

Parthian Shot

324th Edition

January 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Phil Brown
Matt Carra
Phil Smith
Les Lewis
Vic Lane
Mark Reed
David Bruce
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Hopefully, meetings can
resume again soon. In the
meantime, "Stay Safe & Stay
Well"



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Approved Collector Status as per Section 28 (2) 1996 Firearms Act.

MISSION STATEMENT

To work in a responsible and constructive manner with Government and the Community to explore innovative ways to achieve the Association's Aims and Objectives

- To promote and encourage a responsible preservation of collections of historical and antique artefacts for future generations.
- To foster and promote a public awareness and importance to preserve our heritage and history for all times.
- To preserve and promote a responsible maintenance and collection of Australian military memorabilia in particular and associated items in general.
- To encourage responsible collectors to maintain and preserve historical and antique firearms.
- To explore innovative ways of assisting collectors in the maintenance of their interests for the future.

Meetings are held on the 2nd. Tuesday of each month at the Quarry Hill Community Hall, Hamlet St., Bendigo from 7.30 pm for 8pm start
New Members and Visitors welcome.

EXECUTIVE

President	Greg Penna	03 5444 0093
Vice-President	Chris Jolme	03 5474 2552
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Presidents Report December 2020/January 2021

Hi Troops, My first report for this New Year of 2021. Last things to happen in 2020 were not much! Covid really knocked us around as it did the World, but light is starting to show through now. Covid closed the GCCA Club down around March and not much was done at a club level because of the Restrictions imposed upon us all. We did manage to squeeze in a Committee Meeting at Richards in-between transitional restrictions setting in, but that was all. Leighton, Sue, Richard and I and sometimes other Committee members have been attending to urgent and necessary admin and decisions needing to be done to keep the Club active and running smoothly.

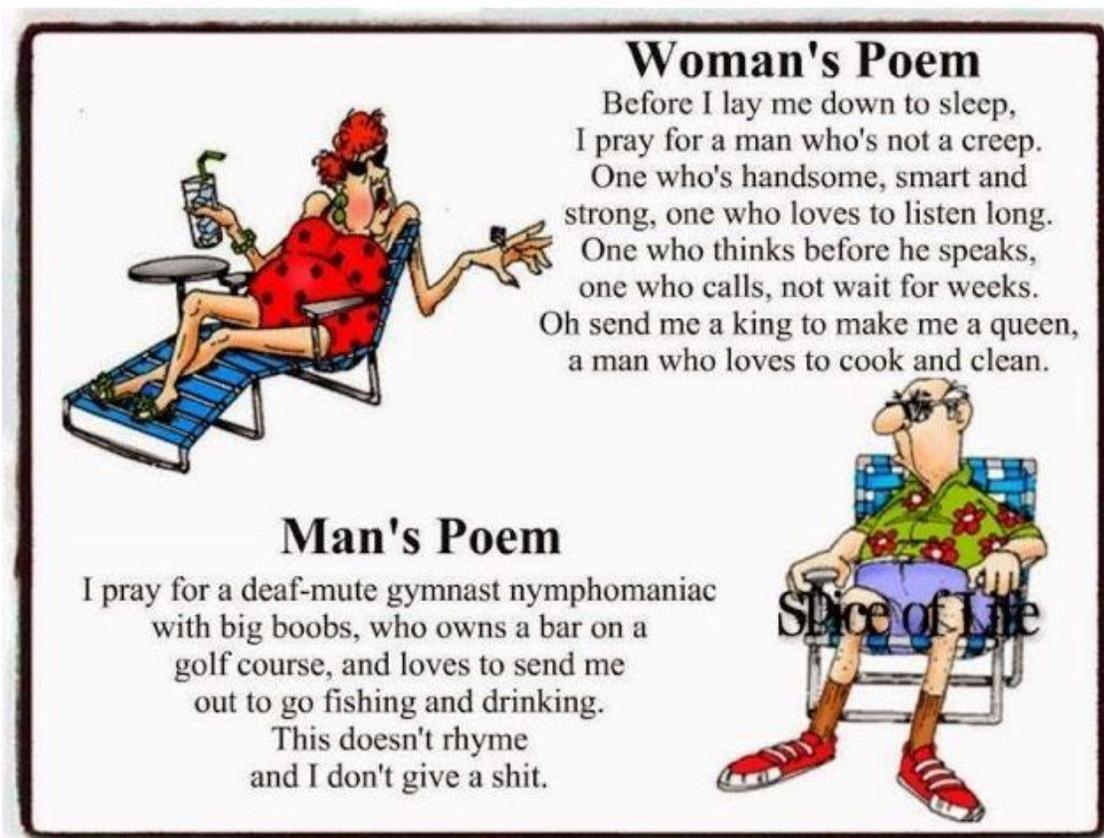
We planned for a February start-up of Club events and meetings, but again, Covid said 'Hi' rearing its head again. The Shoots have been well attended as they are outdoors, and social distancing and numbers easily achieved.

