



The Shed Newsletter

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

December edition 11 DEC 2024

Shed West Community Men's Shed Inc.
98 Brookfield Road Kenmore.
PO Box 319 Kenmore Qld 4069
ABN 38 00 3 5 013

Phone (07) 3878 2825
shedwest@bigpond.com
www.shedwest.com

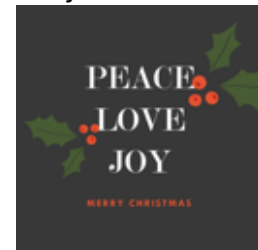
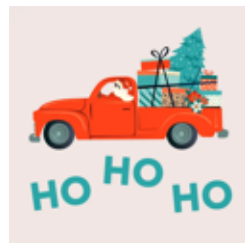
Shed West Community Men's Shed (Inc.) is a registered charity and member of the Australian Men's Shed Association and the Queensland Men's Shed Association.

Vale

The Secretary has circulated information received by Ron Williams that Blair Masterman, a former shed member passed away on 29 November 2024. Blair was a dedicated pen turner of long standing.

Christmas Shutdown

Note that the Men's Shed closes Friday 13 DEC and will re-open Monday 13 JAN 2025.



What's in this issue:

	Page		Page
Title Page.	1	Port of Brisbane tour	11
Shed West Sponsors	2	Fostering mateship & inclusion	12
Shed West highlights 2024	3	Wrought Iron	15
Shed Christmas lunch photos	4	Shed action photos	15
Christmas lunch raffle donors	5	Mystery object	16
Member feature – Michael Symes	6	Management Committee reports	17
Leatherwork – a year in review	8	Committee membership	19
EmergencyRedi™ workshop	9		
Cyber security talk	10		

Shed West Sponsors

Shed West is indebted to local politicians and businesses that support the shed's activities.



Greg Adermann
Councillor for Pullenvale Ward

Dr Christian ROWAN MP
State Member for **Moggill**

Note: Dr Christian Rowan recently donated a laptop computer to Shed West to replace a damaged laptop that is used to track the shed's finances.

ELIZABETH WATSON-BROWN
MEMBER FOR RYAN

Note: Green MP Elizabeth Watson-Brown donated a Christmas Hamper as a contribution towards the Christmas lunch raffle.

LEWIS BROS. MITRE 10

Mighty Helpful independent hardware store in KENMORE

Lewis Bros Mitre 10 provides discounts on Shed West purchases.

Shed West Highlights 2024

Some of the Shed's members achievements during 2024 included:



Custom storage cabinets for tools.



Racks for timber storage.



Plywood storage with feed-in rollers.



Landrover re-built engine starts and runs.

- Manufacture of chairs and tables for local kindergartens.
- Removal of the panel saw to free up floor space in the shed.
- Purchase of a Bosch mitre saw.
- Landrover project mechanical work is 95% complete. Bodywork is prepared for painting. The interior is 90% complete. The electrical system is advancing.
- Blue shed storage upgraded with racking and custom storage cabinets.
- Some great projects undertaken by the leatherwork group.
- Shed Christmas lunch attended by almost 90 people a resounding success. Photos below.

Christmas lunch participants





Shed Christmas Lunch Raffle Donors:

The Christmas Lunch raffle was possible due to contributions from local businesses. Shed West management and members are appreciative of the support provided by:

\$150.00 Gift Voucher from the Kenmore Tavern.

\$50.00 Everyday Wish Card from Woolworths at Kenmore Plaza.

\$50.00 Gift Voucher from Boutique Meats in Kenmore Plaza.

\$25.00 Gift Voucher from Method to the Madness restaurant. 3/9 Marshall Lane, Kenmore.

2 bottles of wine from First Choice Liquor adjacent to the Kenmore Hotel.

Fiori Kitchen & Bar in Kenmore Village Shopping Centre.

\$50 Gift Voucher from Bunnings Indooroopilly

\$50 Gift Voucher from Kenmore Plaza Seafoods

Member Feature – Michael Symes

The November Newsletter showcased Graeme Correll's interesting woodworking activity making musical instruments. This month's featured member has a hobby very different to woodworking yet requiring natural talent, tuition and disciplined practice to master. Mike Symes has been dabbling in water colours for a while and sent me some of his recent works to show to the Shed West membership.

Mike was a teenager when he became interested in painting. His architecture studies required him to partake in sketching and painting to enhance architectural drawings for the benefit of clients. We are talking decades before Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) started to enter creative endeavours.

