

NUTS & BOLTS



'Every man needs a shed'

Vol 5 | Issue 11 | December 2021



In This Edition

- Page 2** Corrugated Shedders Concert
- Page 3** Christmas Lunch 2021
- Page 6** Photo of the Month
- Page 7** Poetry Corner
- Page 8** 2021- Life Members of Shed
- Page 9** 2021- 10 Year Members of Shed
- Page 13** Well Kept Wartime Secret
- Page 15** Great Moments in Science
- Page 16** Puzzles, Jokes & Trivia

Message from the Editor

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Special thanks go to Allan Johnson for again providing an excellent photographic record of the Christmas Lunch this year. Please enjoy this year's final copy of Nuts & Bolts.

As another successful and productive year for our shed comes to an end, I wish every shed member and their families a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas break, until we return in the New Year.

"My train of thought derailed. There were no survivors"



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Carina Men's Shed valued supporters include:



Member's News

Corrugated Shedders 25 November 2021 at Belmont Bowls Club

The Corrugated Shedders performed about 16 songs. George Wilson introduced each song with a bit of history about the writers and when it was written. Henry Lennie wowed the ladies with his rendition of a Scottish love ballad. After the performance a delicious roast lunch was served. The Corrugated Shedders next performance will be at the Australia Day Lunch, with some Australian classics



Words of Wisdom?

I still have a full deck, I just shuffle slower.

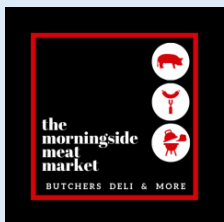
Covid-19 Fact: 87% of gym members don't even know their gym is closed.

When my wife is mad at me, I tighten all the jar lids so she has to talk to me.

I went line dancing last night. Well ... it was a roadside sobriety test...same thing!

I never make the same mistake twice. I do it like, five or six times, you know, to make sure.

Carina Men's Shed valued supporters include:



Christmas Lunch at Belmont Bowls Club

Friday 10 December 2021

President Paul Gardiner's welcome speech to the 90 members and guests at the Christmas lunch thanked all members for their support in ensuring another successful and productive year for our shed. Lifetime Memberships were awarded to Harry Davis and Eddie Haselich for their outstanding commitment to our shed. Ten Year Certificates were presented to Eddie Haselich, Bevan Guttormsen, Henry Lennie, Graham Ward and Bob Ikin. The Shed Christmas Raffle prizes were drawn and distributed, the raffle raised \$712 for the shed.

Presidents Report 2021

Good afternoon and welcome. We have had a fantastic year. I want to thank everyone for their contributions this year. The shed has run well and our financial situation is looking positive. The Bunnings BBQ and our market stall sales have provided substantial funds for operations. We have been able to purchase significant new equipment and upgrades to the workshop.

Our committees have worked hard and the members have supported the shed where they can. It makes running the shed so much easier when there is such a positive support. The new Photography group is growing and other activities continue to be well supported.

COVID is still a consideration. Hopefully its impact will lessen over the next 12 months.

The goal of the shed is in maintaining and improving the physical and mental health of our members.

We have undertaken a number of projects to support our local community. I thank everyone who got involved. Our major project with the veteran community is being greatly valued and appreciated and will continue into 2022. Bob Ikin is leading this project.

Our band 'The Corrugated Shedders', continues to entertain various groups in the community as well as the members. In fact, we will be having an Australia Day celebration lunch at the Murarrie Hall on Wednesday 26th January 2022. More details in January. All invited.

As always, we thank our local politicians for their support during the year. We also thank Steve Heald and the Clem Jones Centre for their support. On behalf of the committee, we wish you a merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.







Member News



November Photo of the Month -Theme "Fun"
 The photo, of shed member Les Veat having some fun at the wheel of the *South Passage's* cruise on Moreton Bay, was taken by Darryl Timms.

Coming Events

- Bunnings Trade BBQ on Wednesday 15th December 6 – 7:30 pm and \$200 for shed.
- Shed Closure Friday 17th and reopen Monday 03rd January 2022 which is a public holiday.
- Note Gym recommences Wednesday 5th January and will be back in the pool.
- Australia Day Wednesday 26th January will be held at Murarrie Hall, Corrugated Sheddors performing and lunch provided. Cost \$30 and partners welcome.



*Bunnings Family Evening
 Thursday 09 December*

The shed had a display at the inaugural Bunnings Family evening. The shed wares were on sale to promote the shed and thanks to Graham Ward, Adrian McDonnell, John Kirkwood, Tom Kenney, Eddie Haselich, David Sim, Freddie Butler and Rex Gelfius for attending, with sales of \$200.



The Thunderbox

(provided by Bevan Guttormsen)

They were funny looking buildings, that were once a way of life,
If you couldn't sprint the distance, then you really were in strife.
They were nailed, they were wired, but were mostly falling down,
There was one in every yard, in every house, in every town.

They were given many names, some were even funny,
But to most of us, we knew them as the outhouse or the dunny.
I've seen some of them all gussied up, with painted doors and all,
But it really made no difference, they were just a port of call.

