



SHED chatter

ISSUE OCTOBER 2022

Welcome to Shed Chatter

Men's Sheds are an international phenomenon that started right here in Australia, and they have become an integral part of many local communities across Queensland. Men's Sheds give blokes a place to pursue interests, learn new things, share skills and have a yarn over coffee.

As you read the latest news from sheds across Queensland, you'll see shedders engaged in all different activities, from making and restoring furniture and toys, making musical instruments, exploring creativity with art and photography, working on community projects, and even making a scale model steam engine.

While no two sheds are the same, the key to their popularity across the globe is best expressed in the shedder's motto:

*Men don't talk face-to-face;
They talk shoulder-to-shoulder.*

We would like to acknowledge our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Neville O'Brien, who has been the diligent and hardworking editor of *Shed Chatter*. He has decided to pass on the baton, and while you may notice this edition has had a face lift, we've carried on the great tradition of sharing stories from Shedders across Queensland.

To share news from your Shed, take a photo or two, add a few words, and email it to shedchatter@qmsa.org.au.

We hope you enjoy the latest edition of *Shed Chatter*.

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The Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the article's author and are not, necessarily, the opinions of the QMSA State Executive nor the Editor.



President's jottings

Greetings Fellow Shedders,

We continue to witness significant activity involving the Shed movement in Queensland. Early in September we were pleased to be involved with the AMSA in the *Shedders Long Lunch* function that was held at the CSI Club at Southport. This function was earlier postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. While numbers were somewhat disappointing those attending had a very enjoyable day. Our thanks go to Marty Leist the AMSA Events Coordinator for his work in arranging catering, and facilitating this event. We were fortunate to have had Justine Karcher as our lively MC/Comedian, and the musical entertainment provided by the *Potty Pluckers* Men's Shed band from Pottsville (NSW)

I had the pleasure of attending the Killarney Men's Shed on Friday 23 September. I was made very welcome by this enthusiastic group who are headed up by their President Pat Palmer. Killarney were also hosting another Men's Shed on the day, and all were enjoying the fellowship and company.

As a member of the Ipswich Men's Shed, I participated in a visit to the Boonah Activity Shed on Monday 10 October. It was wonderful to witness the bonding that occurred between all Shedders on the morning. Boonah provided a sumptuous spread for morning tea.

On Saturday 27 August, I visited the Ipswich Woodcraft Club fete and open day. Apart from the food and trade stalls, an extensive display of work produced by members was exhibited. One never ceases to marvel at the skills and creativity evident among members. I was pleased to be invited to speak with the club management committee on Thursday 13 October.

Continuing our series of Cluster meetings. On

Tuesday 18 October, the Sheds in the Moreton Region and Metro North Zone gathered at the Samford Showgrounds to share a day of camaraderie between the Sheds and exchange ideas and initiatives that exist in the various Sheds. The Cluster that had as its theme *Building Better Sheds* had an excellent array of presenters and relevant subject material. All attending voted it a worthwhile day. Our thanks were extended to the Samford Shedders for their support and hospitality.

Our final Cluster for the year will be held at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds on Thursday, November 24th. It is principally directed to the Metro South, Logan and Redlands Bay areas, but all Sheds are welcome to attend. We have again arranged a panel of competent presenters. Please ensure your Shed is represented.

The QMSA AGM will be held at Western Districts Rugby Club on Thursday, 17 November. The Management Committee urges all members to attend, participate and demonstrate support for our association.

We have been delighted to welcome to our team, Michele Graham as Program Administrator. Michele brings on board an array of skills and talents and provides an admirable replacement for Rachel Hawksford who has moved on to other pursuits. We wish Rachel every success and thank her for her contribution to the Queensland Shed Movement.

Kindest regards to all.

John Greatrex
President QMSA

Our team

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President John Greatrex
Ipswich Shed

Vice President Gerald Barber
Shed West - Kenmore

Treasurer Russ Hawksford
Shed West & Indooroopilly Shed

Secretary Robert Collins
Spring Hill Shed

Like to Contact QMSA
or a Committee Member?

