



# 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                                   | 11am on 19 <sup>th</sup> of March 2026.  |
| Wood carvers                                      | 7:00pm every Monday – contact Terry 9295-1393  |
| Fundraising                                       | Next raffle on 9 <sup>th</sup> of May at Woolies.  |
| Public Open Saturday (last Saturday of the month) | 28 <sup>th</sup> of March - Open Morning 8:00am-noon. Bacon & egg toastie and juice plus tea or coffee for \$5 - 8:00am–10:00am.<br>All welcome, even family, friends, neighbours.   |
| Thursday Theatre                                  | 10:30am on 2 <sup>nd</sup> of April 2026 – “Blazing Saddles”   |
| Committee Meeting                                 | 11:00am on 9 <sup>th</sup> of April 2026.  |
| Deadline for Wrinkly Rag copy                     | 5:00pm on 10 <sup>th</sup> of April 2026.  |
| Wrinkly Rag publish                               | 5:00pm on 12 <sup>th</sup> of April 2026.  |
| Speakers' Circle                                  | 10:30am on 14 <sup>th</sup> of April 2026 – Mick Cotter: “26 years on the National Council of the Royal Flying Doctor Service”. Mick has had an interesting life; hopefully this will be the first of several talks he gives us. |

## 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](mailto: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



MCMS is a place of acceptance for all men and while catering for current attending members' wants is important, we must also look at addressing the needs of those who don't attend regularly. This means allocating resources and space to encourage the wider use of the Shed. Cleaning up workshops, shop, computer area and main hall will go some way to addressing the space issue – please help where you can.

We've now had 2 Thursday Theatre (actually cinema) events where even though there were fewer attendees than perhaps we'd hoped for, they were appreciated by members, particularly those who at home might get a running commentary, or "what's happening now?", or "why did they do that?" from "her indoors".

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 we had our second regular "last Saturday of the Month" open mornings with a \$5 bacon and egg toastie and juice and tea or coffee from 8-10am. We made and sold 21 toasties! This event will continue while ever there's interest. It is open to everybody, not just shedders, allowing us to show (and sell) what we make and let people know the full gamut of Shed activities. The next event will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. Please come along and support the Shed if you can; if you can help with catering, all the better. When the weather is predictably a little cooler, we may also run some driveway sales to clear some surplus materials and equipment.

If you are experiencing health issues or just need somebody to chat with, remember there's always somebody at the Shed willing to lend an ear.

## New Members

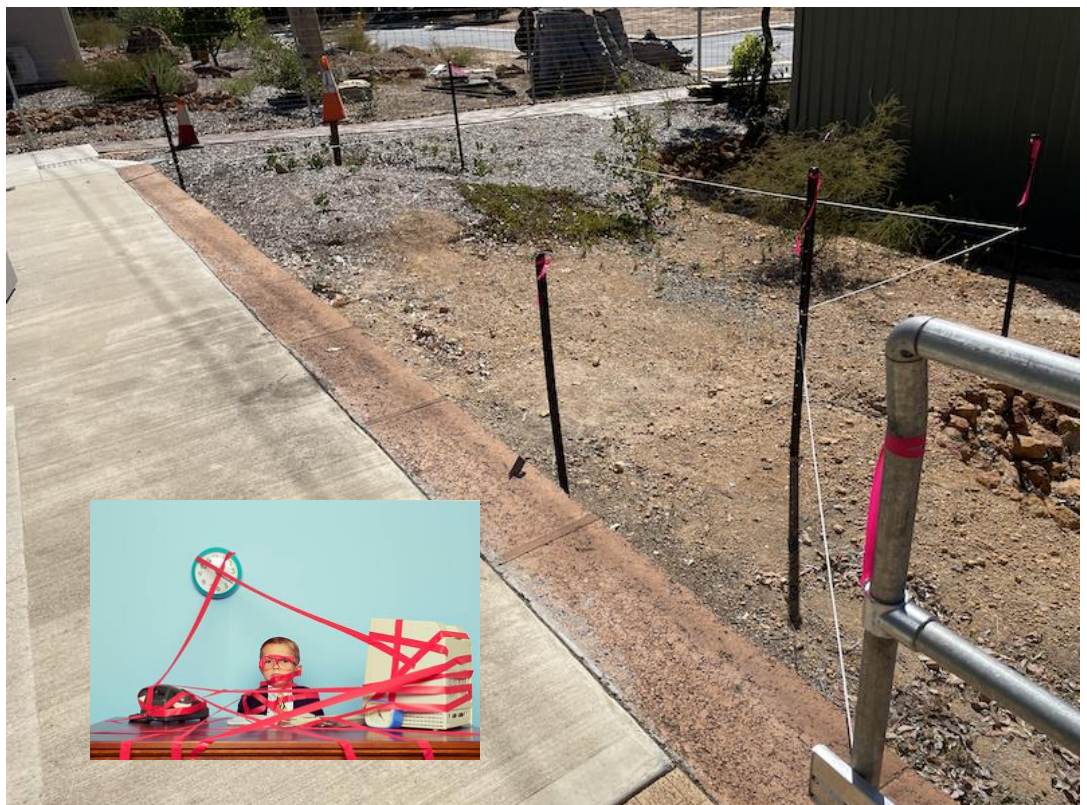
New members in the last month: Please welcome Glen O'Rourke, Ted Ion (Returned), Greg Scrivener.