Now my old man would take a bet, he'd lay an even pound,
That you wouldn't make the dunny with them turkeys hangin' round.
They had so many uses, these buildings out the back,"
You could even hide from mother, so you wouldn't get the strap.

That's why we had good cricketers, never mind the bumps,
We used the pathway for the wicket and the dunny door for stumps.
Now my old man would sit for hours, the smell would rot your socks,
He read the daily back to front in that good old thunderbox.

And if by chance that nature called sometime through the night,
You always sent the dog in first, for there was no flamin' light.
And the dunny seemed to be the place where crawlies liked to hide,
But never ever showed themselves until you sat inside.

There was no such thing as Sorbent, no tissues there at all,
Just squares of well-read newspaper, a hangin' on the wall.
If you had some friendly neighbours, as neighbours sometimes are,
You could sit and chat to them, if you left the door ajar..

When suddenly you got the urge, and down the track you fled,
Then of course the magpies were there to peck you on your head.
Then the time there was a wet, the rain it never stopped,
If you had an urgent call, you ran between the drops.

The dunny man came once a week, to these buildings out the back,
And he would leave an extra can, if you left for him a zac.
For those of you who've no idea what I mean by a zac,
Then you're too young to have ever had, a dunny out the back.

Life Member Profiles

Extract from Nuts & Bolts November 2013 Vol 1 Issue 12

MEMBER PROFILE – Eddie Haselich



Eddie was born in Brisbane on the 28th April 1948. His family lived in Calen, North Queensland on a cane and dairy farm until he was 11 years old when the family returned to Brisbane and settled in Carina. After completing scholarship he attended Camp Hill High School (now Whites State College) where he completed Senior (pure academic course). Eddie was a member of the Young Anglican Fellowship and he taught Sunday school at the old St. Gabriel's Anglican Church, Carina. He spent two years with the Franciscan Friars and then left for a job in the Commonwealth Government (Department of Works and then Taxation). He met a girl from Adelaide and moved to South Australia and was married in 1969.

He transferred to the Commonwealth Police and then worked for the Bureau of Meteorology. We had two children a boy and girl who still live in South Australia. He has three grandchildren. Eddie attended Adelaide University and graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work. He gained a Diploma in Community Development with a youth and indigenous focus as well. Eddie lectured and tutored at South Australian College of Advanced

Education and was involved in many innovative projects, for example, a Youth Mobile program leading to a Youth Health Centre being established, a Men's Health Centre and a Youth Accommodation Service.

He was asked to join the Department for Community Welfare as a Social Worker spending his first 5 years working in the Child Protection Unit. Eddie worked in the Department for 26 years, the last 4 years spent in the Riverland Office. He returned to Queensland in June 1996 to care for his mother who only had a short time to live. She lived for another 5 years. While caring for his mum Eddie took a number of short contract positions; the Department for Community Services, as a Tutor at the Queensland University of Technology and he coordinated a number of Neighbourhood/Community Centres in Hervey Bay, Coorparoo and East Brisbane.

He returned to University and completed a Bachelor of Social Science degree majoring in Human Services and Politics. In 2003 he met his future wife, a Chinese National. They were married in China in 2004 and their daughter was born in China in 2005. The family arrived in Australia in 2007 and for the next few years he worked as a Social Worker with Anglicare and Spiritus, as well as other jobs. Eddie joined Men's Shed Carina in 2011 and he has played an active role in administration of the shed.

Extract from Nuts & Bolts Feb 2014 Vol 2 Issue 4

Member Profile – Harry Davis



I have lived in Brisbane for all but three years of my life with twenty two years in New Farm and forty six and counting in Cannon Hill.

Early Teaching

After completing Senior, I had a year at Kelvin Grove Teachers College to gain a primary teaching qualification. I taught at New Farm and Mitchelton State Schools of Villanova College at Coorparoo. With the abolition of the Scholarship Examination, I moved to the secondary section of Villanova College. I taught Mathematics and Bookkeeping /Accounting. By this time I had taught face to face for 14 years. I completed my Education during this period.

Head Office Education

I was accepted to go into Head Office of Education: to write articles, undertake research, précis the education literature and assist in the research and writing of the Queensland School Papers sent to Primary Students each year

Initial Teaching and Head Office in TAFE

I then moved into Kangaroo Point Technical College in the Management Section as an Instructor in Accounting. In 1973, the Kangan Report changed Technical Education to TAFE and the Federal Government threw many millions of dollars into the system. I was fortunate to obtain two positions under these moneys:

Senior Instructor at the Kangaroo Point School of Business, including educational, administrative and HR activities.

Education Officer within the Staff Development Section. The section had three staff and operated out of the laundry at Alexandra House. The section ran management, teaching and administrative courses for TAFE. I met and worked with Mal Weier here During my 10 years at the Head Office I undertook four semester subjects in basic woodworking and furniture making and I completed my Commerce Degree.

Mt Gravatt TAFE

My next move was to the position of Officer in Charge (School of Business) at Mt Gravatt College of TAFE. I managed courses in Business (Secretarial) Studies, Administration, Management, Business, Accounting, IT, Marketing and Police/Prisons with some 35 full time and 80 part time staff; the latter were all at top levels in the private sector as well as government departments.

