

SHED TALK

THE NEWSLETTER OF
MT GRAVATT MEN'S SHED

VOLUME 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 NO.9



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Photo shoot at Sandy Camp Wetlands - 4th September 2025

These wetlands are in Sandy Camp Road at Wynnum North, opposite Iona College. The site has a mixture of sealed and unsealed tracks. The various paths and ponds at Sandy Camp Road are worth investigation for the variety of water birds. Spotless and Baillon's Crake, as well as black and black-backed bittern have been regularly reported at the site. In an open field in the eastern part of the site is a nesting platform used by a pair of osprey; a variety of bush birds can also be seen.

The image of the Little Egret was captured by Mark Hastings with a Canon 7D, f5.6, 1/400 sec, ISO-160, Focal length 480mm (300mm with 1.6 crop factor)

Vision

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Vice President's Ponderings

Lionel Armitstead

Peter asked me to write the President's Ponderings while he is on holidays. The opportunity is timely.

Due to the work of the founding members, we are blessed with the magnificent organisation we now have. But the world is not stationary. Things change.

The *Shed Leader's Handbook* (2019), published by the Australian Men's Shed Association, warns that volunteer participation drops off with time. This drop-off was the topic of *Volunteers Participation*, an article by MGMS member Kim Tvede in *Shed Talk* (August 2025). In his article, Kim explores six reasons why volunteer participation is high in small organizations, and is low(er) in large organisations. Kim emphasizes that experienced men have a lot to contribute, and that problems are not solved through organisational change. Rather, Kim suggests that we should stand side-by-side in activities, talk to each other, consider alternate views, and show mutual respect.

I asked MGMS member Phil Vardy to write an article to complement Kim's. Phil's article, *The Best By-product Possible*, can be found on Page 3 of this edition of *Shed Talk*. Phil agrees with Kim: when undertaking projects, there's not enough 'us' and too much 'them'. And communities are best built when people work shoulder-to-shoulder. But unlike Kim, Phil believes that organisational change is necessary at MGMS. Phil ends with some big ideas and an inspirational quote.

So, as a mature and larger organisation, how do we embrace the future, and retain the spirit that built the shed? Clearly, change is needed. We must meet the expectations of younger members as they join over the next ten years. Will these members want woodworking, or will they prefer digital devices? Whatever the future holds, it will be important to build mateship, to support members, and to have fun on the way.

Currently, we're reviewing the strategic plan for the shed. In October, we plan to survey members and ask what they want from MGMS, and how they might achieve it. The 'we' in the previous statement includes Mark Hastings and Bruce Conmee, members on MGMS with extensive experience in developing surveys.

Please discuss the survey among your activity group and interact with other activity groups. This is a significant opportunity to rekindle and develop the spirit and support for each other that the founders gave us. We cannot embrace the future without a vision of what it might be. Your feedback matters; it'll make a difference. I strongly encourage all members to respond to the survey.

Lionel
Armitstead

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Opinion

The following apocryphal story serves to introduce this piece. A bishop was visiting a medieval worksite. He stopped beside a worker and asked, 'And what are you doing, my son?' Irritated, because his job was obvious, the carpenter replied, 'I'm squaring a beam!' The bishop nodded and moved to the next worker, a glazier. The bishop asked, 'And what are you doing, my son?' Irritated, because his job was obvious, the glazier replied, 'I'm making a window!' The bishop nodded and moved to the next worker, a stone mason. The bishop asked, 'And what are you doing, my son?' Recognizing a kindred spirit, the mason gestured upwards and said, 'I'm building a cathedral.' The bishop smiled.

Let's leap forward to 2014. A local dignitary is visiting a worksite at the northern end of Mt Gravatt Show Grounds. The dignitary puts the bishop's question to each worker. Every one of the workers says, 'We're building a men's shed.'

When MGMS started, everyone picked up a tool. The shed got built because blokes knew what needed to be done: they got in and did whatever was necessary. Yes, there was a lot of planning. But that planning was 'us'; it wasn't 'them' telling 'us' what to do. These days, jobs don't get done. Each bloke seems to be here for himself. No, I'm not talking about you; I'm talking about him. And if there's too many 'hims', it's because there's not enough 'us'.

If you've read this far, you might have concluded that we just need to rekindle the spirit that built MGMS. Ah, it ain't that easy.

All organizations change. They enjoy a few years of buoyant growth and commonality of purpose. And then they meet a pause, a hiatus, a hiccup... Let's call it a node. Here's the thing:

- The organizations that succeed are those that transition through the node. They develop new leadership, new purpose, new structure... new thinking.
- The organizations that struggle (or fail) are those that don't transition through the node. Rather, they try to relive the past: old leadership, old purpose, old structure... old thinking. Worse, they might not recognize that they're at a node.

Those of us who struggled with adolescent children, will immediately recognise the above truth.

Adolescents? Yes, those monsters who grew into the magnificent men and women who now inhabit the Australia we built for them.

The founding president and his team created something unique. We all know that. It's the reason we joined MGMS. But what worked in the past doesn't work now. We need a *modus operandi* for an established association. We need to listen to people with ideas instead of dumping on them. We need to invite younger men into the shed; and we need to ask them what they want. We especially need to listen to people who've left the shed. Deep down, every man wants to contribute; we just have to allow him to do so.

The inspiring theme of the Australian shed movement is men working shoulder-to-shoulder. It doesn't matter what they work on. What matters is what happens between blokes when they work on a project. In building a shed (floor, walls, roof and...), early members of MGMS built a community. If they had tried to build a community without a project, they'd have failed. It's not the product (the shed building) that matters; it's the by-product (fellowship) that matters. But we don't get the by-product without the product.

Why can't we have our cake and eat it too i.e. why can't MGMS transition into maturity AND retain the spontaneous energy of its past? Answer: because we don't have a project. Specifically, we don't have a big unifying project. So let's get another project. Extending the shed sounds big enough.

