



Secretaries Report

Well, we are into 2011 with a flying start 4 new members, welcome to Wal Watters, John Mitchell, Paul White and Jim Ross I am sure our current membership will make you welcome and keep you busy.

As regards the new shed a building committee has been formed to manage all aspects. Currently we are in the process of discussions with both Department of Lands and Council to formalise and finalise the exact size and location, unfortunately this is likely to take some time, possibly a few months so don't expect to see construction start in the short term. As regards construction, whilst we have the promise of a frame NO commitment or work will be started until we have guaranteed funding. The committee does not want to see the shed to have a debt to service at the end of the day.

The following is a letter received from Joy Ramage:

To. The members of Morpeth Men's Shed and their Families, Thankyou to all, for your card & good wishes for my recovery after my recent operation. Also for your support and concern for Bryan during this difficult time. Now with the loving & caring support of family & friends, such as yourselves, I have made good progress and am now preparing for the next episode in my recovery process.

Many Thanks from

Joy Ramage

We are pleased to see Joy on the road to recovery.

If any member is aware of another member or his family that maybe having health issues, please let me know, I will send out a card and where possible provide any assistance that we can.

Harry and myself will be undertaking a Test & Tagging course in May. This will enable us to test and tag all our electrical equipment and any donations as they come in. The course includes purchase of our own testing unit. Thanks to Easts Bowling Club for their generous Grant which has made this possible.

Also our State Government Community Grant has finally been received so Trevor and Ray can start to seriously look for our new metal lathe.

Presidents Report

President's report

April 2011.

The former State Minister for Planning and Lands Mr Kelly announced on March 8th that the MMS would be Granted land for a shed.

With the news of the land being set aside for the MMS on Duckenfield Road the committee is working to obtain finance so as to build a shed for our selves. A proposed cost for a shed 20x29metres with all associated materials e.g. frame work, foundations, cement flooring, cladding, water, electrical, lighting, plumbing, doors, etc. just to name a few of the required items will be in the vicinity of \$520,000.

A sub committee has been formed to over see the planning and construction when funds become available.

MMS Trips

The trip to the Power House Museum organised by Keith Corcoran was well attended and enjoyed by those who attended (well done Keith),

Coming trips include **Royal Easter Show, Hawkesbury River Postman Boat trip** in May, and **Working with Wood** in June. For particulars see Keith.

BBQ day Guest speakers:-

Ted Thornburrows story of his life in England and coming to Australia and things he has done.

Prostate Cancer was given by Aaron Elliott and Kevin Murray from the Hunter Prostate Cancer Alliance.

Things to come:-

It has been decided that the MMS members be offered the opportunity to purchase hats with the MMs logo and **ORDERS** are **NOW** being taken by Paul Lindeman. There has to be an order of at least 50 from our supplier so we can get them at a reasonable rate.

The recent display and sales on Election Day went well with approximately \$250 taken

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Office Bearers

President: Keith Angel
 Vice Pres: Syd Davis
 Secretary: Paul Lindeman
 Treasurer: Bob Walker

For Sale.

Myna Bird Traps - \$75.00.

Caravan Stabiliser Lifters - \$30.00

Saving of the Day

"Men do not quit playing because they grow old; they grow old because they quit playing."

Leonardo Da Vinci

Dates Of Interest

- 22/4/11 No Meeting Good Friday
- 29/4/11 Monthly BBQ and Mothers day luncheon.
- 11/5/11 Hawkesbury Mail Cruise outing
- June Working with Wood Sydney outing.

Minutes of Committee Meetings and Treasurers Reports are available to members on request.

NSW Men's Shed Association are holding a Men's Shed Expo Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th April at Maitland Town Hall, we have an area set aside for Morpeth Shed so as to put on a display.

Our weekly raffle will be changed and will now be one prize weekly and on the last Friday of the month (BBQ DAY) a weekly prize plus a major prize of a voucher for \$50 at a local supporting shop.

The Shed has been asked to erect a chook shed at Bolwarra Primary School in the April school holidays.

In the near future the shed will have its own electrical tagging and testing equipment and certified personnel so that the MMSs leads and electrical appliances can be checked for our own safety. In near the future no electrical equipment is be used until checked (Work Cover requirement).

Our membership is gradually increasing now there is 72 members on our books. On average attendance is 40/45 every Friday.