Visit qmsa.org.au/contact-us



Or, scan our
QR code

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Metro North Zone Rep
Lawrie Bingham *Samford Shed*

Downs & South West Qld. Zone Rep
Merv Kahler *Pittsworth Shed*

Capricornia Zone Rep
Ron Steen *Gladstone Shed*

Far North Qld. Zone Rep
Bob Stemp *Marlin Coast Shed Cairns*

Vacant

Metro South Zone Rep

Sunshine Coast Zone Rep

North Qld. Zone Rep

Fraser Coast & Bundaberg Zone Rep

Gold Coast & Scenic Zone Rim
Rep

QMSA Patrons

QMSA values and recognises, Her Excellency, the Honourable, Dr Jeanette Young, AC, PSM, Governor of Queensland and her husband, Professor Graeme Nimmo, RFD, as our joint Patrons.

The QMSA Management Committee Acknowledge The Ongoing Support
Provided To The Queensland Men's Shed Movement By Terry Edwards (Director)
And Glenn Jackson (Manager) Representatives Of The Aspley Firm Of

DLA Partners: Accountants & Advisors, Brisbane
www.dlapartners.com.au



Boonah Activity Shed



Celebrating a new shed

by Ross Gilbert, Boonah Activity Shed.

Members have worked hard to earn and save sufficient funds to have this wonderful 16m x 15m shed built by our local Building Contractor Cec Miles.

As the picture shows, we have a little landscaping to do, and a footpath from the street was being constructed as this pic was taken.

For funding, we received a grant of \$35,000.00 from The Gambling Benefit Fund and assistance from the Scenic Rim Council for under-slab preparation, along with donations from members, and members of the public. We are now the proud owners of a new shed.

The shed stands on land under the management of the Boonah Show Society, who kindly allowed us the space within the Showgrounds.

Our members meet on Monday and Friday mornings or other times by arrangement. The members work on various small projects, making toys for children, garden ornaments, and several other items from timber or steel, similar to what other men's sheds manufacture.

Several of our ladies work on Pyrography, often enhancing the appearance of articles made by the men, while other ladies work with our Scroll Saws cutting out some very interesting and often quite demanding articles.

We, usually have about 20 of our 40+ members, thoroughly enjoy sitting around the morning tea table chatting to one another, telling the odd joke and looking back on past interesting matters which have occurred in and around Boonah and District.

May we take this opportunity to express our appreciation to other Sheds around Southern Queensland who have helped us in various ways. We look forward to working together for many years to come.

Boonah Activity Shed Inc.

Cossart Street, Boonah 4310
Mondays and Fridays: 8 am till midday.
Secretary Ph 041333 5116
The meeting place for men and women

Ipswich Men's Shed visit Boonah Activity Shed

On Monday, 10 October, around 20 members of the Ipswich Men's Shed visited their neighbours at the Boonah Activity Shed. The bus arrived around 9 am, and the visitors were welcomed by Vice President Max Tow and Shed Supervisor Sandy Gilbert, along with other Boonah members.

Within minutes our Shed was buzzing with the sounds of members chatting, laughing, sharing ideas and enjoying fellowship with each other. Ipswich members were led by their Treasurer and spokesperson, Bill Fisher, who spoke with great confidence at the morning tea table, asking questions and offering suggestions. It was most interesting to listen to Bill and Sandy as they asked each other questions regarding their Sheds and how each Shed goes about different matters.

Among the Ipswich visitors was John Greatrex, Queensland Men's Shed Association President.

Boonah's Ross Gilbert had the pleasure of meeting up with an old school mate David Wernowski who he hadn't seen for around fifteen years.

... I will make one of those bottle openers one day, David ...

The Boonah members collectively supplied a wonderful morning tea for all forty shedders and partners, for which we were all most appreciative.

I believe an invitation is now open for the Boonah Shedders to visit Ipswich sometime, which we look forward to doing. Our guests departed just before midday and planned to have lunch in Boonah before returning home. A wonderful way to spend a morning ...

Just another reason to become a member of a Men's Shed.

By Ross Gilbert, Boonah Activity Shed.



QMSA Annual General Meeting Reminder

When: Thursday 17 November 10 am

Where: Western Districts Rugby Football Club, 65 Sylvan Road, Toowong

RSVP: by Thursday, 10 November to secretary@qmsa.org.au

All interested Shedders welcome.
Each financial member entitled to one vote.