Ten Year Member Profiles

The major challenges at this time were:

- The initial College based installation of the new Wang main frame computers as part of their new buildings as a result of Kangan. The management of same was difficult due to staff we had available were unskilled in main frame administration. With all colleges now having access to computer accounting programs, the accounting syllabus was modified to include sixty hours of tuition on computerized accounting. I undertook most of the training of teachers throughout the State after the initial training and prepared all the teaching documentation and practical questions.
- Taught a significant number of students so that the practical work had been completed prior to graduation.
- I obtained the Director's authority to conduct some of the Diplomas on a full time basis, commencing with 60 students per annum and ending up in three years with 300 full time students.
- We were fortunate to be approached by a mining company in the Solomon Islands with a proposal to have two or four of their indigenous supervisors undertake full time studies in the Diploma of Business (Management). The College Director approved the proposal and so did the Head Office Director of TAFE. The joint venture proved very successful over a medium timeframe.

I was at Mt Gravatt for a period of 11 years.

Private Sector

The last part of my professional life actually began just after my sixtieth birthday. I had obtained a position as a Management Accountant with an organization which taught counselling students by external studies. The tax accountant who had been providing bookkeeping work was interested in getting figures for the tax returns rather than providing management accounts on a regular basis. As the Management Accountant, I was able to:

- Undertake the day to day bookkeeping work required
- Use my accounting, statistical and psychology, to provide monthly management reports
- From much of this data, provide many cost efficient processes to enhance the teaching processes. I finally retired after just over ten years at the company on the 6th August 2010.

Retirement Men's Shed

Mal asked and I accepted to join the Men's Shed Carina. I hope he is happy I did. I have enjoyed most of my time there, particularly getting into the stained glass work and the arrival of Adrian, who was a saviour to us. I really am glad that I have moved out of the accounting work all together.

Travel Since Jacqui finished work we have been fortunate to undertake four substantial trips within Australia.

Extract Nuts & Bolts May 2012 Vol 1 Issue 2 - Joined Shed August 2011

MEMBER PROFILE – BEVAN GUTTORMSEN



Bevan did his five year apprenticeship as a boat builder at Millkraft at Bulimba. On completion of his apprenticeship he spent another two years at Bulimba and then went into the Army as a National Serviceman where he served at Singleton and Chowder Bay in NSW and then Victoria Barracks Brisbane where he worked in Movement Control. He also got married when he was working in Brisbane and has four children.

After his National Service he returned to Millkraft for a while and then worked with Brian Thompson until the decline in the wooden boat market saw him take a job with KR Darling Downs Doboy as an industrial painter. Bevan taught himself and after an eight hour trade test he earned his trade papers as a painter. When KR Darling Downs closed down he worked for himself as a house painter and in labour hire (worked on jobs at CSR Sugar Refinery and Pauls Milk). Bevan then worked at Movie World for five and a half years doing theme park maintenance. During this time he had a major accident and had two shoulders reconstructed and never went back to Movie World. From Movie World Bevan moved to Mitre 10 for five years where he was a Paint Section Manager. During this time he had a heart attack and after a double bypass he took early retirement at the age of 60.

Interests:

- > Caravanning and boating (built many boats under his house, eg. 18 footer).
- > Bevan includes travel as one of his interests. He has travelled extensively overseas to Hong Kong, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Singapore, the Canadian Rockies and Vancouver to Seattle by train.
- > Men's Shed and woodworking.
- > Small jobs for friends and neighbours.
- > V8 super cars – he has driven a V8 super car at Willowbank and an Auscar at Calder Park.

Bevan's bucket list includes: Travel New Zealand extensively and heaps more caravanning and caravan club activities.

Ten Year Member Profiles

Extract Nuts & Bolts August 2013 Vol 1 Issue 11 - Joined Shed September 2011

MEMBER PROFILE – HENRY LENNIE



Henry was born in Glasgow, Scotland, where he attended primary and high school until his family decided to immigrate to Australia. In 1955 the only offer for accommodation was Nelson's Bay, NSW. Unfortunately work was difficult to reach having to travel to Newcastle every day. A move to Brisbane proved a good plan and the family have lived in Brisbane ever since.

Henry studied and became a Manufacturing Jeweller, which was a 5 year apprenticeship. He worked very hard for a jewellery company in the City and made, among many items, a crown for King of Pop (John Farnham) and handmade badges for the Lord Mayoral chains. His Mum and Dad were enjoying working and living in Brisbane, when tragedy struck! Henry's Dad drove his Mum and Henry home from work one day, walked over to water his roses and he dropped dead from a heart attack. He was only 49 years old. Henry's first home was at The Gap, which had lovely views reminding him of Scotland. Henry enjoyed visiting Coober Pedy and the opal mines. He and his wife also went fossicking in the Inverell and Glen Innes areas for sapphires. Henry felt a change was needed and after 17 years in jewellery, he moved to the Reserve Bank. He still kept on his jewellery interests and had many interesting clients.