Keith Angel

Twelve members of the Morpeth Men's Shed trekked to Sydney on the 16th March 2011 to visit the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo (alongside Darling Harbour). The group caught the 7.23am train from Maitland (7.27 from Victoria St) and changed to the Sydney to Central train at Newcastle leaving at 8.03am. Instead of catching the Light Rail from Central to Paddy's Market, we opted to walk the kilometre or so to the Museum.

With a group of twelve, we gained entry to the museum for \$4.00 each versus \$6.00 for non groups; a bargain considering the extent and quality of the exhibits. Prominent amongst the exhibits were a couple of old steam trains and associated rolling stock and this is where Harry Van Vegchel's and Keith Angel's extensive knowledge was most appreciated as they readily provided the group with stories of the old 'puffers' (trains, not men's shedders).

There was a wide range of exhibits, many were 'hands on', covering all manner of technologies; computing, aerospace, aeronautical, medicine, environment, steam, alternative energy sources and home technologies to name just a few. So much in fact, that it was impossible to adequately cover all the displays in the time we had between arrival at 11.00am and departure at 3.30pm. There is definitely

scope for further visits in the future to allow a more detailed study of exhibits of personal interest. Two additional exhibitions, part of the Museum's ever-changing program of special events, were available at extra cost. These were 'ABBA World' and an exhibition titled 'Undercover - A Licence to Spy'. However, our group was fully occupied with the extensive, standard museum exhibition and did not have time to explore further. Powerhouse Museum programs, maps and guides are available from me (Keith Corcoran), if Morpeth shedders are interested in making a personal or family visit.

Whilst the Powerhouse cafe was nothing to write home about, the service and range of light meals was adequate, if a little expensive; but that's Sydney.

With three trips to Sydney under our belt, we have developed a practical travel itinerary:

* Catch the 7.23am (express) train from Maitland or the same train at 7.27 from Victoria St, (\$2.50 all day for seniors on State-run trains/busses/ferries)

* Go all the way into Newcastle Station to catch the 8.03 Sydney train to Central (timing is perfect with only about 5 minutes to wait between trains and there is a better chance of good seats from Newcastle, rather than from Hamilton)

* Catch the Light Rail at Central and the Monorail if necessary from any one of a number of stops, in or near Darling Harbour/Ultimo/Chinatown, depending on the destination. (The Monorail circuits through the city.) Fares are reasonably cheap ranging from \$2.20 one way, for concession card holders to 3.60 for longer, two section, trips. Note however, that neither the \$2.50 all-day Senior's travel pass nor the Ex-Service members' Pass do not extend to the Light-rail or Monorail networks.

* Return to Central at 3.30pm to get the 4.18 pm (express) train to Hamilton, linking with the Maitland train after a short wait; arriving back at Maitland about 7.30. Getting to Central by 4.00pm ensures good seats; any later and it's standing room only until Gosford.

In summary, the day was considered a success and all shedders who attended, expressed an interest in future trips.

The next organised trip will be on the Hawkesbury River (Mail) Ferry in early May. Details of other trips will be researched for the Sydney Royal Easter Show in April and the Working With

Wood Expo in June.

Itineraries are available for these trips: The Royal Easter Show, The Hawkesbury River Mail and the Working with Wood Show. Just contact me

Regards,

Keith Corcoran

Executive Late News

It was great to see those that attended and worked on the Shed Display at the Men's Shed Expo at the Maitland Town Hall.

Paul and myself would like to thank those members as without their contribution our display would be a failure.

The Pen turning display on the MMS yellow lathe was a huge success with the great interest shown by the crowd. Thankyou to Keith and Eddy for their demonstrations.

Bob with his Marquetry also was a huge success with Bob being asked a lot of questions on how it was done to which he answered with great skill and a steady hand.

I think the MMS was the only Shed to have demonstrations which shows we are a working and social shed.

This shows what we can do to promote and show our skills in the Shed.

Lets hope in the near future we will have progress on our land and shed.

Keith Angel

President

Unfortunately no articles were received from either the Workshop or Computers, better luck next time.

Guess the Shedder

A 87 year-old shed member went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw the man walking down Swan street with a gorgeous young lady on his arm.

A couple of days later, when the old man had an appointment with the doctor again, the doctor said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

The man replied, 'Just doing what you said doctor, 'Get a hot mama and be cheerful.''

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that! I said you have got a heart murmur. Be careful!'

Who am I

Anyway, that's all for this edition.