



MORPETH MEN'S SHED INC. (MMS)

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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Office Bearers

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

Secretaries Report

Not a lot to say this time around. Firstly our proposed new building, whilst the building committee is "chomping at the bit" to get this project up and running, unfortunately we are currently at a stalemate. We are waiting on "Government Bureaucracy" however we continue to nudge things along where possible. You will be kept up to date as things progress.

As some of you may know we have started operating from 10.00am on Friday morning. Some members have been using this time to complete tasks before the influx of members at 1.00pm. This would be a perfect time for any member who wanted one on one instruction of how to use machinery or maybe a specific computer program just to name a few. Tee this up with a fellow member and take advantage of this quieter time. However having said this any member who would like to come in early is more than welcome.

I attended a function at Easts Bowling Club last month where I was presented with a cheque for \$500. These funds went towards the purchase of an electrical test machine and the training of Harry Vanvegchel and myself. So from today onwards if you use any power equipment eg Tools, leads etc if they do not have a current tag see Harry or myself to have it checked and tagged before you use it.

Currently we have a Grant

application in with Maitland City Council and one with the Federal Government for funding for new equipment, keep your fingers crossed.

Equipment register is now complete and is held by the Secretary. If we have any equipment donated or purchased please ensure these are recorded before used.

Record keeping is an area that is always under review. With the proposed changes to Workcover legislation there are some area's we need to bring up to date, these being Induction and Machine competence. In the next week of so all members will receive an update induction worksheet and a Machine Safely worksheet. Please complete these as detailed in the covering letter and return to a committee member as soon as possible. Your assistance will be much appreciated.

Finally as I will be away for 3 months from Aug 5, Keith Corcoran will be acting Secretary during that time. Please assist him where possible.

Presidents Report

After receiving information in March concerning the grant of land on Duckenfield Road things have been moving very slowly which in turn is holding the Mens Shed back from trying to obtain funding for the construction of our own building. But the Executive is doing it's best to expedite the issues so hopefully we will achieve something in the near future.

The Men's Shed Expo at the Maitland Town Hall was well attended by other sheds and with our shed putting on a display and the turning Pens by Eddy and Keith this was a great draw card with people standing to watch protected by our new safety screen constructed by Trevor.

It was noted that the Maitland Town Hall has a sprung floor and someone watching thought that it was good to make it spring and with the new pen in the lathe the operator had trouble keeping the tool on the job this caused ripples in the pen (Lathe worker not happy).

Whilst I was away on holiday the Shed had the Mothers day luncheon which was a great success (I have been told) with everyone enjoying the day. Thanks to those that helped to make the day a success.

Our first draw of our new raffle in April of a \$50 voucher was won by Eddy Hunt and the second draw in May won by Frank Micallef congratulations to these 2 members. It is pleasing to see the Morpeth Friendly Grocer (Jason Bull) helping out with the vouchers.

Another trip organised by Keith Corcoran on the Hawkesbury River was again a wonderful trip enjoyed by those that went. I hear Keith is organising another trip to local industry shortly so keep your ears open for the details.

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For Sale.

Myna Bird Traps. \$75.00

Currently out of Stock, but orders taken for delivery by end of month.

Saving of the Day

Happy are those who dream dreams and are ready to pay the price to make them come true.

Dates Of Interest

- *No special dates at this time but Keith C is looking at a number of options for social outings for our members over the coming months. He will keep you informed.*

I was surprised on returning to the Shed to find a stand being made for the new metal lathe.

The computer section seems to be still attracting a lot of interest with Gary and the help of Peter and Paul.

On May 27th several members attended the Bolwarra Primary School for a morning tea in appreciation of constructing the schools chook shed and they made a donation to the MMS.

The MMS AGM will be held in July with 5 positions becoming vacant as per our rules.

Keith Angel

Is Romance dead? I don't think so-

Happy Birthday Doug

Doug and Anne were lying in bed one night. Doug was falling asleep but Anne was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk. She said, "You used to hold my hand when we were courting."

