



OCTOBER 2022
ISSUE NO 131

The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

Blokes, jokes, mates and more

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



It is with great regret that I have to report the resignation of John Griffiths as President of Midland Men's Shed and from the Management Committee.

John was forced into this decision by a rapid decline in his health. He was particularly upset that he cannot continue as Project Manager for our new shed extension as he wanted to see it completed. Brian Beer has kindly taken on that role.

John has been a consistent champion of MMS for many years. He believes passionately in what we are doing for men's health and well-being. Numerous attempts were made to secure a Shed for us, mostly to no avail. Finally the City of Swan offered the Swan Avenue site and I know that John was very pleased. But he also knew that we would need to expand and he championed this cause.

The committee resolved to thank John for his exemplary service and John gratefully received that letter.

In October we will elect a new committee and for the first time in several years we will have to ballot for Committee members, so thank you to those who put their names forward.

Cheers

Dave Savage

Deputy President

Email: dave_r_savage@hotmail.com

Phone: 0432 983 224

COMING EVENTS:

- October 4th Naidoc Week in Midland
- October 11th "Scams" - Jessie Bill
- October 18th Annual General Meeting
- October 25th "Frogs of the Perth Region" – Natasha Bowden
- November 15th "Tambora Volcano Eruption" - Tony Murphy
- December 20th Christmas Lunch

*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	SEPTEMBER
Total Attendance for month	171
Average Weekly Attendance	43
Best Week Attendance	48
New Members	4

MIDVALE WORKSHOPS:

Total attendance for the month	213
Average daily attendance	13

JOKING OF COURSE:

- *Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.*
- *My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously there's a new strain out there.*
- *It's not my age that bothers me; it's the side effects.*
- *As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: It will be misspelled and have no punctuation.*
- *As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy efficient.*
- *I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.*
- *I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.*
- *I put my scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.*
- *Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.*
- *There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is that once you get old, you stop being polite and start being truthful.*
- *Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.*
- *A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.*
- *Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.*
- *It's weird being the same age as old people.*

WHO IS THIS MEMBER OF THE MIDLAND MEN'S SHED???



LONG IN THE TOOTH:

Where does this expression come from? The phrase "long in the tooth" is believed to originate from horses, or more specifically, a horse's teeth. How so? Because the older a horse gets, the longer their teeth become. So it is possible to give an approximation for how old a horse is simply by looking at their teeth.

HIPPOS WALK UNDERWATER:

Their method of travel is very simple: they walk underwater. Like many people, hippos enjoy resting in cool water and can let themselves float or sink by controlling their breathing and body position. Once sunk, hippos don't swim back up to the surface: they walk along the bottom till they reach shallow water.

QUESTIONS:

In the word scent, is the "S" silent or "C"?

Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?

Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?

BLACK PEPPER PRODUCTION:

The country of Vietnam accounts for 35% of the world's production of Black Pepper. India and Indonesia are tied for 2nd place with 16%.

HELP PLEASE:

- **Mick Beatty**

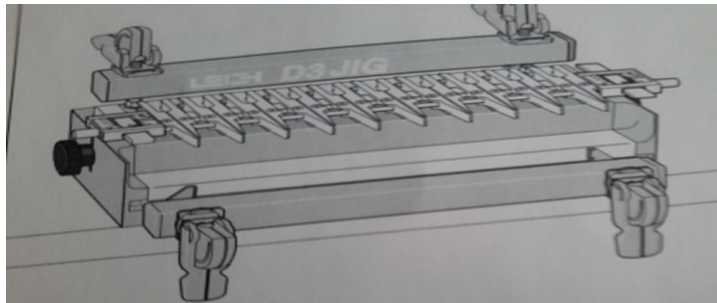
For many years now, I have been making all types of wooden boxes, such as: jewellery and keepsake boxes. These items are usually made by jointing the sides of the boxes using decorative dovetail or finger joints shown in the example below.

For many years now, I have been making all types of wooden boxes, such as: jewelry and keepsake boxes. These items are usually made by jointing the sides of the boxes using decorative dovetail or finger joints shown in the example below.



