PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Rick is currently enjoying a holiday so on his behalf welcome to the 2015 year at the Buderim Men’s Shed. Ending last year we achieved a membership at 300 and already with renewals we are well over 200 members.

The Management Committee have been very busy with many issues catering for the diverse interests of the Shed. Progress on the new shed site at Kuluin is reported later in this issue but we regret the loss of the great offer by the previous State LNP government through local member Steve Dickson if they had won government again. Norm and his team are progressing preparations but the large funding required to build for the shed is before us.

Renewal of annual workshop competencies for Shredder’s to use machinery are currently being tested through our Health and Safety system and a number of Shedders are attending First Aid courses sponsored by the Sunshine Coast Council to renew their skills. A grant from The Buderim Foundation has seen the installation of a fixed overhead projector in the meeting room see article later in this Spread, and we await the outcome of a grant request for tools from the State Government. Our success with the Medicare grant thanks to the great assistance from Shedders and the community with votes will allow us to institute through our Health and wellbeing committee a number of initiatives. Watch this space. The Home Maintenance Course for ladies in February sponsored by Energex has been a huge success. All indications are that there is quite a demand for more.

After a year of progressive negotiations with the Sunshine Coast Council the Stainless Steel Horse initiative for the DVA under the 100 year Centenary of Anzac for Cotton Tree Park has been refused by the local Councillor. The committee are looking to see if there is time left to see if it can be placed at another site on the Coast.

Members will be aware of the spreading this year of the role of Shed Coordinator to three persons. Dick Winfield, John Winstanley and Ken Grant are coordinating the Team Leaders and managing the Purchasing system. Please see them for all issues in these areas.

We are pleased to be playing host the first Queensland Men’s Shed Expo at the Buderim Men’s Shed on 27 March 2015. Shedders will be attending from all parts of Queensland though predominately in the south east corner. Displays will be presented as well as information sessions over the course of the day.

Barry Cheales

Vice President
PUBLISHING GIANT, FURFOX, LOSES ITS EDITOR

After the retirement of our previous Shed Spread editor, Adam Brunner, the reins have fortunately or unfortunately, (depending on how you view these things), been passed onto someone with far less skills in the publishing arena.

Although I have been using computers since 1627, my desktop publishing talents probably only cover the basics so that things like multi column formatting, drop capitals and page flow are concepts I need to learn as time passes. (HELP!!)

The enjoyment we can all derive from these publications can only increase if the amount of material submitted reaches a reasonable level. Team leaders are all encouraged to cobble a few words together on a quarterly basis to ensure your members are fully conversant with your groups activities. For this reason I will always be on the lookout for any interesting news or comments, photos or other items of interest to the shed members and welcome any contributions that can be sent to me at the e-mail address below.

fregster@yahoo.com.au

Please ensure any submissions are lodged with a suitable subject heading to avoid them being automatically quarantined in the spam bin.

Something such as:

BMS Mag submission - Art Group - June 2015 would be ideal.

Our thanks to Adam for his incredible work and attention to detail for the previous 6 editions. Adam has certainly left me with a huge pair of shoes to fill so if it's OK with the members, I'll wear my thongs instead.

While every attempt is made to ensure that contributions are left as intact as possible, some editing or adjustments to conform with space constraints / magazine size may be required. In some cases, additional information has been added to assist with page spacing. Apologies if any late submissions have been omitted.

(The closing date for submissions to the next edition of Shed Spread will be Sunday 7th June 2015).

Greg Cummins

(Editor)
PROGRESS ON THE NEW KULUIN SITE

The Relocation Committee is generally happy with progress to date. It is slow, but we expected this and we are working through the various steps towards our goal of an approved development plan. We have engaged the services of Peter Fowler Land Management Strategies to guide and assist us in our dealings with Council and the various statutory bodies involved.

Achievements to date.

* Soils and Geotechnical reports completed. No surprises there.

* Environmental and Vegetation Survey underway. Could be some difficulties here.