Wearily Doug reached across, held her hand for a second, and rolled over to try to fall asleep.

A few moments later she said, "Then you used to kiss me."

Mildly irritated, he leaned across, gave her a peck on the cheek and settled back down to sleep.

Thirty seconds later she said, "Then you used to bite my neck."

Angrily, he threw back the bed clothes and got out of bed.

"Where are you going?" she asked.

"To the bathroom to get my teeth," he replied.

News from the workshop

This year has continued to be rewarding with a number of projects for the community completed such as 'Bolwarra School chook run, the school held a special morning tea to thank the men for their work, I was unable to attend due to sickness, but it was reported to me that the students were overjoyed and were having a naming competition for the chooks. Post Office mail stand & notice board, kite frames, mynor bird traps, plumbing job, slats for a veranda were finished. Through word of mouth another chook run will be done for east Maitland Primary school. A job for a pre-school in George Street East Maitland. Money boxes that are being made for Prostate Cancer. All these projects require volunteers and the reward are ours for a job well done.

At last the electrical work for the metal shed is in use and the stand for the

metal lathe is coming along. Some training will need to begin when the stand is completed and then we will be able to commence doing some projects.

Ray

May social outing.

The cold weather and early start did not deter 7 shed members from a trip up the Hawkesbury River on the Postman's Ferry a couple of weeks ago. The group, accompanied by Shed partners Jenny Fleming and Cheryl Lindeman boarded the 5:45am train from Victoria St (some from Maitland Station) for the trip to Newcastle where we linked up with the train to the Hawksbury River Station at Brooklyn. The early start was necessitated by the Ferry timetable; Passengers had to be at the ferry half an hour before the scheduled departure at 9:30am.

Although the day was overcast and cold, we were quite comfortable on the enclosed lower deck



from where we could take in the sights of the many riverside settlements.



Far from being the expected 'shack-like' huts, many had been developed into quite attractive residential accommodation. Most of course were only accessible by boat with the Hawkesbury River Postman providing deliveries of general supplies apart from postage. This postal service is apparently the last of its kind in Australia.

Coffee, tea and biscuits were availa-

ble on board the ferry plus wine, beer and soft drink at extra cost. The red wine on offer was particularly welcomed as fortification against the cold weather.



The boat trip lasted about four hours and went almost as far as Spencer, near the Wiseman's Ferry crossing. On arrival back at Brooklyn, our group enjoyed a basic but tasty fish, chips and salad lunch at a discounted price for ferry customers.



Although the logistics of the trip were a little complicated due to the limited train service to the Hawkesbury River, minimal time was spent waiting for trains to and from the venue and thus the train trip, ferry, lunch and return home via a train change at Gosford fitted together quite well.

Special thanks to Jenny and Cheryl for their company on the day and of course their contribution in lending a bit of class and decorum to the group, (just joking, all Morpeth Sheddors are always very well behaved!!)

The next trip will probably be local to provide a little variation away from train travel.

Regards, Keith



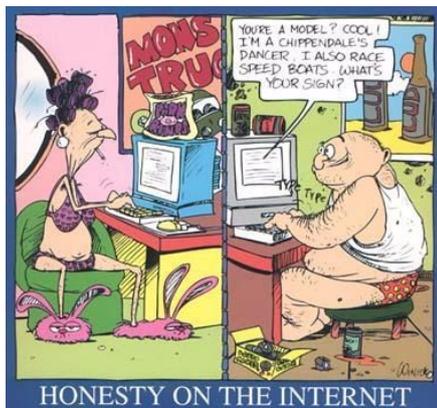
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Guest Speakers

Thanks to John Bilkie for his talk on his recent trip to see the timbers of Tasmania.

If any members have anyone they would like to invite along as a guest speaker please let Ken Aber, Keith A or Keith C know so we can allocate them a day. Bob Walker has been talking to Noel Budden about Lure making. He is happy to come and talk to us but would like to have a few members visit his place first, If anyone is interested please give your name to Bob.