## Around the Shed

Pegging out of proposed deck for woodworkers

Currently seeking the OK from the Shire to proceed to the next stages:

- Engineering approval
- Design compliance
- Building permit
- Construction
- Engineering inspection
- Construction compliance



Demolition at 3205 Jacoby



On Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of February for 8am onwards we had a “working bee” to dismantle the wood store from 3205 Jacoby and transport it to 1 Morilla





Unloading at 1 Morilla



Many thanks to:

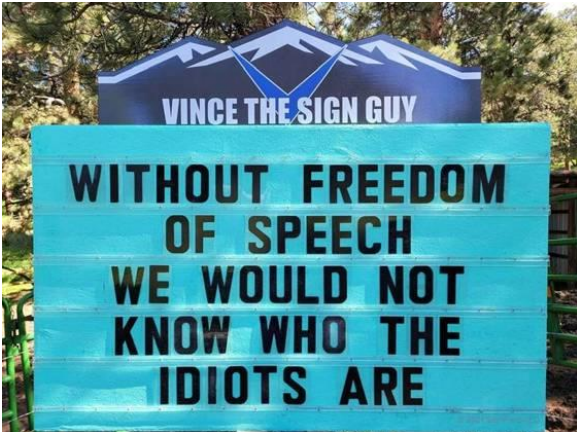
- Max Hore
- Ken Parker
- Craig Wallace-Gibb
- Steve Pavey
- James Scully
- John Winsor
- Peter Mateusiak
- Andrew Klante
- Dom Gerace
- Peter Thomas
- Frank Ottosen

If I missed anybody, please let me know so that I can acknowledge your help.

