



The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

OCTOBER 2020
ISSUE NO 107

Blokes, jokes, mates and more

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Attendance numbers have been rising albiet steady since the resumption following Corona shut down. The best being 62 on 8/9/2020 for Social Tuesdays which is real good. The teamwork before and after the Tuesday meeting to prepare and clean up the hall has been good so thanks to all who have helped. The workshop has progressed with steady numbers attending both the workshop, the Art group, and the Musos.

We have only had one guest speaker and we look forward to increasing that feature but the "Rockin Shedders" have made good use of the extra free time.

The AGM is next week so remember the start time and come along to appoint and endorse the new office bearers and committee members'

Thank you all for your support this last month.

John Griffiths

President

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COMING EVENTS:

- October 6th Annual General Meeting
- November 14th Community Day—Centrepoint Shopping Centre
- November 17th "Cape Horn or Bust" - Fran Taylor
- December 15th Christmas Lunch

COMMUNITY DAY:

Date: Saturday 14th November 2020

Time: 10am to 1pm

Centrepoint Midland Shopping Centre

We will be seeking members to help set up our stand , man the stand and then to pack up.

If you can help out please advise Kevin.

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	SEPTEMBER
Average Attendance for month (Members)	54.8
% Attendance for Month (Members)	52.2
No. Members 100%	22
Visitors for month	6
Av Weekly Attendance (Inc Visitors)	56
Best Week Attendance	62
New Members	2
MIDVALE WORKSHOPS:	
Total attendance for the month	210
Average daily attendance	13

THOUGHTS ON AGING:

- You're getting old when you're sitting in a rocker and you can't get it started.
- You're getting old when you wake up with that morning-after feeling, and you didn't do anything the night before.
- The cardiologist's diet - if it tastes good, spit it out.
- You know you're getting old when you stop buying green bananas.
- When you lean over to pick something up off the floor, you ask yourself if there is anything else you need to do while you are down there.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CROW AND RAVEN:

- **Bob Lawson**

The Australian species of Raven and Crow belong to the family Corvidae, a family that has over 40 species spread across most of the Northern Hemisphere, Africa and Australia.

As Australia was first settled by Europeans most of the species discovered here were given names from "back home" by their discoverers. The Common Raven of Europe is the largest member of the Corvid family averaging 63cm. Its cousin the Carrion Crow is only 50cm and also calls Europe home.

On this bases when the first 2 Australian species were described by naturalists the larger species was named the Australian Raven and second being a little smaller was named the Torresian Crow.

Today there are 5 members of the Corvid family native to Australia. All are entirely black in plumage which seen in the sun has a glossy sheen, all have light coloured eyes and throat hackles of varying lengths. The range of the 5 species combined covers the entire country including Tasmania and most offshore islands.

Distinguishing between the species can be difficult and is best done with a bit of knowledge on the distribution of the species. Currently the only species that calls the Perth metropolitan area home is the Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*) and they have become more common over time as they have become accustomed to scavenging at parks, rubbish tips, shopping centre carparks and even taking pet and livestock feed. The Australian Raven does have the longest throat hackles of the Australia Corvids but not by much when compared to its east coast relatives.



The Little Crow (*Corvus bennetti*) is the next species whose distribution comes close to Perth. It's commonly found North of Carnarvon, Paynes Find and East of Kalgoorlie; to be seen in the Metro area is very rare.

PHOBIAS:

<i>Acrophobia</i>	<i>fear of heights</i>
<i>Aerophobia</i>	<i>fear of flying</i>
<i>Alektorophobia</i>	<i>fear of chickens</i>
<i>Arachnophobia</i>	<i>fear of spiders</i>
<i>Astraphobia</i>	<i>fear of thunder and lightning</i>
<i>Autophobia</i>	<i>fear of being alone</i>
<i>Claustrophobia</i>	<i>fear of confined or crowded spaces</i>
<i>Cryophobia</i>	<i>fear of ice or cold</i>
<i>Homophobia</i>	<i>fear of blood</i>
<i>Hydrophobia</i>	<i>fear of water</i>
<i>Nephophobia</i>	<i>fear of clouds</i>
<i>Onomatophobia</i>	<i>fear of names</i>
<i>Ophidiophobia</i>	<i>fear of snakes</i>
<i>Pogonophobia</i>	<i>fear of beards</i>
<i>Zoophobia</i>	<i>fear of animals</i>

And finally:

Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is one of the longest words in the dictionary - and, in an ironic twist, is the name for a fear of long words.

