



DECEMBER 2021
ISSUE NO 121

The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

Blokes, jokes, mates and more

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



November has been good attendance wise both at the Workshop and Social Tuesdays, in fact picking up a bit towards the end of the month. The musicians are enjoying good numbers and Harry's art group is very active.

Disappointing that we couldn't pull off the Lamb Tasting. I can only dream about being paid to chew into a lamb chop, ah well never mind!

The Workshop Extensions are progressing slowly and we are monitoring the progress.

This is my last report before Christmas and so I would wish everyone a Happy Christmas, enjoy it as much as you can. It is really a very nice part of the year.

And with that, cheers for now.

John Griffiths

President

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COMING EVENTS:

- December 14th Christmas Lunch - Guildford Town Hall
- January 25th "C Y O'Connor" - Mike Lefroy
- February 8th "The Rights of Older People" -
- February 22nd Free Hearing Tests
- March 15th "Life Down Under" - Dr Lesley Gibson
- April 19th "Stay on Your Feet" - Sophie MacDonald
- May 18th "Ocean Liners" - Chris Frame



*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
Total Attendance for month	249
Average Weekly Attendance	50
Best Week Attendance	55
New Members	2

MIDVALE WORKSHOPS:

Total attendance for the month	260
Average daily attendance	15

MY FIRST CHRISTMAS AWAY:

- **Don Goodyer**

Everyone remembers their first Christmas away from their homes and families. Mine was in Calgary, Canada – the home of the ‘Calgary Stampede’. This was in the mid 1960’s. I was traveling around Canada for a bit and it was the first place I found a job, when I got off the bus. So, I was going to stay for a while. Back then, there were not so many suburbs crowding around the city as there is today. Calgary was built in the Bow River valley and you could still see a lot of the rolling hills, where the Blackfoot Indians used to roam on their ponies. They used to hunt the buffalo further to the south. At that time, they were having a big oil boom and there was a lot of money floating around the city. That was another reason to stay, because I thought that I might get in on some of it. And it was kind of a neat place, too. We used to say that it was ‘horsey and oily’ and if you looked through the bottom of your beer bottle, you could see a lot of fake cowboys walking around. (Most of the jobs of being a ‘cowboy’ went to the local Indians’. This is because nobody else wanted to freeze your bums off, sitting on a horse during the cold, cold winters.)

Sorry for getting off the track, but that year, Christmas fell on a Thursday. Since I was all by my lonesome, I went for a walk that morning. The zoo, which was down the road from me, was closed but you could still walk around the enclosures and see buffalo, yaks, some Texas long horn cattle and I think the odd ostrich or two. It was just below freezing, lots of snow around and it was a lovely sunny day. I had a great walk. But then I decided to walk down to the city and see what might be open. Maybe a Chinese restaurant, because they were all Buddhists and they really didn’t get into Christmas.

I was walking along 6th Ave, when I passed a Baptist church. They were having their Christmas Service at 9:30 which was just a little bit later. So, I went in and sat down. Everybody was friendly to me and I got talking to some of the parishioners. Apparently, the Christmas before, the minister’s sermon was on why Christmas was becoming too ‘Christmas-y’ and perhaps we should cut out a lot of the ‘Santa Clause stuff’ and get back to the real meaning of Christmas. The congregation almost had a revolt. This year they were eagerly waiting for him to try it again. But when he started, it was a pretty ‘middle of the road’ kind of sermon. I could feel everyone almost giving a sigh of relief.

However, the best thing was that, this big woman got up and sang a Christmas oratorio. The lady, sitting next to me, said that she was a somewhat, well known opera singer, who trained in London. I couldn’t believe her voice. It filled the whole church and you felt it through and through. She used her full soprano voice and you could feel the yearning and the thankfulness in what she sang. I had never heard anything like it in my life. And what did she sing? It was ‘Agnus Dei’ - God’s Lamb. I will always remember that as my first Christmas away from home. It seemed so profound and meaningful and so. ‘un-Christmas-y’.

CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR:

During the Christmas-New Year period the following arrangements will exist:

- Social Tuesdays - as per normal . We will not be closed.
- Workshop - The Workshop will be closed on 27th and 28th December and 3rd and 4th January.

DOES PUBLIC LIABILITY COVER A TRADIE INJURED ON YOUR PROPERTY?:

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Paul is confused as to whether public liability insurance covers workers on his property.

Question - Paul

Like most people, we occasionally hire people for short-term work around the house. Are they covered by our insurance? If so, how? Are there circumstances where they are not?

I was told that there is a difference depending on whether the workers are contractors or handymen, but I can't find anything in my policy that mentions that. The PDS (product disclosure statement) that I have read only refers to public liability for up to \$20 million. But does that include tradies/handyman? What about their workers' comp or wage coverage? Are you the employer or not?

Calls to insurance staff are met with no definitive answer and are verbal-only responses.

