



The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

MAY 2020
ISSUE NO 102

Blokes, jokes, mates and more

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Well nearly a month has passed with us (MMS) in limbo, not good but the measures put in place by our governments has got us to a place where none of our members have been effected, a statistic we can be very grateful for.

Shed activity has not stalled altogether as we have been able, thanks to John McKenna, to converse by way of Zoom with about twenty or more members taking part. Thanks to those members have been sending stuff to Kevin who has passed it on.

This news letter is again being printed in Michelle Roberts office and they have offered to post it to non internet members. Many thanks Michelle.

Going forward we will obviously still be in lock down but signs are good for a sooner rather than later change to the rules. Good work to everyone that has contributed to this very positive attitude and the results that are being achieved. We will keep a close eye on things as they develop and keep you all posted as best we can.

Use the phone and messaging as best you can to keep in touch with one another and keep your chins up.

John Griffiths

President

Email: john@jrgrif.com.au

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COMING EVENTS:

- May 12th "Building Better Friendships" - Greg Cream - **Cancelled**

The following events will depend on when Men's Shed resumes:

- 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

MEMBERSHIP STATS:

ZOOM SESSIONS

APRIL

Total participants for the month 88

Average participants per session 22

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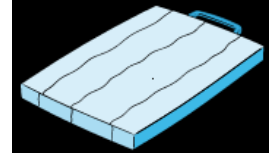
HOW TO CLEAN YOUR WOODEN CHOPPING BOARDS

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For many people wood is the material of choice for a chopping board, but it's important to keep them clean. Most aren't dishwasher safe, so here are a few ways of cleaning and maintaining them.

Good old soap and water

Wash with a bit of dish soap, rinse in hot water, wipe clean and allow to air dry.



Salt and lemon

Sprinkle the board with coarse salt. Scrub the salt into the board using half a lemon (fleshy side down). Let the salt and lemon solution sit for about five minutes then rinse the board with hot water and allow to air dry.

Vinegar

Mix one-part white vinegar to four parts water. Soak your board in the solution for a few minutes then rinse off and air dry.

Bi-carb soda

Mix one tablespoon of bi-carb soda, one tablespoon of salt and one tablespoon of water to form a paste. Give your chopping board a good scrub with the paste, then rinse thoroughly with hot water and air dry.

When drying your cutting boards, place it in an upright position where air can circulate. This allows the board to dry out completely.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND:

- **Dane Hall**

Looking for some thing to kill time I went back over loads of slides I took in the 70's.

This is a group of my families landing on Christmas Island in 1970.

The ship drifted off the coast for five days due to a heavy swell preventing a landing in the Cove, before a decision was made to land us at a spot known as Waterfall.

We were loaded into cage brought to the ship and dropped into a small barge along side.

Taken to the base of a cliff and the cage was connected to a cable from a crane operated by hand.

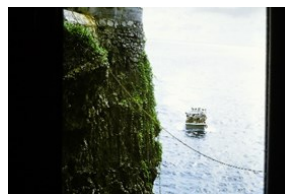
The slides show the story.

Once on shore we found the cable attached to the derrick was connected to a grader.

Several years later, the gantry crane fell into the sea at the bottom of the cliff and totally disappeared.



Welcoming crowd.



Arrival at the base of the cliff



The lift

JOKING OF COURSE:

I've had bad luck with both my wives.

The first one left me...

The second one didn't!

SELF ISOLATION QUARANTINE DIARY:

- Day 1 – I Can Do This!! Got enough food and wine to last a month!
- Day 2 – Opening my 8th bottle of Wine. I fear wine supplies might not last!
- Day 3 – Strawberries: Some have 210 seeds, some have 235 seeds. Who Knew??
- Day 4 – 8:00pm. Removed my Day Pyjamas and put on my Night Pyjamas.
- Day 5 – Today, I tried to make Hand Sanitizer. It came out as Jello Shots!!
- Day 6 – I get to take the Garbage out. I'm So excited, I can't decide what to wear.
- Day 7 – Laughing way too much at my own jokes!!
- Day 8 – Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen". You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have No clue how this place is still in business.
- Day 9 – I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting all dressed up and going Bar hopping.
- Day 10 – Struck up a conversation with a Spider today. Seems nice. He's a Web Designer.
- Day 11 – Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, "What the hell do you want now?"
- Day 12 – I realized why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a possum.
- Day 13 – If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.
- Day 14 – Watched the birds fight over a worm.
- Day 15 – Anybody else feel like they've cooked dinner about 395 times this month.

