



# BAD Shed Chatter.

## Newsletter Issue 84, December 2025.

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**We wish everybody a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year**



## **Editor's note.**

I am sure I speak for the entire committee when I wish one and all a very merry Christmas, and a New Year that brings many Joys, and a new shed.

Ronald Tew.

Any items or queries to: -

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What do you get if you cross an iPad with a Christmas tree?

**A pineapple!**

***What do you call people who are afraid of Santa?***

***Claustrophobic!***

**What did Mary Poppins want from Santa?**  
**Supercalifragilisticexpialia-snowshoes!**

## **This issue.**

<b><i>Presidents Report.</i></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>New Members.</i></b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Birthdays.</i></b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Shed 4.</i></b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Christmas Dinner.</i></b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Dave Smallbone Funeral.</i></b>	<b>10</b>
<b><i>MP Emma Comer visit.</i></b>	<b>10</b>
<b><i>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.</i></b>	<b>11</b>
<b><i>Chuppa-Chup Champ award.</i></b>	<b>12</b>
<b><i>Toy giveaway.</i></b>	<b>12</b>
<b><i>Caxton legal presentation.</i></b>	<b>13</b>
<b><i>Burpengary Meadows visit.</i></b>	<b>14</b>
<b><i>Road safety presentation.</i></b>	<b>14</b>
<b><i>Fir Ant presentation.</i></b>	<b>15</b>
<b><i>Wayne from Men's Table.</i></b>	<b>15</b>
<b><i>Coin Display.</i></b>	<b>16</b>
<b><i>Christmas raffle.</i></b>	<b>16</b>
<b><i>Story of the Month.</i></b>	<b>16</b>
<b><i>Final Alimony Payment.</i></b>	<b>16</b>
<b><i>Upcoming Events.</i></b>	<b>17</b>
<b><i>Projects and activities.</i></b>	<b>17</b>
<b><i>Chair repairs.</i></b>	<b>17</b>
<b><i>Unknown with clamps.</i></b>	<b>17</b>
<b><i>Sewing machine presentation.</i></b>	<b>18</b>
<b><i>Large sheet cutting.</i></b>	<b>18</b>
<b><i>Nail donation.</i></b>	<b>18</b>
<b><i>Jewellery box repair.</i></b>	<b>19</b>
<b><i>Kyle picture frame.</i></b>	<b>19</b>
<b><i>Table by Lood.</i></b>	<b>19</b>

## **Presidents Report.** (Or as sometimes called 'Rodney's Ramblings')

I'm pleased to present my President's Report for Issue 84 of our Shed magazine.

This edition has been printed a little later than usual so we could capture the full run of our end-of-year activities. It also marks our final newsletter for 2025, with the next edition due in February 2026.

A sincere thank you to **Ronald**, our magazine editor, for his continued dedication in producing such a well-constructed, informative, and entertaining publication. His work reflects the pride we all have in our Shed.

### **Queensland Men's Shed Association AGM**

Recently, I attended the Queensland Men's Shed Association AGM — a well-supported gathering with Sheds represented from across the state. One highlight was the introduction of a new award for the best Shed magazine. This year's winner was the Mount Gravatt Men's Shed, and in his acceptance speech, their editor Wayne kindly acknowledged our own publication [B A D Shed Chatter] as a source of inspiration. A compliment well earned.

It's clear that the Men's Shed name and logo continue to grow in reputation, not only locally but internationally. Each year, Choice Magazine names Australia's most trusted brands — Bunnings, Arnott's, and others to name a few. I believe it won't be long before the Men's Shed movement earns similar recognition for trust and community value.

### **AGM Topics Included:**

The future of Men's Sheds over the next five years

Funding opportunities and sponsorships

Volunteer engagement



Shed forums

Retirement planning

## **Men and Boys in Today's Society**

It's becoming increasingly evident that men and boys are being left behind in areas such as education, employment, and public policy. What began as a necessary correction has tipped into imbalance, leaving many young men struggling with identity, opportunity, and mental health.

Male teachers, once vital role models are at historic lows. Women now graduate from university at significantly higher rates. Combined with the rise of fatherlessness, boys are growing up with fewer mentors during their most formative years.

At the same time, popular culture often labels masculinity as "toxic," attaching shame to traits like competitiveness, stoicism, and physical courage — qualities that once helped build communities. Advertising and government messaging frequently single out men for criticism, painting them disproportionately as problems rather than contributors.

