



BAD Shed Chatter.

Newsletter Issue 86, March 2026.

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Editor's note.

I am a little surprised that I came up with enough to fill this newsletter this month. I have had a couple of days off last month and when I have been at the shed I have found that I have been rather busy in the office. During these days I end up walking the shed with my camera late in the day when most members have gone home, and so do a lot of the projects. I still seemed to manage though.

Ronald Tew.

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

I was all set to begin this report the usual way – The familiar welcome you all love, a few updates, and the interesting banter most of you skim past. But this month, I want to start somewhere different.

Earlier in the week, I watched a table of our old blokes in full swing. Biscuits everywhere, plenty of laughter and chatter - nothing too serious. It reminded me why our Shed exists. Loneliness doesn't always look like being alone. Sometimes it's simply feeling a bit out of step, even in a busy Shed like ours. If we weren't here, where would this happen. That's why mateship matters. It's not the big gestures - it's the small ones that no one sees. The "How you going, mate?". The crude joke, the sexist comment, the shared laugh and the quiet sense that you belong here, even on the days you're not at your best.

So, before we get into the nuts and bolts of this month's update, consider this a reminder - look out for each other. If you're feeling a bit on the outer, or you think someone else might be, the Shed is exactly the place to ask, "R U O K?"

With that said, welcome to the March edition of the BAD Shed Chatter. I'm pleased to present my President's Report for Issue 86. The Shed is in a strong position — funds in the bank, solid membership, and a full project book. There's always something to get involved in, and if you're not up for a project, there's always someone to talk to. If you haven't found your spot yet, keep looking — it might be selling raffle tickets or even cooking a sausage.

Membership & Welcoming New Faces

Since reopening after the Christmas/New Year break, we've welcomed quite a few new members. While many organisations struggle to maintain numbers, it's heartening to see ours continue to grow. Please make every newcomer feel welcome. Walking into a busy Shed for the first time can be daunting. Leave any arrogance, moods, or anger at the front door. We

won't all get along all the time — that's life — but we're big enough to accommodate differences. If someone rubs you the wrong way, let it go and move on.

Member Records & Welfare

I've mentioned before the importance of keeping your records up to date — medical details, emergency contacts, and anything that might help in a crisis. Recently, we tried to contact a member's nominated person only to find the number disconnected. If you don't have anyone close, or no family nearby, consider writing down your wishes, signing it, and placing it in your file.

As a side note, I recently received a call from a home-share complex about a resident dealing with a few issues. He mentioned he'd been a Shed member — and yes, he had been with us before disappearing without us being able to check on him. His old membership form provided the facility with useful background information to help him.

Safety, Maintenance & Clean-Up

Around the Shed, I'm pleased to report no major accidents — just the usual small cuts and splinters. Over the past month, we've had a good clean-up around the back and sides of the Sheds, with unwanted items removed and metals recycled. The skip bin filled quickly. Thank you to the men who rolled up their sleeves.

We've also received many donations recently — mainly tools and some machinery. We'll be holding a market day at the Shed, likely in late April, to clear surplus gear.

Roofs and gutters have had a major clean, and a lot of machinery has been serviced. Some equipment is temporarily out of action while we wait for parts or new blades. The Fire Department's recent visit resulted in a very positive report, with only a few small issues identified — all easily fixed.

The Ambulance Service will visit in a few weeks to run a general first-aid presentation covering burns, bites, falls, and more. Even if you think you've seen it all before, a refresher never hurts.

All First Aid kits and fire extinguishers have been checked and topped up where needed.

A reminder- everyone on site must wear enclosed shoes, and all visitors must be signed in. No visitor is to go beyond the chained area without being signed in and definitely not without enclosed footwear.

Shed Activities & Programs

Our first Men's Drop-In Night for the year was a success, with around 25 men attending. It's a simple night — a chance for men to chat with other men, with no judgement, no advice, and no pressure. This runs on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 pm.

The Shed Music Night has also kicked off with a good roll-up of musicians. Any budding musos are welcome — second and fourth Tuesday nights.

On Friday mornings, the art group sets up from 9 to 12. Any artists in the making are welcome to join.

Before Christmas, together with Wamuran Men's Shed, we sent a donation of tools to the Norfolk Island Men's Shed. We've since received a thank-you note confirming the tools arrived safely and are already being put to good use.

