



# The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020  
ISSUE NO 109

*Blokes, jokes, mates and more*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Hi to all Midland Men's Shed Members. We have had a steady month with good attendances, but not breaking any records. Always thankful to those that attend regularly and hope to see more next month. Please encourage those of your mates who have not been coming because we need as many as we can get on Tuesdays just for the fellowship and friendship.

Workshop, art classes and music group have been good at Swan Avenue, so thanks for that.

As this is the last report before Christmas I would extend to everyone good wishes from myself and the Management Committee. The year past has certainly been a mixed bag and it's good to see that we have come out of it relatively unscathed.

So cheers to all and good luck.

*John Griffiths*

President

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*Midland Men's Shed Social Tuesday every Tuesday 9.30 to 11.30a  
in the Baptist Church Hall Bellevue.*

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## MEMBERSHIP STATS:

TUESDAY MORNINGS	NOVEMBER
Average Attendance for month (Members)	51
% Attendance for Month (Members)	48
No of Members 100%	23
Visitors for month	3
Av Weekly Attendance (Inc Visitors)	52
Best Week Attendance	58
New Members	1
<b>MIDVALE WORKSHOPS:</b>	
Total attendance for the month	223
Average daily attendance	13

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

We can thank The Hon Michelle Roberts and Cr Rashelle Predovnik that we WILL be having a Christmas Lunch again this year.

The lunch will be held in the Midland Town Hall on Tuesday 15th December commencing at 10.30a. The lunch will be catered for us by the Midland CWA Ladies and the cost will be \$20.

Registrations and payment MUST be made by 8th December. Registrations cannot be accepted after that date.

## CHRISTMAS IS ON ITS WAY:

- **Pete Arnell**

We were asked to write something for the December Newsletter with a Festive - SEASONAL THEME.

So I'll mention Christmas turkey, roast spuds, sprouts and minced pies, sherry trifle and lots of WHIPPED CREAM.

But this is Christmas fare of another Hemisphere, of Chilly Climes and Cold - NORTHERN LANDS.

Of snow covered roof tops, damp days, long dark nights and bitterly cold - CHILBLAINED HANDS.

Where people wear 2 pairs of woolly socks to keep their - NUMB FEET WARM.

And bodies are swathed in anoraks, scarves, thermal underwear, and beanies - WHICH IS THE NORM.

It is the season of Egnog, kissing under the Mistletoe, and roasting chestnuts by - THE OPEN FIRE.

The Queen's speech, dwindling bank accounts, and Christmas Carols sung by the local - CHURCH CHOIR.

But we live in OZ, a Wide Brown Land, which is girt by sea, we live in a land of - SWEEPING PLAINS.

Where we drink XXXX, Fosters, Spirits and Wines, which run freely through - OUR VEINS.

In 40 degree plus heat, we swarm like bees, and hold BBQ's and picnics on - THE BEACH.

We stand In Speedo's, Bikini's and Thongs with a Esky full of Beer within - EASY REACH.

Our Christmas fare is Crayfish, Prawns, Oysters and other succulent delights - OF THE SEA.

While we listen to the sound of Leather on Willow, from the Boxing Day Test - AT THE "G".

So it doesn't matter if this festive season you are snowed in under Six - FEET OF SNOW.

Or are sweltering in 40 degree heat building a fire break, behind the controls of a - BACKHOE.

The message remains the same, and its this, let us hope - AND PRAY.

That you and yours have a Peaceful, Wonderful and Joyous - CHRISTMAS DAY.



## CHRISTMAS:

- **Paul Brady**

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. It still is by the very name that continues throughout this festive season even though many of us have forgotten this today. I remember being excited to be going to midnight mass – at midnight!. Then going to grandparents home together with a big extended family for Christmas presents and a drink or two. This was the tradition when I was a young child. Even when I was in Germany in 1963 I went to midnight mass at Cologne Cathedral.

When my wife and I had our young family we continued attendance at midnight mass, in Somerset at the Abbey church of Gregory the Great at Downside. Then in 1974 we again attended Christmas mass at midnight at St Anthony's Church, Bellevue. My children were lucky enough to have their grandparents as part of the family for many Christmas celebrations until time passed and they passed too.