Australia day - Tuesday 26th January 2021. Another cancellation, we had looked into doing something, but Council, then DHHC struck the final blow and it is not happening. 2021-22, hopefully a catch-up year. I thought perhaps it would be a battle to kick start members enthusiasm in coming together again, but then realised we are a strong collecting club who enjoy one another's company, so I have laid that fear to rest.

If you need information and or help with Collecting, club issues and LRB Forms seek out our website found at www.collectorsbendigo.com.au and see how it can help. We try to be on top of changes and events and constantly update it with helpful links, information and it should be your first stop for information and news about the club and events, especially while we are unable to meet in person.

We have a gazetted Club Shoot for the 17th of Jan, so best to contact Mark Reed (0412 706 760) to book your Covid Place.

For Members who are experiencing health issues, keep the chin up and if you need any help in any way, just ask. Again, leave this with you, in collecting! Gee Pee (Greg Penna)





SOME TIME AGO, the Golden City Collectors provided direct financial support to the Combined Firearms Council of Victoria which represented the political interests of 6 of Victoria's shooting organisations.

Since then, problems with succession planning led to the shrinking of the CFCV and its demise, but not the idea or the fight.

The National Shooting Council was formed out of the CFCV but with two key differences: first its membership is of individuals rather than shooting organisations and second it has a national focus. The NSC was incorporated in April 2019 and over the past year has run and won legal and other actions on:

- The closure of Victoria's, Queensland's and Western Australia's gun shops at the start of the COVID pandemic
- The suspension of the licences of shooters whose only crime was to receive fines for COVID breaches ... and
- The reclassification of firearms from category A to D, in Western Australia and Victoria, and the likelihood of filing soon in NSW.

We also had our fair share of success in the media: the closure of our gun shops was reported by three state governments to be based on a decision of National Cabinet. However, we exposed that there was no evidence of any such decision which was picked up by a journo at The Age who did some more digging around. He confirmed that there was in fact no such decision.

The result was front page coverage of not only The Age, but WA Today, Brisbane Times and the Sydney Morning Herald. Our gun shops soon reopened and importantly the closures were not repeated during the second wave.

We've had a great first year. We've not only had some legal wins but learnt from our mistakes and grown our membership well beyond where we expected we would be at this stage.

The NSC has been built around a principle which we believe sets us apart from other groups: the need for political, rather than shooting, skills. Without denigrating the efforts of others, the NSC has worked on the understanding that we are in a political fight that demands the right skills and understanding that any political responses we generate need to come back on us, not you.

That's why we believe it is necessary for the NSC to remain independent from commercial or shooting organisations or political parties. It helps us focus on our political fight without compromising either what we do, or those who we need to work with such as yourselves. If we need subject matter expertise on say, hunting or collecting, then we can get that information through our contacts, such as from your own association.

These might seem to be different pathways, but they end up at the same end point, which is to seek a more understanding and helpful political environment than we have now.

Shooters didn't have this problem forty years ago, but through the bans of the 80s, 90s and more red tape in recent years, we certainly have a problem now. More worrying though, is that our political situation is not getting better. If anything, it is getting worse because of a toxic policy environment within government.

That's why industry leaders, convinced that the current approach wasn't working, met in 2018 to form the NSC and task it with driving our political fight – without having their fingerprints on it.

Thank you again for your support – you have helped us achieve what we have been able to do so far.

