



*Every Shed needs a Barry
"Greenfingers" Burbridge.*



Sunbury Men's Shed Newsletter

Issue no 4

Shed Chatter

Jan 2016

Welcome to the New Year everybody and hoping this year is going to be a good one for you and your families. Here at the Men's Shed we want to take further strides in making this a place men want to be at to add to their home life, be happy and be fulfilled.

The Pioneers who built this Shed did a wonderful job. We thank you. Now that the Shed is running, it needs another set of skills to get it humming by setting a vision, working out where we want to be and using our skills and intellect to get us there. There is a lot of goodwill in the community including our State Government, local Council and the business community which we need to harness. We need to work out where we want to be. We need to work on a strategic plan, particularly required when applying for grants. A members' meeting will be held on 5 February to brainstorm ideas.

We received 36 responses to the recent survey. Thanks for your replies and below is a breakdown of results:

- Members felt membership fees are a good fit - 95 % are happy with the current fees
- 100 % of members attend the Shed for companionship
- 95% of us are retired and want to be busy
- Most members want to learn new skills and are prepared to share their skills
- 70% of members come to the Shed to use the equipment
- 7 members want to become Shed Supervisors who are certainly needed to open the Shed for longer hours

On the Wish List, members would like:

- Subsidised Shed uniforms, a tool loan process
- A brick pizza oven
- Organised outings, guest speakers
- Oxy acetylene set up for brazing and welding
- Billiard table, magazine rack
- Blacksmith forge and tools
- For new members, an initiation and welcome pack
- Member identity cards to be continued
- A regular explanation of the Shed finance situation to members

In this Issue

- Survey results
- New Committee member
- Our Distinguished Gardeners
- John Hunter's pens
- Rolls Royce story
- Committee happenings
- Too much fun at the Shed...
- Joke Corner
- New members
- From the Editor's Desk

Committee changing of the guard ... one at least!

As Tom Blight, our Committee member has now left the Shed to live intrastate, the Committee position having been vacated was offered to Frank Zambello, the Communications and Publicity Officer, who accepted and has been inducted according to our Constitutional process.

Member Profile and Role



Gardener extraordinaire—Barry Burbridge [aka “Bazza”]

I am married to a wonderful lady, Margaret, and we have 3 daughters, 8 grandchildren and a great grand daughter. We moved from East Keilor to Sunbury in 1982 and first lived on 8½ acres on Gap Road Hill for 4½ years before moving to Menzies Drive. I was involved in the meat industry for 47 years, mainly as a Foreman and Manager in abattoirs and/or boning rooms, although the last 2 years, I spent as a Storeman/Forklift Driver which involved heavy lifting and hastened my retirement at 63. At the age of 32, I owned and ran a sandwich bar, making and delivering smokos and lunches to 35 factories in the Cheltenham area for 18 months which was extremely hard work.

Since my retirement some 9 years ago, I have attended the Sunbury Aquatic Centre most weekdays utilising the pool, sauna, spa and sometimes the gym. I have been actively involved with the Jackson Creek Probis Club for the past 9 years. I joined the Sunbury Men’s Shed in 2012 and have seen it grow from very humble beginnings to a Shed to be envied by many; there’s more to come in the foreseeable future. I have been involved with setting up the garden beds, firstly at the front and side of the Shed next to the grasslands consisting of 5 beds of corrugated iron built on top of 3 pellets high with about 1 foot of soil on top of pallets and shade cloth. Finally, over the past 2 years, another 15 beds have been created out the back – 9 constructed of secondhand railway sleepers and 6 corrugated iron garden beds.

Lew Galpin’s input into the garden is also greatly appreciated and nothing is too great a job



There is also a hot house and a shade cloth house and a nearly completed watermill, thanks to Kevin Dyson. The mateship and friends made at the Shed are forever and may it continue to grow and expand in the years to come. It is very interesting meeting people from all different walks of life including professionals, tradies, services people, teachers, pilots, farmers, drivers, engineers to name a few and they are without exception, very interesting to speak to and spend time with. The Committee are doing a great job, often under difficult circumstances and Frank Zambello is to be congratulated on the great job he is doing publishing the Men’s Shed Newsletter each month.

