

SHED TALK

THE NEWSLETTER OF
MT GRAVATT MEN'S SHED

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IN THIS ISSUE

President's Ponderings	2
Letters to Editor	3
Bios	4
Around the Shed	6
Memorial Service	8
Music	10
Chess	11
Laser Maintenance	12
Buy / Sell	13
Governance	14
Trip to Ipswich	15
Father's Day Event	16
Art	17
Diamond Wedding Anniversary	18
Social Minutes / Shed Extn	19
Lindeberg Cartoon Corner	20
Things you never see	21
Humour	22
November Calendar	24

A win worthy of the front cover

The 2025 National Rugby League grand final was played between the Melbourne *Storm* and the Brisbane *Broncos* on 5 October at Accor Stadium in Sydney. After trailing by ten points at half-time, Brisbane defeated Melbourne 26–22 to claim the Provan-Summons Trophy for the first time since 2006. It was the Broncos' seventh premiership. They were the first premiers since the Wests *Tigers* in 2005 to win from as low as fourth on the ladder.

Brisbane fullback Reece Walsh was awarded the Clive Churchill Medal for being the best player of the match. Walsh scored a try, assisted in three tries, and made some notable defensive plays. Melbourne became the first club to lose back-to-back grand finals since the Sydney *Roosters* in 2004.

Global media conglomerates Getty and Reuters have copyrighted hundreds of thousands of sporting images. It's nigh impossible to secure a sporting image that's not copyrighted. How to celebrate a stunning victory? The above image was captured from a HD TV. Congratulations to all premiership players.

Wayne Hansen

Vision

Provide Mateship and Support for Men

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& THE HOLLAND PARK WARD OFFICE

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Mind Prof Grant Devilly

Spirit Rt Rev Doug Stevens

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President's Ponderings

Hi members,

Our President, Peter, has been the driving force behind another exciting year at the Mt Gravatt Men's Shed. Under his leadership, the Shed has continued to grow — welcoming new members, improving our facilities, and strengthening our role in the local community.

One of the biggest milestones this year has been planning the upcoming shed extension, which will give members more space, better equipment, and new opportunities for projects and activities. Peter has worked tirelessly with local supporters, council representatives, and sponsors to help make this vision a reality.

He's also led a number of successful community projects and fundraising efforts, while keeping the focus on men's health, friendship, and shared purpose.

Thanks to Peter's dedication and leadership, the Mt Gravatt Men's Shed is building not just a bigger shed — but a stronger community for everyone involved.

Peter Tyley

0458 553 330

peter.tyley@bigpond.com





To the Editor.

It's with genuine interest and admiration that I've followed the theme in *Shed Talk* about volunteer participation and organisational maturity. Your willingness to openly acknowledge, debate, and seek remedies for this 'node' as Phil Vardy aptly calls it, is a benchmark for the wider men's shed movement. Congratulations on your superb publication and the leadership shown in tackling this critical issue. The core question is why volunteering has become a challenge in a growing, health-focused organisation. The question warrants a strategic response.

Is there mission drift? Or is the problem the natural evolution of a successful organisation grappling with enhanced member expectation, and the shift from collective building to individual use? I believe it's the latter. The path forward requires a blend of organisational clarity and rekindled shoulder-to-shoulder fellowship.

Reframing the solution: both strategy and spirit

Kim Tvede and Phil Vardy have articulated two compelling yet seemingly divergent views: one championing interpersonal connection, and the other advocating organisational change. Neither view is sufficient in isolation; a blended approach is essential for success.

Agreeing with Kim Tvede (Spirit). The essence of the shed (mateship, mutual respect, and working side-by-side) must remain paramount. Real engagement is built with one respectful conversation at a time, not through impersonal announcements.

Agreeing with Phil Vardy (Strategy). Phil is correct: 'What worked in the past doesn't work now.' A robust *modus operandi* is necessary for an established association. This includes actively seeking input from all members, especially younger men and those who have recently left the shed, to inform a future-proof strategy.

Blend. To rekindle the 'cathedral-building' spirit, as in Phil's story, you need unifying projects that facilitate both the 'us' and the by-product (fellowship). Organisational structure must support and enable spontaneous, hands-on opportunities, rather than function as a bureaucratic barrier.

Four strategies for re-engaging the membership

The challenge is in where to start. Borrowing from Maya Angelou,¹ 'If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going.' A return to first principles is needed, specifically by thoroughly understanding the membership lifecycle.

A. Understanding member motivation

A detailed member segmentation exercise can provide the clarity needed to effectively address participation. New members should be engaged with a 'stay interview' rather than an 'exit interview', clearly articulating the shed's ethos:

- **Expectation.** Shed resources, equipment, and fellowship are a trade-off requiring contribution, a concept that may be "forgotten" as the shed grows more successful and amenity-rich.
- **Categories.** Members join for diverse reasons e.g. sense of belonging, access to tools, social connection, learning, or desire to contribute. Understanding the distribution of these motivations will inform how to target requests for volunteer time.

B. Optimising engagement and communication

Effective communication and event management must respect members' time and foster a culture of enthusiasm.

- **Personalised outreach.** Emails and newsletters are essential. But personalised, high-impact communication (e.g. bulk SMS or managed WhatsApp groups) is superior for action requests. This allows for immediate response monitoring, enabling the welfare officer or membership administrator to gain insight into members' well-being and capacity.
- **Volunteer event excellence.** Never waste a volunteer's time. Events must be exceptionally well-organised. Use short, flexible shift rosters unless members request extended duty. When appropriate, make events fun, energetic, and loud. A high-energy environment makes participation rewarding.
- **The Power of 'Yes'.** Never decline an offer to help. If an offer is not immediately useful, find a small task for the volunteer, or file their interest for a future project. Losing a willing volunteer due to a polite refusal is a profound disservice.

C. Organisational clarity and accountability

A mature organisation must be transparent about its resource needs and be bold in asking for help.