Henry moved to live at Mansfield, before his move to Carina, where he still lives. Henry enjoys writing poetry and had a poem published in the Bank journal. He also loves singing. On his last trip to Paris with friends, Henry and a friend stood on one of the bridges over the River Seine, cap in hand, singing the song about the River. The American tourists thought it was great. Henry also loves revisiting his birthplace in Scotland and enjoyed the last trip to the Trossachs and Leny House (old Spelling)

Extract Nuts & Bolts June 2014 Vol 2 Issue 3 - Joined Shed August 2011

Member Profile – Graham Ward



I was born in Subiaco, Perth in 1940. I grew up on a poultry farm with 3 siblings until the age of 22. At 14 I started working as an offset printing apprentice on 2 pounds seventeen and sixpence a week having left school in the sixth grade. To earn some extra cash at 15 I secured a second job working at the Highway Drive Inn Theatre as a car hop. By the age of 22 and living in Perth, the most isolated capital city in the world, I wanted to see what the rest of Australia was like.

A perfect opportunity presented itself when a friend mentioned he was about to drive from Perth to Melbourne, I gave notice and farewelled my family and we set off across the Nullarbor in a 1960 FB Holden and an MGA. The RACWA map warned us of 1000 miles of dirt road ahead...it was a rather uneventful trip but very, very dusty. In Melbourne I started my first of many jobs in the printing industry, in those days in Melbourne they were much bigger firms with more modern machinery. During the next two years I joined the MG car club, made a lot of friends and travelled the length and breadth of Victoria from the surf to the snow. The travel bug hit me again and Queensland seemed like an appealing option so in 1964 I jumped into my Morris 1100 and headed north. On arrival in Brisbane I drove into Queen St in the city, parked on the side of the road (no parking meters back then!) went into the first Real Estate Agent and found a flat to rent which was in Rainworth. Next I needed to find a job... after my first interview with the Queensland Can Company Printing Division I was hired! When I turned up for my first day on the job they had nothing for me to do. When I asked why they had hired me I was told "because of your experience we did not want our competitors to get you".

Not knowing anyone in Brisbane joining the Brisbane MG car club was an obvious choice. This is where I met not only lifelong friends but my future wife Christine. Still feeling the need to see more of Australia I threw caution to the wind and moved to Sydney in 1966... Christine followed shortly after. While living in Sydney I worked on a massive printing press three stories high possibly the first one in Australia. Christine and I relished the social life in Sydney and living on Tamarrama Beach. Christine and I were married in 1968 bought our first home in Randwick (when we left Sydney and sold this house we got \$18,000 for it, in 2014 it is back on the market for 1.5million dollars – should have held on to that one!). When Christine fell pregnant in 1969 we decided to move back to Queensland to be closer to her family.

During a holiday trip to Brisbane I caught up with a friend who showed me around Queensland Newspapers and Mirror newspapers. When we moved up to Queensland, and because of my extensive experience, I was offered a job at both newspapers. I recall that Rupert Murdoch was offering me more money than James Packer so I went to work for the Sunday Truth (later the Sunday Sun). In 1970 Christine and I bought a house in Camp Hill on Brisbane's south-side and then a rental property in Hawthorne. In 1971 our daughter was born. Later we sold Camp Hill and bought a second house in Hawthorne. In 1977 Christine and I went our separate ways and then divorced.

Over the next 27 years I worked as a supervisor in the machine room at The Sunday Sun. When printing a newspaper most of the work is done at night which meant I worked night shifts and had my days to himself. Around 1984 a friend of mine was selling a small printing press which I bought for \$400 and set up in my garage at home. Through word of mouth it wasn't long before I was busy printing office stationery and business cards etc this very quickly became a seven day a week 'part time' business. The business outgrew my garage and over the next 10 years moved from a small industrial unit in Bulimba and then to even bigger premises in Newstead where I took on a partner and Buzzprint was officially born.

In 1996 Queensland Newspapers bought out The Sun and closed it down moving all business to Murarrie and at this point I chose to accept a redundancy. It was coincidentally the same time that I collapsed from a previously undiagnosed heart condition which required a heart valve replacement. After recuperating from surgery and never one to be idle for long I was quickly back at Buzzprint and now able to invest all my energy in my own business being 'retired' from The Sun. As more staff were needed at Buzzprint I called on two retired colleagues from the Sunday Sun newspaper to work for me as part-time printers. It was during this period that my business partner died of emphysema due to chronic smoking and my son Justin became my new business partner. Together we were a great team and in the year 2000 we took the next step and invested in two industrial units in Banyo. With Justin at the helm and myself managing the printers the business continued to grow steadily.

With more time on my hands I was now able to spend some time at home working on my gardens and my cars. Unfortunately in 2007 I caught a bacterial infection from compost in the garden which attacked my heart and put me in a very serious condition and I spent nine days in hospital. I went back to work briefly but soon after I decided to retire. Conscious that her Dad was finding retirement boring and needing something to keep him active Graham's daughter suggested he join the Carina Men's shed. I still try to visit Buzzprint almost daily and I'm also actively involved and thoroughly enjoying being a grandfather to my 5 grandchildren. As a footnote: I have managed to acquire seven cars, four of which I would love to restore in my spare time finally!!

