

Hall Men's Shed

2022 – 2023 Foreman's Annual Report

We had a BBQ to start the year on 7th July 2022 with 28 attendees. The year has started well with a few of us finishing off the footbridge across the creek at the Showgrounds. This work was lead by Graham Smith and it is a great result that we can all be proud of. Paul Larsen turned 90 and this was acknowledged at the shed.

Several of us attended the funeral of Danny Clynk's wife, Linda in July. It was a sad but beautiful event as Linda was well loved in the Hall community.

In early August there was lots of rain and the new footbridge was flooded but it survived which is a testimony to the work we did. In later August we had a special event where we had a party for the Pre-School kids. We cooked for them and they performed a dance for us. It was a terrific meeting. It is so much of a pity that the Pre-School has since closed down as it was a great source of contact between some of us oldies and the lovely youngsters. We will miss them a lot.

Our BBQ in October was a special event as we invited the Yass Valley Men's Shed to attend a Pizza Day with us. 45 people attended including 10 from Yass. Although the weather was miserable, we had a great day with Bill Pearson, Dennis Greenwood, Aaron Whitaker, Danny Clynk, Jonathan Palmer and several others ensuring the pizzas were delicious and adequate for the day. The pizza oven worked very well. Later that day there was a visit to the Hall Museum which was enjoyed by all who attended. We also held a car show in the school quadrangle with several of us bringing special cars to show.

During the year, the Shed continued with deliveries of the Hall Rural Fringe publication to the various farm addresses in the 2618 area. This is something we as a Shed have taken on as a long term community service. I hope we honour this commitment in future years.

In December we delivered a park bench to the Gungahlin College. This was made by Alan Boyd from recycled timber for the local branch of the Country Women's Association as their gift to the Gungahlin College. Several of us attended the handover ceremony on the day new students were visiting their new school. It was an enjoyable experience.

Our Christmas Party was held on 8th December at the Gold Creek Station and was hosted by Craig Starr who owns and runs the venue. The event was great as was the meal. As a part of the celebration, the Rural Fringe editor Jo Hall presented a certificate and a nice bottle of local wine to those members involved in the 'Fringe' deliveries. This was unexpected but totally appreciated by the members involved.

Our first meeting after the Christmas break was on 19th January 2023 and 28 members attended. We announced at the meeting that we were going to extend the

deck at the cottage and we needed people to assist with the denailing of the deck boards that Aaron Whittaker had obtained (with no cost to the shed). Many members put their hands up and over the next few weeks we prepared the proposed decking. Unfortunately, our plans were delayed by the requirements of the ACT Government who wanted us to jump the hoops laid out by ACT Heritage. After some negotiations we were allowed to start work on the deck.

We had a great BBQ in February with 45 people attending. Our regular caterers, Eric Detheridge, Rob Durie and Garth Chamberlain did a great job as they have done all year. We also visited Rod and Judy Robert's farm to see how well they have restored the old slab huts on their property. It was a great visit and we all appreciated the effort that they and others have put in to achieve the current result.

In early March we learnt that Paul Larsen's wife, Yvonne passed away. Very sad news indeed. I note with joy that after a break, Paul has been attending the shed and I hope that we can help him through his grief.

The Sheep Dog Trials went from 13th to 19th March and there were many members helping out on the gates and with the set up. The trials were terrific this year helped a lot by the good weather. We are committed to working each year to help with the trials and all those who get involved are commended.

Brian Charge and his merry men (Bruce Wallace, Roger Smith, Ian McLaurie and others) have produced wooden toys for various charities plus they have made cheeseboards that have been selling well at Daughters of Hall. Bruce is also making a life-size goanna which will be finished next financial year. His work is fascinating to watch.

In April this year, John Wiseman, our long time member passed away. His funeral was held on 8th May. We will all remember John as a regular member and that he mostly brought his lovely dog Panda when he attended the Shed. John was one of the original shed members and all who knew him, will miss him. By the way, Panda has found a new home with John's granddaughter.

The deck has progressed well. By the end of the financial year, it was being used and we only have to install handrails and steps to complete it. Too many of our members have worked on the deck to mention but the main ones were Graham Smith, Paul Williams and Bill Szydlik. Once the deck is complete, the next task is to lower the roof of the existing pergola to give us more dry cover in the rain.

This year has been industrious and rewarding. I hope next year will be at least it's equal.

Doug Anstess
Foreman