
Curlew Capers September 2025

WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE

Congratulations to Glenn Samuel, as our new President, David Ross, new Vice President and Jim Vane, new Treasurer. Thank you to our excellent Secretary, Glenn MacKay for retaining his position.

Also joining the committee as members are John Taylor, Kevin Corrigan and Alan Whiting. Thank you to these members as their experience will be most valued in the ongoing management of the Shed.

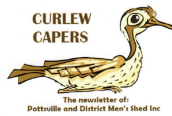
For those not familiar with our new President, Glenn, his role has been with the Pluckers and his profile taken from the last December Capers has been reprinted in the MEMBER PROFILES section. Glenn has been fully appraised of his role and we look forward to his leadership and thankful that he already has an extremely experienced management team.

We are indebted to our outgoing President, John Taylor, for his leadership in this position over the past six years. In this time we experienced the damage of a flood and a lightning strike and on top of all this, the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic. Due to our need to expand, John with Glenn, has also undertaken a huge role in approaching businesses for grants, with to date, some success. Of course there has also been the ongoing interaction with the Tweed Shire Council, with amongst other things, the approval of our expansion plans.

Thank you John for your work for the Shed which will go a long way to ensure stability and ongoing success in our venture.

Thank you also to retiring Vice President Owen for his untiring efforts both in the Shed and the activities with social and other events.

We are also grateful to Kevin Corrigan for stepping into the important role of Treasurer, now being taken by Jim Vane



COMMITTEE

President - Glenn Samuel

Vice President- David Ross

Secretary - Glenn Mackay

Treasurer - Jim Vane

John Taylor

Kevin Corrigan

Alan Whiting

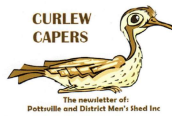
These positions can be onerous at times and we all need to be supportive of these members who have put their hands up for our benefit. There are many supportive roles available and the committee will be seeking members to fill them.

(Editor - Some time ago in a previous issue, I listed these roles and at that time the Shed comprised 75 members of whom 20 filled 40+ roles).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025

As I do each year I would like to first thank everybody who performs a role at the shed for their help; in particular committee members, shed supervisors, the kitchen boys and generally everybody else who lends a hand. This year we should show our heartfelt gratitude to Owen Reynolds and Bob Abela, they are both standing down from the committee. We should also show our appreciation and friendship to Leighton Meredith, a foundation member, ex Treasurer and Committee Member who is leaving in a couple of months to live in Tasmania. Graeme Miller has also contributed to the shed and is moving to Brisbane before the end of year. Thank you to all of these people.

2024/25 has been another busy year for the shed with many things happening, including a lightning strike which slowed us down for a while, but it proved once again that we won't be beaten. Please recognise the amount of work that goes into both lodging an insurance claim, and doing the physical work to repair the damage. We received a lot of help with this, particularly from Tony Hasaart, Jim Vane & Jim Sellwood amongst others. We also used a grant from the Commonwealth Bank to improve our dust extraction system with the same 3 men helping with that.



Sadly we lost Bill Hallet, our most senior member, a true gentleman.

Over the last 12 months we have welcomed many new members with the membership now sitting at 105.

We have had many enjoyable celebrations, these don't just happen, a lot of work goes into planning things like your bi-monthly lunches, bus trips, bi-monthly drinks.

The garage sale was a great success raising over \$5000 for the shed. It became a community day with the Mount Warning Restorers display and the vehicles on show.

We had a great day with the Christmas in July celebration kicked off by the Pluckers. Thanks Pluckers and thanks Glenn Mackay for organising the event.

The next stage now is to raise the required funds to build the extension, and to to that end many of you have worked tirelessly with Bunnings BBQs, Market Stalls, The Tavern Raffle, The Rocking Horse Raffle, Tavern Lunches, a garage sale, music performances, & jobs that come in to the shed – thanks everyone. We are well on the way to raising the required funds. We have lodged a grant application with the Gaming Machine Community Benefit fund and we are very actively seeking corporate funding. Glenn Mackay and I have been working on this behind the scenes. There is a lot of work going on that is not obvious to many members in the area of corporate support.

During the latter part of the 12 months we have been working hard on our succession plan. Over the last couple of weeks we have had members put a hand up for the President and Vice President's positions, allowing myself and Owen to step back from these positions and we both urge you to give the people stepping into these roles your full support and give them respect. The plan is that succession planning will now be an integral part of the shed because it is critical to our future. We must continue planning tomorrow for the next group of leaders.

It has been a privilege serving as your president for the last 6 years – we just hope that the new president and vice president get a clear run, we have had enough with Covid, a flood, a lightning strike, a cyclone, and at times the Tweed Shire Council to deal with.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I wish to thank all of you for your help and participation throughout the year.

