

# Plane Torque



The Kalamunda Men's Shed Newsletter

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Proudly supported by the Shire of Kalamunda.

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[www.kalamundamensshed.org.au](http://www.kalamundamensshed.org.au)

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**19 October:** Computer Group at Shed

**19 October:** Tronox Excursion

**28 October:** General Meeting Guest Speaker Brett Glossop – the 3 Black Cockatoos

**28 October:** Police Academy Graduation in morning

**25 October:** Truck Making at the Shed

**31 October:** Truck Making at the Shed

**6-13 November:** Seniors Weeks 2016

**9 November:** Have a Go Day, Burswood

**9 November:** Ageing Gracefully – The Hub, Mundaring

**16 November:** Computer Group at the shed in arvo

**25 November:** General Meeting

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Advice has been received from COTA that our nomination in the WA Senior Award for 2016 in the category "Groups and Organisations Award" has been unsuccessful on this occasion. They recognize our participation in community life and commitment to seniors.

Congratulations to Morris Pavlinovich and Ross Hogg for their completion of the project for Kalamunda CWA in construction and installation of mesh security cages for air conditioning units. The end result was a really professional job.

Kalamunda Men's Shed has again been requested to help out with children's activities at the Zigzag Festival on Sunday October 30. This consists of providing timber off cuts for the children to use their imagination in constructing small models with hammer and nails which they do with great enthusiasm. Richard Gates will be co-ordinating this project and will be asking for volunteers in due course to assist the children. This activity provides excellent community exposure for KMS and is challenging for our members holding nails while the kids swing their hammers.

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

We recently had cricket legend, Dennis Lillie join us for morning tea in the shed, it transpires, Dennis is brother-in-law of our fellow member, Jim Maslin. Tony Jacobs and Jim had repaired a household rubbish compactor for Dennis and he donated two bottles of red wine to KMS in appreciation. Ever alert, Eddie van Rijnswood (Shed Boss



on the day) asked Dennis to autograph the wine bottles, these bottles will be auctioned at our next general meeting.

Members may hear of a dispute that is currently going on between AMSA and WAMSA which about the structure of the Mens Shed movement in Australia. You should know that irrespective of the outcome of the dispute it will not affect your membership of the Shed, or your insurance cover.

Members are again reminded that we have a stall at the Kalamunda Village Markets in November and December, so keep your sale items rolling in please.

Graeme

## GENERAL MEETING

### JOHN SCHOEN

“Dutch Journeys to the Western Edge”

Contact by the Dutch with WA started with the landing by Dirk Hartog on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1616 on the island now named after him. It marks the first **recorded** contact by Europeans with the West Australian coast.

Many of us will know the story of the flattened, inscribed pewter plate left behind to mark the landing, a plate retrieved in 1697 by Willem de Vlamingh (the man who named Rottnest Island and the Swan River) who then replaced it with his own plate after carefully copying the text and adding his own wording. He took the 1616 plate back to the Netherlands. Now in the Ryksmuseum in Amsterdam, it's coming to Perth for the 400 year anniversary celebrations.

Now to the VOC:

The initials stand for Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie literally translated: the United East India Company. Better known in English as the Dutch East India Co. East India (Oost Indie) was then the Dutch name for present day Indonesia.

The VOC at that time was the most powerful trading company in the world, the 1<sup>st</sup> multinational and first limited liability company in the world. The company was formed in 1602 to trade in spices and operated for nearly 200 years. The amount of information on the company is amazing- covering everything from details of the ships owned (over1500!), ship's crew by name and position on board, wages paid, cargo carried etc. etc.

Having left the Netherlands, the ships rounded the Cape of Good Hope, called into Table Bay, present day Capetown South Africa, for supplies. Heading North from there past Madagascar they were often becalmed for up to 3 months in the doldrums West of India. Intolerable conditions on board, high temperatures, high humidity, their food spoilt, their water ran out and sailors died from scurvy. There had to be a better way.

The company charged Hendrik Brouwer, later the Governor of Batavia, with finding a better way. This is what he did:

Striking S. from the Cape of Good Hope for some miles (into the unknown, direction Antarctica) he picked up the roaring forties, then headed East for some 6000 sea miles before heading NNE to Batavia, present day Jakarta. That was in 1611. A number of other ships followed the Brouwer route which, as it cut as much as 6 months off the voyage to the East Indies, led the company to issue a directive requiring all VOC captains to follow it.

Dirk Hartog was following the Brouwer route.

What's my interest in all this?

Dirk Hartog was following the roaring forties route pioneered by Hendrik Brouwer. The V.O.C. captain off the West Australian Coast in1611 was also called Hendrik Brouwer.

