



BAD Shed Chatter.

Newsletter Issue 85, February 2026.

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No. 85



Editor's note.

I am attempting to have a small change in the newsletter from now on; This will hopefully be that stories will be more concentrated on the people and members of the shed, instead of the project being the first concern.

Later.

I am now not sure it worked as I still seem to have the same type stories in projects and activities.

Anyway, we are here for a new year, hopefully there will be many more, and I still keep saying to myself that I cannot understand how I have managed so many newsletters so far.

Ronald Tew.

Any items or queries to: -

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Presidents Report. (Or as sometimes called ‘Rodney’s Ramblings’)

I’m pleased to present my President’s Report for the 85th edition of our Shed magazine — and the first for 2026. I can report that our Shed is in a strong position, with funds in the bank, a full board of projects, and plenty of fundraising opportunities already locked in for the year ahead.

End-of-Year Wrap-Up

Our annual toy giveaway was a resounding success, with toys presented to the Caboolture/Kilcoy Hospital Network, the Burpengary Police DV Unit, and the Bribie Island Kids Education Service (BIKES). It was a wonderful morning attended by many members and guests.

Our annual Christmas dinner was also well received, with a great night had by all — so much so that we have already rebooked for 2026.

Starting the New Year

The new year is now well underway, and I’d like to welcome everyone back. I hope you all enjoyed a well-earned break away from Shed life. Now that we’ve been back for a few weeks, it hardly feels like we were gone at all, and I genuinely believe 2026 is shaping up to be one of our biggest and best years yet. As we begin the year, it’s worth remembering that we are part of a remarkable organisation — one that connects us not only to each other but to our wider community. For those who don’t often get involved in Shed activities, the impact we have may not always be obvious, but as I was reminded at our final fundraising sizzle of 2025, “praise comes from many unexpected places.”

A Global Men’s Shed Movement

The reach of our Shed is broader than many realise. Over the years, we’ve received messages, newsletters, shirts, and even the occasional visitor from Sheds across the world. It’s both surprising and inspiring to see how far the Men’s Shed spirit travels. We are in regular contact with Sheds in Chelmsford and Poole in the UK, as well as the Orkney Men’s Shed off the north coast of Scotland. Rob from the Chelmsford Shed recently dropped in a bundle of their Shed T-shirts for us — a simple gesture that shows just how strong and

genuine the international connections between Sheds can be. While we sit in the comfort of air-conditioning having smoko, some of our mates overseas are dealing with the opposite extreme — including Sheds forced to close temporarily due to heavy snow.

Recently, Andy from the Orkney Men’s Shed sent us this update:

“A happy New Year to all you folk in Burpengary from all of us in Orkney. Many thanks for your newsletter — it’s grand to see what is going on, on the other side of the world. We’ve only got the Shed open again last week as many of us have been snowed in for the week after Hogmanay. Our Shed is now in its 11th year, and we are in our second building, which is an old herring processing factory over in Stromness on the west of Mainland Orkney. It’s a big building we share with two other charities — Stromness Drama Club and the Orkney Historic Boat Society. The Shed currently has over 300 members and we get 60+ attending Tuesdays/Thursdays, Wednesday evenings and Saturdays. There is now a total of six Sheds on Orkney. We are on Mainland (as the main isle is called) and the other Sheds are on the outer islands — Westray, Sanday, Stronsay, Flotta and Shapinsay, all much smaller but very popular.

Best regards, Andy Andrew Swain, Secretary, Orkney Men’s Shed”

These connections remind us that we are part of a global movement — thousands of Sheds, each different in size and setting, but all built on the same foundation of mateship, purpose, and community.

Shed Operating Costs

Many members may not realise that it costs around \$2,000 each month to keep our Shed running. This includes utilities and consumables — all the small but essential items that keep the place functioning smoothly. These costs are partly offset by fundraising sizzles, raffles, grants, donations, and the \$2 token door entry. That \$2 has been standard since day one and helps supply tea, coffee, biscuits, milk, cleaning products, stationery, toilet supplies, and more. Some members assume these items are covered by annual fees, but they aren’t — so every contribution matters.