The BBQs at Bunnings throughout the years have certainly been a prime money raiser for the Shed and the relationship with Bunnings and the Men’s Shed is priceless to both organisations. In conclusion, the lunches we have together on a Friday, whilst not always 5-star, are a great way to get together. Our Xmas break up was very special.

Yours in shedding Bazza



From a bare paddock with graffitied wall to current prolific vegetable producing gardens ...



Started with a bare paddock



Here come the railway sleepers



A bit of back breaking and surveying work



Vegetable beds everywhere



An oasis of productive healthy plants growing produce for the Sunbury Sheddies

Turning Pens

By John Hunter



How it started

Like all wood turners the desire to turn timber pens arrives sooner or later. In my case after many years of turning wood the thought arrived about six years ago. One of the first lessons I learned was that it is addictive!

Turning timber pens is not difficult but there are a few techniques that need to be mastered and in the process one develops one's own style and favorite tools and even type of timber. I really liked Olive and Osage Orange

A basic pen kit costs around \$3 and can cost in excess of \$100 for more elaborate mechanisms.

With the basic pen kit costing around \$3 and suitable timber being readily available it is not an expensive pastime in the beginning. This is where the addiction kicks in! You eventually run out of friends and relatives to give your creations to and after watching a plethora of You Tube videos you want to move on to the next stage, and of course more expensive pen kits.

Other writing implements are also available such as fountain pen and pencil kits. A matching pen and pencil set in a nice display box is an excellent gift.

There is also a huge variety of materials available from around the globe such as deer antler, exotic timbers and composite materials sold as "blanks" for the adventurous pen turner.



I saw these timber pens for sale on one of the Greek Islands on a recent trip. Selling for around \$80 AUD each



A pair of 'Sierra' style pens

Some of the materials used in pen making.

- Hardwoods & Softwoods
- Acrylic
- Aluminium
- Deer Antler
- Ivory
- Resin impregnated timber
- Snake skin

Moving on from timber

If you search Google with the words 'Pen turning' you will be presented with a mass of information on the subject which extends way beyond timber pens.

My first move away from timber blanks took me to the

world of Acrylics. There are hundreds of places from which to purchase Acrylic blanks and there are videos of people who mix their own acrylic.

I decided to just purchase blanks and develop the skills

required to turn them into pens. One of the first things required with a blank is to drill an appropriately sized hole through the length of the material to accommodate the brass tube from the mechanism.

These vary in size depending on the model of pen, from 7mm up to 12mm and beyond and all sizes in between.

Drilling a 10mm hole through an Acrylic blank.

This might seem to be a simple exercise with a floor standing drill press. It is not!

A blank is typically 19mm square and about 60mm long.

For various reasons the 10mm drill will wander off course on the way through the blank. When cutting your own timber blanks you make them a little thicker to compensate. However with a 'bought' acrylic blank there is not much room for error. The other major problem when drilling acrylic blanks is the bottom end of the acrylic splits as the drill bit breaks

through.

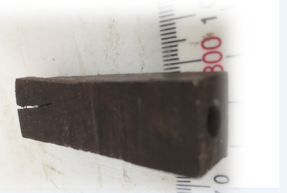
One of the many advantages of belonging to a Men's Shed, particularly Hume Men's Shed (Sunbury) Inc. is the vast amount of knowledge within the membership. When I posed this problem to a particular member of the shed he suggested a special bit to start the drilling process thereby starting the final drill bit on a true course. This solved the wandering problem but the splitting of the bottom of the blank was still an issue. He then suggested trying his horizontal metal lathe...and it worked every time. Problem solved. How-

ever it did mean I prevailed on his good nature for drilling all my future acrylic blanks. It was around about this time that the shed purchased a Milling machine, which I was told would do the same job as the metal lathe.

