

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2015/16

Over the past two years it has been my honour and privilege to lead our Shed's hard-working Committee of Management in consolidating the ideals and aspirations of our previous Shed committee, whilst also continuing the required planning to maintain the visions of our founding pioneer members.

Melding the ideas of newer members into that founding vision hasn't always been easy, and I thank those recent members for their patience when my answers to their ideas weren't answered as succinctly as requested.

With counselling from past committee members and others, I've tried not to put my foot in my mouth too many times, although I must admit that I cringe now at some of the clangers I've dropped.

When I took on the Presidents position in July 2014 I did so with some trepidation and as to whether I'd be able to carry out my job to the satisfaction of our Sheddies, and to adequately represent the Shed in a good light at official functions. With the sage guidance and an absolutely 100% support from the committee I gradually gained self confidence in my role.

It has given me great pride to know the vast field of knowledge and experience brought to our Shed by individual members has enabled me to present the virtues of our Shed as one of , if not the most successful Shed in Victoria. Our Shed's organisational and safe work practise ethos is such that other Sheds seek to emulate us. Word of our good works within our community has spread far and wide in neighbouring communities and Government spheres attests that we are on the right track.

None of the above would have been possible without the comradeship and willingness exhibited by our Sheddies. To all our Sheddies – take a well-earned bow of appreciation, you've deserved it. You blokes are tops!!!

To the blokes who think they don't have the brains to join our Committee, I stand as an example of what's possible. This job has increased my self confidence and self esteem far far more than I ever thought possible, and for that I thank you all.

My involvement in Shed activities will reduce for a while as I tackle the extensive backlog of work waiting for me at home, however I'll still open up on Wednesdays.

Shed progress

Our efforts to obtain State funding for our shed extensions seem to be bearing fruit thanks to the pitbull-like tenacity of both Mike Newman and Frank Zambello, while Ian Lupson's sub-committee has provided the required building plans, and documentation which will allow the Shed to employ a suitable contractor to supply and erect a shed of some 19 x 9 m dimensions, to lock-up stage including all the required building permits and approvals.

Our recent success with a Federal dollar-for-dollar grant has allowed the purchase of an upgraded metalworking lathe which will supplement our Hercus model A lathe. Also purchased was a 300mm Table saw which will reduce the abuse of our Panel saw.

Our finances are healthy, though with the recent purchases, spending will of necessity be constrained for the short term. The welcome sight of new faces manning our Bunnings sausage sizzles is most welcome as it relieves staffing pressure for our hardworking regulars.

My fervent thanks goes to those blokes like Peter Wilkinson, Garry Pettit, Ted Riley, Fred Parniss, Barry Burbridge, Peter Morphou, and Kevin Wood who are natural leaders on the workshop floor that do so much to make our Shed run like a well-oiled machine (with one wonky wheel).

The new talent constantly walking through our front gates ensures the future success of our Shed.

Thanks Blokes, you're the bestest!!!! Ta, dieter.