Fundraising and Volunteer Support

We've hit the ground running this year. Raffle-selling days are already booked throughout the year, and we're looking for more volunteers willing to help for a day or two. January also saw us run several fundraising sizzles at local Bunnings stores. We're grateful for every opportunity to raise funds, and we rarely knock back an offer. A big thank-you to all the men who gave up their time — including those who stepped in at short notice. We have sizzles booked through to March. If you'd like to join a team, please let us know.

Current and Upcoming Projects

Our project board is filling quickly with community work, including:

- Garden enclosure and herb boxes for Deception Bay State School
- Shelving for the Burpengary Boy Scouts
- Champion Recyclers trophies for Moreton Bay Council
- Picnic table for the Centre Against Domestic Violence

These sit alongside the many smaller jobs that come through the Shed — the quiet, everyday projects that support individuals and organisations who rely on our skills and generosity.

Around the Shed

We've recently upgraded several machines — great for productivity, but also a reminder about safety. A few breaches have occurred involving members using equipment they are not accredited to operate. Accreditation protects you, your mates, and the Shed. Sessions run every Monday. If you need sign-off, please add your name to the whiteboard.

If a machine isn't working properly, or something breaks while you're using it, please report it immediately so repairs can be made quickly.

Men's Drop-In Night

Our monthly Men's Drop-In Night is back. Doors open from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. We're partnering with The Men's Table to make these evenings even more welcoming, with a simple meal and plenty of good conversation.

Australian Men's Shed Convention

The annual Australian Men's Shed Convention will be held in Brisbane in mid-March. Sheds from across the country will attend, with Queensland expected to have a strong presence. I'll be representing our Shed and will be away for a few days during that time.

A Special Milestone

Recently, a small group of us visited long-time member — and Life Member No. 12 — Maurie Walsh to celebrate his 75th birthday at his aged care facility in Narangba. We enjoyed cake, a cuppa, and a warm chat. It took Maurie a little while to recognise us, but when we found his Life Member badge and pinned it to his chest, the pride on his face said everything. It's a reminder that while our hands may not be as steady as they once were, the spirit of making, imagining, and belonging never leaves us. The Shed has always been about more than the projects — it's about walking the journey together.

Happy Birthday, Maurie.

Ronald has included a photo from the day in the magazine.

Roles and Involvement

Many members may not realise how many roles exist behind the scenes: First Aid Officers, Fire Wardens, Shed Ambassadors, Welfare Officers, Social Organisers, Office Helpers and of course, our Fundraisers. Many men hold more than one role, on top of their project work and day-to-day Shed involvement. There is always something you can be part of — all you need to do is ask.

Looking to the Future — Attracting Younger Members

Our membership is ageing, and we're not seeing younger men coming through. If this continues, the long-term sustainability of our Shed — and the Men's Shed movement more broadly — will be at risk. Younger men aren't staying away because they're not interested. Most simply assume the Shed is "for retirees only", or they don't know what actually happens here. With a few small changes, we can make the Shed more welcoming and relevant to them without altering who we are. I'm proposing a simple six-month trial focused on three practical steps:

- An after-hours Young Blokes Night — a short, casual session with a small project or skill demo.
- Partnerships with local groups like TAFEs, sporting clubs, and youth services to introduce younger men to what we do.
- Short, hands-on workshops such as basic tool use or home maintenance — things younger men are keen to learn.

These ideas are low-cost, easy to trial, and won't disrupt existing members. They simply open the door a little wider and help secure the future of our Shed.

Our Main Goal for 2026

Our major goal for 2026 is the realisation of Shed 4. This has been on our radar for some time. Achieving it will give us more space, more opportunities, and the ability to support even more men and community groups across the region. To meet a tight budget, Shed 4 plans have been revised and will be resubmitted to council following a meeting in early February.

In Closing

As we step into 2026, I want to thank every member for the spirit, humour, generosity, and mateship you bring to the Shed. Whether you're here every day, once a week, or whenever you can, your presence adds something valuable.

This year promises to be a big one. With major community projects underway, new equipment in place, more roles to get involved in, and the exciting prospect of Shed Number 4 on the horizon, there is plenty to look forward to.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. Let's make 2026 a year to remember.

Rodney Hansen

President, Burpengary and District Men's Shed Inc.

Koi fish.

Fun fact: Koi fish always swim in groups of 4. If attacked, Koi A, B and C will scatter, leaving behind the D Koi.

In Memory.

John Graham Rhoden.