SELF ISOLATION STORIES:

- **Morris Bennett**

In my time of isolation I have acquired a dog I get exercise I get affection and I get to pick up shit, what else can you ask for these days, I busy myself with doing puzzles playing chess on the computer and quizzes to keep my mind working. Have not done a lot of my ukulele but will be starting that soon plenty on utube, you can learn a lot on utube might take up a law degree lol, hope all you guys are doing ok we are all in this together, humour is a great thing keep up the funnies Kevin if I find any I will post them, (thank god for Netflix) normal tv will send you round the bend all these reality shows, these kitchen shows if you cant smell it and you cant eat it what's the point, holiday shows you cant go there can you its frustrating, and marrying someone you have never met before or there parents (scary) hope you have enjoyed my little banter may try more later if I can get my brain working stay safe guys and talk to someone often.

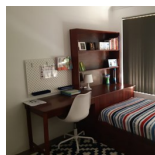
- **Andy Klita**

During this period of isolation has given me an opportunity spend more time doing one of my hobbies, that is furniture building.

I have been building furniture from recycled jarrah for the past 30 years. Current project is a bedroom suite for my oldest grandson. I completed his bed and desk but ran out of timber stock for the chest of drawers. This meant a visit to Brajkovich's Salvage yard, to get a load of 4X2 jarrah beams.

So a few weeks ago I got load of timber, about 50 beams for \$200. I've been de-nailing and squaring up two sides of the timber on my jointer, then thickening the beams and finally ripping the beams into slats. Very tedious process but very satisfying seeing the final product of usually furniture grade jarrah being produced from crappy old jarrah beams. Probably another 2 weeks of work before I have the timber ready for my next project.

Stay safe Andy



No matter how much you push the envelope,
it'll still be stationery.

ROCKIN' SHEDDERS:

- **John Mills**

Nearly 5 years ago I wrote an article for this Midland Men's Shed monthly newsletter on how The Rockin' Sheddens were formed and became overnight sensations in a few peoples minds.

Written below is an update of that piece of elegant English literature for the interest of recent new members who joined the group since and other interested members within the Midland Men's Shed.

I Joined the Midland Men's Shed, around August 2013. Being a semi-retired musician with a book under my belt named "Jive, Twist & Stomp WA Rock & Roll Bands of the 50's & 60's" printed by Fremantle Press. 2500 copies sold and still available from most libraries in WA including the National archives & W.A. Universities.

With permission from the MMS hierarchy, I was given time to present and chat about the book that took me & a friend over 4 years to compile and have printed. (Sorry the book is no longer available – sold out)

In October 2013, offered my services (begged) to play some instrumentals and sing a few songs at a MMS Tuesday meeting selecting some classic rock hits. I played for 20 minutes or so and found that a number of keen fellows showed some interest in starting a singing and playing group. Felt I should give back some of what I have enjoyed over many years.

There happen to be another guitarist, keyboard player and some keen singers within the club who were more than willing to help out. We started having one hour sessions once a fortnight or so, initially with about 8 of us. At this stage an unnamed choir.

As the months passed by we also hired, at no expense, more singers, a saxophonist, guitarists and a drummer. By then we had quite a repertoire of songs with some nice band backing, almost ready to record some tunes with either Sony, RCA, or EMI - still waiting for the contract !

After a few great sessions we felt it was time to name ourselves.. With a consensus vote we became the: "The Rockin' Sheddens". Bit better than the "Rockin' Chairs" or "The Old F - arts".

With time some of the singers had decided to start playing a stringed instrument, either a guitar, ukulele, or in a couple of cases they simply retrieved the unused stringed instrument out of their cupboard which was keeping the mothballs company. There are many people who don't realise that they may have a hidden ability to sing or play or both.

