



JANUARY 2021
ISSUE NO 110

The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

Blokes, jokes, mates and more

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



December has been a good month on many fronts. Good attendances at both the Workshop and Social Tuesdays was very good to see. Rockin Shedders on Tuesdays, Harry's art class and the Muso's jam session on Monday's have been well patronised – keep up the good work.

Other good news, there has been a steady stream of new members which was good but perhaps the best was Michelle Robert's and the State Governments promise to fund the proposed Extensions to the Workshop - if they win the March election. This is a wonderful encouragement for the work that MMS does.

With good news some times there is also bad and we mourn the passing of Ray Lewis a very early signed up member and a great contributor to MMS.

I wish all members a very happy New Year and do thank you all for your contribution to the ongoing success of our Shed. Bring on 2021.

John Griffiths

President

Email: john@jrgrif.com.au

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

Workshop Enquiries 0411 833 055



MEMBERSHIP STATS:

TUESDAY MORNINGS	DECEMBER
Average Attendance for month (Members)	52.8
% Attendance for Month (Members)	47.6
No of Members 100%	21
Visitors for month	14
Av Weekly Attendance (Inc Visitors)	55.6
Best Week Attendance	73
New Members	3
MIDVALE WORKSHOPS:	
Total attendance for the month	219
Average daily attendance	12

AUSTRALIA DAY:

As Australia Day this year falls on a Tuesday we will be having an Aussie Day BBQ.

The cost will be \$5 - see the registration forms on the tables for full details. .



COMING EVENTS:

- January 26th Australia Day BBQ
- February 16th Free Hearing Tests
- March 9th Celebrating Australian Storytelling – Telling Australian Stories -Fact versus Fiction
Linda Moore

JOKING OF COURSE:

What is a committee?

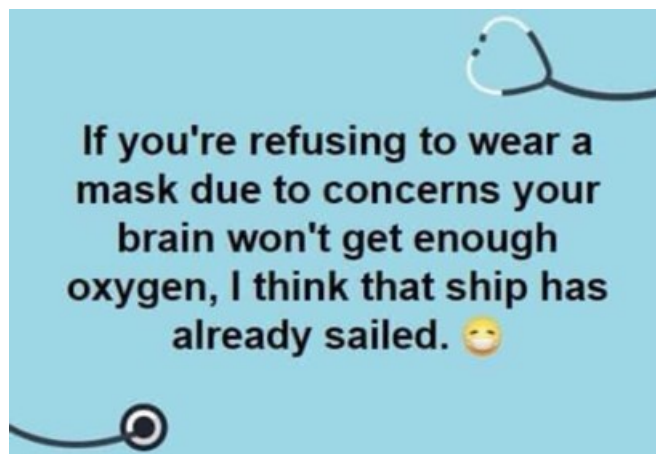
A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours.

You know your old when you look at Santa Claus and think ..

"Gosh, he looks so young!"

When do you congratulate someone for their mistake?

On their Wedding Day!



BYE RAY:

- **Pete Arnell**

Death is with us each and every day, it comes to us all, But when it comes to a family member or a close friend it can be very difficult to take. Last Month it happened to a founding Member of MMS, and a friend to many of its members, RAY LEWIS.



To the newer members, who didn't know him, Ray was one of nature's true gentlemen, always ready to help, or give advice, slow to anger, but resolute in his beliefs. He could never understand injustice, for instance. In the short time I knew Ray [about 5 years] I found he was a wonderful listening post, and we shared many ideals.

His interests were many and varied, as his numerous articles to this Newsletter over the years bears testament to. Everything from, Fish and Chips, Sausage and Mash with Onion gravy, to his reminiscences of a holiday on Lord Howe Island or the Pitfalls of Anthology and researching the Family Tree. Many of these articles are worth a re-visit, and his many contributions to the Newsletter will be sorely missed.

Anyone who would like to take up the challenge, and fill the hole left by Ray, be warned, you will need to fill rather big shoes.

I had to metaphorically, pick Ray up from the floor once, because he had collapsed with laughter, when the President, referred to the table that Ray sat at each Tuesday, as the Intellectual table, I suggested to Ray he should perhaps wear a bell around his neck to warn people of his approach, and the Mob were gathering brandishing pitchforks and Clubs and waving banners, proclaiming "Down with the Intelligentsia" and ready to lay siege to his house, This amused him even more. Ray of course was very intelligent, but kept his light hidden under a bushel, so to speak.

He was very modest, and never bragged about his Academic achievements. He did of course have his faults, it used to take him for ever to tell a joke, and there were many times I felt like screaming 'GET ON WITH IT. YOU SILLY OLD BUGGER'. But I never dared.

Ray suffered a lot of health problems during the last year, which he faced with stoic dignity, This was the measure of the man. I'm going to miss our Tuesday Tete a' Tete's. So to misquote Shakespeare.

