

Mount Beauty and District Men's Shed

Presidents Report for 2021

Dear Members

This has been a very hard year due to the uncertainty created by the pandemic. It is a credit to our members that so much has been achieved. It has been heartening to know that there have been no medical problems due to the pandemic, however the mental considerations may have been felt by a few. I have been able to keep in touch with several members to keep them in our thoughts.

There have been several highlights in the year of the lockdown. The major highlight, of course, is the shed extension ready for habitation. The work by all persons to make this happen is quite extraordinary.

So much has been achieved, and if you look at our wonderful website www.mountbeautymensshed.org.au it is all spelt out for us to see.

After finishing the Neighbourhood Centre's garden shed, the fencing slowly arose and extended across the front area. A steel framework for the shed extension was assembled, and a snorkel, complete with concrete, was pumped into the floor. The skin was soon erected and the busy people started building framework, then insulating and cladding the area. Power was connected, a sink appeared, along with plumbing. Up went some stairs followed by a wondrously constructed hand rail and safety barriers. A compressed compactus was admitted to one room whilst another room sprouted shelving, yet another with telephone and computer equipment a chair and filing cabinets. Whilst these events occurred, an opening appeared for access to the extension and alterations to toilet facilities complete with bat wing doors. Various additions, such as a concrete ramp and ground work became visible.

Apart from the hard work by members, I would like to mention that the community had a big part to play. Helen Mathew (*Mountain Creek Architecture*) for the original concept plans. Trish Dixon – manager (*Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre*) allowed the men's shed to do a contra deal for the land availability. The shed shell was supplied and erected by the Tony and Jason Gentile (*Gentile Steel Fabrications*), plumbing contractor Corey Jones (*C & N Jones Plumbing*) and his apprentice made the essential changes and additions to our pipework and hot water, Jeremy Reichel (a member) for the stairs and framework, David Quick and Josh (*Falls Creek Electrics*) for the electrical work. *KUSCH Consulting Engineers* for approving the structural design. All the above people or companies donated either time or equipment towards the completion of our marvellous extension now called the 'West Wing'.

Now during all the above workings, a few other happenings were taking place. Footygate was finalised as were the Christmas decorations. These projects are no longer pursued by the members. Woodwork corner was continuing to operate, producing saleable items, such as games, cutting boards and knick knacks to go on the master trolley. Bikes were fixed, detailed and sold. Master painters became seat

manufacturers. Flagpoles and an eagle chair were erected for the community, signs for scout halls and benches for dishwashers. Kindling was cut, beehives were produced, electrical equipment repaired, rocking horses started reproducing (one horse has been undernourished and still for so long it has grown hair). A marvellous shed sign now adorns our front wall to advertise our existence. Trailers outnumbered blokes. First aid equipment kept increasing.

During this relentlessly restless time, we have had numerous medical procedures carried out amongst the members. Prostate problems prevented, knees and hips relaced, thyroid removed, eye lenses replaced, bypass operations kept some members on the go, and on the whole, a few aches, pains and memory situations have been noted.

Of importance to me, as welfare officer, has been the camaraderie of the members with regard to one another. The helpful information given to a member, especially when he is about to have a painful procedure, was well received. Actually, the ability to talk about themselves, to enable help for others, has been a growing and acceptable output in the commitment of the members to our policies of service for men to improve their physical, mental & social health using the environment of a Shed.

It has been my privilege to be a part of the interaction of the members and to be associated with a respectful and hard-working committee.

Thank you

Dick Puttyfoot

President

17th September 2021