

## **Hall Men's Shed 2020 – 2021 Foreman's Annual Report**

We started this year being quite careful to ensure COVID safety. We had simple meetings with members bringing their own cup and or thermos and even their own snack for morning tea.

Even so, we were able to start our first project for the year and we refurbished the Pavilion tennis courts area including the little tennis shed. This was a great project for us and we were pleased to have provided a service to the Hall community. Aaron Whittaker and Graham Smith were the main drivers for the work and many members were involved. It was a satisfying project and it has been good to see the court being used occasionally.

We may have to do some more work to keep the weeds down in the coming Spring.

There was a big effort to clean up behind the cottage during Spring this year. Much vegetation was cut back or pulled out and disposed of to make the area behind the cottage more useful and easier to maintain. Aaron Whittaker, Sonny Priotta and Brian Charge to name a few, did most of the heavy work and many others pitched in. Darrell Minion kept the grass under control with his ride on mower.

In addition to the clean up behind the cottage, much of the work to establish the garden adjacent to the cottage was done by Bill Pearson and Dennis Greenwood. This included the production of the Viking Table (which I think will outlive us all), landscaping and re-decking of the little platform stage. The stage was used for the official opening of Hall's latest Bee Friendly Gardens.

Our first BBQ for the new financial year in October was a simple Bunnings style sausage sizzle held at the back of the cottage. It was a great success and showed we could cope with the COVID restrictions that existed at that time.

We continued to ask our attendees to regular Thursday morning teas to sign in on the attendance book and we also obtained a Hall Men's Shed QR Code. It is encouraging to see the members understood the need to book in and they complied. The QR Code and the attendance book are being conscientiously used by all attendees.

We applied to the ACT Property Group to have the deck to the annex fixed as the deck and some structural timbers were rotting. While promises were given, we ended up fixing the deck ourselves so that we at least felt safe walking on it. It was later in the year before the Property Group arranged for the structural timbers to be replaced. In the meantime the Property Group made repairs to and painted the cottage and the metal shed.

Our Christmas party in December was very successful with 75 attendees, including many of the museum volunteers. Owing to COVID restrictions we were not able to

have it at the Pavilion so instead we had it at the Gold Creek Station. We are thankful to the Progress Association for providing the venue hire money to allow the party to continue. The venue was excellent and is well managed by Craig Starr. The food was provided by Eat Your Words Catering and it was delicious and I'm sure everyone was satisfied. Hopefully we can arrange an equally good party this December.

Many little projects were undertaken during the year ranging from repairs of furniture and providing a refurbished picnic table for the preschool by Alan Boyd, Graham Smith and others to the toys for the preschoolers made by Brian Charge. Most of these projects attract donations which have added to the shed coffers.

Another good project was our work on making repairs to some of the grandstand seating at the Showgrounds in preparation for the Sheep Dog Trials held in March. Several members under the direction of Jonathan Palmer did magnificent work in refurbishing the stands.

Following that work there were several more members who manned the gates for the days of the Sheep Dog Trials and helped make it a successful event.

We were very fortunate to obtain an old heavy table saw from the Orana school in Weston. Aaron Whittaker and Graham Smith picked it up and brought it out to the shed. It is massive and weighs heaps. After setting it up properly, including an inverter to convert our single phase power to 415 volts and the installation of an emergency stop button (thanks to Dennis Greenwood) the saw has done some good work particularly on cutting up the marine ply used for the bird boxes we made this year. The only thing we need now (and it has been ordered) is a safety guard for the saw blade.

As mentioned above, another major project undertaken was the construction and painting of 32 bird boxes for the Namadgi National Park. This project was arranged by Eric Detheridge who, in his capacity as secretary for the Kaleen Men's Shed negotiated a contract with the ACT Government to produce over 100 bird boxes. We assisted by producing 32. The cutting of the marine ply was organised and directed by Alan Boyd on the the big table saw. Many people were part of the fabrication of the boxes. More were involved with the painting of 3 coats of paint. More again were employed on bending and attaching the high tensile wire which will be used to attach the boxes to trees in the park. There were many shedders involved and it was pleasing to see how enthusiastic they were. This project was good for our shed monetarily as well with \$2,700 being deposited into our bank account.

Towards the end of the year, the Progress Association arranged for a new auditor and this has resulted in a tightening of rules, particularly regarding money. Since we are a part of the Progress Association and \$10 of each of our membership fees goes to the Progress Association to provide us with the insurances we are required to have, we have formally agreed to the new rules. It will not mean much change to the way in which we operate as a Shed but it does mean that our Treasurer will work a little more closely with the Treasurer for the Progress Association.

This year it has been very good to see many members participating in Thursday morning teas, Tuesdays project work and our monthly BBQs. It was also good to see so many at the Christmas party. I was particularly happy to see how many members are starting to get involved in the projects we undertake and I look forward to the projects we undertake next year.

Doug Anstess - Foreman