Computer News



Well, with a few unavoidable interruptions for end-of-month BBQs, the Mother's Day luncheon and Easter, both of our computer courses have stretched out a little.

The BASIC course has completed, with at least 4 members taking their enthusiasm for learning about computers up another notch. Good onya, fellas ! I hope to have your next activities lined up fairly soon. I'd also like to thank Peter Fleming for giving up his time and his own activities to help other shed members. Cheers, Peter !

The ESSENTIALS course has plodded along nicely, nearly complete now, with participants regularly practicing newly learned skills that have been challenging for some, and easier for others. Everyone learns at their own pace, and we're fortunate with our situation that we can accommodate a somewhat flexible timetable. The guys are probably sick of hearing my mantra "practice what you learn, at home", but with limited time each week to learn at the Shed, it's an essential part of learning the new skills, and I continue to encourage everyone to do just that. It's no different than any other skill... practice, practice, practice ! :-)

Over the next couple of weeks I'm inviting interested members to submit suggestions for the first of the "applied" courses. Learning the essentials *first* allows us to fit many more applied courses into a calendar year than would otherwise be possible, so members gain more knowledge over a given time... more "bang for your buck", if you like. So far, the popular choices are for either a general Internet course, a course specifically on email, or learning how to burn discs. There are plenty of other possibilities, some easier to implement than others. We obviously can't deal with everyone's favourite subject first, but we'll get to them eventually. In the mean time, simply let me know what you'd like to learn about, and we'll see if we can make it happen.

Noise continues to be a bugbear for the classes, especially for the major portion of participants that are hearing impaired, but we're all obviously making the best we can of a less than ideal situation. I'd like to thank Shed members for their understanding and respectfully request continuing efforts to reduce unnecessary noise in the hall.

Gary Payne

Health Information.

Mesothelioma in Australia and the United States

There are an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 new cases of mesothelioma diagnosed per year in the United States. The incidence of mesotheliomas in the United States peaked in the 20-year period from 1970 to 1990 and then stabilized.

Mesothelioma is less common in African Americans than in white Americans. The incidence of Mesothelioma increases with age. Most patients are male and over the age of 65. The disease is 5 times more common in men than in women. Mesothelioma is rare in people under the age of 55.

Australia has one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world. This is due to the high rate of asbestos use and mining in Australia over many years. Up to 600 mesothelioma cases are diagnosed each year in Australia. The high incidence of the disease is not expected to decline in the short term.

Asbestos fibre production began in the 1880's and Asbestos was extensively mined in Western Australia (Wittenoom

1938-1966) and New South Wales (Baryulgil 1940-1979). Asbestos fibre was also imported from South Africa and North America.

It is estimated that One in three homes built in Australia between 1840 to 1987 contains some form of asbestos and nearly all public buildings such as hospitals and schools. Over 3,500 products containing asbestos were readily available in Australia. While Asbestos production and use has largely ceased, asbestos can still be found in the following:

- Building materials such as asbestos-cement sheeting (fibro) and paints
- Motor vehicle parts such as break linings and gaskets
- Electrical products such as hair dryers and air conditioners.
- Some textiles such as felts

According to professor Henderson of Flinders University, the number of people diagnosed with asbestos related diseases will not peak until 2020 by then there will be 13,000 cases of mesothelioma and up to 40,000 cases of asbestos-related lung cancer, amounting to 53,000 cases of incurable cancer caused by asbestos over the next 20 years.

Medical research may offer some hope for sufferers of this incurable disease. Australia is one of the most active countries in mesothelioma research. Several research programs are currently being conducted nationwide. Recently, Australian researchers developed a new screening procedure which could help people worldwide in the early detection of mesothelioma. There are several Australian organisations which offer information and support for victims and their families of mesothelioma and asbestos related diseases.

This information was obtained from <http://www.mesotheliomawise.org/home>

If any member has any questions about this disease refer to this web site or your local doctor.