Morphing into the garden shed



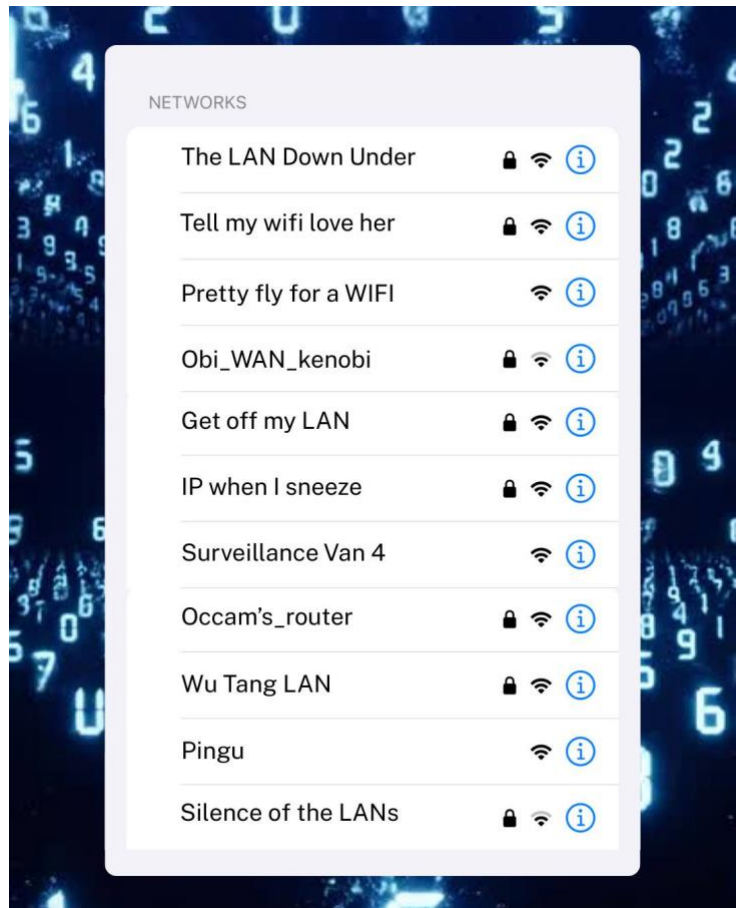
## Wrinkly Smiles – Max Hore



Pre internet chat room using An old version of windows...



And one for the techies!



## War in the Wheatbelt – Craig Ward

Three great battles were waged among the abodes and crops of our farming communities.

### Emus

One fight, in 1932, pitted hordes of hungry birds against the Australian Army. Emus, their very presence sent chills down the settler's spines as they saw their crops being devastated by these ravenous creatures. Drought conditions drew the emus to the crops during fragile economic conditions of falling wheat prices and the Great Depression. After the Great War of 1914-1918 many returned diggers were offered land by the Australian Government to farm. Although their initial attempts were successful, by the late 1920's there was a world-wide glut of wheat, high production costs and low prices. The CBH had not yet commenced. With a drought from 1930, the future looked bleak. Also, the emu numbers had increased so they came in for a feed of wheat.



Come and get me!

The farmers in the Campion District, NE of Merredin, were doing it tough and begged for government intervention. In response, three members of the Royal Australian Artillery's 7<sup>th</sup> Heavy Artillery were deployed there. Major Gwynydd Purves Wynne-Aubrey Meredith, commanding Sergeant S. McMurray and Gunner O'Halloran armed with two Lewis Guns and 10,000 rounds of ammunition, set themselves to "solve" the problem. On their first attempt, with the foe coming into range they opened fire. Alas, the guns jammed and only "a number" of these dastardly birds were killed. Wet

weather also caused problems for the Army as their trucks were impractical for the terrain. The Major made a claim of 986 kills with 9860 rounds on one day, with 2,500 wounded and dying. Not a very efficient result and highly disputed, but hey it sounded good! After many failed attempts the human's moral dropped, as the "enemy" adapted new tactics. A "six foot high" emu general would oversee his troops while they feasted and razed the countryside and warned of any incursions from the artillery. The emus lost comparatively few from their ranks this time, but a second assault was launched upon them, whereby 100 per week casualties were inflicted. The logistics of the "exercise" proved too high for the Australian Army who retreated.

This skirmish in the west ended in defeat for the army, and the emus considered the "victors". The military withdrew with red faces. It was now up to the citizens who were provided with ammunition and bounties (medals?) to hunt emus. Over a six-month period 57,034 emu lives were claimed. Since then, a 220 km fence has been built around the wheat belt costing £52,000 (\$1.5 million in today's money) which has been extended a few times. This



has kept the birdies out but has caused significant damage to other native species and upset migrations of them.

With national and international ridicule following this episode, the problems of wildlife management and the limits of human intervention against resilient native species was highlighted. But all was not lost. In 2023 an action-packed movie was screened (it did not win an Oscar) and a beautiful book written, "The Great Emu War". This whole fiasco illustrates the problem of balancing human actions with the environment.