*"He was a Man take him all in all,"
"For we shall not see his like pass this way again"*

We are going to miss you mate.

LADDER SAFETY:

- **This article was reproduced, with the kind permission, of the Waverley Men's Shed**

In any year, over 1600 people aged 65 and over are hospitalised because they fell from a ladder, and of those, over 60% of the injuries occurred in or around their own home.

When using a ladder:

- choose the right ladder for the job
- don't work in wet and windy conditions
- take time to set up your ladder
- work safely up the ladder
- have another person hold the ladder
- know your limits and work to your ability



And remember the old joke: Falling off the ladder will not harm or kill you ... it's that sudden stop at the other end that does it!

I had my patience tested. ~ I'm negative

WAR IN ACTION:

- **Harry Barden**

One of the most frightening things for my parents during the war were the air raids and the safety for us kids, so my brother and me were evacuated like thousands of other kids with a gas mask, some sandwiches and a label with our name wrapped around our necks at the railway station. All the mums crying their eyes out. We were sent to Newquay, a beautiful seaside resort in Cornwall. But after a short while we ended back at Stone house where dad was stationed. What bad timing! (The Blitz) This when the heavy bombing was at its worst! The German bombers came almost every night. Mum would make flasks of cocoa and sandwiches and a flask of tea for her self. Plus have blankets and candles at the ready to take to the Anderson air raid shelter, it wasn't the warmest place to be.

When the bombs were being dropped it was terrifying . You would hear the sound of the bombers engines the various guns fired by the city in defence then the whistling noise of the bomb going off. When a large bomb went off fairly close by you could feel the whole shelter shake and you would then wonder if your home was still there -when you came out of the shelter in the morning! What a terrifying catastrophe So many homes destroyed we were lucky just the windows blown out and minus some roof tiles.

As a young boy I was thrilled to watch everything, it was exciting. The morning after the air raid I would check the bomb sites looking for incendiary bomb tails and shrapnel so was every other kid. There were bomb craters every where (A Dirty Great Big Hole). One morning I saw a Royal Marine Sentry by a big hole. My pal asked him what he was doing . He said he was guarding an unexploded bomb we took a quick look we could see the fins of a large object. It was a 1000 lb bomb we was about to run away, he then shouted its defused. I remember the local picture house named the Grand , seeing all the old cowboy's movies with stars Tom Mix, Jonny Mack Brown & Buck Jones to name a few of my boyhood heroes. It was, just a shell destroyed by the bombing, framework of steel girders all twisted and bent rows of seating, curtains and cinema memorabilia. Load of us kids went there to see what we could salvage to use our selves.



Barrow Gurney a mental hospital in the county of Somerset was commandeered by the Royal Navy and became the Royal Navy Auxiliary Hospital which treated Sailors and Royal Marines who were injured during the conflicts of the Second World War. My dad had been on guard duty during the Blitz, when unfortunately tragedy changed our circumstances Dad was hit by flying shrapnel ending up at Barrow Gurney Hospital having a very serious major operation for a tumour on the brain It was touch and go whether he would survive. It was very hard for Mum pulling up stakes from Plymouth with my brother and me in tow with the bare minimum one suit case each, ending up at a farm close to the hospital, so we could be close to dad .As for us kids we loved the farm with the chooks, pigs and moo cows. No shortage of fresh milk ,eggs , and bacon. We finally ended up at a seaside resort called Weston-Super-Mare. (noted for Air Like Wine) so that Dad could convalesce and recuperate .

To be continued.



RENT A PINEAPPLE:

There was a time when people didn't eat pineapples, but would rent them for display only and send them back the next day. It's all down to the fact that pineapples used to be hugely desirable, and also hugely expensive - far too expensive to eat, so people would rent one, and even that was seen as sign of wealth, for the rental wasn't cheap either.



Pineapples are native to South America and first probably appeared in England in Elizabethan times, but shipping them across the Atlantic was exceptionally difficult and so they remained little more than an exotic curiosity for over a century. Attempts were made to grow them in the UK, but they need heat and humidity, neither of which are in abundance in that country. But they could be grown in heated greenhouses which were starting to appear by the time of Charles II.

