

NUTS & BOLTS



'Every man needs a shed'

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Message from the Editor

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There is usually not much to report on shed activities in January and as I was pondering how to fill out this edition of Nuts & Bolts my inbox started to fill.

Thanks to the contributions of Tony Tabrett, Darryl Timms, Freddie Butler, and Bob Ikin there is plenty to enjoy in the first Nuts& Bolts for 2024.

"I still have a full deck; I just shuffle slower." Anon



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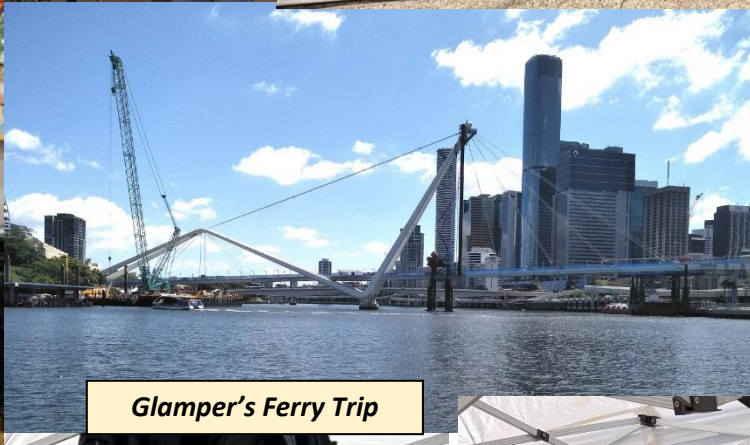
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Carina Men's Shed valued supporters include:



Some Highlights of 2023

Phil's Bus Trips

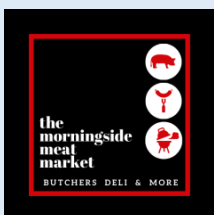


Glamper's Ferry Trip



Brisbane Kite Festival

Carina Men's Shed valued supporters include:



Shed Christmas Party 2023 – Belmont Bowls Club Friday 15 February 2023

The President thanked all members for another successful and productive year for our shed before presenting the ten-year membership certificates. After a delicious lunch, the much-anticipated drawing of the Christmas raffle tickets, to see if you were still in the race to take home a leg of ham a bottle of wine or a Bunnings gift card.



Members News

Carina Leagues Club Christmas Raffle
December 2023

Proceeds from the sale of tickets in the League's Club Trailer Raffle raised \$600 for our shed this year.

Labrador Men's Shed Visit *Thursday 25 January 2024*



Clem Jones Centre Benches
The first bench of the production line,
picture submitted by Peter Kucks

Poetry Corner

This poem is from "Voices in Verse" published by 31st Infantry Battalion Association Inc. – the poetry of soldiers who were moved to record in verse people, places and events in war and peace.

Goodbye Grandad

Poor old Grandad's passed away, cut off in his prime.
He never had a day off crook – gone before his time.
We found him in the dunny, collapsed there on the seat,
A startled look upon his face, his trousers round his feet.

The doctor said his heart is good – fit as any trout.
The Constable had his way, 'foul play' was not ruled out.
There were theories at the inquest of snake bite without trace.
Of redbacks quietly creeping - and death from outer space.

No-one had a clue at all – the judge was in some doubt:
When Dad was called to have his say as to how it came about
"I reckon I can clear it up", said Dad with trembling breath,
"You see it's quite a story - but it could explain his death."

This here exploration mob had been looking at our soil,
And they reckoned that our farm was just the place for oil,
So, they come and put a bore down and said they'd make some trials.
They drilled a hole as deep as hell, they said about three miles.

Well, they never found a trace of oil and off they went post haste.
So, I moved the dunny over it – real smart move I thought,
I'd never have to dig again – I'd never be 'caught short'.
The day I moved the dunny, it looked a proper sight,

But I didn't dream poor old Grandad would pass away that night.
Now I reckoned what happened - poor Grandad didn't know.
The dunny was re-located when that night he had to go.
And you'll probably be wondering how poor Grandad did his dash:

Well, he always used to hold his breath Until he heard the splash!!

