



AUGUST 2021
ISSUE NO 117

The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

Blokes, jokes, mates and more

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Another gap in the month caused by COVID, let's hope there are not too many more.

Attendances for July have been down a bit. I know the weather hasn't helped but we need to keep coming because there is someone there that will be pleased to see you and with a bit of luck there might be more than one.

Things have started to move for the Extensions to the Workshop. A Project Manager and an Architect have been appointed and we met them onsite this morning (Thursday 28/7/2021). They had a good look around to get up to speed noting how crowded the current workshop is and seeing a definite need to progress the new building as quickly as possible.

So cheerio and get vaccinated.

John Griffiths

President

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COMING EVENTS:

- August 10th "History of Telecommunications" - John Paskulich
- August 31st "Canal Capers" - Ian Deany
- September 14th "C Series Railcars" - Metronet
- October 26th "Your Leisure Years" - Angelo (RACWA)
- December 14th Christmas Lunch—Midland Town Hall

SHUTDOWNS:

Members are reminded that when the Government makes the wearing of masks mandatory then Social Tuesdays will not be held. Also if there is a limit to numbers who can attend functions then this will have an effect on Social Tuesdays and the Workshop. An email is sent out to all members advising when Social Tuesdays and the Workshops are closed.

*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	JUNE
Average Attendance for month (Members)	45.7
No. Members 100%	27
Visitors for month	2
Av Weekly Attendance (Inc Visitors)	45.7
Best Week Attendance	47
New Members	1
MIDVALE WORKSHOPS:	
Total attendance for the month	204
Average daily attendance	12

WORLD'S OLDEST OPERATING ROLLER COASTER:

Leap-the-Dips in Lakemont Park, Altoona, Pennsylvania, is the world's oldest operating roller coaster. Rolling downhill at an average speed of 10 miles per hour, it may not be the fastest ride, but its history is unmatched. Built in 1902 by legendary roller coaster designer Edward Joy Morris, the coaster closed down in the 1980s and was nearly demolished in 1986 before being refurbished and reopened in 1999. Today, it is a National Historic Landmark, but still doesn't have seatbelts, lap bars or headrests. It is the only side friction coaster left in North America, which means it doesn't have the extra set of wheels under the track that have become standard.



JOKING OF COURSE:

A father was reading an article last night about fathers and daughters and memories came flooding back of the time he took my daughter out for her first pint.

Off they went to our local pub which is only two blocks from their house.

He got her a Fosters. She didn't like it, so he had it.

Then he got her a Carling Black Label, she didn't like it, so he had it.

It was the same with the 1664 Lager and Premium Dry Cider.

By the time they got down to the Scotch he could hardly push the stroller back home.

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers.

In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, 'They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead.'

A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?'

He answered, 'Call for backup.'

1969: MAN ON THE MOON, YET STILL NO LUGGAGE ON WHEELS



On July 20th, 1969, the world was celebrating the first landing of man on moon. While American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were busy collecting lunar material from the surface of the moon, travellers far away back home were struggling mightily to manage their heavy suitcases in their arms, constantly complaining about the weight of their luggage. Though it is hard to imagine travelling without wheeled luggage carriers in today's world, only half a century ago people had to completely rely on their upper body strength to travel.

OUR WONDERFUL PLANET:

- **Paul Brady**

Plenty of time to watch TV and wonder what is happening to our wonderful planet. Sir David Attenborough has provided some gems about Planet Earth and the amazing pictures which come with stories of animals and plants are utterly amazing, especially in the comfort of your own home.

At the age of 95 he is an amazing man and what a message he brings recently about Climate Change which is thought provoking. So many species are being lost due to mans activities related to mining and forest degradation. Most activities which have terrible effects on the environment are supposed to be justified as providing resources for people globally. Our own mining industry in WA is providing wealth for the country and workers, but the consequences are far reaching when seen from the perspective of other concerned beings like Jeremy Wade whose programs like Mighty Rivers shows us why large fish are disappearing from some areas in China due to huge projects like the Three Gorges Dam, which took 17 years to build and consumed millions of tons of concrete and assisted by iron ore from Australia. The Chinese are building an amazing country and have tremendous plans for cities and future needs, all taking a toll from Mother Earth. Jeremy Wade reveals the effects on fishermen in many countries due to activities in their rivers. He is a true wonder himself in his searches for Giant Fish and I consider his TV shows as educational as well as entertaining. My attempts at fishing took a turn for the worse when Cyclone Alby hit WA on 27 March 1978 when my new fishing rod got caught in the clothesline at Shark Bay!!

