



The Curlew Capers – March 2026

Stop Press

Planned extension to Mens Shed takes a step forward

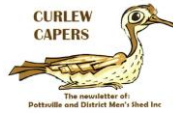
Following a Members Meeting in December, a complete review of our building plans and associated costs was undertaken. The outcome of this review was presented to the Members Meeting in February for discussion and endorsement.

The revised plan omits the mezzanine level of the extension providing a building cost saving and the added benefit of improving safety for members.

The details of the proposed internal arrangement of the Shed, incorporating the new building space, were discussed and were well received by all members present.

A decision to proceed with all relevant approvals for this project was agreed, it is anticipated this could take up to nine months before we can begin to build.

A huge thank you to Dave R and Brian M for the time they have freely given towards the success of this project.



The Curlew Capers – March 2026

COMMITTEE

President - Glenn Samuel
 Vice President - David Ross
 Secretary - Glenn Mackay
 Treasurer- Jim Vane
 John Taylor
 Alan Whiting
 Kevin Corrigan

CALENDAR

March

Friday 6th - Health & Wellbeing Expo, Pottsville Community Hall
 Monday 23th – Casino Mens Shed bus trip
 Thurs. 26th - Luncheon, 12 noon*

April

Thurs. 9th - Members meeting at the Shed and Sausage Sizzle, 10.00am
 Saturday 25th April – Anzac Day Ceremony
 Thurs. 30th - Drinks at the Tavern, 5.00pm

May

Thurs. 28th - Luncheon, 12 noon*
 *Venue to be decided.

Editorial

In the process of assembling this edition of the “Capers” I am continually amazed by the depth and diversity of the knowledge and talents within our membership. The Pottsville and District Mens Shed provides an avenue for walkers, kayakers, musicians, woodworkers, cyclists, metalworkers, chefs, cooks and those who are just happy to have a cuppa and a conversation. All these men coexist in a spirit of good will and harmony.

I have it on good authority that interest in our Shed and the activities of members extends well beyond our hamlet of Pottsville. It is my intention for this publication to reflect the broad scope of activities available to members and I will encourage reports from all groups to be included in our newsletter.

Ed



SHED NEWS & ACTIVITIES

POTTSVILLE & DISTRICT MEN'S SHED PRESENT:

Senior Health Expo Pottsville

Healthy Living for Seniors

FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2026

9AM - 2PM

POTTSVILLE BEACH COMMUNITY HALL

Featuring over
30 exhibitors

Health Care

Government &
Private Care Providers

Local Community Clubs

SUPPORTED BY:

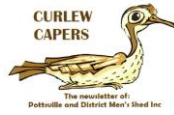


Aged Care



POTTSVILLE & DISTRICT
MEN'S SHED INC.



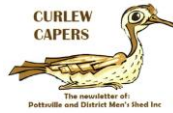


Social Lunches



The Shedders Christmas lunch at Mooball Hotel was a great success with over 70 guests attending and enjoying a delicious meal and lively conversation, thank you to our hosts at Mooball and the Shed Social Committee for organising this event.





Our February luncheon held at the Pottsville Sports Club proved again what a fun-loving group we are, with 45 guests attending and almost filling the main dining room at the club.

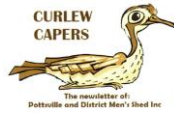
The comprehensive menu catered for a wide variety of tastes and the volume of noise emanating from the area was indicative of the enjoyment of the diners



Morning Tea Shed Ladies Group



The ladies have continued their social gatherings at the Cheese Factory at Burringbah. This is an excellent opportunity for meeting new people, sharing stories, (not necessarily about their Sheddors) and enjoying morning tea together. Many thanks to Colleen for the initiative and continuing to organise these events.



Clean Up Day – January 2026

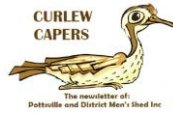


2026 Commenced with housekeeping at the shed. A skip was provided in anticipation it would be filled within a couple of weeks and sent to the tip.

A willing band of workers set about achieving this task and the skip was filled in a day.