- **Financial transparency.** Publish the cost-per-member to maintain the shed. Clearly illustrate the gap between membership fees and operating expenses. Such transparency justifies fundraising efforts and politely underscores the expectation of contribution from capable members.
- **Direct and polite insistence.** It's too convenient to hide in a large group. Leadership should directly ask members to assist. If expectations are made clear, it is easier to be gently insistent rather than remain 'destructively polite' out of fear of causing offence.
- **Accessibility for Working Members.** The shed must address the needs of working members who cannot attend during standard weekday hours. Offering Saturday activities is crucial for engagement and recruitment of younger demographics.

D. Rethinking the attendance fee

The pay-as-you-consume model is attractive. But it can deter spontaneous engagement. A member who wishes to regularly volunteer may be discouraged by having to pay for the privilege of doing so. A funding model based on organised fundraising benefits all members. Membership fees may better support the culture of unpaid contribution that is the lifeblood of the men's shed movement.

The MGMS debate is not a sign of failure, but a sign of maturity and health. The next step is **action**. I wish you all the very best in your endeavours to increase participation. The bottom line is 'Start doing something.'

Outsider (Name withheld at writer's request)

1. Editor's note. Maya Angelou (1928 - 2014) was an American author and civil rights activist.



Lionel Armitstead Bio for the Presidency

I was humbled early this year when members asked me if I was interested in becoming president. I've resisted because I wanted:

- More experience on the management committee,
- More time with grandchildren, and
- More opportunity to complete personal projects.

Times change. I'm now familiar with shed culture and operations. And my domestic commitments are less demanding. But more importantly, I see significant challenges for the shed. I want to be involved and address those challenges.

The shed has great potential. A great mix of members upholds the purpose of the shed – building mateship and supporting members. But could we do better? Extending the shed I see as an exciting project around which to further build mateship and support for members.

I've spent my working life managing projects by encouraging others to get involved to do what they want to do: make a contribution to improve the work environment. The same approach can work at MGMS.

At my last place of employment, the owners gave me the tasks of growing the business and improving staff morale. I achieved both. It wasn't easy. But the staff rallied, got involved, made suggestions, embraced changes, reinstated some past processes and adopted new processes. The culture of the business changed. Staff were happier. They were listened to and respected. A lot of the leadership was coming from the staff.

I sense that the challenge at the shed is similar to the business. We need more involvement by members in internal and community projects. We can't rely on a small core of regulars to fulfill these roles. The challenge is how to do this.

The shed will soon undertake a two million dollar extension. It's a big project that needs careful management. More importantly, it's a project that can involve the entire membership and regenerate the sense of community that existed when the shed was first established. But there are risks that must be managed.

The shed extension will provide us with some wonderful facilities. But it will also absorb much of our energy for the next few years. That energy cannot come solely:

- From the president, or
- From the management committee, or
- From the extension sub-committee, or
- From any other group.

Rather, the energy must come from the membership as a whole. And that's the point: a big project can create a community of all of us, for all of us. And that requires new leadership: not from me or anyone else; it requires leadership from you – the members.

I'm confident that, with others, I can build a team of capable members that will be respectful to their colleagues, listen to ideas and encourage involvement that can bring about the needed improvements. The shed can be a place that brings out the best in us, provides mateship and support for those that need it. It ends with a twist on a JFK statement.

Ask not what the shed can do for you but what can you do for the shed.



Peter Tyley Bio for the Presidency

Born in Brisbane many years ago, attended state school and secondary school and a number of various jobs.

I then joined the Australian Army where I became an army nurse. After discharge I bummed around for a while then joined Queensland rail and became a fireman and stayed for a few years until I became a BCC bus driver.

After about ten years I left and started at Ansett Airlines staying until the demise of Ansett. I then bought a courier franchise and stayed until they lost a big contract and I was made redundant and about this time I joined MGMS and was made Office Coordinator and in the M/Committee.

I ran for position of President in 2021 and won the election. I've enjoyed my time as President and I'm running again as I feel that I still have more to achieve.

Bios for membership of the management committee

Bruce CONMEE

During the past year as a member of the Management Committee I have gained a great deal of experience in the operations of the Shed. I have developed a greater understanding of the challenges that keep a shed of this size



going and the enormous effort it takes from volunteers and members to not only ensure the Shed continues to function but to also make it a welcoming place for men from all walks of life for mateship and support.

I am looking forward to what lies ahead for the Shed over the coming years. I have volunteered to be on the Shed Extension Sub-committee where I have actively participated in contributing to the planning and development of the new extension. Additionally, I hope to continue in the role of IT Coordinator and work towards modernising the Shed's IT systems.

Men's mental health remains a focus for me, and I hope through your support I can continue to be one of your representatives on the Management Committee and continue fostering the positive culture.

The editor of Shed Talk is standing for election to the management committee (MC). In the interests of fairness, no biography has been edited or proof-read. If not elected president, Lionel Armitstead will seek election to membership of the MC.

Biographies continued



Bart McKNIGHT

Member number 89 and born in Christchurch New Zealand but don't hold that against me.

My life has been wide and varied from cleaning toilets in the UK to a Director of the board of two international companies and that journey provided me a myriad of opportunities to result in a very fortunate life.

As to our wide Shed offerings I list below some of the contributions I have been involved in and currently still do with a heartfelt & honourable intent and a proudness to represent our Men's Shed.

- Shed Open Days
- The Cubby House Project - \$80,000 raised.
- Annual Shed Garage Sale
- Sourcing & Delivering our much appreciated landmark Windmill
- Liaising and organising our opportunities for Bunnings Sizzles
- Assisting widows in regard to their offerings of tools that they need to dispense with. Muchly beneficial to our organising on occasions
- Assisting in the representation of the Men's Shed at local School Fetes
- Assisting Club Members with Medical Aid and Home Adjustments
- Investigating local requests for assistance of any nature



Wayne HANSEN

I was born in 1949 in Warwick on the Darling Downs.

My family moved to Brisbane in 1961. I became a cadet engineering surveyor with the Main Roads after graduating from high school.