"The Morning After" submitted by Tony Tabrett



One of the most iconic structures ever built in Brisbane was the Cloudland Dance Hall. It achieved fame as an entertainment venue for formal balls, concerts, weekend dances, civic events, school and university examinations, and later on as a marketplace.

It was originally called Luna Park, situated on a hilltop with its 18-metre-high parabolic roof. A funicular railway ran from the tram stop on Breakfast Creek Road straight up the steepest part of the hill, providing easy access to the Ballroom.

The site was purchased in 1938 (for £50,000) and its Dance stadium completed in August 1940. T S Eslick (an English born construction engineer) paid particular attention to the dance floor. He wanted to create the "best ballroom in the Southern Hemisphere". Queensland timbers were used throughout. He modelled the ballroom on his former design at Santa Monica, California.

Interior features included a huge mirror ball (hanging from the ceiling), decorative columns, sweeping curtains, domed sky lights and sparkling chandeliers. The dance floor was surrounded by private alcoves, and an upper circle of tiered seating overlooking the floor and stage.



It was the largest building of its type in Brisbane, and the largest dance hall in Australia (34,000 ft²) able to accommodate 1,000 couples dancing, 1,000 in the loges around the floor, and 2,000 in the galleries above. Interestingly, the site was revitalised by the US military who arrived shortly after Pearl Harbour (December 1941).

The name Luna Park was dropped, and the building became known as Cloudland Ballroom. As a gift to the people of Brisbane, the US military rebuilt the dance floor. It was made of 1 inch (25 mm) tongue and groove boards that ran the entire length of the ballroom. The floor area reserved for dancing sat on huge metal coil springs placed uniformly underneath the bearers so that dancers could feel and see the movement of the boards beneath their feet.



Cloudland hosted thousands of dances and concerts in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, including concerts by rock 'n' roll legend Buddy Holly. It catered for both old time and modern dances. Old time dances included the barn dance, gypsy tap, Canadian 3-step, Pride of Erin, and old-time waltz. In a roped off area at one end of the ballroom, there would be Jive, Jazz Waltz, Quickstep, Foxtrot, and later The Twist (and other popular dance crazes).

The venue was also used for many balls including the Engineers' Ball (1947), Masonic Ball (1949), Pharmacy Ball (1949), Combined Grammar Schools' Ball (1950), Cinderella Ball organised by the Incapacitated Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Association (1951), United Service Club Ball (1951), Grand Scottish debutantes' ball (1951), combined Church of England/Saint Margaret's Ball (1953), and the Royal Society of Saint George ball (1954).



Cloudland Ballroom was said to be the finest ballroom in Australia and its heritage value recognised by a National Trust listing with strenuous support for its preservation. On the other side of the coin, Premier Bjelke-Petersen argued that he wanted to knock it down because his developer mates sought to replace it with prestige housing apartments in Bowen Hills.



Things came to a head on 7th November 1982 when the infamous Deen Brothers tore down Cloudland Ballroom in a secret and brutal assault in the dark of night (at 4:00 a.m.).



When the fullness of morning emerged, there was a huge outcry across Queensland because no such permit had been officially given for its destruction.

The Deen Bros later reminisced that all they left behind on that morning were the memories, viz forty wondrous years of first kisses, dream dates and enduring love stories.

Reflections were later encapsulated by Midnight Oil in their song *Dreamworld*, and by Francois Klaus with his ballet *Cloudland* which he choreographed in 2004.

Thus “**the morning after**” comprised the sad ending of one of the best ballrooms ever built.

Photos of the Month

December 2023 Photo of the Month --Theme Festivities

This photo taken by Darryl Timms at Manly



January 2024 Photo of the Month --Theme Festivities

This photo taken by Ray Peddersen at CMS Christmas Party



The SHED BRIDGE GROUP UPDATE

You may have noticed the Bridge Players facial expressions lately, intense concentration, frustration, fear, and at times pain. A deck of 52 cards, four players or two partnerships are necessary for a Bridge game. The passion for learning Bridge and playing Bridge is hard to explain.

One attraction is the sense of endless complexity: the more you learn, the less you feel you know. The better players are able to visualize their opponents' hands after a few cards have been played and can imagine strategies that would never occur to the less skilful. Yet even the very best players continually find the game challenging and at times frustrating. There are 635,013,559,600 possible Bridge hands and a vast catalogue of approaches, techniques and strategies for playing them.

