Mundaring Community Men's Shed

October 2026

The not so Wrinkly Rag

The Shed is supported by the Shire of Mundaring, Lotterywest, Mundaring Community Financial Services (Bendigo Bank), Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, and the WA Department of Communities.

Donations of $2 and above are tax deductible – just ask the Treasurer for a receipt.

What's on in the Next Month or 2?

General Meeting	10:30am on 15th of October 2026.
Wood carvers	7:00pm every Monday – contact Terry 0429-951-393
Public Open Saturday (usually last Saturday of the month unless it's a public holiday)	31st of October - Open Morning 8:00am-noon. Bacon & egg toastie and juice plus tea or coffee for $5 - 8:00am–10:00am. All welcome, even family, friends, neighbours.
Working Bee	08:00am-noon – tidy up around workshops! Followed by free BBQ for helpers (details later)
Speakers' Circle	10:30am on 29th of October 2026 – in recognition of Mental Health Month – "Mental Health Basics" by Andrew from Helping Minds
Melbourne Cup Lunch	11:00am on 3rd of November in main hall (details below)
Thursday Theatre	10:30am on 5th of November 2026 in the main hall – *Dr. Strangelove*
Committee Meeting	10:30am on 12th of November 2026.
Deadline for Wrinkly Rag copy	**5:00pm on 13th of November 2026.**
Wrinkly Rag publish	5:00pm on 15th of November 2026.
Fundraising	Next raffle on 12th of December at Woolies.

Editorial – Ross Boughton

Wrinkly Rags are published by the Monday before the monthly general meeting based on information provided up to the previous Friday, being the day after the monthly committee meeting.

Please send articles of general interest (up to 2 A4 pages), photos, funnies, leads to president@mundaringshed.org.au for inclusion in the Wrinkly Rag. Only **minimal** edits will be applied – **spelling and grammar errors** may slip through. 😉

Normal publishing rules apply – if you "borrow" material, please attribute it to the owner.

Disclaimer

The information in this publication is of a general nature. The articles contained herein are not intended to provide a complete discussion on each subject and/or issues canvassed. Mundaring Community Men's Shed Inc does not accept any liability for any statements or any opinion, or for any errors or omissions contained.

President's Patter – Ross Boughton



Our Shed belongs to all our members, with no members owning any parts of the Shed. For example, our secretary and treasurer have designated desks in their shared office – that doesn't preclude others from using the office when they're not there as long as they leave it as they found it.

Similarly, the area between the ablutions block and "hobby" rooms can be used for outdoor work but needs to be left with unfettered access to the table and chairs after such use.

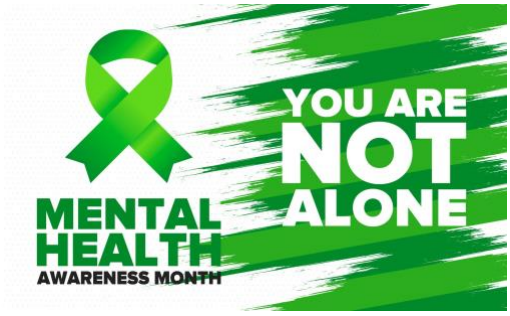
Spring cleaning



As members continually complain about lack of storage space, and I reply: "there's enough – just get organised", we are planning a working bee, followed by a BBQ, for the 22nd to sort a few things out.

There's no reason why all pipes can't be stored together, all angle, all sheet steel/ aluminium/ Perspex, all ply, all particle board, etc.

We will also look at disposing of material and tools (including power tools) that we are not likely to ever use – come along to help and maybe grab a bargain; metal items not claimed will go in the metal scrap skip, **not** back into the workshops!



Mental Health Month

Despite what many think, the main purpose of a Men's Shed is to support men's health, both physical and mental. We have a Speakers' Circle this month to shine a light on mental health. Might I invite you all to collect a green ribbon from beside the check-in tablet and wear it.

