



The Shed Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Shed West Community Men's Shed Inc.

February edition, 17 FEB 2026

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Shed West Community Men's Shed (Inc.) is a registered charity and member of the Australian Men's Shed Association and the Queensland Men's Shed Association.

Welcome to the February edition of the Shed West Newsletter. This is a shorter Newsletter than usual. I am hoping members can provide interesting items for the March edition. The shed reopened on 12 JAN after a 1-month break over Christmas – New Year. The management committee had the first meeting of 2026 on Wednesday 11 FEB and approved a number of new initiatives outlined in the Secretary's report of the Management Committee meeting on page 3.

2026 is a year of opportunity for members to take advantage of what Shed West has to offer. The shed is more than a wood-working facility. There is 500 cards, leatherwork, Land Rover restoration project, photography, Tuesday afternoon talks, Tuesday morning walks, a Trotec brand laser for cutting and engraving plywood and thin timber sheet material. A small 3-D printer has been purchased and commissioned this week. Tuition on designing 3-D objects and printing them in plastic will be available. A garden group and an art group are being organised to start soon. Later this year a metal workshop should replace the Land Rover restoration project in the white shed.

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Shed West Sponsors

Shed West is indebted to local politicians and businesses that support our activities.



Dr Christian ROWAN MP
State Member for Moggill

ELIZABETH WATSON-BROWN
MEMBER FOR RYAN

LEWIS BROS. MITRE 10

Mighty Helpful independent hardware store in KENMORE

Lewis Bros Mitre 10 provides discounts on Shed West purchases.



Bunnings Warehouse donates materials to Shed West.

An important notice from the secretary, Jim Watters:

Shed West Events and Activities

Communication with members relies heavily on currency of addresses in particular email addresses.

Updates on current and future events are regularly sent out to members by email. If you are not getting these messages, it probably means your email account has changed or it is incorrect in our records. If you are **not getting** messages about events, please contact the Secretary and advise if there has been a change in your email address.

[Secretary = shedwest.sec@gmail.com]

Report from Management Committee meeting

The first meeting of Shed West's Management Committee was held in the Kenmore Library on the 11th February.

The Committee ratified seven new applications for membership. Welcome to the new members Konrad Steinmuller, Peter Saxton, Jonathan Narbutas, Clem Dunkley, Ragwhan Ragwhan, Appy Swamy and Andy Unantenne.

Several issues were discussed and decisions made.

1. Revisions to the Website are being explored. President Dave King tabled a Scope of Works which the Committee will consider over the next few months.
2. Negotiations with the Brisbane City Council have been ongoing concerning the adoption of a new lease for Shed West.
3. The Shed has adopted a new accounting package and restructured the reporting of finances.
4. Special Interests groups are active including new ones focussed on Gardening and Art. The Land Rover project is nearing completion with the restored vehicle being run-in and minor adjustments being made. The WoodTurners have had a training session. The photography group is planning a trip to Bowra Sanctuary near Cunnamulla in September. A small group of walkers have been exploring the layout of Kenmore, Chapel Hill and Brookfield each Tuesday morning.
5. A wine, beer and cheese function is being organised for the 18th April.
6. The Committee approved a trial Saturday morning Shed opening session to start in July.
7. The Committee accepted a recommendation from the Information Technology Subcommittee to apply for funding to the Queensland Gaming Fund in collaboration with Lions FC for a replacement Laser Cutter, 3D Printer and accessories.

8. Authorisation was granted to the Photography Interest Group to purchase a small computer to manage the display of photographs.
9. A new training strategy was adopted to ensure that members using equipment become and remain competent.
10. Negotiations are to begin with Kenmore Village to hold a Market Place in November.
11. The Committee approved the cost of registering four members to the upcoming AMSA Conference.

