

President's Report

As most of us welcome Autumn with open arms we can only say that Summer has been nothing but challenging! Record breaking hot weather, even for WA, the ongoing insidious and ever changing covid variants and accompanying rules and regulations. Empty supermarket shelves due to an unforeseen need to stockpile toilet paper, tissues, pasta and paracetamol, then, empty supermarket shelves due to Mother Nature sending a flood of Biblical proportions to ensure we became even more isolated from the wise men in the East than usual and to confirm how dependant we are on them! 60% of our goods come to us from the East!

So, let's hear it for the Secessionist Movement and while we are about it, the climate sceptics, the anti-vaxxers, the Flat Earth society and those Q.anon people who think the world is going to be ruled by people who change into lizards, or something like that!!

So, as I said, let's welcome Autumn with open arms, an open heart and the hope that things may slowly take a turn for the better. But, hey, as in the words of the Elton John Song, "We're still standing" And, I don't know about you but there is no where else I would rather be standing than in YORK!

So, what has your industrious YBA committee been up to during these long hot days? Well, if you haven't heard we are planning, in conjunction with The York Society, a Heritage weekend in April. Friday 22nd to Monday 25th to showcase the history of this fine town.

It started as an idea after discussion to have heritage as a Forum subject and progressed from there to coincide with WA Heritage month which unfortunately has had most of the events cancelled due to the aforementioned Covid and the accompanying issues etc. (see above)

We have focused mainly on shop displays and other static displays plus walks and guided tours so as, hopefully, not to fall foul of the many, varied and ever changing Covid regulations (see above, again) It was decided that although these times are very uncertain some light relief and community involvement could only be a good thing! Worst case scenario, if needed, we postpone but at least the infrastructure will all be in place. So, fingers crossed, we move on.

The weekend chosen is the last weekend of the school holidays also it is the Anzac Day long weekend so will hopefully attract visitors to come and stay for a couple of nights. Perhaps a good time to offer a package deal and highlight the events of the weekend for our hospitality people.

We will also go forward with the plan for our next Forum which will again focus on Heritage and will be entitled "Living in a Heritage Town, the benefits, the opportunities and the challenges"

This will be held at Faversham and after the guest speakers we will use the occasion to outline in detail the plans for the Heritage weekend so everyone is clear about the plans and our aims and most importantly how they are involved and what they need to do! We plan to have the programmes by then to hand out to get things moving.

The Forum is planned for Wednesday April 6th 5.30pm for 6pm start and the usual serious frivolity afterwards courtesy of Nola and Richard Bliss and your hardworking YBA.

I leave you with these thoughts to ponder.

Remember - Imagination is just as important as knowledge.

And - Only two things are infinite - the universe and stupidity.

Business News

So much to report on what has been happening in town and, even though the months of January and February apart from being quite warm, have been a light on as far as visitor numbers go there is still a lot of activity in our fair Town.

Congratulations to the Gather Team for taking on the running of the Coffee shop at the Old Mill. This is a much needed result and gives Amber and Fi the opportunity to progress their business including the specialist groceries and produce and their expanding catering side of the business. Hopefully it also gives a boost to those in the Emporium and is another way of including the Mill into the main activities of the town.

Work goes ahead at Pantechnica and Andrea has lots of great ideas and plans in the pipe line.

The opening of the Court House and the adjoining museum and old gaol is also another great asset to the town. The opening on the 18th of february was particularly appropriate and was a moving occasion. The speakers, Dr Marion Kickett and her sister Tracey gave fascinating insights into the history of York and these buildings and the effects they have had on the local Noongar community. Their philosophy on how we should move forward together is something to be admired and something we should all take on board. The National Trust representative spoke of the benefits they see from what is planned here and the philosophy behind the project to make it a place of stories and conciliation. The YBA looks forward to working with Edward and these inspirational ladies on lots of future projects.

Our one and only dress shop has had a makeover too and Michele has had some amazing pictures taken of most of the iconic York buildings to showcase her product and to use in her promotions. Pop in to Fifth Ave, to see some of the images and while you are there check out her stunning clothing ranges. Well done Michele! (other local businesses could take note and see how they can work with this idea)

We all acknowledge that these have been difficult times for businesses especially small operations in the country but now is the time to share ideas and knowledge and be supportive of one another, forget any disagreements from the past and work together for the better times ahead, and hopefully they come sooner rather than too much later.