* Full topographical survey underway.

* Registration of the Lease area is accepted by Council subject to certain provisions for services and access being carried out. We are working through this now. All this is starting to cost money. We urgently need to form a FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE. If you can help in this please contact any member of the management committee.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Busy times with membership renewals and introducing new members. We are pleased to be upgrading our computer system previously struggling with Treasurer, Grants Officer, Treasures, and Shed coordinator all operating on separate systems. The new system will be integrated and backup systems automated. We also have better control of our Shed Web page with Warren from the Computer group taking it under his wing and updating the different pages.

The two month period of grace for membership renewal ended on March 1st 2015. You still have a few days to pay your dues for 2015 but as soon as our Secretary is back on deck (17th March), we will be taking the following actions. All non-financial members will be deemed to have resigned, their name tags will be withdrawn and their contact details will be removed from our data base. This means they will receive no further communications from the Shed. A non-financial member is not permitted to take part in any Shed activity for insurance reasons. Anyone wishing to “renew” later in the year will be treated as a new member and have to reapply for membership.

Every week we have a steady stream of “new” people wishing to join the Shed. We are attempting to induct new members on the day they join thus doing away with the Pink name cards for non inducted members. For this to work we are relying on our volunteer Ambassadors to be available particularly on Tuesday to do inductions as required. Please let John Payne know if you are at the shed and available to help. If you need some training on the induction process please contact Norm Thursby.
A SALUTE TO NORM THURBSBY

As most shed members are aware, since the birth of our shed, Norm Thursby has been shed coordinator. We don't know how he achieved the goals he set, but Norm set systems in place such as competency requirements, induction talks, established new activities along with the general daily running of our shed. Norm should feel proud of himself. Norm's workload had become so big plus with the future of our new shed pending, obviously some alternative options were needed. We have 5 members who have put their hand up to take the workload off Norm, namely Ken Grant, Ron Richardson, John Clemones, John Winstanley & Dick Winfield. At the reception desk we now have a pigeon hole cupboard where anyone can drop a note or request to any committee member, but especially the Shed coordinator’s shelf where one of the magnificent five will get back to you. It should also be noted that having been with these blokes for over 3 years, they are the hardest & happiest workers I have come across. They very rarely undertake projects for themselves but work non-stop to make money for our shed. The mateship over these years we all developed you simply can't buy. Dick Winfield

PAVEWAYS and PATHWAYS: a new life!!!

No doubt Buderim Shedders have noticed the growing stack-some say monolith of pavers resting in the shade of the camphor laurel tree near our front entrance! These pavers have hitherto been laid to rest in the peaceful surrounds of the Nambour Lawn Cemetery at Kulangoor.

Thanks to Norm and his contacts with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council we at the shed are in a position to give these more than fifteen thousand pavers a "new lease on life," when we eventually move to our new shed premises.

After being rudely awakened and dug up at the cemetery, these fortunate pavers are destined to provide shedders with new pathways of enlightenment in their pursuit of Mateship, Camaraderie and Achievement.

What a contrasting role for these pavers but we're certain they'll live up to expectations despite being trodden and walked on during future Buderim Mens Shed business days!

You can imagine the topics of conversations and jokes amongst the "paver snatchers" during recent Tuesday morning operations. There was always a sense of relief when we arrived safely back at base with our fully laden trailers of sombre pavers. Rick's trailer really worried us at times.

At time of writing there were several rescues to go, but these pavers are located in very close proximity to the graveyard itself!! They must be dug up and in some cases unearthed! They must be exhumed you might say.

I don't expect a sudden drop off in paver snatcher numbers for the home run.

Enough said, except to express my appreciation to helpers who gave unselfishly of their time and vehicles- Ron, Rod, Rick, Greg, two Kens, Dave, and Alan.

Thanks also to the Nambour Coast Regional Council for their kind donation of these pavers, especially David Bell at Kulangoor.