Jim Watters, Secretary Shed West Community Men's Shed. (12 February 2026)

Special Interest Groups

Photographic Interest Group

Early evening on Tuesday 3 FEB, 6 members of the PIG set up tripods and cameras on the corner of Edward and Alice Streets at the bottom of the city to experiment in photographing light trails of motor vehicles travelling along Alice Street. It took a while for the light to be suitable by which time the volume of traffic had decreased somewhat to capture an array of light trails. The geriatric paparazzi created some interest with passers-by who enquired who we were waiting for. Anthony Albanesi and King Charles were typical smart-alec answers. No one was convinced!



Jim Watter's light trail of vehicles driving along Alice Street, Brisbane

Should you be interested in finding out more about the PIG, the next meeting of the group is scheduled for 4 March Wednesday at 9 am in the Donga. Discussion topics will include:

Reflections on the light trails photoshoot and subsequent trials;

Planning of the trip to Bowra (Cunnamulla) in SEP for a wildlife photo-shoot;

Next outing for a March photoshoot.

You don't need a super-beaut camera to participate. Some of us with expensive, sophisticated cameras don't know how to use them fully. These days you can take a petty impressive photo on a mobile phone with no skill necessary!

If you are interested in joining the PIG shoot at Bowra Sanctuary that will provide a fantastic opportunity to photograph the abundant birdlife like emus and the splendid fairywren (see page 6), contact Jim Watters. Note there is limited accommodation in Cunnamulla so book early.



Emus at Bowra Sanctuary (screen shot of Google Maps photo)



Splendid Fairywren at Bowra Sanctuary (screen shot of Google Maps photo)

Walking Group

Shed West walking group sets out at 7 AM each Tuesday morning for an approximately 1 hour, 4 to 5 km walk somewhere in Kenmore, Kenmore Hills, Chapel Hill, Brookfield. To date it's a small group of 3, 4 or 5 walkers, sometimes accompanied by border collie, Jack. We always fit in a hill or two to boost cardiac performance. The pace is moderate and regulated to match the slowest walker.



Valter, Kevin, Jim and Clem finishing the walk on 10 FEB 2026.

Vehicle Restoration Group

The rebuild phase of the Land Rover project coming to an end and work is now focussing on completing the vehicle and rectifying issues evident during test drives.

Ollie has been driven some 250 km since registration with no major problems evident. A constant noise in the drive line is still being looked at. Recent work included:

- Excess play taken out of the steering, steering box oil leak stopped.
- Wheel alignment, hub and prop shaft service, brake adjustment.
- Engine immobiliser installed.
- New fuel sender unit installed, fuel gauge now functioning.
- Vacuum line installed, fuel and accelerator linkage adjustments.
- Tow bar brackets fabricated, tow bar installed, trailer wiring to complete.
- Front vent brackets fabricated using steel plate. Vent knobs 3D printed.
- Rubber seals installed around the tailgate.

Outstanding work

The list of outstanding work is reducing. Most of what is left is labour intensive, and includes several smaller items where spares are not available and fabrication is required. Many of these smaller, more complex items were skipped over during the rebuild phase and formed part of the whiteboard list of outstanding issues.

Parts sales

We are now advertising surplus Land Rover parts for sale. This includes the set of wheels, front wings, bonnets, other body panels and grills. We had our first two sales in early February totalling \$215.00.

Completion and use

We are slowly getting some mileage up on Ollie with a bit of weekend driving. We particularly need to get the engine run in and shake out any unresolved issues. However, we are not driving outside the RACQ tow home limit just yet, making the Western Freeway a popular driving spot. Speed limited to about 75km/h with no side windows or roof, and constantly listening to rattles and squeaks. As previously discussed, with the outstanding painting and the humid weather over the summer, it will be at least April 2026 before the rebuild phase of the project is completed

Bruce Woodhouse

Shed West Vehicle Restoration Group

Bunnings Sausage Sizzles

Bunnings sausage sizzles that Shed West participates in provide the shed with useful income for the benefit of all members. A deal of preparation by Phil Batten and Neil Rogers WRT the purchase of quality sausages, onions, bread, sauces, drinks, ice, etc.

the assembling and checking of all the equipment needed, the rostering of members to cook and serve aims to make each event a success for Bunnings and their customers. Shed West endeavours to create a good impression so that Bunnings will continue to engage Shed West in sizzling sausages.