And, just to let you know, I have heard that there are some people who wake up every morning feeling like a million dollars—I must own up there have been a few mornings lately when I have actually woken up feeling like 'insufficient funds' but then you forget all that and just get on with it, together! Happy trading.

York Talk

How good does the old Saints Diner look now that a lot of that awful paint has been stripped back and the original brick exposed, well done Stef, keep up the good work. Just as an encouragement have a look at how the building looked a while ago – not sure about the Dick Turpin moniker, could see a lot of comments about Highway Robbery coming into play that may not be beneficial!!



I wonder what is going to happen to the Vet's old premises now, another great old building that needs a tenant, not many empty spots left in town now.

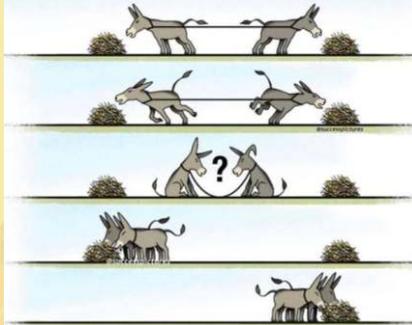
Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Sharon McDonald after that very nasty car crash. Take care Sharon and here's hoping you are up and about soon, Let us know if there is anything we can assist with.

Sometime ago the YBA spoke to the Shire about an upgrade of the visitor information bay as you drive in from Perth. One of the things we suggested was that local businesses could have the spaces down each side of the structure to promote their business for a nominal cost to cover photography and production which could include an amount in an attempt to swell the YBA coffers even if only by a few dollars. We asked the shire to come back to us with what we be required to get this underway and how we would

go about it. Perhaps while we are waiting for that we could canvas some of you out there to see if the idea has merit so that if the Shire know there are people beating on the door to promote York they may look on it favourably and with a bit more urgency. Just a thought! (we did point out quite a few other issues that we thought were relevant as well and we will keep working on those)

Well done to Stacey, at Settlers for picking up from mum who has flown the coop and left us to go to sunny Queensland. I don't think it's personal and may have something to do with Brian already being there. Good luck Stacey, and from our initial discussions about heritage weekend I know there is a lot we can achieve by working together. This of course applies to the whole town and everyone in it!

Imagine what we can accomplish when we work together
@successpictures



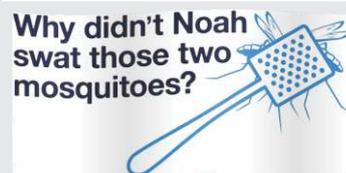
Speaking of how good something looks what about the great artwork at 156 Avon Terrace on the walls? It is fantastic and a credit to the perseverance I am sure it needed to bring that to fruition. I am sure we all agree there are so many spots that would benefit greatly from the right art being installed. So let's make this another project and let's hear it for "More Street Art Please"!!

Chris and Peter are still working on the old Australia bank building and have done some lovely additions to the outside area with a gorgeous gazebo. They have not only become members of the YBA but have also kindly let us use the downstairs area during the Heritage weekend so many thanks guys, much appreciated.

Last but not least I need some volunteers to help organise the kid's games at the heritage weekend and please clear out your sheds and cupboards and see what you can find for all our various displays, we need a few more household appliances, doesn't matter if they don't work. If you want some more info just give me a call. If you want things collected we can do that too.



People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.



DEAR NEIGHBOUR:
Hi, Max. This is Richard, next door. I've been riddled with guilt for a few months and have been trying to get up the courage to tell you face-to-face. When you're not around, I've been sharing your wife, day and night, probably much more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently. I know that's no excuse. The temptation was just too great. I can't live with the guilt & hope you'll accept my sincere apology and forgive me.
Please suggest a fee for usage and I'll pay you.
Regards
Richard
Max, feeling enraged and betrayed, grabbed his gun, went next door, and shot Richard dead. He returned home, shot his wife, poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the sofa. Max then looked at his phone and discovered a second text message from Richard.
SECOND TEXT MESSAGE:
Hi, Max. Richard here again. Sorry about the typo on my last text. I assume you figured it out and noticed that the darned Spell-Checker had changed "wi-fi" to "wife." Technology, huh? It'll be the death of us all.

WHY IS ABBREVIATION SUCH A LONG WORD?