I joined the MGMS in 2018 and have been involved in the cartooning, leatherwork, wood carving and art groups. I have been the newsletter editor since January 2022 and I enjoy the challenge of delivering an edition each month.

As a member of the management committee member, I would be passionate about supporting the president and team with ideas and encouragement.



Mark HASTINGS

Mark joined the Shed in September 2024. After growing up on the Gold Coast, in the 1980's he commenced his career as a Clinical Psychologist, eventually leading the Psychology Department at a major Brisbane hospital. Transitioning out of Psychology he then undertook a number of HR, Organisational Development and internal consulting/change roles before eventually specialising in Strategy and Performance aligned with the Public Service. Through his career he has worked in 10 different Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies in Queensland and NSW, led national and statewide projects, contributed to the formation of several State Government Departments and agencies, and received state and international awards for his work. He also had a 21 year career in the Army Reserve, starting off as an infantry soldier and then moving onto recruitment and selection for the army and several training postings in Queensland and at the Australian Defence Force Academy, achieving the rank of Captain before being medically discharged.

His interests include 4 Wheel Driving along with camping and touring, photography and hitting the beach. Mark is married and has two daughters who are both completing nursing degrees.



Kevin SCHNEIDEWIN

Member 38. I represented Club Southside at the development meetings for the Shed and am a foundation member. My previous history, I retired as Rural division manager for a large general insurer. I am a past president of the YMCA of Brisbane, inaugural president of Club Southside, and president of Southside Bingo, I have over 20 years' experience with these organisations and, as a result have a very good Knowledge of the management needs of a body like the Shed, and I believe at this time the Shed could benefit from my experience.

The by-laws of the shed currently permit nine members of the management committee (MC). Given that only five individuals have been nominated for the MC (see above), ordinary members of the shed may be nominated from the floor at the AGM (3 November) to fill positions.

Around the Shed



Ross Howard, Steve Doyle, Fred Darvill, Greg Duncan & Skinny Burke with new tools acquired through a grant from the Sunnybank Community & Sports Club



Kingsley Manickam



Andris Svilans



Bob Nunn & Col Vietheer repairing a chair



Rod Larkin & Ross Walker - leatherwork



Ross Lipinkas & Stephen Ord



Ross Dallas - leatherwork



Jim Anderson & Paul Kerr



Some of the small-engine group



Fred Darvill making a shelf for a client



Ron Berkley & Sarge Wilkens with toys for Cambodian children



Tim Spedding



Dennis Bauer & Fred Darvill



Bryan Cleary, Stephen Miles, Bart McKnight, Corrine McMillan & Peter Tyley

*The workshop can be busy. On Tuesday mornings, wood and leather workers jostle for space in an animated atmosphere. Afternoons can be less hectic, possibly because the shed closes at about 3 pm. The Small Engines group meets on Fridays. **At left:** Bryan Cleary, Stephen Miles, Bart McKnight, Corrine McMillan MLA & Peter Tyley at the Showgrounds markets. In the background is the 2025 shed raffle, a 'caravan' cubby house.*



MEMORIAL SERVICE, 20 September 2025



Last month, a memorial service was held at the shed for six departed members. The service was attended by 26 family members, 42 shed members and some wonderful women who assisted with catering.

Members of the management committee and welfare team hosted attending families. Past President Peter Lindsay acted as master of ceremonies. Shed patron, the Right Reverend Dr Doug Stevens, led the service.



Memorial plaques were laid for Ned Kelly, Anthony Pang, Allan Waller, John Macfarlane, Leon Rogalevs and Allan Heathcote. Three other members had passed in the last two years; but the families of those members chose not to participate in the service.

Following afternoon tea, attendees were accompanied on a tour of the workshop.

Shed memorial services are held every two years. Members or their families may purchase plaques by which deceased members can be commemorated. Plaques are affixed to the plinth along the shed's Memorial Walk. For details, please see *Shed Talk* June 2025.



It should be noted that much work is needed to organise a memorial service. Planning started two years ago. Families had to be contacted. Plaques had to be manufactured. The band had to be booked. Brochures had to be printed. Catering had to be arranged. But it was all worth the effort. The service, although provoked by sad events, was enjoyed by all. Everyone who contributed to the day is sincerely thanked.



Alan Wallace with antique tool display



Bart McKnight with a family at the Memorial Walk



Jim Wiseman & Dave Tate with shed flag



Past President Peter Lindsay acted as MC



Family member laying a flower on a memorial plaque



Retired Bishop Doug Stevens led the service



Photos above shows special guest Peter Petersen, (who joined his first band in 1963 and has during his time in the music industry worked with artists on sound, backing tracks and recording music CDs), conducting a "Guitar Workshop" at the shed recreation room on the Monday afternoon of 29 September. Peter presented an informative overview of "Playing Guitar - seven things you need to know". This included the tuning kink and the diagonal layout of the notes on the fret-board plus sounds of music such as happy, sad and dominant 7th.

Also there were major scale patterns along the single string and across the strings as well as the three main chord shapes plus the "Circle of Keys" and rhythms. From the left in photo 1 are Sebastian Alvarez, Hugh Smith, Keith McLintock, Brian Power, Jim Anderson and Basil Wood. Photo 2 shows Terry Thomson presenting Peter with a bottle of wine as a 'thank you' for taking the time to come to the shed and offer his knowledge and expertise.



Photo above shows "The Shed Tones" MGMS group in action "Rockin' in the Rec Room" on Wednesday morning, 1 October, in the function / activates area of the Tri-Care Retirement Village Complex at Mt Gravatt. From the left playing guitar and singing are Jack Files, Sebastian Alvarez, and Hugh Smith. Basil Wood played keyboards and operated the mixer volume and sound balance, Kornel played his violin in the instrumental sections, Terry Thomson played electric guitar and introductions to some songs, Leo Bauer played Saxophone and some solos while Laurie added to the performance with his singing and mouth organ playing. Obscured is Dave Richardson who kept the beat with his drum kit. The men were dressed in their band uniform and represented the shed, flying the flag admirably. They looked good (dashing) and were well received by the audience who joined in with the singing at times.

