

## Newsletter No 20

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*Welcome back to the Gladstone Men's Shed Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a little more information during this period of the shed closure due to Covid19 regulations. However our principal means of communication remains the web [www.gladstonemensshed.org](http://www.gladstonemensshed.org) Please forward this newsletter on to anyone you think might be interested, and feel free to give any feed back to [menshed4680@hotmail.com](mailto:menshed4680@hotmail.com)*

### President's Update:

Hope you enjoyed your May Day long weekend and now we are back into the grind of the working week again. So seriously shedders, Steeno is thinking of a S week – Safety and Socials at the Shed.

On Safety we have a Duty of Care to all others around us, our Shed colleagues and visitors to operate safely. So once the Shed reopens, it is not all about working on projects for all morning. Our record is good so far (touch wood) and the Shed was left reasonably tidy in March, but let's remove the clutter where we can, the area around both sides of the store is bad to have to step around and over things, the amenities like the kitchen and toilets should be given a good clean after sitting idle for many weeks and there are always little things around the shed that can be improved, like those sauce bottles scattered around the benches with no labels – we really should know what's in them.

On the social side let's start thinking of some extra events to promote the mental and emotional well-being for everybody. It is possible that we might have a possible 6 months of normality available to us, so let's think of 6 activities to make 2020 really good again. Some obvious ones should be a lunch at Central Lane Hotel as soon as we can, invite the shed widows down for the CPR and Defibrillator sessions, instead of Mother's Day we will have to do a Father's Day breakfast down at Savour the Marina and of course our Christmas Party in December.

So that only leaves a few gaps, as our beer connoisseurs have done Rocky we might have to urge our fellow member, Antonio Zussino, to arrange a tour (well, stopover) of the new micro-brewery at Auckland House, or we could have a repeat of that previously successful trip to Gracemere by a bus trip either south or north or west or we could meet either shed in the suburbs for a look at their facilities and maybe a game of bowls.



### In the Workshop (Or on the Net):

Every Thursday from 30<sup>th</sup> April the Australian Men's Shed Association brings you *The Shed Wireless*. A weekly podcast detailing and discovering all things Men's Sheds and other interesting stuff -



The first five episodes will see host Aaron Kearney, and special guests, take us on a journey of Men's Sheds from their very beginnings to today – the podcast will be delivered weekly to your lounge room, kitchen table or even the backyard shed. The destination is up to you.

The best bit is you can actually listen wherever and whenever you like – the podcast episodes will stick around on their website for your auditory pleasure.

The first episode is now available with others every coming Thursday after 2pm from the link [The Shed Wireless](http://TheShedWireless)

**Does anyone  
know if we can  
take showers yet  
or should we just  
keep washing  
our hands ??**

### **Members Profile:**

Well we have had Mt Morgan and Gladstone in the last 2 weeks, so reluctantly we might have to give Bilo a mention as well, but for **Maurie Frazer** it all started further north –

Born in Townsville, my young days were spent fishing and I would leave home on my bike complete with fishing rod, yabbie pump and lunch and be away for the day. I went to the Christian Brothers schools until Junior grade and at that stage I had enough of school and their warped sense of discipline, so my father who was a train driver in the railway said to get a job as a Fitter in the railway and you would have a job for life. Took his advice and got a job as an apprentice Fitter in the railway, but a few other job applications were still in progress and one for an apprentice electrician at the Ross River Meatworks was successful.

Deciding to take the Electrical apprenticeship to the dismay of my father and the ridicule of the old fitter's I was working with in the railway. My father's main reason as well as the old fitters was there were a number of electrical fatalities that were written up in the paper, but he eventually came around. I now know they were scared of the unseen, unknown and potentially deadly. It wasn't until later I found out one of my father's nephews was electrocuted at work even though he was a boilermaker.

In my first year I got into serious trouble from my boss as I got 30% for my mid-year exam. But I was good at cramming and got 90% at the end of the year which got me a 5% pay bonus and the boss never bothered me again as my results rarely changed for the 5 years. For some silly reason I can remember the first year pay of 6 pound 14 shillings and 6 pence which was the highest pay in Townsville for a first year apprentice. While I was doing my apprenticeship I joined the CMF now known as the Army Reserve and had a great time driving 6 X 6 trucks with crash gearboxes.

I spent my 5yr apprenticeship at the meatworks and met my future wife Heather who also worked there and after finished my apprenticeship, got married in 1967. Looking around for a job and more importantly somewhere to live I saw a job advert for an Instrument Fitter at the Callide Power Station in Biloela with one of the main attractions being a \$3 a week house. We stayed there for 10 yrs and our two children Greg and Donna were born.

The yearning for the salt water was too much and I decided to go to the new Gladstone Power Station as an operator so I could continue fishing. It was a very steep learning curve as it was the largest Power Station in Queensland with very few people having experience in large high pressure reheat boilers and multi cylinder turbines but we managed.