Let's dream big into the extension: large meeting area, members' lounge, dedicated leatherwork area, small-engines workshop, permanent art studio, music rooms with a performance area... And in building the extension, let's get the best by-product possible. Brotherhood.

*Some men see things as they are, and ask 'Why'.
I dream things that never were, and ask 'Why not'.
G.B. Shaw via R.F. Kennedy*





Letters to the editor

Hi Wayne,

I welcome John Wild's comments (*Shed Talk*, August 2025) on my letter about the Model Rules (*ST*, July 2025). As a fellow of the Governance Institute, John is ideally suited to continue something like *The Members' Shed* when I'm no longer around. John's notes on accounting jargon (*ST*, August 2025) are excellent.

I agree with John's quote from the Office of Fair Trading. I agree with the statement by Clifford Gouldson lawyers. There is, as John points out, nothing in those sources that 'state or imply "you'll be outed" or "have negative consequences"'. The outing is classifying an association as operating under its own rules if it does not adopt the Model Rules.¹ The negative consequences include non-automatic up-grade whenever the government changes the Model Rules.²

Last month, the shed held a well-attended special general meeting to vote on the constitution *inter alia*. There could not have been a better outcome: all 76 voting attendees opted for the Model Rules (*ST*, August 2025).

One small request. We're a men's shed. Can we please use each other's given names?

Phil Vardy

1. <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/associations-charities-and-non-for-profits/incorporated-associations/running-an-incorporated-association/rules-for-associations>

2. *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*, s.47(1)

Editor's note:

A letter was received by a non-member. The Management Committee decided that non-financial members cannot have letters printed in the Newsletter.



Two Tassie farmers were looking at a David Jones catalogue and admiring the models.

One farmer says to the other farmer, 'Have you seen the beautiful girls in this catalogue?'



The other farmer replies, 'Yeah, they're good sorts alright. And just look at the price!'

The first farmer says, with wide eyes, 'Wow, they aren't very expensive. I reckon I'll buy one.' The second Tassie farmer smiles, pats him on the back and says 'Good idea! You order one and if she's as beautiful as she is in the catalogue, I'll get one too.' Three weeks later, the second Tassie farmer asks his friend, 'Did you ever get the girl you ordered from the David Jones catalogue?'

The second Tassie farmer replies, 'No, but it shouldn't be long now... I got her clothes yesterday!'

Colin Calvert

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The Shed Extension



The Mount Gravatt Shed Extension Committee (MGSEC) meet the Wednesday before and the Wednesday after the monthly Management Committee (MC) meeting.

This allows the MGSEC to discuss developments in a timely manner and correlate information for the MC to consider. The MGSEC Wednesday meeting after the monthly MC meeting delivers an opportunity to gain feedback from MC members and action any directives given to the MGSEC if and as required.

Background

The Mt. Gravatt Men's Shed has been awarded a \$2 million grant from the Queensland State Government for the purpose of constructing a new build to support the organisation's storage and general activity needs.

To ensure effective, transparent, and strategic use of these funds, the Mt. Gravatt Men's Shed (MGMS) (MC) has created a dedicated subcommittee to liaise with all stakeholders involved in the project and to provide recommendations to the MC regarding the concept, development and implementation procedures required to complete the project.

The Sub-Committee

The sub-committee is comprised of six financial shed members.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| • Skinny Burke | • Lionel Armitstead |
| • Dave Tate | • Jeffrey Farrah |
| • Bruce Conmee | • Mark Hastings |

Purpose of the Sub-Committee

The purpose of the Sub-Committee is to investigate, evaluate and make recommendations to the MGMS MC regarding the most cost effective, compliant and beneficial use of the \$2 million Government funding grant, in line with the requirements and objective of all stakeholders.

Scope of Responsibilities

The Sub-Committee will:

- Identify and document all conditions attached to the State Government grant and for the Show Trust's approval for the usage of the land.
- Define the functional requirements to all stakeholders for the new building.
- Work in accordance with the MoU agreement for the planned usage requirements of the extension between the MGMS and the MT. Gravatt Show Trust.
- Consult with the MC and shed members to determine the activities and space requirements for each group and/or identify any new activities that will require space now or in future years.
- Liaise with external stakeholders including the Queensland State Government, Mt. Gravatt Show Trust representatives, Project Managers and Community organisations to develop a value for money, community centric space that delivers benefits all stakeholders.

- Engage relevant professionals to identify and develop a proposal that considers:

1. New leasing requirements
2. Site constraints
3. Regulatory requirements (zoning and environmental concerns etc).
4. Design options that meet operational needs
5. Survey & Building Plans
6. Cost estimates
7. Construction timeline

The MGSEC plays an advisory/recommendations role only.

Final decisions and budgetary expenditures are the sole responsibility of the MGMS MC.

Progress to Date:

- Application has been formally submitted to the Queensland State Government for ratification.
- Agreement between the MGSEC and the Showground Trust members has been broadly reached in terms of the building footprint and positioning, building materials to be used and environmental considerations required by relevant stakeholders.
- The width of the building is to be no greater than 12 metres with the length of the building to be whatever is reasonably required by the MGMS.
- Lease preparations will commence no later than 30th September 2025. The lease is to be executed as soon as practicable as time is of the essence.
- Site Survey to commence week commencing 22nd September with Wayne Hansen coordinating these activities.
- MGSEC are being advised on the estimated cost, most efficient building materials and site/internal layout that will maximise the benefit of the extension for shed members with consideration to budgetary constraints. MGSEC will advise MC members as soon as the information is available for their consideration and directions.
- Mark Hasting is forming a small team to develop a tender document setting out the MGMS shed extension requirements.
- Timing of project commencement will be dependent on development approval from the Brisbane City Council (BCC), (if required). The MGSEC and the Showground Trust committee are awaiting advice from the relevant BCC department to determine if DA is required for the site.