Shed West conducted a sausage sizzle for Bunnings at Oxley on 4 December as part of a staff and customer Christmas party.



Santa Claus role was performed by ???
Can you recognise who dressed as Santa and forgot to wear his shiny black boots

One Table Presentation

One Table Café and Shed West have created a strong bond that was recognised on 10 December 2025 when Bill Cristaldi presented One Table owner Haley with a unique award that he had created using the Trotec laser cutting and engraving tool. The recognition was due to the fact that One Table provided the venue for Peter Gross's fabulous wine and cheese tasting, the shed Christmas party on 22 November and has welcomed shed members, particularly those who work in the blue shed on Thursday mornings for lunch throughout 2025.



Kenmore High School picnic table completion

Kenmore Rotary Club provided funding for Shed West to undertake refurbishment of picnic tables at Kenmore High School. Five tables were stripped of deteriorated timber on 29 November 2025 over a few hours. Timber provided by Bunnings at a discounted price was prepared and in advance and fitted to the repainted steel frames on 21 January by Shed West volunteers.



President Dave King lying down on the job fully concentrated on driving home screws



Kenmore State High School ...

1d •



A heartfelt thank you to the Kenmore Rotary and Men's Shed teams, led by Neil Rogers (Shed West) and Geoff Haigh (Rotarian) for generously volunteering their time, expertise and funds to refurbish five of our student benches, ready for the start of the new school year. Your contribution will be enjoyed by our students for many years to come.

Kenmore High School Facebook page

Speakers for the Library Presentations are confirmed up to 5th May

Date	Speaker	Topic
3 March	Mel Franks	Emergency Preparation
7 April	Phil Castle	Life Events
5 May	Christos Mourtzakis	Senior Drivers

Shed West outings away

There are no outings yet planned for 2026 because we are missing an outings convener. If anyone has skills in organising outings and herding cats, you're the man we need to hear from to become the shed's social convener. Contact Dave King for information.

Communication from our friends in South Africa starting a men's shed

Hi to my friends at the Shed West Community,

To start off, may 2026 be filled with lots of peace, good friendships and prosperity.

As promised, I will try to keep you informed with progress with our attempt to start our own "Men's Shed" in our town (The dream is that the idea will spread to neighbouring towns). Well, we had our first meeting this morning and I am very exciting about what lies ahead. We are a group of men with lots of skills and qualities. Men who have "bought in" on the idea and who are eager to go ahead. More men will soon be joining us.

Although the men are already talking to each other regarding projects, our first goal (focus) is to find a premises from where we can operate. I trust that we will be able to find something soon. Even if it is just temporary to get started. So, I am pleased to report that the wheel has started turning, thanks to you guys from Shed West. We are really looking forward to the future. We already can see how the men respond to meeting new friends and are enjoying sharing ideas. Can't help feeling pleased .

Let me tell you about our "name". This is actually intend to be a joke. Maybe it will change again. If you directly translate the English term "Man cave" to Afrikaans, it will be something like "Mans Grot". Well, they decided to call us "Die Grotmanne" (Cave Men). This however may only be for a start.

Kind regards,

DENNIS KIRCHNER

Health and Safety Report



Emergency Evacuation Procedure

From time to time, it may be necessary to evacuate the shed as a response to Fire, Bomb or Personnel threats. In this addition of the Newsletter, I would like to talk about the Emergency Evacuation Procedures at the shed and some changes to these procedures. These changes are a result of a recent practice Emergency Evacuation, which highlighted some areas of the evacuation procedure that needed improvement or clarification.

In the past, the lunch bell has been used as the emergency alarm, however there was some confusion on the day, as to whether it was smoko time or an Emergency Evacuation. To overcome this confusion, the ringing of the bell as the Emergency Alarm, has been replaced by an airhorn. The airhorn will be activated by the Supervisor on Duty on the day. This airhorn is kept in the Shed Office. It is very noisy so you should have no trouble hearing it over the whole Shed West campus. Shed members who attended the February BBQ, will now be familiar with the sound and can vouch for its loudness.