When I first attended MMS workshop I saw a jig that is specially made to make these joints easily and much faster than by hand. At the time, I asked other members if anyone had had experience is using the jig. I found that nobody had. Most of the members I spoke to agreed that the jig would be a useful tool to assist in constructing a whole range of different projects. For the past few weeks, I have been reading the 'Users Guide' for the D3 and find that all the accessories for it are still available from Carbatec in Perth. However, I think there are enough routers, cutters and guides at the workshops. to begin using the jig. I have discussed this matter with Brian, and other members, and they are all keen to get started using the jig. It would be a great help for me to find that somebody from the broader membership had experience in using the jig.

A pic of the jig.



.The only time to eat diet food is while you are waiting for the steak to cook.

AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIANS:

- **Dane Hall**

The following has been written by the late Douglas Adams of "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" fame.

Australia is a very confusing place, taking up a large amount of the bottom half of the planet. It is recognizable from orbit because of many unusual features, including what at first looks like an enormous bite taken out of its southern edge; a wall of sheer cliffs which plunge into the girding sea. Geologists assure us that this is simply an accident of geomorphology, but they still call it the "Great Australian Bight", proving that not only are they covering up a more frightening theory but they can't spell either.

The first of the confusing things about Australia is the status of the place. Where other landmasses and sovereign lands are classified as continent, island or country, Australia is considered all three. Typically, it is unique in this. The second confusing thing about Australia is the animals. They can be divided into three categories: Poisonous, Odd, and Sheep. It is true that of the 10 most poisonous arachnids on the planet, Australia has 9 of them. Actually, it would be more accurate to say that of the 9 most poisonous arachnids, Australia has all of them. Any visitors should be careful to check inside boots (before putting them on), under toilet seats (before sitting down) and generally everywhere else. A stick is very useful for this task.

The last confusing thing about Australia is the inhabitants. A short history: Sometime around 40,000 years ago some people arrived in boats from the north. They ate all the available food, and a lot of them died. The ones who survived learned respect for the balance of nature, man's proper place in the scheme of things, and spiders. They settled in and spent a lot of the intervening time making up strange stories. They also discovered a stick that kept coming back. Then, around 200 years ago, Europeans arrived in boats from the north. More accurately, European convicts were sent, with a few deranged people in charge. They tried to plant their crops in autumn (failing to take account of the reversal of the seasons), ate all their food, and a lot of them died. About then the sheep arrived, and have been treasured ever since. It is interesting to note here that the Europeans always consider themselves vastly superior to any other race they encounter, since they can lie, cheat, steal and litigate (marks of a civilized culture they say), whereas all the Aborigines can do is happily survive being left in the middle of a vast red-hot desert - equipped with a stick.

Eventually, the new lot of people stopped being Europeans on 'extended holiday' and became Australians. The changes are subtle, but deep, caused by the mind-stretching expanses of nothingness and eerie quiet, where a person can sit perfectly still and look deep inside themselves to the core of their essence, their reasons for being, and the necessity of checking inside their boots every morning for fatal surprises. They also picked up the most finely tuned sense of irony in the world, and the Aboriginal gift for making up stories. Be warned. There is also the matter of the beaches. Australian beaches are simply the nicest and best in the world, although anyone actually venturing into the sea will have to contend with sharks, stinging jellyfish, stonefish (a fish which sits on the bottom of the sea, pretends to be a rock and has venomous barbs sticking out of its back that will kill just from the pain) and surfboarders. However, watching a beach sunset is worth the risk.

As a result of all this hardship, dirt, thirst and wombats, you would expect Australians to be a sour lot. Instead, they are genial, jolly, cheerful and always willing to share a kind word with a stranger. Faced with insurmountable odds and impossible problems, they smile disarmingly and look for a stick. Major engineering feats have been performed with sheets of corrugated iron, string and mud. Alone of all the races on earth, they seem to be free from the 'Grass is greener on the other side of the fence' syndrome, and roundly proclaim that Australia is, in fact, the other side of that fence. They call the land "Oz" or "Godzone" (a verbal contraction of "God's Own Country"). The irritating thing about this is... they may be right.

TIPS TO SURVIVING AUSTRALIA

Don't ever put your hand down a hole for any reason - WHATSOEVER.

The beer is stronger than you think, regardless of how strong you think it is.

Always carry a stick.

Air-conditioning is imperative.

Do not attempt to use Australian slang unless you are a trained linguist and extremely good in a fist fight.