My grandfather's name (on my mother's side) was also Hendrik Brouwer.

Now, wouldn't it give me some bragging rights if I was able to claim that my great, great, great etc. grandfather was off the West Australian coast in 1611?

This is an abbreviated version of the interesting talk by John.



## Cop This

*"Just because you like it does not mean it is good, and just because you do not like it does not mean it is bad"* Steve Reich on ABC Radio Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

## MADE BY MEMBERS

### CWA Cages

Picking up on a request by the CWA Morris, Ross and Stuart took on the task of constructing four screens to protect the air conditioners at the CWA Op Shop and meeting building behind the bus station.



The result was strong cages that will protect the units for the future that are now attached to the wall and floor in a way that no vandal will be able to damage the air conditioners

Despite the threatening weather the units were installed with the skill and attention to

detail we have come to expect from this great team.

The spin off from this exercise will be a series of welding learning experiences for members run by this team in the near future. If you are interested, as I am, put your name on the list in the tea room.

Well done Ross, Stuart and Morris.



### The Flying Red Horse

*Kalamunda Men's Shed's famous Rocking Horses have gone global!*



With the help of "The Master", one of our members built a red rocking horse "a la"

 style.

The horse was lovingly constructed in the KMS workshop, assembled and painted. It was then carefully "de constructed" and bundled up into luggage ready for take-off from Perth airport.

Arriving at Heathrow it was with nervous anticipation that the baggage carousel was inspected. Round and round went the carousel and despite two bags arriving, the treasured parcel with the majority of the horse, was yet to arrive.

The baggage area was eventually deserted of people and bags, still with no “horse” package. An enquiry to a helpful “lost bag” desk got the response “Sorry mate but it failed to be reloaded in Doha.” “However there is another flight in 30 minutes and you may find it then” he went on to say.

A 30-minute wait and the “special” parcel arrived and was taken from the terminal. Wrestling bags and the deconstructed horse on the London “underground” and then the “overground” during the peak hour was no mean feat, but it finally arrived ready for a special birthday.

Spread out on the families’ outdoor setting everything was there, and reconstruction commenced. Armed with screw driver and glue, this Kalamunda Men’s Shed icon rose like a phoenix into the London sunshine.



All without an alan key!

The birthday celebration arrived and all were impressed by the quality, design and operation of this flying horse.

So KMS members, be not constrained by that which you build. Be prepared to spread your products and expertise around the globe!

## IN THE SHED

### Offender of the Month

We have another candidate for the KMS offender of the month. To qualify for this award the participant has to; or contribute to; attempt to demolish a piece of shed equipment. The latest piece of equipment offended is the essential metal detector. Without this, the jointer, thicknesser, table and crosscut saws could suffer serious and expensive damage.

However this case is a bit different in that the attempted repair has caused an issue.

In changing the 9 volt battery over time the snap connector have been destroyed and some helpful person has soldered the damaged wires directly to the battery terminals.

Eddie van Rijnswood found and repaired the damage. His



comments are displayed above. The manufacturer's agent advises that a battery should last 12 months, which would indicate that members are not switching the unit off. We will try a new storage method where the ring hangs on a 4" nail, if the unit is on it should trigger the alarm and hopefully the offender will switch it off.

## **Truck Making Skills**

Chris Muller's truck-making is well underway, the Tuesday group has completed their truck and it is in the paint shop. Monday is lagging behind with members being a little slack turning up sometimes, but the job is nearly finished thanks to Chris's persistence.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITY**

### **Kalamunda Rotary Parking:**

What a day for the October markets! Even the marketeers eventually went home but despite the very wintry conditions 4 KMS members "*braved the elements*" to help Rotary with parking then be part of the rescue team. Parking supervision is shared amongst KMS members who will be asked to join in no more than two or three times per year. Rotary generously provide significant funds to the shed to cover operating costs for all members.

Thank you to the following October '16 volunteers: Norm, Howard, Jeff & Murray.

## **SENIOR WEEK ACTIVITIES**

### **Have a Go**

Have a Go Day is a FREE event for the general public to attend, no registration required just turn up on the day!

Turn up at Burswood Park between 9.00am and 3.30pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> November and *Have a Go*.

### **Ageing Gracefully**

This event, hosted by the Seniors Housing Centre COTA WA, in partnership with the Shire of Mundaring, Living Longer Living Stronger, Independent Living Centre and the Commonwealth Financial Service, will run a series of information sessions during the afternoon on topics like: *Making Informed Housing Decisions* (Seniors Housing Centre); *Home Modifications – Ageing in Place* (Independent Living Centre); *Making the Most of Consumer Directed Care* (COTA WA); Housing decisions and the Pension (FIS) and *Living Longer Living Stronger* (COTA WA).