For more information - <https://nationalshooting.org.au/>

WOMEN DURING WARTIME



Simone Segouin was a French teenager who bravely fought on the front lines against the German occupiers and helped liberate the historic city of Chartres.

Born in 1925 in Thivars, 55 miles from Paris, Simone was a tomboy with three brothers who taught her how to fight. She was especially close with her father, a patriotic farmer who served his country with distinction in the Great War (WWI.)

In 1940 the Germans marched into France and began a brutal occupation that would last four long years. Filled with love of her country and admiration for her veteran father, Simone was determined to find a way she could help, even as a teenage girl. She joined the Francs-Tireurs et Partisans – a resistance group – and took the nom de guerre Nicole Minet. Simone was provided with false identity papers showing “Nicole Minet” to be from the Channel port of Dunkirk. This was a wise move because the port was bombed at the beginning of the war, so it was impossible for them to verify her papers.

Simone stole a bike from German soldiers and painted it to avoid detection. It became her “reconnaissance vehicle” and she used it to move around without attracting notice so she could deliver messages and snoop around. Simone/Nicole underwent intensive military training to be a combat soldier. She carried out multiple acts of sabotage against German targets, helping to blow up bridges and supply lines.

While helping capture German troops in Thivars, she fell in love with Roland Boursier, commander of the resistance operation in her hometown. He was in hiding after killing a group of German soldiers. Since he couldn’t leave his hiding place in the countryside, Simone became his courier, taking messages to the main Resistance group.



Simone helped liberate the historic city of Chartres, home of the famed cathedral, in August 1944. Afterwards, General Charles de Gaulle, the Free French leader and future president, visited the city and gave a speech at the city square. Journalists covering the event were fascinated by the sweet-looking girl eating a baguette with jam – and carrying a machine gun. She proudly told the reporters that she was part of

General de Gaulle’s security detail. Simone was interviewed by an American reporter for Life magazine and photographed by famed war photographer Robert Capa.

After Chartres was liberated, Simone joined France's 2nd Armoured Division heading to Paris, where a brutal battle was taking place. The 2nd Armoured Division helped defeat the Germans and bring freedom to the City of Light.

Simone was asked if she'd ever killed anyone. She answered, "On July 14, 1944, I took part in an ambush with two comrades. Two German soldiers went by on a bike, and the three of us fired at the same time, so I don't know who exactly killed him. You shouldn't have to kill someone like that. It's true, the Germans were our enemies, it was the war, but I don't draw any pride from it."

After the war ended, Simone was promoted to lieutenant and awarded the prestigious Croix de Guerre.

She became a pediatric nurse in Chartres and raised six children. She lives in Courville-sur-Eure, where a street was recently named after her. Mayor Frederic Hallouin described Simone as "A rebellious spirit, a strong character certainly, who took her father's example and rejected the enemy occupying our country." Simone said, "I'm very glad to know that people are not indifferent to this period of my life."

She is still going strong, and this October (2021) she will turn 96!

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN were the French girls who became known as the Collaborator girls of the German-occupied Europe, 1940-1944

It's 1942 and the Germans occupy and dominate the vast majority of Europe. They were there, on the scene, and the local men either were not (dead, in prison camps, in hiding) or were greatly diminished in status. Like soldiers of every army of every period of history, as soon as the Germans got comfortable, they started scouting around for women. And, as always in times of military occupation, there were willing women to be found.



Sure enough, the German soldiers found them. It's not quite clear what the big deal was about exchanging clothes with your French girlfriend, but as shown on many pictures here, that seemed to be the thing to do. And it seemed quite common, as if this were 'the proof' of, well, you know. Everyone in the Wehrmacht knew that Paris was the place to be. The official German propaganda outlets even advertised its allures. Essentially, and this is no exaggeration, Paris became almost synonymous with "giant cathouse" in the Wehrmacht. To some extent, that reputation remains to this day in certain quarters.



Some of the women simply fell in love and married their German beau. Who could foresee that the world would change so drastically so quickly? Once in that situation, staying home became untenable – time to follow husband wherever he is headed, even if it is prison camp. And sometimes you need to put aside your cynicism – love is love, for better or worse.