Our school mentoring program has recommenced at Burpengary Meadows State School, and we've also had interest from Deception Bay State School.

Community Work & Projects

I want to take a moment to congratulate a few of our members -the men who make this Shed what it is. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved lately. Every project, every fundraiser, every quiet job done without fuss comes from your hands.

As a not-for-profit organisation, every dollar we raise goes straight back into keeping the Shed running and supporting the community. No one gets paid. It's your time, skills, and willingness to pitch in that make everything possible.

When you see our blokes selling raffle tickets, running a sausage sizzle, or helping on a job site, you're seeing the real strength of this Shed. Most people have no idea how much work goes on behind the scenes — but you do.

Over the past few months, we've taken on a range of projects, big and small. Some of you have been there from start to finish- others have jumped in when you could. Every bit counts. And wherever you travel around our region, chances are you'll spot something one of you helped build, repair, or deliver.

Recent completed projects include:

Deception Bay State School Garden Project & Tuckshop Refurbishment — The raised garden and courtyard area are complete, just waiting on soil and plants. The tuckshop cupboards and counters now blend beautifully with the garden area.

Special Delivery to Bunnings Morayfield — Leigh, our favourite coffee maker, was thrilled to receive her custom Coffee Clock. It's now hanging proudly in the café.

Centre Against Domestic Abuse (CADA) — Received a frame for wall art.

Nearing completion:

Burpengary Scouts — Storage shelving.

CADA — Picnic table.

Closing Thoughts

As we head into another busy month, thank you — to every bloke who turns up, lends a hand, shares a laugh, or checks in on a mate. This Shed isn't about the tools, the projects, or the buildings. It's about the men

inside it. Each of you brings something unique, and together you create a place where people feel welcome, useful, and connected.

That's something to be proud of. Let's keep looking out for each other, keep the banter going, and keep building the kind of Shed we're all glad to be part of.

Rodney Hansen

President, Burpengary and District Men's Shed Inc.

New Members.

New members since last newsletter.

New members since the last newsletter are: -Rob Silk, Kim Gourlay, Ray Burrows, Wayne Colburn, Henry Kaye, John Arndt, Geoff Kerridge, Mick Sprod, Steven Hutchins. When you see them around the shed give them a big welcome

Birthdays.

Birthdays soon.

The following are the birthdays for the current period: - Cliff Forster, aged 79; Paul Conners, aged 69; Lytton Wellings, aged 80; Rod Connelly, aged 64; Barry Thornton, aged 78; Trevor Joiner, aged 66; Bryan Silvester, aged 73; Mark Dawson, aged 73, Noel Thompson, aged 75; Mark Mulholland, aged 67; Peter Kennedy, aged 72; David Redfern, aged 76; Andrew Hunter, aged 63.

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

Ambulance Service visit.

On Tuesday the 31st of March we will be having a visit from the Ambulance Service to have discussions on what should be done in emergencies. An example is what we should do if a member collapses in the shed. I would suggest it will be a must see.

Shed 4.

The committee have had several conversations with council in recent times, and all looks promising for now.

We will be calling a Special General Meeting soon for members to make a decision on the plans of use for the new shed. We are currently waiting on some plans and quotes to be provided of various options, then when committee decide on these options, the results will be put to members at the Special General Meeting at a date to be decided.

Grants.

Our Grants officer, Ken Slater, has been working continuously on possible grants and has several that he will be applying for. I will not mention them so as not to get our hopes up.

Enclosed footwear.

An incident recently has prompted a reminder that when in the shed all members ***and visitors*** must wear enclosed footwear. This footwear does not have to be steel caps but cannot be thongs or Crocs. This is for the safety of members and visitors as there could be all sorts of particles floating around the shed that we do not want to cause injury.

Privacy Policy.

Recently it came to light that because we collect personal information from members of the shed, we should be taking steps to secure and receive approval of members to store that information. We, the committee, have produced a document outlining the policy which we will require every current member of the shed to read and sign. These forms are in the office so we would hope that all current members would approach office staff for a copy of the same. When members renew their membership this year they will be asked if they have filled in this form. The document will now be included in the induction packs

for new members, so when all current members have fulfilled their obligations, the process will become simple being new members only.