Grants

Capital expenditure (buying things) at the Shed relies heavily on getting grants. To get grants we need to provide evidence to grant-providing bodies that we do things which align with their priorities for providing funds. Just saying we're a nice bunch of men who do good things doesn't cut it! So, to get a grant we need 2 things: evidence aligned to the funder's aims, and somebody to write the grant application.

Evidence we can get in part by keeping records and properly classifying jobs we do for the community (what some complain about being "red tape"). Records that provide evidence include attendance, incidents and action to mitigate them, safety and asset audits (if you're asking for money for equipment it helps to know what you've already got and its age and condition) and proof of good financial management.

New Members

Please welcome:

- Glenn Shaw, and
- Michael Bowman

Writing the grant applications requires people who can convert our evidence into the funder's objectives in a clear, concise and honest way. We need more people willing to step up to this job.

Bottom line: if you want improvements around the Shed then help with evidence and, if possible, with grant application writing.

Around the Shed

Woodwork (Building 5)

Fifteen wooden plinths made and oiled; 12 plaques affixed, a private job for the MD of Vision Safe who just happens to be an A-model aficionado. Well done Nick Bains, Pete Airey & James Scully (any others involved?).



We are one step closer to getting the deck – it now has engineering approval. ✅

Other workshops

No reports.

Outdoors

Max Hore has had the S95ers back in and they've laid a plinth for the BBQ – we may need to make some chocks for it, so oil does not drain off immediately it's applied!



Mundaring Community Men's Shed

Speakers' Circle

October is Mental Health Month in Australia

Extreme mood swings, persistent sadness, excessive worry, social withdrawal, trouble thinking?

An introductory workshop designed to increase awareness of mental health and wellbeing, including common mental health challenges and the signs and symptoms to look out for. The session also explores key risk and protective factors, practical strategies to support mental health, and information on community support services available.



Mental health is health – take care of your mind

10:30am on the 29th of October 2026

50 YEARS Helping Minds

All welcome, not just members - 1 Morilla Road, Mundaring



3rd November 12:00 race, then lunch

Just $25 per head, partners welcome

Chicken and salad, cold meat, cheese & fruit platters.
Wine, beer and soft drinks on sale.



$5 & $2 sweeps. Race at noon, lunch immediately after

RSVP and Payment (Cash only) required by 27th October. Attending list on check-in table or email Neil: catering@mundaringshed.org.au

Wrinkly Smiles – Eric Smith



We are often called “the elderly,”

but that quiet label hides a truth most people rarely pause to consider - we are the last living witnesses of a world that no longer exists.

If you look closely, you might notice gray hair, slower steps, or the quiet patience that time alone can teach. But if you truly listen to our stories, you will discover something far more extraordinary. We are not simply older people moving through the final chapters of life.

We are the survivors of one of the most breathtaking transformations in human history — a generation that walked from the slow, deliberate rhythm of an analog world into the dazzling speed of a digital one without ever losing our sense of humanity along the way.

Our journey began in a very different place.

Many of us were born in the 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s, when the scars of World War II were still fresh across Europe and Asia and the world was slowly learning how to hope again. Cities rose from rubble. Families rebuilt lives after years of uncertainty. Childhood unfolded in ways that would feel almost unrecognizable to younger generations today.

Our toys were simple: marbles played in dusty yards, hopscotch drawn on cracked sidewalks, checkers and cards gathered around kitchen tables while the smell of dinner filled the house. When the streetlights flickered on in the evening, it was the universal signal that childhood adventures were over for the day, and it was time to go home.

There were no smartphones, no streaming videos, no endless scroll of digital distractions. Instead, we built our memories in the real world — with scraped knees, laughter echoing down neighbourhood streets, and friendships that formed face to face, without the mediation of screens.

Music became one of the defining soundtracks of our youth. The 1960s and 1970s arrived like a wave of colour and rebellion. We watched culture shift around us, carried by electric guitars and voices that dared to question the world.