A while back Mike met a shed member who was painting in water colours and encouraged Mike to join him at an art class to learn more about the technique. At that time Mike was comfortable painting in acrylic paints. Water colours was a harder painting technique to master and Mike was keen to attend the lessons to gain the skill. Mike considers he is now experienced but continues to attend lessons every week to continue to improve. Mike says painting serves as a distraction and diversion from tasks and responsibilities he has held for some years.

Mike prefers painting landscapes and seascapes and technically challenging subjects where perspective is important. He is also interested in sketching and using water colours to fill in and highlight the sketch. Mike's goal is to be sufficiently proficient to teach his grandchildren to paint. Mike hopes to one day paint some original works to exhibit in art shows.



More paintings by Mike Symes:



Leatherwork - A Year in Review (by Alan Ernst)

The leatherwork group is a small group who meet in the Blue Shed on Monday afternoons and have had a varied and productive year. Projects are predominantly of a personal nature and include new items such as purses, wallets, briefcases, platted belts, repairs and restorations for example Baden's rocking horse, for family, friends and fellow shed members. While some cross the boundaries into other disciplines such as woodwork, woodturning, pyrography in decorating a belt and car restoration as Peter makes new bonnet straps for his 1940s MG. New members are always welcome.

On a sadder note, was the loss of our long-term member Richard. We will miss his knowledge, experience, counsel and friendship.

Images



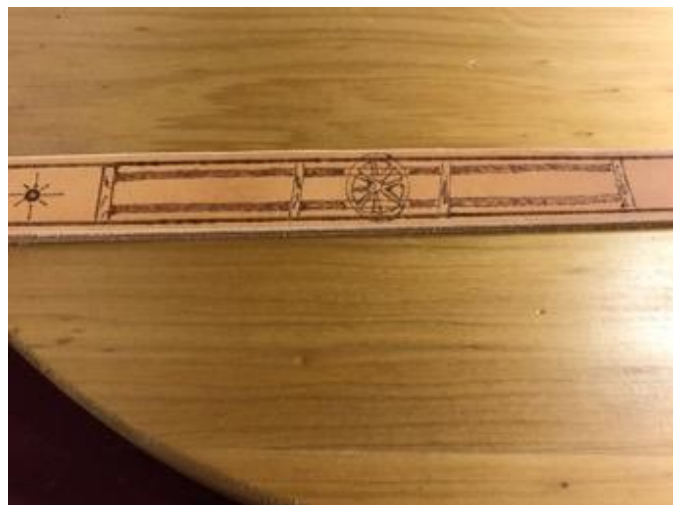
Alan's tool pouch



Greg making a briefcase



John lacing a wallet



Pyrography decoration on a leather belt



Peter working on belts for a car bonnet



Baden's restored rocking horse with new saddle and reins

Australian Red Cross EmergencyRedi™ Workshop, Tuesday 3 DEC 2024

Below is a prepared text from Australian Red Cross Emergency Services about the workshop that aims to educate people to prepare a RediPlan to help them survive an emergency. The workshop caused attendees to think about the sorts of emergencies that can occur, many without warning and guided us through various preparation strategies that would assist our survival. The website redcross.org.au/prepare will guide you to think about and create your own Rediplan. A mobile phone APP is available on which to create your Rediplan.

“Australian Red Cross EmergencyRedi™ workshops, in partnership with NRMA Insurance's HELP Nation Initiative, enhance disaster resilience through our award-winning Rediplan. These free workshops combine academic research with real-life experiences, offering practical strategies for psychosocial preparedness to help individuals and communities manage emergencies.

Workshop Highlights:

The workshops focus on building psychosocial capabilities, fostering social connections, and providing psychological, emotional, and practical support. Participants will learn to address emotional challenges, manage long-term disaster impacts, and develop resilience strategies.

Key Features:

- **Psychosocial Approach:** Manage the long-term effects of disasters; such as grief, housing loss, and income disruption. Get advice on family reunification, alternative accommodations, and safeguarding sentimental items.

- **Emotional Support:** Learn strategies to maintain emotional stability, well-being, and a sense of connection during and after crises.
- **Comprehensive Wellbeing:** Gain practical strategies for stress management, building resilience, and creating community support networks.
- **Building Stronger Social Connections:** Enhance social capital by nurturing community support and engaging in activities that foster collective resilience.
- **Psychosocial Capabilities:** Self-assess and develop resilience skills tailored to your specific needs and context, including creating a personalized EmergencyRedi™ Plan.