Brisbane South, Logan and Redland City Men's Shed Cluster Meeting

When: Thursday, 24 November
10 am - 3 pm

Where: Mt Gravatt Showgrounds
Upper Community Hall

RSVP: by Thursday 17 November

The Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed



Model Traction Engine Project

by *The Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed*

The Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed is a multi-disciplinary shed with many activities, including woodwork, wood turning, a machine shop, a welding shop, an art group, and a model building group. In addition, we have beehives, run chickens, and have a garden growing fruits and vegetables. We also have a small 3D router, a 3D printer, a library, computers, and recreational facilities. However, this article is about the building of a ¼ scale model steam-driven traction engine.

It began in late 2019 when discussions were held on how we could better utilise the facilities of our machine shop. We had a reasonably sized lathe and a big mill but no continuous work, and the area was being used mainly for storage. After several suggestions, the possibility of building a scale model steam engine was suggested. The committee agreed to find out what such a project would cost and how we could fund it.

Contact was made with the Allchin Builders Group

(ABG) in South Australia, and they provided a price to supply the castings, boiler, gears, and shafts and also provided an estimate of what such a build was likely to cost. The Committee approached the Brisbane City Council for funding and was told it could be available if there were sufficient Community support for the project. Luckily our shed works with many Community organisations, and many letters of support were received to include in our grant application.

The first grant received was to build the riding truck, the vehicle that is towed by the engine for the driver and passengers to sit on. The castings for the wheels and the other items arrived in early October, 2019, and work began with those. This was completed in about March 2020.

The second grant to build the engine was received in early December 2019, and orders were placed with the ABG to supply the required parts. These arrived in early February 2020, and work started immediately with the front and rear wheels and the turntable.

The build continued for the next two years, interrupted on several occasions by COVID lockdowns - with the project being substantially finished in February 2022. Boiler inspection and

approval was received in March 2022. Photos of the build progress can be viewed on csms.org.au under *News and Media*.

One of the major problems encountered was the interpretation of the drawings, which were in imperial units and at 1/8 scale, not the 1/4 scale required. Also, the boiler was built to 220 mm OD instead of the 190 mm OD. Fortunately, the ABG allowed for this in the parts supplied, and no major problems were encountered. We also found a complete set of drawings in metric dimensions and at the correct scale on the net, although it was often necessary to consult both sets of drawings to resolve problems.

One of the different parts of the build was the need to hot rivet the spokes to the hub and the rim for each wheel. This was done by placing the rivets in position, heating them to red heat with an oxy torch and then setting them with a hand press. Another area that caused us a few problems was setting up the differential. Without definite information, one of our group used his intuition and achieved a successful result. The build involved a core group of up to six people, putting in at least a few hours a week over two and a half years. In all, over twenty shed members participated in some way. The Mount Gravatt Shed also assisted by machining the tyres on the six small wheels.

The design of the model was based on the full-sized "Royal Chester", which was the last traction engine made by William Allchin Limited of Northampton, U. K. It was built in 1925 for the Royal Agricultural Show in Chester and was a general-purpose traction engine with a rating of 7 n.h.p. The weight of the model is approximately 250 kg.

Thanks to the generosity of a Sponsor, we are now working on a 1/4 scale model of an Atkinson steam truck.



A smile is a free way to brighten someone's day.

Tamborine Mountain Shed



Tamborine Mountain Shedders are Bamboozled!

by Tamborine Mountain Men's Shed

A new take on a percussion instrument was created earlier this year at the Tamborine Mountain Men's Shed. Made from bamboo and termed a 'Bamboozle', the instrument is designed to be played in several different ways - scraped like a guiro, shaken like a maraca or struck like a drum. The Shed opened its doors to members of the local Lions Club inclusion group – the Mountain Mates – and invited them to come along and work with a shedder to make and decorate their own Bamboozle. Established in 2018, the Mountain Mates gives young adults with an intellectual disability – and their families – the chance to socialise on weekends and participate in various activities. Anything creative involving music or dance is always a hit.

In advance of the instrument-making workshop, shed members cut and dried the bamboo and then prepared a 'make-your-own-Bamboozle' kit



for each of the Mountain Mates. The kit comprised a section of bamboo with a hole drilled at one end, a couple of small 'soundholes' drilled in the side, plus a handle cut into the other end together with a separate length of dowel and wooden ball. The Mates came to the Shed and finished off their instruments. Under the guidance of a Shed member, each Mate added the grooves using a hand file and then sanded the surface of their Bamboozle before putting dried beans inside the instrument and sealing the hole. The striker was made by gluing the wooden ball to one end of the dowel. In the final part of the workshop, each of the Mates painted their own Bamboozle in

Stories from Queensland Sheds

colours and designs of their choosing. Once dried, the instruments were given a couple of coats of acrylic varnish to protect their surface decoration during use. Everyone agreed that the result was a very colourful and creative range of instruments, as shown in the photographs (the red 'keep cups' shown on the workbenches were for the dried beans – they were not full of coffee!)

