

Dec 2024

## Curlew Capers, December 2024

### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The following shedders were elected Life Members at the October Members Meeting: ( All joined the Shed in 2014 and are Foundation Members)

Here is a précis of their time in the Shed:



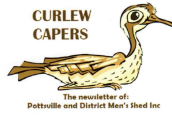
Pictured are Craig, Peter, Alan and John proudly displaying their Life Membership certificates.

**CRAIG BUTTFIELD** - Craig is a serial volunteer on almost every Shed activity, is a former Secretary and currently runs our social programme. He is also a foundation Gravel Rasher.

**PETER HOWELL** - Peter is a former committee member and very active in the shed workshop over many years. He is also a foundation Gravel Rasher.

**ALAN MAY** - Alan was an instigator of the Shed and was our foundation President.

**JOHN WELLS** - John is a former long term Secretary and played an important role in our contact with Council and other bodies.



**LEIGHTON MEREDITH** - Leighton is a former Treasurer and committee member and plays a big part in mentoring at various local schools.



Leighton receiving his Life Membership certificate from Vice President Owen.

**LES HARDY** - Les is another serial volunteer, particularly with organising and leading our many raffles.



Les received his certificate from Owen.

**GORDON BENSON** - Gordon has health issues and hasn't lately been seen very often at the Shed and his cheery presence has been missed





## CALENDAR

### December

Thurs. 5th - Shed Christmas lunch at the Tavern, 12 noon

Thurs. 12th - Members meeting at the Shed 10.00am & sausage sizzle

Thurs. 26th - Drinks at the Tavern 5.00pm

### January

Thurs. 30th -Dinner at the Tavern 5.30pm

### February

Thurs. 13th - Members meeting at the Shed 10.00am & sausage sizzle

Thurs. 27th - Drinks at the Tavern 5.00pm

## COMMITTEE

President - John Taylor

Vice President - Owen Reynolds

Secretary- Glenn Mackay

Treasurer- Rodney Pickin

Jim Vane

Bob Abela

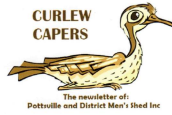
Alan Whiting

## SHED NEWS & ACTIVITIES

The winners of the footy tipping competitions have been announced with Brendan Menagh taking out the NRL and Dave Ross the AFL. Thanks to Brendan for donating his \$90 prize back to the Shed.

23rd October saw Shedders manning a stand at the BUPA Market Day displaying various suitable items.

The Shed hosted Leigh Matthews from Home Instead on 12th November to talk to members about assisted home living.



On the 14th, audiologist, Dr. Ryan O'Clare who conducted a series of hearing tests. This is a most important service as it has been shown that loss of hearing is a factor in developing dementia.



10 Shedders accepted an invitation to mingle with the BUPA residents on 20th November to enjoy a BBQ and beer.

Our social organisers, Pappy and Owen, have a range of possible events coming up. These are some of their ideas:

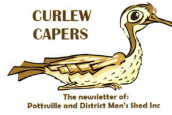
Stone & Woods Brewery tour

Husk Distillery tour

Currumbin Wood \$ Craft Club visit

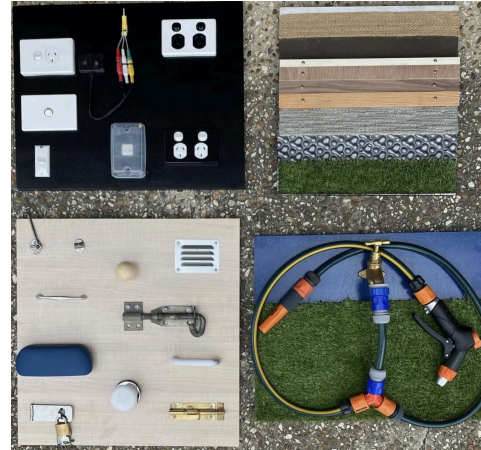
They put a lot of effort into organising the social programme and as these ideas come to fruition they would appreciate our support.





## MEMBER PROJECTS

The photos below features John Owens and Rocket Rod with memory “experience” boards constructed by a few Shedders for the dementia wing at BUPA Aged Care. These are the first of a total of 10 boards to be placed along corridor walls to rekindle memories of everyday items that residents may have experienced.

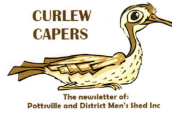


Thanks to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for their gift of 12 bench seats for refurbishing for Tweed Shire Council. The refurbished seats will be for public use in the Environmental Park, along the Tweed section of the rail trail and other local locations.



