



The Completion of the Superior Waste Collection Bins for RFGC.

Richie and Rob adding the final doors to the very classy waste bins built for the Royal Fremantle Gold Club before they were delivered to the Club - what an amazing job these guys, and the other builders, did.



Thursday Soup!

A soupçon of soup makers, Rob, Joerg, John and David provided an alfresco Autumn treat for 22 hungry Shedders on the last Thursday of March. This creative idea will be continued on a regular basis - every 2 weeks through the cooler times.

This is just another way in which the Shed brings Members together away from the “shop activities” which make up the largest part of what happens at the Shed. Like the Tuesday morning “scones” Members can gather in a light hearted social sense where tall tales are told, opinions on world events are shared and topics of interest are discussed outside of the formal Shed Talk events which are proving to be very engaging.

“Who built the pyramids?” - the Thursday Talk by Mike Wilson.



The Thursday talk this month was by Geophysicist and amateur Egyptologist Mike Wilson. Mike discussed the question of “Who built the Pyramids?”.

It turns out that the probable answer is NOT the Egyptians.

Mike explained that the Kufu pyramid contains some 2.5 million blocks, each one is precisely cut to fit, with no mortar. Conventional Egyptian archeology say it was built in the reign of Kufu, some 20 years. This means that each of these 2-to-5-ton blocks had to be emplaced in 2 and a half minutes...highly improbable.

Mike also highlighted the immense precision of the base and the tunnels in the complete structure. Additionally, the 6 granite blocks in the middle of the pyramid weigh about 70 tons, are 200 feet in the air and are cut with a precision that would be impressive today. The early Egyptians had only bronze tools and these were softer than granite and this would not have been able to work and polish these huge granite blocks, that incidentally were transported from 100's of km away in Aswan.

Although Mike detailed that the pyramids were almost certainly NOT the builders of the main pyramids, he did not tell us WHO DID. Maybe a prior, advanced civilisation that disappeared about 11,000 years ago in a devastating cold spell.....It had the whole audience (pretty well a full house !) starching their balding heads!

Gerry McGann OAM

Containers For Change.

Thanks to all Shed members for their contribution to the Containers for a Cause recycling bins at the Shed for March 2026. About 94% of the containers returned are aluminium cans (61%) clear plastic bottles (PET) (17%) and glass containers(16%).

We have continued to outperform ourselves with 842 containers collected in March 2026, more than double the number of containers collected by the Shed in March 2025.

For the first 3 months of 2026, the Shed has cashed in 2,670 containers for which \$267.00 has been sent to St Barts via an automated teller machine at the recycling depot. This subtotal is more than half the total collected by the Shed in the whole of 2025! So well done and my thanks again. All donations large and small are welcome.

Don Frayne

Chair's Report

March was another busy month at the shed. Highlights include:

- Our website update has been completed; the changes will improve communications with both shed members and members of the community.
- A new storage shed has been erected to store the tools and other equipment that the shed is collecting in support of the Men's Shed of WA's project to establish some men's sheds in the Kimberley for Indigenous communities. This helps us fulfil our Mission and Vision Statements which emphasize service to the community.
- Our "decluttering" project is continuing, as we re-organise, re-arrange and dispose of equipment and materials in the shed. This project will create space for other activities.
- MPMS will attend and lay a wreath at the ANZAC ceremony in Mosman Park.
- Our shed jobs continue to be very busy serving the community.
- Interest in the Shed remains strong and we are continuing to enrol new members.
- We continue to be active on Facebook. Check us out for the latest from the Shed.

Paul Smith

Fuel Crisis? What Fuel Crisis???



Ltn Commander Max Shean, DSO, RANR, Retired, "His War Years"



Commodore Brett Dowsing, whose father was a friend of Max, delivered a descriptive summary of Max Shean's wartime experiences. The presentation is difficult to portray in this summary as much of the presentation involved photographs and line drawn maps but I will attempt to get the gist of the story across.

Max joined the RANVR in 1940, volunteered for training on antisubmarine vessels and midget submarines on the island of Bute in the river Clyde in Scotland. His posting after training was on escort duty of convoys from Liverpool to Gibraltar.