Conquering soldiers have a lot to offer a girl, especially a soldier who has rank and can most likely offer all sorts of inducements. Clearly, these ladies had no difficulty taking advantage of all those lonely men and offering them some solace, and the soldiers had an easy time taking advantage of naive girls who had no idea of the enormity of what they were doing.

Some 200,000+ babies were born to German fathers during the French occupation. There was nothing special about French women: in one of the Channel Islands, 900 such babies were registered. In Norway, 8-12,000 babies (including Anni-Frid Lyngstad of Abba fame) resulted. Such marriages also were encouraged in Denmark and Holland.



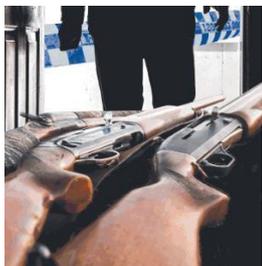
There are thousands upon thousands of joyful pictures of the liberation of France in 1944.

But among the cheering images, there are also shocking ones. These show the fate of women accused of “**collaboration horizontale**”.

French women who befriended the Nazis, through coerced, forced, or voluntary relationships, were singled out for shameful retribution following the liberation of France. The woman photographed here, believed to have been a prostitute who serviced German occupiers, is having her head shaved by French civilians to publicly mark her. This picture was taken in Montelimar, France, August 29, 1944.

In Bayeux, Churchill’s private secretary Jock Colville recorded his reactions to one such scene. “I watched an open lorry drive past, to the accompaniment of boos and catcalls from the French populace, with a dozen miserable women in the back, every hair on their heads shaved off. They were in tears, hanging their heads in shame. While disgusted by this cruelty, I reflected that we British had known no invasion or occupation for some 900 years. So, we were not the best judges”.

Throughout France, from 1943 to the beginning of 1946, about 20,000 women of all ages and all professions who were accused of having collaborated with the occupying Germans had their heads shaved. Just as the identity of those who carried this task out varied so too did the form it took. For example, among those who carried it out can be found members of the Resistance, those who took part in fighting at the time of the Liberation, neighbours who came down into the street once the Germans had left and men whose authority depended on the police and the courts.



Lawmen, Guns & Money – Linking firearms thefts to the official registry is no shot in the dark.

Jim Mason isn't his real name but it's close. Jim is a keen sporting shooter – a good one. He has won trophies at state and national level for clay target shooting.

Five years ago, this month, he injured his back at work in the building trades and recovered at his Mornington Peninsula home for a few weeks. The first time he went for a walk, someone must have been watching. In the hour he was out, his house was broken into.

The thieves weren't everyday opportunists. They knew exactly what they were doing. After quietly forcing a rear sliding door, they went straight to the gun safe bolted inside the wardrobe in the master bedroom, expertly opened it and took his prized Miroku competition shotgun and two rifles.

Nothing else was touched or taken, including a laptop sitting in the open. It was clearly a targeted raid. No fingerprints. No clues. No cars parked suspiciously close by.

Jim Mason got his insurance money but was uneasy about the circumstances. Soon, another shooter who lives nearby had his safe burgled, losing seven firearms. The another, who lost four. They compared notes with each other and with the Peninsula's biggest gun dealership, which handled most of the insurance claims and kept track of thefts.

The dealer told them there were 26 similar break-ins on the Peninsula in a relatively short time. But the thefts were not all linked to shooters from one club or one sport: some were field and game shooters, some were clay target shooters, some were pistol shooters, some were rifle target shooters, others were deer or pig hunters. Bottom line: not all 26 appeared on one database – except the police firearms registry.

Mason says he and his friends do not have stickers on their vehicles indicating they are shooters and never reveal their hobby on social media. In one case, a veteran shooter in Dromana had his safe broken into and his shotgun taken on a long weekend. The same night, in the same suburb, his son had his safe ransacked and lost several firearms.

Same surname, same suburb, same day – odds against that 'coincidence' were a million to one. It had to be inside information that gave the thieves a shopping list of addresses. Last month, Mason's competition shotgun turned up in a police raid in the northern suburbs. A diligent police officer identified the gun and called Mason. The good news was that the custom-fitted wooden stock hadn't been butchered. The bad news was that the barrels had been sawn off – something he likens to 'drawing a moustache on the Mona Lisa'.