Machinery breakages

Our President Rodney has for a long time now in his report in each newsletter been mentioning the fact that there are incidents of machine breakages occurring and not being reported. **These events are still occurring.** Every now and then a member attempts to use a piece of machinery only to find out that something has happened to that machine to prevent it from working properly, *this becomes very frustrating because it was not reported as faulty.* Things on machines will break on occasions, so it is more than likely not blameworthy if that is what members think. If the breakage is reported immediately it will be repaired as early as possible, so the next user will have a working machine.

Remember it could be you that finds a machine broken and can't use it because somebody else didn't report it.

Music nights

The music nights held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month are progressing well. There has been a healthy turn-up for these evenings of which most are joining membership of the shed.

Market Day.

It has been decided that it is time we had another market day to clean out some of the donated equipment that we have no need for. The 18th of April has been allocated for this function. Advertising has been taken care of at several agencies, and it would be a help if the word was spread by mouth.

Fire Service visit

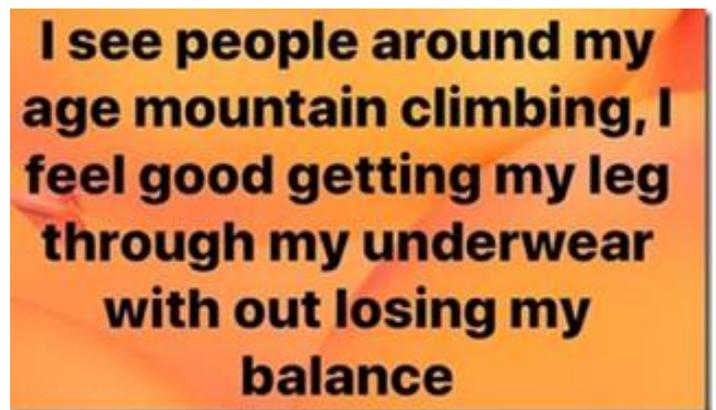
On Tuesday the 17th of February the local fire service paid us a visit. The idea was to have a look around the shed and give us a check on how we have adopted things around the shed, and what we need to follow up on. This is a service we welcome so we can maintain a safe working site.



Skip Bin provision



Members should notice that a skip bin has been placed in the driveway entrance to the shed. This bin is so we can discard unwanted material that has been donated over the years and not used, if not used by now it probably never will be. We all know that we are currently running out of shed space, so this has been a necessity to provide more storage for wanted material. It has also been suggested that we could cut this timber and stack it into packs of firewood to be sold at the upcoming market day.



Restoration work area.

Over time I have taken pictures of different projects done in the shed in the outside area under the awning, the one with a sign saying 'No Thoroughfare', and placed them under the heading of 'Projects and Activities'. The area I am referring to is known as the 'Restoration area' and several members work on restoration projects in this area, and sometimes even several members on the same project. These members are Richard, Brian, John, Ken, Warwick, Greame, Garry and Len, I apologise if I missed any. I may well in future put projects done in this work area in a separate section of the newsletter just as I have done here rather than try to put individual names to different projects. If the projects have no names against them, the individuals will then know who I am referring to.





These pair of tables were originally one large table. The size was not suitable for Rod in his new home, so it was decided to cut it in half and make a pair from them. Unfortunately, no picture was taken of the original.

Sometimes the thoughts in my head get bored and stroll out through my mouth. This is never a good thing.



Story of the month.

An Old Women Goes to The Doctor.

The doctor, after an examination, sighed and said, 'I've got some bad news. You have cancer, and you'd best put your affairs in order.'

The woman was shocked but managed to compose herself and walked into the waiting room where her daughter had been waiting. 'Well, daughter, we women celebrate when things are good, and we celebrate when things don't go so well. In this case, things aren't well. I have cancer. So, let's head to the club and have a martini.'

After 3 or 4 martinis, the two were feeling a little less sombre. There were some laughs and more martinis. They were eventually approached by some of the woman's old friends, who were curious as to what the two were celebrating.

The woman told her friends they were drinking to her impending end, 'I've been diagnosed with AIDS.'

The friends were aghast, gave the woman their condolences and beat a hasty retreat.

After the friends left, the woman's daughter leaned over and whispered, 'Momma, I thought you said you were dying of cancer, and you just told your friends you were dying of AIDS! Why did you do that??'