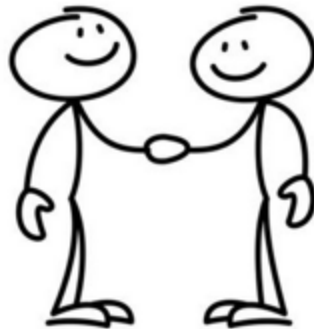
Shed members should immediately cease their activities when the Emergency Evacuation Alarm is sounded and not continue working. Shedders should follow the instructions of the Supervisor on the day.

All members and visitors on site should proceed to the Emergency Assembly Area, which is located adjacent to the left side of the entrance gate (as you face Brookfield Rd). All members should meet at this location, so that everyone on site can be accounted for (see photos below).



It is important that all members sign in and out of the shed, even if you are only at the shed for a short time, as this list is used to account for who is present at the shed should an emergency occur.

Remember our Health and Safety slogan to **Be Courageous** together.



Be Courageous:

- If you see a safety issue in the shed don't be afraid to take the initiative, fix it if you can (check with Supervisor as required).
- If you are not confident to fix or deal with a safety issue, then bring it to your Supervisor's attention.
- If you see a systemic issue, note it and firstly bring it to your Supervisor's attention for follow up and further action, as and if required.
- Have the courage to graciously accept the advice that you are being given by a fellow shedder when they tap you on the shoulder, if there is a safety concern.
- We support one another. If you see a fellow Shedder who is not their normal self, then have the courage to ask them how they are feeling and to discuss their feelings with them.

Ralph Dowling
Shed West Health and Safety Officer.

Birkdale Community Men's Shed Band

The editor happened to go to the Australia Day car display at Ormiston State School and came across this group of musicians entertaining the crowds.



Birkdale men's shed does not have a physical shed like Shed West and focusses on music, painting and drawing, craft, poetry, creative writing, card games, tai chi, day trips, information sessions, fortnightly barbecues and friendly chats. There are 80+ financial members who meet at the Birkdale Sporting Club. The men's shed band has about 50 members. The shed website advises:

“Birkdale Community Men's Shed is an arts based not-for-profit organisation dedicated to fostering camaraderie, creativity, and well-being among men in our community.

Our Purpose

We provide a welcoming and friendly environment where men—both skilled and unskilled—can:

- Pursue hobbies, pastimes, and interests
- Learn new skills, practice, and pass on old skills
- Gain knowledge about men's health and well-being
- Contribute to their families, friends, the Shed, and the community
- Mentor younger men

We welcome like-minded men who enjoy arts, crafts, music, poetry, card games, or simply a good old-fashioned chat.”

Australian Native Bee Hives



Colin Newton, local funeral director collecting bee hives made by Don Bray. These bee hives have special features favoured by Australian native bees.

Brisbane Native Bee Rescue and Removal website states:

“Australia has over 1650 Native Bees species, over 200 of these are found in and around Brisbane. Most of these are solitary bees and nest and work as individuals. A small number of Native bees are social and form colonies. These bees are known as Stingless bees or Sugarbag bees. Brisbane