With new barrels, the gun will make a comeback to clay target shoots. But that doesn't ease Mason's suspicions about the firearms registry leaks. When he mentioned this to the helpful officer, the lawman seemed uncomfortable about it, saying he had raised the issue with senior officers and had been told to leave it alone. This could mean that internal investigators are on the case – or that the force is wary of more bad news in a year that's full of it.

After the Lawyer X debacle and Tony Mokbel's court win, and the promise of more, the force will hardly want a gun-trafficking scandal. But the fact is that rumours of leaks from either police

members or public servants have been around for years. Such leaks would be gold for organised crime groups like outlaw motorcycle gangs, who traffic guns as well as drugs.

It is naïve to imagine they are not constantly trying to groom, blackmail or intimidate a potential source inside the system. If internal investigators can't nail the source of targeted gun thefts then the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, the federal police or the security services ought to – because it is a weapons supply line that could arm terrorists as well as run-of-the-mill robbers, drug dealers and potential killers. Cop killers, even.

One troubling aspect is that it doesn't seem that only one district is affected. A couple of years ago, an airline pilot on a Surf Coast farmlet had his gun safe raided in a way that reeked of inside information. As reported by this column at the time, the thieves knew exactly where to go – and what they were after. They opened a side door into the mostly unused garage then stepped over three cases of valuable wine to reach the steel safe fixed to the wall.

The safe had a hardened padlock fitted through two lugs – one welded to the door and the other to the rim of the safe. They must have bought heavy-duty bolt cutters, given they left no metal filings of the sort made by a portable side grinder. They took the five guns, and the broken lock – a sign of someone clued up about not leaving clues.

The owner still wonders about the timing of the theft. The family has lived on the small property just outside a large coastal town for many years. It's not a working livestock farm like those deep in the country further from Geelong, where firearms are the norm.

Thieves could go to a dozen farmlets in this semi-suburban pony club belt without finding a fun safe. Which is why the family wonders what triggered the highly specific theft by a well-informed intruder. What intrigues them is that the theft happened soon after police came to inspect the safe – the only inspection they have had in more than 20 years.

The more the owners think about the theft following the inspection, the less they think it was coincidence. Again, nothing about them or their vehicles suggests they might own guns. They do not belong to associations or clubs.

The fact that thieves often target farms close to urban areas – stealing chainsaws, motorbikes, pumps and sometimes guns – does not convince them theirs was just another random raid. Nothing else was taken, not even the cases of Grange Hermitage.

There is another possible explanation: that the information came from a gun dealer, or that watchers sit off gun shops noting customers come and go to their cars, then follow them home. Or if they had a contact in the motor registration field, they could then get an address.

The think about organised crime is exactly that: it's organised.

Victoria Police has had its problems with rogue officers who were stooges for bikie gangs. When Ken Lay was chief commissioner, a policeman was caught leaking to the Hells Angels. In fact, the rogue officer lived with a biker's daughter, a case of sleeping with the enemy. In a force with 20,000 members and plenty of public servants, it would be naïve to think that wouldn't happen again.

Source: andrew.rule@news.com.au Herald-Sun. Sunday December 20, 2020

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Edward 'Teddy' Sheean posthumously awarded Victoria Cross (Follow up story from our July newsletter when this brave young man was still being denied the VC for his actions)

Two days could not be more different. On Tuesday, on the manicured lawns of Government House on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra, Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean from Lower Barrington in Tasmania was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

On this day in 1942, just before two o'clock in the afternoon, the 18-year-old went down with his ship, HMAS Armidale. As he died, he clung to his gun, choosing certain death to give his comrades a chance of life.

The Armidale had been hit by two torpedoes and a bomb from the air.



In the chaos of war, his shipmates were in the water being strafed by Japanese fighters. But Ordinary Seaman Sheean disobeyed the order to abandon ship, strapped himself to a gun and fired back at the Japanese aircraft, before sinking beneath the waters of the Timor Sea.

Although wounded in the chest and back, he shot down one bomber and kept other aircraft away. He was seen still firing his gun as the Armidale slipped below the waves. Only 49 of the 149 men who had been on board survived.

His citation for the Victoria Cross says: "His preeminent act of valour and most conspicuous gallantry saved Australian lives."

