

## Newsletter No 19

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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](http://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](mailto:menshed4680@hotmail.com)*

### President's Update:

Even with the restrictions reducing this coming week we still cannot give you an idea when the Shed will reopen, but there is always hope. To update on some of the issues since the closure, first is the project to enclose a further 120 sq.m. over the concrete pad at the back of the existing shed. The representatives from both the Project Manager, Exacto, and the prospective builder, Shed Boss, were on site last week. The final quote has ended up being about \$3k more than expected or \$2k more than what we could have got out of the grant. As Shed Boss is still the cheapest we will proceed and the Building Applications should be lodged about now, work is still planned for completion in June. We will give the Gladstone Regional Council a little further grace before we start chasing them again on the extra block of land, but it has not been forgotten.

Gladstone Physio & Fitness had left a phone message just before the temporary closure to explain why we had not heard from them on our attempts to start off the exercise sessions. That is sounding positive again, but we will not talk to them until we know when we are returning to the Shed. To recap we were looking at a start-up session on Friday mornings (and followed by a relaxing morning tea), some members had filled out their forms for the physio, but once we know where we are going with this we can judge the ongoing interest and issue a refresher on it all.

The Electronically Controlled Router Project is also progressing with the ordering of materials during the closure. So far we have ordered \$1,500 worth of items and as some will be coming from overseas there will be a bit of lead time. By the time we resume, members should be able to watch and participate in the start of some physical but interesting work on building the router.



### In the Workshop (Or on the Net):

Back to the action this week with one of Dave Moore's favourite toyshops – Timbecom. They have a great saying, Keep Calm Get Woodworking.

Once into their YouTube site from the link below the first episode starts a little fuzzy, but don't worry it clears -

[Timbecom](#)

They also sent out a flyer on their Freud router bits, which leads into other videos on routers and woodturning, so hopefully there are ideas in there to help you to keep calm and get woodworking (especially when the shed reopens) -

[Routers and Woodturning](#)

### Jokes that Men will Understand:

A man tells a Rabbi: "I have a strong desire to live to eternity. What am I supposed to do?"

"Get married," replies the Rabbi.

"It's that simple? Would that allow me to live forever?"

"No, but the desire will disappear."



**MY WIFE SAID THAT IF I DON'T  
GET OFF MY COMPUTER AND HELP  
WITH THE DISHES, SHE'LL SLAM MY  
HEAD ON THE KEYBOARD, BUT I  
THINK SHE'S JOKINDSG67SGH3DHGJ  
RE7490DNDWHK3-2J4H37SHDUDKIJ  
SD877HR8SK020A3Y3H3J3UHU338JE  
SU83J8R**

### **Member Profile:**

You will have figured from last week, it would be nice to hear from one of our members who is a real Gladstonite, it has been a real family affair (maybe this is reducing the boredom of isolation at home) to have provided this interesting story on **Graham Bruce**:

Graham John Bruce entered this world at Gladstone Hospital on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1941 then became the big brother of Patricia and Margaret. The eldest son of John McLean Thomas Bruce and Kathleen Bridget Bruce (nee Jordan) he was also lucky enough to grow up with both sets of grandparents also living up the road, so received the benefit of their influences over this formative years. Unfortunately, Graham's youngest sister, Margaret, died of bone cancer when she was only 16.

The Bruce family lived on a farm at Taragoola and when Graham started school at the local Riverston one teacher school, it took him about one and a half hours each way horse ride through bush, with the girl from the next farm, to attend school each day. When Graham's parents moved to 43 Toolooa Street, Gladstone, Graham spent the rest of his primary school years attending the local Star of the Sea Catholic school. He managed to survive that era without being permanently scarred by the Sisters of Mercy vicious and often cruel treatment and made great and loyal friends at both schools.

Graham then attended the Gladstone State High School and at the end of Year 9, he got a carpentry apprenticeship with an old local firm, M A Busted and Sons, for which he was forever grateful. Old M A (as he was known), was a hard but fair taskmaster, ably helped along by sons Mick and Frank.