'Because I don't want any of those bitches sleeping with your father after I'm gone.'

Me to fitness fanatic.

So, you're telling me that you drive a mile to the gym to walk a mile on a treadmill.

Projects & Activities.

Kyle resting.



Kyle is often seen working rather busily around the shed, and I believe he loves his time at the shed. I was a little surprised to see Kyle taking a rest on this day of my walk. He looked content, so I had to take the pic.

Shed sizzle.

Last issue I featured the meat tray raffle winner, but this time I thought I would get a shot of Graham and Brian doing the sizzle itself. All members do enjoy their sausage on these days, and they all obviously look forward to winning the meat tray from the 'Squealing Pig' butcher.



New donated thicknesser.



Last issue I had a story of a machine donation. Among the items of machinery was a thicknesser that looked rather

new and this day I spotted some men, Richard and Norm, putting some timber through it. The reason I stopped to notice was the



size timber they were feeding through the machine, as shown, and asked what it was for. The planks were for a picnic tabletop for one of our community projects coming up, it must be going to be a fairly sturdy table. I then asked Richard what he thought of the new thicknesser and his response was, "It works quite well and it is also the cleanest machine he has used. This was meant to be the amount of dust the vacuum drew away from it."

Pigeon feeders.

These are some more items from a shed project that I had to ask what they were. The answer was they are pigeon feeders. The birds have to stretch through the holes in the sides, and the rotating metal bars on top are to stop the birds from sitting on the top of them.



Docking station.

Grimmie sent this photo to me of a docking station he has been building, he sent it on the basis I may not be at the shed on Monday when it is to be picked up. I will have to adjust his camera for the correct aspect ratio as well.



Art Banner.

This art banner was framed by us and returned to C.A.D.A. (Centre Against Domestic Abuse.) Bill did the work on the frame and Grimmie was as usual happy to deliver to the customer.



Wagon wheel seat.



Remember the chocolate wagon wheel featured in a previous newsletter? I was unaware at that stage that the wheels were for the arms of a bench seat. Richard has finished the project at home and sent

me some pictures, one of which is attached.

Chest refurbishment.

I saw this chest in the shed that had been refurbished. Unfortunately, this day was one of those that I did not have a chance to tour the shed with camera until most members had gone home, so I cannot put a name to this project.



I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing, retraced my steps, got distracted on my way back, have no idea what's going on and now I have to pee.

Timber for turning.

Grimmie pointed out to me that we now have a shelving unit for storage of timber for turning on the lathes. We have a large project in progress that requires a number of turned articles, hence the storage area.



Kitchen caddies.

This is a project for the local council. The requirement was for six of the caddies as per the picture next to them. There was a fairly well-defined picture of what was required and I



don't know whether it is just my eagle eye that detected a slight difference between the units and the picture provided, or if it was done deliberately.



“Grandpa, if you give me a dollar, I’ll tell you who sleeps with Grandma while you’re not at home.” “Here I’ll give you 2 dollars, who is it?”

“ME!”



D-Bay school canteen fencing.



This is a follow on to a previous feature at D-Bay State school. This project provided fencing around the school canteen. One shot of the fencing on a truck, and one of it installed.

Bunnings sizzle.

Our numbers of sizzles are continually growing; here is a shot of our members doing one of these sizzles at Bunnings. Pictured at the back are Dave and Steve, and at the front Grimmie and Ray.



Chair painting.

We have many projects come through our doors for rebuild or refurbish and all of them need painting afterwards. I have shown in the past the many toys being painted by different members. John is applying the spray to these chairs, and doesn't it make a difference to the look.



Accreditation lesson.

Shown here is new member Rob going through an accreditation lesson on one of the machines. When I approached for a shot, I was surprised to see Flatty disappear out of range.



Guitar case.

I saw the other day the lid to this box being burned on the CNC laser not knowing at the time what it was. A couple of days later I saw this box laying on the bench, again too late to see who was working on it. I asked a question of someone else to find it is a guitar case for John.