Past member, John, joined the shed on the 7th of September 2023, and was a member for just over 12 months. John was one of the few that slipped through my photo taking process, so none to show. John suffered a long illness, hence his renewal lapsing. From all those that new John at the shed he will be sadly missed, and naturally we will have his family in mind.

New Members.

New members since last newsletter.

New members since the last newsletter are: -**Len Gardner, Tony Collins and Phil Holloway.** When you see them around the shed give them a big welcome

Birthdays.

Birthdays soon.

The following are the birthdays for the current period: - **Graham Williams, aged 79; Murray Guymer, aged 53; Ash Reynolds, aged 50; Keegan Barnes, aged 18; Kola Kon, aged 35; Roy Sharpe, aged 81; Michael Curtis, aged 71; Bill Groves, aged 79; Scruff Keane, aged 75; John Beard, aged 79; Leslie Jones, aged 57.**

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

I trained my dog to fetch beer. It may not sound too impressive, but he gets them from the neighbour's fridge.

Exercising can add years to your life. For example, I jogged 4 kilometres today and now I feel like I'm 83.

Birthday Wishes.

Maurie Walsh, 75th.



I don't normally have Birthday wishes, but this one is for old mate Maurie who turned 75 on the 26th of January. Maurie is one of our early 'Life Members' and misses his shed attendance tremendously.

Several shed members being,

Rodney, Steve, Graham, Roy and Cliff attended Maurie's home of Narangba Aged Care facility on Thursday the 22nd, taking with them a cake. This turned out to be quite a surprise for Maurie and was over the moon with the attendance of some of his shed mates.



Shed 4.

A meeting with Cherie from the City of Moreton Council was held on the 29th of January. Now that we have met some of the criteria required from the council it looks hopeful that we may get to see some progress



with the build of shed 4. Many discussions were had to assist us with what is required to hopefully speed up the progress.

Grants.

City of Moreton Bay Council.



Extract from report to council by Ken Slater.

The Burpengary and District Men's Shed wish to thank the City of Moreton Bay Council's local support grant of \$1500 which went toward the cost of our Christmas Function at the Club Tavern, Caboolture, on the 16th of December 2025.

Christmas Dinner.

The shed Christmas dinner for 2025, with thanks to the previously mentioned grant, was enjoyed by all and after we called for a survey the only grievances were the tightness of the space in the room, and maybe the chairs being a little flimsy. The venue has promised that they will be making some refurbishments to overcome this problem in future. This promise and the survey were taken into account when we made a decision on next year's venue, which now looks like being at the same location. Here are several shots from the night.





Upcoming music nights

We just signed up a couple of new members being Phil and Tony, whose intention is to conduct music nights at the shed on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. I get the impression they had pre-organised this with Rodney in advance because he knew all about it. If interested bring your instrument along and join in the fun. We have had several members in the past conduct small sessions in the shed on various occasions, so they may be interested in joining.

Christmas Raffle.

The raffle was drawn and won on the 16th of December, and the winners were as follows.

1st prize was won by Pedro from the shed. Pedro presented 2nd prize.

2nd prize of a small cot and chair was won by Christine, sold at shops. Christine, pictured, picked up the prize later that day.



3rd prize was also won by shed favourite Pedro. The prize was supposed to be a \$50 Bunnings voucher, but we had none on supply, so he received a \$100 one instead.

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 help make it happen earlier.

New Year Cake.

This cake was provided by Grimmie for the celebration of the new year and went well with the other icing covered cakes that satisfied most of our members.



D-Bay school fencing project.



Some of our men have been working on a picket fence at Deception Bay State School. Before the Christmas break, they placed the posts in position. The fence sections have now been constructed, and over the Christmas break were taken and erected.

Story of the month.

Old man about to board a plane.

An old man was preparing to board a plane when he heard that the Pope was on the same flight. "This is exciting," thought the old man. "I've always been a big fan of the Pope. Perhaps I'll be able to see him in person."

Imagine his surprise when the Pope sat down in the seat next to him for the flight. Still, the man was too shy to speak to the Pontiff.

Shortly after take-off, the Pope began a crossword puzzle. “This is fantastic,” thought the old man. “I’m really good at crosswords. Perhaps, if the Pope gets stuck, he’ll ask me for assistance.”

Almost immediately, the Pope turned to the man and said, “Excuse me, but do you know a four-letter word referring to a woman that ends with the letters ‘u-n-t?’”