For many of us, gatherings like the legendary Woodstock Festival of 1969 symbolized something powerful: the belief that peace, music, and community could reshape the future. Hundreds of thousands of young people stood together in muddy fields, listening to artists who poured raw emotion into towering speakers known as the Wall of Sound. Those concerts were not merely entertainment; they were moments when strangers felt like a single generation singing the same hope under an open sky.

Education looked different then, too. Our notebooks were filled with handwritten notes carefully copied from chalkboards. Research required patience, long hours in libraries, and stacks of heavy books rather than a quick internet search. We learned to slow down and think through ideas because information did not arrive instantly. Mistakes were corrected with erasers and ink, not with the click of a delete button.

Love carried a different rhythm as well. We fell in love while vinyl records spun on turntables and cassette tapes clicked softly inside plastic players. Music became the background to first dances, long conversations, and dreams about the future. Those relationships grew into marriages, families, and lives built step-by-step through the 1980s and 1990s — decades that saw technology begin to reshape the world around us.

Yet nothing compares to the bridge our generation has crossed. We are the only generation to have experienced an entirely analog childhood and a fully digital adulthood.

We remember waiting days — or sometimes weeks — for handwritten letters to arrive in the mail. We remember rotary telephones and party lines where neighbours could accidentally overhear conversations. Communication required patience and anticipation. Today, we can see the face of a loved one across the ocean instantly on a screen small enough to fit in a pocket.

The world changed in ways few could have imagined. We watched humanity land on the Moon in 1969, a moment when millions of people sat in living rooms staring at black-and-white televisions as Neil Armstrong took humanity's first steps on another world.

We saw the rise of personal computers, the birth of the internet, and eventually the arrival of smartphones that placed entire libraries of knowledge in our hands. Machines that once filled entire rooms now exist on devices lighter than a paperback book. We moved from punch cards and mechanical tools to artificial intelligence and global networks connecting billions of people instantly. And through every shift, we adapted.

Our bodies carry the marks of the times we lived through as well. We grew up during fears of polio and tuberculosis, illnesses that once terrified entire communities before vaccines helped bring them under control. We witnessed the global challenges of pandemics and health crises across decades, including the recent silence and uncertainty of COVID-19, which reminded the world that resilience is still required in every generation.

Science itself transformed before our eyes. We saw the discovery of the structure of DNA in 1953, the decoding of the human genome at the turn of the century, and the early steps into gene therapy and advanced medicine. Transportation evolved from simple bicycles and steam engines to hybrid vehicles and electric cars gliding almost silently through city streets.

Few generations have witnessed such sweeping change. And yet, despite everything that evolved around us, certain things remain unchanged. We still understand the joy of a cold glass bottle of lemonade on a hot afternoon. We still remember the taste of vegetables picked straight from a garden. We still know the value of a long conversation that unfolds slowly without a keyboard or screen interrupting it.

Our memories stretch across decades. We have celebrated births, mourned losses, watched friends depart, and carried their stories forward. Those of us who remain share something rare: the experience of standing at the crossroads of history, holding memories from a world that younger generations know only through photographs and stories.

But we are not relics. We are living bridges. Our perspective reminds the modern world that progress does not have to erase wisdom. The speed of technology does not have to replace patience, kindness, or reflection. We remember what life felt like before everything moved so fast — and that memory carries quiet lessons worth sharing.

So, when someone calls us "elderly," we can smile. Because behind that word lies something extraordinary. We are the generation that crossed two centuries, witnessed eight decades of transformation, and walked from the age of handwritten letters to the era of artificial intelligence.

What a life we have lived. What a remarkable story we continue to carry. And if you belong to this generation, take a moment today to look in the mirror and recognize something powerful.

You are not simply growing older. You are living history. You are part of a generation that will always remain one of a kind. And perhaps, in the quietest and most meaningful way, you are becoming legendary.

We are often called "the elderly," but that quiet label hides a truth most people rarely pause to consider - we are the last living witnesses of a world that no longer exists.

