



Newsletter No 16

P.O. Box 8127 Sth Gladstone QLD 4680

ABN 86366363924

E-Mail ... menshed4680@hotmail.com

Shed phone (on Shed days) 0478 093 066

Welcome back to the Gladstone Men's Shed Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a little more information during this period of the shed closure due to Covid19 regulations. However our principal means of communication remains the web www.gladstonemensshed.org Please forward this newsletter on to anyone you think might be interested, and feel free to give any feed back to menshed4680@hotmail.com

Member News:

Valedictory Errol Page

It is with sadness that we advise members of the death on 27th March of our long term friend and active member, Errol Page. Despite Errol also having commitments to other organisations principally Blue Care and the Maritime Museum, he was always keen to help in the Shed and be one of the first to volunteer for our extra events either in the Shed or outside like our visits to Bunnings. Not shy of anyone to have a chat, Errol was indeed an ideal person to have around our shed environment. He also found the time to be a great companion for his wife, Beryl, and was always on the search for the best medical treatment for her. Our thoughts are now with Beryl and their family at this sad time and when a memorial service is later organised we will indeed let you know.

News on Tom Stewardson

We have also been informed that one of our founding members, Tom Stewardson, has required the expert medical services of an Intensive Care Unit. He is now out of ICU but continues to receive treatment in hospital and unfortunately with the national medical demands at this time it is not possible to have other communications with Tom and we will rely on his Rotary friends and in particular, Fred, to keep us updated and hopefully pass on the message that we want to see Tom fit & well and back in the Shed very soon.

Mal's Message

For better news Mal Ford is home (or "in his shed at last") after 2 months of receiving medical treatment in Rockhampton and enjoying interaction with our long-standing friends at the Gracemere Men's Shed along the way.

Mal has to return for some tests in 5 weeks' time, which will let us know if the radiation has been successful. Hopefully the corona virus will be on the wane by then and we can celebrate the return to normality for all in our shed once again. Many thanks to Mal for penning a poem for the interest of our boys and it all helps to alleviate some of the withdrawal symptoms from our beloved shed:

ODE to a PROSTATE

I was planning to build boxes
To distribute around the nation
To save the birds and possums
From the bushfire situation
Then from below the bush line
The probing doctor felt
A growing abnormality
In a spot below the belt
Now prostate is a funny thing
It sometimes doesn't show
After a hundred tests and X-rays
They found radiation was the go
Now I'm travelling up to Rocky
For five days every week
To lie inside this big machine
And listen to it squeak
The nurses tell me not to move
And to keep my tats in line
It takes me three rotations
And I've finished No 9
These people there that run the show
Michelle, Peita, Dan and Paul
Now that is just to name a few
They are Hero's one and all
From the early morning start-up
To the end of every day
They are forever winning battles
As they send us on our way.
There is another person
In amongst all this strife
She's always been my best mate
That's Joy my darling wife
She's stuck with me through thick and thin
Through snow and falling rain
She's been with me to hell and back
And would do it all again
There's not a lot to do
After treatment every day
So I thought I'd try a Men's Shed
To pass the time away
Someone said that Gracemere
Was the place to go and see
A place they said had all the gear
Which sounded good to me
So I met Chris the president
He showed me around the place
From panel saw to smoko room
And lots of open space
I'd like to thank the shed
To help me run this race
To be among blokes like you
Keeps me in a better place

- M.D.F.



Who Remembers:

Another one of the series, pretty sure it was Graham Bruce who said he lived in Gladstone because it was so dry that he didn't have to use one of these in the good old days –



In the Workshop (or Let's Go Fishing):

Hope that somebody had a look at the Gregory Machinery link with the YouTube Videos last week. Yes, we have project videos that we can list, but this week thought we might do something different, you might call it travel, or fishing or simply cannot BEAR to watch it, but typical of all fishing stories, the fish have really disappeared in the few days between finding the spot and telling you about it -

[Brooks Falls](#)

Simply click on the above or using the Control Key on your keyboard at the same time as Right Click on your mouse, they are all checked beforehand so a safe site to proceed to. Sometimes it has been quick to load and sometimes there is briefly a moving squiggle on the screen, but it still loads without too much of a wait. For the travel bugs the location is Brooks Falls in the Katmai National Park, Alaska.