He then volunteered to join the mission to destroy the battleship Tirpitz which was secreted, along with two other battleships in the Norwegian Fjords. This was in 1942 when Atlantic convoys were subject to attack by U boats as well as these mighty battleships. To volunteer you could not be married and you had to be a good swimmer!! The mini subs were known as X boats.

For raids to be successful the diver from the crew of 4 on these mini subs had to evacuate from the craft, cut through incredibly strong submarine nets (made to stop torpedoes!!) with a compressor cutter then return to the mini sub and clear the escape hatch and return to his position. The mini subs had very powerful explosive tanks fitted to either side of the hull and they were to be dropped off under the ship that was to be blown up.

The minis subs - 7 in all - were towed by full submarines to as close to the Norwegian coast as possible then were released to navigate, by dead reckoning to the target, some at night and some during daylight. They were only able to move at 2 knots so it took a long time to move to the target. Max did not get on to this raid as his mini sub failed while being towed. Another sub could not relate the explosive tanks so only 5 subs made it into position.

The explosives under the Tirpitz damaged the ship but the sub had been detected and the Tirpitz knew something was wrong but not what it was and tried to sail thus escaping the worst of the blast. (The Tirpitz was later destroyed by Lancaster bombers.) Max then went on another mission to sink ships in Bergen harbour and successfully destroyed a German ammunition ship.

Later in the war Max was involved in ending the Japanese involvement when he contrived a grappling hook to snare the undersea communication cables used by the Japanese and cut them thus making the Japanese resort to airwaves communication which enabled the allies to intercept communications. His duty took him to the war zones of Singapore, Hong Kong and Saigon. He was awarded the DSO twice and had other medals, one of which was the Gold Star from America for his bravery and courage. A true war hero.

Garden Gurus???



Two Shed worthies, Ian and Bob, were seen chinwagging in the garden section a few days ago. When questioned if they were admiring the plants or just having a chat they responded with claims, verified by the questioner, that they were actually discussing the valour of some war veterans. Interesting that this was just before the talk by Commodore Brett Dowsing on the heroics of Max Shean!

The bonus of the spotting was to see how well the garden section is developing.

Another example of the merits of the Shed.

To Everything Turn Turn!!! (Great song from Dylan - who made the best recording of it?)

Chairman Paul Smith and Ian Christie are experienced and clever wood turners and their skill is shown with these photos. Paul is turning a banksia nut to make a small light and the other bowls are all examples of Ian's work.



Anzac Day - Mosman Park Commemoration service.

Mike Ansell was invited to represent the Shed at the Anzac commemoration and had hoped to take photos which would be available for this Newsletter but he was seated with the other invited guests and could not carry out his mission.

However, he hopes to get some photos and a piece of writing from the official photographer and the local primary school once permission is gained from the TOMP and hopefully they will appear in next month's Newsletter.

The Things Kids Get Up To Making Parents Tear Their Hair Out !!



“Wild Isles” - David Attenborough Series on ABC.

I have been watching this series on ABC 23 (it may have been on before on ABC 21?) and have been amazed at the wild life in UK as well as the astonishing photography which I think is even better than any on his previous documentaries.

The episode I watched last night had a section filmed on my home island on the West coast of Scotland. It showed white tailed eagles - I did not know they were on Islay as when I lived there there were only golden eagles - hunting barnacle geese and hares. The island is visited by huge flights of barnacle geese from Greenland and Scandinavian countries to load up on grain grown for the whisky industry before flying back filled for the winter.

The rest of the program showed amazing footage of various birds and other creatures fighting for their territory - nature in the raw.

Highly recommended series for you to watch. (You will find it on iView.)

Editor.



All items for the newsletter to be emailed to
jamiemc1wa@gmail.com
before the monthly meeting
0418334513

Mosman Park Community Men's Shed
Contact Details
Email: admin@mpms.org.au
PO Box 4373 Mosman Park 6012
Tel: 93833354
Chairman
Paul Smith