



# The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2020  
ISSUE NO 106

*Blokes, jokes, mates and more*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



It's been a very good month with progress on several fronts.

Firstly the attendances on Social Tuesdays has risen to about 50 guys a week and seems to be sitting around that number which is very good considering we restarted after the Corona shut down we didn't get much more than a dozen, so I'm very pleased with that.

Secondly the pad for the new containers has been put down and is now ready for the new containers. This work has been carried on by the City of Swan for which we are very grateful. Attendances at the Work Shop have been good.

We are also now allowed to use the church for guest speakers albeit with need to clean what we use.

Michael is taking a rest from kitchen duties and its good to see those that have stepped in to help. We are going to need to fine tune this duty to spread the load in such a way that more guys take a turn, maybe a roster where a couple or tree guys do it for a month and then change to another team.

It's been pleasing to see most guys stay back and clean up the chairs and tables. This seems to be a time for a few more jokes and laughs.

Thanks and cheers

*John Griffiths*

President

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## COMING EVENTS:

- September 15th "Sandakan Death Marches" - Bob Coventry
- November 17th "Cape Horn or Bust" - Fran Taylor
- December 15th Christmas Lunch

## 10TH BIRTHDAY:

Thanks to Dawn Partridge, the daughter of our late inaugural Secretary-Treasurer, we were able to have a special morning tea on the 25th. Due to COVID19 we were not able to have our usual Birthday event.

Our special thanks go out to Dawn for her very kind donation towards this event.

*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*

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## MEMBERSHIP STATS:

TUESDAY MORNINGS	AUGUST
Average Attendance for month (Members)	49.8
No. Members 100%	25
Visitors for month	4
Av Weekly Attendance (Inc Visitors)	50.8
Best Week Attendance	53
New Members	Nil
<b>MIDVALE WORKSHOPS:</b>	
Total attendance for the month	197
Average daily attendance	12.3

## JOKING OF COURSE:

*Sally announces to her mother that she is marrying the postman!*

*"What?" her mother exclaims, "but he could be your father!"*

*"Mum, age is just a number!" Sally retorts.*

*"No, dear, that's not what I meant."*

*A teacher asked her class to write on "What's the bravest thing your dad has done?"*

*A student wrote - "My dad married my mum."*

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?:

- **Ray Lewis**

The TV program and its major sponsor from which this article takes its title makes tracing family roots seem so very easy. Not so! I am always amused by the ease with which celebrities are able to trace their family roots. A number of you may already know, I have been researching my family history for some time. I decided long ago that I would only do due diligence on my wife's and my families back to our respective grandparents. There were a few reasons. The main reason was that my wife's maternal grandparents' family had arrived in Liverpool from Ireland in the 19th Century and birth, marriage and death records were very difficult to track. No doubt, I am sure that such records for her family exist and things will get easier.

Similarly, my family had some problems too. My paternal grandfather was brought up as his mother's brother by his grandmother and like my maternal great-grandfather had no father's name on his birth certificate. Yes, I will freely admit, I am descended from at least one bastard. Fairly difficult to get past them to follow any male line. There is, of course, that my granddad, Hector's paternal line might not be one to which I want to belong. However, I shouldn't complain. Without him, I wouldn't exist.

I started my research before the advent of DNA testing and now it might be possible to find out my paternal great-grandfather's name and, with Irish records becoming easier to find I might start the research some time. However, we don't wish to take up either challenge. Firstly, because we don't have that sort of cash. Our pockets are not that deep. Sure, if we won a large amount of money from the lottery, we could afford to employ a band of researchers and enjoy the fruits of their labours as they uncover the secrets of our family's origins.

Further, another problem is the length of time it might take. I have no idea how long each celebrity's tree takes to uncover nor how many researchers it might take to uncover a vital fact. The number of our ancestors, just allowing for the usual crop of ancestors, doubles with each generation. If my maths is correct, that's 1024 people just going back eight generations. And of course, you have to remember the old adage penned by the bard of Avon William Shakespeare "It is a wise father that knows his own child." but which has its origins centuries before in Homer's Odyssey. Something of which every genealogical researcher is aware.