The EmergencyRedi™ program is ideal for individuals, households, adults, and mature teens. It complements existing hazard-specific plans by offering a more holistic approach to disaster preparedness.”

For more details, contact: QldEmergencyRedi@redcross.org.au

Cyber Security Presentation Tuesday 10 DEC 2024, Kenmore library

David Herbertson presented an interesting and thought-provoking presentation on risk management in the cyber world. He focussed on helping those who attended to get some insight into the way criminals think in this space and ran some scenarios to get the audience thinking about how they could access sensitive information. His message was that to protect yourself you have to think like a criminal. The session was interactive and lots of tips were provided about how to secure your information and who is responsible for ensuring security. David provided some critical links to enable one to check aspects of how secure their email passwords were and whether their information had been accessed at any time. The photo shows key websites that you can check out for further information. (Precis courtesy of Jim Watters.)

Cybersecurity Tips for home UBH

<p>eSafety Commissioner https://www.esafety.gov.au/ Online safety advice in your language. - Including "Subscribe to eSafety news"</p> <p>My top three tips for home Long, unique password for the 'keys to the kingdom': - home Gmail - home iCloud - home Photos</p> <p>Run all Updates, always - phones - laptops</p> <p>Don't put too much online - ...breadcrumbs to piece together ... - hurt to girls is unacceptable; hurt to boys can turn worse</p>	<p>Have I been pwned? https://haveibeenpwned.com Enter your email or phone number to see if it has been compromised in a data breach</p> <p>Leaked Password Check https://cybernews.com/password-leak-check/ Has your password been leaked online?</p> <p>Password strength Testing Tool https://bitwarden.com/password-strength/ Think you have a strong password? Find out.</p>
--	---

Port of Brisbane Excursion



On 18 NOV a party of 16 shed members, spouses and partners toured the Port of Brisbane by mini-bus after an introductory talk by the authority's publicity officer. The extent of port operations was an eye opener. Specific wharves exist for handling oil and petroleum, coal, fertilizer, woodchips and timber logs, grain, cotton seed and sugar, cement and clinker, motor vehicle, shipping container loading / unloading and cruise ships (terminal at Pinkemba). The port has eight 300m container berths (2,469m of quayline), which are leased and operated by three stevedores - Patrick Terminal, DP World and Brisbane Container Terminals - all of which use automated container handling equipment. The Port of Brisbane owns the land wharves and facilities and leases these to stevedoring, cold stores, warehouses, container storers, and businesses related to shipping, e.g. shipping container washing and fumigating. The port authority has long term plans for the site and continually reclaims land from the bay for future expansion. 30 years settling time is required for reclaimed land to become sufficiently stable and compacted for building on. Following the tour we adjointed to a café at Manly for lunch.

Fostering mateship and inclusion at Kenmore Men's Shed

Published On: 20 November 2024 Categories: [IDPwD 2024](#), [NDIS](#), [News](#), [Stories](#)

As International Day of Disability approaches, we are reminded of the importance of celebrating inclusion and creating opportunities for people with disability.

Over the last two years, Carers Queensland NDIS local area coordinators in the community, Leona, Carol and Simon, have been visiting a variety of local Men's Sheds to chat about and observe inclusion within the Sheds.

On their visits to Shed West in Kenmore, they were immediately welcomed to the table and were impressed by the inclusive practices established for men with disability.

"The Shed is a hive of activity, bursting with mateship, care and concern for each other. Shed West have great members who have always been conscious of creating an environment of inclusion," Carol said.

"To further inclusion at the Shed, they established the 'Blue Shed', which is a fully accessible shed, from the height of the tables to disability parking with direct access to the Shed, and inclusive projects where everyone contributes to the social dynamic."

Blue Shed supervisor, Warren Cameron, recognised a need and along with other committee members instinctively took action to enhance accessibility at Shed West, and create a more inclusive environment for members with disability.



"We raised the worktable by about six inches so that the guys who use wheelchairs can fit under it and use the table comfortably as a workbench," Warren said.

"During the summer months if one of the blokes became overheated, he would have to leave, that wasn't fair to him. So, at the Blue Shed we installed retractable awnings to give extra space and protection from the sun."

Beyond creating a supportive environment, Shed West is heavily involved in the Brisbane West community, making a range of wooden products such as timber plaques and love heart keepsakes.

"We have been involved with this organisation, Precious Wings, who came to us probably about six years ago. We put together memory boxes for women who experience the loss of a child in hospital," Warren said.

“We used to cut these small wooden hearts out with a saw. They were very basic and cumbersome, some of our members would use their pyrography pens and write the word ‘love’ or ‘remember’ on them, to go in the box.”

