

2017-18 President's Report

This year Hume Mens Shed Sunbury Inc. has continued to expand in Members and floor space. Our new extension was opened, and we have continued with a steady stream of applications from prospective new members.

The issues with the planning permit for the shed extension were resolved and planning and building permits were approved. Construction commenced in November, and the concrete floor was poured 2 days before Christmas. The shed had to be closed for periods during construction, due to it being in a construction site, but this time was used by the committee to carry out maintenance on many of the machines. Trevor Dunn, Ian Baird and Fred Parnis had the task of sorting out the various layout designs suggested by members, ranging from a welding workshop to restaurant. A final design was decided on, but this space will continue to be a work in progress as new equipment, ie. a pool and table tennis table were installed. The LED lighting was provided by Eagle lighting and was installed by our sparky Kevin Wood

The extension was officially opened on 23rd February by Sunbury MP Josh Bull, with Hume Councillors Anne Potter, Leigh Johnson, and Jack Medcraft also attending. A great lunch was provided by Nat Perri's new employer Country Cooked Meats, and was enjoyed by all..

Another change to the shed was the formation of a social committee to look at social activities for all shed members, and in particular those not interested in working with tools. A second-hand snooker table, table tennis table and equipment were purchased, and a dart board and other items were donated, and are available for members to use outside of normal shed working hours, due to OH&S concerns. This now provides a quiet and dust free environment for members using social activities equipment, with ample parking available due to less members in attendance.

Nat Perri organised 2 great social nights during the year. One at the Sunbury United Social Club at Langama Park, and the Christmas Night at Sunbury Bowling Club. Both were great events well supported by members, with wives or partners who all had a very enjoyable night. A number of members also did a train trip to visit Bendigo Mens Shed.

A large fund raiser for the shed was again the Bunnings BBQs. We also received grants from The Lions Cub of Diggers Rest, Sunbury Rotary Club, Hume City Council, the Federal Government thru MP Rob Mitchell, RACV and the Australian Mens Shed Association, and these funds were used to upgrade equipment and help set up the new shed, and we thank all these organisations for their generosity. Our thickneser was replaced by one of these grants and our old unit donated to Riddells Creek Mens Shed. We also had street stalls at Gisborne Market and Sunbury Street life Festival during the year to show off and sell some of the shed projects, and a Shed Garage sale to clear some unwanted items that we have. We also again set up and dismantled the dance floor at Sunfest.

Courses on welding by Ted Riley and lead lighting by Greg Shoesmith are being conducted.

No organisation like ours can successfully operate without the dedication and input from members. Peter Wilkinson is one of these members with the enormous number of hours he

puts in assessing, designing, making and delivering projects for the shed and the community with his dedicated team of helpers. Ted Riley leads another successful team in the welding and metal work area of the shed. Kevin Wood, our resident electrician also has had a major input in the shed with the new extension, his wood burning and equipment repair projects. Ross Paragreen makes some great wooden signs. Garry Pettit and his team continue to make great table and chair sets that are in great demand and give a steady income to the shed. Barry Burbridge and his team continue to maintain a productive garden area. Trevor Dunn has refurbished and organised our donated items for resale. Frank Zambella has continued to produce a great newsletter, and has also been involved with maintaining the club room area. We have had a great team doing Friday lunches, which have been enjoyed by all who have tasted them, and I thank all who have been involved in their preparation. Ian Lupson has done a lot of preparation and post construction work with the new extension. I thank Brian Girwood for his tag & test and cataloguing of all our equipment over the years. Unfortunately, Brian has had to retire due to medical reasons, but Dale Wilkes has taken over this work. Vice President Mike Newman has looked after our membership as well as being assistant Treasurer and helping in many significant behind the scenes projects. Treasurer Stan Rasanayagam has continued his Uncle Scrooge actions with all the extension costs and has left the shed in a financial position of which we can all feel comfortable for the future. No organisation can function successfully without a good secretary, and ours is no exception. John Hunter has done another great job this year, and I thank him for all his assistance to me and the behind the scenes hours spent for the betterment of the shed.

For all the members who I haven't named and who have contributed their time and effort, no matter how small, to this sheds great success, I give you my sincere thanks.

I would also like to acknowledge my wife Annette for all her help and support that she has given me during my term as President.

Kevin Swaffield

President 2017-18