Thank you to all the Shedders who worked on this project. The workshops and our storage containers have never looked so tidy and organised.





Kayak Group

The Kayakers have been making the most of our good weather with excursions to Dunbible Creek at Murwillumbah and the Oxley River at Byangum as well as exploring our own back yard on Mooball Creek. Thank you, John T, for organising these outings.



Report by Glenn M

Paddling on Mooball Creek from the shopping centre to the old bridge which collapsed many years ago and was never repaired. This was at Warwick Park Road, Wooyung. The story was the bridge collapsed under the weight of a truck. The bridge was never replaced.

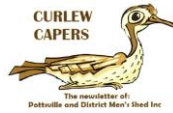
We paddled for 2.5 hours, 9.5 kilometres followed by coffee at the Smokehouse Cafe.

Photo above is Glenn and John near the location of the old bridge.

Photo on the right is Glenn passing Black Rock bridge.

Photo bottom right shows the last remains of the old bridge. Photo below is Bob, Michael, John and Glenn enjoying their day.





Pottsville Pluckers

Report by Rod S on behalf of the 'Pluckers'

Planning for our 2026 program is well underway with the first gig on February 28th, seeing our requested return to The Nook Italian Cafe at Hastings Point. Along with further Nook gigs, we aim to continue to provide regular entertainment for local area aged care residents and community and Shed events, throughout the year.

We have refreshed our repertoire by adding in quite a few 'new' songs in place of previous ones, and we have spent practices getting back to performance standard after our Christmas/New Year holiday break.

Continuing with our mentoring/skills development program commenced in Nov/Dec 2025 is also a priority for the next few months, with the band split into two sub-groups (for half of practice sessions) under the leadership and mentorship of Steve Waygood/Eric Wall and Colin Freeman/Glenn Samuel. Each smaller group is set with the task of selecting and preparing some songs to play as features in performances. This will allow the band to enhance and feature individual skills in a small group setting. We look forward to adding these feature performances to future 'gigs' throughout 2026 and beyond.

Thank you to Shed members and the management committee for their on-going support for the music group and we hope you enjoy our performances this year.

'Stay tuned'!





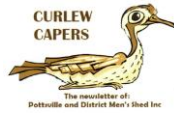
MEMBER PROJECTS and FUND RAISING

A major fund-raising task this quarter was the production of 350 cheese boards for Tweed Shire Council as a gift to their staff for Christmas. This was a most demanding project and a big thank you to our project manager, Owen (Big O) and the shedders who assisted in the completion of this task.



The photo above is a finished cutting board. The photo on the right features Ray and John B at the tables where the boards have been finished with a coat of bees' wax. Middle Jim and Bill show the pride in their work below.





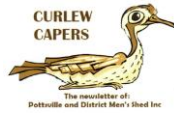
Kingcliff Public School Cubbies



As reported in the December addition of Curlew Capers, the production of the cubby houses for Kingscliff Public School continued to completion under the capable guidance of Andrew and Middle Jim, pictured assembling the frames. Thank you to all Shedders involved.

The completed cubby houses were transported to their final locations and installed ready for the commencement of the new school year.





Pappy and his helpers are always busy



Games board

<- New raised garden bed design



Wishing wells



Santa's chair



The rocking horse raffle



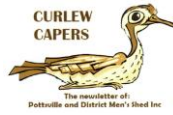
The rocking horse raffle was a significant contributor to our building fundraising again this year. A total of \$9,538 was raised by this event. A huge THANK YOU to Brian Mac for all your efforts in not only making this magnificent prize but also coordinating and participating in the selling of tickets. Thanks also to the shedders who assisted Brian in his tasks.

Brian load testing the horse before the draw, he was obviously confident of the workmanship



The draw of winning tickets was done by Kyle from Pottsville Village Hardware with the first prize going to Michelle from Koala Beach. Second prize went to Joyce from Casuarina and third prize to Louis from Brisbane.

Pottsville Village Hardware are major supporters of our shed and donated a Makita belt sander for a prize. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Christmas Markets

Would you buy anything from this man?