Extract Nuts & Bolts Oct 2017 Vol 2 Issue 8 - Joined Shed July 2011

MEMBER PROFILE – BOB IKIN



I was born in Elsternwick, Melbourne, Victoria on the 5th February 1948 and am the eldest of three sons to Kenneth and Joan Ikin. My mother and father were married when my father got back to Australia after serving in New Guinea in World War 2. My parents built a house in Chelsea about 20 miles out of the Melbourne CBD on Port Phillip Bay. Chelsea was largely bush in those days and my earliest memories involved spending a lot of time wandering for miles exploring the area. Those were the days you could leave the house early in the morning and not come home until dusk without concerning your parents. Our back yard used to flood after heavy rain which used to be a challenge visiting the outhouse in winter. I have memories of digging holes in the backyard and finding sea shells and you wouldn't have to dig too deep to strike water.

I come from a long line of military service. My ancestor Obadiah Ikin came out to Australia with his family as one of the first New South Wales Corps (later famous as the Rum Corps) on the infamous Second Fleet death ship *Surprise*. My great grandfather was a member of the pre-Federation Volunteer Artillery based at Shortlands Bluff at the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, my grandfather, father and I were regular Army soldiers in the Royal Australian Engineers. Both my father and I were commissioned as officers from the soldier ranks.

My education was undertaken at Chelsea Primary School and Bonbeach High School in Victoria. My father was transferred from Melbourne to Wagga Wagga. I joined the Wagga High School cadet unit when I first arrived at the school and enjoyed it so I enlisted in the Army as a 16 year old in 1964. Corps training at the School of Military Engineering, Liverpool NSW followed as a Field Engineer (Combat Engineer these days) and then I was posted to my first regular Army unit at Wacol, Queensland. I spent a bit of time there until I was earmarked for service in South Vietnam in late 1966. After a lot of training I arrived in South Vietnam in March 1967; 19 years of age by a couple of weeks. Quick promotion to Corporal followed which was a big challenge because some of the soldiers in my troop were twice my age and more experienced but the 'powers to be' must have seen something in me to take the chance. It was a major learning curve which held me in good stead for the rest of my military career.

Back home in 1968 and a number of postings to field units followed until I was transferred to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea as a Sergeant for two years. What a great two years this was. By this time in my service I realised there was not a lot of future in field engineering (minefields, demolitions etc.) so I branched out into logistics and personnel administration. This change set me up for civilian employment when I left the Army in 1984. Papua New Guinea was a great experience in the years before independence in 1975. My only regret is that I should have visited the places where my father served during World War 2. I was transferred back to Australia in 1972 and spent some time as a Sergeant with an Army Reserve unit in Marrickville, Sydney. There were two highlights in 1973 - I met my lovely wife Kerry and I was transferred to the School of Military Engineering as a Sergeant Instructor. We got married in 1974 at Goovigen, Queensland which is Kerry's home town. Goovigen is a small town outside Biloela in central Queensland.

Ten Year Member Profiles

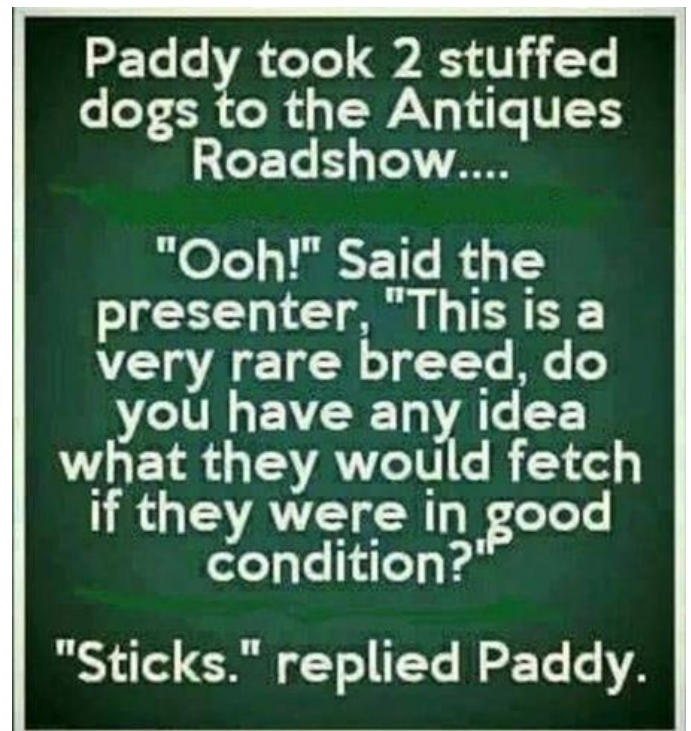
The years 1975 to 1977 were spent in Townsville where I worked at Lavarack Barracks. Our first child was born in Townsville and this period was very good to me professionally being promoted twice. In 1978 we were transferred to the Department of Defence Canberra and I stayed in Canberra until 1982. I took the opportunity to do some more study and after completing my Matriculation in Townsville I enrolled at the Canberra College of Advanced Education (now the University of Canberra) to do a Business Degree. Two more of our children were born in Canberra and I was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 at the Directorate of Engineers in 1981, the top Warrant Officer Class 1 position in my corps at the time. In 1983 Kerry and I started to talk about life after the Army and I requested a transfer to Brisbane and I became a Captain Quartermaster at an Army Reserve unit at Kelvin Grove.

