



## Oil and Gas Screw ups!!

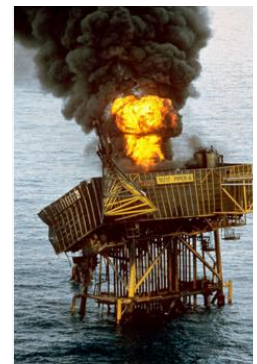
Shed member Gerry McGann OAM gave a terrific presentation on some of the worst “screw ups” in the oil and gas industry - and there were some horrendous ones. They were caused by mistakes in the operation of wells or incompetence on the part of the workers/operators. Gerry was involved in one of them to his chagrin but not the others!

The earlier ones described were the results of the operators not understanding the geology of the well sites and not having knowledge of how to stop the blow outs. The rail line shown was the result of a fire on a well in Bangladesh which destroyed the rig, the flames were up to 1000m high and clearly very hot. The fire destroyed a large part of a National Park. (This was the one where Gerry was the exploration manager!!)



A well sunk on an oil salt mine struck an old mine shaft and the 19 billion litres of the lake disappeared in 3 hours.

One of the more spectacular disasters was the Piper Alpha fire in the North Sea out from Aberdeen. That rig was linked to two others where gas was fed through Piper Alpha to send ashore. When fire broke out on Piper Alpha the other rigs did not shut down the gas transfer and Piper Alpha became a raging inferno which took a long time to be capped. There were 165 deaths, those who survived ignored safety orders and jumped into the sea. Communications had been destroyed in the initial blast making the problem so much worse.



The Lusi mud blowout in Surabaya was the largest ever, causing the destruction of 12,000 houses and displaced 60,000 people. The mud was 40m deep in places and it is still coming up but slowing in progress.

The BP Mocondo spill was the most spectacular failure. Machinery designed to prevent blow outs did not work when an attempt to cut the pipe was only partially successful and the results were catastrophic - 11 deaths, \$69 billion in compensation paid by BP, 1 million birds died and hundreds of km of coastline affected on the Gulf states.

*This a mere glance at Gerry's presentation but you can see the whole presentation on the Shed website - well worth checking out. Editor.*

## Why does eating a clock take so long?

Because it is really time consuming, especially if you go for seconds.

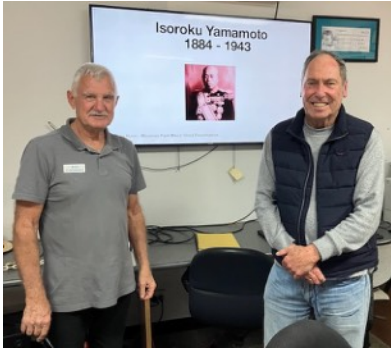
## Why did my bald friend keep an old comb?

Because he just can't part with it.

## Why was the invention of the shovel considered so important?

Because it was a groundbreaking discovery. But the invention of the broom was the one that truly swept the nation.

## Nimitz and Yamamoto



Bob Coventry and Simon Hunn, regular speakers at the Shed Talks, presented a very detailed account of the lives and strategies of the two leaders of the war in the Pacific between America and Japan.

Both men were extremely well educated, skilled and decisive in different ways. Nimitz was quiet, a good listener but decisive when armed with the facts. Yamamoto was much more aggressive in his decision making and paid little attention to the thoughts of others. Both were promoted to high levels, Nimitz took the submarine path while Yamamoto took the path of using aircraft.

The attack on Pearl Harbour destroyed much of the US navy but their 4 aircraft were at sea on a training exercise. Yamamoto thought he had cleared the US navy from the battle but the carriers were able to continue the fight along with the use of submarines. Mistakes such as a Japanese carrier with all the planes on the flight deck as they were unable to be angled on a lower deck meant that a large element of the Japanese navy air attack was nullified.

Both sides wanted to control Midway and the previous battle of the Coral Sea saw a clear advantage gained by the US allowing Nimitz to gain control of Midway. This meant the US submarines and aircraft carriers dominated the remainder of the war.

Nimitz was the superior tactician. He realised that supply chain security was vital and he ensured this was the case. He set up a system of replenishing supplies to his fleet while the ships/subs were at sea so that they did not have to return to port to replenish. Yamamoto did not have this in place. Secondly, the US cracked the Japanese codes and were able to intercept attacks and movements without the Japanese knowing this was the case.

Interestingly Yamamoto spent some years in the US and learned a high degree in English. He opposed the war in the Pacific but followed the orders of the Japanese King due to loyalty to the King and country. Nimitz opposed MacArthur, who was in overall control of the war efforts and kept his plans in place despite this opposition.

*A thoroughly researched presentation by both speakers.*

## Ritchie Keirnan's Latest Artistic Work.



Richie has many projects of an artistic nature. His latest is embedding slices of Banksia nuts in a Sheoak base. He was working on one of these pieces when some visitors came in to the Shed. Geoff Barr's daughter and grand daughter came to see what Richie was doing and the little girl was fascinated by what Richie was up to. He asked if she would like one of the pieces and, if so, what colour she would like the nut to be. She was very excited and asked for a gold one.