From my phone calls to my insurance company and another, I am very worried about their replies and the lack of clarity from all sources including their website.

Answer – Your Life Choices. You are right to be concerned about this as tradies do have among the highest serious injury and disease compensation claims in Australia, according to Safe Work Australia data.

Property owners do have an obligation to ensure that people who visit their property are safe and if a third party injures themselves while on your property, they may be able to bring a claim against you for their injury.

It is incumbent on property owners to take reasonable steps to ensure their property is free from hazards and provide a safe environment. If they fail in this duty, then they may be liable for any injuries that are caused.

While your standard policy provides protection for visitors who are injured while on your property, the rules are slightly different when you have workers who are performing a service for a fee on your property.

Each insurance policy is different when it comes to this, however, most will not cover third parties who are classified as workers on your property.

It also depends on the type of work the person is doing. A cleaner, gardener or pool maintenance person, for example, will be classed as a worker under workers' compensation legislation if they provide their labour only and you provide them with the materials necessary for the job (or there are no materials necessary for the job).

For these types of worker, you could be held liable for not providing a safe working environment if an accident occurs.

If, however, the person provides the equipment and materials to do the job, like most tradies working on your property, then they are likely to be classified as a contractor and not a worker.

If contractors sustain an injury, they are likely to hold their own insurance, or they could be covered under their employer's workers' compensation insurance.

According to Gouldson Legal, a homeowner may still be liable for a tradesperson's injury if:

- they fail to identify potential hazards that are likely to cause injury
- fail to warn the tradesperson of these potential hazards
- there is a hazard likely to cause injury that they should have been aware of.

Examples of these hazards could be a loose step, an unstable balcony or an aggressive dog.



BETTER HEARING AUSTRALIA:

• John Bath

The WA Branch of BHA accepted the project of the BHA Lip Reading Competition several years ago. We were fortunate to be introduced to a creative film group – the U3A Film Group. It was a wonderful journey discovering the 'joys' of working with teenagers, the challenges of different locations, and being blessed with the support of U3A Film Group.

John Bath, U3A Director, speaks below about the experience.

We had the deadline to produce a twenty-minute DVD for the Better Hearing Australia annual lip reading competition, by May 31. Filming started in March and on May 21 we finished shooting. This left us ten days for the very exacting task of editing. As the WA Branch of BHA was hosting the National BHA Conference in Fremantle the next year; we chose tourist attractions in Fremantle as the theme for the DVD.

The film had a cast of two attractive teenagers, played by Katelynn Thomas-Hall and Isaac Edmonds, who set off on a day's outing riding bicycles to visit tourist attractions in and around Fremantle, ending at Cottesloe Beach in time to see the 'Sculpture by the Sea' exhibition.

Filming involved taking the whole crew to many location sites. The Cappuccino Strip, Fremantle Arts Centre, The Australian Maritime Museum and Batavia Shipwreck Museum, The Round House, and finally ending at Cottesloe Beach for 'Sculpture by the Sea'. Filming had to start in March due to the sculpture exhibition being *insitu* for only just over one week; meaning we had to begin at the end of our story.

We needed to apply for permission from Fremantle Council to film in the streets, from many individual organisations to film inside their premises, and even one private commercial outlet. The ice cream parlour in South Terrace was obliging and let us interrupt their normal business hours. Everywhere we went we attracted interest from passers-by and succeeded in causing congestion to pedestrian traffic on occasions.

Of course, a visit to the beach meant our beautiful young people had to get into their swimming togs and cavort about in the surf for us. I might mention the Director was required to go for a swim too as we had to set up the cameras for the shot and couldn't use our actors for the set-up, or they would have appeared in the film with wet hair before entering the water.

Being a very new film group, each project U3A takes on provides opportunities to learn something new. As we had to film the faces of the actors close up for the benefit of the lip-reading competitors, we came to a solution to build a studio with a blue screen as the background. The West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children provided us with a basement room at their Mosman Park premises. We created a simple design costing only thirty-six dollars to produce. Our smooth blue background was such a success that one of our members thought we could use it to create chroma keyed backgrounds behind our talking heads.

Chroma keying is the device used in sci-fi films like Star Wars to place actors in situations it would otherwise be impossible to film them. We investigated our editing suite and discovered it capable of chroma key. We then set about teaching ourselves how to do it. Now our finished product will not have to have a plain blue sky behind our talking heads, we can place them over shots of locations where they are supposed to be.



DISCLAIMER

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A SHORT CHRISTMAS STORY:

- **Steve (Santa) Rees**

One Christmas back in the early 1970s whilst living on Cocos Island I was nominated for the job of Santa Claus; at the time I was sporting a very bushy beard and was a "shoe in" for the job. Now the population of West Island was about 100 people and everyone, including the children, knew everyone else so it was pretty hard to fool the kids, even when dressed in the red suit, and sweating like a winner in the Melbourne Cup.