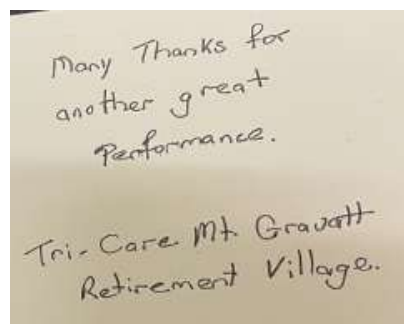
We played and sang "Morning Town Ride", "Georgy Girl", "Living Doll", "Summer Holiday", "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini", "Crazy Little Thing Called Love", "Let Me Be There", "Your Cheating Heart", "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head", A Medley of sing-a long songs including "Devil Woman" and "Rhythm of the Rain". Then it was "Brown Eyed Girl", "Take Me Home Country Roads", "Margaretville", "Cover of the Rolling Stone" and "Seven Little Girls". The final song of the morning, because the boys were pumped up by now, was a stirring rendition of that Neil Diamond favourite "Sweet Caroline". Some members of the audience told me and others that we played well; they enjoyed the concert and were well pleased with the outcome. A great morning was had by all. To top it off, we were presented with an envelope which included a beautiful handmade card, pictured below, by Janette Pryde, and a cash donation for our community efforts. The card is on display on the shed notice board opposite the office.

The Oxley Men's Shed Event for the "Shed Tones" was on Saturday 18 October at 8.30am in the St John's Anglican Church grounds, California Rd, Oxley. A report will be in the next edition of the newsletter.

Terry, Hugh and Dwight Wood went to DJ City to visit and to purchase some new audio gear with the grant recently received and get advice on what will suit us best.

We came back with 1 Shure Dual Wireless Handheld Microphone System, Connex 12 m Cable, 2 Hercules Mic Stands with Hideaway Boom and 2 Proel Session 1 Free Compact Battery Powered Portable Column Array System 400W speakers.

There is the possibility a regular "Karaoke" activity being introduced to the shed at a date and time to be decided upon. This is a Sebastian Alvarez initiative and he is seeking interest from people.



Chess

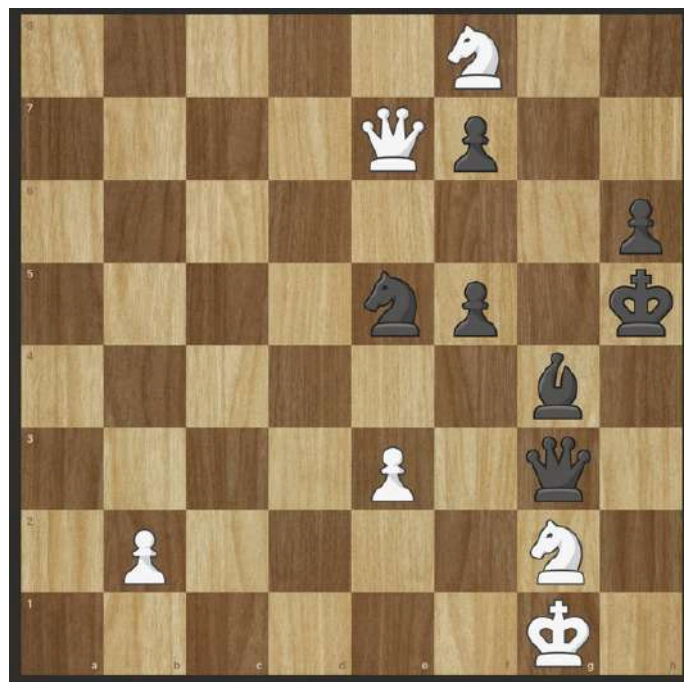
Alan Highman

September was a better month with three players joining the ranks. They are all still learning, so I have been busy with my teacher's hat on, sometimes playing two opponents at once. We would still love more players to come and join us. Even if you can't make it on a regular basis, come and have a game!!

An opening trap to be avoided:

1. P-e4 P-e5
2. B-c4 P-d6
3. N-f3 B-g4
4. N-c3 N-e7
4. NxP(e5) BxQ
5. Bxf7#

This month's puzzle (right): white to move and mate in four.
Solution on page 20.



Australian Government
BUILDING OUR FUTURE



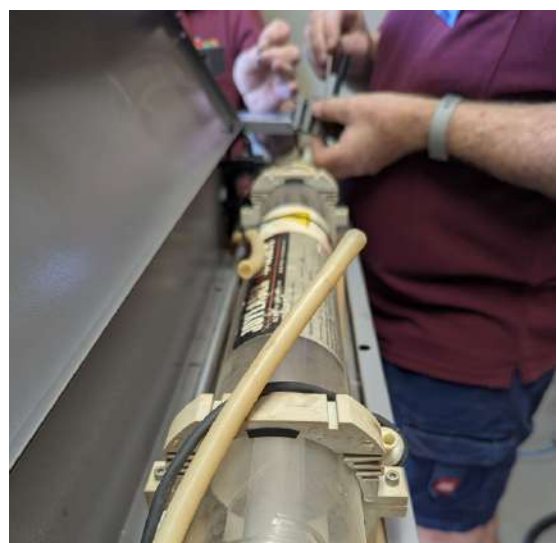
Queensland Government

Mount Gravatt Men's Shed Inc.
Proudly supported by



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Laser Engraver Cutting Machine



Left: Laser engraved image

The shed has an emerging technologies group: computer-controlled laser engraving and numerically-controlled routing.

Late last month, the CO₂ laser cutting machine required maintenance: cleaning the filters and mirrors, and realigning them; replacing the focusing lens, and realigning it. Greg Self and Bruce Conmee (pictured) were instrumental in performing the maintenance.

New members are welcome.

Mark Corben

**St. Barts
Anglican
Church
Mt Gravatt**

**We gather for worship Every
Sunday at 7.00am & 9.00 am**



ROTARY CLUB OF MOUNT GRAVATT Inc.