This is precisely where the Men's Shed movement steps in. We fill a gap that is widening every year, offering connection, purpose, and mateship.

## **Men's Drop-In Night**

Our Men's Drop-In Night has been paused over the Christmas/New Year period — not due to lack of interest, but simply because I've been stretched elsewhere. I've also been in discussions with **The Men's Table**. This is a charity similar to us that tries to build communities of men who meet monthly to share life stories openly. They are non judgemental while offering support to one another. With over 270 Tables across Australia, their brand is also growing.

My hope is to relaunch our Drop-In Night in a refreshed format in February 2026.

## **Remembering Dave Smallbone**

Although Dave's passing was noted in our previous newsletter, this is my first opportunity to reflect on his contribution. Dave joined us in 2016 and quickly became one of our "old brigade." He loved the Shed — what it stood for, and how it brought men together as mates.

He knew his time was short, and he was determined to see Shed 4 built before he passed. It is a deep regret that I couldn't achieve this with him and for him.

But it will happen.

## **Shed Report**

The Shed remains in a strong position with funds in the bank, a full project book, and a steadily growing membership.

Our last official day for 2025 will be Thursday, 18th of December. Some of us will be back early for the Boxing Day Bunnings sausage sizzle.

This time of year, is always hectic with extra fundraisers, special events, visitors, and last-minute projects.

## **Recent Highlights**

**Christmas Breakup Dinner** – A terrific night at the Caboolture Tavern with plenty of chatter, laughter, and lucky door prizes. It's always good to catch up outside the Shed.

**Annual Toy Giveaway** – Over 900 toys were distributed to the Burpengary Police DV unit, Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospital networks, and B.I.K.E [Bribie Island Kids Education]. These toys don't just appear by magic. They are the result of hours of craftsmanship, arguments problem-solving, and pride. Well done Toy Boys — you do us proud.

**CWA Contribution** – Thank you to the CWA ladies for their generous donation of crafts and a wonderful morning tea.

**Mentoring & School Visits** – Our final mentoring session with boys from Burpengary Meadows State School was held recently, following their earlier Shed tour.

**Guest Speakers** – We welcomed representatives from QLD Road Safety, Caxton Street Legal Service, and Emma Comma, Federal MP.

**Christmas Raffle** – Tickets were sold across the community.

**Community Projects** – Deception Bay State School was pleased with its new picket fence.

## **Thoughts**

**International Men's Day** – November 19th passed quietly, overshadowed by World Toilet Day. Unlike International Women's Day, which receives strong recognition, International Men's Day barely raised a whisper.

**Security & Missing Items** – Despite having cameras, items still go missing. A simple reminder: if you take something, put it back.

**Buddy System** – Some members are taking different smoko times to get back into the workshop early. We cannot have anyone working alone. It's unsafe and unnecessary. Please ensure you have a buddy and that someone knows where you are.

**Timetables & Pressure** – Our timetable exists to keep things orderly, not to pressure anyone. After a lifetime of living by the clock, I don't expect — nor want — our members to feel rushed or stressed. Projects take the time they take. We're not as good as we once thought we were, unfortunately.

## **A Christmas Message on Respect**

As we head into the Christmas season — a time meant to bring out the best in us — I want to pause and reflect on how we speak to one another.

Recently, while roaming around the Shed looking for a tool, I've heard comments exchanged between a few members that were unnecessarily harsh and out of step with the spirit of respect we expect in this organisation. Passion is welcome. Disrespect is not.

Christmas reminds us that strength isn't measured by volume, sharpness or muscles. It's measured by kindness, patience, and the ability to lift each other up rather than tear each other down. Every one of us contributes to the culture of this Shed, and the way we speak sets the tone for everyone around us.

Respect their space!

As we wrap up the year, I'm asking all of us — me included — to be more mindful. Choose words that build connection rather than division. Remember that someone beside you may be carrying something you know nothing about.

If we carry that generosity of spirit into 2026, we will be a stronger, more united Shed.

## **Training & Safety**

**Machinery Training** — Held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Please add your name to the whiteboard so the right trainer is available.

**Trainer Refreshers** — Refresher sessions will be scheduled soon.

**Council Inspection** — Moreton Bay Council recently conducted a building inspection. Minor issues were identified and will be addressed.