Major updates will be included in future newsletter issues.

*Happy Shedding
The MGSEC Team*

Volunteers' Participation

In the August newsletter I read with some chagrin the chastisement over the poor response around the July 'Mt Gravatt Show'. While I noted we seemed short of having folk staff the requested quota of volunteers before and on the day and thus offered five hours of my own time towards that, I completely missed the need to contribute either time or exemplar items for the MGMS display and stall.

My reactions included 'guilt' that as a group member and leader I had not contributed from the 'Writers Group' as we had done in the past with displays and handouts. That was followed by 'frustration' that, based on past experiences, I had put it from my mind expecting a 1-1 conversation about what the stall required this time. I realise now I had anticipated a procedure that had altered for this year. That happens when one has a team that may have changed, and no standardised procedural checklist or plan for passing on to successive teams.

But I think another issue may have been at play. When one gets personally asked to assist in a way that is not too onerous, the personal bond between the person asking and the one responding can be strengthened. Teamwork is improved. Perhaps that personal approach is something we can use to improve participation in time-limited projects that are additional to regular programs.

I heard a comment that when a group of members was asked to provide four volunteers to move a piece of equipment the response was very poor. Why was that? There can be a number of individual reasons around physical capability and such. There can also be group reasons based around the programmed activity being undertaken that impacts on adding another task. We can look at that issue in two ways. We can simply consider it another example of lack of volunteerism in order to help others. Alternatively, we can look at how we might have a better and more informed response, if not then, perhaps in future such instances.

A lesson I learned from my father when he was a leading-hand in a sandblasting and painting team travelling the State was that if one personally looks after the blokes on your team, they will respond far more positively and productively to direction than if a more distant or hierarchical manager does so, even if it's the same consideration and direction by both leaders.

That lesson I took with me into my own workplace leadership roles across a number of settings, some with only five people, some with over a hundred people. People like to have a personal approach. It strengthens relationships and teamwork. Thus, my suggestion to the person relating the experience of a call for volunteers was that next time, consult with the activity leader so as to minimise priority relationships and task issues. Consider who might best be able to perform the role being asked for, then ask them personally and directly. My own experience suggests a more positive response is likely. Not only that, both parties feel better about their contribution as individuals, not just as an extra person.

As a broad suggestion, when projects and programs need organising, extending, or new group leadership and participation, it can help a lot in terms of increasing involvement and commitment decisions if procedures are documented, even if just basic checklists. One can do worse than learn from the military model that has been around since the 1930s. The acronym is SMEAC. It outlines the situation and responses needed to get a job done. It can be as brief or as detailed as a situation requires, and allows later review to improve outcomes.

1. Situation: background, scope, people, related considerations
2. Mission: brief, clear statement of intent and objective
3. Execution: who does what, when, where, how
4. Administration and logistics: coordination, equipment, organisation, paperwork, additional details
5. Communication (Command/Signals): protocols, leadership, responsibilities

Decision-making tests: Is it in the best interests of members? Is the best that can be done at the time? Am I prepared to take personal accountability for this decision?

If you could do it, would you? Never ask someone to do something you would not be prepared to do yourself.

Kim Tvede #562



Australian Government
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Brisbane City Hall, 1932



Soldiers in Victoria Park, Herston, ca. 1944.
Image in an album at the State Library of Victoria.

Brisbane - simultaneous centenary and bicentenary

Other media seem to have missed the fact that 2025 is the centenary of a city called Brisbane,¹ and the bicentenary of a locality called Brisbane.

In 1825, Commandant Henry Miller, relocated the Moreton Bay Convict Settlement from Redcliffe to the northern shore of the large river that flows into Moreton Bay. At the same time, Miller suggested that both the river and the new settlement be named Brisbane.²

In 1925, 20 municipalities amalgamated to form the City of Brisbane administered by the Brisbane City Council (See box).³

Brisbane was once disparaged as 'a big country town'. For many years following its construction (1920-30), the Brisbane City Hall was the tallest building in the municipality. It is now dwarfed by the high-rise of a modern sub-tropical metropolis. We've come a long way since freighters tied up at south bank, police wore khaki uniforms and white sun helmets, and trams rattled through the suburbs.⁴



Queen St cnr Edward St 1969. Trams are passing each other outside the Commonwealth Bank building.

Photo: Percy Meara Remember The Brisbane Tramways



Queen Street VP Day
Courier Mail pic credit

1. A city municipality called Brisbane existed before 1925.
2. Major General Thomas Brisbane was the sixth governor of the colony of New South Wales (1821 - 1825). Brisbane is the only capital city in Australia named after an early governor.
3. The City of Brisbane Act came into force on 30 October 1924. The first election was held on 21 February 1925; the first meeting was held on 18 March 1925; the new council began operation on 1 October 1925.
4. Mt Gravatt Men's Shed gratefully acknowledges numerous grants from the Brisbane City Council.

Amalgamation to form the City of Brisbane

Cities	Brisbane & South Brisbane.
Towns	Hamilton, Ithaca, Sandgate, Toowong, Windsor & Wynnum.
Shires	Balmoral, Belmont, Coorparoo, Enoggera, Kedron, Moggill, Sherwood, Stephens, Taringa, Toombul, Tingalpa (in part) & Yeerongpilly (in part).

Around the Shed



Ross, Dennis & Skinny making a ramp for Tri Care



Sam Hornibrook



Patrick, Greg and Dennis repairing a rocking chair



Steve Ogle



Memorial Board builder - Bert Dean



Dave & Paul - the office



Ukelele group



Allan, Phil & Paul - small engines



Happy 92nd birthday Bryan



Les Watermeyer (left) celebrates his 96th birthday with newsletter's first editor Bill Simpson



Gates in the workshop

Guest Speakers:

Social Meeting Mon 13th October 2025 - **Greg McGahan** is the Senior Manager of Young Adult and Mental Health Services at Mater Health in Brisbane. He is a registered nurse with over 30 years' experience and has qualifications in mental health and health service management. Greg has extensive clinical experience in adolescent mental health and has established several health and mental health services for young people in Queensland. Greg has experience in governance, service development and working with philanthropy.