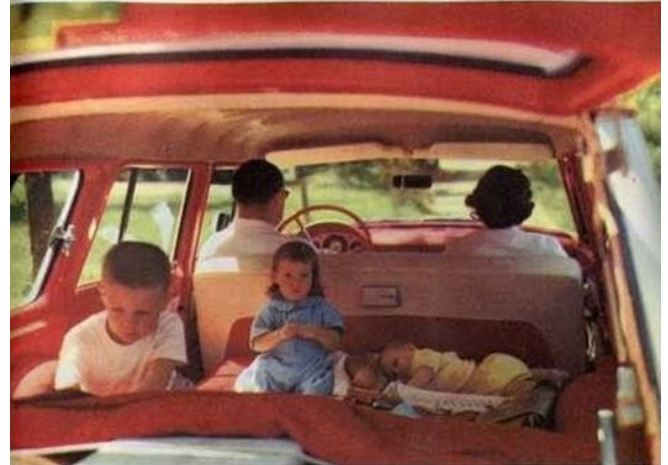
I continued on with my fishing and when on afternoon shift and the weather was good would get up at 5am race out the front of Facing Island catch a few Mackerel then front up for afternoon shift at 3 pm, I get tired thinking of it now. A long term friend of mine who also was on shift and I decided to buy a 10m steel hull and fit it out for more extensive fishing trips. We had many great fishing trips before the days of bag limits. Due to the impending sale of the Power Station and thought of the unknown we decided to sell the boat.

Stayed at the power station until 2001 by that time I had been a Shift Supervisor for 8 yrs when the company made me a financial offer to leave which was too attractive to ignore. Two weeks before I was due to finish I got a call from my old power station in Biloela wanting to know if I wanted a job as they were expanding and they were short of operators. I ended up staying there for 18mths when I said I am leaving as I want to go travelling and work wasn't part of it and I never wanted to see the sun come up again while I was working.

When I finally retired I joined the Volunteer Marine Rescue ending up being treasurer for number of years while continuing my caravanning and overseas trips. My friend Jim Richmond suggested I come down to the Men's Shed for a look, which I did but I was not impressed with the small building so I did not add to that congestion. Sometime later I saw an invitation for an opening of the new Men's Shed and I went and liked what I saw and decided there and then to join, so I am a Johnny Come Lately.

One of the ironies of my working life is I trained to be to work with electricity but spent most of my life working with steam. My son also followed me and ended up being an electrician. Neither of us stayed in the trade beyond the age of 30. For the record one of my schools is now a block of units, the railway workshop is also a block of units, the Ross River Meatworks is now a housing estate and the old power station in Biloela (Callide A) now it is totally decommissioned and will never run again. On my return to Biloela I was on shift when it was last shut down, so as they say nothing stays the same.

### **Remember This:**



Maurie, Graham and Jim must have been very safety conscious as they did not mention taking the kids to the drive-in movies in the back of the station-wagon.

### **What's Coming Up:**

Here are some more dates of interest in 2020, particularly if the Covid19 restrictions are very much relaxed by then. First on the calendar is The Ancient Crafts and Rare Trades Expo to be held at The Pavillion, 77 Exhibition Road, Southside, Gympie, on 31st October and 1st November.

At the end of November we will then have The Timber, Tools & Artisan Show will be on at the RNA Showgrounds, Marquee 1, on 27th and 28th November. This is the second year of a new format for what you would have previously known as the Brisbane Working with Wood Show, but there are now a lot more crafts in it like blacksmiths, glass blowing and leatherwork. Flyers for both are on the next page -





## ANCIENT CRAFTS RARE TRADES EXPO OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 1, 2020

**Join us for a weekend – or a day – to enjoy this event!** Over 40 skilled artisans of heritage crafts will be demonstrating continuously over the weekend – a collective expo featuring makers of the traditional trades and domestic craft of yesteryear, once the foundation on which our communities were built and integral to daily living.

**Meet:** Woodworkers and Carvers; Spoonsmiths; Luthers; Lapidarists; Silversmiths; Lacemakers; Beekeepers; a Ceramicist; a Harpmaker; a Gilder; Blacksmiths; a Shingle Splitter; Penmaker; Basketweavers; a Glassblower; a Tinsmith; Spinners; a Papermaker; Mosaic artist and even more – all gathered in one arena and keen to share their knowledge and their passion in their craft with you.

**See:** displays of vintage tools and antique machinery – there's a surprise or two in the pipeline.

**Indulge:** Traditional dampers and tea, or..... there's even craft beer to enjoy!



Join Carbatec and other Timber, Tools & Artisan show exhibitors for live demonstrations, hands-on workshops, art displays & stands, retail & supplies stands, kids creative space plus a food truck alley!

Our stand will have continuous live demonstrations throughout each day of the show focusing on Finishing, Sharpening, Turning, SawStop (the world's safest table saws) and Veritas (innovative tools for the discerning woodworker)! Carol Russell will also be there with spoon carving demonstrations!

Don't miss our Show Specials which are only available at the show! Stock will also be available for purchase on the day; from books right through to machinery!

Come and experience all the best brands in one location including SawStop, Carbatec, Veritas, Tormek, Pfeil, Kutzal, DMT, Axiom, Robert Sorby, Nova, CMT, Titebond, Bora, Trend, Bridge City, Rockler, Kreg, Organoil and Whittle Waxes!