Peter Koster (Chief Paver Slaver)
PUSH BIKE GROUP REPORT

Last Wednesday we held another successful cycle service day with all participants leaving for home with their bikes in good working order. Bryan arrived with a high class racer which had been ridden around Europe at least 5 times, equivalent to 400K in an old Falcon. THE CHAIN AND SET OF 10 COGS WAS COMPLETELY WORN OUT.

We removed the chain after many difficulties and removed the old cluster of cogs replacing them with new parts. The gears required a fine tune to ensure that all 20 gears were correctly adjusted. The brakes were adjusted, the wheels trued and a generous dose of oil applied where needed. Bryan rode away ready to ride around Europe once again.

Ian turned up with 2 bikes which needed more tender loving care having been in isolation for a long period of time. These also required the usual wheel truing, brake adjustment and gear alignment along with the replacement of another wheel. Ian rode both bikes away happy at the small cost of making both of his bikes serviceable again.

Rod is still having trouble with his racer, he cannot understand why a loose piece of plastic between the cogs is making a noise, similar to a jumbo jet taking off. I suggested that if he tied a long length of fencing wire to the plastic it would eliminate the noise. He tried this method of repair and found that the noise disappeared. After further adjustment of the gears he rode away happy, except he has not yet received his bill for the roll of fencing wire.

Ron is still in trouble. His father's sons grandson fell off his bike and bent the wheel. He stated it may be a problem to straighten it out. Well I am not mandrake so I suggested he be "sent to the snake pit" to solve his problem. Fortunately, Joe Blake didn't rear its ugly head while a search was made for a replacement wheel which would match his battered one. We were able to salvage a similar wheel from the pit, true it up, transfer the cogs over and watch as the bike was ridden away just like a bought one. The old saying, "where there is a will there is a away" stands true.

Our next cycle service day will be held on Wednesday April 1st at 9am. Should any of our shedders have any problems with their exercise bike or road bike just let me know and I will do my best to get your bike going at minimal cost.

This offer does not apply to outsiders such as your neighbours, aunty Flo. or Uncle George's cousin's wife's garden gnome's bike. They should probably not be on the road at all.

Do not be an April fool. Make sure your bike is safe to ride. Bring it in on Wed April 1st.

Ron Roney

America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked.
MUSICAL GROUP

Most people would agree that there are inherent benefits of mastering a Musical Instrument.

The Shedders Muso’s also agree, despite the fact that some people do not regard the humble guitar as a "musical instrument" per se--how insulting!!
Consider these beneficial attributes of playing a guitar or the ukulele for that matter.

1. **It increases the capacity of our Memory:**
We know this to be true because we all seem to remember our Tuesday MEETING TIMES, and more importantly we remember each other by name- hopefully the correct one!
We are confident that this phenomenon is potentially long term so this augers well for our memory of song titles and chord structure.

2. **Boosts our Team Skills:**
We play as a team and we even manage to cooperate with the people around us as each of us individually tries to listen to each other in pursuit of beautiful music. We even play from the same score sheet most times. It is difficult to master all of this while playing the guitar!

3. **Teaches us Perseverance:**
We work so hard on Tuesday afternoons and believe it or not this takes much effort and time. But, we stay on task. Consequently when a fellow Shedder asks, "What Song is / was that?" we don’t understand and keep on playing!

4. **Betters our Mathematical Ability:**
Playing music require accurate counting of notes and rhythms. I guess when we pass ten, we have misunderstood the task!

5. **Promotes Happiness in our life and those around us:**
Music is an art- just like an artist can paint his/ her emotions on a canvas. How many colourful guitars can you see? Someone once said, "Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn!!"
Have not found a horn on our guitars as yet but we'll keep on playing nonetheless!!!

Seriously, our Tuesday Music group continues to grow in number and stature as we operate in a mutual aid group situation.

It is through sharing our expertise and experiences that we improve individually and as a group. Our competency levels are up.
Our taste in music ranges across the various musical genres- rock, folk, blue grass, country, western and homemade.
Just as pleasing is the improvement in our singing harmonies despite some early reluctance and shyness.