The fellows that play instruments have also formed a separate group named "The Shedows" playing many classic instrumentals from the past played originally by the Shadows, Ventures , Duane Eddy and other guitar groups.

Periodically we add new tunes to keep everybody motivated. We have been featured 3 times now in the local newspapers in photos/editorials giving our club a good plug and help raise its profile for possible new members. We know have well over 110 members presently.



Over a number of years we have had a visit of representatives from the City of Swan, politicians and other dignitaries. Their

presence gave us an opportunity to perform some songs. How can any of us forget the Tom Jones classic song "Delilah" that we sang with some not so subtle word changes that spoke of our frustration of the fact that we do not have a workshop we call our own after many, many years. We sang a blunt message, vocally, but didn't appear to make any difference.

We all enjoy the singing and also have lots of laughs between our mistakes, but wouldn't miss it for the world and when I see guys leaving with a smile, sorry, smile on their dial you know you have had a great morning. Everybody can sing - but in their own way, and why not. Music is so good for the lungs and the soul, and not bad for my wallet at times.....

John Mills LLLM (Long Live Live Music)

DISCLAIMER

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EDINBURGH REPORTING:

- **Michael Davies**

Hello from a VERY quiet Edinburgh.

First of all thanks for continuing to send me your monthly newsletters, it's good to hear what the MMS are up to these days. Also, Mr Mills who I am in regular contact with thought that you may (or may not) like to know how Edinburgh life is going after nearly two years away from sunny Perth.

As you are fully aware, due to the coronavirus, life as we knew it has come to a standstill. Alix and I are self isolating as much as we can with only short journeys out to get groceries or medicine. We are allowed to have a daily walk to get some fresh air and exercise but of course we keep a good distance from other folk. Alix being a teacher and recognised as a key worker has to go into school from time to time to teach, entertain, help or/and support children of other key workers. This is of course a worry to me as the guys on the frontline come home to their kids each night and then the kids go to their teachers at school. Easter holidays have been cancelled and teachers are still going to school on a rota basis and on other days video link with their pupils - it's a tough time for all. I must however, say that our NHS is wonderful, they do a great job and on Thursday evenings at 8pm we all stand outside and show our appreciation and clap. It's quite emotional actually hearing the whole street clapping or banging on pots.

Life has been good and kind to us over the last year, we are thoroughly enjoying being here and close to our families. I have a daughter and two grandkids here in Edinburgh and it's really special to spend quality time with them with visits to castles, lochs and surrounds. My son and grandson live in Barry, S Wales and we have seen a lot of each other, especially at Christmas. I had forgotten what Christmas with kids was like!! Mayhem but great, and to top it all a great Christmas dinner at a temperature you can enjoy it in! Turkey with all its trimmings in a summer temperature of 36 deg is no fun and I never liked the idea of Christmas in July - it's not Christmas!

Edinburgh as you probably know has a huge number of tourists all year round, now it's like a ghost town. When open there is a huge choice of shops, pubs, restaurants, cinemas, concert halls, theatres, parks, walks etc. and as we live a stone throw away from Princes Street everything is on our doorstep so a lot of exercise is done by walking everywhere. It's such a shame that all these places are now locked or boarded up, everyone is hurting.

I have also made many new friends at my local bowling club, this year the club celebrates its 150th anniversary and many plans have been made, we even had flash new polo shirts to wear. All of this has now been cancelled.

The guys have really welcomed this Welsh/Ozzie into their club. After 23 years in Australia it's really hard to adjust one's vocabulary and I have amused them a few times when talking about my thongs, my long or short pants and sayings such as Good Onya Mate or He's got a few emus loose in the top paddock! Mind you it has taken me quite some time to understand a few of them too! I wonder if a few of your members who have some Scottish in them remember some of these words:

Bairns	Kids	Aye	Yes
Quines	Girls	Wee	Small
Loons	Young men	Faff	Taking time to sort something out
Havering	Talking rubbish	Ken	To know something or someone
Scran	Food	Blether	A good chat
Minging	Not very nice	Dreich	Overcast weatherwise
Nippy	Cold	Drookit	Very wet/soaked/drenched

So there you are, next time you listen to The Proclaimers you will know what they are singing about. Well I have BLETH-ERED on for far too long so I will leave you by wishing all the members at the MMS all the best and hope that you all will stay safe in the coming weeks and months. Please don't watch too much news - it really is not good for your mental health.