Recent studies have suggested that mentally taxing activities like Bridge are good for the brain and can delay the onset of dementia. Partnerships with a shared bidding system is essential. Bidding determines which partnership plays the deal or the "contract." Once the bidding is complete the focus shifts to winning or defending the bid or contract.

Sometimes things don't go well. An aggrieved bridge-playing wife shot her husband to death shortly after he failed to make a contract of four spades. He knew what was in his hand and his wife's hand was face up on the table. His task was to win at least 10 tricks out of a possible 13. The card deal was reconstructed after the shooting, and it was concluded that the husband should have made the four-spade contract. The wife was acquitted at her trial.

There is also a recorded occasion when a bridge player divorced his wife on the inexcusable grounds that she trumped his ace. Regardless of the risk, cooperating with a partner in a mentally challenging activity is highly beneficial. One of the social benefits of playing bridge is people interacting face to face, sometimes for hours at a time.

The Shed Bridge Group meets at the shed every Thursday morning, 9am start. Feel free to get involved or to watch. Lessons and support will be provided for beginners' or those returning to Bridge. The Bridge Group cannot guarantee you will become a master Bridge player but playing Bridge at the Shed will exercise your brain in a relaxed, enjoyable, non-threatening, environment.

Darryl Timms

“Are Scientists Mentally Stable” – submitted by Freddie Butler

This is not an unreasonable question. Because there exists, in the often-strange world of academia, a fiercely competed prize that requires the competitors' activities/applications to be both fun and thought provoking. Welcome to the world of **The Ig Nobel Prize**.

The **Ig Nobel** prizes are the result of a group of scientists who, many years ago, thought that science of any discipline should be both fun AND thought provoking. Over several years, outlandish activities took place to such an extent that many Universities in many Countries, now vie with each other in applying for the **Ig Nobel** Prize in various science-based categories. Several of the themes/experiments for the prize do call into question the curiosity or mental stability of scientists young and old, and equally so for the people who must act as judges for the 'fun and thought-provoking award'. The prize is judged and awarded at an annual event held within the walls of Harvard University with applicants and party goers from all over the world. Be thankful that you are not a member of the judging panel.

Being a devotee of such frivolity and indirect learning, the writer offers the following examples that make the award strange/funny and educational. **Licking Stones, Spider Cranes and Nosey People.**

Licking Stones

We have all heard of the 'nutty professor' maybe even know one, but who knows anyone who indulges in stone licking? A palaeontologist for a UK University states that licking rocks is an excellent way to tell the difference between pieces of rock or fossilized bone. He and his fellow scientists (in many international places of higher learning) say that fossilized bone grains stick to your tongue and grinding the dust/grains of rock between your teeth will indicate the size of the grains and whether there is clay or silt present. Remember, these are educated people who were and maybe still are waltzing about mines and mountains licking stones. You have to worry about their mental stability. Can you imagine a highly educated posse of people travelling around mines and mountains, and then licking stones! This applicant, in support of his efforts, also mentions that about a century ago, an Italian professor **classified tastes for rocks, minerals, fossils, coal** and published his findings and opinion as the "Taxonomy of Taste", and he probably had University Tenure. . .

Spider Cranes

Some maniacal members of the engineering persuasion applied for and won an **Ig Nobel Prize**. In the engineering world, it is widely known that a spider's web material has considerable strength, but a couple of applicants studied and made proposals concerning spider's legs. It was noticed that when spiders die their legs take the position of a closed clamshell, and it was wondered if this feature could be researched and used. So here we have a bunch of scientists looking around the house and the office searching for dead spiders! They found that the leg of a spider is like a hydraulic cylinder so that a living spider had control enabling it to extend and retract individual legs, but when the spider dies the legs close like a clamshell. So, the team decided to find a use for this feature. They found that the prosoma (technical talk for a spider leg) contained valves that enabled the living spider extension and retraction. After much messing about these maniacal engineering people, they found they could use minimal air pressure to open and close the leg and use it for lifting very small electronic components. To keep matters scientific they reported that the dead spiders of the experiment could lift 1.3 times their own weight, had a gripping force of 0.35 millinewtons and **completed 1,000 open/close cycles before the leg wore out**. They closed their application to the judges by stating that all dead spiders were biodegradable...