In August 1984 I left the Regular Army after 20 years and joined the ABC immediately as an Assistant Assets Clerk. Now as you can appreciate the ABC and the Army are like chalk and cheese. The Army is very black and white and the ABC is very grey. My four and a half years at the ABC provided me with great experience in how to negotiate with people to get things done. The ABC soon learned that I had other skills and I advanced up the corporate ladder fairly quickly ending up as the Supply Manager.

I was getting a bit restless and applied for a Senior Purchasing Officer job at Metway Bank and was successful. In 1995 Metway Bank was integrated with Suncorp and QIDC into the Suncorp Metway group and I remained with the group until my retirement in 2007. GIO also was absorbed into the Suncorp Group and I worked as a Project Manager in both of these large integrations. I was responsible for projects worth millions of dollars of savings and spent plenty of sleepless nights trying to work out to achieve the savings targets. The first CEO of the newly formed Suncorp group in 1995 had a favourite saying when you discovered that savings were not achievable in any of your projects "There are reasons for not achieving the targets - but no excuses." I achieved all my targets. Before the integration in 1995 I had undertaken further study in finance and financial planning through the Securities Institute but when the integration was announced I decided to stay put in my Purchasing role as I still had children at high school, TAFE and University. This proved to be the right move as people were being made redundant left, right and centre.

I have pursued quite a few interests since retiring. I do welfare work with the RSL and more recently Mates4Mates; I do some community radio work with a history program which now goes national and an AFL program during the season with former shed member Steve Dalziel. Kerry and I now have three grandchildren and they keep us very busy as well. I also crewed on the Endeavour replica in 2012 sailing from Hobart to Melbourne. I was given a guitar for my 60th birthday and am enjoying the guitar interest group sessions at our shed on Mondays.

I joined our shed in 2011 and have enjoyed seeing the shed grow over the past six years. I am passionate about our shed and am a strong advocate of the men's shed movement and look forward to contributing a lot as President over the next year



A Well Kept Wartime Secret

I will tell you a story about a Royal Australian Navy seaman, who was transferred from New Guinea to Darwin in early 1942 to become part of a replacement contingent set to become part of a ships company. The ship that was to dock in Darwin for repairs and refit never arrived however. This Seaman remained in Darwin for a time becoming part of the general military presence there as a result of Japan's expansion activities in the islands directly to the north of Australia.

He experienced first-hand the terror of the Japanese air raids that inflicted many casualties and considerable damage on that city over the period commencing with the first air raid on 19 February 1942. Air raids inflicted on Darwin by the Japanese resulted in ships sunk in the harbour, (some of them are still there), installations shot up, buildings destroyed, caused many fires and lives lost by the raids during this time. The naval rating became actively involved in the air defense of the town.



The initial air raid caught everyone by surprise but, over time the city's defenses were built up and many air strips were constructed south of the city to spread the assets out and disperse the military installations. The city's defenses became better organized, trained and much more effective.

For the Japanese; the cost of the raids on Darwin, which were meant to eliminate Darwin as a potential staging post for further military activity to the north of Australia; became increasingly costly as regards aircraft and pilots. The Japanese didn't have rubber lined fuel tanks on their aircraft as we did, so a bullet hole in the wing tanks of the aircraft probably meant the pilot died a lonely death somewhere between Australia and Java in the Arafura Sea.



A Zero over Brisbane submitted by Ross Coates

Our naval serviceman eventually ended up in Brisbane and was posted to a warship that was at anchor in the Brisbane River, close to where Colmslie is today for refurbishment. One evening after nightfall he heard the unmistakable sound of a Japanese Zero flying low over the city. After experiencing dozens of air raids in Darwin, our man knew what he was hearing, it was a Japanese zero; no doubt about it! He reported to the officer of the watch and subsequently to the ship's Captain that a Japanese aircraft was definitely flying low over Brisbane and he was concerned that could mean an enemy force was near.

He was told to keep quiet about it till they checked the information. After an agonizing wait for confirmation, it transpired that he did in fact hear a Japanese Zero over Brisbane that night. It seems the Americans had transported some wrecked enemy aircraft to Brisbane for refurbishment and evaluation. The wrecks were rebuilt, repaired, re-skinned and test flown to evaluate their actual performance in combat conditions. There was indeed a Zero over the city that and many other nights. It was done after dark so as not to alarm the general population, which would have been the case had they done it during daylight hours. If he hadn't been in Darwin during many, many air raids he wouldn't know what a zero's engine sounded like and neither did anyone else; it seems. No invasion was imminent; but he was told to keep quiet the matter quite just the same.