We hope to take advantage of the newly-installed data projector and hence reduce our paper usage.

We are hopeful of some new equipment such as music stands shortly.

We often have passersby who drop in and listen on Tuesday afternoons. You are also welcome to do so.

My thanks to all the Shedders Muso's- I couldn't do it without you!!

Yours in tune and harmony,

Peter Koster
YAKETY YAK NEWS

The Yakety-Yak and Discussion group meets in the meeting room at the Shed on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, starting at 11:30. Attendance is open for any Shed member who is able to attend on the day. Yakety-Yak sessions aim to give all attendees the opportunity to join in with questions, comments and discussion around the topic being discussed. Each session usually has a short presentation, sometimes by one of the Shed members, or occasionally by an invited guest. From time to time we have a debate on a topic of general interest.

In the recent sessions, we have discussed

* Aviation with John Conroy
* Wivenhoe Dam with Norm Thursby.
* How to teach your grandchildren to read maps with Graham Horne

Shedder, George Elias, brought along his working models for Global Positioning and time using the sun and explained his 22-year-old retirement project to great interest.

We started 2015 with a discussion on Heroes: ancient and modern.

The program for the rest of the year is being planned and will include a debate or two, which will be sure to provoke your interest.

Contact bill.duffield@westnet.com.au or leave a message with the Secretary or phone 0435432389 if you would like to join the email distribution list and hear about the topics for future session of Yakety-Yak.

The topic for the day is displayed in Reception. If you have a topic you would like to present yourself please let me know.

Bill Duffield (Team Leader).

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

An email was recently sent to Rich Johnson from Teds Cameras to see if he is available to offer any further lessons to the members of the shed seeing last year’s lessons were so gratefully received and appreciated. So far no answer has been received as Rich is often interstate on business but direct contact will be made shortly to see if these classes can be resurrected for 2015. Stay tuned for an update soon.

Greg Cummins

(Stand In Team Leader)

Paddy took 2 stuffed dogs to ‘Antiques Roadshow’

“Ooh!” said the presenter, “This is a very rare set, produced by the celebrated Johns Brothers taxidermists who operated in London at the turn of last century.”

“Do you have any idea what they would fetch if they were in good condition?”

“Sticks?” Paddy said.
BOOK GROUP

Book Group meets in the Reception area or elsewhere at the Shed on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:30 until approx. 12:30. The purpose of Book Group is to share information about books we have read and enjoyed. We are often encouraged to try an unfamiliar author or a new title because of recommendations made at one of the Book Group sessions. Attendees take it in turn to talk about their reading interests whether that is fiction or non-fiction.

In the past months books we have shared include:

Ben Aaronovitch, Rivers of London, Gollanz, 2011
David Archibald, Twilight of Abundance, ebook, 2014.
Richard Flanagan, The Narrow Road to the Deep North, Vintage, 2013. (This Nobel Prize winner has been a very popular choice and was shared by several Shedders).
Bernard Keane & Helen Razer, A Short History of Stupid. The decline of reason and why public debate makes us want to scream, Allen & Unwin, 2014
Neil MacGregor, Germany: Memories of a Nation, Allen Lane (Penguin), 2014. (This inspired a Shedder to buy his own copy).
William D Cohen - House of Cards (First Anchor - 2010) - A riveting account of how the excesses on Wall Street nearly took down the entire financial system and caused the collapse of many major investment banks and funds. An incredible read and very well researched.

A special presentation will be given for the members by Greg Cummins which will show you how to load your e-books onto either a Kindle or other type of E-reader along with a demonstration of an essential piece of software called Calibre. Participation by any member of the shed will certainly be most welcome. Stay tuned for further details.

Bill Duffield
Beginners Computers

Learn to use a computer & access the internet.

What’s in it for you? The answer is, “Much more than you may think.”