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 is new midnight

TECHIE TIPS:

- This article was reproduced, with the kind permission, of the Waverley Men's Shed

FINISHING OILS

TUNG OIL, also known as "China wood oil", is one of the oldest and best wood preservatives. It is extracted from the nuts of the tung tree native to the Orient. This tree is now commercially grown in the Gulf States. The name comes from the Chinese word "tung", meaning stomach, because it has a purgative reaction when taken internally. This oil is deeply penetrating and serves to bind the fibres of the woods and thus seal and preserve them. Heat will not draw out tung oil as it will other oils. It is water and solvent resistant. To apply, rub on with a soft cloth until all the oil is in the wood and not on the surface. Immediately wipe off all the excess from the surface as a thick coat of surface film will wrinkle on drying. If the oil becomes tacky, wipe it off with a rag moistened in fresh oil. It is also possible to thin the oil with turpentine. The oil should soak into the wood anywhere from 30 seconds to 10 minutes depending on weather conditions and the properties of the wood. Wait at least 12 hours between coats. It is recommended that three coats be applied with a rubbing of 4/0 steel wool after each coat to assure a smooth surface. Subsequent cleaning and polishing should be done with lemon oil. If a brush is used to apply the oil, it can be cleaned with mineral spirits or lacquer thinner. Tung oil tends to dry non-glossy, a varnish made with tung oil has more lustre. There are other staining products containing tung oil with which wood can be stained. You do have to be careful with tung oil, as it will solidify or jell in the jar or container once it is exposed to air.

LEMON OIL is very good for use as the final oil finish, especially over tung oil. It should not be used over a wax finish, and it is recommended that you should use pure lemon oil, not one that contains linseed oil, bee's wax or silicones.

LINSEED OIL is an extract of the flax seed. It dries slowly but seals well. Always use boiled linseed oil and not raw linseed oil as the latter contains the non-drying elements of the oil. The linseed oil reacts with oxygen to become a solid film. When it dries it leaves a soft surface and has poor moisture resistance, allowing double the moisture to pass compared to tung oil. The finish should never be over coated with lacquer or shellac.

CHEMICALLY MODIFIED OILS penetrate faster and deeper and dry more quickly and harder than unmodified oils. They are particularly good for woods with a natural beautiful grain. They usually dry without gloss, giving a natural oil finish. You should allow at least eight hours between coats. Some of the products readily available are:

1. Penetrating finish oil;
2. Danish oils containing resins which polymerise and dry in the wood;
3. Teak oil which are used on highly resinous woods such as rosewood and teak.

OTHER OIL FINISHES:

Like lemon oil there are a number of vegetable oils that can be used to enhance the appearance of wood. **ORANGE OIL** can be used straight but like lemon oil is useful over other finishes.

It can be used to revive the appearance of bowls that have become somewhat dusty or lacking in lustre with age. The smell is also something that the boss likes (so it gets used on furniture as well). For bowls and other items to be used with food it is best to use an edible vegetable oil of which there is a range available - grape seed oil and oils used in cooking or as salad dressing are fine. For food use, definitely avoid Tung oil (which is great for sealing floors) or linseed oil, which is toxic to humans but great for cricket bats. In fact the best approach for a salad bowl is to use the oil that is in the salad dressing – and after the meal is over rinse the bowl and wipe off any excess oil.

Oils that polymerise and harden include tung oil, linseed oil, and walnut oil. If you want to coat an item for outdoor use and are considering Danish oil (which is based on linseed oil) make sure that it contains an antifungal agent, otherwise it will go black with fungal growth on exposure to the weather.

For items that will be subjected to hard wear one can use Tung oil, or a commercial spirit-based varnish, e.g. one based on polyurethane. This is available for a matt, satin or gloss finish.

If you don't like the high gloss from any of these on a bowl you can put the bowl back on the lathe and use 0000 steel wool to gently give a more satisfactory appearance. Water-based polyurethane is very viscous and hard to apply without leaving brush marks. Another alternative, especially for bowls is to use a wax-based finish. There are commercially available ones with the wax dissolved in a solvent – either forming a liquid or a gel. These are rubbed on a bowl and then with the lathe turned on the application cloth is used to provide friction. The heat will allow the wax to penetrate the bowl to provide a very acceptable finish. Waxed surfaces will gradually dull with age, but can be revived with orange oil. My own recipe is to use beeswax dissolved in eucalyptus turps with a small dash of boiled linseed oil. The mixture in a glass or plastic jar is gently heated in a saucepan of boiling water until the wax melts/dissolves. On cooling it forms a gel that is easy to apply. Finally, there are many other options, e.g. penmakers are probably familiar with cyanoacrylate finishes. It is recommended that you look at past issues of woodworking magazines, which frequently feature special techniques for finishing a project to appreciate the wide range of available methods and products

Some people have no respect for age unless it's bottled.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

Through the outstanding efforts of Cr Rashelle Predovnik and Hon Michelle Roberts MLA we were able this year to hold our Christmas Lunch in the Midland Town Hall.

The attendance at the function totalled 75 and this included invited guest - Hon Michelle Roberts, MLA, Ken Wyatt MP, Hon Donna Faragher MLC, Cr Rashelle Predovnik, Roxanne Ozanne (Commonwealth Bank) and David Ashfold (President Swan Community Workshops) and Fran Taylor.

Hon Michelle Roberts MLA made an outstanding announcement in relation to the funding of our Workshop extensions.

The Midland CWA Ladies once again provided us with a great lunch as they have done for several years.



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