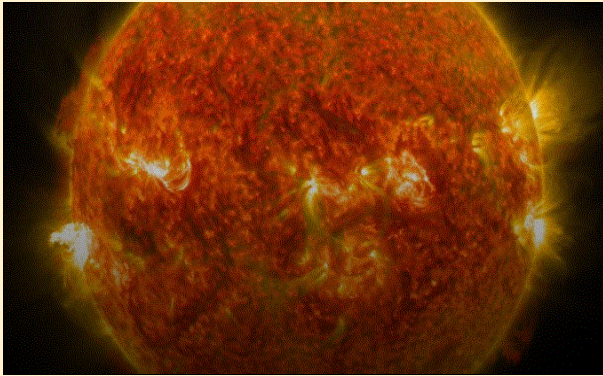
The general Allied opinion of Japanese aircraft at the time was that they were junk. Reality however, proved to be the exact opposite. The aircraft were well constructed were easy to fly and were very maneuverable. They could fly much farther than any allied fighter at the time as well, and proved to be a very capable aircraft.



The individual in question ended the war as a Chief Petty Officer and possessed a knack for aim-off when shooting at fast moving aircraft. He was a distant relative of mine who passed away peacefully some 12 years ago in his sleep, but the story he told me I've never forgotten.

Great Moments in Science with Dr. Karl Kruszelnicki

Carrington Event



Dr Karl: Today, we humans are a very long way from our pre-electronic ancestors. We are attached to the electronic toys that we enjoy and use: the GPS unit that finds a street in an unfamiliar city, the smart phone that is a camera as well as a dictionary as well as giving access to the internet, and even the accurate watch you wear on your wrist. But what if they were all to suddenly die?

Welcome to the superstorm, when the Sun decides to have a hissy fit! Welcome to the Carrington Event! About one-and-a-half centuries ago, an independently wealthy English astronomer, Richard C. Carrington, was following his normal daily habit of observing the Sun. He had already discovered that the Sun rotated faster at the equator than at the poles.

On August 26, 1859, the Sun had thrown a few billion tonnes of super-hot gas directly at the Earth. The impact with the Earth's magnetic field and the upper atmosphere was so huge, that over the next few days people saw auroras, not just near the poles, but as close as 25° to the equator. In addition, there were major hiccups in the Earth's magnetic field and huge amounts of noise in the telegraph system, so much noise that it took 14 hours to send a mere 400 words. However, as is the nature of such things, it all began to wind down.

But, on 1 September, 1859, Richard Carrington saw enormous sunspots on the Sun, so huge that they were easily visible without a telescope. Suddenly, at 11:18am, they flared into an unexpected and white-hot fury. He didn't know it, but another super-hurricane of super-hot -- and super-fast -- gas had just been thrown at the Earth. About 17 hours later, travelling at 2380 kilometres per second, it hit. Nobody had ever described auroras like these. They were so bright that people awoke at 1:00am thinking that the dawn was coming. The auroras threw shadows, and you could read tiny print by their light. They got to within 18° of the Equator, being easily visible in Hawai'i and Panama.

Charged particles almost instantly destroyed five per cent of the ozone in the atmosphere, and the ozone took four years to recover. The magnetic storm set off huge currents in the ground, which invaded the long telegraph lines. Telegraph operators were nearly electrocuted dead by the long, violent sparks erupting from the handsets. And several telegraph stations burnt down.

If the Carrington Event happened today, nearly 10 per cent of the 1000-or-so working satellites in orbit would stop working. That's an immediate \$100 billion cost right there. Banks rely on the super-accurate time signals from the GPS satellites, so then you couldn't get your money.

Now the electrical grids around the world are mostly old, fragile and overloaded. In the USA alone, minor solar storms already cause breakdowns to the grid that increase the cost of electricity by \$500 million every 18 months. But a Carrington Event, when the Sun had a major hissy fit, would kill the entire electrical grid of North America. Any astronauts in orbit would not die from radiation poisoning, but they would get a 70-year lifetime radiation dose in just a few hours. And computers and similar sensitive electronic equipment all over the planet would die from electrical spikes inside their delicate low-voltage circuits.

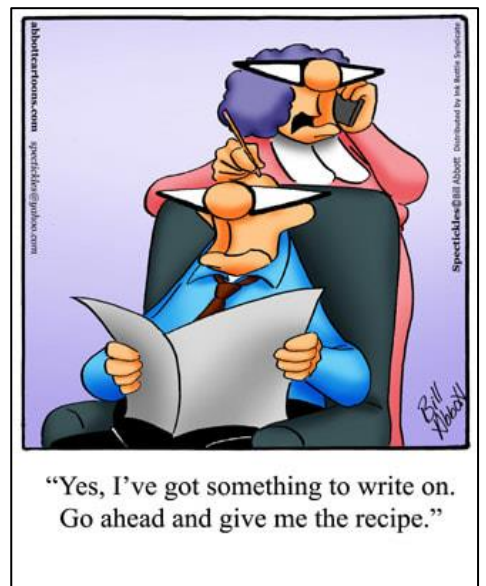
Something as huge as the Carrington Event is expected every 500 years or so. Recent solar storms have killed satellites in space and power transformers in North America. The solar storm of Bastille Day in 2000 AD, expanded the Earth's atmosphere so much that the International Space Station, instead of losing 40-90 metres of altitude each day, suddenly lost 15,000 metres.