These days computers are cheap. For seniors a computer can be a key to open up a whole new and exciting range of experiences enabling you greater enjoyment and fulfilment in your life. Mastering a computer to suit your needs is dead easy. A computer is just another tool to be used. It is not mysterious and you do not have to be a nerd.

To succeed all that you need is the willingness to have a go and accept that making mistakes is a part of personal growth and the fun of learning. Never making a mistake is incredibly simple for anyone who never tries anything new or innovative. Because there is no pressure and no timeframe learning is easy. As with gaining any new skill if you try and practice you will succeed. It’s all but impossible to press a wrong key. This seems to be a new person’s greatest fear.

There are many benefits to be gained from making the effort. Here are a few.

* The satisfaction that comes from mastering anew skill

* Easier access to a range of Government, community and business services. Email is now the primary form of communication.

* Easy communication with family and friends You can make free video calls to anywhere on the planet.

* Free entertainment There is an infinite variety of media, music and videos available at the touch of a button. If you like games there are more than you are likely to play.

* News and information. You can easily access unbiased news and analysis to inform yourself and stay in touch with current events. If you want to be informed about literally anything the answers are on the internet. Researching travel options is very popular amongst senior users.

* Access to the world outside even if you are confined by poor health or other circumstances Reduces social isolation and keeps your brain active.

* Building a social network There are a multitude of social networking sites enabling you to be in touch with others with similar interests.

* Logging onto your banks website is easy and makes paying bills via BPAY a no brainer.

* Stimulates your mind to improve and maintain mental health. “Researchers from Michigan State University have reported that elderly individuals who spend occasional time online can drastically reduce symptoms of depression, just another example of the vast benefits of new-age technology.” http://www.captel.com/news/senior-living-and-independence/benefits-technology.

Bill Maxwell, Team Leader of the Advanced Computer group has written and maintains what I consider an outstanding website for beginners and experienced users alike. It is easy to follow and a fantastic source of information for new users, especially Seniors. The site includes many links to various free, downloadable software programs along with a variety of links to other resources and government sponsored websites.

Website: Bills Computer Potpourri

http://it.redde.net/
If you consider that one of your mates would benefit from learning to use a computer introduce him to Doug Elliott, Frank Jones or Warren O'Grady in the beginners computer group behind the Admin Office or contact Doug on 0401 466 575.

Doug Elliot

(Team Leader)

SKETCHING GROUP

YOU TOO CAN SKETCH

9.00-12-00 Mondays Upstairs in the House.

“I can’t sketch.” I hear it so often. It’s such a shame that so many people miss out on such a rewarding pastime because they believe what others have told them across the years. On Mondays we run a mutual support sketching group in the Art Room upstairs in the house. Come along to learn the basics and build your confidence.

For many the greatest hindrance to beginning is the fear of making mistakes. Accepting that so-called “mistakes” are an essential part of learning and achievement is the critical first step. To quote the NIKE slogan, “Just Do It”. Anybody who wants to can sketch. If you can hold a pencil or write your name you can sketch. The secret is to act. Take a piece of paper and a pencil and draw something. Date it and keep it in a folder so that you can track your progress. You’re in for some pleasant surprises. Sketches are only a combination of some basic figures; the box, sphere, cone and tube. If you have ever seen your shadow you understand where light falls.

If you can access the internet there are hundreds if not thousands of free video tutorials. They are an additional way to learn and you can pause or rewind if you miss something. However nothing beats the interaction of being part of a group. We love it. We work in pencil, pen and pastel. There are no time hassles with each person working at their own speed. Very therapeutic and relaxing. Sketching is a very affordable pastime. Less than $20 for materials will easily get you started. The classes are included in the $5.00 weekly dues.

Call Doug 0401 466 575 for further information or visit us on a Monday

PUBLIC COMPLAINT

A complaint was made recently about the pink colour being used for our removal bins which are stored alongside the western fence. If any shedders receive a similar comment from the public, please feel free to remind the complainant that this colour was chosen to coincide with the McGrath Foundation’s aims to raise money and that for every bin collected, $1.00 is donated to the Foundation on our behalf.
METAL WORKING GROUP

The main ongoing project has been the Mobile Hanging Plant Stands, which Arch & Ross have been diligently processing & we are about to buy more material for another unit or two. By the time this Newsletter goes to print, we would’ve delivered 3 of these Stands to a lady on Bribie Island at $200-00 each.