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) was created in 1896 by Charles Dow and originally consisted of 12 companies: American Cotton Oil, American Sugar, American Tobacco, Chicago Gas, Distilling & Cattle Feeding, General Electric, Laclede Gas, National Lead, North American, Tennessee Coal and Iron, U.S. Leather, and U.S. Rubber.

At the time, these companies were among the titans of American industry. General Electric is the only company that has retained its place on the DJIA under its original name since the index's inception. Others were broken up, taken over, dissolved, or relegated to subsidiary status over the years.

JOKING OF COURSE:

A man entered a pet shop, wanting to buy a parrot. The shop owner pointed out three identical parrots on a perch and said, "The parrot to the left costs 500 dollars."

"Why does that parrot cost so much?" the man wondered.

The owner replied, "Well, it knows how to use a computer."

The man asked about the next parrot on the perch.

"That one costs 1,000 dollars because it can do everything the other parrot can do, plus it knows how to use the UNIX operating system."

Naturally, the startled customer asked about the third parrot.

"That one costs 2,000 dollars."

"And what does that one do?" the man asked.

The owner replied, "To be honest, I've never seen him do a thing, but the other two call him boss!"

A young and foolish pilot wanted to sound cool on the aviation frequencies. This was his first time approaching a field during the night time.

Instead of making any official requests to the tower he said, "Guess who?"

The controller switched the field lights off and replied, "Guess where?"

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

NEIGHBOURS:

- **Paul Brady**

After reading an article in The West Australian Saturday August 22nd 2020, titled "Good Fence Required" my wife and I chatted for several hours about similar experiences relevant to people and neighbours. This writer (Robert Drewe) had lived in 42 houses in 3 states 3 countries and had some frightening experiences with neighbours. I, on the other hand, have only lived in 10 houses in 2 countries.

Since 1940 I lived in a village called Stratton-on-the Fosse, in Somerset and all the neighbours were pleasant with a few exceptions who complained about noise over the years whilst playing games, motor bikes and eventually cars. Upon getting married in 1962 my wife lived with me and my parents in the family home at Stratton, which had no bathroom and only an outdoor toilet. With a plan in mind to get money and buy our own home I turned professional with a rock band and toured Germany. Living accommodation was small and sometimes next to houses of ill repute. Over several months I had clothes stolen and never made good money contrary to the initial plan. My wife on the other hand applied for a council house in Stratton and insisted that I come home to UK and start our own home.

We made that house very comfortable and started our family in 1965. Our neighbours were a mixed lot, but generally good working people. Except for one family next door who stole my veggies from the garden and the son used to like to frighten my wife whilst I was on band jobs, by flashing a large knife through the letter box. One day I complained to the woman next door and was verbally abused, to which I retaliated by throwing an axe at her back door. This was not a good thing to do and we made our minds up to search for a house of our own. Very hard to do when you don't have much money, but a good friend in Real Estate introduced us to a lady who was selling an old house in Holcombe, and we managed to raise the funds to secure the property. Over a period of 6 years I worked as a contract electrician on the Mendips and made substantial money to improve the house. We eventually sold it in 1974 and emigrated to Perth. We lived with my wife's sister in High Wycombe for a few months, then we bought a house in Swan View. The neighbours were friendly but a little demanding by dropping their kids off in the morning expecting us to take them to school.

We sold that house and rented in Brockman Road, Midland, whilst we built a new house in Swan Road, Swan View. Brockman Rd was a lovely place and very neighbourly. Our kids got on famously with all the other kids in the street. Within a year our new house was ready and we moved in. My parents had meanwhile, also emigrated to Perth and lived with us at Swan Road. Several months later my wife's sister and husband built a house next door to us in Swan Road. Their 3 boys and my 2 girls got on great and always had lovely times.