## **Closing Note**

Our Shed is approaching a crossroads. The strong backbone of our organisation — the members who have carried us for years — will soon want to slow down and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

We need more members to step up, take on roles, or at least show interest in the responsibilities that keep the Shed running. Nothing here happens by accident. It happens because people make it happen.

### **Roles needing support include:**

Cleaning and maintenance

Stock purchasing

Social event organisation

Guest speaker coordination

Donation pick-ups

Welfare support

Fundraising

Ambassadors

First aid and fire wardens

Mentors

With Shed 4 on the horizon, our workload will only increase. Your help matters.

As I close this final report for 2025, I thank every one of you for your contribution to the betterment of our organisation. It has been a busy, rewarding year, and I look forward to what we will achieve together in 2026.

**Rodney Hansen**

**President, Burpengary and District Men's Shed Inc.**



## *New Members.*

New members since last newsletter.

New members since the last newsletter are: - Lex McLennan, Ryan Derrick, Greg Hillway and George Kidd. When you see them around the shed give them a big welcome

## *Birthdays.*

Birthdays soon.

The following are the birthdays for the current period: - John Maguire, aged 45; Bob Burgess, aged 73; Bruce Panton, aged 82; Wayne Petty, aged 77; Michael Yates, aged 72; Tim Rabl, aged 55; John Wheeler, aged 79; John Vickery, aged 77.

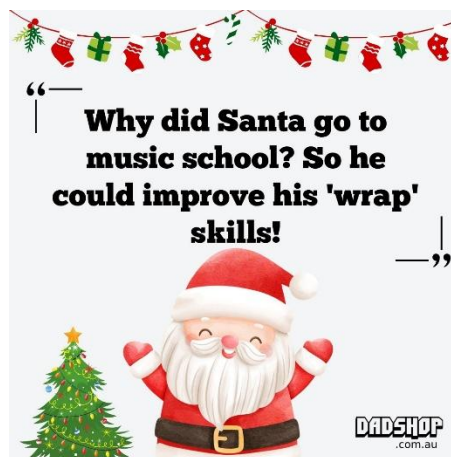
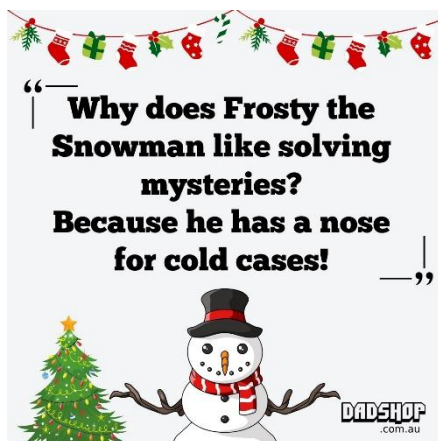
If you wish to know the actual date, check the list outside the office.

## *Shed 4.*

Nothing new to report at this stage.

## *Christmas Dinner.*

The shed Christmas dinner for 2025 has now been booked in for Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at the same place as last year being the 'Caboolture Club Tavern' across the road from the Caboolture Railway Station. Unfortunately, this newsletter will be published before the dinner happens, so a report on the event will have to wait till next edition.



## *Dave Smallbone funeral.*

21<sup>st</sup> of November.



It was a sad day to bid farewell to Dave, but the family showed that it was rather a celebration of his life. As usual, one thinks he knows a lot about a member until one has to attend his funeral, we

only knew him for a very short part of his life. The stories from family members demonstrated this very well. The turn out for his funeral was tremendous, even from the shed. We were asked to give a guard of honour



for him, and we obliged very willingly. One picture is of some of the members in the chapel, and one of the Guard of Honour.

## *MP Emma Comer visit.*

18<sup>th</sup> of November.



On this day we had a visit from Emma Comer, Federal MP for Petrie. We were hopeful that she may have a similar idea and thoughts of obtaining a grant for our shed 4. I did notice that, as per usual with all dignitaries, she was

blown away with what we have achieved here in such a short time. Rodney showed her around the shed, and several members had a quiet word with her, so now it will be wait and see if she can do anything for us.

# *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.*

As most members would be aware, events such as Bunnings sausage sizzles are one of our main fund-raising events.

Recently it has become apparent that a lot of organisations are finding they cannot find enough volunteers to field these events and are cancelling their booking. Bunnings have found that we can front up and conduct a sizzle at short notice, so we are now getting called out on several occasions to fill these cancellations.