No, there isn't too much more to say except to say that finding out who you think you are isn't as easy as typing in one's name and pressing "Enter." as the television advert would have you believe. It may be a place to start but it will take more than that unless you come from an illustrious ancestral line and even then, it ain't that easy. Finally, another hurdle is that online searches via a commercial searchable database such as 'Ancestry' and 'Find My Past' and others can be very expensive if you are not aware of the vagaries of looking for your ancestors.

## MICK'S CARVING:

The following is Mick Beatty's latest carving. It is of Michelangelo, the famous Italian artist who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.



## WORKSHOP REPORT:

- **Brian Beer**

The pad has been laid to house our two new sea containers and by the time you read this Newsletter the containers will be in place.

Special thanks go out the guys who made two trips to obtain donations of plywood and other items. Great effort guys.



## MOTORING - RUN TO GREENMOUNT:

- **Steve Rees**

*This article is reprinted from the "West Australian" Saturday 16th May, 1908 and is reproduced with the permission of the "West Australian".*

The Automobile Club of Western Australia have issued invitations to motorists to partake of afternoon tea at Greenmount, on the York Road, this afternoon. The committee have arranged to receive visitors at the Greenmount Rock\*, a very beautiful spot some 15 miles from Perth, and as the roads are in an excellent condition after the recent rains it is expected that a large number of motorists will make the outing. For the direction of motorists cars will take the road through Guildford and Midland Junction keeping to the right of the Midland Junction post office.

The club held a committee meeting last week, at which there was a full attendance of ten members. Mr. A. E. Morgans being in the chair. A great amount of good work was done at the meeting, and the secretary was asked to write to several of the roads boards with reference to the state of the roads in their districts. Since the meeting satisfactory replies have been received from the various boards, and in one or two cases the surveyor for the district has kindly consented to go over the sections with the club's representative, and expressing their willingness to assist the club in every possible manner in the matter of the roads over which cars travel.

It is satisfactory to find that the various boards welcome the motorists in their districts, seeming to recognise that it brings these suburbs favourably in the eye of the travelling public, and it is thought that the joint action of the club and the various bodies concerned will do a good deal towards making it possible for the pleasure loving public to visit the various beauty spots within motoring distance of Perth.

\* *Greenmount Rock was not a rock festival, it probably referred to Chippers Leap which was then on the right hand side of Old York Road (going east). near the entrance to Gt. Eastern Highway. It is now on the left side (also heading east) of Gt. Eastern Highway, In 1908 (Old) York Road was the main road through to York, Gt. Eastern Highway was not completed until 1930's)*

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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

## SOME THOUGHTS ON SHOPPING OVER THE YEARS:

- **Keith Donetta**

We can all remember, 'back in our youth', the inconvenience of buying fuel over the weekend, or late at night, when we would drive into a closed service station and scan the list of 'roster' stations open, and hope like hell we had enough fuel in the tank to get to the nearest. Or the panic to get to the shops before midday on a Saturday when Western Australia went into hibernation and every door in the business world closed firmly. Of having a project planned for a weekend and finding at 11.45 that vital components had not been bought. The 'good old days' were often very frustrating. One needed cash for a shopping expedition and this had to come from a bank that opened only when we were at work ourselves.

One of the pluses was the service one received from businesses. The supermarkets employed boys who would take your groceries out to your car and pack them in the boot. Another was in the many small hardware stores that every suburb boasted. They were housed in tiny shops with a store shed out back, yet they seemed to stock everything we needed. Living at the time in an old house in Eden Hill, I frequented Bassendean Hardware where the owner, a Di Williams, (who was as Welsh as his name!) was a pleasure to deal with. Nothing was too much trouble. He was typical of the many hardware store owners of the day. And yes, you could buy nails by the pound, wrapped in newspaper for a few pence. Service was always paramount. A hardware store in Morley decided to open at the weekends, defying Government bans. The guy was fined every weekend he opened. Yet cars from all over the north-eastern suburbs were parked around his shop and he gleefully told me that the Government fine was peanuts compared with the money he was making. Soon after, hours of business for hardware stores were altered. Thank heavens.