During our time in Swan Rd. We bought a unit in Subiaco which was a good earner rent wise. The people on the management council were very picky but we always agreed to suggested improvements. We then built a holiday home in Singleton, a two storey kit home with lovely views over the bay. Our neighbours there were also lovely people. On the left, a man from Beverley who was an electrical contractor and flew planes for a hobby. On the right people who worked on mine sites and kept an eye on the place when we were not there. After a while when interest rates went through the roof, we sold all our property and bought a block of land in Jane Brook, which was owned by the Catholic church. We lived with my sister in law whilst our new house was being built and we all got on very well. At that time – 1996- all the neighbours were first time owners in Bourke View and we had many parties over several years. Now many have moved on, but a few of us have remained as we love where we live. As time has weakened me particularly I am fortunate to have some very good close neighbours who have helped me with lawns and leaking reticulation. Unlike the person in the newspaper article who had some horrific experiences with neighbours – we have been fortunate enough to live among lovely people.

ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT TESTING:

As members are aware, all electric tools and appliances that are used in the Shed need to be tested and tagged prior to use. It depends on the type of tool and appliance as to whether this testing needs to be carried out every 6 or 12 or 24 months. We have our own team of qualified testers in our Shed. These tests and the tagging are required under legal regulations and hence we take them very seriously.

What is the consequence to the general membership? Simple! Any and all electric tools and appliances that you own and wish to bring to the Shed to be used on your project has to be tested and tagged or it cannot be used in the Shed, no matter how vital it is to complete your project. Battery driven tools are exempt, but their chargers are included.

Usually the testers nominate a date when they are available to do the tagging and all tests are recorded in a Register and a Tag is attached to the power cord. If you do have such a tool or appliance that you want tested and tagged please advise Bill by email at william.naturalny@bigpond.com so the necessary arrangements will be made. When tested and tagged it is expected that a small donation be made to the Shed.

Don't be afraid to say I made a mistake.

SNAKES:

- **Bob Lawson**

A little bit about Snakes, well maybe a lot about Snakes

Snakes are grouped into more than 20 families, although the majority fall into these 5 major families – Colubridae, Pythonidae, Elapidae, Viperidae, Boidae.

It is important that we educate our visitors about the importance of snakes to help remove some of the fear associated with them and prevent the senseless killing of snakes by people who fear or dislike them. Many harmless snakes, and even legless lizards, are killed this way.

There are fewer than 300 species of venomous snakes, and of those only about half are capable of inflicting a lethal bite. Snakes can control the amount of venom they inject and may bite aggressively for food or defensively for protection. Snakes have a limited amount of venom available at any given time and do not want to waste it on non-prey organisms. Almost half of the snake bites suffered by humans are defensive in nature and “dry” (without venom).

Venomous snakes are often referred to as “poisonous”, although we know this phrase is not technically correct, because the term “poisonous” only applies to organisms that unload their toxins when another organism consumes them. Very few snakes are truly poisonous.

Fossil records show snakes evolved over 130 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. Many cultures since prehistoric times (including various present-day cultures) have viewed snakes as sacred. Serpent worship is one of the earliest forms of worship, with some carvings dating to 10,000 bc. Globally, there are vast superstitions and mythologies about snakes; many stemming from the snakes’ biological peculiarities: such as, their ability to shed their skin is associated with immortality; and their ever-open eyes represent omniscience. However we also know that snakes are feared in many cultures. Satan is depicted as a serpent in the biblical account of the Creation; their propensity for sudden appearance and disappearance allies snakes with ghosts; and their ability to kill with a single bite creates fear of any snakelike creature.