I never got to try it as another type of the pen making process took my interest.

Casting your own acrylic blanks.

A split end



Casting your own Acrylic blanks

Through watching You Tube videos and the like I discovered a new process that was becoming popular in the pen turning world.

Casting. The moulds used in the process were purchased from your pen kit supplier.

This involves using a mould to suspend the brass tube, which is the heart of the

pen, in a silicon "bath" and pouring clear resin into the mould and all around the brass tube. When the resin has set it is then removed from the mould and turned on the lathe.

Prior to setting the brass tube in the clear resin you "decorate" the tube with images. The very first image I tried was downloading the Bunnings logo from the internet, adjusting the size so that it fitted

neatly around the tube, printing and gluing the image to the brass tube. Then setting it in the mould and covering it with clear resin.



The finished product

More on Casting

With a fertile mind and reading more about what others pen makers around the world were doing it was not long before I realized the scope in this process was limited only by ones imagination.

It was a relatively new system and process and some of the initial problems that were encountered involved the type of paper and adhesive that could mix with the acrylic resin without becoming taint-

ed. It was a learning curve. A nice easy one was sticking stamps to the tube and setting those in resin. A good result could be had as stamps were fairly robust and did not react adversely with the resin.

It was a natural step to scan photographs, using MS Publisher, crop and resize to fit on to the brass tube. At this point information from the WWW was very limited, mainly because it was still a very new

process. So it was trial and error. Costly R & D but great fun searching for the answers.



Problem solving

As well as trying to find the right paper/ glue combination there was another problem with casting that came to light. Bubbles in the resin. When pouring the resin into the mould most of the air bubbles would rise to the surface and it was not a major problem. However small air bubbles could remain trapped under the tube and were not discovered until the final polishing was taking place. They then looked like small black dots and spoiled the whole look of the pen. The answer was to place the mould into a vacuum chamber after the resin was poured to

force all the air bubbles to the surface. Again help came from the Mens Shed where a member made me a vacuum system using an old pressure cooker and a device to create the vacuum from the vehicle repair industry. It worked, the only problem being time. Depending on the ambient temperature the resin would begin to set fairly quickly and the setting of the resin was exacerbated in the vacuum process.

In the meantime self adhesive photographic paper was discovered to do the job of sticking images to the brass tubes

with no adverse reaction to the resin. At \$1 per A4 sheet it was quite expensive but well worth it. The quality of the pictures was excellent and enhanced by the clear resin.



The author

Computer requirements

A working knowledge of Publisher, the Microsoft Office programme was of great benefit in the creation of the pictures that eventually ended up wrapped around the brass tube.

Also the ability to enhance, crop and modify digital images helped in producing suitable artwork for the pens.

Again, the only limitation is one's imagina-

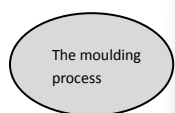
tion. Creating a pen to commemorate a special event such as a wedding, birth of a child, special birthday anniversary or any event that can be photographed or has been photographed is a candidate for the creation of a "special" pen to commemorate the occasion. These pens can be for everyday use and standard refills are available from normal outlets.

Moving on making moulds

The moulds for the casting process are anything from \$30 up depending on the type and configuration.

Searching the internet yet again I found that the craft industry use silicon for moulds and it is readily available. A bit of head scratching and I soon made my first "moulding box" out of scrap timber from my workshop. It works out a lot cheaper and I can make a mould for any type of

pen I wish and given the variety of pen kits available in the marketplace today it widens the scope for casting any type of pen in the future. If any members of the shed are interested in this addictive hobby I would be happy to assist in any way I can. We have the lathes and now some useful knowledge...



The moulding process



Looking for another challenge

The manufacturer of my scroll chuck, Nova, had produced a set of jaws to fit the chuck that dealt with wandering drill bit as well as the "break out" problem. Obviously I was not the only one with this problem, At \$60 and an assurance it would work from a woodturning colleague I purchased one and was able to use the lathe, instead of a drill press to drill the holes. And it works!