Other recent projects have been:

- Miscellaneous box trailer repairs to members trailers.
- Bert the Beekeeper’s “Hive Lifting” device.
- Child’s John Deere Tractor repairs (BMS Member donated $60-00)......this comprised Plasma Cutter; Metal Lathe machining & dressing; Drilling; Welding & a quick spray job !!
- Several personal projects by individual Metal Workers. Doug never ceases to amaze me with his ‘strange’ projects.
- Car Port Lock-up security Gates, adjoining the Gardeners Shed, again by Ross & Arch.
- Arthur & his Steam Motor project......keep on persevering Arthur !!!
- Jeff; Morrie; Ross; Doug; Graham & most of us doing various jobs/repairs for other Group Members projects & Community projects. This is ongoing !!!! Ken, I’ve not forgotten your trailer job. Which reminds me, I have a Flag Pole to attend to at the Buderim O.P.O.

- Sorting of donated items is never-ending, ie tools & workshop equipment. The Van & Trailer have been an essential workhorse here. Oops, maybe the ‘horse’ mention is not appropriate here, eh Barry !!

We have just purchased 2 x 135amp Inverter Welders & will run some welding & Plasma cutting classes soon. Stay tuned.

John Clemones & the Metal Mob.
LEADLIGHT GROUP

The lads have been busy with individual projects along with orders we received following the Men's Shed Open Day. Thanks also to those Shed members who placed orders for the Leadlight Garden Posts.

These seem to have proved a winner as well as adding some dollars to the Shed coffers.

Some seriously nice looking pieces made by the Leadlighters

If anyone is interested in any of the items shown above, we are happy to take special orders remembering that these are individual ‘one-off’s’.

John Winstanley
BUDERIM MUSCLE----lend us a hand and your help will be appreciated throughout Buderim.

Buderim Muscle is a voluntary group which offers physical assistance to Buderim associations, committees and groups with their community functions such as fetes, displays, fairs, parades and celebrations.

Buderim Muscle is based at but not exclusive to the Buderim Mens Shed and we currently have some 16 members on our books.

We need more members to help cover those on holidays or ill.

No special certificates or training is required and there are no compulsory meetings to attend!!!

Once registered Muscle Crew members are covered by insurance via the Buderim War Memorial Community Association (BWMCA).

In the eight years since beginning, Buderim Muscle has assisted the Australia Day Committee, the Buderim ANZAC committee, Buderim Library, Pioneer Cottage and the Hall Committee.

Our main tasks of assistance include: tables and chairs placements, marquee erections, signage and lighting arrangements, traffic and parking responsibilities etc.

Looking ahead, assistance has been requested to help with the Easter Bookfair on Saturday April 4 organized by the Buderim Library (3/5 men for a couple of hours at 2:30pm).

The ANZAC committee has also requested assistance with this year’s celebrations- 100 years since Gallipoli.

To join BUDERIM MUSCLE please contact Peter Koster on 5453 4793 paylkoster@hotmail.com

I am available at the shed on Tuesdays! Leave a message at the front desk if necessary. Whatever muscle/s you have----okay!!!

Hoping to see you or hear from you soon as BUDERIM MUSCLE makes a difference in all things Buderim!!!!