Equal Rights During Covid19:

In fairness to all we will publish both sides of the situation:

**My thoughts going out for all
those poor married men
who've spent months telling
the wife
"I'll do that when I have time"**



**How long is this social
distancing thing supposed to
last? My husband keeps trying
to come in the house!**

Getting to know your Shedders:

With many thanks to the members who have written ½ page about their wonderful life to share with all members, this week the contribution is from one of our newest members, Geoff Saunders. Those who did the First Aid Certificate training will remember Geoff and Annie from there:



Hello shedders, president Ron has requested a few words from me by way of introduction for those who may not know me, and as I am a 'new chum' in the shed.

Originally from Southampton in the UK, my father was a chief seagoing marine engineer who provided me with a great knowledge and love of all things engineering. Educationally I was fortunate to progress through the system graduating from third form sixth at grammar school then entering into engineering in the hydrocarbon processing industry and gaining tertiary qualifications in mechanical and structural disciplines mainly in design. I married and we were blessed with four children, three boys and a girl. During early Thatcher government years in UK we decided to emigrate and came to Australia in 1983 entering through Brisbane which was a very fortunate mistake as we were meant to go to Melbourne – but that is another story completely!! Having arrived in Brisbane we moved as a family to Rocky as that was where the work drew me in late 1983, and where I maintained my base until 2005.

My career in Oz has continued in engineering mainly in holistic project design and project management for chemical processing, mining and minerals handling, rail layouts and rolling stock safety modifications, all embodying mechanical, structural and civil elements with input to electrical and instrumentation requirements relative to the final layout. In this I have been employed directly by manufacturers and users of the machinery, as well as consultant engineers, and worked for many organisations both in Oz and abroad as a self-employed consultant designer and drafter for around 16 years.

My second (and current) wife Annie and I moved to Gladstone in 2005 as I accepted a position with Worley Parsons, and it was time for a 'tree-change' for us. The GFC of 2009 brought a further career change and I went to Gladstone Ports Corp in the engineering department at RG Tanna Coal Terminal where I spent ten-and-a-half years until I retired last August 2019.

During my time here in Oz I have also furthered my tertiary studies and graduated with both a Bachelor in Business in supply chain management, and with a Graduate Certificate in environmental management.

As a combined family Annie and I have seven children between us, and twenty-four (I think) grandchildren between the ages of 26 years down to six months. Christmas is as interesting as you may well imagine! Of our children all the boys (4) are in the Oz Army or Navy, and the girls have found careers in nursing, education and HR management.

Management Committee News:

Last time we talked about boring sub-committees and the great things they are achieving, so this time let's look at something exciting like the Constitution and Membership Fees.

The reason for that is because at the end of March we have received a letter from the Office of Fair Trading that they will not approve our December changes to the Constitution. However on reading the fine print, they only have objections to the changes in clauses 42(4) and 42(5) where we tried to take into account the effects of inflation and move the maximum cash payments from \$100 to \$250 per payment. We will talk to the department and see if we can simply drop those increases back to the original \$100 and get the rest of the tidy-ups through without the need for another Special Meeting. We will keep you informed on progress there.

We also appreciate the shed spirit is still alive and well, in the first week of the new year for our membership fees of \$45, we have had 25% of members paid already – thank you very much. Of course we will not demand for them to be paid before the shed reopens, but any offers will always be gratefully received. The bank account details for the Gladstone Men's Shed are A/C 121005342 and BSB 084662. We will do you the courtesy of an email to let you know we have received your payment.

Shed Online:

Did anybody have a look at Shed Online from last week or even logged themselves on as an individual? One of the sheds down south has had an online morning tea, that could be a bit of strain on Telstra if our boys make their usual noise, but there are good ideas in there to maintain community spirit, especially if this runs for a few months, which it is starting to look like.

Some of the other possibilities like exercises, projects etc are still being developed and of course now the shed movement is very much established around the world, we could always adopt an international shed to exchange news and ideas. In addition to the old country and those across the ditch, there are now 17 sheds in the USA and 25 in Canada and no doubt some of them may be a little envious of us right now, even if we think we are doing it tough.

Happy Easter:

Don't want anybody to say that we are not doing our job, so to give you proper notice –



Oh, not what you were expecting, maybe something a little more flowery –



Thanks again to Mal and Geoff for their contributions and to Fred for letting us know what is going on. You are welcome to give us any feedback or have suggestions/member updates/stories, the best way is an email to menshed4680@hotmail.com or to give Dave a ring on the shed phone or Ron on 0408980175

Until our next contact, STAY SAFE and KEEP WELL