



# Bench Press

Shed West Community Men's Shed Inc. for Pullenvale Ward  
Number 30 October 2016

## From President Chris Young's Desk

Our AGM was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September and all Committee positions were filled. I am particularly grateful to Brain Creese and Russ Connor for accepting the demanding Secretary's and Treasurer's positions, both of which are critical to our organisation.

Your Committee now turns its attention to its vision for 2016-17, and in doing so, recognises the amazing effort put in by previous committees and individuals. It is beholden on the current administration to build on this platform. The 2007 vision of Cr Margaret de Wit, our local RSL sub Branch, various churches, Graeme Curnow, Max Lockwood, Alan Ernst, Richard Francis, Ken Martin, Malcolm Lewis, Malcolm Johnson and Graham Barnard, amongst others, has given us a wonderful outlet where we can acquire new skills, meet and socialise with very nice people, and have a caring place to while away our time. Thank you all.

equipment, and some funds available to expand on existing and new interests. There is enormous talent and experience in our membership, coupled with maturity, energy and willingness. We have commitment, and we care for each other. What other ingredients could we possibly need to make Shed West a wonderful organisation to be a part of?



Kenmore campus toys for sale at the Upper Brookfield School.

Our interests include woodworking, metalworking, pyrography, leatherwork, jam making, computers (including iPads & iPhones), cards, darts, library, photography and knife sharpening. Some of these activities are not readily visible, so we must spread the word amongst our membership as there may be other newer members who may be interested, and not know about them.

Which brings me to the things we do well, and the things on which we need to improve.

I feel we have certain activities we do well, such as woodworking, leatherworking and pyrography, the last two of which are real cottage industries in Kenmore, and fine leatherwork at Bellbowrie. We have regular weekly meetings with speakers thanks to the



James Browne and Peter Garland on the Bellbowrie jam stand at the Upper Brookfield School celebrations.

The heavy lifting has been done. We have two well equipped campuses with adequate

much appreciated efforts of Phil Castle and John Kahlert of Kenmore, and Rick Estella at Bellbowrie, and the occasional formal dinner organised by Russ Hawksford. We have a very comprehensive Workplace Health and Safety Policy developed by Neil McMeniman, and now Peter Dent has produced an excellent Information Handbook and Business Plan for Bellbowrie, both of which will be adapted for Kenmore. Unseen, but critically important, are the members such as Malcolm Johnson and Kev Mather at Kenmore, who quietly come in after hours to maintain equipment in the Shed. The same would apply at Bellbowrie.

Member communications, greater member participation in the mundane chores (meeting set ups, afternoon teas and the BBQ's) and an expansion of interests and activities are things at the Kenmore campus which need addressing and some leadership. Shed hygiene and cleanliness can be lax, and members using the Kenmore shed need to be aware of this to make it an enjoyable place to work for those following or arriving in the mornings. Simple clean up after you use the premises, be it coffee cups or sawdust. Be considerate.

Whilst I am not familiar with how Bellbowrie operates, no one has reported anything negative concerning this campus. In fact, Bellbowrie punches well above its weight. Well done.



Participants hard at work in the very successful whip making course at Kenmore Shed.

To build on this platform, there is a need at Kenmore for space for members to engage in long term activities, such as boat building and furniture making, with shared use by Bellbowrie based members. We have limited land on which to expand, so some thinking “outside the dots” will be required. Ideas welcome. I would also like to see expanded activities engaging more of our members, and I take this initiative



Malcolm Douglas hard at work in eth office at Kenmore Shed.

from a visit to the Mt Gravatt Shed where such activities as excursions and camping rate highly. Everton Park Shed repairs bicycles for charities and sale. We are only restricted by members not coming forward to express their interests, and being prepared to take some leadership in getting alternative activities started. Jacob Reinders expressed an interest in forming a music group at our recent meeting, so there is a start. Anyone interested?

We must encourage greater inter campus activity and cooperation, identifying which campus has a competitive advantage and facilities. Bellbowrie, for example has a workable kitchen allowing for cooking and jam making, a good little earner. Kenmore has its pyrography and metal working areas. Funds would be made available to bolster such activities in each location rather than duplicating specialist activities.