Sausage Sizzle Mon 20th October 2025- **Adam Blazak** started his career as a qualified horticulturist. He soon realised his passion was the weather and became a qualified meteorologist. He now is involved in all facets of the weather and will give a presentation on the different aspects of the weather and the forecasting.



The gates for *Matilda* made by the workshop



Jim & Darryl - office



Right photo shows Hugh presenting Dwight Wood from DWR Custom Guitars a bottle of wine as a 'thank you' for taking the time out of his busy schedule with Australian and International performing artists. Also from his guitar repair and manufacture business to offer valuable assistance and knowledge on sound systems. Dwight was contacted by Hugh and asked to come to visit the shed to offer some assistance with our musical equipment. He came and after we set up the mixer and microphones he made numerous adjustments and balanced the sound and volume and much more. We found a faulty speaker amplifier and he will come down to DJ City when we visit to purchase some new audio gear from the grant recently received and offer advice on what will suit us best. While he was there we played "Cover of the Rolling Stone", "End of the Line", "Da Doo Ron Ron", "I'm Going to Knock on Your Door", "Shake Rattle and Roll" great energy here and many others on the song list. Note the large number of guitar leads and electrical cables shown in right photo which were not only a tripping hazard but also maybe breach of the OH&S act!!



"The Four String Pluckers. "



"Shed Beats"



Photo above shows "The Shed Tones" MGMS group in action on Thursday evening 4th September out the front of Mt Gravatt Bunning's Store as part of the pre-father's day celebrations event. From the left playing guitars are Terry, Hugh, Ed and Jack, Laurie, played the harmonica, Basil played keyboards and operated the mixer volume and balance, Kornel played his violin, and Sebastian his black guitar. Dave R kept the beat on the drum kit and Leo played his saxophone. The men were dressed in their band uniform and represented the shed, flying the flag admirably, 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", "Living Doll", "Devil Woman", "Rhythm of the Rain", "When I Grow too Old to Dream", "Cover of the Rolling Stone", "Your Cheating Heart", and many more songs. The final song of the night, because the boys were pumped up by now, was a stirring rendition of that Neil Diamond favourite "Sweet Caroline". The audience and workers at Bunning's told me and others that we played well; they enjoyed the night and were well pleased with the outcome. A great night was had by all.



Jim



Basil & Kornel

Guitar workshop is on Monday 29th September in the recreation room commencing at 2.00pm. Guest presenter is Peter Petersen.

"What a Fantastic 'Open Mic' Session on Tuesday 2nd September"

The first solo performances were Brian who played and sang "Factory Lad" and "Coal Tattoo". Keith performed the song "For Bobby" and Terry's songs were "St James Infirmary Blues" and "The One I Love". Dave supplied the beat on the drums.

The Meeting Room Group consisted of John, Terry, Denis and Peter N played and sang "Tweed River Valley" and "Be Bop A Lula". After morning tea the group of Jack, Hugh, Sebastian and Dave R performed "Da Do Ron Ron", "End of the Line" and "I'm going to knock on Your Door". Leo played some Saxophone notes in the instrumental sections.

Solo Performances by Jack were "A Boy Named Sue" and "Sunday Morning Coming Down". Sebastian performed his own song which was a tribute to the men's shed called "Our Men's Shed".

"The Four String Pluckers" which consisted of Ken, Ian, John, Garry, Ross, Kiong, Rudi, Ron, Trevor, Gavin, Tony and Paul played "Have I the Right", "Sloop John B" and "Jackson".

The "Shed Beats" group of Paul, Rudi, John, Gavin, Keith, Mike, Brian, Bert and Nick on drums played "Armstrong", "I am Australian" and "When I'm Sick and Poor".

Tri-Care Retirement Village Mt Gravatt "Shed Tones" concert is on Wednesday 1st October at 10.30am in their function room. There is the possibility of having 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?



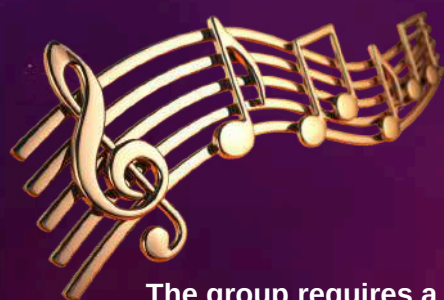
Dave



Leo



Peter & John



Music Group

" Help us if you can"

The group requires a member from within the shed who has the expertise to operate the computer for the JAM group on Tuesday mornings to put the music sheets up onto the screen.

Also for someone within the shed who has the expertise to operate the music mixer to control volume and balance of microphones and musical instruments during outside GIG's.

Contact Terry Thomson: 0466 063 995





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3403 7791





Travel Group - Pottsville

25-30 August





The Members' shed

a series on association governance

Phil Vardy

Succession planning

Excluding royals and supreme leaders, the world's longest serving rulers are:

- Paul Biya, Cameroon (50 years)
- Teodoro Mbasogo, Equatorial Guinea (43 years)
- Yoweri Tibuhaburwa, Uganda (39 years)
- Isaias Afwerki, Eritrea (33 years)
- Emomali Rahmon, Tajikistan (31 years)

I'll stop at half a dozen.¹ I'm sure you get my point: leaders can stay in office too long, and the results can be unfortunate.

On the other hand, frequent change of leadership leads to instability. For confirmation, we need look no further than our own federal parliament: Gillard, Rudd, Abbott, Turnbull, Morrison, Albanese.