EDINBURGH CALLING JOHN MILLS:

- **Alix Davies**

Sorry not been in touch recently, no excuses really except ...

Alix on school summer holidays now so as we are both Historic Scotland members we have been exploring a few castles and places of interest that allows us to do that. Life really hasn't changed that much for us in recent weeks, we still have to wear masks and social distance but that is expected and will be in place for the foreseeable future here in Scotland and Wales. Cases are mounting all the time and the Euro football has done nothing to help that situation. We are allowed to have a meal out now or go for a drink but it all has to be reserved over the phone or online and strict observation of rules and spacing is in force. If you move from your table you have to wear a mask and of course its all table service. Personally we don't bother much with going out as we prefer to be safe indoors. Saying that we have booked a B&B one night out on the 14th July in York as it is our 25 year wedding anniversary - we shall be careful!!

Scotland has got a bit busier with a few holidaymakers enjoying staycation rather than going overseas, of course with very few international flights now it is a LOT quieter here, as during this month and next it usually is the time for the festivals, especially for the world famous Fringe festival and the blues and jazz festivals right here in Edinburgh.

Summer is expected soon!!!! Seriously, we have had some nice weeks and some not, cloud cover and wind spoils it for the most part and arranging a night for a barbie is a lottery. I managed to get my daughter and grandkids over last week for a barbie and it all started well but clouds gathered very quickly and showers soon started to fall. I ended up cooking in my shorts as usual but a rain jacket over my t-shirt -- great! We ended up eating under upstairs balcony. Is that better than being too hot and going inside for some air-conditioning? Think I know the answer, thank you.

I'm able to go bowling now again and have been picked to play most weeks in the Seniors section. I enjoy the company once again and share a few jokes as I did with you lot at the MMS.

The guitar is still played but probably not as often as I did with you, I still haven't found a group of mates to play with. The Men Shed here is all geared towards woodwork and I'm not really into that as you know. My table tennis bat has not been used once which I'm also miffed about. I shall have to come back to Midland for a holiday and have some practice!!

I have heard about covid rising numbers in Oz and cross my fingers you don't get it as bad as we have had /are having here in UK. When it all seems to be under control another variant shows its ugly head. I believe it will be with us for years and years to come and being vaccinated as Alix and I are double jagged will greatly reduce hospitalisation. Hope you all have had the jags, I hear it is slow being dealt with, whichever vaccine you are offered I would say take it as dying in hospital is the ugly alternative.

You are having a wet winter I hear you say, I'm sorry about that but surely the farmers appreciate it, come over here and have a wet summer too if you like!

I must take my leave now but again say hi to all the gang for us. Tell them all to stay safe and enjoy life to the best of their ability. Thinking of you all, keep in touch.

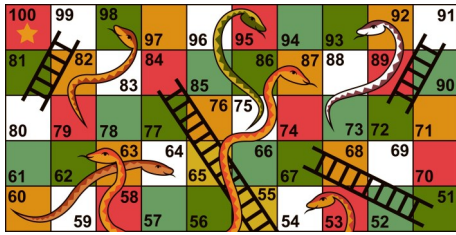
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SNAKES AND LADDERS:

• Harry Barden

Like the game Snakes and Ladders, you throw the Die, get a good number, and you climb the ladder to success. Throw a bad number and find yourself slithering down the Snake back to the start again. So it was for Joy and myself in the first few years in OZ, the land down-under. We arrived in the heat of the Australian Summer, with a couple of suitcases and found accommodation in Mounts Bay Rd and soon found that, what little savings we had were dwindling fast on rent. So we had to find work and a cheaper place to live. On the way over we had made friends with a Irishman, Patrick and his family, fellow 10 pound Poms, and we soon