Wear thick socks.

Take good maps. Stopping to ask directions only works when there are people nearby. If you leave the urban areas, carry several litres of water with you at all times, or you will die. And don't forget a stick.

Even in the most embellished stories told by Australians, there is always a core of truth that it is unwise to ignore.

HOW TO IDENTIFY AUSTRALIANS

They pronounce Melbourne as "Mel-bin".

They think it makes perfect sense to decorate highways with large fibreglass bananas, prawns and sheep.

They think "Woolloomooloo" is a perfectly reasonable name for a place, that "Wagga Wagga" can be abbreviated to "Wagga", but "Woy Woy" can't be called "Woy".

Their hamburgers will contain beetroot. Apparently it's a must-have. How else do you get a stain on your shirt?

They don't think it's summer until the steering wheel is too hot to handle.

They believe that all train timetables are works of fiction.

And they all carry a stick.

GREETING FROM SCOTLAND:

- **Meic Davies**

It's September now and it's Autumn and schools have all opened after a 6 week summer holiday. After a 6 week holiday most teachers and kids were all feeling a bit sad on the first day back, I know Alix was and I remember too having to drag myself early out of bed and return to 30 odd fresh kids in a new classroom wondering what the year ahead was going to be! I am very happy that I am now retired but I don't mention that too much to Alix or something would surely be hurled in my direction!!

The weather this summer has been fantastic as you probably have gathered. It was hot (too hot for a lot of whinging Scots) and very dry. I loved it but it is a very different kind of hot to that of Australia. We decided to have our first camping holiday since leaving Perth and invited my son, daughter and grandkids to join us for just over a week in Snowdonia, North Wales. I had not been back to this part of Wales (God's Own Country) for many a year and had forgotten it's true beauty. It was magical and we all had a fantastic time visiting nearby places such as Bedd Gelert, Porthmadoc, Conwy, Caernarfon and Criccieth which has an outstanding castle to visit. Yes we had barbies and swims but before you ask did I climb Snowdon let me answer emphatically with a big NO. I'm too old, out of shape and it was too hot! I did however enjoy a few glasses of that Welsh amber nectar!



The end of the bowling season is nearing too and I have enjoyed making lots of new friends at the club. The game is not as easy as it looks and it has taken me a lot of practice to be an "average player". Golf here is too expensive for me so it's bowls or tiddlywinks. Talking of sport which I know you're not that keen on, I won a book of my choice from a magazine the other day and chose No Spin: My autobiography by Shane Warne. It's a very good read that I would recommend to folk who like cricket, such a shame about his death!

PS It goes without saying, give my best wishes to all at MMS, especially the musos.

MIND BOGGLING

- **Pete Arnell**

I enjoy doing crosswords, especially the cryptic kind, the ones that require lateral thinking, where you have to think outside the box, so to speak.

Then there are riddles which also require a similar approach, in trying to solve them. These Brain Teasers I find frustrating and I curse the people that compiled them.

Below are a number of RIDDLES that I have attempted, and have only solved Two.

They rate from top to bottom, from relatively easy to teeth gnashing hard. The last one is extremely difficult, and if anyone solves it, I will personally confer on them the highly prestigious title of MMS Nerd of the Month. So put on your thinking caps and have a go, and see how you do.

1. What question can you never answer to?
2. Jack and Mary have 4 daughters, and each daughter has a brother, How many people are in Jack and Marys household?
3. If there are 3 apples, and you take 2 away, How many apples do you have?
4. What word of five letters has one left, when two are taken away?
5. Imagine you had 4 eggs, and a thief gives you 3, then your Rooster lays 5 more, How many eggs do you have?
6. How many letters are in the Alphabet?
7. A man calls his dog from the opposite of a river, the dog crosses without getting wet, or using a bridge or a boat, How does the dog do it?
8. How much dirt is in a hole measuring 4mt x 4mt x 5mt deep.?
9. A is the brother of B, B is the brother of C, C is the father of D, How is D related To A.?
10. A barrel of water holds 400 litres and weighs 500kg. What is put into the barrel to reduce its weight?
11. Which of these English words is the odd man out. Stun, Ton, Evil, Mood, Letter, Bad Strap, Snap, Straw?
12. Someone's Mother has 4 sons called North, West and South. What is the name of the Fourth Son?
13. What English word has 3 consecutive double letters.?
14. What are the next 3 letters in this sequence of letters .R.O,T,R,D,S,H,G,M ?