The bamboozle-making workshop was deemed a great success by all involved. The Mates had the chance to visit the Shed's woodworking facility and use simple hand tools to construct their instruments with help and guidance where required. The shed members gained great satisfaction and enjoyed assisting the Mates with their percussion project. Each Mountain Mates attended with either their support worker or a parent, providing an extra layer of assistance and Work Health & Safety protection. The workshop demonstrated that it is feasible to welcome visitors with disabilities without significant issues, provided appropriate risk assessment is considered in advance.

Dubbing themselves 'The Groovers', the Mountain Mates followed up their instrument-building workshop by giving their Bamboozles a workout in a couple of music sessions at the local Zamia Theatre, playing along to songs old and new with the Shed's ukulele group (the Offcuts) and some other local ukulele players (the Splinter Group). The Bamboozles were dubbed a huge success, with shedders and Mates having a whole lot of fun from start to finish!



Help is only a phone call away

Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Lifeline	131 114
MensLine	1300 789 978
Suicide Call Back Service Veterans Line	1300 659 467
Veterans Line	1800 011 046
Black Dog Institute	(02) 9382 4530
Pain Management Line	1300 340 357
Sane Australia	1800 18 7263
Mind Australia Carer Helpline	1300 554 660
Men's Referral Service for help to avoid domestic violence	1300 766 491

The Sunshine Valley Men's Shed



Nine Blocks Done, Just Another 841 To Go.

by Barry Cheeseman SVMS Secretary

The Sunshine Valley Men's Shed, located at West Woombye on the Sunshine Coast was recently approached by the Management of the Wishlist Sunshine Coast Health Foundation to assist the Foundation in preparing for their grand opening of their new facilities.

The Wishlist Sunshine Coast Health Foundation provides affordable accommodation close to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Caloundra Hospital and Nambour Hospital to reduce the stress of persons associated with those requiring hospital medical treatment.

With a guest list for the grand opening of the facilities being 850, our Men's Shed was first asked to produce '850 donation envelope wooden holders' that would be placed on the tables of guests at the official opening. The Foundation also requested that our Shed assemble numerous flat-pack furniture ensembles that would be

distributed throughout one of the floors of the new facility.

The fellows at the Shed took on the challenge and with timber supplied by the Foundation, our trusty woodworking guru, Tom Wickerson cut the required slots into the timber supplied and then into the shorter lengths required.

It was then all hands-on deck with a production line established and the rest of the Shed fellows hand sanded each small block, including the slotted section. Another group applied our Men's Shed sticker to the base of the block.

With the envelope donation blocks completed and delivered, a group of our fellows visited the new Foundation facilities and assembled all the required flat-pack furniture.

It was during this assembly period that our Shed President Ron Baumann was interviewed by Channel Seven News and the interview featured in the day's evening TV news.

The fellows of our shed were proud to donate their skills and time to assist such a worthy enterprise as the Wishlist Sunshine Coast Health Foundation.

Burpengary & District Men's Shed



BAD Shed Chatter

It's been a busy time for Burpengary & District Men's Shed. We recently hosted visitors from Bunning's Morayfield for a morning tea, welcomed eight gents and their carers from Narangba Aged Care, as well as having a visit from our local Fire Station. We also have an upcoming visit from Hearing Australia scheduled to do a yearly check-up on members.

Our Shedders have several exciting projects in the works. From working on restoring a rocking horse to its former glory, in readiness for a Christmas raffle prize, to finishing off and painting toys, making leather mallets and turned coffee table legs, to filling a new order for Vietnam Vet Crosses for the next ANZAC day.





Cluster Meeting Success

On Tuesday, 18 October, shed representatives from across Moreton Bay and Brisbane North gathered together at picturesque Samford to connect with each other and listen to guest speakers discussing topics important to sheds.

Keynote speakers included Dr Ted Flack, an experienced Charity Manager, author and all-around governance guru, Danielle Knight from the Stroke Foundation, representatives from Brisbane

City and Moreton Bay Regional Councils, and QMSA's talented and knowledgeable Frank Pearce.