In a quiet and solemn ceremony at Government House, his nephew Garry Ivory accepted the medal from the Governor-General.



Mr Ivory had campaigned for 32 years for his uncle's bravery to be recognised. In August, Prime Minister Scott Morrison [recommended to the Queen a posthumous Victoria Cross](#) after the recommendations of an independent inquiry. Mr Ivory said he was choked when he was handed the medal in Canberra. "Teddy fired until his last breath," he said, "so I didn't give up and I wouldn't."

He said that when the campaign to have the seaman recognised seemed like it was going nowhere, he would look at a copy of a painting of those final moments and be inspired to continue campaigning.



The picture which inspired the nephew to keep campaigning. Ordinary Seaman Edward Sheean, HMAS 'Armidale', Dale Marsh, 1978. Picture: AWM

Mr Sheean first read of his uncle's bravery in a book about the incident. From then on, he decided the deed should be recognised.

But it has been a long hard road with many twists and turns.

An inquiry in 2013 recommended against posthumously awarding the VC to the sailor.

Last year, the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal disagreed and recommended that the seaman should receive the VC posthumously.

Initially, Prime Minister [Scott Morrison rejected the recommendation but then announced a panel of experts](#) to review the matter. The panel came down in favour of the award and the matter then went to the Queen who agreed.

The result was the ceremony in Canberra, held under marquees on the lawn of Government House. A host of Ordinary Seaman Sheean's family were there, mixing with the top brass of the military.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison gave an address on video. A video was also shown of crew of HMAS Sheean (named after Teddy Sheean) casting a wreath on the ocean at the spot where the Armidale went down.



HMAS Armidale, the small Bathurst class corvette in which Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean performed his selfless act of valour. Pictures: Royal Australian Navy

Mr Morrison said that Ordinary Seaman Sheean had chosen his path even though it would end in his own death. "Everything he did was deliberate," the Prime Minister said.

His example raised a question in Mr Morrison's mind: "How can we lead lives as meaningful, as selfless as courageous as young Teddy Sheean's?"

Rib Ticklers:

A State Police Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 MPH. He thinks to himself "this driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So, he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are four old ladies — the three passengers are wide eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

The officer replies, "Ma'am, you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving much slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly... Twenty-two miles an hour!"

The old woman says, pointing to a sign next to the road.

The State Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that the sign was the route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone in this car OK? Your passengers seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time," the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Route 119."

'Dill' is Australian slang for Idiot.

You can't make this stuff up!

1- DILL:

We went through to the McDonald's driveway window and I gave the attendant a \$5 note.

Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her 25c.

She said, 'you gave me too much money.'

I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar coin back.'

She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request.

I did so, and he handed me back the 25c, and said 'We're sorry but we don't do that kind of thing.'

The attendant then gave me back 75 cents in change.

Do not confuse the people at McDonald's.

2- DILL:

We had to have the garage door repaired.

The repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener.

I thought for a minute and said that we had the largest one made at that time, a half a horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'You need a 1/4 horsepower.'

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, 'Nooo, it's not. Four is larger than two.'

We haven't used that repairman since. This happened in Ipswich, Queensland.

3- DILL:

I live in a semi-rural area.

We recently had a new neighbour call the local council office to request the removal of the WOMBAT CROSSING sign on our road.

The reason: 'Too many wombats are being hit by cars out here!

I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

Story from Collingwood, Melbourne.

4- DILL:

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your luggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

This happened in Elizabeth S.A.

5- DILL:

The pedestrian light on the corner beeps when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an 'intellectually challenged' co-worker of mine. She asked if I knew what the beeper was for. I explained that it lets blind people know when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?'

She is a government employee in Adelaide P.O.

6- DILL:

When my husband and I arrived at the garage to pick up our car after a service, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the mechanic, 'it's open!' His reply, 'I know. I already did that side.'

STAY ALERT!

They walk among us... and they breed! (And a Baby Boom is the likely result of Lockdown, so beware)

And on that scary note, I will take this opportunity to wish all Parthian Shot readers all the best for the coming year. Normally, I would simply say "Happy New Year" but the world is not the simple place it was before the Pandemic, so I will say "Stay well & Stay Safe!" Sue Rawlings. Editor.