"The Last Show with Steven Colbert" Facebook page

Daring Red Bloomers – Denise Caldwell

What went on in September.

Tuesday 25th, Daring Red Bloomers took over the men's shed function hall to celebrate special birthdays with a fancy High Tea. It was a morning tea with a delightful twist — an opportunity to honor three cherished ladies from our group. We like to have our birthday ladies standout, so they wear purple hats and red finery as we wear our red hats and purple finery as usual.

Laughter drifted through the room as we proved that you're never too old to join in a round of Pass the Parcel or any of the other party games that keep our spirits young. With amazing food prepared by our own catering team, and tables adorned with unique teapots, cups, and saucers, we gathered in the gentle warmth of friendship shared among our Red Hat friends.



Thank you to all for an amazing day.

What is coming up?

October 13th Our next activity day is at MCMS function hall at 10 am. The theme for the day is International Food Day. Celebrated each year on the 16th of October. It is never too late to raise awareness about hunger, malnutrition and the need for a sustainable food system. Ladies are welcome to dress in their country of origins or in any international costume. Bring along a dish from your heritage to share. Cost $2.



Daring Red Bloomers are members of the WA Red Hatters based in the hills. We embrace aging by having fun and sharing friendship. The aimed is to bring together ladies over 50 but not excluding younger ladies who are called - Pinkies. It is all about social connection. Thanks to the support of MCMS for offering us the opportunity to share their meeting place.

Beer Factories Part 3 – Craig Ward

Now to the regions where the hairy chested miners knocked back the liquid gold after toiling in the heat and dust. After leaving Southern Cross, Arthur Bayley and William Ford found Coolgardie in 1892 and three years later the first breweries were built. The "Coolgardie Brewing & Ice Co. Ltd.", being the most successful, lasting until 1906. John Cocks was the first brewer and manager. But he was also a naughty boy, as in 1897, at the Perth Criminal Court he was charged with attempted arson to defraud an insurance company. After acquittal, he became the brewer at "Guildford Brewing Co. Ltd.", in 1897 but went broke the next year.

Three additional breweries sprang up, the "Goldfields Brewing Co. Ltd.", 1895 – 97, the "Toorak Brewery" from 1894 to 1897, and the "W.A. Lion Brewery & Ice Co. Ltd.", which lasted until 1917. Their major problem was the shortage of clean, fresh water. Lacking rivers and lakes, often the only good water was from the condensers at 8 pence a gallon, which resulted in expensive beer. Many times, the breweries worked in conjunction with local hotels. The Lion brewery was in partnership with five hotels. When the railway reached Coolgardie on the 23rd of March 1896 there were many happy brewers.

The advertising during this period in W.A. was ingenious, and the goldfields were no exception. One hotel had a sign "Why go to rack and ruin when you can get a good Lion beer here straight off the ice?" Toorak's owned hotels answered with a similar advertisement.



When, in 1893, Paddy Hannan, Tom Flanagan & Dan Shea found payable dirt on the Golden Mile, the liquid gold producers followed. Kalgoorlie and Boulder both had a number of breweries. In Kalgoorlie there were many beer factories, some lasting only a few months. The earliest, and most successful was the "Hannan's Brewery Co. Ltd.", opening in 1895 and drying up in 1916. But the largest and longest running was the "Kalgoorlie Brewing Co. Ltd.", from 1896 to 1983. Many goldfield boys and girls were weaned on the famous Hannans Lager, and loud moans were heard when this amber fluid ceased. Initially, 50 hogsheads of beer per month was produced, and by 1908 the monthly brewed was 1100 hogsheads. This translates to 59,400 gallons per month. (Approximately 300 litres per hogshead). After many takeovers and mergers, the Swan Brewery of Perth ran the show until that fateful day in 1983 when they shut the doors.



Boulder Brewery, 1899.