Graham has never been afraid of hard work and long hours and with his wife, Pat, started their own building business and successfully ran this business for over 30 years, with eventually both their sons working with them in the construction industry. For a few years, we completed about 55 houses a year. It was a proud day when the home we built for Bill and Maryanne O'Reilly on Young Street, Barney Point, won the Qld Master Builders House of the Year in 1999.

While still at primary school Graham had always trained and ridden his grandfather's racehorses. He also acquired unbroken horses that he then patiently broke in and sold. So it would be fitting that he would then go on to meet the first great love of his life – Blondie!! Blondie was an excellent type for a brumbie who was running around Coases Hill /Seaview Heights. Graham caught her, broke her in, and rode her for many years as his great mate and Polo horse. It was a heartbreaking day that faithful old Blondie took her last breath, at about 32 years of age.

Soon it was time for human loves to enter Graham's life. In 1965 Graham heard there was a new teacher in town and that she went to Mass on Sunday night, so ever the clever one, Graham used to arrive at the steps of Sunday night mass and look out for any new 'talent' in the congregation. He wasn't going to get caught out without having a sneak preview!!!

The rest was history as they say. Graham and Pat got engaged at Christmas 1967 and the next Christmas got married at St Joseph's Catholic Church at Kangaroo Point in Brisbane. In our engagement year, while Pat was at Caboolture teaching, Graham built our first house at weekends and every daylight hour he had – even still finishing it off just before the train left to take him to Brisbane.

Of course, there was only one way this little adventure was going to go – DOWN! The hottest December day in many a year and, and Graham would have been exhausted from all his long days of building. So, while waiting at the altar he told his best man, Bryan Jordan, that he wanted a drink (meaning water!) – remember that, Bryan, you thought he meant D R I N K and found it tremendously funny. So Pat walks up the aisle in all her finery, Graham lands in a dead faint at her feet and all that didn't stop the old Monsignor from marrying us. His voice boomed out to the altar boy "get a chair, boy, and sit him down" and he then proceeded to marry us with Graham sitting down. Monsignor wasn't going let a small thing like a fainted bridegroom stop a good wedding.

Suffice to say, after 52 years of married life, we have had a good life with 2 wonderful sons and an extended family of grandchildren. Over the years they have given us a lot of joy. Graham loved working for himself as a builder and we both enjoyed working together in the building trade. The boys both still practise their trade and often quietly enjoy taking over a home or yard project that Graham's physical abilities can't quite do any more. As they will say "Move over, old man, and let me at it".

The latest great joy of Graham's life now is the Mens Shed. He enjoys so much friendship and interest there and appreciates the chance to meet and mingle with so many good and genuine blokes. Life is good!

### **Remember When ?**

This is a suitable memory to follow Graham's story:



### Just Cruisin':

The cruise industry has been coping it at the moment –



### Shed Online:

For AMSA there is little change in the information on Shed Online in the last week or more, so went looking elsewhere on [www.mensshed.org](http://www.mensshed.org) and found an item on Men's Shed Week. Often we hear about these events too late to make any preparations, so have listed of a couple of relevant events coming up in 2020 although both are still to make up kits for their events –

### **Men's Shed Week Events & Celebrations**

Sheds are encouraged to hold open days and celebrations to mark the special contributions Men's Sheds make in your lives and communities throughout the week. By holding an event in Men's Shed Week during the period from **Monday 28 September to Sunday 4 October 2020**, it provides the ideal opportunity to:

- Promote your Men's Sheds throughout the community
- Show appreciation for your community's support
- Showcase your activities
- Acknowledge those who have made significant contributions to your Shed
- Engage with local Health, government and community services
- Attract new members

The event can be small or large – but most importantly it should celebrate diversity of Sheddors and activities at your shed and highlight the benefits of Men's Sheds to your special guests.

### **RU OK?Day**

On **Thursday 10 September 2020** R U OK?Day is our national day of action dedicated to reminding everyone to ask, "Are you OK?" and to remember every day of the year to support people who may be struggling with life's ups and downs.