**PROUDLY SUPPORTS
THE MOUNT GRAVATT MEN'S SHED Inc.**

Rotary Club of Mt Gravatt is a platinum sponsor of the Shed.



*Striving to be a Christ
Centred Family Community*

HERTFORD STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Cnr of Hertford & Dupre Sts.
Upper Mount Gravatt. 3343 6405

Service Time 9:00am

MGMS Bronze Sponsor



Esky, \$200. Steven Spinks 0409 991 592



Leather bag (brown) \$70

The bag is on display outside the shed office.

Space filler

You can bring a horse to water but you can't make him drink. John Heywood (1497-1580)



A unique garbage truck

Andrew Robson (pictured) bought the 1946 Ford 'Jailbar' F1 west of Gympie. The previous owner worked on the ute for 15 years but did not finished the job. Andrew completed the restoration with a 351 cubic inch motor, C4 three-speed automatic gearbox, 9 inch differential and disc brakes on all wheels. Andrew drives the Jailbar on most days. **Not for sale.**



Leather bag (black) \$100

The bag is on display outside the shed office.



Tamron 18-400mm f/3.5-6.3 Di II VC HLD Lens for Nikon F Mount

Wanted to buy

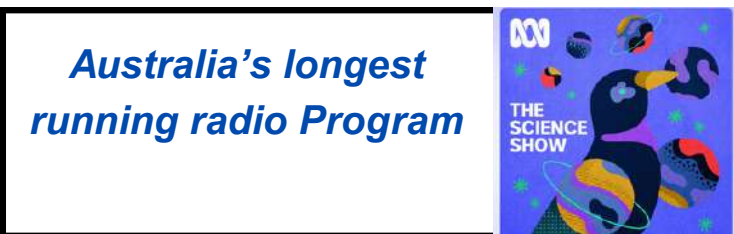
Used photographic lenses

Canon, EF-S 10-22mm f/3.5-4.5 USM
Canon, Ultra Wide Angle · 10-22mm.
Tamron 18-400 mm lens
Wayne Hansen 0468 722 069

Wanted

Cut-throat razor, any condition.
Cassette player, portable. Must run on batteries and have built-in speaker (not used with headphones)
Phil Vardy 0417 446 047

One of the most popular activities at MGMS is leatherwork. Under the expert tutelage of Rod Larkin, shed members craft simple and complex items (see bags above left). New members are welcome (Tuesday mornings).



Proxies

The word 'proxy' derives from the French term *procuracie*, itself derived from the Latin *pro-curare*, to manage. Sometime in the era of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, *procuracie* was reduced to 'proxy'. The modern English word 'procure' derives from the same source. I'll let you look up the meaning.

With reference to associations, 'proxy' refers to authorisation that enables a person to act in another's place.

Members of MGMS may appoint proxies to represent them at general meetings: Rule 37. Appointment must be in writing; it cannot be verbal. The 'instrument' of appointment must be in the form 'or similar form' to that set out in Rule 40. Members should resist any attempt by a third party to determine the wording of a proxy. Such wording might be designed to bias the outcome of a vote.

Some associations prohibit proxies at meetings. Prohibition prevents members from exercising a democratic right in extreme circumstances e.g. if a general meeting is planned when a member is scheduled for surgery, the member is denied a vote on what might be an important matter. On the other hand, prohibiting proxies prevents unscrupulous would-be office-holders from collecting large numbers of votes before a meeting.

At MGMS, there are no guidelines about the use of proxies apart from the rules in the Constitution.¹ So, what's OK and what's not? Opinions will vary; but perhaps we should be guided by the spirit of the law, not the letter. Proxies are intended to permit a member to cast a vote when he cannot physically attend a meeting; proxies are not intended to permit an individual to 'procure' votes.

To discourage malpractice, the secretary or returning officer at a meeting could announce the number of proxies held by individuals. Of course, any instruction within a proxy must remain confidential.

Paradox or irony? Curare² is the neurotoxin of poison darts.

1. No available evidence supports the rumour that a past candidate-for-office collected more than a dozen proxies before an AGM.

2. The etymology of the word 'curare' is Carib, via Spanish or Portuguese.

Australia's longest running radio Program

Fifty Years of Science

The ABC recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of *The Science Show*, Australia's longest-running radio program. Founded by Robyn Williams in 1975, *The Science Show* has broadcast significant stories about science for more than half a century.

Some significant stories were re-broadcast in a special anniversary program that went to air last month. Among the stories was the McBride affair, Australia's most notorious science fraud.

Many members of Mt Gravatt Men's Shed will be familiar with 'Thalidomide children' - babies born with missing or malformed limbs because their mothers ingested the morning sickness drug Thalidomide. This drug is estimated to have affected at least 10,000 children worldwide, hundreds of them in Australia.

Open-water swimmer Kerry-Lee Goekel, who addressed the August MGMS social meeting, has deformities similar to those caused by Thalidomide (*Shed Talk*, August 2025). However, Kerry-Lee was not a 'Thalidomide child'.

In 1961, Dr William McBride claimed to have discovered the malforming effects of Thalidomide. He subsequently established a research institute in Sydney. In the early 80s, McBride's attention turned to Dicyclomine, a component of the drug Debendox. Unable to obtain the component, McBride directed institute staff to investigate a similar drug - Scopolamine (Hyoscine). The results of the investigation were inconclusive. But McBride changed the results and published them.¹ The McBride fraud was revealed in a special edition of *The Science Show* broadcast in December 1987.

In 2024, William McBride's son David was jailed after providing the ABC with evidence of Australian war crimes in Afghanistan. One wonders if David McBride sought to atone for his father's misdeeds.

Richard Fidler's 2009 ABC radio interview about the fraud is still available on-line. <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/conversations/dr-phil-vardy/7774646>

1. McBride, W.G., Vardy, P. H. & French, J (1982) *Effects of Scopolamine Hydrobromide on the Development of the Chick and Rabbit Embryo* Aust. J. Biol. Sci. **35**, 173-8.