This photo depicts three happy children with their kids' kitchen at Burringbar Public School from the Shed workshop.

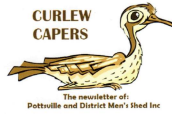




Another project at Burringbar PS showed the skills of several of the students, mentored by Middle Jim and Leighton and their production of playground seating around a tree

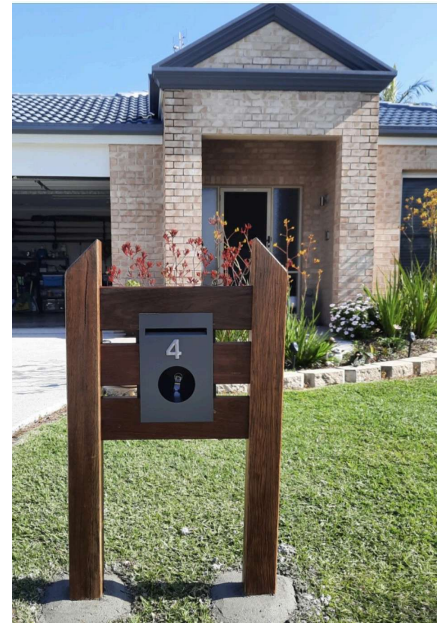


We are always looking for ways to become more involved with our local communities and thanks to Jim and Leighton for their time



Andrew Tyson and Robert Green with their mounted "Slow Down" for Koala Beach.

The previous issue showed Big Jim starting the production of his letter box. The photo below shows the finished product in Jim's front garden. Well done Jim, you would probably get a prize for the most upmarket letter box in Pottsville or maybe even in the shire!



John is busy with his production of a toy ironing board as a part of his Christmas toys venture.



## FUND RAISING

The Pluckers played at BUPA again on 14th October. Thank you Pluckers and BUPA who donated \$150 to the Shed

The Bunnings BBQ on 27th October made \$1,905 profit, the best yet. A fantastic result and a huge thanks to the 18 or so shedders who manned the stand. We are also grateful for the organising of our two convenors, Glenn and Lex, a big help towards the funding for our extension.

The Pluckers put on another performance at The Nook on the evening of 22nd November with Glenn Samuel as MC. Around 70 patrons attended for a most enjoyable time in spite of the heavy rain. Thank you again Pluckers for putting the evening on and to The Nook for their \$250 donation.

## THE GARAGE SALE

The Shed garage sale on 9th November raised nearly \$6,000, a very important result to show likely grant organisations our efforts to contribute our own funding.



A big thanks to the ladies, organised by Brenda, to run the cake and preserves stall and to those who contributed the wide range of goodies. The stall raised almost \$2,000, that's a lot of cakes!

It was quite a hot day and the shedders who ran the BBQ looked shattered by the end of the day and for their efforts raised around \$1,000, thank you!

Middle Jim and Pedro are pictured below showing their culinary skills.







Also of course we are grateful to those shedders who made the items to sell and to those who manned the sales areas.

Thanks also to Peter Sharpe who again manned the book stand.

The garage sale provided a start to the big raffle for the rocking horse. B Mack displayed his creative prowess in making the horse and manned the ticket sales selling over \$500 on the day. Further to this, Les Hardy was down outside IGA also selling a further \$200 worth of tickets. Thank you to both these Shedders for their time. Les, Brian and any one else who wants to volunteer will be on deck outside IGA, Foodworks and Woolies at Cabarita each weekend until mid December when the raffle will be drawn. There is a possible \$10k that could be realised from this raffle, so all hands to the wheel!

This photo features our stand outside Woolies at Cabarita with Big Jim and Bmack in attendance. \$620 was raised that day and thanks to those who volunteered.



Don't you feel sorry for the horse,  
it did survive!





The reindeer and Christmas trees proved popular again with the shoppers and the photo below shows the reindeer lined up already to pull Santa's new bright shiny red sleigh. The sleigh was not for sale!



## GRANTS

In response to a grant application submitted some time ago to the Commonwealth Bank Staff Grant Fund, the fund agreed to an amount of \$20,000 which will be about half of what we require for the funds for the dust extraction system that will be installed in our proposed extension.

We are very grateful for this generous act. The Staff fund contributed \$10,000 and the Bank itself the balance of \$10,000.

The grant was made possible by the nomination from Brian Lord, a staff member who is passionate about our work. Thank you so much Brian!

## MEMBER PROFILES

### Glenn Samuel

Glenn was born at Gosford in 1957 and grew up in Concord in Sydney's western suburbs. He attended Ashfield Boys High School excelling in rowing where he made the eight and was a member of the gym and diving teams.

