

Hall Men's Shed

2024 - 2025 Foreman's Annual Report

Our BBQ on 4th July started the year for us. We had 31 attendees and I note that our BBQs are still very popular. I thank Eric Detheridge, Rob Durie, Sonny Pirotta, Garth Chamberlain for their dedication to providing our BBQ each month. Thanks also go to those who clean up after each BBQ.

A similar thank you goes to Eric, Rob and Robert Vella for their work in providing our morning teas each Thursday.

This year we have continued to do the deliveries of the Rural Fringe to the farms in the 2618 postcode area. This is a very satisfying event every two months. I do it with my old mate, Mal Bosworth and we always have a great catch-up in the couple of hours it takes. Others who do the deliveries are Garth Chamberlain, James Beatty, Brian Banyard, Danny Clynk, Aaron Whittaker and Roger Smith. I'm sure they enjoy the work as much as I do, and I hope we continue with this community service long into the future.

We also helped in other community events in Hall, such as cleaning up the Hall Reserve and holding the sausage sizzle at the Brass on the Grass event in October. We had several members providing assistance at the gates to the annual Sheep Dog Trials held in March. We provided a BBQ at the Pavilion for the Federal Election in May. These events are important as they show the shed is interested in the Hall community. Several of us also helped David Rendell and his wife Jenny-May clean up their shed in preparation for their move into a smaller, easy access home. David also donated a number of his tools as they won't fit in his new home.

There were a few talks by various people during the year. Vanessa Pirotta gave us an informative talk on whales, Gordon Cooper from the Belconnen Men's Shed gave us a talk on mental health and the ANU gave us a talk on our Greater Glider boxes and how they are being used in the forests.

Our Christmas Party was held on 5th December at the Hall Pavilion and we had Eat Your Words Catering providing the meal again. The event was great as was the meal. We had table decorations of painted wooden Christmas trees with baubles and tinsel to brighten up the tables. These were made by Brian Charge, Bruce Wallace and Ian McLaurie.

We had several projects for the members to get involved in. There was a beautiful and heavy teak sideboard that Alan Boyd and Mal Voysey restored. Other restorations included an old dresser for David Rendell and an old and badly damaged dining table for a lady in Giralang. Graham Smith repaired the notice board for Daughters at Hall and he built a notice board for the Hall Post Office. Kim Parker built a new sign for the Ngunnawal Park. We completed another 50 Greater Glider nesting boxes for the ANU.

There was a meeting at the ACT Legislative Assembly in October where all ACT Men's Sheds were invited. It was an interesting morning where we heard from all the sheds who attended as to what they do. It was good to meet a lot of likeminded people and we were all able to share ideas. One result of this meeting was that we went to the Tarago Men's Shed a few weeks later for a gathering of regional sheds. The four of us who went were impressed with the dust extraction system they had. We resolved then to advance our own dust extraction ideas. Also in late November we had a visit from the Weston Creek Men's Shed. It was good to host them to a morning tea and to share ideas.

Our member Fred Reid organised a visit to the War Memorial Annex in Mitchell in early January. This was enjoyed by a number of our members and it is hoped that a similar visit might be arranged for other members this January coming.

There was a visit from the World Wildlife Fund and they filmed some of us working on the Greater Glider boxes. They also interviewed me and Peter Davidson of the Yass Valley Men's Shed about our involvement in the production of the boxes for the ANU. I believe there will be a video produced sometime in the future which will tell the story of the Greater Glider nesting boxes.

Several members led by Brian Charge and Bruce Wallace have continued to make cheeseboards, chopping boards, coasters and trivets for sale at the post office. These sales have contributed significantly to the shed coffers.

One of the biggest projects we had this year was to provide a dust extraction system for our shed. Some of you may remember that we had a grant of \$1,000 from the ACT Chief Minister in 2024. We have used that money plus money we have made from the Greater Glider nesting boxes and other donations to fund the dust extraction project. In December last year we purchased the 3hp dust extraction machine. In February we built a sound insulated room on the shed verandah and connected the new machine to electricity. We sourced second hand plastic pipes and put together a ducting system to each machine we work with in the shed. We bought and installed flexible pipe work, shut off valves, brackets and devised an earthing system. We also took the opportunity to reorganise the shed to allow several flexible work stations so the shed area is far more efficient. The main men who undertook this great project call themselves RAGE (Rough As Guts Engineering). Whilst that is a bit of a joke, the work that they did is not. Many thanks go to Aaron Whittaker, Bruce Wallace, Brian Charge, Shaun Hodson, Dennis Greenwood, Doug Crawford, Ian McLaurie and others. If you helped with the project, thank you. It is great to be in the shed now as the dust is reduced to almost zero.

It was a good year. I hope this coming year is as good.

Doug Anstess
Foreman