As we got busy with our new life, attendance at church became slack and midnight mass was not exciting. Family is still very important and we are lucky to have our children close by so that Christmas is still celebrated with us now being the grandparents. The religion is now not practised but Christmas is maintained. It may be hypocritical to not be active with a church but still celebrate the birth of Christ, but this is the fact for us, and I suspect many.

Christmas 2020 will be a different time for many as separation from loved ones makes this difficult. The technology that now exists allows us to keep close to remote family and friends and we must make time to contact them especially with a message of love in the name of Jesus at Christmas.

I wish a Happy and Pleasant Christmas to all Men's Shed families.

## PRESENT DISCUSSION:

*December is the month when the kids begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas.*

*Some insist on a shirt.*

*Others insist on a pair of socks.*

*The argument always ends in a tie.*



## SO VERY TRUE:

- **Dane Hall**

- Law of Gravity - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.
- Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.
- Law of Close Encounters - The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
- Law of Biomechanics - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.
- Doctors' Law - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.
- Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!

## OUTBREAK WORLD WAR 2:

- **Pete Arnell**

September 1939 I would have been just eight years old living in Stonehouse a suburb of Plymouth on the Devonshire coast. It had a big naval dockyard and there were always large numbers of warships in the dock, in addition there were Royal Marines and large number of army units stationed in and around the city

This resulted in Plymouth being a big target for the German bombers, and a place where a young boy like me could see and be involved in a lot of important events. My house in Stonehouse was very close to the Royal Marine Barracks – so close the bugle call would wake me every morning. It was also close to the civilian docks where all the ships bringing food and supplies

I recall going down to the Millbay Docks to see the soldiers coming back from Dunkirk .So much activity was going on. There were big guns being put into position on the island in Plymouth Sound, and there were search lights being fixed inside circles of sandbags around parks and playing fields.

There were barrage balloons floating everywhere looking like elephants big, fat and grey with two ears so, many things were happening, houses had all the windows covered in strips of sticky paper, to stop the glass flying around if the windows were smashed drawn curtains to make sure no were lights showing known as The Blackout.

We were air issued with gas masks – we had to take them to school with us in case of daylight raids. I remember we had practice at school one day. We had to put on our masks and walk through the back of a large lorry which contained tear gas it was to make sure you were putting the mask on correctly, and it did not leak. It was not very nice wearing a gas mask. The part you look out of steamed up and you could not breathe easily you could not talk as it covered your whole face. But we could make a lot of funny versions of fart sounds. I use to fit a raw carrot in my mask case for something to eat also a couple of apples which I stole on the way. We had to live off the land.

Everyone had ration books, which enabled you buy small amounts of food each week, but during most of the war some things were just not available. Like oranges, and bananas for instance, we were given orange juice and cod liver oil tablets which take the place of fresh fruit. All sweets and chocolate were rationed. Your ration coupons would only allow you an ounce per week and you would barter for sweet coupons .

The post would be delivered every day no matter what happened, and the milk man always seemed to turn up. Thanks to the cow. But eggs were hard to obtain. My mum would tell fortunes, reading the cards and tea leaves .You could not store food because no one had a freezer or refrigerator.

I remember the daylight air raids, I would be at school, the air raid siren would come over very loud we kids all had to march to the playground to the underground shelter, on the way, it was exciting to see the dog fights between the Spitfires and the Jerry's Stuka dive bombers. I must admit I was also scared but tried not to show it. In the shelter we all sang our hearts out to drowned out the sound of the Bombardment.



*To be continued.*

## A SENIORS PERSPECTIVE OF FACEBOOK AIN'T IT THE TRUTH:

- **Roger Patten**

*For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.*

*Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook.*

*I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.*



*The world is round so that friendship may encircle it .*

## TECHIE TIPS:

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With the gee-gee season upon us I thought it might be timely to look at 'Horses-for-Courses' as in Gluing - up. Just as some horses perform better with certain types of track conditions, some jobs work better with certain glues. The words **glue** and **adhesive** have the same meaning - older type animal glues such as Casein are the ones you recall in the double walled glue pot on the stove whereas modern glues such as PVA 'white glue', PVA 'Yellow glue', UF, Polyurethane and Epoxy Res-ins are made in chemical plants and are called Adhesives.