The event is free so just indicate if you will be attending by booking a ticket online or calling the office on 9472 0104 who can help you do that.

## **SCIENCE SPOT**

Species have appeared and disappeared continually throughout Earth's history, with **extinctions** occurring on average at a rate of 0.1 to 1 species per million species-years. ... Several lines of **evidence** suggest that Earth is experiencing a **sixth mass extinction** today.

Biologists suspect we're living through the sixth major mass extinction. Earth has witnessed five, when more than 75% of species disappeared. Palaeontologists spot them when species go missing from the global fossil record. "We don't always know what caused them but most had something to do with rapid climate change", says Melbourne Museum palaeontologist Rolf Schmidt.

### **End Ordovician, 444 million years ago, 86% of species lost — Graptolite 2-3 cm length**

Graptolites, like most Ordovician life, were sea creatures. They were filter-feeding animals and colony builders. Their demise over about a million years was probably caused by a short, severe ice age that lowered sea levels, possibly triggered by the uplift of the Appalachians. The newly exposed silicate rock sucked CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere, chilling the planet.

### **Late Devonian, 375 million years ago, 75% of species lost — Trilobite, 5 cm length**

Trilobites were the most diverse and abundant of the animals that appeared in the Cambrian explosion 550 million years ago. Their great success was helped by their spiky armour and multifaceted eyes. They survived the first great extinction but were nearly wiped out in the second. The likely culprit was the newly evolved land plants that emerged, covering the planet during the Devonian period. Their deep roots stirred up the earth, releasing nutrients into the ocean. This might have triggered algal blooms which sucked oxygen out of the water, suffocating bottom dwellers like the trilobites.

Credit: Chip Clark / Smithsonian Institution

### **End Permian, 251 million years ago, 96% of species lost — Tabulate coral, 5 CM**

Known as "the great dying", this was by far the worst extinction event ever seen; it nearly ended life on Earth. The tabulate corals were lost in this period – today's corals are an entirely different group. What caused it? A perfect storm of natural catastrophes. A cataclysmic eruption near Siberia blasted CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Methanogenic bacteria responded by belching out methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Global temperatures surged while oceans acidified and stagnated, belching poisonous hydrogen sulfide. "It set life back 300 million years," says Schmidt. Credit: JAIME MURCIA / MELBOURNE MUSEUM

## **End Triassic, 200 million years ago, 80% of species lost**

### **— Conodont teeth 1 mm**

Palaeontologists were baffled about the origin of these toothy fragments, mistaking them for bits of clams or sponges. But the discovery of an intact fossil in Scotland in the 1980s finally revealed their owner – a jawless eel-like vertebrate named the conodont which boasted this remarkable set of teeth lining its mouth and throat. They were one of the first structures built from hydroxyapatite, a calcium-rich mineral that remains a key component of our own bones and teeth today. Of all the great extinctions, the one that ended the Triassic is the most enigmatic. No clear cause has been found. Credit: Paul Taylor / Natural History Museum

## **End Cretaceous, 66 million years ago, 76% of all species lost**

### **— Ammonite 15 cm length**

Delicate leafy sutures decorating this shell represent some advanced engineering, providing the fortification the squid-like ammonite required to withstand the pressure of deep dives in pursuit of its prey. Dinosaurs may have ruled the land during the Cretaceous period but the oceans belonged to the ammonites. But volcanic activity and climate change already placed the ammonites under stress. The asteroid impact that ended the dinosaurs' reign provided the final blow. Only a few dwindling species of ammonites survived. Today, the ammonites' oldest surviving relative is the nautilus. Will it survive the sixth great extinction?

Credit: JAIME MURCIA / MUSEUM VICTORIA

## **A-NOTHER SHED**

This month I had the opportunity to visit the Mandurah Men's Shed during the Peel Zone meeting. These guys have a facility that is attached to the college, they are only equipped for woodwork and they make toys, and more toys and more toys. If you go to Mandurah next weekend you will see their products at a stall where they give away thousands of these toys at a festival.



Their shed is open two days a week during which they

make toys, they have about 30 members. Some of the toys are made for sale as shown on the left here. On Friday they can share the workshop and can do their own projects. There is a high degree of community spirit in this shed.



## **END OF AN ERA**

The Shire, who have supported the newsletter by printing copies for our snail mail recipients have requested a stop in the practice so this is the second last newsletter to be posted.