



THE IPSWICH MEN'S SHED INC

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"Shoulder to Shoulder"-

President: Terry Carter **Vice President:** Laurie Caldwell

Junior Vice President Dennis Sinnott

Secretary: Brian Parker **Treasurer** Ian Weier

Registrar: Ted Wedmaier: **Executive Officer Electrical:** Darryl Edwards:

Fund Raising/Purchasing Bob Lewitz;

Committee: John Humphries;; Ron Bopf; Ian Ross; Roger Overell; Bob Lewitz

Patron: Kylie Stonemen ; **Future Development:** Bob Edyvean

Membership fees \$35 for 1 year – daily fees \$2 plus \$3.00 lunch

Open Tuesday, Thursday 9am-3pm – Saturday 9am-2pm

November 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My special thanks to Laurie and his team for a great effort this month, firstly the Bunning's BBQ and then the Garage Sale. Thanks also to those members who assisted in making both of the events great successes.

The cancellation of the Rotary breakfast was disappointing, but will eventuate at a later date. My thanks are extended to Jennifer Howard for her recent donation and Kylie Stoneman for her support.

November is almost upon us as we break records with 130 members as of October 25, 2016. The committee welcomes all new members and we hope you enjoy your time at the best shed around.

The Post office grant which was applied for by Roger Overell was successful and will see us benefit to the tune of \$3500 to update our computers and internet systems. Many thanks Roger!

The recent news of Kevin Gunning being admitted to Bundaleer Nursing Home was a shock and our thoughts are with his wife, Marie and his family. Recent hospital stays by John Baker, Dennis Sinnott and Ken Beitzel have been successful; and we wish them well as they recover from their surgeries.

To all members, we hope that you attend the Christmas party at the Knights Soccer Club on 9th December. The list is now available to add your name, so please come along and enjoy the night.

The recent news from AMSA has been somewhat disappointing and we hope the issues will be resolved asap for the good of the Shed Movement in Australia. Welcome back to those members who have been away - it is good to have you back. Thanks to Dave, Brian, Ian Ross and Rob Crepin for recent jobs on Pyramids, Chairs, Shade Sail and Jewellery Boxes. All members are thanked for their support as well.

The current shed annual fee has been reduced to \$30 for new members from now until the New Year.

Thanks to Laurie for the newsletters during the year and Ian Weier for his financial record keeping.

We thank the QT and Radio Station 94.9 for their recent media coverage and to those who made it happen as it adds much creditability to the shed as a whole.

Regards

Terry

MEET JOHN (JC) CHRISTOPHER:



John (JC) was born at the Saint Vincent's Hospital in Toowoomba., the only child of Ted and Mary Christopher.

The first two years of John's life was spent in Toowoomba before his father bought a mixed greengrocer store in Greenslopes and the family moved there to live for the next two years or so.

In 1958 John moved with his family to New Guinea where his father took up work for the Steamship Trading Company in Rabaul. For John however, it was only a relatively short stay before he was to travel back to Brisbane to reside in a boarding school at Marist Brothers, Tamborine throughout his junior school years.

His secondary education was completed at Marist Brothers in Ashgrove, before (in 1967) John returned to Papua New Guinea to Rabaul, where he soon commenced in his first job in the spare parts department at Tutt Bryants Holden Dealership and earth moving and logging company.

Twelve months later, John moved to the Rabaul Department of Post and Telegraph where he remained until he turned 19, before then departing on an extended overseas travel experience.

For the next 3 years, John travelled extensively throughout Europe and the United Kingdom, before returning home on a cargo ship. After 6 weeks at sea he landed in New Guinea and went back to his old job in Post and Telegraph, this time in Lae.

The sixties were years of conflict in New Guinea and John considers himself fortunate to be called up for national service. John was serving as a volunteer trooper in the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR) at the time and accepted the call to arms. Initially the PNGVR was mainly a white's only unit, but during the sixties the establishment of Papua New Guinean and Chinese personnel was authorised and the unit evolved into a multi-racial battalion. By 1969 only one-fifth of PNGVR members were European. The PNGVR was ultimately disbanded in 1973, shortly before Independence, leaving the PIR (Pacific Islands Regiment) as the only infantry unit in the new Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

By 1975 John had returned to Australia and started work in the spare part department of Eagers in Breakfast Creek and soon thereafter he met and married his wife Mary.

Looking to expand his career, John joined the Airforce and was stationed with Mary at Edinburgh in South Australia, before being transferred to Wagga and then to Amberley, where he worked as a cook for the 9 years he remained in the service. It was during this time that John and Mary had three children, Laura, Alexandra and David. (John was also recently blessed with his first grandchild Dominic, born in August 2017 – congratulations John).

Whilst still in the Airforce but now stationed at Ipswich, John and Mary set up a catering business for weddings, wakes, parties etc. and this ran successfully for 3 years.