Nowadays in Perth, one usually has to visit Bunnings for their hardware requirements. It is so convenient. But is it? Bunnings stock just about everything, but finding it on their shelves is something else. There are never enough assistants and the time spent looking for even commonplace items can be considerable. And how about those bloody blister packs. These seem to be getting harder and harder to open without injury to your hands. But maybe this is because we're getting older and more senile.

Garage staff would clean your windscreens and check your oil level. They'd even check your tyre pressures. Their shops stocked parts for your car, like fan belts or car light globes as well as plugs and points. A visit to the service station has changed. Everything must be done by the customer. Driveway service is just about extinct. Far fewer service stations and more vehicles on the road generally means a queue to get to the pump. Paying for your purchase often incurs a lengthy wait, while other folk are busy buying takeaway food. The spares shelves are long gone, to be replaced by numerous displays of potato chips and music CDs. If you pay cash, you get hated. And it pays to check out fuel prices on-line to save yourself up to 40c/litre.

Moving into this century, some things have improved. Credit cards for example. My wife and I rarely ever use cash any more. We buy almost everything on our credit cards. Once a month the bank is instructed to take the full amount owed out of our account. The convenience is appreciated and the cost of using the card is really very cheap, although that convenience does tend to encourage us to spent a bit more on the card.

My wife has perfected her hobby of buying only specials. She goes on-line to compare prices and saves a considerable amount of housekeeping money each week by buying items that each supermarket has 'on special'. This ensures that each Wednesday we are able to trawl our way through Ellenbrook and visit Coles, Woolworths, IGA and Aldi.

We usually buy our fuel from the Upper Swan Puma, which gives an RAC discount. The savings we make using my wife's RAC membership card on petrol and other goods, pays for her membership subs each year.

Back in the day when the only freezers at home were the tiny compartments in the top of the fridge, food shopping was often done daily at the 'corner store'. Many women in those days were housewives and stay-at-home mothers, not in regular outside employment. These corner stores morphed into the familiar 'delis', which in turn, have now almost disappeared.

Every item bought had a price label or stamp on it and the 'checkout-chick' had to laboriously tap this price into the cash register. The bar codes came along much later, as well as 'use by' or 'best before' labels. Goods were placed in paper bags before the detested throw-away plastic bags, which have been outlawed and replaced by the very old idea of reusable shopping bags. There was less choice of products, but at least almost all goods, including our food, were Australian produce manufactured in our own country. Imported food was almost unheard of. I don't understand why this is still not so.

Bottled water? Why do we buy bottled water at a cost far greater than petrol, when we have some of the purist water on the planet in our taps?

Can you remember when schools used to have bottle drives? Our kids would knock on all the neighbours to collect their empty glass soft drink bottles. The schools deposited the money raised for their funds. Plastic bottles appeared and deposits disappeared. Yet now that system is about to be re-introduced on drink containers in the hope that it will clean up Australia.

Then we arrive at my biggest hate. "You recently dealt with us, so please take a few moments to fill out our survey on line". This happens almost every time you buy or pay for anything. The banks do it, supermarkets do it, service providers do it. They don't seem to understand that if they don't hear from me, then everything is tickety-boo. If I am unhappy, then they will very definitely hear from me. As far as reviews go, they are ridiculous and meaningless. An unscrupulous business operator merely gets his mates or relatives to add a few fictitious reviews telling the world how marvellous he is. I buy stuff on e-bay and yet I am always prompted to give a review.

## SOME THOUGHTS ON SHOPPING OVER THE YEARS - CONTINUED:

- **Keith Donetta**

They tell me that the seller has given me a 100% rating. Of course they have; they don't send me the goods until they have received full payment including any mail cost.

I am very lucky having travelled extensively in the UK and Europe. I make all my bookings for accommodation, air, rail and rental cars on-line, as we go along. Can you imagine how many demands I get for reviews? If I did them all, I would have to allow at least one hour of my sightseeing time each day!

It is great to be able to sit in the comfort of one's study to check out goods one wishes to buy on-line. It makes life easy to relax and choose, hassle free, then pay for the items and have them delivered, usually surprisingly quickly. I once ordered a new water pump for my seventy year old Austin from suburban Melbourne. Within 24 hours of placing the order, I had received the correct pump, fitted it to the car and had test driven it. Surely that couldn't have been bettered.