The day offered a great chance to catch up, share a yarn and a coffee while learning more about attracting and retaining members, engaging volunteers and maintaining a healthy shed.



Letter to the editor

Every month our Secretary, Otto Alder, sends through to all Maroochy Shedders the QMSA Magazine, *Shed Chatter* that alerts us to happenings in Men's Sheds all over our state. As I have often said, all Sheds are different, blokes just have to keep looking until they find one that suits their requirements.

It was enjoyable to read about the happenings in Sheds at Coochiemudlo, Rutherglen, Raymond Terrace, Burpengary, Forest Lake, Gladstone and even Edmonton Canada but the story of most relevance to me was about why *Men's Sheds would want to be registered as "DGR"?* (Deductable Gift Recipient)

As many Shedders would remember, our founding member and Secretary Terry Welch, (OAM) worked tirelessly to find a new home for our Shed for many years until we finally found our new home here at 11 Progress Drive, Maroochydore. Thanks to our Federal MP we got a large Community Development Grant to erect our premises. We needed matching funds from benefactors attracted by our mens' health purpose. These funds came in when we convinced the Charities Commission in 2018 that we did indeed promote health in our community. That entitled us to DGR status as the first shed to gain such for many years.

It is now accepted by government departments and industry leaders the significant role played by Men's Sheds all over the world in reducing mental health issues of men attending Shed meetings regularly.

The Maroochy Men's Shed now owns our land and air-conditioned Shed that will serve the needs of men in our region long after we have left this mortal earth.

Bill Glasson
Assistant Editor, Maroochy Men's Shed



GARAGE SALE TRAIL 12-13 & 19-20 NOV 2022



Host a sale and join 300,000 Australians choosing to re-use as part of the nations biggest festival of pre-loved goods.

RAISE FUNDS & BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Hosting a garage sale on the Garage Sale Trail is a proven way for Men's Sheds to raise money, recruit new members, clear out the shed and raise awareness of the services they provide to the local community.

It's free to register and this year we'll be providing Sheds with a host of tips, tools and free promotional materials!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

-  Register your sale for free at GarageSaleTrail.com.au and get a sale listing, searchable on the national map.
-  Shoppers, bargain hunters and treasure seekers log onto the website to search for sales near them.
-  Sellers and shoppers come together over two big weekends of garage sales in November.
-  Pre-loved items find a new home, friendships are forged and funds are raised for great causes and charities right across Australia.

12-13 & 19-20 Nov | Register now at www.garagesaletrail.com.au/register

Debentures: Risky? (perhaps) Useful? (certainly)



by Otto Alder, Secretary Maroochy Men's Shed

We all have some mix of joining fees, levies, attendance fees and annual fees. However, the use of debentures to fund Men's Sheds is uncommon. They are the most flexible form of borrowing possible for any Association with the power to borrow in its Constitution (Rules). If debentures are only made available to holders who are Association members, no prospectus has to be produced/lodged. Audit certification is straightforward, relying only on good record-keeping. In other words, the whole arrangement is kept in-house.

A debenture is a written document acknowledging a debt to the holder. They specify

1. the loan amount - (any);
2. the redemption date - (any date or occurrence);
3. the interest rate - (any);
4. transferability - within membership or executor.

Small associations and those just starting

Until the ready availability of credit, it was usual that professional organisations required members to take out a debenture. I have a 1950's one issued by the Institute of Engineers (Aust.) to a member for £5 on his joining. It was redeemed when his membership ended. During its currency, it supplemented the pool of funds allowing the Institute to have office equipment etc. Annual dues levied on him allowed the Institute to provide services as a going concern.

This model is useful for very small Sheds, particularly those in a setting-up phase on land they do not own and with thin administration. A say, \$20 debenture per new member is easy to digest, and, unlike a joining fee, it is repayable when each member leaves. Sure, there is always the risk of the Shed folding, but having money at risk is an incentive to have members do all they can to make it a success.

Getting bigger

Until a shed gets its own asset base, i.e. land on long-term lease or owned, it has no independent creditworthiness. If a Shed meets on land where occupancy is permissive, the landowner might guarantee some level of borrowings by your Shed, as he/it gets the assets by reversion at the end of the day. That's handy if you are in a retirement complex or on land held permanently by a benevolent charity.