After 9 years in the Airforce, John began to feel some concern that, as he aged, he might have difficulty seeking to change careers or to find another job and it was then that he parted company with the service and went to work for a local charity.

In this job, John was able to multi-task in different roles, from driving and collecting through to selling and organising and from this John moved in due course, to what he considers to be the best job he ever had - working in the office for TNT transport and Trucking in their sales office in Salisbury.

After five happy years with the firm, he arrived at work one morning to be greeted by (as he describes it) the Head Honcho handing out awards for jobs well done, only to be told shortly thereafter that the section had been disbanded. By lunchtime John was out of work and heading home.

He is not resentful of TNT, because John says they were very fair with their redundancy pay-outs and they assisted him to gain work with their subsidiary company, Riteways – before it too disbanded and John received his second redundancy just 12 months later.

Worried about his future and now exceeding 60 years of age, John spent the next 6 months out of work, before finally securing work with Canon Australia in telemarketing and sales. Unfortunately health issues began to impose on John's ability to work effectively and thus, at age 63, John retired early and left work forever.

But John soon found a new interest at the Ipswich Men's Shed, arriving a couple of months after it opened and remaining a loyal participant to this day.

John's hobbies include remote control boats and he enjoys dining out and movies. He also continues to enjoy travel and was thrilled when his children gave him and Mary round the world tickets for their 30th wedding anniversary. John took that opportunity to retrace some of his steps from earlier years and to include new ones, by visiting the USA and Europe and the UK, including Paris, Rome, Florence, Venice, Glasgow and Loch Ness to name but a few.

We wish John, Mary and family well and thank him for sharing this experience with us.

RABAUL – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Rabaul as John knew it no longer exists. It was a township in East New Britain province, on the island of New Britain, in the country of Papua New Guinea. New Britain is an island about 60 kilometres to the east of the island of New Guinea. Rabaul was the provincial capital and most important settlement in the province until it was destroyed in 1994 by falling ash of a volcanic eruption.

During the eruption, ash was sent thousands of metres into the air and the subsequent rain of ash caused 80% of the buildings in Rabaul to collapse. After the eruption the capital was moved to Kokopo, about 20 kilometres (12 mi) away. Rabaul is continually threatened by volcanic activity due to having been built on the edge of Rabaul caldera, a flooded caldera of a large pyroclastic shield.

Rabaul was planned and built around the harbor area known as **Simpsonhafen** [Simpson Harbour] during the German New Guinea administration which controlled the region between 1884 and formally through 1919. From 1910 Rabaul was the headquarters of German New Guinea until captured by the British Empire during the early days of World War I. It became the capital of the Australian mandated Territory of New Guinea until 1937 when it was first destroyed by volcano.

During World War II it was captured by the Japanese in 1942, and it became the main base of Japanese military and naval activity in the South Pacific. Settlements and military installations around the edge of the caldera are often collectively referred to as *Rabaul* despite the old town of Rabaul itself being reduced to practical insignificance by the volcanic eruption in 1994.

What is interesting for John is that he once had the opportunity to climb one of the three active volcanoes on the island. He recalls watching lava flowing down the side of the volcano. Where it entered the sea, he was fascinated to see one side of the water alongside the lava flow bubbling and boiling, while the sea on the other side of the lava flow remained incredibly cool to the touch.

Life has returned to Rabaul since its destruction and now as a tourist destination, it is popular for its volcanoes, scuba diving and for snorkelling sites, spectacular harbour and other scenery, World War II history, flora and fauna, and, of course, the fascinating and colourful cultural life of the Tolai people.

BRIAN PARKER'S WHIMSICAL WORDS OF WISDOM:

Why are fish so relaxing to watch? Because they move slowly and you know you could catch that sucker and fry him up in no time.



HELPFUL HINTS:

- If you have a problem opening jars, try using latex dishwashing gloves. They give a non-slip grip that makes opening jars easier.
- Use empty toilet paper rolls to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.
- Try waxing your bathroom tiles with car polish. This prevents the build-up of grime.
- Use lemons to remove stains from tap faucets.
- Use your hairdryer to remove water rings from wooden surfaces and refresh them with olive oil.
- Lubricate a bike chain with cooking oil spray.
- Clean fingerprints off stainless steel appliances by putting a little baby oil on a clean, soft cloth, and running it over the surfaces.
- Use peanut butter to get scratches out of CD's, wipe off with a coffee filter paper

I'm great at multitasking. I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.

Senior Sex -- (and Police)

The husband leans over and asks his wife, "Do you remember the first time we had sex together over fifty years ago? We went behind the village tavern where you leaned against the back fence and I made love to you."

Yes, she says, "I remember it well."

OK, he says, "How about taking a stroll around there again and we can do it for old time's sake?"

"Oh Jim, you old devil, that sounds like a crazy, but good idea!"

A police officer sitting in the next booth heard their conversation and, having a chuckle to himself, he thinks to himself, I've got to see these two old-timers having sex against a fence. I'll just keep an eye on them so there's no trouble. So he follows them.

