



**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 Stoneman; **Future Development:** Bob Edyvean

Membership fees \$35 for 1 year – **daily fees \$3 plus \$4.00 lunch**

**Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am-2pm**

**Dear Members -**

Thanks to Laurie and Members who ran the Shed whilst I was away on a trip to Canberra.

This week we welcome the Queensland Men's Shed Association to our Shed for their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> (Agenda attached).

Membership is growing and we need projects, so if you have any jobs, please bring them in to get help to complete the job.

A recent meeting with Mayor Paul Pisasale was very successful. As Paul is our biggest supporter, he has projects for us as we head into the new year.

Apprenticeships Qld have now started renovating a recently purchased home, and they are providing training for school based students in areas of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, painting. We at the Shed hope to provide mentors for this most worthy project.

Thanks to Brian Oberholster who is our new safety officer. Please assist him where possible - his Profile is a very interesting one! Thanks Brian.

John Baker, our Fire Awareness Officer has procured new up to date fire extinguishers and these are now in place - thanks John. Remember to include new members in any projects and enjoy your time at the Shed.

Regards

Terry

Printed by Cr Kylie Stoneman

**MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> 10 AM AT THE SHED**



*Speaking from the Heart*  
Community Speakers' Program



## **RICHARD EDWARDS -SPEAKER**

Would you like to provide your members with information on a range of heart health topics including healthy eating, active living, the warning signs of a heart attack, knowing your heart disease risk or life after a heart attack? The Heart Foundation Community Speaker Program "*Speaking from the Heart*" heart health talks and DVD are available at no cost to community organizations.

- Eating for a Healthy Heart
- Active Living for a Healthy Heart
- Warning Signs of Heart Attack
- Know Your Heart Disease Risk
- Life After a Heart Attack
- Yarning for Heart Health





## MEMBER PROFILE: BRIAN OBERHOLSTER

This month we start a new profile series on an incredibly interesting man who joined the shed last year.

Born into a fascinating family with an amazing ancestry (which we will explore during this series), Brian Oberholster has lived 3 lives; and we will visit each of these lives as we progress. But to begin at the beginning –**The First Life:**

Born to parents Henry and Violet Oberholster, Brian spent his early years in Salisbury (now Harare) in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) with his parents and two sisters Marion and Jean.

As a boy, Brian attended St Michaels Preparatory School in Salisbury and later when his family moved, he attended Christian Brothers College (CBC) in Bulawayo – both schools being single race (white) Catholic schools of distinction.

At school Brian was outstanding in sport and represented CBC College in the 1<sup>st</sup> teams in cricket, rugby, tennis, swimming and athletics. These were happy times for Brian but all too soon the time came to bid farewell to youthful days to move into the working environment. Thus, in March 1962 Brian joined the British South Africa Police and began a career that would take him to several places in Rhodesia, including Fort Victoria, Salisbury, and Bulawayo and into the Bindura District.

Upon commencing work as a police officer, Brian speaks of conducting motor cycle patrols around Fort Victoria and of visiting the graveyards of the pioneers who passed through the area in 1894 (the significance of this will become relevant later).

He also tells of visiting a farmhouse during one motorcycle patrol and meeting up with a young 14 year old girl called Joan Gifford who, it turned out, was a relative of his on his mother's side. What is interesting about this, is that Brian lost touch with her thereafter but amazingly, on moving to Australia in his 3<sup>rd</sup> life; Brian again met with Joan and her husband in Melbourne in 2016, some 53 years after they last spoke. It certainly is a small world.

As a policeman Brian undertook patrols, traffic control duties and the like, but he soon progressed through the ranks and structure to undertake investigative duties. Like most police officers, Brian clearly recalls his first and last investigations both of which were murders and both of which he is proud to have solved.

The first involved a local Indigenous tribesman who had visited a neighbouring village to assist with the planting of maize prior to the rainy season. As was the custom of the tribes, the village headman arranged a 'beer drink' involving an incredibly potent mix made from fermented maize, which often leaves drinkers extremely drunk and frothing at the mouth. On this occasion the visiting tribesman staggered back to his own village later in the day and upon arriving, found his wife sitting on a rock outside their hut, breast-feeding their 3 week old baby. Angry that his meal was not ready for him, the man seized the young child by the legs, held it upside down and bashed its head into the rock, killing it instantly. Thankfully, due to Brian's diligence and evidence gathering, the man was later charged with murder in the High Court and was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment with hard labour.

In 1978 while in Salisbury, Brian met and married his wife Miriam Sparago and together they had a son Garry who now lives in Australia and works in the IT business.