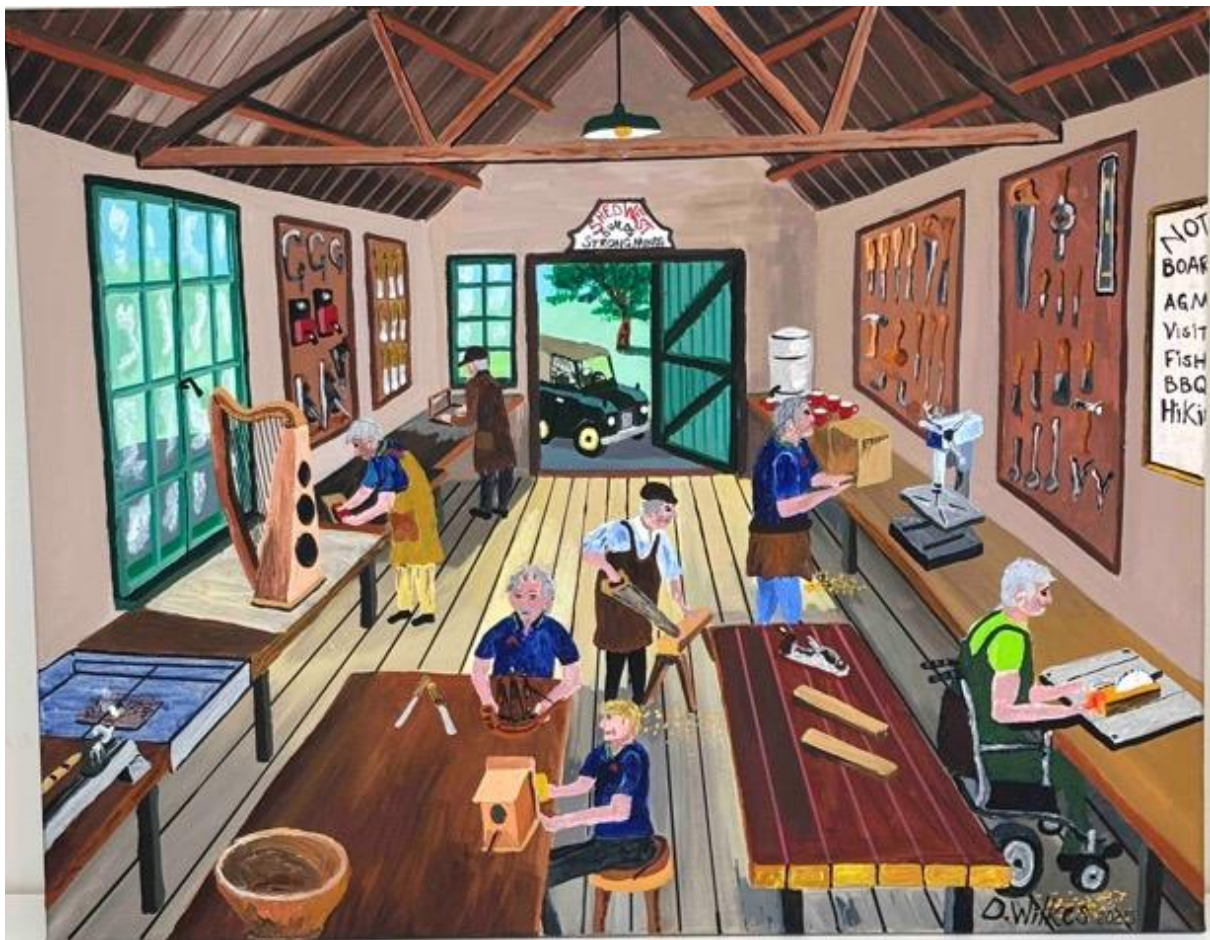
native stingless bees are important part of the environment and aid in the pollination agricultural food crops and native plants.

Native stingless bee species often found within Brisbane are *Tetragonula hockingsi* and *Tetragonula carbonaria*. These Bees are approximately 4-5 mm long, small black bees that form nests in tree hollows, retaining walls, water meter boxes and man-made cavities including under concrete.”

Medical Condition and Medication Disclosure Form

There is provision for Shed West to securely hold a document in which you can state medical conditions you have, pharmaceutical drugs that you have been prescribed and over-the-counter items such as vitamins you take routinely. The document could be useful to a QAS paramedic called to deal with you if you fall ill or collapse at the shed. Please consider providing this information on the form available at the shed office.

Dennis Wilkes’s representation of life at Shed West men’s shed



Shed West activities painting by Dennis Wilkes, 2025.

How many activities and shed members in Dennis’s painting can you name?