joined forces and shared a rented house in Ashfield, complete with an outside Dunny, a multitude of Cockroaches and numerous red back spiders, thrown in for good measure. What had I brought my new bride to, I thought! Was this the catalyst that would end another marriage. But I shouldn't have worried, because Joy is made of sterner stuff than I am and advised me to follow Patrick, who had been in the building trade in his native Ireland. So with his touch of the Irish Blarney he obtained Union tickets for both of us, and we started work on a building site, doing form work, in 40 degree heat, trying to drive nails into hard Jarrah. [Of course these days they have Nail guns and other battery operative toys. the wimps, But back then it was sheer brawn and this proved to be too hard for my rather delicate well being and sensitivity. So after 2 days, it was decided, with Patrick's past history and knowledge of building and my complete ignorance of the trade that we would start our own "Building Company". There was I, who couldn't hammer a nail into timber about to become a Builder. We started building a duplex in Rockingham, then moved onto two more, then expanded to a block of units and the work was rolling in. We then opened a Cabinet making factory, things were certainly looking rosy. I had thrown a good number and was climbing the success ladder. Mingling with high rollers at the Perth Yacht club, moving into a nice house and driving a nice car, all the trappings of success. Of course we were sub-contractors to large building companies and it was then the Snake beckoned, because a lot of these firms went bust owing us a great amount of money. Down the Snake we went and Joy and I ended up in a rented flat in Cambridge St and broke. We were back to square one. My days in the Building Trade had come to a grinding halt, and I had vowed that I would not go back to sea, Time to return to something I was good at; The Hospitality Industry!!

But how to get one's foot in the door, in a new country that was the question? But fortune favours the brave, and the "Gift if the Gab" [which is my forte] certainly helps. Just up the road from our flat was the 99 Bar and Restaurant, this was the IN place for the Who's Who in Radio and TV and the Media and also the speculators on the Stock Market as this was the time of the Nickle Boom. I had a job as a driver delivering goods to lots of outlets, one of which was the 99 bar. This I thought was the place to be, so I sweet talked myself into running the Bar. I soon found that they only had a licence to sell Wine. This didn't stop me from obtaining Beer and Spirits that I started to sell under the counter. It was against the law, but it returned a nice little profit for the owners and I received a handsome tip {\$150} which was a tidy sum in those days for my trouble This gave me the incentive to try other things that would help build up my bank balance. I organized a private party for the cast and crew of a movie "The Nickel Queen". Which didn't receive any Oscars, but helped to swell the coffers. There was also a group of patrons that liked to play "MatchBox" a gambling game after hours and every time someone won I would get a tip. On one night the game went on till 4am so I didn't get a lot of sleep, but I got over \$200 in tips. To supplement my income I also did a few TV ads, would you believe posing on the Catwalk. The things one does when you are saving for a House. I graduated from the 99 Bar to running the Irish Bar called "Mulligans" then onto the Rhodes Hotel as Maître D'hôtel, where a lot of shady business deals were carried out by many well known business men. But I'll keep those activities under my hat, for fear of the slander and libel laws, that I might be subject to if I opened that little can of worms, Just remember it was the 70's and it just wasn't all flared jeans and mullets and miniskirts it was a time of a lot of SHONKY Business deals

.During the next few months, began to be introduced to many influential business people, who in turn introduced me to others who had even more influence in the hospitality Industry. I was on my way up the ladder again and the future looked bright. Australia was proving to be "The Lucky Country" for Joy and myself. The ladder beckoned and I STARTED TO CLIMB.

To be continued

Anger is the wind that blows out the candle of reason

GOOD OLD DAYS:

- **Terry Bourke**

The men back in the 50's were a tough mob, I went with my Father fencing out at Mount Carnage Station ,when I was about 12 and we slept in a tent on the ground with a thin mattress to lay on with a few blankets and freezing cold as well. One of the things these men were proud of was how straight the fence line was and to do this, was to pile up a heap of wood and old tyres where they wanted the last post to be ,as far away as 1 mile then in the morning when the sun had just come up and there was no breeze , they would light the fire with the old tyres and go back to the start of the new fence and put two stakes in the ground lined up with the smoke rising in the air a mile away.

I was with my Father when we put the last post in the ground and it was right in the middle of the place where the fire had burnt out.