New associations often thrive under the extended leadership of an inspiring president. For confirmation, we need look no further than our own shed: founding president Brian Wheeler led a team that built MGMS into one of the best associations in Australia. Brian deserves significant kudos for this. For established associations, however, leadership succession is best planned.

Succession planning is more than identifying members to fill roles. Succession planning extends to developing potential leaders to ensure:

- Stability for the association, and
- Fulfillment of the mission of the association.

Often, succession planning involves a tradition e.g. a member might serve on the management committee for a term. He might then serve two years as vice president before serving two years as president i.e. the vice-presidency is an agreed two-year apprenticeship for an agreed two-year presidency.

Implied in the above example is that leadership finds expression in the individual, but does not derive from the individual i.e. leadership derives from the group consciousness of the association. If that's too Jungian, perhaps we can agree that leadership might derive from the collective will of the association. If that's too Nietzschean, perhaps we can agree that leadership might derive from the agreed aims of the association.

With succession planning, elections are formalities e.g. unopposed, the VP is elected president by acclamation. The process is positive: leadership continues although title passes from one individual to another. Without succession planning, the election process is negative:

- Incumbents seek to stay in office because they have no concept of appropriate tenure, or they feel that retiring is an admission of failure.
- Contenders challenge because they feel dissatisfied with the performance of the incumbent.

All very unpleasant. How much better it is to know when one's term will start, and when one's term will finish.

Succession planning brings the best candidates to the fore.

The Meaning of Honorary

The Model Rules allow associations to set their own rules for membership¹. Most associations opt for ordinary members, life members and honorary members (among others).

It's important to note that honorary does not mean honourable. An ordinary member might be honoured with life membership, of course. And a non-member might be honoured with honorary membership. But 'honorary member' does not mean 'honoured member'.² A misnomer.

Until recently, the constitution of Mt Gravatt Men's Shed recognized only ordinary and honorary members [Rule 5(1)], although lifetime membership was mentioned in Rule 5(4). The practice has been to honour worthy members with honorary membership, and to exempt them from paying membership fees.

At the special general meeting (SGM) of August 2025, Rule 5 was changed to permit the following classes of membership.

- Ordinary members who pay an annual membership fee;
- Honorary members who are exempt from the annual fee;
- Lifetime members who pay a once-only nonrefundable fee;
- Patrons.

MGMS will function well under the new constitution (the Model Rules). But in changing the constitution, we overlooked the opportunity to correct the misnomer.

1. See, for example, Model Rule 5. While not completely silent about membership, the following are notably thin on comment – reinforcing the notion that membership is a matter for each association. Joske, P. E. (1976) *The law and procedure at meetings in Australia and New Zealand* The Law Book company, Sydney. Renton, N.E. (1979) *Guide for meetings and organisations* The Law Book Company, Sydney.

2. The Macquarie Dictionary defines honorary as 'Conferred as an honour without the usual requirements, functions etc.' It defines honourable as 'Worthy of honour.' Webster, Funk & Wagnall and the Oxford do similarly but with slight variation in wording.



[1]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_current_state_leaders_by_date_of_assumption_of_office

Photography Group

Sandy Camp Road Wetlands

4th September 2025



Baska Desha - Little Egret



Richard Morse - Little Black Cormorant & White Ibis



Neil McPhail - Willie Wagtail



Neil McPhail - Variegated Fairywren



Alan Sanders - Red-backed Fairywren



Keith Cordwell - Intermediate Egret

[Link to Website](#)

Woodturning

Alan Sanders



Segmented bowls designed and produced by Alan



Alan's current project with 18 rings in total, 14 rings shown, with solid rings top and bottom, see diagram.



Segmented Wood Turning

Segmented woodturning is a woodworking technique where a piece is created by gluing together multiple pieces of wood, called segments, to form rings or other shapes, which are then assembled into the final turned object. These segments are typically glued together before being placed on a lathe for shaping. This technique allows for intricate patterns and designs that are not possible with traditional solid wood turning.

Key aspects of segmented woodturning:

Segment Preparation:

Wood is cut into specific shapes, often wedges or other geometric forms, and then glued together to form rings or other shapes.

Ring Assembly:

These pre-constructed rings are then glued together, often with staggered joints to create patterns, and then turned on a lathe.

Design Possibilities:

Segmented turning allows for a vast array of designs, including complex patterns, colour variations, and three-dimensional shapes.

Open vs. Closed Segmenting:

Traditional segmented turning focuses on solid rings, while open segmented turning utilises individual pieces with gaps in between.

Bruce Meyers is our Leader and is supported by Gary Richie. Bruce introduced segmented wood turning into the shed. He creates advanced wood turning projects including designing and producing open segmented vessels.



Chess Group

Alan Highman

Hi Shedders,
Over the last couple of months our numbers have dropped so unless we can find some more players we will be unable to continue on a Monday morning. I would like to continue with the monthly chess puzzle in the newsletter if that is of interest.

I have really enjoyed playing and coaching some players in chess and will certainly miss it.

This months puzzle: white to move and mate in 3.

Solution on page 20.



Visit by the local federal member for Bonner



On her recent visit to the Mt Gravatt Men's Shed, Kara Cook MP Federal Member for Bonner spoke about some of the important work happening in our community. She shared updates on the Cheaper Medicines Bill, which from 1 January 2026 will mean Australians pay \$25 for PBS medicines and concession card holders just \$7.70. Kara also highlighted the new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opening soon in Carindale. It will provide free care for urgent but non-life-threatening issues and include mental health support.

The \$2,000 Grant was from the Federal Government under the Volunteer Grants 2024-2025 Program.

The Grant Application was by our Treasurer, John Wild, and the funds will be used for audio equipment for the Music Group.



Kara also took the opportunity to invite locals to the upcoming **Bonner Seniors Expo** on Tuesday 21 October, 9am–12pm at Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre in Wynnum. The free event will feature stalls, information, and entertainment, giving seniors a chance to connect with services and each other.