Choosing and buying clothing is probably one of the few times it is better to go to a traditional shop. Actually checking out how the garment looks on you in the dressing room, before purchase, is very important. Standardised sizing is needed universally on clothing and shoes.

Being able to check out goods one wishes to buy on-line on the computer sitting safely in a comfortable study, has to be appreciated, especially during this Covid-19 era.

Despite the many pitfalls and scams operating, I think shopping for us all is far easier and more fun than it ever has been.

## LEMON CUSTARD TART:

- **Harry Barden**

"Money makes the world go around" or so you would think, Let me explain. Now I have a sweet tooth and recently I was passing a shop, where on display were a wonderful array of cakes, tarts and pastries, all looking deliciously mouth watering beautiful. One caught my eye a Lemon Custard Tart, Which I'm sure was smiling at me, and saying "Please pick me!! and take me home, I wish to be eaten". And priced at \$3.50 a bargain.

The young Lady behind the counter, with great care and tenderness, so as not to damage its compelling Come-Hither look, placed it in a bag. I in return, in exchange offered a \$5 note which the last time I looked was Legal tender in the Commonwealth of Australia. This is when things turned sour!! Smiling sweetly the young Lady said, Sorry we don't accept cash, only Credit Cards here. My mouth which seconds before was salivating in anticipation of devouring the Lemon Tart, now went dry, and with a voice which sounded like a rusty hinge, I rasped in reply You expect me to pay the Paltry sum of \$3.50 by credit card, when I am offering you a \$5 note. Her reply was, well others do!! Its the Covid19 . I did a smart about turn that my Drill Sergeant would have been proud of. In retreat I then thought, if I had paid by card, with all the Bank charges and fees you have to pay on every purchase, goodness knows how much my Lemon Tart would have cost.

Now I know that many shops are requesting you pay by Credit Card, but it is a request only ,because they don't want to handle, what could be contaminated money, or because they can't workout, without the aid of a calculator the correct change to give you. But to refuse to accept cash, is in my opinion O.T.T. in these strange times. I know we are rapidly moving into a Cashless Society, but it HASN'T HAPPENED YET!!!!.So, my question does anyone have the right to refuse to accept legal tender in payment for a purchase of goods, or are they at liberty to do so. Because in this case the Cake Shop lost a sale, and what is more to the point "I DID'NT GET TO DEVOUR THAT MOUTH WATERING LEMON CUSTARD TART"

**Editor's Note:**

*A check on the Internet has revealed the following:*

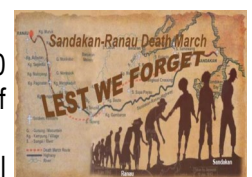
*The simple answer is that business can refuse to take cash in most circumstances. The Reserve Bank of Australia has set out the rules.*

*'Australian banknotes and coins do not necessarily have to be used in transactions and refusal to accept payment in legal tender banknotes and coins is not unlawful,' it states.*

## SANDAKAN DEATH MARCH:

Our Guest Speaker on the 15th September will be Bob Coventry. Bob has had a career of over 40 years in the Army. He has an interest in Military History and has visited several significant areas of Australian troops involvement in WW1, WW2 and Vietnam.

He hopes his presentation on the events that occurred at Sandakan and on the Death Marches, will provide current generations cause to reflect on all those who Served, Suffered and Died.





## HOLIDAYS:

- **Pete Arnell**

After the turmoil of the last six months, I would suggest that we are in need of a Holiday, maybe not in Bali or Skiing in the Swiss Alps or even a Cruise in the Caribbean, but here in W.A. Of course the word Holiday is generated from the word HOLY-DAY and were first ordained by the Church as an observance to certain days in the Christian calendar, the Birth, Death and Resurrection of Christ in particular. Later certain Saints were included in this observance. Some would say that this was just a money making exercise, by the Church where as observance a tithe or 1/10th of a persons income or their crop was given to the Church. An example of this practice was the increase in Holy-days, that by 1834 in the U.K a total of 33 Saint days were observed, plus the traditional Holy-days or days of Obligation like Christmas and Easter. It was expected that the ordinary people, workers on the land, fishermen or tradesmen would observe these days, that didn't mean they had a day off work. Quite the opposite, in the middle ages the working week was during daylight hours seven days a week, No!! it meant that they attended Mass usually during the hours of darkness.

