



The 19th Hole at Royal Fremantle Golf Club

Phil Robinson, with help from Bob Groecke, Rob Hesford, Richard Longley and Richie Keirnan, constructed the first of 5 merbau bottle/can and waste collection boxes for the Royal Fremantle Golf Club.

“There are five more to be made! I’m planning to put together a cutting list tomorrow and hopefully we’ll get some (a lot) of help and support from more shed members. It’s a big job for the shed.” said Phil. This a good earner for the Shed and hopefully there will be a lot of support from other member to complete the order.

“Also I heard that RFGC has nominated our shed in conjunction with Fremantle shed as joint recipients of their charity donation for the year.” **Phil Robinson.**



From Bottle Collector Supremo, Don Frayne.

The final delivery of containers was made to Shenton Park recycling centre on Christmas Eve when 645 containers were deposited

The sum of \$64.50 was deposited to the account of St Barts

The total sum credited to St Barts by MPMCS for 2025 is \$526 with a monthly average of about 430 containers or \$43

Thanks to all who assisted either by donations of containers or assisting with the delivery to a containers for change depot.

Please remember that you can deposit your own containers to a depot and direct the money to St Barts whose scheme number is C10360236

First Scone Tuesday of February.



A big roll up of hungry Shedders enjoyed great “craic” as well as the high quality scones, jam, home made marmalade and cream.

One of the scone makers - Jorge - is seen resting up against the wall after his baking efforts.



U3A

Attached is the flyer for our first free Perth Lecture for 2026. All details for time, venue and how to book are included.

Family and friends are more than welcome so please pass the word around. John Longley promises a fascinating presentation.

If you cannot manage the booking you can contact Ron on 0439 919 670 for assistance.

ADDITIONAL (2) FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

1. Adjacent exit door; beside GYM AREA.
2. Adjacent exit door beside Clean air room. [This extinguisher (partially discharged) but still works...remains available until used for DEMONSTRATION purposes, during winter]

Ian Deany

Australia Day Honours List

Congratulations to Shed Member **Brett Pollock** on receiving the OAM in the recent Australia Day Honours list.

First Thursday Talk of the year.

What a fantastic first up presentation of 2026 organised by Gerry McGann. It was a privilege to witness this presentation.



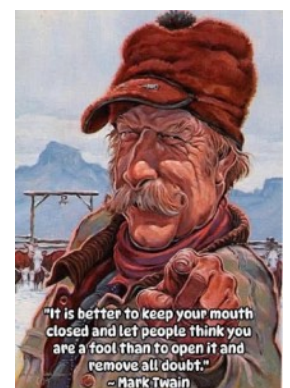
Patrick Morrison, Maritime Archaeologist with the Museum of WA and Maritime Heritage, gave an outstanding presentation with photos and videos of his work in "uncovering sunken vessels" off the coast and Rottnest as well as the Swan River. The technology of photogrammetry, which allows thousands of photos to be taken over the outline of a wreck and then the matter covering the wreck to be digitally removed, leaves high quality photo images of the wreck to be studied allowing recognition of the parts of the vessel as well as cargoes, names and other details.

Patrick talked about the Gilt Dragon, Montobello Islands (where atomic bomb testing was carried out and wrecks were blown to bits), The Batavia, the Zeewijk (100 years after the Batavia endured the same fate but without the horrendous slaughter), barges in the river and probably most interestingly the KXI.

The Scuttle Graveyard, out beyond Rottnest, has many wrecks dropped there and the KXI was supposed to have been submerged there after its usefulness was over at the end of WW2, but divers found it much closer to Rottnest and the coast and subsequent archaeological investigation has provided very clear pictures of the Dutch submarine.

It is impossible to outline this presentation to anywhere near the live presentation impact but I believe Patrick's presentation is on the Shed website - well worth checking it out.

A flyer for a U3A Perth lecture. At the top is the U3A Perth logo. Below it, the text reads 'U3A PERTH LECTURE John Longley AM, CitWA Presents HMB ENDEAVOUR'. A central image shows a three-masted sailing ship on the ocean. To the right is a portrait of John Longley. Text below the portrait says 'FAMILY & FRIENDS WELCOME'. Further down, it lists the venue 'State Library Theatre - Perth Cultural Centre', the date '2 pm Sunday, March 8, 2026', and registration details. At the bottom right is the 'act belong commit' logo.



