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'KOALAFIED TRADESMEN'

A light-hearted look at a serious subject

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also rip you off a coin, so it's essentially gambling for the very poor. Keep at it until you come out on top, but also know when to quit, I've lost big before (50 cents). With practice you'll work out which machines have the best odds.

If you're like me and too poor for a car, you're going to be doing a lot of bussing. Bussing isn't particularly convenient, but it does churn out a lot of great stories to tell your friends, so you get your money's worth in the pure entertainment value of rubbing shoulders with some of the city's finest.

Now, I've come up with a few bus scams in my time, but none are as grand as the 'Siamese Twins Scam'. This basically entails buying an extra, extra large shirt with a good friend you don't mind getting up close and personal with, and wearing it together, to create the illusion that the two of you are in fact, Siamese twins. I find it helps if you write a Siamese twin related slogan on the front of the shirt, such as 'Siamese Twins 4 Life'. This can help mitigate the mistrust associated with Siamese twins who look nothing alike. The next step is to board a bus and attempt to convince the bus driver that the two of you are, in fact, Siamese twins and thus represent one person who obviously requires but a single fare. The bus driver, now faced with one of the greatest dilemmas of our time, must make a snap decision. What will their answer be? I recommend attempting the scheme and finding out.

If the scheme fails (not saying that it's going to), then you're going to be walking. This isn't necessarily a bad thing. In my opinion, the best way to stay fit is to be a scrooge. I once did so much walking (mostly because I kept missing the bus) that I busted my shoes beyond repair. This in, and of itself, was an opportunity as I walked barefoot into the shoe store and attempted to convince the shoe saleswoman that I'd never worn a pair of shoes in my life, and that as this was to be my maiden pair, I should be entitled to a sweet discount. Sort of like a first-home buyer rebate. However, while she foolishly believed me, she was unwilling to facilitate a discount on this momentous occasion, and I left paying full price. But such is life. Don't let failure get you down.

Another hot tip — if you're leaving home to go to university, join a club, I mean, it's a good way to make friends (more couches = more coins), but more importantly, most clubs have regular booze ups (at least at my uni) which you can go along to in order to exploit the very real possibility of a bar tab.

Unfortunately, universities are wise to the ways of the youth, and most won't allow a club to spend its budget exclusively on alcohol. To counteract this, my university club once planned to enact a long, convoluted money laundering scheme, which involved washing the university funding money through a series of cash-in-hand events, in which we'd spend the 'dirty' funding money on the set-up, and receive 'clean' physical money for our efforts from those that attended. Sadly, we weren't the accounting club, so it didn't pan out, but as I said before, don't let failure get you down. In fact, get used to it.

The way I see it, a hilariously failed scheme is just as an amusing story to tell as a successful one. Leaving home is a great opportunity to enter out into the world and see what you can get from it. Poke it till it punches. Test its limits. And one day catalogue some of your own schemes for the benefit of those coming after you (I mean school leavers, not angry, scammed suckers coming after you for blood).

But I appreciate you listening gentle reader, and as thanks I'll leave you with the most important tip of all — don't forget to keep the best scams to yourself.

Peace.



BCS Concert Band

STEVE MAHER LEADS THE BAND AT FRIDAY PRACTICE.

Steve Maher started the Braidwood Central School Concert Band In-School program in term one this year

This is how he sees it ...

I think the BCS Concert Band program is a great avenue for students to experience the benefits of learning to play an instrument. I believe everybody should learn to make music.

Not many L-platers will drive in the Bathurst 1000, yet most will drive a car, similarly learning to create music doesn't need to lead to a professional music career to be an important skill for life.

The band program demonstrates the tenets of an agile progressive learning methodology. It's been developed over a number of years and allows for greater personalisation for each participant and repertoire selection. This fosters active participation in sessions for both large and small ensembles.

A regular schedule of public performances encourages preparation and

organisation. It organically introduces students to the demands of professional practice from day one, in a fun and supportive way devoid of strict or repetitious practice regimes. This is important if musical understanding is to inform and nurture other areas of learning, particularly STEM subjects, or aid in the development of critical thinking, problem solving, or spatial awareness.

About Steve Maher:

Steve has been making and learning music since 1980 and performing professionally since 1989. He has been developing personalised learning programs since 2005, delivering progressive education music programs in-school since 2009 and has just released his debut album 'Moments and Lifetimes' available on iTunes and Spotify. Steve works for Riffs and Rants and, until recently, the Goulburn Regional Conservatorium.



(ABOVE) DAKOTA BUNN WITH HER TROMBONE AND (BELOW) OUR COVER BOYS, TULLY WILD RIVER AND NELSON SARGENT.



Amanda Wray from BCS explains how it all started

It was after Mary Appleby was successful in obtaining a grant that the school was able to purchase a set of concert band instruments. We hire them out to the students who are interested in being in the band.

We canvassed the kids and we ended up going from Year 3 right through to high school. They came in, tried out an instrument and decided what suited them.

One boy picked up a trumpet and he just

loved it — that was the instrument for him. One of the girls started on the clarinet but she didn't like the feel of the vibrating reed so she switched to the trombone and it suits her really well.

Some students tried a few different instruments before they settled. We've still got some unused ones in the cupboard so more players would be good.

The first time we played was at the recent 'Celebrate Central' and we're hoping to play an overture in the upcoming school play.

We take on new players each year so if students or parents are interested they just need to come and see me.

