



Newsletter No 17

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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

WHO REMEMBERS?



We should almost give a prize for those with the 1st right answer to "Who Remembers", of course this one was rarely needed when our minds were sharper and we could remember phone numbers like 5 (in my case, the fire station), 6 (Club Hotel, but more regularly used than 5) or 390 (Mum, I am not coming home for tea because of 6).

President's Ramblings:

As promised, we continue to update the material on our web www.gladstonemensshed.org and over Easter have added the latest Bargara newsletter. There are a few items in that newsletter that are similar to our experiences or plans, that may be worth restating here:

Member Profiles – trust you have enjoyed reading the life experiences that we have published on members so far. Bargara have published 25+ stories by now and as ours is only ½ page or so, please make the effort if you have been asked already or spontaneously want to make a contribution, it really is for the interest of all.

Shed Activities – yes, we are mainly a workshop orientated shed, but also it would be a fair comment that in the last year we have not converted many membership enquiries into having new members share the companionship and fellowship that some of us currently enjoy. Bargara have just built a card playing table for that particular group of members, so it is worth remembering that there is no rule that Gladstone only offers metal or wood working activities and the highlight of the day should be when everybody gets together at morning tea.

Defibrillator/Band Aid Box/First Aid Kit – You all will have noticed that trend in the last 12 months to have defibrillators in public places like the supermarkets etc and how even the use of one saved the life of one of the Wiggles at the Bushfire Relief Concerts, they work best when the person nearest to the patient uses it quickly, so when you have an opportunity, everybody should be comfortable with the ease of using a defibrillator. Bargara have similar experiences where many items get consumed out of First Aid supplies without anyone knowing, recently our Band Aid Box was empty so thanks to Maurie Fraser for regularly checking on that now. That leaves the First Aid Kit, again everybody should be aware of the contents and of course it would be wonderful to have a volunteer to check on missing or out-of-date items – with all of these safety items the member reading this may be the person who is in need of those services one unexpected day.

Roll of Honour Board – again in their latest newsletter, you will see Bargara's fine example of an Honour Board remembering their members who have since passed away. Gladstone has discussed doing similar in times past without ever making a commitment, but we may even be losing track of those members. These are the ones that I can recall, but there may be others, so any contributions to complete this list would be appreciated:

Ken Croft
Lawry Grant
Graham Bloomfield
Trevor Laver
Kerry Brown
Jim Woergoetter
Errol Page



Social Distancing bench seat

News on Tom Stewardson:

Thanks Fred for keeping us up to date on Tom. The latest just before Easter was - Tom is still progressing slowly, feeding himself and with help is starting to walk. He is talking a lot more fluently, out of ICU but progress is slow. Please no contact with the hospital and no visitors yet.

More Poetry:

Mal's effort was "goodo" last week, but think it was Fred who gave us this back in 2015, it may not be politically correct, but then that could be why it is called **The Shed** - I'm an everyday Australian boy, an Aussie through and through.
Some things to me are sacred like "Fair dinkum" and "True blue".
You'll see me give and take a lot. I'll even share me home.
But there's one thing that's mine and mine alone and that's me bloody shed.

My little shed is my domain. It's my special place.
And I don't need nosy females trying to tidy up the place.
Now I'm not an anti-feminist and with girls I do not brawl,
But the sheilas that I want in there are hanging on the wall.

They just sit there looking lovely, with a twinkle in their eye.
And if they don't wear underwear then don't ask them why.
You see I don't need interference with decisions that I make,
And I don't need someone whinging if some little thing I break.

Yet my wife is 'oft complaining that the place is such a mess
But I'm never in a quandary, and I never have to guess.
See I know where every nut and bolt and every spanner is.
And every rag and tin of oil and things marked "his" and "His".

Where me radio's always blasting, I can listen to Rock & Roll.
Yes I'm truly lord and master, and I'm always in control.
There is nothing there to worry me, I've got this endless grin.
And I keep the fridge stocked full of stubbies in case me mates drop in.

I don't mind bits of grease and grime and I don't mind bits of fluff,
I'll get me broom and clean it up when we've had a bloody-nuff.
And I'll be listening to the footy when I'm tired and all alone.
Or laugh when Lawsie glorifies the golden microphone.

But there's some things not needed when I'm in me shed.
Like, "Leave your boots outside the door, or stay outside instead".
Where no one tells me what to do, or tells me I'm so smart.
And I can scream and rant and curse and bloody fart.

So come on all you Aussie boys, take heed of what I say.
Stick a sign on your shed door saying "Sheilas keep away".
It is our last untouched frontier, and I'll leave the rest unsaid,
I might be just a pawn outside, but I'm king inside my shed.

Covid19 Updates:

Have you seen the new Arcade Game, it is very popular with the adults:



In the Workshop:

On the internet this week is a link to many YouTube videos presented by Carbatec, who not only supplied some of our large machinery but some smaller items like the Kreg Jig and the Tormek Drill Sharpener. So you will find a lot of good demos and guides on this link for those tools and more:

[Carbatec](#)

Their Busy Making catalogue has also just been released this month and there are many items in there for your "wish list" so the link is also attached for a bit of light reading:

[Busy Making](#)

There are some good ideas in the catalogue from you beaut glues to new items the woodturners could make for sale at the markets, whatever opportunity that may be in the future. Carbatec do offer Men's Shed discounts so please ask if ordering direct and you never know if there was enough interest this Shed could offer consolidating the orders and freight as a service to members.