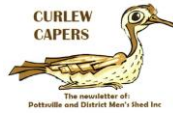


Another successful fund raiser was the Christmas market, a BIG thank you to BIG O, Glenn Mac and any other Shedders who volunteered their time to support this event.

Lifeline Problem Gambling Presentation



Terry and Skye from Lifeline addressing a group of around 30 shedders on the need to identify problem gambling. Over \$500 billion is wagered each year in Australia.



MEMBER PROFILES

MIKE MIDDLETON

Mike was born in 1951 in his grandmother's home in Hinckley in Leicestershire.

He arrived in Australia with his family at the age of 8 in 1959 as a £5 Pom, half price for a child! They travelled on the Strathaird on its second last voyage before being scrapped. It apparently had endured too many Poms!

They landed in Sydney then train to Brisbane, returning to Sydney after 18 months to live in "The Shire". Mike's initial schooling in Australia was at Cooparoo Public School and on returning to Sydney he attended Cronulla Public School and then on to Gymea High School.

His part time jobs comprised working at the Gymea Bay butcher on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings at £1 a week and all he could eat in leftovers! He moved on from there to stacking shelves at Grace Bros. and 6 weeks in a deli. over the Christmas holidays, just for a bit more variety!

On leaving school, Mike took an apprenticeship at St. George County Council studying Electrical Fitter Mechanics.

He experienced 13 years at the council before moving to Brookair air conditioning. After another 5 years he took up a teaching position at Sydney Tech. At this time he moved to Hallidays Point, commuting to Sydney for work from Mondays to Thursdays, staying at this parent's home.

Mike married his wife Judith in 1974 and they have two sons and a daughter.

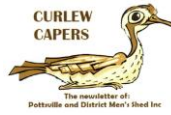
Mike joined Black Head SLSC, with his sons who participated in the nippers. He was IRB Captain, Radio Officer and Nippers President. His main achievement was winning a NSW state bronze medal for the IRB mass rescue event.

After 11 years Mike eventually got a local position, responsible for maintenance at the Forster RSL Club, but after 12 years, moving back to The Shire to live in Lilli Pilli for 9 years. Once a Shire boy always a Shire boy!

His son had moved to Brisbane and daughter to Corndale, where Mike attests, the locals exchange "high sixes"! So Mike and Judith had an epiphany and moved to Brisbane and eventually in 2007 to Cassaurina.

Mike joined the shed in 2019 and can be seen most days in and around both the wood and metal workshops in his role of maintaining the equipment and directing correct practices in its usage.

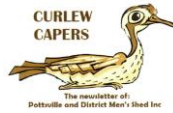
He is a valued member who enjoys the camaraderie and states that if the shed had a swear box we would have had our extension years ago!



NEW MEMBERS

Pottsville Mens Shed members would like to welcome Gary Dawson, Rod Pickin and Mark King to our group and hope that you enjoy the time you spend with us.





THE PRESENT

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you have failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course.

Each of us has such a bank. It's name is TIME. Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as LOST, whatever you fail to invest to good purpose.

It carries no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day a new account opens for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the days deposit the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against 'tomorrow'. You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it to get the utmost health, happiness and success.

The clock is running, make the most of TODAY.

To realize the value of **ONE YEAR**, ask a student who failed an exam

To realize the value of **ONE MONTH**, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby

To realize the value of **ONE WEEK**, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper

To realize the value of **ONE HOUR**, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet

To realize the value of **ONE MINUTE**, ask the person who missed the train

To realize the value of **ONE SECOND**, ask the person who just avoided an accident

To realize the value of **ONE MICROSECOND**, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympic Games

We should treasure every moment that we have. Remember TIME waits for no-one.

Yesterday is **HISTORY**

Tomorrow is a **MYSTERY**

Today is a **GIFT**

THAT'S WHY IT IS CALL 'THE PRESENT'

The Parramatta Packet – March/June 2011

We would like to thank our major sponsors and ask all our members and their families to support them whenever possible.