It is more usual for a Shed to get a plot of land through a government/council long lease or the graciousness of some generous supporter. The days of army surplus buildings have ended, so members will roll their sleeves up, lay a pad, and erect some structure with donated materials. These are heady times, indeed. Reality catches up when development and building standards must be met, adding to cost. Completion can be a seemingly never-ending mirage. Sometimes occupancy is prohibited short of completion, defeating the whole purpose. So, government or charity grants are applied for. But getting enough is often complicated by some grants only being available on a dollar-for-dollar basis and with a long lead time. Where do we get the contribution money if we have no creditworthiness with a lender? A benefactor? A series of gifts if the Shed is a deductible gift recipient? Maybe, but debentures are always a possibility.

It helps if the Shed has a small but reliable income stream in addition to annual dues, e.g. Attendance fees, Sizzles, Sales of donated goods, Container collections, Raffles, Volunteer rosters, etc. This gives the capacity to offer acceptable interest rates on debentures that the Shed might offer its members. Members will be attracted to debentures that have an interest rate that is at least equal to ATO's "deeming rate" each year or slightly higher than the average bank term deposit rate for a set period. A little generosity in the rate will compensate for the fact that there is no security for the debentures other than the continuation of the Shed as a going concern. Note though, that higher than reasonable interest rates may breach the duty not to allow individual members to take a benefit at the expense of the Association.

What a difference it makes if, say 15 out of 40 members take out a \$2,000 debenture! You will be surprised when one or two take out a few. The interest cost on \$30,000 of 3% debentures is only \$18 per week.

A modest income stream can therefore get the capital base you need.

Bigger still

A Men's Shed is of limited attraction to members if its premises do not provide space to do the things they want, is in an inconvenient location, or has insecure tenancy. It is doubly difficult when a small shed develops and gets locked into some size-limited premises, and there is still a backlog of lonely men in its service area who would benefit via membership.

In those circumstances, the Shed must be on the lookout for bigger premises or land on which to build one. Urban situations where the pressure for new members is greatest are the most difficult because public land is scarce or needed for other communal purposes. Luckily, urban areas contain a population who are in better financial positions, and this opens its own possibilities.

We must avoid the mindset that has it that a Shed Association has an entitlement to public land. That mindset can and does lead to a cul-de-sac where hand wringing and blame-shifting are the norm. The obvious alternative of buying an existing property must be on the table. But what if we have no purchase deposit?

Banks will lend only 60% of the property value. At the same time, the bank must be confident that you have the capacity to meet repayments. Saving for your 40% deposit may seem impossible in any reasonable time frame. Always remember that debenture cash is just your Shed's own funds. The fact that you have raised money in that way has nothing to do with any other party – Bank, regulator, governmental agency or whomever. Consequently, the whole of the asset to be purchased is available as security to any lender you may approach. For example, you raise \$100,000 via multiple debentures, and the land you want is selling for \$250,000. Your bank should readily lend you \$150,000 or more over 25 years at, say 4%pa. That loan should generate a repayment of \$165 per week. The debentures you have cost about \$65 per week, 3.5%, so your total outlay is \$230 per week, and you own the land outright at the end of the 25 years.

Before purchase, make sure that you obtain stamp duty on land transfer exemption from your State authority. Then get a bank loan agreement that allows come-and-go principal payments within the total facility amount in case you get some cash surplus at any time, enabling interest cost reduction. Our banker (Westpac) waived their valuation fee and part of the setup fees because of our charitable status. Also, make sure that your Shed qualifies as a tax gift recipient, as benefactors recognizing your mental health objective will come out of the woodwork via publicity of your property ambition.

It can get better. Further debenture issue can be pitched at an interest rate that is less than the bank loan interest you pay but more than the bank term deposit rate available to members. Some of your members will be relying on term deposits as the safest way to invest and supplement their pensions. The extra interest will make a real standard of living difference. The Maroochy shed pitched an offering on that basis and raised \$340,000. Some helped us build our big shed, and some we tipped into our loan account and extinguished interest there. Most of the debentures have since been repaid, and we did not need to call for new ones though the demand is there.

Risk

Forget about trying to accumulate a land and building asset base unless you can demonstrate that you have sound policies, a good level of Committee competence, and sound management expertise. Donors and benefactors will not donate to an organization that is shaky, no matter how worthwhile. Debenture holders can't get their money back if your Shed ceases operations, so a going concern confidence is vital before they will invest.