By this time Brian had progressed through the police to the rank of detective superintendent and had undertaken fingerprint training and CID training but was now stationed in Special Branch. There he was tasked with the running of covert and overt sources within the African Political Parties.

But by then Robert Mugabe had seized control of the country and things were getting progressively worse. Brian began to consider his options, particularly in light of two incidents that occurred late in his career as a policeman.

The first was an investigation that Brian undertook which turned out to be his last as a police officer. This related to the murder of a local motel owner. On the day the motel owner died he had been experiencing labour problems with staff, which he was unable to solve satisfactorily. The staff sought assistance of the local Zanu Office (Zimbabwe African National Union) led by Mugabe. Shortly thereafter an indigenous man arrived at the motel and opened fire with an AK rifle on the (white) motel owner who was working at the front counter. Brian's extensive investigations revealed the identity of the killer, but he could not be located and information received indicated that he had travelled to Russia for Terrorist training, at the bequest of the Zanu Party.

Six months later the killer returned to Zimbabwe and was arrested and sentenced to death by the High Court in Salisbury, after admitting to the killing. Through political brain-washing however, he claimed that he had done nothing wrong and that he was entitled to kill the motel owner. Sadly he was never executed. Instead he was released and later joined the Zimbabwe army.

Then in 1981, came the final straw that broke the camel's back for Brian. In his appointed rank of detective superintendent and as the commanding officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Bindura District, he was directed to send an (indigenous) subordinate (a detective sergeant three ranks inferior to him), to Police General Headquarters. Brian did as he was directed, only to have that subordinate return to his office sometime later, now sporting the insignia and rank of Assistant Commissioner and thus succeeding Brian by two ranks.

Clearly seeing the writing on the wall for a white man in the new Zimbabwe, soon after, Brian accepted early retirement and in 1982 he set out with his wife and son to his 2<sup>nd</sup> life – this time in South Africa. TO BE CONTINUED:

## OBERHOLSTER HERITAGE:

**FATHER:** Brian is able to trace his heritage through his father's lineage to the first Oberholster ever to settle in South Africa. Jan Oberholster was born in Wald in Zurich, Switzerland before emigrating in the early 1770's to settle in Stellenbosch, a wine growing area of South Africa.

One of Jan's descendants - Michael headed up one of the pioneer groups of explorers who travelled north into the Orange Free State Province to open it up for others to follow. From Michael, Brian traces his family forward to his grandfather who was born in Kuruman, before moving to Bulawayo in the 1800's (soon after Rhodesia was colonised), in search of gold.

There his father was born and after leaving school, he started an apprenticeship in carpentry but failed to complete it, due to the outbreak of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war. Brian's father served with distinction in the 14<sup>th</sup> army in Burma and was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1959. He left the Army in 1963, but remained with Army Intelligence until his retirement in 1965.

**MOTHER:** On the okay of Cecil John Rhodes (Prime Minister of the Cape Colony from 1890 to 1896) Violet's grandfather undertook the perilous Edenburg Trek to the Eastern Highlands of Rhodesia commencing March 1894. He travelled by horse and cart with a number of other people, including his wife Emma and their five children. Eventually the family settled in a place to be called Melsetter where Brian's mother was born. She went on to serve in the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war in Nairobi with the Rhodesia Nursing Corp. She was mentioned in dispatches on two (2) separate occasions for her outstanding skills and provision of care during the war effort. It is interesting that in later years, one of the tasks that Brian was asked to perform whilst stationed in Fort Victoria, was to check on the graves of those who perished on the trek whilst passing through the Fort Victoria area – some of whom as fore-mentioned, were his own ancestors.

**MARRIAGE:** Brian's parents Henry and Violet Oberholster were married in Nairobi in 1942 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war. His mother's wedding dress was made out of a parachute. Brian

professes it was not the nicest looking wedding dress but it was made of silk and during the war it was not easy to come by anything more spectacular. Nonetheless, Brian says that the dress lasted an incredibly long time and he recalls his two sisters playing dress-up with their mother's wedding dress for a long time thereafter. Certainly goes to prove that necessity really is the mother of invention.

## PC NEWS

Just as we thought the days of personal assistants had long gone by, we now have a re-emergence of them and it's available to all of us. We have a digital personification of connectivity that brings together programs, apps systems and services that make up modern computing. Digital agents or intelligent personal assistants are making their way into computers after debuting on smartphones. Microsoft included their version called "Cortana" when it launched Windows 10 in 2015 and made great improvements in their 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary update which was launched in August 2016. Not to be outdone, albeit a year later, Apple released its version called "Siri" in the latest version of Mac OSX called "macOS Sierra". As these digital agents progress, it will fundamentally change the way we interact with our computers. In the future, we could be dictating to our computers instead of pounding on our keyboards. (Thankyou Bonny Chattergoon at Chattergoon ICT Services (0431062752 for this information).

