

Hall Men's Shed

2025 - 2026 Foreman's Annual Report

Our BBQ on 3rd July started the year for us. It was a Pizza Day and we had really fresh pizzas from the Supa Barn at Casey. Again, the on site Pizza Oven proved it's worth. A great lunch was had by all. Generally though, our BBQs are still very popular and I thank Eric Detheridge, Robert Vella, Sonny Pirotta, Garth Chamberlain, Paul Larsen and others for their dedication providing our BBQ each month. Thanks also go to those who clean up after each BBQ.

A similar thank you goes to Eric Detheridge 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'm sure everyone who gets involved in the deliveries enjoy the work as much as I do, and I hope we continue with this community service long into the future.

We had a visit to Peter Toet's garage in Palmer Street in early August and it was a real eye opener. Peter has some lovely and historic cars and I particularly love his old Packards. Thanks to Peter.

In August we helped a lady in Amaroo who had partly demolished an old rotten deck by herself at her home. Several of us spent most of the day completing the demolition and loading the rubbish onto Danny Clynk's truck. We also broke up and removed the concrete foundations on another day.

We helped in community events in Hall, such as helping with the 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. A few of us made repairs to the Vestry door and toilet doors at the Hall Catholic Church after it was damaged by vandals. These events are important as they show the shed is interested in the Hall community.

There were a few talks by various people during the year. We had a talk on massage machines by Niagara Therapy. There was an interesting session on Bee Keeping where we had several talkers and a demonstration on an alternative design for bee hives. We had a talk by Bec Davey from Arthritis ACT on arthritis and how to deal with it. We also had an interesting talk by John Christensen on the Australian Constitution and how it came to be.

I learnt from Jonathan Palmer that our shed has inspired people on Poel Island in Germany to form a Men's Shed. We will learn more about this brother shed in the future.

Our Christmas Party was held on 4th 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. We finished off the final group of Greater Glider nesting boxes thus finishing our contract with the ANU. Hopefully there will be other opportunities with the ANU in the future. We were involved in the design and parts of the construction of the new wheelchair access to the Museum from Palmer St. We renewed the sign on the corner of Victoria St and Loftus St to indicate the Hall Reserve. The sign on the corner of Victoria St and Gladstone St indicating the Horse Trough at the Showgrounds. Repairs were made to the Basketball courts in the quadrangle and the bench next to the tennis court. The ramp at the entry to the shed was replaced and will now last for many more years.

In the meantime and continuing, some of our members are making breadboards, cheeseboards, coasters, etc for sale. Others are restoring furniture and making bespoke items as commissioned. Those at the shed who are involved in doing woodwork are well occupied and I'm sure they are gaining purpose from their efforts.

There was a meeting at the Kippax Raiders Club in November 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.

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

It was great that we were involved in an interview with the ABC Radio about the Greater Glider nesting boxes. The ANU and the Hall Men's Shed were interviewed and we promoted both the project for the protection and monitoring of the Greater Gliders and the ability of the Hall Men's Shed to assist in the project.

It is great to see how effective our dust extraction system is working at the shed. The shed is now very close to dust free and the new arrangement of benches and work areas has improved the efficiency of the shed and has improved the quality of the air in the shed.

While it was a relatively quite year it was a good year. I hope this coming year is as good.

Doug Anstess
Foreman