On leaving school he entered the University of NSW studying for a Social Work degree majoring in Psychology.

His sporting life was limited to tennis.

On graduating, there were no jobs for his specialty so he joined a business in the sales department in a company supplying crockery and cutlery. He rose to the position of Manager Metropolitan and in this job met various ambassadors and Governor Generals.

Glenn was then head hunted by Royal Doulton in their Commercial Division handling commercial quantities and grades of crockery and cutlery. He visited the UK and had the pleasure of meeting Michael Doulton.



Following a lunch with Wedgwood management he was head hunted as their Commercial Manager for the Pacific area. This involved negotiating with Qantas for their first class requirements where the tableware carried the Qantas logo.

Glenn tells a story about a long lunch with the Qantas board where many \$300 bottles of red were consumed. On receiving the receipt the next day the Managing Director nearly had a heart attack! Next week they received an order for \$1 million for pieces of china.

Waterford Crystal took Wedgwood over and this expanded the range considerably. While in this job Glenn obtained a degree in Forensic Medicine.

Glen then decided to take a whole different change of career with a calling to serve the ministry and took on a four year theology degree at the University of QLD.

On graduating he was stationed at the Presbyterian church, a church plant, at Mudgeeraba and then graduating to Senior Minister at Terrigal for 8 years and finally to Lismore for 13 years, retiring at age 64.

Glen has three children and to date three grandchildren.

He bought a unit in Kingscliff in 1999, renting it until moving in 2021.

Glenn enquired of Justine Elliot's office about local activities and heard about the Pluckers, which he promptly joined as a banjo plucker.

His main sporting activity has been cycling, joining the Central Coast Cycling Club doubling up as chaplain and competing in various races with podium finishes and fundraisers for Rotary.

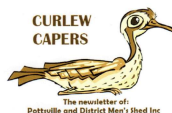
Two fund raisers stand out. The first, a week long Sydney to Southport with 200 riders over 1,000k's and the second, from Lhasa in Tibet to the Everest base camp, another 1,000k which due to the high altitude took two weeks.



This photo features Glenn at the base camp.

For a bit of diversion he has also participated in the running of the bulls in Pamplona, toured South America, including hiking to Macchu Picchu and the Iguazu Falls and on the Amazon spotting caymans.

Ed. - Glenn, you told me that you hadn't had a very interesting life, HELLO!



## John Owens

John was born in 1953 in Melbourne. He grew up with a brother and sister living in Blackburn South where he attended Blackburn South High School.

On leaving school at 17, John started a carpentry apprenticeship. He played Aussie Rules for St Ninians Presbyterian Church which his family attended. His position was back pocket as opposed to fob pocket!

In 1975 aged 22, the family made a big move from Melbourne to Magnetic Island.

They lived next door to a fisherman and his wife, who was a marine biologist, collecting Crown of Thorns larvae. John joined in on the collecting and fishing, catching mainly coral trout and Spanish mackerel from an 18' dory off the mothership. After 5 years on the boats he qualified for his skipper's licence and worked in the tourist industry as skipper on tourist "live aboard" dive boats out of Port Douglas for Mikel Water Sports.

His absences on the boats over an 18 year period took a toll on his marriage.

In 2006 his life took another turn, returning to Melbourne to enrol as a mature student at RMIT university. John worked in security at Melbourne University, which fitted in well with his studies. He emerged 6 years later with a bachelor's degree in Chinese Medicine and a masters in Chinese Herbs, going to Hong Kong and doing work experience in a Chinese hospital in Nanning for 3 months, 23 stories all devoted to Chinese medicine.

Returning to Melbourne in 2012 and continuing his security work, he bought a yacht to sail up the east coast and ended up in Gladstone, driving taxis.

John went to Vietnam for a holiday in 2018 and met the love of his life, Lien and they married. 2020 saw the start of Covid with the harsh restrictions on travel. John was visiting his daughter in Hong Kong and couldn't return to Vietnam. Lien was diagnosed with cancer and John was unable to see her until just before she died. (Ed. So sorry John, what a terrible experience).

John came to the Tweed in 2022 and joined the Men's Shed and is now living at Cudgera Creek. He loves the Shed that has given him peace and comfort and the camaraderie enjoyed in male company.

This is the reason the Men's Shed was established and it's heartwarming to see men like John and in fact all of us, lifted up.

John is a Gravel Rasher and can be found most days in the woodwork section of the Shed hiding from Big O and Pappy!

## A LIGHTER SIDE



## Education Far Side-Style At The "Midvale School For The Gifted"