Those days they had to cut the fence posts and drill the holes in them and make the droppers as well ,and put them in the ground. They got paid by the mile and it was extremely hard work. A crowbar and post hole shovel and an old motor bike engine connected to drill was what they used to drill the posts this was all the tools they needed plus a few other tools for tying the wire. Most of the fences were 6 strands of wire and a barb wire on top with 2 or 3 droppers between the posts which were about 10 yards (10 metres) apart.

Hope you find this story interesting . Terry Bourke.

MUSIC HAS BENEFITS FOR AN AGING BRAIN.

- **John Bath**

Check out the newspaper clipping below.

I'm a fairly recent member of MMS and I didn't join to take up singing. I actually joined because I had learned about the art group and I like to paint pictures. But, apart from painting, I'm a muso with some 72 years experience playing in brass bands and symphony orchestras as well as experience singing in choral groups and was, a few years ago, music director of a twenty voice a-capella group.

The first Tuesday I turned up here I was accosted on my way out the door by John Mills and invited to join the singers. I hadn't known there were singers in there. So I went in and sang along with them for an hour.

I had a word with John Mills a couple of weeks ago and suggested that I could make a contribution to the expertise of the singers that sing along with the Rockin' Sheddars. That's a task that won't be completed in 5 minutes. It will take a bit of learning and a lot of practice but I reckon we could come up with a reasonable simulation of a male voice choir. Problem is, last time I counted, there were only six of us. Well that's not quite true because on Tuesday July 20th there were only three of us.

So now I'm the one extending an invitation to anyone who actually enjoys having a bit of a sing, to join me, and the other few guys who already sing, in a weekly session at the workshops, in which I will be doing a bit of voice coaching and a bit of education in the basics of music theory.

I suppose most of you have heard about the men's shed in Vic who started a group that sang Russian folk songs and ended up getting invited to sing in Russia. Apparently their criteria for joining was that you had to either have a beard or be able to sing. Our joining criteria doesn't require you to have a beard only that you enjoy a bit of a sing. You don't even have to be very good because I reckon I could fix that with a bit of work.

So if you'd like to be part of the new improved Rockin' Sheddars Singers. Drop me an email at johnbath@iinet.net.au or mobile; 0410 392 465. (Email preferred)

HITTING THE RIGHT HEALTH NOTE

Singing for half an hour could be just as good for your lungs as a brisk walk.

When researchers from Imperial College London compared the lung function of eight participants after a 30-minute singing exercise and after a brisk walk, they found that both activities increased heart rate, oxygen levels and led to deeper breathing.

The study said the genre of song might influence how physically demanding it

was, with songs that required more movement resulting in greater physical challenges. And you should join a choir to reap the benefits for your brain — a team at the National University of Singapore has shown this can reduce the risk of dementia. Brain scans of people who did an hour of choral singing a week had the same delay in symptoms of cognitive decline as those who attended a weekly health education class.

I'VE LEARNED:

I've learned

That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned

That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned

That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

I've learned.

That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned

That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.

That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned

That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.

That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned.

That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.

That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE OLD:

- **John Mills**

I asked an elderly man once what it was like to be old and to know the majority of his life was behind him. He told me that he has been the same age his entire life. He said the voice inside of his head had never aged. He has always just been the same boy. His mother's son. He had always wondered when he would grow up and be an old man. He said he watched his body age and his faculties dull but the person he is inside never got tired. Never aged. Never changed. Our spirits are eternal. Our souls are forever. The next time you encounter an elderly person, look at them and know they are still a child, just as you are still a child and children will always need love, attention and purpose. —Unknown

THE FIRST ICE CREAM CONE:

Almost as important as the invention of ice cream is the invention of the ice cream cone.

That credit goes to Italo Marchiony, who in 1896 created the first one. It wouldn't be until 1903 that he patented his creation.

WORLD'S LARGEST EARTHQUAKE:

The world's largest earthquake with an instrumentally documented magnitude occurred on May 22, 1960 near Valdivia, in southern Chile.

It was assigned a magnitude of 9.5 by the United States Geological Survey. It is referred to as the "Great Chilean Earthquake" and the "1960 Valdivia Earthquake."