In terms of what we mostly need for our Shed timber projects, lets just look at the most com-mon:

**PVA** (polyvinyl acetate) is the familiar all purpose white glue used for most timber work.

Pros: non toxic, dries clear, is relatively fast drying, has a moderate bond strength when correctly applied and is perfectly safe to handle with bare hands. Common brands are Aquahere, Bostic.

Cons: joints are not fully waterproof, excess glue must be wiped away during assembly, takes 24 hours to achieve full strength, can be painted over but not varnished. Not gap-filling and needs to be clamped.

**Yellow Glue** (aliphatic resin) is a light yellow colour and creamy texture and is sometimes called 'carpenter's glue'. Common brands are Titebond, WoodWorks 'Yellow Glue'.

Pros: low odour, better bonding strength than 'white' PVA, and moderate moisture resistance. Better heat and water-resistance than PVA 'white' glues, available in different configurations for different applications.

Cons: the joint can be brittle, has a yellow glue line so not good with dark woods.

**UF** (urea formaldehyde) famously known as the adhesive used to build the WW2 De Havilland Mosquito aircraft is favoured whenever strong structural joins are required and for bonding wood particles to make composite timber products. Common brand: Jowat UF Resin

Pros: gap-filling, has very strong bond and is the 'go to' adhesive for laminating timbers into different shapes (such as furniture), does not 'creep' when set.

Cons: fumes are carcinogenic and work must be carried out in well ventilated areas (such as in the open air). It is a two part system which must be mixed just prior to use. Limited shelf life.

**Polyurethane** is a multipurpose glue that comes in one part and two part options. The one part option is commonly used with woodworking. Common brands are Gorilla Glue, Sika

Pros: works well on a wide variety of wood species, particularly on woods with high moisture content or on oily woods. Achieves a very strong and tough bond. Often used as sealants.

Cons: Clamping is required until full strength is achieved in six to eight hours.

**Epoxy resins** (polyepoxides) are generally two part systems designed for high performance bonding. Common brands are Araldite, Loctite Epoxy Adhesive

Pros: have excellent gap filling properties due to their high cohesive strength, fast acting

Cons: can trigger long-term sensitivity (allergies) from overexposure.

## JOKING OF COURSE:

*"Chris, why can't you talk to me once in a while?" Julie whined.*

*"What?" Chris replied.*

*"Look around!" Julie yelled, as she pointed around the room. "Look at all these books! You always have your head buried in a book! You don't even seem to know I'm alive!"*

*"I'm sorry, honey," Chris said.*

*"Sometimes I wish I were a book. Maybe then you'd at least look at me!" Julie exclaimed.*

*"Hmmm," Chris mumbled, "that's not such a bad idea. Then I could take you to the library every few days and change you for something more interesting."*

## A POEM TO WHICH WE CAN RELATE:

I remember the corned beef of my childhood,  
And the bread that we cut with a knife,  
When the Children helped with the housework,  
And the men went to work not the wife.

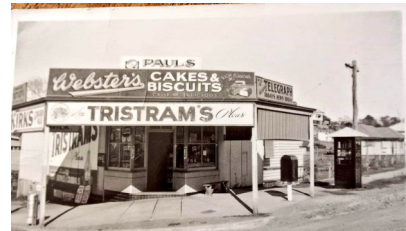
The cheese never needed a fridge,  
And the bread was so crusty and hot,  
The children were seldom unhappy,  
And the wife was content with her lot.

I remember the milk from the bottle,  
With the yummy cream on the top,  
Our dinner came hot from the oven,  
And not from a freezer; or shop.



The kids were a lot more contented,  
They didn't need money for kicks,  
Just a game with their friends in the road,  
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the shop on the corner,  
Where biscuits for pennies were sold,  
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic?  
Or is it - I'm just getting old?



Bathing was done in a wash tub,  
With plenty of rich foamy suds,  
But the ironing seemed never ending,  
As Mum pressed everyone's 'duds'.

I remember the slap on my backside,  
And the taste of soap if I swore,  
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of,  
And we hadn't much choice what we wore.

Do you think that bruised our ego?  
Or our initiative was destroyed?  
We ate what was put on the table,  
And I think life was better enjoyed.

Author, Unknown

If you can remember those days - continue to enjoy your retirement.

## COMING EVENTS:

- December 15th            Christmas Lunch
- February 16th            Free Hearing Tests

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