HAVE FUN! Answers in next months Newsletter.

4 TIPS TO HELP CARE FOR YOUR AGING PETS:

This article is reproduced with the kind permission of Everything Retirement - Canada

Our cats and dogs are part of the family. This sentiment goes for most pet owners. And, as such, their health and welfare needs should be taken care of seriously, just as we take care of our own. Therefore, when it comes to looking after them as they age, we should also take measures to make that process as comfortable as possible for them, just as we would for an ageing human family member (or ourselves).

There are many things we can do for our furry friends (or 'fur babies', to some) that will ensure their transition into old age is still a healthy, happy and stimulating life. And, combined with ours and their unconditional love, the ageing process can be a good (or less difficult) experience. Here are four tips to help you achieve this goal.



1. Keep Their Brains Healthy

Play is the name of the game when it comes to keeping your pets young at heart. They need stimulation just as we do to live fulfilling, active and fun lives. As they age, our pets too can suffer from mental and cognitive decline – affecting their memory, their alertness, their sleep patterns and so on – just like us. What we can do is create new daily challenges for them. Perhaps teaching them a new game (hide and seek, retrieving) or training behaviour, or challenge them to figure out a puzzle feeder in order to get their treats.

2. Keep Their Weight Under Control

Our pets need to watch their weight as they age and we're the ones responsible for ensuring that happens. Too much fat tissue can be bad for our pets' organs and can cause inflammation not only in their joints but throughout their bodies, leading to a poorer quality of life. You may be advised by your vet to switch to 'senior' pet foods which may be easier for an ageing cat or dog to digest and which may also help in keeping their nutrition on track if their appetite wanes. The following sites may be of interest when it comes to your senior pet food decisions:

Much as we want to spoil them with treats and special snacks, try to keep your ageing furball(s) on a healthy diet. You can help by following the serving size suggestions on their pet food packaging. Eliminating any excess weight they may be carrying is very important if you want to keep them healthier – so continuing to take your pet dogs despite the fact they may have arthritis, for walks as they age, will help them stay more mobile.

And, in the case of pet cats, taking them out for walks in a harness is much more common nowadays but if your cat isn't into that, try playing more indoor games with them using a light beam, feathery toys on a string or tossing a small catnip filled ball or toy for them to pounce on and chase after. You too may get some much-needed exercise at the same time!

If, however, despite the added exercises and reducing their food portions to the recommended daily amounts doesn't have an impact on your pet's weight, you may want to visit your vet to find out if the animal has a thyroid condition, diabetes or other physical disorder.

3. Keep Them Tuned Up at the Vet

Your veterinarian should see your pet(s) at least once or twice a year for a check-up, especially if they're over ten years old. This will ensure any health issues are detected sooner than later and steps can be taken to address them. A vet will also offer solutions for such conditions as pet incontinence, mobility issues, or even teach you how to 'pill' your dog or cat if they need to take medication, so they can still enjoy their senior years without trauma. Some pets may get embarrassed – just as we humans do – when they can't do what they used to do.

4. Keep Them Comfy

An elderly cat may need a lower sided litter box located on every floor of your home to facilitate their needs, plus easy access to food and water when their mobility declines. You may wish to provide some pet stairs so that your cat can get up into their favourite perch or onto their preferred sun-filled window sill, especially if they have arthritis.

The same goes for a senior dog. If your ageing dog can no longer jump up onto the sofa or your bed for a nap if that's what it used to do, then maybe set up some steps to make it easier for them to get up and down. Put out food/water stations closer to where they spend their time as they become less mobile as well.

Both older cats and dogs will appreciate a bed with thicker padding as they age and dogs will possibly need to have their toenails clipped more frequently so they don't slip around on hardwood or tile flooring.

Pet Care is a Lifetime Commitment

Looking out for your family pet is a full-time job when they're young and lively, but it's also important if not more so, as they enter their senior years. Taking on a pet is a lifetime commitment. Our responsibility is to make every effort to ensure their senior years are as full and comfortable as possible and to keep our pets healthy and safe no matter their age.

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