Finally, no organisation can exist without funding, and whilst we have adequate reserves right now, we would need substantial extra funds if we were to build a new shed for long

term projects, for example. In this regard, I would like to see greater fund raising activity, careful not to be seen as a commercial enterprise competing with local businesses. The focus therefore should be on genuine Shed related initiatives such as the upcoming Garage Sale, and the sale of our manufactured items, to augment the funds raised by Doug Nissen's project teams. Warwick Shed is a good model to be guided by. All members are encouraged to put forward ideas on how we can achieve this goal.

Thank you for the honour of appointing me as your President for the upcoming year. I am fortunate to have a very experienced and committed Committee to work with. We will need input and support from all members to make a difference this year, so please pass on ideas and criticisms in order to make our Shed more inclusive and functional.

### **AGM Shed West 2016 President's Report by Neil McMeniman**

First I would like to offer our condolences to the families and friends of the four members of Shed West who died during the past year, John Einersen, Terry Garry, John Edwards, and Roger Harding.

Our membership base stays relatively constant, with 217 financial members on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016. At our last AGM members endorsed and the Government has subsequently accepted our new Constitution. Graeme Curnow, a previous Shed West President and current President of Queensland Men's Shed Association, was awarded an OAM in the 2016 Australia Day awards for services to the Men's Shed movement. Congratulations Graeme. Several Shed West members attended the AMSA conference which was held at Newcastle in October. Two members, Grahame Brown and Graham Barnard, presented a paper at this conference.

A significant accomplishment for the year was securing a cottage on the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing site at Prior's Pocket Road, Moggill as our Bellbowrie facility. Many thanks are due to the

Bellbowrie Project Team, and in particular Graham Barnard, for the untiring efforts made



Members attending the AGM.



Fitting out the terrific new Shed at Bellbowrie.

to secure this outcome. Much work was done by the members to repair and renovate the cottage and in November it was officially opened by the local State Member of Parliament, Christian Rowan. Further effort has been made by the Bellbowrie members to secure funding and planning permission for a three bay shed adjacent to the cottage. At time of presenting this report construction of the shed is complete and it is in the process of being fitted out with a number of donated and some purchased tools. In addition to repair and construction activities Bellbowrie members have developed or are in the process of developing a range of activities.

The year has seen consolidation of our activities at the Kenmore site. In the Blue Shed

our less mobile members have developed their pyrography and woodturning skills and the leather-work group meets regularly. In the Green shed members have continued to pursue their own projects, do small repair jobs for members of the public and make toys for subsequent sale. On most Thursdays Doug Nissen supervises larger projects that have been commissioned by outside entities such as kindergartens. We have been involved with helping some organisations with their activities. Last year Shed West members constructed a 3m tall wooden tree to help the Kenmore Library celebrate Book Week. The tree currently has pride of place in the library. A similar tree was commissioned by BCC Central Library and a slightly smaller wooden tree was made for the Fig Tree Pocket State School. Neil Rogers and Dave Brown, constructed two Boccia ramps for the Cerebral Palsy League. Numerous other smaller pro bono projects for the public have been done by members.

Income from sales of items we produce, repairs of articles for members of the public, running BBQs at public functions is important in maintaining our financial viability. Thanks are due to all members who have been involved in these activities. More will be said about this in the Treasurer's report. We have been fortunate in receiving grants from the Lions Club (\$15,000) and the Rotary Club (\$2,000) and thank these organisations for their generosity. In May 2016 the management and staff of Jetts Kenmore gym conducted an auction of items they secured from Kenmore businesses and donated the proceeds to Shed West (\$2,300). Many thanks to Jetts.

In August 2015 Shed West hosted, in partnership with AMSA and other metropolitan sheds, a Donate4Life Expo on the Brookfield showground. While the public attendance at the Expo was a little disappointing, the event was successful in that on the day approximately 50 people signed up as organ donors. Proceeds from a BBQ conducted by Shed West members at the Expo was donated to the West Queensland Drought Relief. Appeal.

The Management Committee and sub-committees of Shed West have functioned well

during the past year. I must thank all members of these committees and the general membership for their help and cooperation in ensuring the smooth running of Shed West's activities. I wish the incoming Committees for 2016-17 all the best.



Smoko is the time to catch up with others when the machines are quiet.



Luckie Aluwshire at work in the Shed.