Peter Koster (Co-ordinator)

Shed Diary Dates

27 March, Friday University of Sunshine Coast Survey
27 March, Friday QMSA Shed Expo at the Shed
1 April, Wednesday Bike Group workshop
2 April, Thursday Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser Bunning’s
8 April, Wednesday Welding course at the Shed Metalwork shop
15 April, Wednesday First Aid Defibrillator Training
22 April, Wednesday Health Pit Stop with State Government staff
Coming Soon Shed Fitness classes
You’re Invited

You are cordially invited to attend

Bendigo Bank Golf Day
Hosted by Bendigo Bank Sunshine Coast

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Friday 20 March 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Registration 11:00am Tee-off 12 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Horton Park Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Golf St, Maroochydore Qld 4558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dress Code</td>
<td>A collared shirt must be worn with neat casual pants or shorts and golf shoes or sport shoes in the clubhouse.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSVP</td>
<td>By 13 March 2015 to Lea Garrard on phone 5475 0714 or email <a href="mailto:lea.garrard@bendigoadelaide.com.au">lea.garrard@bendigoadelaide.com.au</a></td>
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We look forward to seeing you there.
Enterprising NZ Dole Recipients Waiting In Line

~ Jeff Foxworthy...

You know you’re a redneck if your home has wheels and your car doesn’t..

~ Robin Hall...

Lawyers believe a person is innocent until proven broke.

~ Emo Philips...

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing.
NEW VIDEO PROJECTOR & SCREEN FOR THE BMS MEMBERS.

Shedders may be aware that we have recently taken delivery of a new high quality Epson projector which was obtained through a very generous grant made available to us recently from the Buderim Foundation for which the members are extremely grateful.

A projector screen which was also recently donated to the shed was deemed totally unusable as the clarity of any projected image was too poor to be of use. A decision was then made to order a newer screen which arrived to much anticipation. The projector has recently been ceiling mounted thanks to a few volunteers including Graham Down who made the metal platform while Bill Maxwell and some members of the computer group mounted the screen against the northern wall. Bill also managed to attach all the various wiring without short circuiting any other appliances so that was a great result.

The computer group have been fortunate to be able to now watch their weekly presentations by Bill on a system that allows everyone to have a full, clear view of the screen from anywhere in the room in addition to being able to easily hear the contents of the presentation thanks to the inbuilt amplified speakers that form a part of the projector.

The shed was also the recipients of a high quality Denon stereo receiver which has also been linked to the rest of the system. As some donated speakers that were intended to be used with this system were accidentally sold at our open day last year, (name withheld to protect the guilty), the call is now on to see if any kind member may have an unused pair of working speakers that can be donated to the cause. They would need to be of a reasonable quality, have a decent power handling capability and preferably not be too old. I believe the power output of the amplifier is 50 watts / channel RMS. so something of a similar rating would be ideal.

If anyone is able to assist us with a donated pair or if a cheap pair can be found at a garage sale, I am sure that the shedders would be very grateful for the final improvement in the sound.

Finally, to really take advantage of this new facility, I will be approaching management for approval to head up a new class / workshop to offer a series of presentations / videos / slide shows etc on a number of topical issues that affect us all. The emphasis will be on offering material that will leave many members amazed at how much information slips under the radar and at how heavily sanitised the news we are delivered, really is. These will be on a similar basis but not limited to the types of presentations I have delivered previously about the GFC and its aftermath. I have unearthed an amazing amount of material from the public domain on a very wide array of subjects other than economics so you can be assured of a high level of quality content. The material will be interesting, varied, somewhat controversial but above all, entertaining. It would be great to determine the level of interest from the BMS members who would be available to attend a series of these workshops which I believe might best be suited on either a Wednesday or Thursday so as not to conflict with other classes already in place on Tuesday. A flyer will be posted soon on the notice board so any interested members will be able to indicate their interest in the space provided on the form.

These same sessions could also be used to run a series of different themed ideas and topics such as Trivial Pursuit Days, General Knowledge Tests, music and film reviews or anything else of a similar nature if sufficient interest can be generated by the members. As one member who has gained a lot of enjoyment from delivering these past presentations I really look forward to being able to provide a lot more on a more frequent basis and with an even wider range of subject matter.

Your participation with these additional sessions will certainly ensure the success of the workshops.

Greg Cummins

John Glenn...
"As I hurtled though space, one thought kept crossing my mind. Every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder".