

## **Hall Men's Shed**

### **2023 – 2024 Foreman's Annual Report**

Our BBQ on 6<sup>th</sup> July started the year for us. We had 39 attendees and I note that on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 we had 28 attendees. I guess it shows we are growing a bit. We also had a new/old BBQ obtained from Bunnings. Bunnings used to use it for their weekend sausage sizzles. There had to be a few alterations made so we could use the BBQ and these done by Dave Lynne who is our in-built metalworker. Well done Dave.

In August, we received a grant of \$1,000 from the Chief Minister (through the Australian Men's Shed Association). We initially thought we would put it towards putting a roof over our new deck but have since thought the new deck is better without a roof, especially in the winter. We have now decided the grant will go towards dust suppression and air filtration.

This year we have continued to do the deliveries of the Rural Fringe to the farms in the 2618 postcode area. This is a very satisfying event every two months. I particularly enjoy it as it allows me to catch up with my old mate, Mal Bosworth who doesn't come to the shed so often these days. Others who do the deliveries are Garth Chamberlain, James Beatty, Brian Banyard, Danny Clynk, Aaron Whittaker and Roger Smith. I'm sure they enjoy the work as much as I do, and I hope we continue with this community service long into the future.

We also helped in other community events in Hall, such as helping to clean up the Hall Reserve and holding the sausage sizzle at the Brass on the Grass event in October.

There were a few talks by various people during the year. Rod Roberts gave an interesting talk on Digital Power of Attorney. A talk by Michael Collins from Men's Table. Even I did a brief talk on my life to date.

Our Christmas Party was held on 7th December at the Hall Pavilion and we had Eat Your Words Catering providing the meal again. The event was great as was the meal.

Our first meeting after the Christmas break was on 11th January 2024 and 22 members attended. Work was started on refurbishing and extending the deck to the annex. Many people were involved but the main ones were Graham Smith, Aaron Whittaker, Paul Williams, Bill Szydlik and Ian McLaurie. The new deck is now a pleasant place to be.

We had another great BBQ in February with 42 people attending. Our regular caterers, Eric Detheridge, Rob Durie and Garth Chamberlain did a terrific job again as they have done all year. We are lucky to have such dedicated people.

This year the Sheep Dog Trials were a great success and several shed members helped on the gates or helped with the set up and the catering. It is good the the shed gets involved in this important event.

In February we learnt that our member, David Brand was diagnosed with cancer. David continued to come to the shed when he could. He was accompanied sometimes by his brother and son but mostly by his daughter, Lauren. David succumbed to the condition in early July. There were 11 members who attended his funeral which was heartening to see.

John Gerstenberg, a long-time member lost his wife, Marion late in June and her funeral was held in early July. A very sad occasion indeed.

Brian Charge, Bruce Wallace, Roger Smith, Ian McLaurie and others have continued to work on cheeseboards that have been selling well at Daughters of Hall. They are also producing table decorations for the tables at our Christmas Party later this year. Another interesting project they took on was to make fake sandwiches, biscuits and cakes for the Museum. They actually look appetising! These were required by the Museum as the ones they had previously were deteriorating rapidly.

We also started work on another lot of Greater Glider nesting boxes for the ANU. This time we (along with the Yass Valley Men's Shed) are making 100 boxes and this time we will be painting them too. The project will provide plenty of work for those who like to get involved.

Overall, and despite the sad parts, it was a good year. I hope this coming year is at least as good.

Doug Anstess  
Foreman