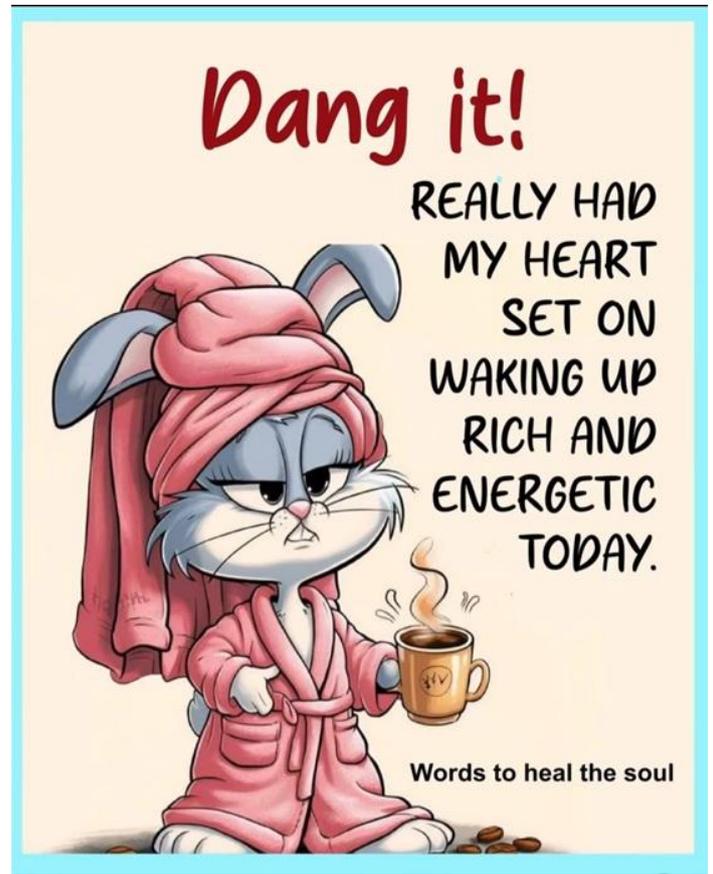
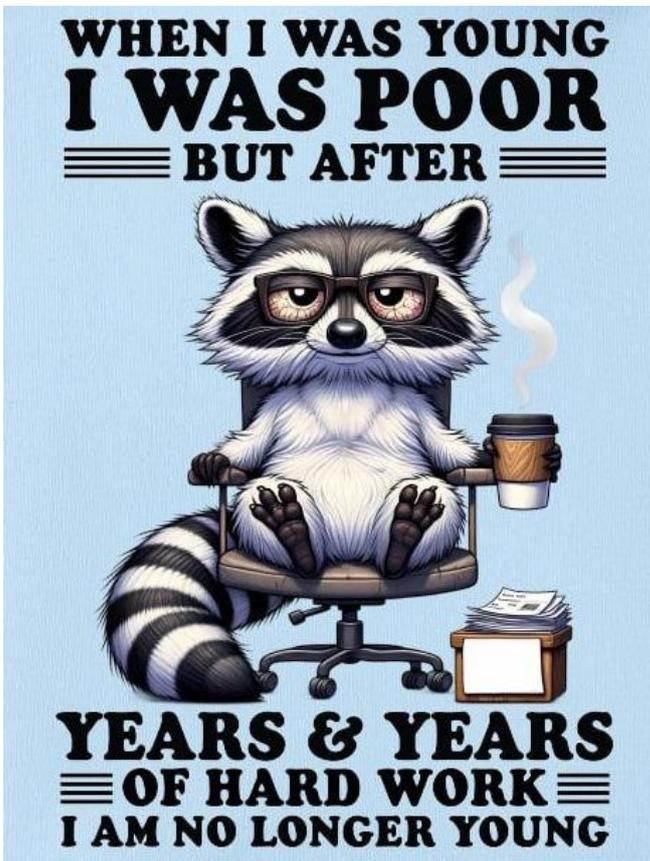
Chairs keep coming.



Again, on my wander around the shed I spotted these pieces of timber laying on a bench and didn't take long to realise that it was yet another for repairs.

I'M SO OLD THAT

I have dialled a rotary phone (that didn't have an answering machine), recorded a song off a transistor onto a tape recorder, watched a black and white TV (with less than 6 channels) that had foil on the rabbit ear antennas, taken a long walk without counting the steps, and eaten food that I didn't take pictures of.



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FOR

Burpengary and District Men's Shed

By

Ronald H. Tew