On the same theme, one of the amazing personal assistant products on the American market right now, is the Amazon Echo. It is a 23.5 cm tall cylinder speaker with a seven-piece microphone array. The device connects to the voice-controlled intelligent personal assistant service 'Alexa'. The device is capable of voice interaction, music playback, making to-do lists, setting alarms, streaming podcasts, playing audiobooks, and providing weather, traffic and other real time information. It can also control several smart devices using itself as a home automation hub. One reviewer said, "I didn't know that I needed to speak to my house – until I spoke to my house." Now people are telling Alexa to turn on (or off) their lights, open or close their curtains, order pizzas, or Uber, play music and even have Alexa read them books, without even leaving their sofas. And amazingly Alexa is relatively cheap and ever learning. The more you speak to it, the better it knows your voice and the more productive it becomes. Refer to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for more information. Although currently not available in Australia, the Amazon Echo and its new opposition 'Google Home' will make it onto the market in due course. Until then both units will continue to improve. It seems the future is here now

## AMAZING



# SHEDDER OF THE MONTH

## BOB LAWLEY

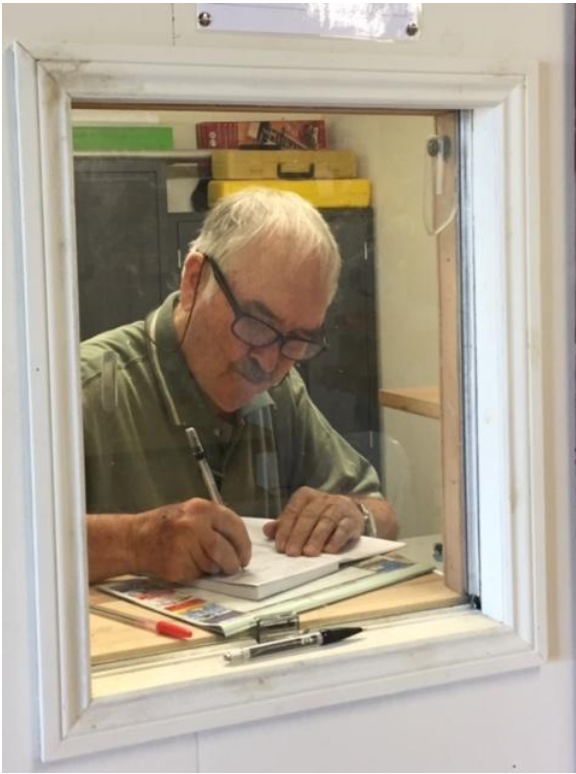


## BOB AND GEOFF



**Terry presents Mayor PAUL with the Gavel made at the Shed  
and Paul Casos looks on**

*Ian enjoying his new office*



**Buddy Chair made by Col and Ted  
Presented to Springfield State School**





**Clients pick up the beautiful notice board made by Rob Crepin**



**Apprenticeships Qld  
open their home for renovation  
Dave to assist**



## **IPSWICH TAFE DONATE THE LATHE TO THE SHED**

### **AGENDA QUEENSLAND MEN'S SHED ASSOCIATION INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2017**

Welcome – Chairman

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last AGM
3. Business Arising from previous Minutes
4. President's report – Receive Report  
Present for Adoption
5. Business Arising from President's Report
6. Financial Report - Receive Statement  
Present for Adoption
8. Business Arising from Treasurer's Report
7. Ratify Secretary and Treasurer
8. Ratify Zone Representatives
9. Appoint scrutineers
10. Election – Vice President  
President
11. Move destruction of ballot papers
12. Appointment of Auditor or Accountant
13. Close



**LUKE THANKS BRIAN FOR HIS NEW CUPBOARD**



**GET WELL SOON BOB!**

**Miracle on City Beach as woman who had no pulse for 20 minutes is saved by  
surf lifesavers**



**“Everyone should do a first aid and CPR course.”**

**THANKS DARRYL FOR YOUR INPUT**

**THANKS ALSO FROM ROWDY TANNER AS WE APPLIED FOR TWO PRINTERS FROM  
RIVER 94.9**

**REMEMBER TO BRING IN A PROJECT AS WE ARE RUNNING SHORT**

**LET US WELCOME QLD SHEDDERS TO  
IPSWICH  
FOR THE QMSA AGM**