Naturally the kids were excited about Christmas, it was such a small community in a remote location and not being able to experience mainland Christmas parades, shops, and general build up, our own little celebration took on much thrilling anticipation as the decorated fire truck arrived with the bell ringing and me, Santa, clinging to the back. On arrival at the Cocos Club, which was then the centre of the Universe of Cocos, the children were all lined up and ready for Santa to hand out the gifts, the excitement grew by the minute. As the kids were called up by name and handed their gift, wished a HO, HO, HO and Merry Christmas, all went well until one smart little lad, said "Thanks Santa Stevie, I know who you are". Now this caused a bit of a dilemma because I certainly didn't want the kids to have their illusions shattered if I said "Yes I am" so getting a spur of the moment inspiration I said "Well, Santa wrote me a letter (note here: there were no emails) from the North Pole saying that would it be possible for me to give out the presents on Cocos Island because there wasn't time to land in the Indian Ocean, then get going again and deliver all the presents to the children around the world".



The smart little lad digested this information. took his gift and accepted my explanation without turning a hair and went off to open his gift. Drama averted. we went on celebrating Santa's visit to Cocos, regardless of the fact that Santa was a stand in, at least the beard was genuine!

THE SAXTONES:

- **Paul Brady**

In 1962, I was running a 7 piece band called The Saxtones. We were always very busy at Christmas time, but 1962/63 was very memorable. We were booked for Fry's Chocolate factory social club event to be held at a prominent hotel in Bristol. Our usual base was the British Legion Club at Stratton-on-the-Fosse where we played Christmas eve and arranged our next gig on Boxing Day for Fry's in Bristol. Our line up was Paul, Tenor sax and clarinet, Alan, Tenor sax and Alto sax, and David, Tenor sax. Chris Jones- Piano. Sean O'Connor-Double Bass. Sammy Milsom, Drums. Jack McCabe-Guitar.

Early on boxing day we gathered at the club and got our gear into three vehicles. Chris had a Ford van, Paul had a Mini Van, and Sean had a large Wolseley sedan. We drove in convoy to Bristol and arrived early and started to set up for a great evening. It was snowing as we travelled the 25 miles to Bristol, but all was well.

It was a great evening and was enjoyed by the crowd of about 200 so much so that at 1am, the appointed finish time, we were asked to extend for another hour and offered additional payment. At 2am we were offered more money to keep playing as there appeared to be travel hold ups as the snow was pretty bad outside. We continued playing up to 3am, and then decided to pack up and head home. The snow was bad on the Mendips we were told, and we decided to head home through Bath. We got half way to Bath and the snow was very deep in places so we pulled into a driveway and parked both vans (loaded with all the gear) and all piled into Sean's Wolseley. What a drive that was. We made it to Bath Spa railway station and Sammy knew where we could get a cup of tea. Huge excitement around a large stove with tea and dozens of stranded people all with stories. As it was now daylight we chanced the trip back over the Mendips to home in Sean's car.



We did quite well having to get out and push several times but eventually almost home we had to admit defeat and parked at the White Post Inn. The snow was so deep, you could not see where the road was. We could see the church tower at Stratton and after an hour struggling to avoid obstacles hidden by the snow, we arrived home to be met by our loving wives, Eileen and Sheila.

CHRISTMAS CAKE RECIPE:

This recipe has not been included in a Newsletter for a couple of years, but as we now have a lot of new members it is being repeated so that you can start your baking now. **Ensure you read it through to the end.**

CHRISTMAS CAKE RECIPE

INGREDIENTS

2 cups flour	1 cup of brown sugar
1 stick butter	Lemon juice
1 cup of water	4 large eggs
1 tspn baking soda	Nuts
1 cup of sugar	2 bottles wine
1 tspn salt	2 cups dried fruit

METHOD

1. Sample the wine to check quality.
2. Take a large bowl, check the wine again.
3. To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink.
4. Repeat.
5. Turn on the electric mixer.
6. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.
7. Add one teaspoon of sugar
8. Beat again.
9. At this point it's best to make sure the wine is still OK. Try another cup.-.Just in case.
10. Turn off the mixer thingy.
11. Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.
12. Pick the frigging fruit up off floor.
13. Mix on the turner.
14. If the fried druit gets stuck in the beaterers just pry it loose with a drowscriver.
15. Sample the wine to check for tonsisticity.
16. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something.
17. Check the wine.
18. Now shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.
19. Add one table.
20. Add a spoon of sugar, or some fink. Whatever you can find.
21. Greash the oven.
22. Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over.
23. Don't forget to beat off the turner.
24. Finally, throw the bowl through the window
25. Finish the wine and wipe counter with the cat.
26. Go to Coles and buy a cake.

Cherry Mistmas!

JOKING OF COURSE:

*Do you know the punishment for bigamy?
Two mothers-in-law.*

ORIGINAL INTENT OF TICKLING:

Tickling is viewed (by some) as something fun and playful. However, the original intent of tickling was for it to be a form of torture.