Nosey People

Your GP and other associated medicos' nose about your person in doing their job. But some in the profession went a little too far and won an **Ig Nobel Prize**. The applicants, eight of them from the medical profession, who may safely be considered overtired or slightly unstable, thought to investigate nose hairs, as may be affected by the disease 'alopecia areata' hairlessness. So here we have no less than eight medicos nosing around nostrils! They used male and female cadavers from medical school, diligently counted, measured, and plotted nasal hair of the nasal tract. So, remember these statistics for cocktails small talk: the average hair count per nostril is 120-122 hairs and they typically grow to 0.81 – 1.035 centimetres. This subject is not recommended for dinner table conversation!

"Imperial Camel Corps in World War 1" - submitted by Bob Ikin

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P03631.007

Camels were very useful in Sinai and Palestine. Tens of thousands were needed to get water to the soldiers, and they were also good for patrolling in the desert.

Later, they were also used to transport cameleers into battle, whereupon the riders would dismount to fight. They could also carry wounded men on stretchers placed on each side of the animal. Despite their usefulness, the camels were a rough ride, making transportation of the wounded uncomfortable and painful.

The Imperial Camel Corps Brigade was formed in 1916 from British and Commonwealth troops and was attached to the Anzac Mounted Division. There were four regiments: the 1st and 3rd were Australian, the 2nd was British, and the 4th was a mix of New Zealanders and Australians. Each regiment had around 770 men, and at full strength the brigade contained almost 4,000 camels.

Camels were well suited for life in the desert; they could carry around 145 kilograms and go without water for up to five days. Horses were also used by the troops but required water daily. Initially transported from India and then Egypt, the camels could travel from 4.8 to 9.5 kilometres per hour.

In 1917 the brigade took part in the fighting at Gaza and Beersheba in Palestine. By the following year the country's harsh terrain had made the camels less effective than horses. No longer needed, the Australian cameleers were transferred to the Light Horse.

Bob Ikin

Source: Australian War Memorial

Great Moments in Science with Dr. Karl Kruszelnicki

*Trees have senses too.*

We all know the world is a dangerous place. Humans and animals have ways to deal with that danger: watching or listening closely, running, fighting, barking. But what if you can't do those things? How do you face an incoming threat if you can't move, see, or hear? Welcome to life as a tree.

However, we've recently learned trees can actually sense the world around them, and if they're attacked, they can fight back in their own way. And they do this by using the same senses that we have. Well, some of them anyway. So, let's start with sight, which is based on sensing light. Trees don't have eyes, but they can sense and grow towards the light, which they need to create food through photosynthesis. This means that they can tell day from night, and they'll behave differently according to the time of day, a bit like we do. They sense the ambient light using various chemicals and can even tell the difference between bluish light and reddish light. By detecting what wavelengths of light are landing on their leaves, trees know if they're in the shade of a building, or of another tree. A useful trick to avoid the danger of being cut off from their main food supply!

Plants can also "smell" and "taste" chemicals. As a plant's roots reach down into the soil they can taste — or detect — vital chemicals, such as nitrates and ammonium salts. Other plants can smell things in the air. For example, some of the chemicals in bushfire smoke can trigger buried seeds to germinate. Many plants also emit and smell a chemical called Methyl Jasmonate, which acts as a warning to other trees that an attack is happening or is imminent. Plants can even sense chemicals being released by an attacker. And sometimes, they can recruit their very own mercenary assassins to take care of the threat.

Plants like corn, cotton, and beetroot have been known to enlist a murderous insect when under attack from the beet armyworm. When armyworms attack, the plant's nibbled leaves can detect the saliva of the assailant. The plant then releases specific chemicals to notify its ally, a female parasitic wasp. The wasp attacks the armyworm, immobilises it, and lays its eggs inside it. When the eggs hatch, they eat their way out of the armyworm, killing it. Sure, it's a bit gruesome. But, you know, circle of life and all that stuff. The plant is happy because its attacker has been thwarted, while the wasp is happy because it gets to have babies. Only the armyworm loses in this instance — but it was the aggressor in the first place.