Just up the road, at Boulder, two breweries kicked off. The "Boulder Brewery" and the "Boulder City Brewery Co. Ltd." in 1898. The former was short lived and resided on the Boulder Block, often which was referred to as the "dirty acre", later becoming Fimiston. Closing in 1899, it was wedged between six hotels. No transport needed as the kegs were simply rolled down the road to the pubs. When I worked there at the Lake View & Star mines all that was left was the Boulder Block Hotel and Post Office. Now there is a big hole in the ground. The hotel opened at 7 o'clock in the morning for the night shift coming off and 1 o'clock the next day for the afternoon shift. A good place for a late night "shandy".

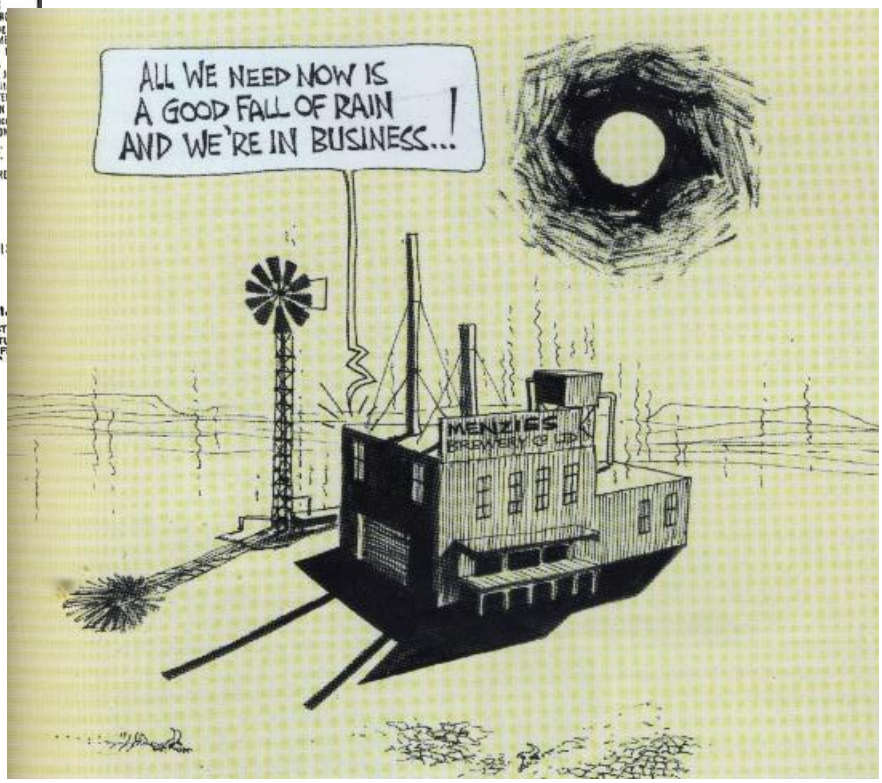
Before we wander north, a quick trip south to Norseman, the town named after a horse. In June 1896 the first brew was produced. At the grand opening in October, one hundred of the town's dignitaries turned up. Built on the shores of Lake Cowen, the brewers used condensed water. Three of the local Police Trackers, in 1919, helped themselves to 120 bottles of the sweet amber fluid for a Christmas cheer. They served three months in the lockup for the party.

Now for a U-turn back to the Golden Mile. There were many small outfits throughout the "Fields". Some were rough spinifex clad humpies such as at Bulong from 1889-1910, 20 miles east of Kalgoorlie, supplying a small group of far-flung settlers and prospectors. Others were larger and more sophisticated with a life span from 10 to 20 years. Heading north from Kalgoorlie, we visit Kanowna. It had two, "The Standard Brewery", opening and closing from1905-09, and the "White Feather Castle Brewery Co. Ltd.", lasting for 20 years up until WW1.