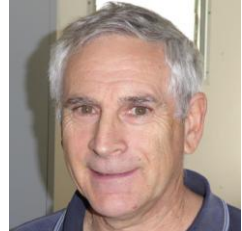
## Meet your committee



President Chris Young



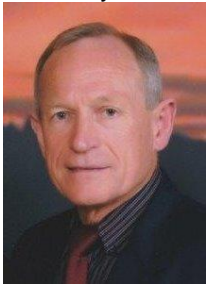
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Treasurer Russ Connor



Graham Barnard



Neil McMeniman



David Kerr



Grahame Brown



Doug Nissen



Ian Boundry



Jacob Reinders



George Rivers

## Graeme Curnow 2016 Life Membership



Graeme Curnow with his Life Membership Certificate presented by Neil McMeniman.

Graeme Curnow is our first Life Member in recognition for his services to the formation and early administration of the Shed.

Graeme retired from his employment at Unitab in 2007 and apart from serving as a Citizen's Advocate for a man in his 60's who had suffered from Cerebral Palsy since he was 7 years of age, was looking around for an interest in his post retirement period.

Graeme was encouraged by Rev Bev Bell, Rector of the Kenmore Anglican Church, who knew of his interest in Men's Issues, to get involved.

In Autumn 2007, Cr Margaret de Witt was organising meetings to gauge the community's interest in starting up a Men's Shed in her Ward. There were about 160 Sheds in the Southern States, but none to Graeme's knowledge in Queensland.

Graeme attended the second Community Consultation Meeting which was briefed by the co-coordinator of the successful Nambucca Heads Men's Shed on what was involved in starting and running a Shed. Various local Churches were involved, plus significantly the local RSL Sub Branch.

At the third meeting, the men who had shown sustained interest resolved to form a Steering Committee to establish a Men's Shed in the Pullenvale Ward. Mayor Campbell Newman

was very supportive of Margaret's initiative, and Council advised that it would make the Green Shed available as it wanted to create a Community Centre on the redundant Council Depot site, of which the Men's Shed would form a part. The Council made \$12,000 available as seed capital.

A number of planning meetings were held at various locations, with the Scout Hall in Branton Street becoming our temporary home until the bureaucracy finally approved the lease for the Green Shed. Among the members of the original steering committee were Alan Ernst, Richard Francis, Ken Martin, Malcolm Lewis, Malcolm Johnson, with Max Lockwood (who suggested the name Shed West) and Graham Barnard, both of whom have served time as Presidents. Other early members were Don Bray, Don Atkinson, Keith Foy and Charles Smith.

The first official meeting of Shed West was held in December 2007 in the Scout Hall where an attempt was made at making home brew – unsuccessfully, I am told. Weekly attendance was about 12 men, which gradually grew to about 30.

It was in August 2007 that Graeme was sponsored by the Council to attend the second National Conference of the Australian Men's Sheds Association in Manly, NSW, to learn about the establishment of a Shed, and what activities, etc, they could be involved in, and how the administration worked.

The Steering Committee was transformed into the Management Committee and Graeme was elected President, a position he held for three years.

Graeme, ably assisted by his newly formed Committee, spent a lot of time negotiating with the Council for access to the Green Shed, which was ultimately approved in October 2009.

From our records, Graeme appears to have served on our Committee until the AGM in 2014, a continuous involvement of some seven years.

## **Kenmore and Bellbowrie Programs**

Details of the weekly programs are emailed frequently direct to members and often promoted in the Shed West section of the free community publication *The Local Bulletin*.

## **Welfare**

Shed West has an active welfare program for members so if you know of a member (including yourself!) who is ill, in hospital, needs a hand at home or would in any way benefit from a little extra support, please don't hesitate to contact the Shed.

## **Specialist Groups**

There is a range of specialist groups who meet including; special projects, wood work, metal work, leather work, computers, pyrography, photography, cards, jam making and toy making. To find out more contact the Shed.

## **Editor's Note**

*Bench Press* contributions from members are welcome. Please be brief and if you are copying material from other sources such as the internet, please provide details so the source can be acknowledged or permission to republish sought.

## **Forward *Bench Press***

Feel free to forward this newsletter to friends and family. However, please exercise email etiquette by deleting the sender's email address when forwarding.

## **Interested**

Visit the Sheds at either 98 Brookfield Road Kenmore Hills or at Priors Pocket Road Bellbowrie any morning Monday to Friday. Enquire about the Tuesday afternoon meetings at Kenmore or Wednesday afternoon events at Bellbowrie.

## **More Information**

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