In the build-up to R U OK?Day 2019 everyone was encouraged to Trust the Signs, Trust your Gut & Ask R U OK?

We want everyone to feel confident they know the signs someone might need support by listening to what they're saying, seeing what they're doing or knowing what's going on in their life. Whenever you notice a change, no matter how small, we want you to trust your gut and start an R U OK? conversation.

### Anzac Day:

A member from out Calliope way, Darryl Saw, sent in this poem a little late for last week's newsletter but still a great reflection on the different Anzac Day we just had –

I was told of a plan by some far wiser than me  
History is to be made this ANZAC dawn, for all to see  
No virus can kill our spirit, or blind our eyes to a very special day  
No parades or cheering crowds, yet all as one, we will do it our way  
In early dawn, there will be lights, candles and torches, row upon row  
In front of family homes, they will flicker and glow  
Beloved national flags on show from windows, fences and lawns  
All to be readily seen by the ghosts of our Fallen, in the light of dawn  
Their long columns will march on the streets, unseen and with no sound  
Imagine them as it once was, so young with dreams about  
Marching to war, heads held high and never looking down  
In that special dawn, on parade again in every street of every town  
When the sun rises high, and families are back behind closed doors  
The columns will be gone, and the streets empty once more  
Surely you heard the echoes of their footsteps as they marched away?

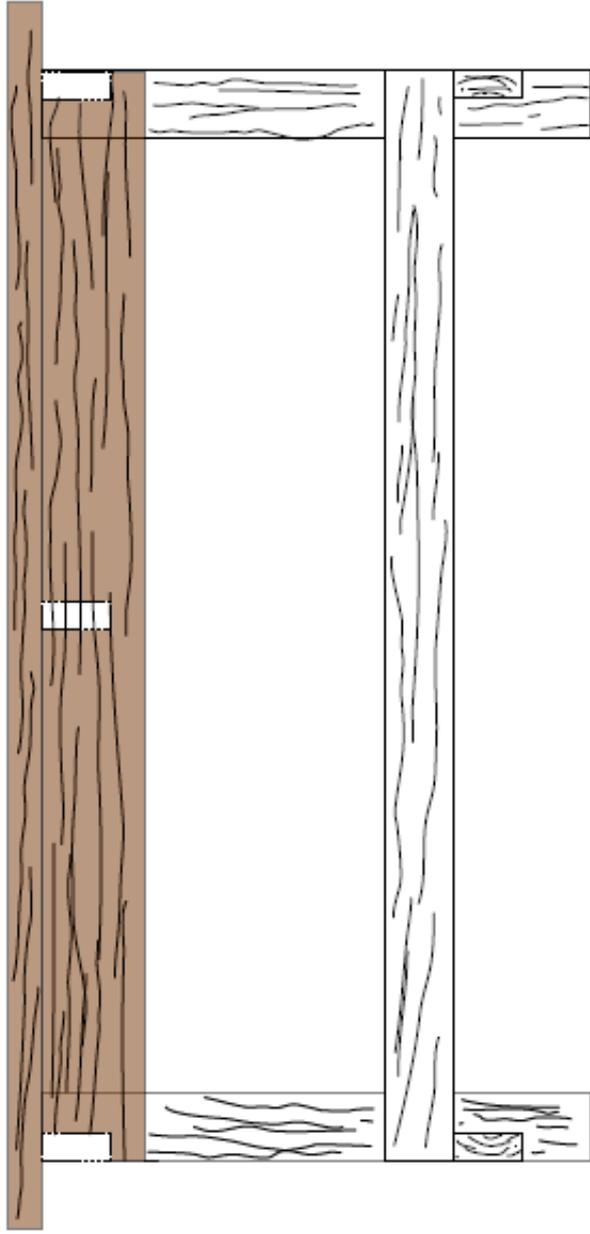
### Member Contributions:

Thank you very much to the members who have written their profile stories in the last couple of weeks, it is hard to imagine what you may find interesting in such a newsletter, but it is great to know a little background about the person often near you at the Shed and undoubtedly many enjoy an interesting read while stuck in isolation.