Only one word leapt to mind. “My goodness,” thought the old man, “I can’t tell the Pope that. There must be another word.” The man thought for quite a while, then it hit him.

Turning to the pope, the gentleman said, “I think the word you’re looking for is ‘aunt’”.

“Of course,” the Pope mused, not taking his gaze off the crossword, “You wouldn’t happen to have a rubber, would you?”

Projects & Activities.

Work area.

This area is an outside area under an awning that was created because we were running out of workspace. Richard has finally had this sign made as he must have been getting too many people just walking through.



Sometimes I wonder if all this is happening because I didn't forward that message on to ten other people.

Drawer cabinet.

This could be the last project featuring for 2025, on the second last day. John and Brian, with the help of others, have refurbished this chest of drawers. I quite like the finish it has been given.



Shelves.

Rodney is shown here presenting the shelves to Chantal from the Moreton Bay Council. There were several of these shelves built and the others were in the ute.



Generator repairs.



I spotted James working on this generator that had been donated to us due to it not functioning. It seems that the problem may only be a fuel problem but unfortunately, I didn't get the result of the problem.

Our town is so small we don't have a town drunk, so we all take it in turns.

Belt sander cleaning.

Richard is seen here cleaning the belt on a sander that has been used too much on one side and not enough on the other. The result was to turn the belt and clean all the clogging that should have been done during normal use.



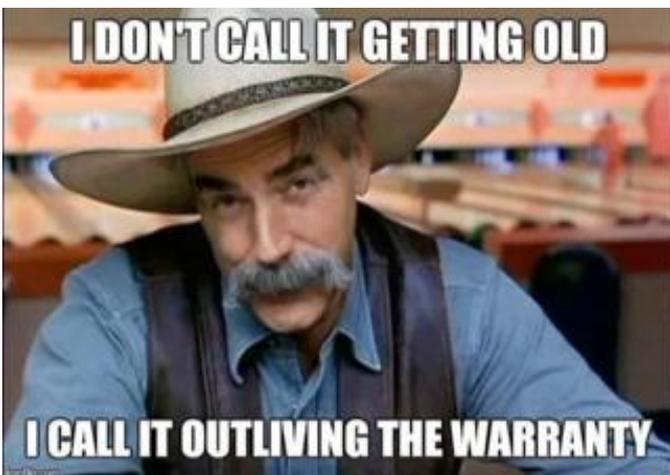
Graeme. In deep thought.

Graeme was spotted in this trance obviously measuring timber for the project at hand. It has probably got something to do with the various dismantled pieces shown on the table.



Office workers.

A couple of office workers obviously hard at it. Gerry and Dave managed to find some time when the office wasn't clogged with people to get down to it.



Machine repairs.



At first, I thought Dave B may have had his hands stuck in the bowels of this thicknesser, but he was undertaking repairs replacing a set of blades.

Machine sharing.

This pair, Denny and Neil, are showing common sense in sharing a sanding machine to halve work time. Just as well the machine was not long ago cleaned.



Meat tray winner.



I haven't mentioned it for a while, but we have an in-house sausage sizzle once a month and we run a meat tray raffle to help pay for it. On the 15th of January Mark was the lucky winner of the \$50.00 meat tray.

Cremation Urns.



Bill is shown here with the first of several Cremation Urns that he has been given the chore of the production of several of the same. This project is for a local Funeral parlour; our name must be getting about. Also shown is Sydnee receiving the first of the urns.

Recycle scrap.

Flatty has loaded up another load of scrap to be taken to the recycle centre. We have recently had more of this type of scrap, so Flatty has made several trips.



Machine repairs.



Ray was spotted making some repairs to a machine in the timber workshop. It shows the varied talent that we do have among our membership.

**When I grow up, I'd like to be
a retired lottery winner.**

Wagon wheels.



I spotted Brian on my camera trip around the shed working on what I was informed was a wagon wheel, I would have guessed that one, and when I mentioned that. he was at the stage of applying the

chocolate, sniggers and laughter was heard from the gallery.

Tony the 'Toy Boy'.

I had to capture this shot if not to just demonstrate the willingness of Tony to get involved with shed projects. There is nothing to stop him doing one of the essential tasks for the toy makers by sanding down the pieces before assembly.



Machine donation.



