

## **Mount Beauty & District Men's Shed**

### **2020 President's Report**

Thank you all for being involved in this extraordinary year.

Despite being unable to be an active shed, we have achieved considerable outcomes. There have been saleable items made by members, which have helped supply an income for us. There have been games, objects, firewood and repairs. Passing on information to assist repairs of mechanical machines, refurbishing furniture, creating wooden articles both in the corner, on the lathes and in the equine areas of the shed. There has also been a steady refurbishment and repair or replacement of the machinery in the shed. It is noticeable to me that there has been a comradery between members that has grown stronger because each individual is becoming more aware of a need to understand his fellow man.

Wow, our shed extension is fantastic, and thanks go to Ian Howley for the effort he has put into this project. Liaising with the Alpine Shire in the planning stages and being aware of the bounds of restriction caused by extending the shed. His interaction with Gentile Steel Fabrication builder, Helen Mathews architect, and his arranging of services to be re-arranged has been excellent. Also a big thank-you to Ian as the retiring secretary of the shed, only handing that job over to Noel McDougall so he could take on the role of supervisor for the extension.

Of course there has been a fantastic effort put in to obtain grants for everything that opens and shuts, and we thank Paul L'Huillier for that. Also Paul has a hand in painting, restoring and wood chopping activities. Paul has been very active in keeping the storage shed tidy, producing and keeping up to date our wonderful website and member communications, arranging and supervising jobs and the pricing and collecting monies for all those items.

Thanks to John Driver for the upkeep of our first-aid equipment. To Mark Hardidge, our retiring vice president, thanks, not only for the cuisine extraordinaire from Maureen and Mark, but also for being a committee person for seven years and vice-president for two of those years. His input to the shed has been great as a committee person and with comical interludes via email and the big TV.

Welcome to Noel McDougal for taking on the job of secretary at short notice, and to Henry Ziemnicki who has become a welcome committee member and has nominated for position of vice-president.

Sad goodbye to Len and Adele Sims with good wishes for their future in Queensland. Len has been active in the creation, restoration and repair of all types of woodwork, including antique furniture. He has passed on a lot of knowledge to those members interested in learning. Len has been very active as a committee member.

Alf Thistlethwaite has learnt a lot from Len and has now become the legendary horse whispherer. His creations have become better and better as he enjoys himself.

Several other shed members need mentioning also. Irvin Beeston in the corner who produces saleable items of all description including a big trolley to store them on. Larry Gardam who has found out about motor mower repair. Reg Hollonds who has been an excellent teacher for mechanical repairs and welding. Barry Hinson, being a welcome committee member, has quietly gone about restoring a lathe and other items as well as creating assorted metal projects. Mal Darwent shares a lot of knowledge to all of us and has mentored the Neighbourhood Centre projects.

Thanks to the ladies for supplying the equipment that keeps everything ticking i.e. the blokes.

Don't mention the virus, which has caused lots of hardship everywhere. Noticeable to us is the inability to participate in the footy-gate saga and the thoughts of a failing sports agenda for a lot of areas.

If I have missed somebody for their contributions to our particular shed, it is because I have developed writer's cramp. I still keep in mind all of our members who have their own special way of being involved with the well-being of themselves and other members.

It has been my observation that members have worked together helping each other and becoming aware of others' differences.

Dick Puttyfoot  
President

*18<sup>th</sup> September 2020*