Her wish was granted and so she left the Shed proudly clutching the piece, exclaiming to her Mum "Look Mum, it shines" as the sun struck the piece. A very happy outcome for Richie and the Shed.

The base for the embedding of the nuts is being done by John Longley.



## Why couldn't I finish my carpentry pun?

Because I tried to come up with one that woodwork. I think I nailed it, but nobody saw it.

## Why is a book about anti-gravity impossible to put down?

Because that's literally the point. It's impossible to put down!

## Why didn't I think orthopedic shoes would help?

Because I had my doubts. But I stand corrected.

## **ShedSong @ Clancy's**

On Bastille Day The ShedSong group sang 2 sets of songs led by directors Jayson and Tim to an appreciative audience of Members, partners and others in a full house in this new venue for the lads (Navy Club sold) with some additional songs from Jamie and Tim - Tim was outstanding.

Meals and drinks were had by many and it seems that Clancy's are keen for return visits!!

The singers are greatly encouraged that their efforts to improve and provide a good show are paying off. Well done to all.



Following this sterling performance the group returned to practice on Tuesday 21st and had a great review session with great care taken over adding harmonies to a couple of the songs performed at Clancy's. Their next gig is at the Showgrounds Shed on Sunday 2nd August from 3.00-6.00 - this one is not open to others. The Showgrounds Shed have been running Sunday afternoon events on the first Sunday of each month and Bill McLeod, current Chair, who was until he took up this role, a member of ShedSong, the only one from Showgrounds who joined us here at MPMS, asked for ShedSong to provide the music for the August event. They will be putting on some food after the singing which will take place in their newly opened "lounge room"

We are constantly asking for more members/or friends of members to join the group as we really need more voices. Contact Jamie on 0418 334 513 will get the ball rolling for any possible "newbies".

## **Containers For Change**

On 16 July 2026, Bob Jensen and I cashed in the plastic, aluminium and glass containers with the 10c logos left by members in the bins at the Shed and collected \$67.00 which we donated to St Barts.

The total collected this calendar year is \$440.00 which is 83% of the total collected in calendar 2025. So an excellent effort by everyone. Possibly the colder months caused the drop off in April and May but there has been a steady rise over the last few months. Just keep an eye out for containers please.

Mother nature is reinforcing the usefulness of donating to St Barts, because as I type this missive, it is has been raining heavily for 3 hours with a low temperature outside. Brrr!

**Don Frayne.**

### **Why can't a melon get married?**

Because it cantaloupe.

### **Why is apple pie so expensive in the Caribbean?**

Because a slice of apple pie in Jamaica is \$2.00 and \$2.50 in the Bahamas. Those are the pie rates of the Caribbean.

### **Why is my wife still not talking to me?**

Because I accidentally passed her a glue stick instead of a chapstick. She's still not talking to me...

### **Why is outdoor furniture Irish?**

Because what's Irish and stays outside all year? Patty O'Furniture.

### **Why is a belt made of hundred-dollar bills a bad idea?**

Because it's a waist of money.

### **Why did the lumberjack stop chopping in the magic forest?**

Because the tree shouted, "Wait! I'm a talking tree!" The lumberjack grinned and said, "And you will dialogue."

## Decluttering.

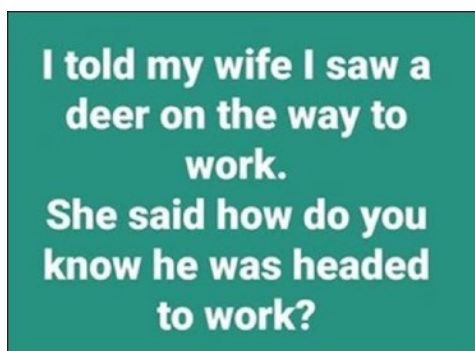
Over the past few weeks a team of Shedders, led by Ian Worral, has cleared a lot of material, bits and pieces and other useless stuff from the upstairs area. This was to a) get rid of stuff not of use to anyone and b) make some free space for any other possible activities/infrastructure.

At the moment Ian and the team are repositioning storage racks etc to free up the space created with the removal of a great deal of useless material. This will also create better storage where useful material can be easily accessed.

The Management team are asking for ideas of other activities or themes could be introduced to the Shed menu and all Members are asked to submit ideas to ManCom. If any ideas are presented then the Presenter needs to be in a position to activate the idea.

ManCom are also asking for Members to put their hand up to become committee members. Nominations need to be made fairly soon - see the Shed meeting minutes for the exact dates. There has been much discussion on the term length for committee service and this was noted in the minutes of this month's meeting.

**Some “funnies” to go with the clever puns dotted through this issue.  
(Not a lot of news this month!!)**



All items for the newsletter to be  
emailed to  
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before the monthly meeting  
0418334513

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