I spotted several members unloading some machinery from a trailer and after enquiring, I was informed that the machines were a donation. We are about to start up a record of donations for future

recognition purposes, and this could be one of the first entries.

Coffee table repairs.



During my wandering I spotted this coffee table with a sign on saying "Repair". I then asked Grimmie "To what extent does it need repairing?" and his answer was "It is already repaired". Turns out that it is a family

heirloom and the side plate was broken in half, so all that needed doing was to join the two pieces, so it is back to what it looked like.

Council trophies.

These trophies built for the local council were presented on the 3rd of February and receiving them were Anita and Debby. Flatty made the presentation to them, or he just had to have his picture taken, who knows.



Member Profile.

At last, we have another member profile, I would hope this will inspire other to do the same.

Graham Williams.

A Brief (but Spectacular) Life Story of Graham Williams



I was born and spent my school years in Collinsville, a small coal mining town ninety kilometers south-west of Bowen. It was an idyllic life, when not at school, we were free to roam the surrounding hills and creeks fishing and swimming and playing games.

Our family moved to Home Hill in 1962, where I completed my last year of high school, and then went on to do a fitting and turning apprenticeship at the local sugar mill.

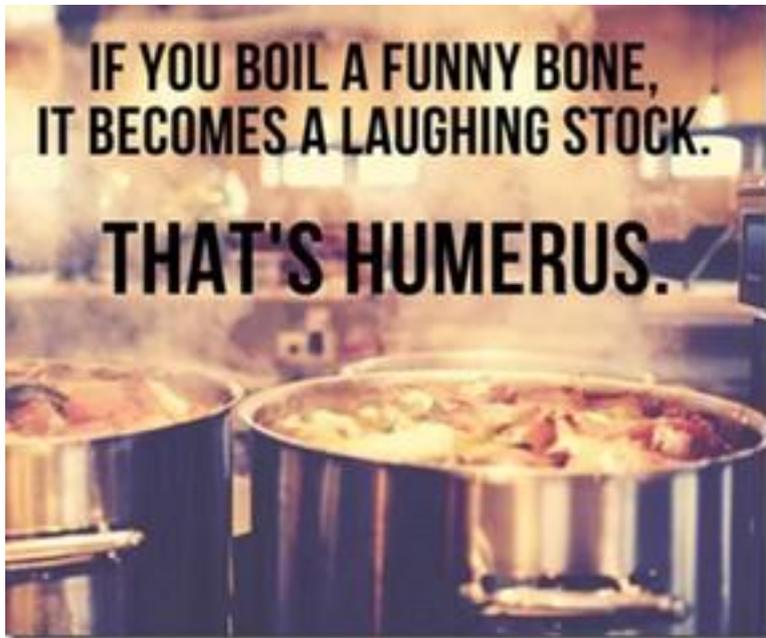
On completion of my trade, I was conscripted into the army for two years and spent one year of it in Vietnam. Fortunately, I was posted to an Engineers Workshop Squadron, was not involved directly in the shooting war and came out unscathed.

I married my long-time girlfriend 'Helen' a week after being discharged from the army and in 1971 we moved back to Collinsville where I took up a fitter & turner position at Collinsville Power Station. Shortly after I moved into the power plant operating field, starting at the bottom, ashing boilers, running water treatment and hydrogen production plants. Over time I worked my way up to the operations control room running boiler, turbine and generator units. Later I took the position of Operations Training Supervisor which allowed me to come off shift work and to spend more time with the family, which had grown by the addition of three children.

We moved to Kingaroy in 1984 for a position training the power plant operators at the Tarong Power Station which was in the process of being built. When the demand for operator training finished twelve years later, I moved through Stores Coordination and Reliability Maintenance Planning roles before returning to the Operations Control Room and shiftwork. I retired in 2011 and we moved to Burpengary in 2019 to be closer to our children and their families.

In my younger life I played rugby league and basketball and was a member of a Surf Life Saving Club. As the years progressed, I involved myself in School P&C's, and committee positions in the junior sports my children played, Toastmasters and Trade Unions. At present I am President of the Caboolture Orchid Society and Assistant to the Treasurer of the BAD Men's Shed.





I think senility is going to be a fairly smooth transition for me.

Me: "babe, can you take me to one of them places where they cook in front of you?"

Him: say no more baby"



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FOR

Burpengary and District Men's Shed

By

Ronald H. Tew