**"What did our parents do
when they were bored
before the internet?"**

**I asked my 26 brothers
and sister and they didn't
know either.**

Member Profile:

Hope you are enjoying the member profiles, this week is the lively life of secretary Alan Armour, or in technical terms "A squared" –

Alan was born in Warragul, Victoria in 1944. He was the 4th generation to live on his family dairy farm. He went to school at a one room rural school, with 24 fellow students, which catered for grades 1 to 8, although later finished at grade 6. Alan was always interested with electrical stuff and used to tinker with old radios and other odd bits of electrical gear. Somehow, he grew disenchanted with 4am starts to life on a dairy farm and was lucky to get an apprenticeship with the local Radio and TV dealer as a radio and tv serviceman. In those days all tv's used valves and were mostly 17 or 21 inch black and white. His boss was an ex RAAF radio engineer and everything had to be done to admiralty standard, including installing TV antennas. He also made the announcement one day that we should all go and learn about these newfangled transistor gadgets, just in case they catch on!

Alan was looking to further his technical skills and answered an advertisement to retrain as an instrument fitter at a very forward-thinking company in Melbourne, called Kodak. This was an era when industrial instruments were changing from traditional mechanical, hydraulic, and mechanical (including clockwork) to electronic. The thinking was it was easier to employ someone who already have electronic experience and train them on the traditional control system technology. Alan's mentor was an ex RAF aircraft instrument maker who came from a British family of clock and watchmakers. It wasn't long before Alan was stripping and rebuilding his own 17 jewel incablock watch.

The 5 years that he worked at Kodak was amongst the happiest of his life. It was towards the end of that era that he met his wife, Chris. They met at St Moritz skating rink and Chris had just emigrated to Australia from England and had been learning ice dancing in the UK. Their common interests were ice skating, snow skiing, travel, and bush walking.

At about that time Alan had a chance meeting with a bloke in a pub after a footy match. He was the Instrument Supervisor at APM's Alphington paper mill, and soon enticed Alan to change industries via the offer of a 50% wage increase! So, he soon became their sensor specialist and had a huge range of learning to do, plus get used a very different noisy, smelly, hot and very "Blokey" work place. During this time he was sponsored by APM to enrol in a new course at RMIT called Associate Diploma in Control Systems. He was amongst the first 4 to graduate and not before time, as the city lifestyle wasn't in agreement.

In 1975 Alan and Chris had a big year, with the arrival of their first child, and taking possession of a 150 acre farm south of Traralgon in Gippsland on the same day. So, a transfer to Maryvale paper mill near Morwell soon followed, and Alan continued with being a sensor specialist. He made close friends with the field engineer who maintained the computer control systems at the mill and was enticed to join their company based in Silicon Valley. So it was off to Cupertino, California for an extended training course after which he was posted as senior field engineer at the paper mills in Millicent, South Australia. Later he was transferred to Devonport, Tasmania which was the largest site in Australia for the company. There was

a new paper mill opened at Albury which was the sister machine to the largest machine in the world. When approached to make yet another transfer in a few short years, the family burred up, and as there were already indications that the paper industry was headed for trouble (start of the paperless society) Alan decided on an industry change.

In keeping with leaving behind a path of wrecked industries Alan decided to work at a coal fired power station and in 1982 joined Gladstone Power Station. Gladstone was good for the family and now the kids have left town, but Alan and Chris are still here. In 1994 the power station was sold to NRG and Rio Tinto and as part of the transition existing employees were paid all or some of their super. Alan and Chris used some of the money to purchase a 2 bedroom beachfront holiday unit on Magnetic Island with the intention of moving into it when they retired. They have been returning to the island frequently and are well known to a lot of locals. Alan was a member of the Magnetic Island Men's shed for 2 or 3 years before joining Gladstone Men's Shed.

Alan and Chris have been retired for about 12 years and finally decided that downsizing to a 2 bed unit wouldn't fit their life style so earlier this year have bought a block of land about 10 minutes walk to the beach and 2 minutes walk to the Men's Shed, and will build a 4 bed house on it.

Futurama or Coincidence:

The picture below was also taken out of a supplier's email, it looks very close to the project that Bob and Darrel have been working on since Christmas, once some normality returns to our daily life, we better make sure Jim rejoins the team so that they reach consensus on how to get the cupboard doors back on nice and straight (ps Bob also reckons the article is right about keeping you busy) -



Why not fix up that antique cupboard?

Some new paint and fixtures will bring new life to your furniture and keep you busy!

Final Comment for the Week:

This is the latest we have heard from Gibbo, John Keenan has not mentioned the same problem at his place (maybe he has lots of shelves), but Terry is building more just in case - "Every time my wife needs a job done around the house, she puts a post-it note on the shelf in the kitchen. The first job I need to do is build another shelf as she has run out of room!"

Hope you are getting a bit of fun out of these newsletters and it helps to stay in touch with the enjoyment we use to get out of the Gladstone Men's Shed, see you back there as soon as we are allowed to safely do so!