## Rabbits

Later, from 1948 to 1950, another great invasion occurred, this time from foreigners, the not so cute little bunnies. We in the West had already built a fabulous fence to keep them out, but like Trumpies fence, it was only partially successful. The Eastern states had suffered badly from the plagues, and a solution was required. A young Australian scientist, Dr Jean McNamara, working in America began research into the Myxoma virus to control rabbits.

Many methods had been tried, fencing off paddocks, shooting, trapping (when we were kids this method bought in some pocket money, 2/6 a pair from the local butcher), poisoning and even gassing (passing a hose from an idling vehicle to a warren). However, these methods were not effective due to the large numbers of rabbits, and it was labour-intensive and expensive.

In 2007 the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act came into effect to control all pests – whether weeds, animals or diseases from entering W.A. The BAM act, and associated regulations, are used to identify and control all animals, plants and activities that could harm our beautiful state. There is cooperation between government, farmers and the public. A legal framework prevents all nasties from entering here and inhibit their spread. Also, it controls the safe use, and quality control of agriculture and veterinary chemicals. The introduction of rabbits, and the spread of cane toads, amongst others, are example of major disasters.

Myxomatosis was introduced to Australia in the 1950's and became widely spread, initially with a 95% kill rate. However, the cunning little animals have developed a resistance to it. Later, Calicivirus, also known as Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus or RHDV has proved to be effective. The poison, 1080 (Sodium Fluoro-acetate), was developed from poison found in the Pea flower. From the early 1800's this plant was known to be poisonous to stock and pets, with local names such as lamb-poison, York Road poison (deadly for oxen, but not so bad for horses) and other such names. This poison is safe for local marsupials as they have developed immunity over the last million years, however, the eastern state animals and pets have not, and therefore are susceptible.

Although many attempts have been tried these “cute” pests still cause ecological disasters with a cost in 1996 of over \$600 million annually. But with the introduction of RHDV the yearly agriculture loss is about \$206 million.

## Mice

Although the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) is not native to Australia, they have made their presence known. The first of them came over in 1788 with the naughty boys and girls and continue with their bad behaviour. Australia, together with China, are only two countries where mice plagues are known. Plagues occur approximately every four years in the grain regions in the eastern states, and in the 1910's they finally arrived in the Gold Fields/Esperance region and wheat belt. The mice are great little breeders with mum having up to 10 youngsters every 20 or so days.

The current mouse plague echoes a relationship between the La Niña east coast weather cycle and Australia's native rodents that dates back hundreds of thousands of years.

Both the historical population booms or “irruptions” of the long-haired rat and modern mouse plagues are phenomenon intimately tied to the La Niña weather cycle. In 1940, another La Niña year, the longest and most intense rat plague occurred. It was reported that rats pried open “seven-pound tea tins” on shop shelves, chewed the wool off sheep's backs, and consumed the trousers of Longreach's Catholic priest. As populations of the long-haired rat have declined, the human-dependent house mouse has assumed the position of Australia's most troublesome plague mammal. Mice are far more grain-driven and human

dependent than the long-haired rat, resulting in infestations that concentrate around farms and homes.

We can expect mouse plagues of the current scale around once every seven years. The last notable plague occurred in 2011 during one of the strongest La Niña cycles on record. That infestation inflicted \$200 million of crop damage in autumn alone.

Now, we're seeing the cycle repeat again. As the rain falls, ground cover sprouts, farmers' yields flourish, and the mice start swarming.



*There have been other plagues within Australia. Cane toads, fire ants, foxes, sparrows and even plants are some of them. They have cost our economy greatly and serve as a warning not to bring in non-native animals and plants.*

*Except for the emus, these have been imported, some intentionally, others by accident.*

*Use of biological control, although in the short term effective, can also cause unintended side effects*

## More Words of Wisdom – Max Hore

"The forest was shrinking, but the trees kept voting for the Axe, for the Axe was clever and convinced the Trees that because his handle was made of wood, he was one of them."

~Turkish proverb

**THE SHEEP WILL SPEND ITS ENTIRE LIFE FEARING THE WOLF, ONLY TO BE EATEN BY THE SHEPHERD.**

African Proverb

Logic will get you  
from A to B.

Imagination will take you  
everywhere.

-Albert Einstein