

Plane Torque



The Kalamunda Men's Shed Newsletter

Issue No: 76

ABN 76 391 304 870

Date: February 2016

Joint foundation sponsors: The Rotary Club of Kalamunda and the Forrestfield Community Bank.

Proudly supported by the Shire of Kalamunda.

PO Box 1359 Kalamunda 6926

www.kalamundamensshed.org.au

26 January: Australia Day

26 January: Australia Day – Shed Closed

29 January: General Meeting at the Shed - Speaker Cyril Ayris

10 February: Bus Trip – Visit to Swan Valley see below

22 February: Grigoryan Brothers KPAC

26 February: General Meeting at the Shed – Guest Speaker George Nellson

11 March: Bus Trip TBA

8 June: Bus Trip TBA

12 October: Bus Trip TBA

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Whilst the Shed was closed for the Christmas/ New Year break, a much activity has taken place since I last reported late November. It seems a long while ago.

In the interests of brevity I'll confine my article to just dot-points with minimal other comment.

- December Rotary KMS Stall – Great spirit but not good weather.
 - KMS Christmas Luncheon Function (see later).
 - End of year final day luncheon with clean up and great fellowship
 - Progress on Workshop 4
 - TV , antenna, data cabling,
 - Chairs due for delivery, Computer desk on site
 - Doors [2] with safety glass ready for collection.
 - Dividing Wall construction imminent with arrival of doors.
 - Planning for insulated ceiling progressing.
 - Floor Painting
 - Kitchen & Tea Room
 - Office – Shed Boss
 - Small Hand Tool Store.
 - External Water Point installed – adjacent to metal work roller door. A safety issue.
- There's more, but I think that the list above demonstrates the continuing extent of activity.

I sincerely hope that members had a safe & pleasant festive season -- **Murray**

Kalamunda Men's Shed is a registered charity and all donations are fully tax deductible.

TONY CROWDER GUEST SPEAKER NOVEMBER

After introducing himself with his own English background history, Tony Introduced the Kalamunda history which goes back 140 years, which compared to English history is very short. The collection of the history started from the early 1900's to the 1960's by individuals within the shire.

In 1969 the Historical society was formed and a gathering of artefacts commenced. Around the same time oral history interviews were recorded with various prominent people who related memories of events and places in the district. The society has at present approximately 18,000 artefacts collected and housed in 12 buildings throughout the shire. The artefacts are stored with notes and are now all recorded digitally. There is also a large oral history library. The best known buildings are Stirk Cottage and the Railway Station museum.



Tony had brought some historical items along to the meeting, they included an aged electrician's test box with ammeter, voltmeter and Kilowatt hour meter all housed in a sturdy wooden case and a PMG switch housed in an very neat edge jointed box. He also had an old Bakelite telephone handset with windup lever for the user to contact the local exchange and arrange for a call to be made.

The presentation was diverse, covering the societies' involvement with obtaining government grants to build a number of structures, as well as their growth to 170 members, with about half of those being active members. Their work recording interviews and handling artefacts is ongoing. They have three shire paid members.

From Brian

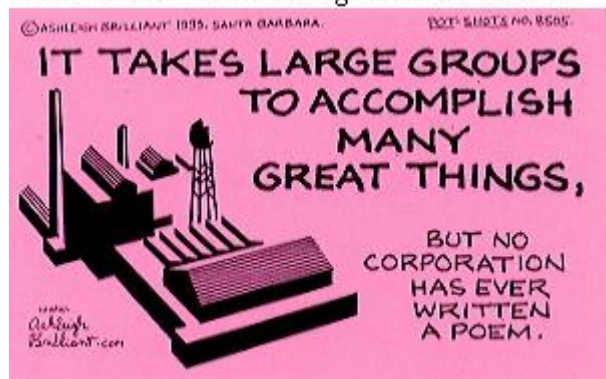
COM ACTIVITY

Committee Poem

Oh, have some pity, I'm on a committee
Which means that from morning till night,
We attend and amend and contend and defend
Without a conclusion in sight.

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve,
Since it's out of the question for us.
What a shattering pity to end our committee
Where else could we make such a fuss!

POT-SHOTS — Brilliant Thoughts in 17 words or less



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Christmas Lunch



Our Christmas Luncheon, held at the Lesmurdie Club was a great occasion with more than 60 members, partners or friends attending. Thanks to Ray Sparks for his organising the function.