A wedding



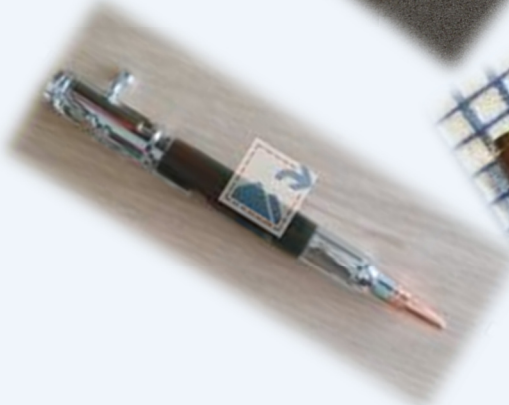
Special occasion



Footy player and club logo



A couple of bullet style pens



Down to business:

Committee of Management Meeting results

- Some Members of the Committee have organised to meet with Josh Bull, the State Member for Sunbury to pursue Approval for a State Government **Grant for the Shed Extension**. As we are all aware, overcrowding is occurring in the workshop when a good number of members come to work in the Shed. An extension to the existing shed is desirable for efficiency, safety and to cater for the growing number of men coming to the Shed.
- Also a **Grant for Solar Panels** on the roof of the Shed is being progressed which would save the Shed a good portion of our power bills.
- Sunbury Men's Shed is considering only allowing **Members from the Hume Council district to join the Shed** as we now have 100 members. If more than the 35 odd regularly attend there is congestion. Another alternative is to open the Shed for longer hours but this will mean we need more volunteers to qualify for First Aid etc. Members will be asked to vote on this. The downside is we will eliminate varied talent from entering the Shed and friends of resident Members will also not be permitted to join.
- We are asking members to **man the sinks** please clean up after yourselves and help out in the kitchen so the same people are not lumbered with the job.
- There is a possibility the Council, via Jack Medcraft, will fund a **new lawn mower and whipper snipper** which was recently stolen from the Shed. Security has been heightened. The Shed is now monitored by a local security company and cameras are constantly recording inside the Shed and its perimeter.
- We are waiting for the painting of the **Tardis** to be completed by the **Sunbury Youth Group** movement; the local Newspaper has advised they will do a story on this project and our Shed.
- **The CFA** has donated a significant amount of steel. In acknowledgement, Sunbury Men's Shed stood in at a day's Bunnings sausage sizzle event whilst the CFA were on standby for fires.
- Installation of Evaporative Air cooling pods is being organised to cool us down in the Workshop on the hot days life is good!

- The Publicity Officer (me) is looking into **Sponsorship of Shed Tshirts etc** to subsidise or fully pay for this apparel for members who want them. One of the issues is some people think the maroon is too harsh and ask if we can have a lighter colour. Issues of printing sponsor logos on T shirts need to be considered.
- **Welding Shed shop floor concreting** is being organised; installers will then install the donated roller door.
- The **Riding Club from Bulla** has requested some park benches to be built; we are reviewing this request.
- The Shed will put together a formal package for a **Tattslotto Shed Fund** to give us the opportunity to share a large win and buy those Hot Rods we always wanted or take that First Class Cruise to Europe. An announcement will be made on a Friday.
- On Friday 5 February at 11.30am, a Timbercom Rep will attend the Shed to give a 20 minute talk about the Company. The Rep will look at the saw we purchased from them which has some small issues and answer any questions on tools and manufacturing in general.

Other Business

- Jimmy Moffat used his initiative a couple of years ago to obtain sponsorship namely, 12 Family Feast Vouchers for a year from Dan Ellis, the Rezos Group Local Store Marketing Coordinator of KFC . This offer has now expired and on behalf of Jim and our hungry Shedmen, I have written to Mr Ellis and asked if they can kindly continue with this offer. We in return (other than enjoying the chicken coleslaw and mashed potato) would be happy to advertise this in coming Newsletters and by word of mouth. Feast below ... KFC ...finger licking good!



A Story about one of our member's Rolls Royce "Love Affair"

Alan Dyer, one of our most colourful members, owned a Roller which he has recently sold to a private buyer. The people making the mini series, "Molly Meldrum", acquired it from the buyer as Molly had a similar black model, so we will be seeing this



car in the coming TV series. The difference is, as I have seen it in a preview for the series, Molly Meldrum drove it fast and I imagine the car would be in shock after Alan's dotting care.



I was asked to put together an article on my motor car, a 1975 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow Standard Saloon. A lot of the members would know the car more than me and I may say dreams come true. I first drove a Rolls Royce because that is what the badge said. I did not know what model it was. I now know it was a Silver Dawn, a six-cylinder, all steel body, the first to be fitted by the Company. Before that, the chassis was sent out to coach builders. The vehicle I drove began a love affair to this day. I would collect any newspaper clippings etc and stick them in scrapbooks which if I had them now maybe I could swap for a new one. I think it was thrown out when we moved from Carlton to Broadmeadows in 1962 and yes, dreams do come true.

In 1999, I bought this Silver Shadow which was made for Sir Hamilton Sleight of Golden Fleece petrol and oil fame. It didn't look as good as it does now. I spent many a night in the garage cleaning all the nooks and crannies with a toothbrush.

My wife [not happy Jan], would say, "you don't even clean your teeth that well" and she was probably right. I now have false teeth and yes they could have caused a divorce like "your tea is ready, your tea is getting cold, your tea is in the bin, so cold shoulder and hot tongue."

Now a little about our car which was produced in Great Britain in various forms from 1965 to 1980 after a successful response to concerns the Company was falling behind the times. This was the first Rolls Royce to use a monocoque chassis and to date, the largest production volume of any Rolls Royce. Following in the Rolls Royce tradition of building luxury vehicles, the standard wheel base on a Silver Shadow is 17 feet [5.17 metres]. Weight was 4,700 lbs [2,100 kg] and cost \$19,700 or £6,557. Initially the model was planned to be called "Silver Mist" which was a natural progression from its predecessor the "Silver Cloud". The name was changed to "Silver Shadow" after realising that "mist" is the German word for manure, rubbish or dirt!

This vehicle came out with a 6,250cc V8 engine which was increased by half a litre to 6,750cc in 1970. We are the fourth owners of SRH22107. It has a GM Turbo and Automatic 4 wheel disc brakes. The paint work is Peacock Blue. The fine lines are Gold. Upholstery is Connolly Bros Beige. Carpet is Wilton Cumberland Stone. Woodwork is Burr Walnut.

They truly are the best car in the world



Alan made a replica of the famous 1907 Silver Ghost. Good job Alan ... you were destined to own a Roller and your Rolls Royce will now go down in history.



We have two new members this month: Husan Agul and Geoff Fanning. Sunbury Shed Welcomes you....



Joke Corner



Anyone for a cheap airfare? Bring your own goggles. I hear the views are stunning.



Shed Culture

We need more of this



Grab a handtowel boys just like these helpful guys and join in the kitchen duties. We won't tell the wives.



Our Kevin watering, amongst his other talents



President peeling onions for S Sizzle



The 3 Amigos

Having too much fun at the Shed

From the Editor's Desk ...

I am very happy to take on the Committee member role. Thank you for your confidence. It is a privilege to be able to contribute to a Shed full of such good men ...

I have been a resident of Sunbury for over 20 years, 20 years in Gisborne before that, kids



went to Salesian College, but my interest in Sunbury goes back to when I was a pre-teen and used to come here from Moonee

Ponds to fish and catch goldfinches for my aviary.

I have come to the Men's Shed mainly for comraderie as I have a well equipped shed of my own. I have found the friendships I am making with people with their own skills and life experiences, priceless. I plan to be here for a long time and help make this Shed a beauty. Look forward to many more Newsletters as I seem to have found my niche ...

Until the next Newsletter, be good, keep up with giving me material for members to enjoy. Cheers and beers from here. Frankie.