Then in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in Europe and North America the Industrial Revolution occurred, causing a major upheaval in the lives of ordinary people, when there was a mass exodus from the land and fishing ports, to the Towns and Cities of the Nation. Here Cotton mills and iron Works sprung up, coal mines flourished to provide coal to service steam power that these factories relied on to keep the wheels of Industry turning. A new paradigm had been established, new towns were built to house those people who had left the land to work in these industries. Here people not only lived cheek by jowl with each other, but also worked shoulder to shoulder with their neighbours, in the Mills and Mines, and steel works, and ship yards and that new Industry the railways. During this period these Industries were Labour intensive, So it was not unusual for whole families to work including the children, some as young as 5 or 6 years of age. In the early 1800s in Britain child labour/exploitation was slowly coming to an end, but it did take several Acts of Parliament to bring this exploitation to an end, but it was not until the late 1800s that it was wiped out, In fact in the USA child labour was still the norm until the 1920s where boys, called Breaker Boys were employed to remove impurities from coal at the pit head. Then of course when they reached a certain age went down the mine. By the 1830s in Britain, in particular a lot of the machines in these factories were reaching their use-by date. So the owners would close them for maintenance and repair, and also to introduce new machinery to improve production and improve the working conditions, these shutdowns were known in Scotland as Trades Fort-night and in the NE and NW of England they were known as Wakes Weeks. There were of course opponents to this new technology, called Luddites. but that's a story for another time.

So what did the workers do with this unpaid and enforced recreational time? They on mass went on HOLIDAY. Holiday funds were set-up across all the industries where workers would contribute a penny or two a week to pay for their Holiday. They tried to emulate the upper and middle classes, who spent their spare time in health resorts dotted across Britain and Europe, "Taking the Waters" in places like Bath, Harrogate or Leamington Spa. but these resorts were beyond the ordinary workers. They were the domain of the rich and powerful. In the early 1800s the Railways started to spread like a spiders web across the Nation, primarily to transport the wealthy to these health resorts. The first cab of the rank so to speak was to Brighton, a favourite of the then Prince of Wales, who had the Brighton Pavilion built, the railway arrived in 1837, the Industrial heartland was now beginning to be joined to the coastal towns, places where the workers could afford to go, Scarborough in 1845, Blackpool and Harrogate in 1846, Bournemouth in 1862, Morecombe 1864, Skegness 1875 and Cromer in Norfolk in 1877. These places became the favourite Holiday destinations for many of the workers and their families. Of course this created a complete new industry, that of the Boarding house and the Legendry Land Lady of Entertainment Arcades etc. where complete streets from the towns of the Industrial North would spend their Wakes Weeks having a Holiday, not giving I would suspect, a second thought to the HOLY-DAYS of the Saints. In fact in 1871, most of the Saint days were scrapped, so the poor people of Cornwall for instance could not celebrate St Piran's Day. This was when the Bank Holiday came into being, meaning that no financial transactions could take place, because the Banks were closed by Law. Paid Holidays were just a pipe dream for workers until, after a lot of hard work by Trade Unions in 1938 it was accepted by Employers that all Holidays would be Paid.

It wasn't until the late 1800s that, gradually workers in most industries started to elect workers to represent them in matters relating to their employment This of course grew into the Union Movement, and through their persistence made the workers lives a little more bearable. I realise that most of my research has been centred around the U.K, but I suspect there was very little difference in Australia. Where it was the Union Movement that obtained the paid holiday entitlements of the workers, better in a lot of respects than their counterparts in the U.K. When I came to live and work for a mining company in the Pilbara I was pleasantly surprised to find I was entitled to 4 weeks annual paid leave [it was 2 weeks in the U.K.] and 10 paid public holidays a year, plus 10 paid Sick days leave. Now you know why I made Australia my home, it wasn't just the weather. So enjoy your Holiday in W.A there are many wonderful places to see. Me I'm going to check out Jurien Bay they say its worth a visit especially the PUB.

*The only time you should look down on your fellow man,  
is when you are helping them back to their feet*