What can we do? The first thing is to know what's happening. In the USA, the Space Weather Prediction Center gives daily space weather reports. But its budget is about 1/1000th of one per cent of the revenues generated by the industries it supports. At the moment, we have one single satellite, the Advance Composition Explorer, giving us 10-20 minutes' warning of a Solar hissy fit. It floats at just one per cent of the distance between us and the Sun. But it's 15 years old (incredibly ancient for a satellite) and it's also the only one of its kind.

Any future satellites that we send up may need to slip, slop and slap.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/greatmomentsinscience/>

Puzzles, Jokes & Trivia



Can you work out the phrase, word or meaning represented by these visual puzzles?

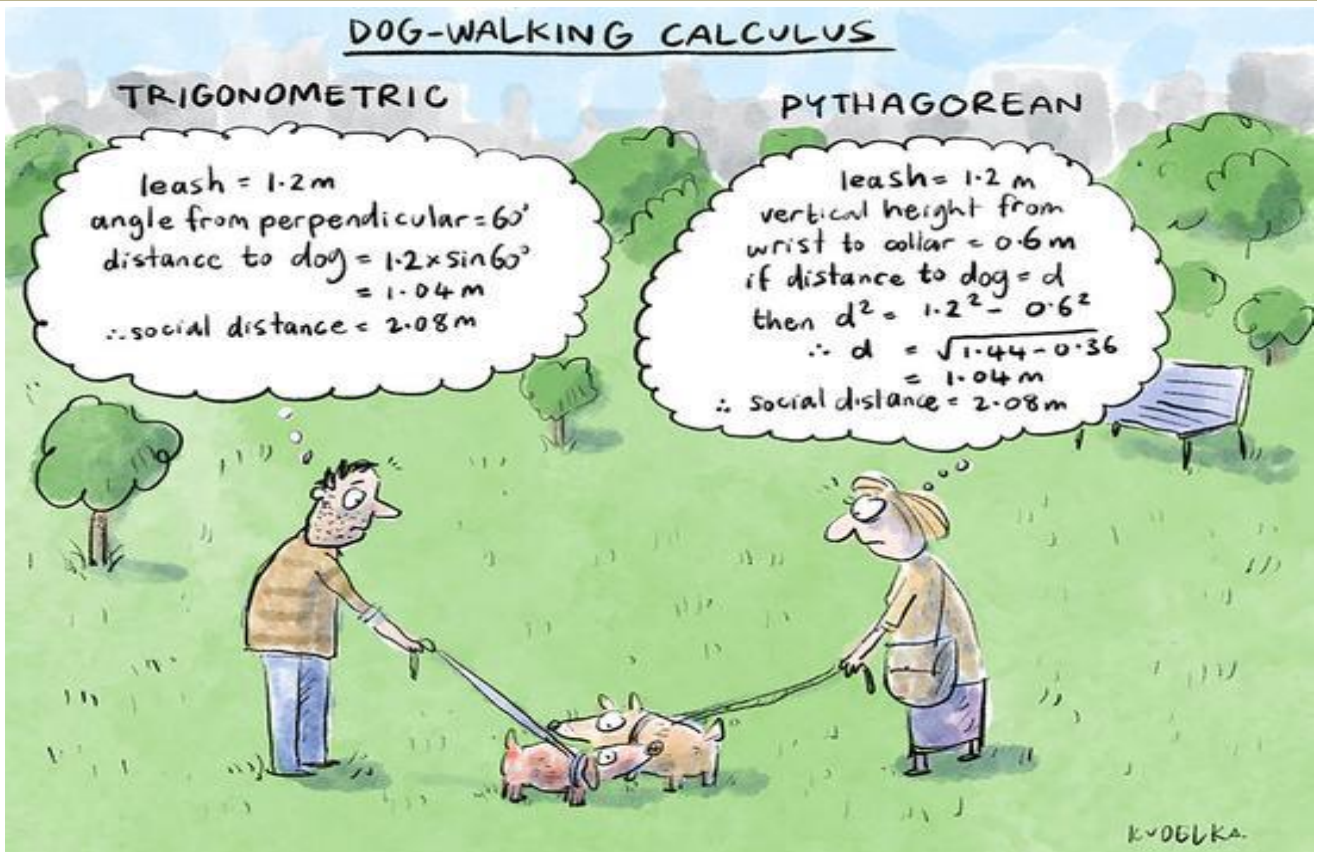


Trivia Quiz

1. What species of eucalypt is Australia's tallest tree?
2. How many Australian State capital cities are further west than Canberra?
3. Which two secondary highways in Victoria have the word "Great" in their names?
4. What are the two largest cities or towns in NSW beginning with W?
5. In what Australian state was the town of Perth established in 1821?

Quiz & puzzle solutions next page

Puzzles, Jokes & Trivia



A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" The reply, " Call for backup".

Trivia Quiz Answers

1. Mountain Ash.
2. Four (Adelaide, Hobart, Melbourne and Perth).
3. The, Great Ocean Road and Great Alpine Road.
4. Wollongong and Wagga Wagga.
5. Tasmania?

Visual Puzzles solutions

**Put two and two together
Eyes in the back of my head**