“The Precious Wings groups asked for a thousand of those, and we produced probably more over a period of time. It is a fantastic project,” Warren said.

After receiving a grant, the Shed was able to purchase a laser cutter to carve and engrave the wooden love hearts.

“When the hearts come out of the machine, they get sanded three times very lightly, and that’s something that Syd (Shed member) does,” Warren said.



Long-serving Shed member, 72-year-old Syd from Kenmore, tries to get out every day if he can, and has been enjoying coming to Shed West for over 13 years. He enjoys working on several projects such as crafting toys for children in need or creating the Precious Wings love hearts.

“When I first came, I used to help make the toys. It was a lot of sanding, which I can do. The hole saw leaves a ridge in the middle of the wheel, and I used to sand them off.”

“I’ve made hearts and stars. I used to cut them out and sand them down until they were right. I’ve done hundreds and hundreds of them.” Syd said.

“It made me feel good. That’s why I was doing it, and I really like the banter and visitors. I try not to miss it,” Syd said.

Another long serving Shed West member is 87-year-old Patrick who joined the Shed in 2010 and has been actively involved with increasing accessibility for members with disability, such as Syd.

“Syd does a lot of sanding. He’s got an electric sanding machine, which we clip onto his tray. His nickname is ‘Alexsander’,” Patrick said.

During those early years, he served as a committee member when the facilities required significant improvements.

“Going back to about 2017, I think it was, we had a problem with access for people with less mobility and the older people who just wanted to come and have a chat. So, I started a Thursday morning session over in what we call the Blue Shed,” Patrick said.

Transitioning from full-time work to retirement can be a challenging adjustment yet the Men’s Shed eases this transition by providing a social outlet as well as a new way of contributing to society.

“Social connection – it’s essential. It’s in human nature, and then we lose it. You know, Friday afternoon you’re a CEO of an organisation; Monday morning you’re a feather duster,” Patrick said.



“Everyone’s got something to contribute. There’s no Joneses. It’s the most egalitarian organisation you’ll ever be in. There’s one level and you’re on it.”

Former Head of Public Affairs for the Australian Federal Police, 77-year-old Phil has been attending Shed West since 2009 and is dedicated to enhancing the experience for men

with disabilities by providing a person-centred approach.

“I’ve known Syd for about twelve years. People look up to him. Geoff has been a long-term member too. Their views are on what we can and can’t do are important.”

“If you want to know what people with disability need, you just need to ask. They will tell you,” Phil said.

“It’s all about mental health because men need that support and that includes people with disability.”



With physical modifications, inclusive activities, and strong values in mateship, Shed West shows what a united community can achieve, and has become a great example of inclusion in action.

The Shed demonstrates the benefits of connections within the community and how working together we can build a more inclusive and supportive

society.

This International Day of People with Disability, we are celebrating organisations like Shed West, who are champions of inclusion and opportunity.

Be part of creating an inclusive and diverse community this International Day of People with Disability and visit our website www.carersqld.com.au/idpwd/.

Wrought Iron

If you are interested in revival of old wrought iron skills an article in the ABC News story “Preserving the ‘dying art’ of wrought iron metalwork in Broken Hill” might interest you. Peter Merrell found this article and this link [Read the full story](#) will take you to it.

Shed Action

Lots of good work is being done by members such as Kevin Goss – all of whom are turning up on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week to specifically concentrate on completing ordered items in time for Christmas.



Kevin Goss “absolutely nailing it” working on a timber bird feeder that is part and parcel of the massive order generated at our recent pre-Christmas Stall at the Kenmore Village Shopping Centre.



Neil Rogers installing racking in readiness for site works in JAN 2025.

Mystery object

No one was able to claim the prize for the November edition Newsletter mystery object. The item was a set of nozzle and tip cleaners for welding equipment such as an oxy-acetylene cutting torch and other gas / welding equipment.

This month's mystery object is a set of brass plates in a timber box dropped into the shed a few weeks ago. The plates are engraved with alphabet characters in capital and lower case formats plus numerals 0 to 9 in a font characteristic of Art Deco. Does anyone know what the purpose of these plates might have been?



Management Committee meeting reports:

Management Committee met on the 16th October and 20th November.

October

The October meeting was the last meeting of the 2023-2024 Committee. The new committee was elected at the AGM held on the 22nd October.