This has led to some of our usual volunteers to tire under the repetitive strain, so we are asking some of our total of 170 FINANCIAL MEMBERS to put up their hands and assist. We are hopeful of one new volunteer each event for training.

Remember we are trying to build another shed and the more assistance we get from members will make it happen earlier.





## *Chuppa-Chup Champ Award.*

This could be you winning an award after working at sausage sizzles and obtaining your individual quirk. Frank is always in the position of handing out the Chuppa-Chups at our sizzles, and has done it for a long time, so it was about time for this award. You too could find yourself in this position by becoming a new volunteer.

## *Toy Giveaway.*

Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December.



Once again, we conducted our toy giveaway on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, and the function was a tremendous success. We had



attendance from recipients Caboolture and Kilcoy hospital networks by Michelle, Kirby, Parker, Alaina and Leanne. There was Ken from B.I.K.E. (Bribie Island Kids Education) and Geoff, Josh and Glenn from the Burpengary Police. Toys were distributed between the recipients, and all left with a high regard for the shed.

I could not finish without mentioning the effort the 'Toy Boys' put into making the toys, and the Green Wattle CWA women for doing the catering for the event. There was that much that members had to take a lot home afterwards. Pictured on the previous page is a shot of the collection of toys, in boxes, on the table, one of the ladies from the hospital, the toy boys and the CWA ladies. Pictured below is a



collective group of recipients, including Ken from B.I.K.E., and one of a fully loaded vehicle ready for departure.

### *Caxton legal Presentation.*



As they have done in the past, Caxton legal paid us a visit by Sulin and Nat, who gave a presentation on wills, power-of-attorney etc. Most of the men are obviously of the age where this subject is vital to them, so many members gained a lot of information from them. A number of members had personal questions after their talk.

## *Burpengary Meadows visit.*

11<sup>th</sup> of November.



We were graced with a visit by the children from Burpengary Meadows that we would normally visit at the school. It was decided that after the great relationship our men have formed with these kids that it would be a benefit to them if they visited the shed to get an appreciation of the shed and what happens here. By all reports the kids were quite impressed with their visit and we all hope it may have some sort of influence on their future. Pictured is Rodney handing a presentation to Warwick, and another of the children that visited.

## *Road safety presentation.*

December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Christos from the road safety office of Transport and Main Roads attended on this day to give a presentation on road safety with seniors in mind. Christos gave some examples of give-way situations and asked who thought which option was correct etc. and it was surprising to see how many people had opinions that differed about those traffic regulations, so explanations were given. This was a well worth presentation that I consider all at the shed should see.





## *Fire Ant presentation.*

9<sup>th</sup> of December.



Shae and Hellen gave a presentation on Fire Ants and the problems they cause. These ants are becoming a large problem,



and an explanation was given about some of their activities and ways that are being used to eradicate them. They actually had a display of live ants for members to actually see some.

## *Wayne from Men's Table.*

Wayne from Men's Table, another organisation whose aim is men's health, visited us on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Rodney, who runs the 'Drop-in-night' at the shed has made arrangements for this event being combined with the Men's Table, there will be more on this story in the future.



**I see people around my  
age mountain climbing, I  
feel good getting my leg  
through my underwear  
with out losing my  
balance**

**Me: Please bring me a  
screwdriver.  
Wife: Flat head, Phillips, or  
Vodka?**

**And that was when I knew  
she was the one.**

## *Coin display.*

December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Giuseppe, Joe for ease, turned up this day with his coin collection, and there were several people showed interest in looking.



## *Christmas Raffle.*

The raffle will be drawn on the Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

Unfortunately, another story will have to wait for the next newsletter.

## *Story of the month.*

Final alimony payment.

A divorced man was delighted when his daughter reached her 18th birthday.

Because it would be his final child support payment.

Month after month, year after year he had paid, and now at last he would be free of the financial burden.

So, he called his daughter over to his house and said:

“I want you to take this last cheque to your mother’s house. You tell her this is the last cheque she’s ever going to get from me. Then I want you to come back here and tell me the expression she had on her face.”

The girl took the cheque and returned a couple of hours later.

“Well,’ said the dad gleefully,

“What did she have to say?”

The girl replied:

“She told me to tell you that you ain’t my dad.”



## *Upcoming Events(or just gone).*

### *December 2025.*

- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>. Toy giveaway day (Caboolture/Kilcoy Hospitals).
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>. Christmas raffle draw.
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>. Shed Christmas dinner.
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. Last shed open day before Christmas.
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup>. Boxing Day Bunnings sizzle, Morayfield.