Series of Memorable Photos

Kevin Lindeberg



As part of this series of memorable photos, this one depicts a de Havilland Tiger Moth flying up the River Thames, capturing St Paul's Cathedral in the background. It was taken on 16 December 1981, around midday.

I was its excited passenger. I was carrying with me some items of historic importance.

The photo captured a time when our world was different. Nowadays, some 20 years after the world-changing events of 7 September 2001 in New York City when two hijacked commercial jets crashed into the World Trade Centre and another crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, killing thousands, a flight in a humble little Tiger Moth over the centre of London would be impossible. Those momentous 2001 events changed the modern world irrevocably in many ways.

Nowadays, such a flight would be viewed as a possible terrorist plot. It would not be permitted, let alone if suddenly appearing out of the pale blue yonder unannounced, probably see the Tiger Moth shot down.

My memory still sharply retells the story of that cold, cloudy English winter day. I remember being securely strapped into the front open cockpit when we took off from a grass airstrip on the outskirts of London. We flew over hundreds of houses, bustling footpaths and busy roads to our approved destination, the River Thames.

Like "those magnificent men in their flying machines", we calmly wound our way up old Father Thames' historic river course in the Tiger Moth with the photographer having strategically placed himself on the planned route in a high-rise building.

We winged our way past St. Paul's Cathedral, the House of Commons, Westminster Abbey, Whitehall, The Mall, London, Westminster, Tower Bridge, and The Tower of London, then turned around and flew back over those same historic landmarks for a second bird's-eye view at what spread out below. The view was further imprinted on my memory.

It was all surreal. I was just 35. I was afforded the unique opportunity of looking down from the Tiger Moth's open cockpit in 1981 at so many historic London landmarks where world-changing events had and continue to happen. The difference being that countless thousands of others through the ages had only seen them at ground level. But you ask: what was this unique flight all about?

It was to commemorate the historic meetings between two of the world's greatest pioneer aviators in London between 16-17 December 1931. They were Australians, "Smithy", Charles Kingsford Smith, and "the Boy from Bundaberg", Bert Hinkler.

On the evening of 16 December 1931, a grand Dinner of the Royal Aero Club was held where these two airmen met each other for the first time.

Bert had just completed the first-ever solo flight across the South Atlantic while Smithy had just arrived in another pioneering flight from Australia. The following day, on

17 December 1931, another celebratory dinner was held. It was organised by the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, and amongst others at their table was Amy Johnson, the first woman to fly from England to Australia in 1930. Amy was dubbed “Queen of the Air” by the British press. What a gathering of eagles! The item I carried in flight up the River Thames was

highly pertinent. They were specially marked and stamped envelopes for fundraising purposes. They were all specially stamped 16 December 1981 by Heathrow Post Office. They celebrated these London meetings between Smithy and Bert. The wording recalled their heroic landmark pioneering flights. For example, Smithy’s great flights in “The Southern Cross”, one being the first to fly across the Pacific Ocean in 1928, and Bert’s magnificent solo flight in a light aircraft from London to Australia in his Avro Avian in 1928, now housed in the Queensland Museum.

The fundraising was for Queensland’s renowned aviation historian and Queensland Museum librarian (the late) Ted Wixted in his valiant effort to locate the whereabouts of Smithy’s last flight on 7/8 November 1935 off the Burma Coast near Aye Island. He was my friend and mentor.

Bert died due to a propeller malfunction in flight. It suddenly caused him to attempt an emergency landing on the slopes of Mt Pratomagno near Florence in Italy around midday 7 January 1933. At the time, he was trying for another record-breaking flight in his Puss Moth between England and Australia. He is buried in Florence.

MGMS members already know that, being “a Boy from Maryborough” myself, I have had an abiding interest throughout my life about Bert’s life and pioneer flight exploits. Amongst other related activities, I organised a major commemorative 2 August 2015 event as part of our nation’s ANZAC 2014-18 100th Anniversary period. It was the unveiling of a new Memorial Monument on the slopes of Mt Pratomagno to Bert on the exact site where his body was found on 28 April 1933. Back in 1974, I was shown this spot by the same Italian carbon collector who first discovered his corpse and plane wreckage.

The Monument’s major headstone feature is a 1.4 tonne basalt boulder. It was taken from Mon Repos Beach near Bundaberg and transported to Mt Pratomagno. It was “the Alpha and Omega”. It was the earlier long-standing witness to where Bert first flew his homemade glider in 1911-12, and the forever-afterward, guardian over the place of his passing when just 40 years of age.

This photo still evokes many personal memories despite the passage of years. I hope it will evoke the interest of a much wider audience in our shed members and beyond, that is, in those brave men and women who have gone before and who dared to challenge and conquer the unknown to make the world a better place.