To avoid any prospect of a debenture holder or his executor mounting recovery action if the worst comes to the worst, take at least the following steps:

1. Issue debentures only to Shed members;
2. Explain the system in a Policy document that is always available to all members;
3. Head each debenture UNSECURED NOTE;
4. Confirm their unsecured status in the conditions on the back of the Note;
5. Have the investor acknowledge in writing the conditions on the Note;
6. Have a hard copy Register of Notes that is auditable and available at all Committee meetings.

Make sure your Notes are a win-win for both parties. If you are uncomfortable about accountability over the life of Notes, consider appointing a respected person as a trustee.

Examples of all paperwork mentioned here are available on request. Contact Otto Alder,

This article is general nature and does not constitute financial advice. Professional advice should be obtained as to its use and application to your particular situation and circumstance.



Image Credit: Martin Taylor with his art at Noosa Men's Shed by ROB MACCOLL. As published in Noosa Today.

Noosa Today: Spotlight on Noosa art

Article appeared on noosatoday.com.au on 16 October 2022

This article recognises the creativity of shedders Martin Taylor and John Cook. They started painting after joining the Noosa Men's shed, and have now had their artwork appear as part of the Noosa Open Studios Art Trail.

[Read the full article online.](#)



Scan QR code to read the full news article online.



Image credit: mensshed.org/the-shed-online

AMSA: Origin Energy timber donation helps Sandgate Men's Shed deliver in demand services

Article appeared on *The Shed Online* mensshed.org on 6 September 2022.

In this article, read how a donation from Origin Energy of 50 slabs of Camphor Laurel timber has helped Sandgate and District Men's Shed. All timber donated is put to good use by the shed - from repairing flood damaged furniture to leading pyrography sessions as a therapeutic activity for brain injury patients.

[Read the full article online.](#)



Scan QR code to watch the full news article online.

Men's sheds highlighted in new opera about tackling isolation

Article by Patrick Ovenden appeared narberth-and-whitland-today.co.uk on 14 October 2022

Now there is something you don't read every day! In a story from across the pond. Modern day issues of loneliness, finding friendships and men's sheds will feature in a new opera that will feature singers from major opera houses, companies and orchestras.

[Read the full article online.](#)



Scan QR code to read the full news article online.

Submissions Close

Shed Chatter
December Edition
Submissions due by Wednesday
14 December

Send your submissions to
shedchatter@gmsa.org.au



**Help us share fun, informative
and engaging content**

It's a mystery

Do you have a weird, wonderful or antique tool or object lying around your Shed?

Submit a photo (with a description of the object) to our **Mystery Object Competition**, and we'll start a friendly guessing game on Facebook to see who can correctly guess what it is and its use. Keep an eye on future editions of Shed Chatter – we'll share our best picks.

Top Tool Tip

Do you have a top tool tip or piece of advice for other shedders? Submit it and we'll share a selection on Facebook and in future editions of Shed Chatter.

Send your **Mystery Object** or **Tool Tip** submissions to shedchatter@gmsa.org.au



The challenge is on!
Help us get 100 likes in 100 days

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www.facebook.com/qmsa4

National Fire Ant Eradication Program

Help stop fire ants - learn more at www.fireants.org.au

Fire ants could devastate our environment, economy and outdoor way of life we know and love. Together we can eradicate them and protect our Australian lifestyle.

Just one undetected fire ant nest can multiply and spread, resulting in hundreds of new nests across a whole community.

Subscribe to [Fire Ant news](#) to keep up to date with the latest news, treatment programs and affected areas.



The Fox & The Rooster Aesop



A fox sneaked into a farm and grabbed a prize rooster.

The farmer saw him and raised the alarm and he and his dogs started chasing the thief. The fox, though he was holding the rooster in his mouth, was running very fast.

"Get him! Get him!" shouted "No!" suddenly screamed the rooster. "Don't come near me!"

"My master was very cruel to me," explained the rooster to the fox. "Tell him to stay away from me."

The fox was delighted. "He wants you to stay away from him!" he shouted at the farmer, releasing his hold on the rooster.

The rooster flew up into a tree and stayed there until he was rescued by his master.

Morale: Think twice before you open your mouth

Singing in the shower is fun
until you get soap in your mouth.
Then it's a soap opera.



"Be yourself;
everyone else is already taken."
Oscar Wilde



My boss told me to
have a good day,
so I went home.

"Life is what happens when you're
busy making other plans."
John Lennon