Trees also use precise timing when releasing these "Come and Eat My Enemy" chemicals. After all, there's no point in calling for the wasps when they're asleep. It has been shown that corn releases lots of the attractor chemicals in the daytime (when the wasp is active), but much smaller quantities at night (when the wasp is sleeping). So, it seems we can add 'good timing' to the list of surprising tree abilities, along with 'sight', 'taste' and 'smell'.

Surely that must be it, right? Wrong, plants can also 'feel'. Yep, they can sense direct physical contact. You might have heard of the Venus Flytrap (whose leaves trap their next meal) and the Mimosa (whose leaves curl up after the gentlest touch). But they're not the only plants that respond to physical pressure. Some can sense the pressure of being touched by something solid, or by water being sprayed on them, or even by air. And they respond quickly to touch. Within a tenth of a second of the plant being touched, even from a puff of air, a burst of calcium ions floods into the fluid inside the cells of the plant. The calcium then activates genes that make the cell walls stronger, helping the tree stand firm in heavy winds or storms. So, that's sight (or sensing light, at least), taste, smell, and touch. What about hearing though? The evidence is less clear. There does seem to be some evidence showing that plants do grow better when exposed to specific frequencies at a bit louder than a human voice (say, 70-80 dB) - but the evidence is still weak. And singing to your roses? Not proven, yet.

So, next time you take to your garden with a pair of clippers, beware. They might not be the vicious alien trees from John Wyndham's book *The Day of the Triffids*. But trees may be able to hear you coming and sense your snipping! They might even be plotting an elaborate defence to keep you at bay.

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

Health and Welfare

Editor's Note!

Ray Carter has submitted this exercise routine before, and it reminds us that when you embark on a new program of exercise, you should start slow and build up your endurance and strength as you go.

EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

Puzzles, Jokes & Trivia



Most people are at the age where they are using their phones to document the good times in their lives. I'm at the age where I use my phone to take pictures of labels that I can't read and use my phone to enlarge the print so that I can read it.

BEHIND EVERY ANGRY WOMAN, STANDS A MAN WHO HAS ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT HE DID WRONG!

Can you complete these four words using the same three letter sequence in each?

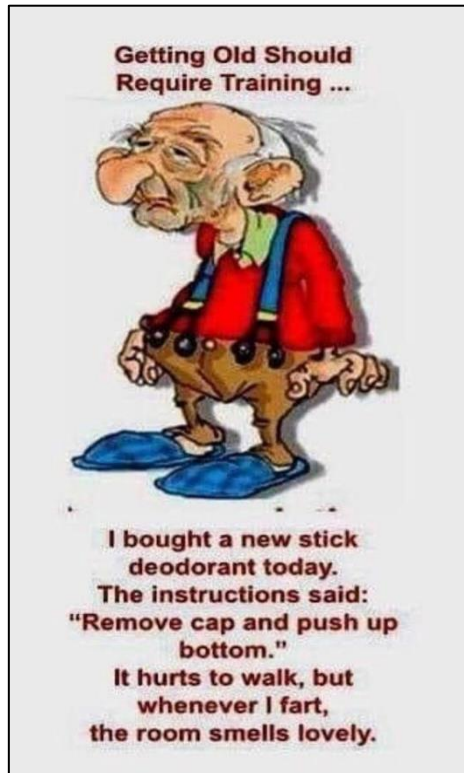
---S
 A---N
 P---RS
 COL---E

Trivia Quiz

1. How many kangaroos are there on a standard \$1 coin?
2. Which colony separated itself from NSW in 1841?
3. In what year was the GST introduced in Australia?
4. Which Australian banknote has featured both Banjo Paterson & Henry Lawson?
5. The Great Victorian Desert lies within which two Australian States?
6. The Bee Gees were named after which member of the band?

Quiz & puzzle solutions next page

Puzzles, Jokes & Trivia



Trivia Quiz Answers

1. Five.
2. New Zealand.
3. 2000.
4. \$10 note (Henry Lawson 1966-2017, Banjo Paterson (2017 -).
5. WA & SA.
6. Barry Gibb.

Missing Letters

LIES
ALIEN
PLIERS
COLLIE