The major Raffle Prize, a \$100 voucher generously donated by Walkers Hardware, was won by Arch Graham, a long standing KMS member, past Treasurer. I'm sure that Arch will make good use of this prize. Many other members collected donated prizes.



Recognising the important contribution our wives/partners make to the well-being of KMS members there were flowers and awards all around with Bernice Sparks taking first prize.

Good food, good facilities & more importantly excellent fellowship made for a most pleasant event.

Murray

Equipment Safety

Yes we know why there are more women in the world than men but in the Shed we will always encourage members to be safe with the machines and tools. If you do not know how to use a tool talk to someone who can show you BEFORE you use it.



Bus Trip - February

The February bus outing will be on Wednesday 10th February leaving the Shed at 9.30am. The trip will include Whistlers Chocolate Factory for coffee and tasting; Houghtons Vineyard, Oakover Wines; followed by Mandoon Estate where a good light lunch can be purchased for \$20 and served in pleasant surroundings and tastings for beer and cider.

A booking list for this trip is in the Tea Room on the notice board- get in quick.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

December Market



Rain hail or shine we man the market. We did it again on a wet and windy day in December and managed to attract about \$800 worth of interest from a wet and diminished public. We need to thank the members who braved the conditions and the customers who supported our efforts. Brian, our erstwhile organiser of the event,

particularly asked to recognise Elton and Murray for unbound assistance setting up and packing up.

Thanks also to the parking team for turning up on a rough day.

Kookaburra Outdoor Cinema

There is a new owner at the Kookaburra Cinema and that means if you want to book the KMS table you need to ring 9397 7945 or email kookainfo@dodo.com.au before 3.00pm on the day as Lindsay Morris has now retired and Peter and Agnes Foyster have taken over. At least we can continue to enjoy the outdoors at Mundaring and see a great range of films.

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW

The railway gauge

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates designed the US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels.

Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder 'What horse's ass came up with this?' , you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two horses' asses.)

Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah.

The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass.

JANUARY HAPPENINGS

Australia Day Party at Kalamunda Water Park

Shire of Kalamunda will be hosting a family-friendly event including free entertainment, free barbeque hire and all the regular fun attractions of the Kalamunda Water Park. As part of the celebrations, the YMCA and the Shire of Kalamunda will be offering two-for-one entry for all patrons on the day.

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

Jazz in the Park (Summer)

Get into the swing every Thursday from 6pm-8pm between February and April (weather permitting), with free jazz concerts by Kalamunda Youth Swing Band in Stirk Park. Take along a picnic, soak up the cool vibe of a balmy Hills evening and just relax.

MEMORIES OF BARRIE OLDFIELD

From Peter Goodall

I met Barrie and Sallie back in the 1960's....They had just driven their Morris 1100 all the way from England to Australia. We quickly became good friends especially when Barrie learnt that I was a cameraman.

This was the start of a great friendship. We worked together on some exciting and very interesting documentaries....He produced 17 film programs altogether, that included such luminaries as Richard St.Barbe-Baker...David Bellamy.....E.F. Schumacher....Malcolm Muggeridge.



I had the great pleasure in working on a number of them. One in particular was called "Wheat Today -What Tomorrow ?" with David Bellamy . A very important look at the environmental disasters which were happening in agricultural areas of WA