The next town on our journey is Broad Arrow (original name Kurawah), which now only has a pub. The story goes that when the Michelin Star hotel inspectors arrived there in the 1960's to assess the hotel, the publican asked for a rating of one star as he had the largest carpark in Australia. Also, the film, "The Nickel Queen", starring Googie Withers as the pub owner and John Laws as a hippie, was centred here. In 1896 the "Broad Arrow, Bardoc & Black Flag Brewing, Aerated Water & Ice Co. Ltd." opened its doors, then shutting them in 1911.

Up the road is the majestic town of Menzies, named after L.R. Menzies, prospector and founder. In 1895 there was an estimated population of 10,000 – enough for two producers. The first was the "Burton Brewery Co. Ltd.", opening in 1888 and closing the next year, a common occurrence at the time. A few years later, in 1895 the "Menzies Brewery Co. Ltd." turned the taps on after a notice appeared at a pub "Wanted, a first-class brewer. Apply within". But like many others in this region, gold was easier to come by than water, and it soon closed in 1903. (The town hall has finally got its clock. When the hall was built, and before the clock was purchased, there was a punch-up



in Europe and many of the locals joined in, resulting in a lack of funds to complete the job.) A group of hoteliers purchased the brewing equipment and moved it, lock, stock and importantly barrels, to Kookynie where they operated until 1912. The town had seven hotels to slake the thirst of 1000 miners and prospectors who downed 356,000 gallons of beer over ten years. Like many towns, when the mines closed so did the breweries and outlets.

In 1901 the "Mt Malcolm Brewery" was founded by Mr J.O. McArdell, to cater for the thirsty and dirty miners at the Northern Star Gold mine in the dry and sandy region. Two years later it closed but reopened and renamed as the "Great Northern Brewery". A grandiose title in the middle of the state. A fire did some damage in 1905 (floods were rare here) but after some repairs it continued until 1908.

A couple of miles west is the thriving town of Leonora where a "ghost brewery" possibly existed in 1898, advertised, but never built, so we will pass it by.

Back east, passing through Malcolm, we reach two more towns. Mt Margaret in 1897, a small mine site on the northern end of Lake Carley, the usual saltpan, spinifex and sand. Next year, the gold disappeared as did the drinkers so we will trudge onto Mt Morgans. Foundered in 1899 by Dr Morgans. Now only the restored municipal chambers building and a few road signs left, it had its own magnificent magical brewery, the "Mt Morgans Brewing & Malting Co. Ltd.". In 1900 it opened its doors but closed when its owner died. A couple of years later it reopened for two years, but the brewer, Otto Hansen, moved onto "greener" pastures to Laverton.



This town, founded in 1899 by Dr Charles Laver, who rode on a bike from Coolgardie three years earlier, had two breweries. The first being the "Laverton Brewing Co. Ltd.", opening in 1900 and closing four years later. The "Belfast Brewery" breathed and died in 1902. The irony of its name must have caused many chuckles from the locals. Brewing beer in this hot and dusty clime would have been thirsty work. I'm sure a 'coldie' after work would have been downed.

Following the now dirt road through Leinster and Agnew we arrive at the abandoned town of Lawlers. Like many towns in this area, it has now disappeared, and a hole has replaced it. In 1899 the "Lawler's Brewery Co." opened for business, only to close its doors in 1906.

Galloping along in a fine stagecoach with a plume of dust behind, we arrive in Sandstone. When I first passed through there in 1970 only the hotel, a few houses and the water tank to feed the train was to be seen. However, back in 1902 gold was found. Five years later a thriving town was to be seen. Four hotels, four butcher shops, many dining establishments and emporiums were to be found. To keep the population's throats moist, the "Black Range Brewery" was opened in 1907, shutting its doors in 1911.

During this period, from the mid 1880's, to just before the Great War, many towns and settlements prospered in central WA with itinerate workers moving around. The breweries and hotels did a roaring trade from the men, and few women, with stars in their eyes. Now, with fast transport and a stable population, the excitement has ceased, replaced with the humdrum of modern life. So ends a chapter of our history and so must I.

"Reality is an illusion that occurs due to lack of alcohol." Anonymous.

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS: "The Breweries of Australia".