Snakes can be found on every continent except Antarctica, and they are not found in New Zealand or Ireland either (although New Zealand's waters are infrequently visited by the yellow-bellied sea snake and the banded sea krait). Snakes occupy a wide range of environments, from deserts to mountains to oceans. Snakes are highly mobile creatures, able to move over sand and rocks; burrow in the soil; squeeze through cracks and crevasses in rocks; climb near vertical rock walls and the thinnest tree branches; and even swim at great speed - all without limbs!

Cloacal spurs just in front of the junction between the body and the tail of boas and pythons, are visible remnants of hind limbs and a reminder that snakes evolved from a legged reptile. Snakes are cold blooded so can't regulate their own body temperature. There can be up to 400 vertebrae found in some species, and the tail is usually about 20% the length of the entire body. Most snakes do not spend much of their time doing anything but resting. A snake's primary activity is concerned with either thermoregulation or finding live food, which often involves passive waiting rather than active searching.

The Barbados Thread Snake is said to be the smallest snake in the world, growing to an average length of approx 10cm. At the other end of the scale, the world's longest snake is the Reticulated Python, reaching lengths up to 10m (32ft). The Anaconda is the heaviest snake, weighing about 130kg (300lbs) on average. In South America in 2008, fossils were found in a coal mine, of a snake, named Titanoboa, estimated to be 43ft and 2,500lbs.

Some snake species have become threatened due to land clearing for agriculture, urban development and through the introduction of domestic pets and the cane toad. In Australia, snakes and other reptiles make up a significant proportion of the middle-order predators that keep our natural ecosystems working. Without them the numbers of prey species would increase to unnatural levels and the predators that eat snakes would struggle to find food. Their presence or removal from an area directly impacts the health of an ecosystem. Along with all Australian animals, snakes are protected under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and cannot be killed or taken from the wild. Maintaining a high level of biodiversity is important to all life on Earth, including humans, and snakes are an important part of that biodiversity.



CLOTHESLINES:

Remembering Mum's Clothesline (If you don't even know what 'clotheslines' are, better skip this, or better yet, read on. You might learn something.)

THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES:

- 1) You had to hang the socks by the toes - NOT the top.
- 2) You hung pants by the BOTTOM/cuffs - NOT the waistbands.
- 3) You had to WASH the clothes line(s) before hanging any clothes. Walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
- 4) You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
- 5) You NEVER hung a shirt by the shoulders – always by the tail! What would the neighbours think?
- 6) Wash day was Monday! NEVER hang clothes on the weekend, especially on Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
- 7) Hang the sheets and towels on the OUTSIDE lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busy-bodies, you know!)
- 8) It didn't matter if it was sub-zero weather - clothes would "freeze-dry."
- 9) ALWAYS gather the pegs when taking down dry clothes! Pegs left on the lines were seen as "tacky".
- 10) If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two pegs, but shared one of the pegs with the next washed item.
- 11) Clothes off of the line and neatly folded in the clothes basket before supper time, and ready to be ironed ... IRONED??!! Well, that's a whole OTHER subject!
- 12) Long wooden pole (clothes pole) that was used to push the clotheslines up so that longer items (sheets/pants/etc.) didn't brush the ground and get dirty.

And now a POEM:

A clothes line was a news forecast,
To neighbours passing by,
There were no secrets you could keep,
When clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link, for neighbours always knew if company had stopped on by to spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the "fancy sheets", and towels upon the line; you'd see the "company tablecloths" with intricate designs.

The line announced a baby's birth,

From folks who lived inside,

As brand-new infant clothes were hung,

So carefully with pride!

The ages of the children could,

So readily be known,

By watching how the sizes changed,

You'd know how much they'd grown!

It also told when illness struck,

As extra sheets were hung;

Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe too,

Haphazardly were strung.

It also said, "On vacation now",

When lines hung limp and bare.

It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged,

With not an inch to spare!

New folks in town were scorned upon,

If wash was dingy and grey,

As neighbours carefully raised their brows,

And looked the other way.

But clotheslines now are of the past,

For dryers make work much less.

Now what goes on inside a home

Is anybody's guess!

I really miss that way of life,

It was a friendly sign,

When neighbours knew each other best

By what hung on the line.