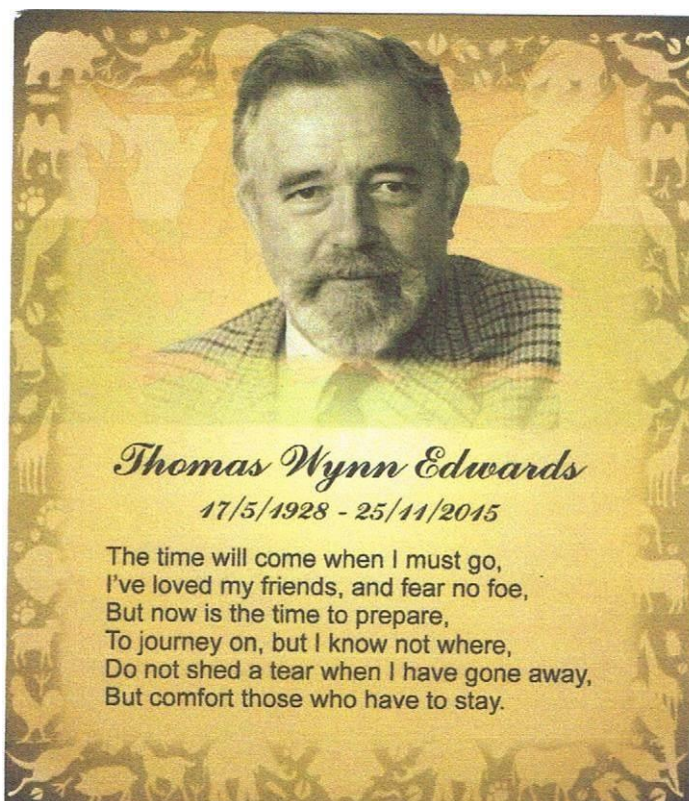
We were then asked by David to do a program with him on "Nauru" ...a report for the Thatcher Governments submission to the UN.

Barrie could turn his hand to anything that was needed. ... Probably the most far reaching, was the founding of the West Australian branch of "Men of The Trees" which then spread to the rest of Australia. It was to be a turning point for rethinking the use of the land and reversing the devastation that was happening at the time.

In his last year Barrie wrote down some of his memories. What he related in these nearly 30 pages was astounding. You'd think that being a friend with someone for over 50 years....you would get to know them....Well not with Barrie.....In his early years from about 6 or so, he learnt about music....photography....."Life" and beginnings of his understanding philosophy.

He was a lifelong friend of mine....and he is sorely missed.

VALE TOM EDWARDS



SCIENCE SPOT

WetlandCare Australia and Conservation Volunteers Australia invite photographers of all ages to enter the *Wetlands in Focus* photography prize.

Join us in celebrating and sharing Australia's wonderful wetlands and waterways!

It's easy and free to enter and get involved – just capture your favorite Australian wetland flora (plant), fauna (animal) or landscape on camera, and submit your shot in the easy to use form below.

Entries are open right up to the end of **February 2016**, which will be a month of wetland celebrations and events, marking **World Wetlands Day**.

World Wetlands Day falls on February 2nd each year and commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance on the 2nd February 1971.

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2016 is **Wetlands for our Future: Sustainable Livelihoods**

Cop This

"Climate change tells us we need to get out of our silos and build the movements we know we need"
- Naomi Klein at the Festival of Dangerous Ideas, 5th Sept 2015

IG NOBLE PRIZES

The 2015 Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded on Thursday 17 September at the 25th Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony at Harvard's Sanders Theatre. Here are a couple-

CHEMISTRY PRIZE — for inventing a chemical recipe to partially un-boil an egg.

"[Shear-Stress-Mediated Refolding of Proteins from Aggregates and Inclusion Bodies](#)," Tom Z. Yuan et al, ChemBioChem, epub January 2015.

PHYSICS PRIZE — for testing the biological principle that nearly all mammals empty their bladders in about 21 seconds (plus or minus 13 seconds).

REFERENCE: "[Duration of Urination Does Not Change With Body Size](#)," Patricia J. Yang et al. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 2014: 201402289.

LITERATURE PRIZE — for discovering that the word "huh?" (or its equivalent) seems to exist in every human language — and for not being quite sure why.

"[Is 'Huh?' a universal word? Conversational infrastructure and the convergent evolution of linguistic items](#)," Mark Dingemanse et al. PLOS ONE, 2013.

MATHEMATICS PRIZE — for trying to use mathematical techniques to determine whether and how Moulay Ismael the Bloodthirsty, the Sharifian Emperor of Morocco, managed, during the years from 1697 through 1727, to father 888 children.

"[The Case of Moulay Ismael-Fact or Fancy?](#)" Elisabeth Oberzaucher and Karl Grammer, PLOS ONE, vol. 9, no. 2, 2014, e85292.

Martian Magic



This site, known as *High Dune*, is the first Martian dune to be studied up close. The site is part of the *Bagnold Dunes* field of active dark dunes along the northwestern flank of Mount Sharp. The dunes are active, migrating up to about one metre per year.
<http://tinyurl.com/jugxndx>
Image courtesy of: NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS.