

President's Xmas Lunch Speech

Welcome everyone to our Christmas lunch.

We have some special guests with us this year and each of them represent an organisation that has been a great supporter of our Shed.

Rob Mitchell MP Federal Member for McEwen

Josh Bull MP State Member for Sunbury and Office Manager, Jarrod Bell

Deputy Mayor Ann Potter, Hume City Council

Councillor Jack Medcraft, Hume City Council

Robyn Clendhill, Sunbury Helping Hands

Timm Martin, National Storage.

Without their support the Shed would not be where we are now and the 120 members would not have the facilities that we now enjoy.

I thought that being in the back blocks of Zambia at the time of our AGM was safe, but on return found that I was in the privileged position having been elected President of this great organisation.

As a result I was not able to publicly thank the previous committee led by President Dieter,

Dieter ... Thanks for the great job done over the 2 previous years, in overseeing the big expansion of the Shed membership, and the problems associated with modifying the operation to accommodate this increase. Thank you for the great Honour Board you made to acknowledge our founding members.

Thank you to all the Shed members who have contributed to the many projects carried out by the Shed for the benefit of the community.

No great organisation can function without members working behind the scenes and we have a core of these members doing a great job.

Our Area Coordinators Ian Lupson, Peter Wilkinson, Ted Riley, Trevor Dunn, Kevin Wood, John Stains, Barry Burbridge, and Dieter Jankovic have taken ownership of their areas, and this has relieved the workload on the committee in the day to day running of the Shed.

Our committee members carry out a lot of extra duties at the Shed.

Secretary John Hunter, one of our foundation members of the Shed has held this position for all but one year since 2010 and is the focal point for people contacting the Shed at all hours, plus the mountain of paper work that has to be dealt with.

Treasurer Stan Rasa keeps a tight rein on spending, much to the anguish of some members who think that we need new tools.

Vice President Ian Lupson is a foundation member, Past President, and has been involved in a lot of negotiations for the Shed, and makes a lot of Friday lunches.

Mike Newman handles our membership and Nat Perri looks after our grant applications which help to fund new equipment.

Frank Zambello does a great job with our Shed Newsletter.

Rod Jackson handles our computer problems, Member Welfare and some OH&S.

Peter Wilkinson coordinates a lot of projects and is helping disadvantaged people outside of Shed hours that most members are not aware of.

A member who has only been with us for 6 months has brought a range of new ideas to the Shed. Nat Perri has negotiated for us to be a Work for the Dole provider, which provides the Shed with income, and gives the participants access to a number of projects and new skills. It is a win win situation for both parties. He also organised today's lunch. Function.

I again thank all these members for a great job well done, as well as the non-elected members who do a lot of extra work for the Shed at home.

Our plans are to continue to promote Men's Health through our Men's Shed by providing a venue and training facilities to keep men occupied in both body and mind, particularly in retirement. We also include some younger men with various disabilities who need an outlet to reconnect and contribute to society in a meaningful and self satisfying way.

Currently we are receiving 3 to 4 requests for membership each month and have submitted plans to expand the Shed to accommodate this growing need.

To you and all your families, have a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year.