### *January 2026.*

- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>. Sizzle at Bunnings Morayfield.

### *February 2026.*

- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. Sizzle at Bunnings Northlakes.

## *Projects & Activities.*

### *Chair repairs.*

I assume this chair was another project of repairs, I saw it on the completed ready for collection table, and thought it was worth a shot.



### *Unknown with clamps.*



Walking the shed, as paparazzi do, I spotted this project that I think Lytton is working on, so took a shot. It will no doubt become apparent what it is at a later stage.

### Sewing machine presentation.

Obviously, the Singer Sewing Machines just keep appearing for repair. I spotted this one being picked up by Glenda, also shown is Richard making the presentation. Brooks shoes can be seen, but she was camera shy.



### Large sheet cutting.



I spotted this being undertaken and wondered why so many workers, then it became apparent how large the sheet was which needed guiding through the machine, which explained the numbers.

### Nail donation.

It seems that we may be running low on nails. This donation of nails came complete with timber, which made it difficult to separate the nails and keep them in good condition, but then some people, it seems, prefer bent nails.



**As you get older, you've got to stay positive. For example, the other day I fell down the stairs. Instead of getting upset, I just thought, "Wow, that's the fastest I've moved in years!"**



### Jewellery Box for repair.

I noticed this jewellery box on the finished table and thought the obvious that it was here for pick-up. Grimmie was sitting with Janet near the project and when I asked if it was Janet picking it up the reply was that she was dropping it off for repair. I personally couldn't see where it needed repair so hopefully, I will get a picture for demonstration when complete.



### Kyle picture frame.

Kyle has been working on this picture frame project for a while now, when one can separate him from the vacuum cleaner, and it is intended as

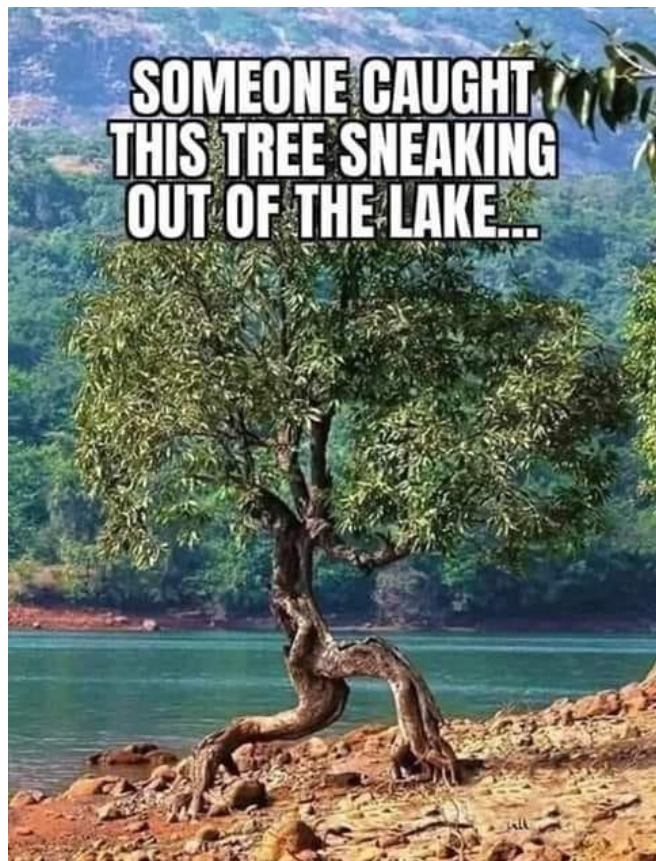


a Christmas gift for his grandmother pictured with him. I dare say that she will be suitably impressed with the gift.

### Table by Lood.

This is another project by Lood, seems he is a busy man. This table was made for Gerry's wife, and I dare say she will enjoy it immensely.





**SOMEONE CAUGHT  
THIS TREE SNEAKING  
OUT OF THE LAKE...**



**Electrician wanted.  
Experience required, this time.**



**WHEN THE WIFE DECIDES  
SHE'S COMING TOO**



**I NEVER USE TURN SIGNALS**

**IT'S NOBODY ELSE'S BUSINESS  
WHERE I'M GOING**

**PROUDLY COMPILED AND PRODUCED**

**FOR**

**Burpengary and District Men's Shed**

**By**

**Ronald H. Tew**