The elderly couple walks haltingly along, leaning on each other for support aided by walking sticks. Finally, they get to the back of the tavern and make their way to the fence

The old lady lifts her skirt and the old man drops his trousers. As she leans against the fence, the old man moves in. Then suddenly they erupt into the most furious sex that the policeman has ever seen. This goes on for about ten minutes while both are making loud noises and moaning and screaming.

Finally, they both collapse, panting on the ground.

The policeman is amazed. He thinks he has learned something about life and old age that he didn't know.

After about half an hour of lying on the ground recovering, the old couple struggle to their feet and put their clothes back on.

The policeman, is still watching and thinks to himself, this is truly amazing, I've got to ask them what their secret is.

So, as the couple passes, he says to them, "Excuse me, but that was something else. You must've had a fantastic sex life together. Is there some sort of secret to this?"

Shaking, the old man is barely able to reply,

"Fifty years ago that wasn't an electric fence."

PC TIPS: BEWARE OF DRIVER & PC CLEANING UTILITIES

Remember that the companies behind these software miracles are only out to do one thing: move your money into their pockets for a totally useless service. PC maintenance software is advertised on the internet and at times presents itself as pop-ups. It is all about scaring you with threats of blue screens and system crashes. These companies masquerade as Microsoft Certified Partners. Windows Update and Apple Software updates take care of all your needs. If your computer is slowing down, there are other underlying reasons for this. No software can be downloaded and miraculously repair your ailing computer. In fact some software causes problems and renders your computer unstable.

Thankyou Bonny Chattergoon @ Chattergoon ICT Services: Ph 0431062752 for this helpful and informative information.

“Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter”.

GARAGE SALE PICTURES
TAKEN BY THE QT



KEN BEITZEL MAKES SOME WONDERFUL ITEMS FOR SALE!

BARGAIN hunters who love unique handmade items came out in their droves to support the Ipswich Men's Shed during their garage sale on the weekend.

Shoppers were stocking up on home made cutting boards, kitchen utensils, Christmas decorations, wooden toys, hand painted saws and more, all of which were made by members from the Men's Shed.

Ipswich Men's Shed vice president and publicity officer Laurie Caldwell said he was thrilled to see such a large turnout of people come to help them raise much needed funds to cover their operational costs.

"This is the first time in about two years we have held a garage sale like this, and we are thrilled to see so many people coming in to have a look and buy a few things," he said.

**THANKS ALSO TO KEVIN FOR CONTACTING RIVER 94.9
AND GETTING A COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT**



VICE PRESIDENT LAURIE SHOWS OFF SOME TOY CARS

All of the money from the garage sale goes back into helping us to cover the operational costs of the shed, such as purchasing new machines when we need to, buying materials such as timber, covering our power and gas bills and even buying food to feed our troops.

"With 120 members, we are one of the largest Men's Sheds in the region, and while we do receive most of our funding from barbecues at Bunnings, the garage sale allows us to raise even more money."

One of the biggest selling items from the day were handmade painted saws created by Men's Shed member Bob Edyvean.

"I honestly didn't know how they would sell, but they have been quite popular. A few people have been coming in to buy a few at a time," he said.

The Ipswich Men's Shed were so thrilled at the support shown by the community that they hope to host another garage sale in the future.



BOB SHOWS OFF HIS WONDERFUL ART WORK



Our Neighbourhood Community Grants

Our Neighbourhood Community Grants form part of Australia Post's ongoing commitment to supporting the communities in which we operate. The program recognises the important role our smaller charities and community groups play in connecting people and positively shaping our nation.

Digital Understanding For Old Blokes: providing basic computer training

This grant will be used to purchase computers, internet connection and a printer for the Digital Understanding For Old Blokes program that aims to provide basic computer training to members of the Ipswich Men's Shed.

Profile

The Ipswich Men's Shed Inc. has been operational since Jan 2013 and is a member of the Australian Men's Shed Association.

The shed aims to give retired men of the Ipswich community a place to meet and exchange skills and experience, or just to have contact with other men in a safe and supportive environment. Activities include woodwork, wood turning, metal machining, welding and fitting, as well as growing vegetables and fruit.



THANKS TO ROGER OVERELL

WE RECEIVED A GRANT OF \$3500

MEMBERSHIP REACHES AN ALL TIME HIGH OF 130 MEMBERS



Tools as explained by a retiree - very accurate

DRILL PRESS:

A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

WIRE WHEEL:

Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh sh --'

SKIL SAW:

A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

PLIERS:

Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

BUNNINGS
warehouse

BUNDAMBA

Sausage Sizzle date is
Sunday, 20th November 2016



**CHRISTMAS PARTY
KNIGHTS SOCCER CLUB
9TH DECEMBER 2016
\$25 PER HEAD
“SHEDDER OF THE YEAR”
AWARD**



**SHEDDER OF THE MONTH
BBQ BOB!**