Kevin at Bert’s 7th January 1933 death site in July 2014



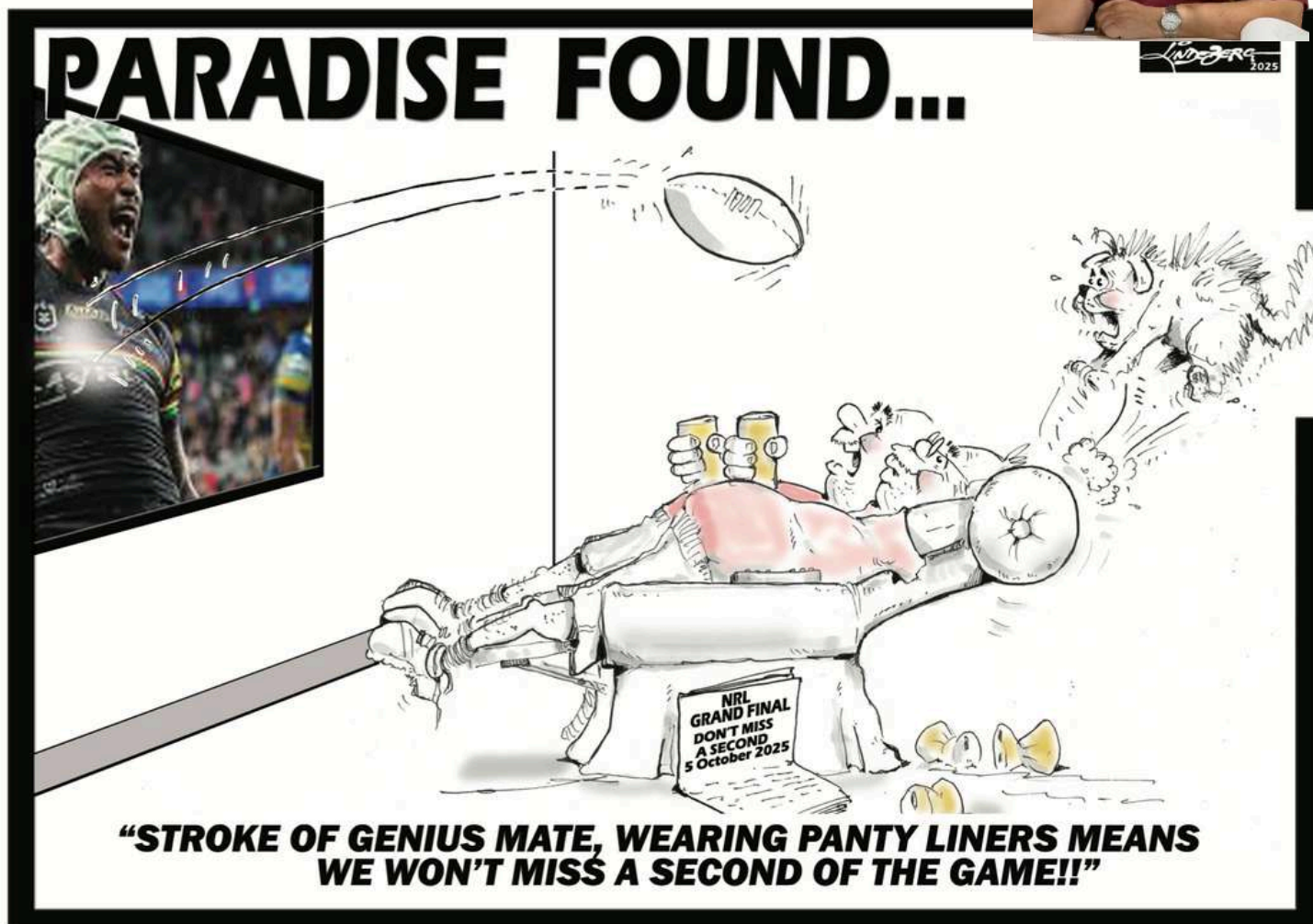
The Hinkler Memorial Monument’s unique headstone



Federal Member for Hinkler Keith Pitt, PM Tony Abbott, Kevin and Speaker Bronwyn Bishop



Mt Pratomagno in Tuscany



This is a photo of Kevin Lindeberg with Mr Peter Siney, President of the Maroochy Men's Shed.

It was taken after Kevin's 60-minute 26th August 2025 invitational address to some 76 highly interested members. He spoke about the current state of play regarding his whistleblowing journey in the ongoing systemic cover-up of "the Heiner affair" and its massive impact on the integrity of the three branches of government in Queensland, namely parliament, executive and judiciary.

Kevin was guest speaker at our September 2025 Social Meeting when he spoke on the same topic to another 70 attentive members.



Social Meeting Minutes

1st September 2025



Serving of lunch

Secretary: Neville O'Brien

Volunteers are needed in the office. AGM is on 3 November. Shed constitution has been accepted by the OFT.

Welfare: Steve Fluerty

Memorial day is being organised. Volunteers required to help clean and setup from 9 am on the day. Two ladies are needed to help with catering.

Six members who passed and will be recognised

- Allan Heathcote
- Ned Kelly
- Leon Rogalevs
- John Macfarlane
- Anthony Pang
- Allan Waller

28 birthdays this month.

Community Projects: Bart McKnight

Cubby house sales at the showground markets are going very well. Cubby is permanently housed on the grounds. Sausage sizzle at Ray White .

Medical container is at lock up stage. Needs cleaning inside.

Strategic Plan: Lionel Armitstead

It is critical we review our current situation and plan the requirements for a sustainable future. A survey of members needs 100% involvement by members so we can improve the shed culture and operations.

Music: Terry Thomson

DRW Guitars 19 August. TriCare concert 5 October.

29 September guitar workshop with Peter Peterson. Tony G repaired power lead for speaker. Grant money will purchase a new speaker.

Travel Group: Dave Tate

14 members and partners camped at Pottsville. Visited the Pottsville Men's Shed. Ipswich historical bus trip 25/09. Bush Wackers' concert and camp at Esk 17/02/26.

Emerging Technologies: Greg Self

New members Alf & Mark. Renewed license for CNC router.

Last year made \$1000 worth of plaques for Griffith Uni. The Uni requested again this year laser engraved plaques to recognise staff.

Office: Jim Wiseman

Air conditioner has been replaced. Two volunteers needed once a month for the social meeting. Four volunteers required for the office.

Grants: Skinny Burke

No requests from groups for grants.

Shed extension: Skinny

Formal application is with State Government. Need to get the lease and survey finalised. Three tea trees and 100 year old gum are to remain. May affect the new shed orientation. Subcommittee meets every two weeks and oversees management of the project. Gantt chart is in the rec room to track progress for 24 months.

Other reports: Tony G

262 members renewed membership. 115 yet to respond.