Chair's Report Shed Newsletter February 2026

- Shed Jobs busy and creative

Returning from the holiday season, the Shed is again busy with all of the various activity groups starting up again. The demand for shed jobs is high, with members of the community seeking both the repair of existing items, and the creation of new ones. The quality and level of creativity remains high.

- Electronic Message Board

The Management Committee has approved the installation of an electronic message board at the entrance to the shed. Intended for both members and visitors, the monitor will display text, photos and videos highlighting various aspects of the shed.

- Decluttering Project

Sound familiar! Shed members are embarking on a project to clear the shed of unwanted and not-needed items. Depending on the item, they will be recycled, sold, donated or disposed of.

- Website Updates

We are in the process of updating our web-site, both the content and the design, to make it more appealing, informative and easier to use for both members and the community.

- Kimberley Project

Men's Sheds of WA have a project to assist indigenous communities in the Kimberley to establish men's sheds. Among other things, this project aims to supply these developing sheds with tools that are surplus to other WA sheds. MPMS has signed on to support this project.

- Welding Course for Women

Simon Harris is developing and will pilot a short welding course for women, focused on metal sculpture.

- Recognition of unique activities

Two of our activities have been recognized by Men's Sheds WA as being unique - our Shed Song group and Gentle Gym. The Men's Shed WA will feature these in their upcoming newsletters. Simon Harris, one of our members who does metal sculpture, has had one of his pieces accepted for inclusion in Sculpture By the Sea for 2026.

Paul Smith, Chairman.

The Catalpa - the World's? Greatest Gaol Break.



Gerry McGann told the amazing tale of the escape by 6 Fenians from Fremantle Gaol which happened on the third attempt.

James Stephens, returned to Ireland from America and called for insurrection. He formed a secret society named the Fenians which received money guns and men from America. Most were arrested and jailed in Ireland and Australia. Then John Breslin organised a jail break and Stephens got out.

The Hougomont clipper transported 280 convicts, 108 passengers and 62 Fenians, 17 of which were military officers, to Australia. Conditions in Fremantle

Gaol were very difficult for the Fenians where they had to work long hours and had little food.

John Boyle O'Reilly, a poet, was able to escape in other jail break set up by Father McCabe who organised for the ship Vigilante to collect the prisoners but they were missed. The civilian Fenians were pardoned but there were 6 of the military version left in jail.

The Catalpa, commanded by Captain Anthony, set sail from America supposedly to go “whaling”, without maps and charts for Fremantle but met with the Hougomont and were offered all the maps and charts required. By this time Breslin, a conman living with the name Collins, had returned to WA and noted that a gunboat had been missioned to sail from Bunbury to intercept the Catalpa. Instead of the break being on Easter Friday, Breslin(Collins) alerted the Fenians that the gunboat was on its way and the break would occur on Easter Monday, the Perth Regatta day. Fremantle was isolated from the telegraph and the 6 Fenians were loaded on to a small craft. The gunboat, Georgette, missed the small boat as they passed and the Fenians got on board the Catalpa. The Georgette was ordered to fire on the Catalpa but as there was no wind the Catalpa was unable to escape until the wind picked up and Captain Anthony hoisted the Stars and Stripes preventing the Georgette from attacking them as the gunboat was very slow and the Catalpa took off.

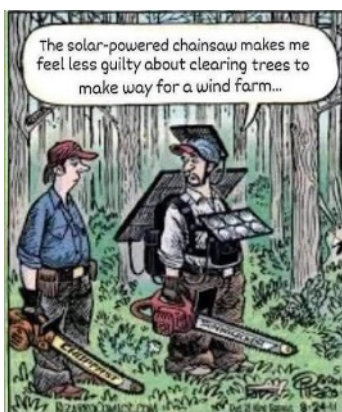
A fascinating tale well told by Gerry and the talk was finished off with the Editor singing The Catalpa with many in the audience joining in. My apologies to Gerry - I thought I took a photo of him alongside the picture of the Catalpa but somehow it did not get taken. I am sure I have some of the details incorrect but you get the gist - it was a crazy scheme that somehow worked.

Richie Kiernan Being Creative!!

Richie has been making these coloured resin plaques, the larger one was presented to his daughter. Interesting items when they are polished and framed and what looks like a simple process but creativity needed.



Apologies to Richie for the white marks which must have come from a light source above the plaques.



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

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