents they have, what pills they take to keep the grim reaper at bay, their TV viewing preferences, and what books they like to read, their likes and dislikes in food, their past career paths, their successes in life and their failures, and they know mine!! If I have a problem and need advice, someone at the table will have the answer, if not. they know of someone at another table who could help. You would think after 4 years the conversation or subjects to discuss would have dried up but NO! just the opposite. Like Lewis Carroll in "The Walrus and the Carpenter" we talk of many things, not necessarily of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax of Cabbages and Kings but of everything from old Films and their Stars, to the Viking raids on England, or the quotes of Oscar Wilde or when the Mother Ship is going to return to pick-up Donald Trump. In fact half the pleasure of Tuesdays Talkfest, is not knowing what the conversation and accompanying repartee will be, You just need to be on ones toes. There are certain things we don't talk about, Politics, Religion, that thing that, to many of us, is a vague memory, SEX and of course we never mention the War [a' la Fawltly Towers] We never argue, minor disputes, Yes!!, but these can be settled by Doctor Google. But no major disagreements, that result in people being invited outside to settle the argument once and for all.

The table I sit is gaining a reputation, where we rubbish each other, take the Mickey out of each other, there is no Malice intended, just good natured banter, and a lot of laughs ,usually at someone's expense, the beauty of it is, your turn to get "Roasted" only comes round every couple of months. Quite regularly we have guest speakers, who talk on a range of subjects, from recycling, to sailing round the Horn in a tall ship, to Bowel or Prostate cancer to aboriginal place names and their meanings. or how to avoid the pitfalls of making a Will. All arranged by that living treasure our Secretary. I attend the MMS workshop regularly, but why do I go to Men's Shed on TUESDAY, for all the reasons I've mentioned and more, its the all important Camaraderie and Mateship, to be in the company of like minded "OLD BUGGERS" whose very presence make me feel GOOD!!! All this for the annual membership fee of \$50. Now that's what I call value for money.

**"SEE YOU TUESDAY".**

PS I would be interested in anyone else who might have a collective noun for Chocolate Biscuit Obsessed shedders?

### DISCLAIMER

The information in this publication is of a general nature. The articles contained herein are not intended to provide a complete discussion on each subject and or issues canvassed. Midland Men's Shed (Inc.) does not accept any liability for any statements or any opinion, or for any errors or omissions contained

## ARE YOU CONFUSED LIKE ME:

- David Gurry

Whilst healthy debate and opposing points of view are welcome and can be very helpful in trying to understand any situation, I have found the debate over weather and climate very confusing.

I found the following definitions very helpful in gaining an understanding of the difference between weather and climate. Others I have shared this with also found it helpful. So without taking any side in the debate, if you are confused like me, you too may find it helpful.

### The difference between weather and climate

**Weather** is the day-to-day state of the atmosphere, and its short-term variation in minutes to weeks. People generally think of weather as the combination of temperature, humidity, precipitation, cloudiness, visibility, and wind. We talk about changes in weather in terms of the near future: "How hot is it right now?" "What will it be like today?" and "Will we get a snowstorm this week?"

**Climate** is the weather of a place averaged over a period of time, often 30 years. Climate information includes the statistical weather information that tells us about the normal weather, as well as the range of weather extremes for a location. We talk about climate change in terms of years, decades, centuries, even millions of years. Scientists study climate to look for trends or cycles of variability, such as the changes in wind patterns, ocean surface temperatures and precipitation over the equatorial Pacific that result in El Niño and La Niña, and also to place cycles or other phenomena into the bigger picture of possible longer term or more permanent climate changes.

### Forecasting weather and predicting climate

Weather forecasters try to answer questions like: What will the temperature be tomorrow? Will it rain? How much rain will we have? Will there be thunderstorms? Today, most weather forecasts are based on numerical models, which incorporate observations of air pressure, temperature, humidity and winds to produce the best estimate of current and future conditions in the atmosphere. A weather forecaster then looks at the model output to figure out the most likely scenario. The accuracy of weather forecasts depend on both the model and on the forecaster's skill. Short-term weather forecasts are accurate for up to a week. Long-term forecasts, for example seasonal forecasts, tend to use statistical relationships between large-scale climate signals such as El Niño and La Niña and precipitation and temperature to predict what the weather will be like in one to six months time.

**Forecasts** — whether generated by artificial intelligence, meteorologists, or indigenous elders — often rely on past weather patterns to predict the future, but climate change is making the past a less effective predictor of the future.

**Climate predictions take a much longer-term view.** These predictions try to answer questions like how much warmer will the Earth be 50 to 100 years from now? How much more precipitation will there be? How much will sea level rise? Climate predictions are made using global climate models. Unlike weather forecast models, climate models cannot use observations because there are no observations in the future."

I was particularly surprised to learn that The American Space Agency (NASA) have an example on their website of atmospheric samples contained in ice cores on earth dating back 800,000 years (before I was even born!).

## EQUIPMENT TESTING:

Any member wishing to have equipment tested and tagged must liaise with the Shed Manager and have details entered in the "Register of Members Requiring Equipment Tested". When tested and tagged it is expected that a donation be made to Men's Shed.

*Close your eyes to the faults of others and  
watch the doors of friendship open wide.*