Two main items of concern were discussed. Legislation governing incorporated organisations changed in 2024. Hence there will be a need to update the Shed's Constitution to ensure alignment with both State and Commonwealth legislation. Irrespective of the wording of our constitution, the state legislation takes precedence over the text of any constitution. A Special General meeting may be necessary in the new year to address changes. However, discussions are continuing to refine the extent that changes can be made.

Reports were received from members who attended the AMSA conference. The report identified a range of topical issues that the Shed should take note of. Actions emerging from this conference are being progressed. These include the issue of lithium battery safety, male health concerns and the development of "Women's Sheds".

The Operations SubCommittee assumed full responsibility for planning for the Christmas Stall at the Kenmore Village.

St. John Herbert and Peter Gross were ratified unanimously as new members.

Regular reports from the Vehicle Restoration Group, and Storage Upgrade Project were accepted. Progress on the VRG is steady with projected completion in 2025. The Storage Project was completed within budget.

November

The 2024-2025 committee met on the 20th November. At the AGM held in October all members of the previous committee except Mike Symes were re-elected. Mike after many years of service on the Committee including that as President had decided to step down. There is a vacancy on the current Management Committee. The president remains Phil Batten, treasurer Shyam Verma and Secretary Jim Watters.

The key discussions at the meeting focussed on the new membership process. The process for ratifying new members follows the Constitution and is in alignment with State Government Model Rules for incorporated bodies. New members are required to have a sponsor. The application passes to the Management Committee following submission of the application and is there ratified. New members once ratified are provided with a Welcome Information Package and if necessary are provided with an induction program including training and certification on the use of equipment.

The Committee has reacted to the Auditor's report tabled at the AGM by establishing a group to examine the way financial reports are made and to explore the value of existing accounting software.

The issue of insurance coverage for members who leave the Shed's premises to undertake work. Activities done outside the Shed are deemed Sanctioned Activities if approved by Committee. Day to day practices involving approved Shed Projects that require members to work off site or acquire resources from suppliers were considered as Sanctioned.

The Committee was advised by Council that it will have Solar Panels installed sometime in 2025. This installation is at nil cost to the Shed.

The usual reports from sub-committees were tabled and accepted. Finally, movement on the redevelopment of the site is happening and the Redevelopment Subcommittee has continued to report on negotiations with Council and Contractors.

The next Shed West Newsletter will appear in your inbox during February 2025.

Committee Membership & Responsibilities

President	Phil Batten	shedwest.president@gmail.com
Vice President	Gerald Barber	
Secretary	Jim Watters	shedwest.sec@gmail.com
Treasurer	Shyam Verma	shedwest.treas@gmail.com
Committee Member	Ian Boudry	
Committee Member	Gavan Clarke	
Committee Member	David King	shedwest.social@gmail.com
Committee Member	Stuart Reed	
Committee Member	Neil Rogers	
Committee Member	Doug Wait	
Committee Member	Bruce Woodhouse	
Committee Member	vacancy	

Operations Sub-Committee

The operations sub-committee is responsible for the management of the Shed. This includes, maintenance and health and safety aspects.

Neil Rogers (Chair)	neiltrogers@optusnet.com.au
David Arnold	arnoldda@optusnet.com.au
Warren Cameron	wm.cameron@bigpond.com
Gavan Clarke	gavan@seehills.net
John Lippiatt	jelippiatt@gmail.com
Peter Merrell	petermerrell@aapt.net.au
Doug Nissen	dougniss@tpg.com.au
Ron Williams	willronchris@bigpond.com
Doug Wait	dwait@bigpond.net.au

Other Responsibilities

The following members are point of contact of a range of special tools and functions.

Social Events Coordinator	David King	dave@thekings.id.au
Trotec Laser Coordinator	Ross Monks	ross@rossmonks.com
3D Printer Coordinator	Jim Watters	jjwatters@gmail.com
CNC Router Coordinator	Neil Rogers	neiltrogers@optusnet.com.au
Auditor	Tom Usher	tomusher197@gmail.com
IT Consultant / Web Site	Ray Johnson	pamray19@tpg.com.au
Shed Trailer Coordinator	Phil Batten	phil.liz.batten@bigpond.com
Newsletter Editor	Gilbert Logan	gilogan51@gmail.com
Community Liaison Officer	Jim Watters	Shedwest.Sec@gmail.com
Leatherwork	Alan Ernst	ernsts@bigpond.net.au
Wood Turning	Gavan Clarke	gavan@seehills.net
Vehicle Restoration Group	Bruce Woodhouse	bmwood@bigpond.net.au
500 Cards	Ross Monks	ross@rossmonks.com