Michael & Alix Davies

PS A special Ows it going boys to The Rockin' Shedders , keep practising.

THANKS:

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this Newsletter, we are back to 6 pages. Well done, Guys.

OH HAPPY DAYS:

- **Pete Arnell**

This enforced, but necessary, self-imposed quarantine, that we are experiencing at the moment is proving to be quite a revelation for me. Now I've lived in the same house for a couple of decades now, and I thought I knew every nook and cranny, but it appears that there is a room that I had no real knowledge of; its called a Laundry, and it houses an appliance that is called a Washing machine. Now why you would need a Machine to wash oneself, has got me beat!!

No!! I'll stick to the time honoured method of standing over a basin, and dousing myself with warm soapy water. I don't need a machine to do it for me. Which leads me to a request to do the Washing Up, Now really!! How else do you wash yourself, but standing UP, in a vertical plane, upright, Of course!. I have followed the traditional way of showering, by standing UP for years, and I have no intention of sitting or even lying down to shower, COVID-19 or not.

Then I was asked to make the Bed, Now come on!! I'm perfectly happy with the bed we have slept in for years, its very near perfection in its comfort. So why I have to make another is beyond me, it would be necessary for me to go to Bunnings, {if its open} to buy timber and metal brackets and screws, nails and carpentry tools, to what end?. So NO!! I don't need another bed.



My beloved then informed me that we were the proud owners of a Vacuum cleaner, Now in a past life I was an Engineer, and was familiar with a Vacuum, it is a space with no matter [including gases] in it, Its the degree to which pressure has been brought below atmospheric pressure. is therefore something that is void of all matter, So when I'm asked to empty the bag inside this device, to find it filled with dust and grime, How can it be a Vacuum? I'm beginning to think that Sir James Dyson is perhaps trying to pull the Wool over our Eyes. But never the less, we own one. but what its purpose is defeats me.

I was then made aware of the large fridge in the corner of the Kitchen, why we need two has me baffled, the Bar fridge is more than adequate to keep the wine chilled.

I was then introduced to a large white Enamel and shiny chrome appliance called a Oven or Cooker or even a stove which apparently is where food is cooked, but why we need this, when I have all my culinary skills on hand, in the form of the backyard Barbie, that belches clouds of smoke, indicating that the Fillet Steak you placed on the grill has reached the ultimate cremation temperature, and has now obtained the colour of Lamp Black, It has had all it nutriments destroyed, and now resembles a lump of coal, and has the same hardness of about 300 on the Rockwell or Brinell scale. And why do we need a 4 slice toaster, when I can brown my slice of bread on the BBQ, which has just caught fire, from the meat fat, that has dripped onto the hot coals.



So why do we have all these household appliances, that my better half insists are indispensable to domestic bliss, but I find just take up room. Room where a Wine rack could go for instance. So during this period of self-imposed isolation, and bearing in mind, that we will need to maintain the stiff upper lip, for at the very least the next 3 months, and for the sake of peace and harmony, I am prepared to listen to my Beloved, and understand what Washing Up really means, and also learn to operate these household appliances.

So can you teach an old dog new tricks? Well it appears that Yes you can!!

NOW WHERE'S THE ON/OFF SWITCH FOR THIS DAMN HOOVER..

Carpe Diem et Tutem Manere

Seize the day and stay safe.

ZOOM SESSIONS:

The Zoom Sessions are held each Tuesday morning at 10a.

You will need a camera and mike on your computer, tablet or mobile phone to be part of the session.

At 10a log into:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76725679779?pwd=UWdJYW9TV2Fqa0tGdUMxb0xTY3ZDQT09>