Financial Report: John Wild Treasurer– August 2025

The tabled Income & Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet Report are the Interim reports for the month of August 2025. The result of \$14,967 (Budget \$16,693) (Year to Date & before Grant Income & Expenditure) has mainly come about due to:

1. Membership Renewal funds received of \$14,527. This is in line with this time last year (\$14,414) however it is below the budget of \$15,500 which is a concern. New memberships of \$1,218 also in line with this time last year (\$1,055) and better than the budget of \$700 so that is hopefully a good sign.
2. Other Income earners were excellent sales of Cubby House & other raffle tickets \$2,943, and Bank Interest (\$762).
3. Total expenditure is of \$13,533 is basically in line with budget (\$13,526) however some costs have not yet been received.
4. The net Equity of the MGMS is \$854,057 including \$206,977 in Cash & Cash Equivalents.

Some of the matters I am currently working through are as follows:

- Finally received the Grant funds of \$2,000 for the Federal Volunteer Grant I applied for way back in January and through other applications last year. These funds will be used for audio equipment for the music groups.
- I have just completed a reforecast of this year's budget to see how it looks for 2026/2027. This is to be discussed at the next MC Meeting with the AGM in mind for a Membership Fee review.

HUMOUR

Some people have a good imagination for innovation - or perhaps a way to kill themselves & others ! Jokes supplied by Neil Hansen



This weeks prison menu consists some classics you grew up with, including Beef Stroganoff, Beef Wellington and Cream of Mushroom Soup



Redneck Lawn Mower





October 2025

Saturday 4 October NB# 2:45 for 3 pm: Arvo Entertainment Group bring a plate of food to share if interested.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
September 29 8:00 Woodturning 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Metal scrolling 9:00 Cards 9:00 Chess 12:00 Toy-making	30 8:30 Leatherwork 8:00 Guitar lessons (2015/18/19/20) 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Guitar (2021-22) 10:30 Jam session 12:30 Woodcarving 12:30 Guitar (2024) 1:00 HeartFIT	October 1 8:00 Intermediate woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Writers 9:30 Emerging technologies (Vcarve & CNC router) 10:30 Cooking 12:00 Woodturning	2 8:00 Woodturning learners 8:00 Woodworking Introduction 9:00 Cartooning 12:45 Carpet Bowls	3 8:00 Small engines 8:30 Laser 9:00 Art/painting 12:00 Ukulele Jam 1:00 Welding 1:00 HeartFIT (Shed Rec Rm)
6 King's birthday nominated holiday (shed closed)	7 8:30 Leatherwork 8:00 Guitar lessons (2015/18/19/20) 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Guitar (2021-22) 10:00 Jam session 12:30 Woodcarving 12:30 Guitar (2024) 1:00 HeartFIT	8 8:00 Intermediate woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Writers 9:30 Emerging technologies (Vcarve & CNC router) 12:00 Woodturning 1:00 MC meeting	9 8:00 Woodturning learners 8:00 Woodworking Introduction 9:00 Cartooning 10:30 Cooking 12:45 Carpet Bowls 12:45 Carpet Bowls	10 8:00 Small engines 8:30 Laser 9:00 Art/painting 12:00 Ukulele Jam 1:00 Welding 1:00 HeartFIT (Shed Rec Rm)
13 Social meeting <i>Community hall</i> 10:15 for 10:30: \$8 for lunch	14 8:30 Leatherwork 8:00 Guitar lessons 2015/18/19/20) 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Guitar (2021-22) 10:30 Jam session 12:30 Woodcarving 12:30 Guitar (2024) 1:00 HeartFIT	15 8:00 Intermediate woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Welfare 9:00 Writers 9:30 Emerging technologies (Vcarve & CNC router) 12:00 Woodturning	16 8:00 Woodturning learners 8:00 Woodworking Introduction 9:00 Cartooning 12:45 Carpet Bowls 12:30 Photography	17 8:00 Small engines 8:30 Laser 9:00 Art/painting (#NB: maybe) 12:00 Ukulele Jam (#NB cancelled) 1:00 Welding 1:00 HeartFIT (#NB: Community Hall)
20 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	21 8:30 Leatherwork 8:00 Guitar lessons = (2015/18/19/20) 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Guitar (2021-22) 10:30 Jam session 12:30 Woodcarving 12:30 Guitar (2024) 1:00 HeartFIT	22 8:00 Intermediate woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Writers 9:30 Emerging technologies (Vcarve & CNC router) 10:00 Travel group (Broadwater Park) 12:00 Woodturning 1:00 WOC meeting	23 8:00 Woodturning learners 8:00 Woodworking Introduction 9:00 Cartooning 10:00 Native Bees 10:30 Cooking 12:45 Carpet Bowls	24 8:00 Small engines 8:30 Laser 9:00 Art/painting 12:00 Ukulele Jam 1:00 Welding 1:00 HeartFIT (Shed Rec Rm)
27 8:00 Woodturning 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Metal scrolling 9:00 Cards 9:00 Chess 12:00 Toy-making 12:30 Emerging Tech	29 8:30 Leatherwork 8:00 Guitar lessons (2015/18/19/20) 8:00 Own woodwork 8:30 Guitar (2021-22) 10:30 Jam session 12:30 Woodcarving 12:30 Guitar (2024) 1:00 HeartFIT 1:00 B&G meeting	29 8:00 Intermediate woodwork 8:30 Laser 9:00 Writers 9:30 Emerging technologies (Vcarve & CNC router) 10:30 Cooking 12:00 Woodturning	30 8:00 Woodturning learners 8:00 Woodworking Introduction 9:00 Cartooning 12:45 Carpet Bowls	31 8:00 Small engines 8:30 Laser 9:00 Art/painting 12:00 Ukulele Jam 1:00 Welding 1:00 HeartFIT (Shed Rec Rm)

"Introduction to Woodworking" 8.00 am to 12:00 noon on Thursdays. The wood-shop area is shared only with the wood-turning group. No other wood-shop activity currently