The man who never made a mistake never made anything.
Often attributed to Einstein.



The Shed Travel Group organises trips to interesting places for members, family and friends. The latest excursion was to Ipswich west of Brisbane. The travel group enjoyed lunch at 'the PA', The Prince Alfred Hotel.



Colonial mansion 'Garowie' was built in 1888



Private residence behind trees



Father's Day Event

Brisbane Christian College Pre-Prep

Good morning Wayne,

Dad (Sarge Wilkens) asked me to help write an article for the Men's Shed magazine. I was wondering if you could use my letter below. Please find attached three photos.

Dad doesn't know I'm writing this letter. I want to surprise and honour both Dad and Ron Berkley. They are such a blessing to so many people. Please let me know if this is ok. Thanks so much.

Kindest regards,

Amanda Palmby

Dear Men's Shed Team,

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Ron and Sarge (Dad) for their incredible service and dedication to our college community.

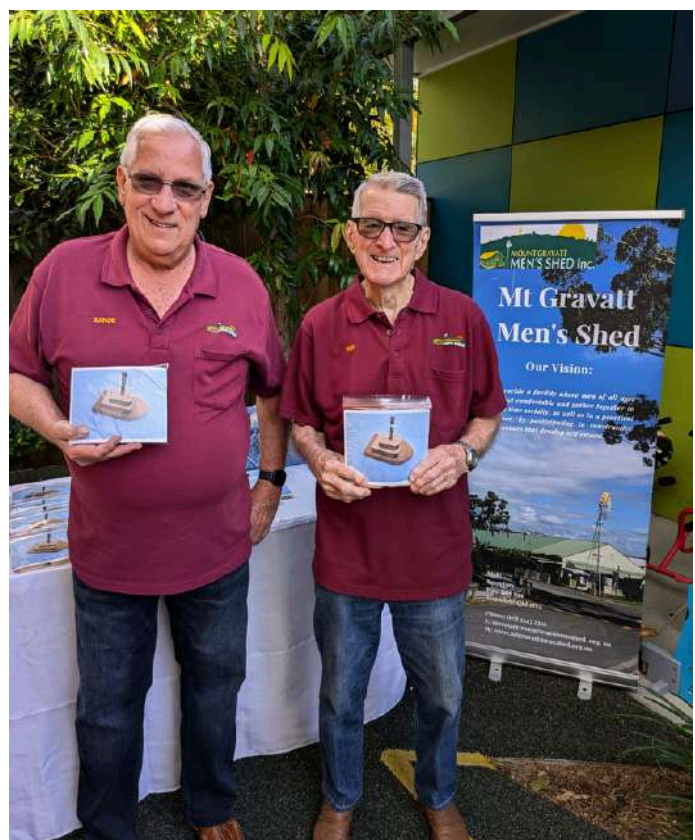
Each year, they work tirelessly to prepare beautiful wooden boats for every family, bringing so much joy and happiness to our Father's Day event. These moments create lasting memories, and it's always wonderful to see how families connect with Ron and Sarge — learning about the craftsmanship behind the boats and about the invaluable work that happens at the men's shed.

I am always proud to point out to families that Sarge is my Dad. The pride, care and skill that he and Ron put into every project truly reflect their passion and commitment.

At Pre-Prep, they are part of our family; we look forward to welcoming them each year with open arms. Even the team from Wild Encounters has developed a wonderful bond with Ron and Sarge over the past seven years with their attempting to emulate Steve Irwin. It's wonderful to witness how their friendship, kindness and joy touches everyone they meet.

We are already excited about next year's event and the chance to celebrate together once again. Thank you to men's shed, Ron and Sarge are true ambassadors of your organisation.

Amanda Palmby



Art



*Under the expert tutelage of Alan Carter,
the Shed Art Group meets on Friday mornings.*



Geoff Jones



Ken Wainwright



James Mahara (First portrait)



Dennis Corry



Garry Fuhrmeister

Chloé is a famous nude portrait painted by Jules Lefebvre. The nude, first displayed at the Paris Salon in 1875, has been hanging in the saloon bar of Young & Jackson's in Melbourne since 1909. Happy 150th birthday Chloé.

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Mount Gravatt Men's Shed



HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Join us to celebrate
the sixtieth wedding anniversary of

Johanna and Ronald Frazer



60 YEARS

Saturday, 11th October 2025
at 11.00am

RSVP 6th September
johanna1301@hotmail.com

Club Southside, Mount Gravatt

Your presence is the only gift we need



DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Mt Gravatt Men's Shed member Ron Frazer and his wife Johanna (Anna) celebrated 60 years of marriage with a gathering of family and friends at Club Southside on Saturday 11 October 2025.

Ron met his future wife Johanna (Anna) née Hayward at a debutant ball in Longreach in May 1962.

After a three-year courtship, they were married in St. Andrews Church of England, Longreach (9 Oct 1965).

A two-week honeymoon was spent visiting the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

Two sons and a daughter were born in Longreach. In January 1979, the family relocated to Brisbane where Ron took up a position as a TAFE teacher with the Department of Education.

Ron is the activity leader of the Small Engines Group at MGMS.

Secretary Report: Neville O'Brien

Members are needed for the Management Committee. Please check emails for upcoming dates. Neville is stepping down as secretary. The AGM will be held on Monday 3 November.

Welfare: Bruce Stafford

The Shed Memorial Service was held on Saturday 20 September. Stephen Fluerty and his team are thanked for organising a very successful afternoon. [Editor's note. For details, please see pages 8 & 9].

Woodwork: Fred Darvill

A grant from Sunnybank Sports Club enabled the purchase of AEG tools. A current project is restoring a rocking chair. The workshop has received requests for a shelf and two tables for kid's parties, two poles for the Uniting Church, and a BBQ plate for the Marshall Road Swim club.

Community Projects: Bart McKnight

Emergency Services sausage sizzle for about 6000 people at the showgrounds. Sunday markets raffle ticket sales. Laurie sold 49 books. Ray White auction this weekend.