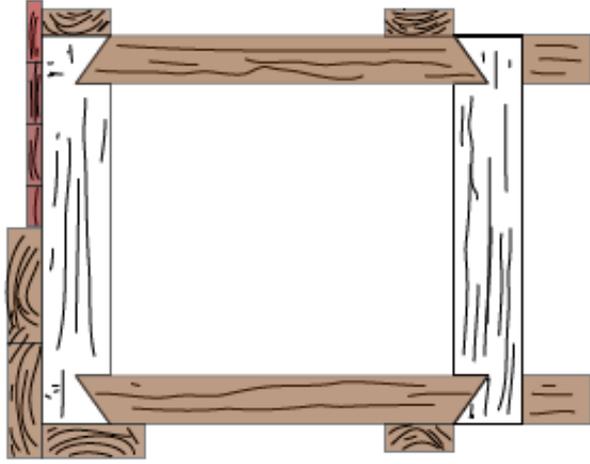
We have also been entertained by poetry contributions and our secretary, Alan, has now adapted his own desires to a possible suggestion for additional workbenches in the Shed. Alan's comments have been included below and may DIY projects be an additional example of contributed articles to publish in the newsletter, even a photo of your pride and joy project such as Jim's work included last week.

"It was thought that we could use the extra space to accommodate extra work areas for the "woodies" by using portable work benches which can be moved from one space to another. As a project for myself to build a fairly substantial work bench to use at home I had sketched up what I thought would suit me. So, as a starting point I will give you all a look and the more experienced people can offer any changes. Maybe none of it will end up in the final design, but that doesn't matter, as long as we get the best for our needs. Almost certainly the first change suggested will be to put it on wheels (hope they are lockable)."

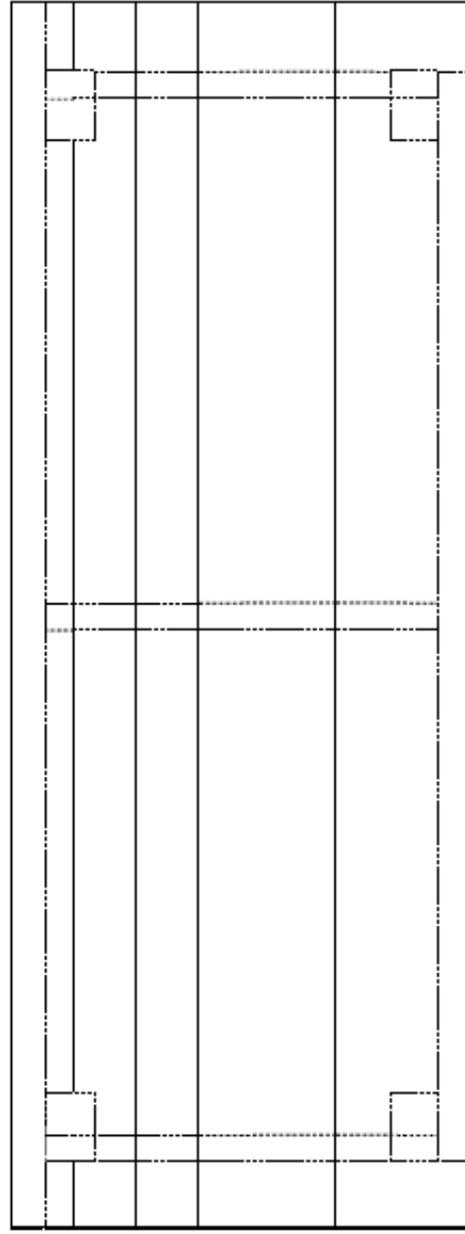
#Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We're told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.



850



607



1800

**GLADSTONE MEN'S SHED**

Title: Proposed Woodwork Bench (Concept Only)

Drawn by: Allan Armour

Date: / /