Music: Terry Thomson

Terry reported on the music activities. Readers are referred to Terry's comprehensive report on page 12: Editor.

Emerging Technologies: Fred Darvill

Greg Self, coordinator for emerging technologies at the shed, is on holidays. Laser etching is under way for 25-30 year plaques for a hospital. Editor's note. readers are referred to pages 10 & 11.

Office: Jim Wiseman

Office workers are required. Training can be organised. See Colin Smith or Jim Wiseman

Other Reports: Tony G

The number off financial members on 12 October was 324. Last year, there were 361 members. There were 24 new members this year. The current renewal rate is 81.6%. Last year, it was 83.1%.

Demographics of the greater Mt Gravatt area

- People from the subcontinent are an untapped resource.
- Working adults

Tony is looking for a member to train as shed registrar. Historically our organisation is similar to other groups which:

- Lose about 10% over 10 years;
- Experience fewer members since COVID; and
- Need to consider what younger men are interested in.

The shed extension Sub-Committee (SC) met in October with several stakeholders with the following outcomes.

1. The Showgrounds Trust

a. The Showgrounds Trust has agreed in principle to grant MGMS the 55 m x 22.5 m land extension required to proceed with the MGMS preferred plan. The agreement in principle is subject to terms and conditions that the SC will address in due course.

2. Professional input

a. The SC has met with an architect and set out plans to develop a proposal to present to the Brisbane City Council Building Department for a pre-application Development Approval (DA) meeting. The pre-application meeting will set out the issues that need to be addressed by the SC before a formal DA is lodged with council.

b. The initial phase of the project will engage the following professionals that are required to determine final project requirements and costings.

- Architect
- Quantity surveyor
- Civil engineer
- Electrical engineer
- Surveyor
- Town planner

3. Correspondence with the Queensland Government

a. The SC is expecting to receive formal notice for the shed extension grant on or about 31 October 2025

b. The notice will come with terms and conditions which will be addressed by the MC as required.

4. Jon Baumann & Associates (JBA)

a. The MC has received contour and feature files from JBA that will be used as part of the DA approval process.

b. The MC has requested a quote from JBA to provide a cadastral survey that is required for the development of a lease and DA approval.

5. Invitation to tender

a. The SC has sent an invitation-to-tender to several builders to gauge interest by companies that may want to partner with MGMS in this project.

b. Pre-tender meetings with prospective partners will commence from week beginning 20 October 2025.

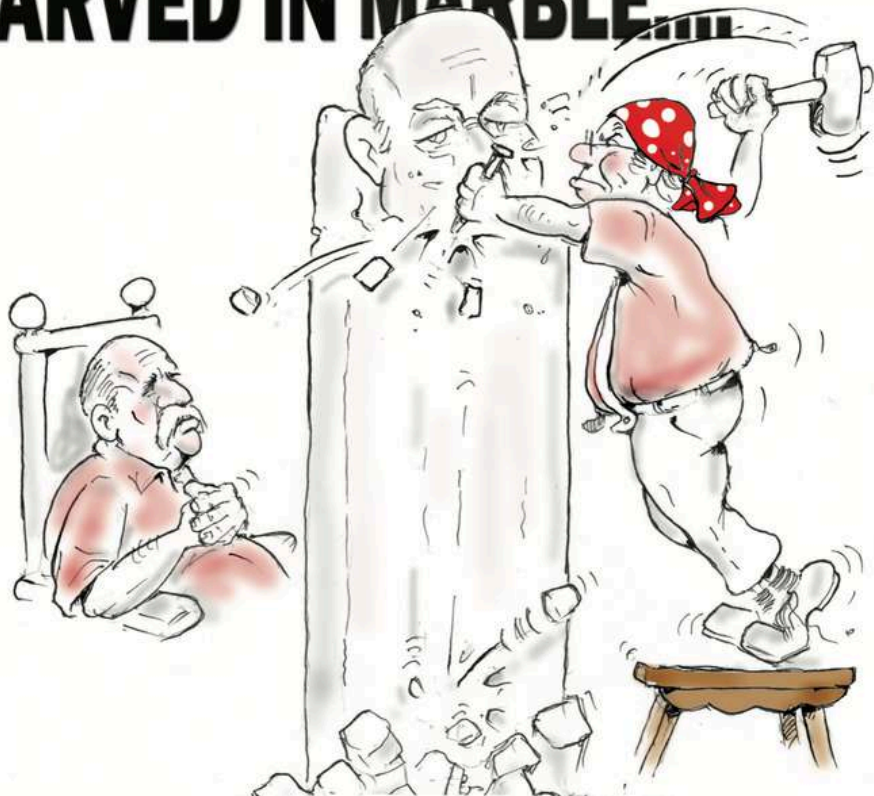
There is an enormous number of meetings, discussions and work going on behind the scenes to ensure this project is kept on track.

Thank you to Dave, Jeffrey, Lionel, Mark, and Bruce for mammoth efforts in moving this project forward.

Skinny Burke



CARVED IN MARBLE



**"...OUR PRESIDENT HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE HE SAW MT RUSHMORE IN THE USA...
THIS IS A TRIAL RUN 'COS I HEAR HE'S NOW BOUGHT THE SIDE OF MT GRAVATT!..."**

ANGRY WIFE'S NOTE TO HUSBAND:

"Your dinner is in the recipe book on page 34 and the ingredients are at the store"

oldtimers9.com

Solution:

1. QxR+ KxR
2. B-c5+ P-d6
3. BxP K-e8 or K-g8
4. RxN#



A PESSIMIST sees a dark tunnel
An OPTIMIST sees light at the end of the tunnel

A REALIST sees a freight train

The TRAIN driver sees 3 idiots standing on the tracks.



A COMPLETE WAIST OF TIME



Things we never see in the present

In the night sky, we never see things as they are. We see things as they were.

Light from the moon was reflected 1.3 seconds ago. Light from the sun was transmitted eight minutes ago. Light from close stars was transmitted before most members joined the shed.¹ And ancient starlight? Ah, there's a story. Some stars are so far away that light emitted since the Big Bang² has not yet reached Earth.

Earlier this year, astronomers detected gravitational waves from a billion-year-old collision of two black holes.³ At that time, life on Earth had not developed much beyond the single cell.

The collision of the black holes was detected at the LIGO⁴ facilities in the United States. And who was monitoring incoming data when the collision was detected? Australian PhD student Teagan Clarke.

In an interview broadcast on 11 September by ABC Radio Melbourne, Teagan said, '[Gravitational waves] don't come as audio; they... come as a measurement of the distortion in space-time. But the frequency of the distortion, if converted into sound, is something that humans can hear.'

The collision confirms predictions made decades ago by Einstein and Hawking.

1. Alpha Centauri is the brightest of the Pointers, which along with the Southern Cross, enables us to locate the South Celestial Pole. Alpha Centauri is a triple star: Alpha Centauri A, B and C. The latter, a red dwarf, is the closest to Earth, 4.2465 light-years away.
2. 13.8 billion years ago.
3. Abac, A. G. et al. (2025) GW250114: *Testing Hawking's Area Law and the Kerr Nature of Black Holes* Phys. Rev. Lett. **135**: 111403.
4. Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory.



Cover



HUMOUR



Bon appetit.



Smaller babies may be delivered by stork, but the heavier ones need a crane.



**"HE WHO FOLLOWS THE
HERD ONLY SEES
ASSHOLES."
- UNKNOWN**



Wife asked me to take a picture of her with the dog. She hasn't spoken to me in a week.



\$45 billion found in a Nigerian man's flat. He'd spent ten years trying to get rid of it but no one answered his emails.



If hard work is the key to success, most people would prefer to pick the lock. Claude MacDonald



November 2025

Saturday 8 November NB# 2:45 for 3 pm: Arvo Entertainment Group bring a plate of food to share if interested.

"Woodworking Introduction" 8.00 am to 12.00 pm on Thursdays. The wood-shop area is shared only with the wood-turning group.at these times to limit noise during instruction.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
November 3 Annual General Meeting AGM Start: 10:15 for 10:30 Normal reports after AGM Lunch: 12md time and cost: \$8	4 8:30 Leatherwork 8:00 Guitar lessons (2015/18/19/20) 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Guitar (2021/22/24) 10:30 Jam session 12:30 Woodcarving 1:00 HeartFIT	5 8:00 Intermediate woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Writers 9:30 Emerging technologies (Vcarve & CNC router) 10:30 Cooking 12:00 Woodturning	6 8:00 Woodturning learners 8:00 Woodworking Introduction 9:00 Cartooning 12:45 Carpet Bowls	7 8:00 Small engines 8:30 Laser 9:00 Art/painting 12:00 Ukulele Jam 1:00 Welding 1:00 HeartFIT (Shed Rec Rm)
10 8:00 Woodturning 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Metal scrolling 9:00 Cards 9:00 Chess 12:00 Toy-making	11 8:30 Leatherwork 8:00 Guitar lessons (2015/18/19/20) 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Guitar (2021/22/24) 10:00 Jam session 12:30 Woodcarving 1:00 HeartFIT	12 8:00 Intermediate woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Writers 9:30 Emerging technologies (Vcarve & CNC router) 12:00 Woodturning 1:00 MC meeting	13 8:00 Woodturning learners 8:00 Woodworking Introduction 9:00 Cartooning 10:30 Cooking 12:45 Carpet Bowls 12:45 Carpet Bowls	14 8:00 Small engines 8:30 Laser 9:00 Art/painting 12:00 Ukulele Jam 1:00 Welding 1:00 HeartFIT (Shed Rec Rm)
17 8.00 Induction 8:00 Woodturning 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Metal scrolling 9:00 Cards 9:00 Chess 10:30 Sausage sizzle guest speaker \$5 12:00 Toy-making	18 8:30 Leatherwork 8:00 Guitar lessons = (2015/18/19/20) 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Guitar (2021/22/24) 10:30 Jam session 12:30 Woodcarving 1:00 HeartFIT	19 8:00 Intermediate woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Welfare 9:00 Writers 9:30 Emerging technologies (Vcarve & CNC router) 10:00 Travel group (Broadwater Park) 12:00 Woodturning	20 8:00 Woodturning learners 8:00 Woodworking Introduction 9:00 Cartooning 12:45 Carpet Bowls 12:30 Photography	21 8:00 Small engines 8:30 Laser 9:00 Art/painting 12:00 Ukulele Jam 1:00 Welding 1:00 HeartFIT (#NB: Community Hall)
24 8:00 Woodturning 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Metal scrolling 9:00 Cards 9:00 Chess 9:30 Emerging technologies 12:00 Toy-making	25 8:30 Leatherwork 8:00 Guitar lessons = (2015/18/19/20) 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Guitar (2021/22/24) 10:30 Jam session 12:30 Woodcarving 12:30 Guitar 1:00 HeartFIT	26 8:00 Intermediate woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Writers (Vcarve & CNC router) 12:00 Woodturning 1:00 WOC meeting	27 8:00 Woodturning learners 8:00 Woodworking Introduction 9:00 Cartooning 10:00 Native Bees 10:30 Cooking 12:45 Carpet Bowls	28 8:00 Small engines 8:30 Laser 9:00 Art/painting 12:00 Ukulele Jam (#NB cancelled) 1:00 Welding 1:00 HeartFIT (#NB: Community Hall)
1 December Members only lunch \$15pp. Sign-on sheet at shed office Pay on booking. NOT ON LIST – No ENTRY	Note: December programs continue and will finish with last day on Friday 12 December	See later notices for programs in December, otherwise activities as normal	See later notices for programs in December	See later notices for programs in December

28th November Members/partners lunch. \$50pp Sign-on sheet at the shed office
Pay on booking. NOT ON LIST – No ENTRY