John Taylor



VALE BILL HALLETT

Bill passed on at the great age of 103. His sharp mind and even sharper wit will be missed.



He was born in 1922 in the small village of Over Wallop in a farming district in Hampshire. It was an interesting upbringing, doing farm work and enjoying all the modern conveniences of the time, including drawing the water supply from a well. Bill's biography "Sixty Percent" was published and details his early life and escapades

In 1941 at the age of 18, Bill joined the RAF, training as a flight engineer in Bomber Command and very soon found himself flying sorties. His original crew comprised Poms, Aussies and Kiwis.

After many hair-raising sorties Bill's bomber was finally shot down over The Netherlands. His parachute escape from the aircraft is vividly described in his biography and he then spent time in Germany as a POW, returning to Britain at the end of the war.

Bill with wife Edna and daughter Marylyn, migrated to Australia in 1951, embarking in Sydney and moving shortly after to Murwillumbah, experiencing several occupations and the 1954 cyclone and finally working for the Banana Growers Federation where he rose to General Manager. They had another daughter born in 1959, Julie.

They moved to Pottsville in 2015 and a member of the Men's Shed befriended them and honorary membership was subsequently bestowed on Bill.

Bill never needed glasses and in fact was in the business of repairing watches even after his 100th birthday!

This is a very short précis taken from his book. The title "Sixty Percent" represents the 60% of the World War II RAF bomber crews who gave their lives, 55,000 in all.

Thank you for your friendship Bill and Rest in Peace.



SHEDDER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Glenn Mackay who has been elected by the membership for Shedder of the Year.



This is no small honour and Glenn is a most worthy recipient.

There has been hardly a Shed activity in which Glenn has not been involved. His role as Secretary has been a highly active one, keeping the membership continually advised of every activity and exhorting us to contribute. He is also always on hand in the weekly Tavern raffles, organising and helping run the Bunnings BBQ's, staffing our market stalls, approaching businesses with John Taylor for sponsorships and this year, saddling himself with some of the Treasurer's duties.

Thank you Glenn from all of us.

CALENDAR

September

Fri. 5th - Ladies morning tea at Tweed Valley Farmhouse Cheeses.

Thurs. 25th - Lunch at the Tavern, 12 noon

Tues. 30th - Thurs. Oct 2nd - Ageing Conference Gold Coast

October

Thurs. 9th - Members meeting at the Shed, 10.00am, sausage sizzle and Pluckers performing.

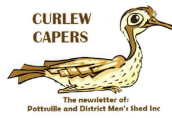
Thurs. 30th - Drinks at the Tavern, 5.00pm

November

Sat. 8th - Garage sale and cake stall at the Shed

Sat. 15th - Bunnings BBQ

Thurs. 27th - Lunch at the Tavern, 12 noon

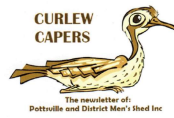


SHED NEWS & ACTIVITIES

We had our May 29th luncheon with a return to **The Victory Hotel at Mooball**.

A turn out of 50 enjoyed a good time and we will certainly return.





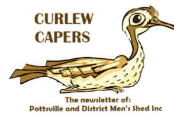
The **Members Meeting** on June 12th was followed by a big change from our usual BBQ when we were treated to a **Paella from Chef Carlos**.

Carlos is shown below with his masterpiece.



The Pluckers performed and an enjoyable time was spent over lunch.

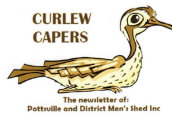




The **Pluckers** made yet another successful night at **The Nook** which was attended by 80 diners.



The **Burringbah PS Winter Festival** featured a stall manned by our shedders. This was really good for our public relationships with our community. On top of this the stall raised \$188.



The Shed hosted a visit from Grant Jackson from the **St. Leonard's Shed (Vic)** and his wife Annette.



St Leonard's makes dogologue planter boxes featuring various breeds of dogs.

This looks like a good idea as a change to our standard boxes.





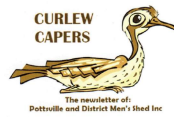
A big thank you to Clency for his role in organising and running a Shed team building exercise with the purpose of focussing members on their roles in the shed and the possibilities of assuming positions on the management committee. It was held on 25th September in the Pottsville Community Hall and attended by 29 members.



It was a fun time, including amongst other activities, a tug of war and a new slant, a tug of friendship. These were designed to illustrate to members the importance of pulling together for the benefit of us all.

The outcome was encouraging as several members volunteered to fill the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Thank you again Clency for the work you put into the content and for your excellent presentation.

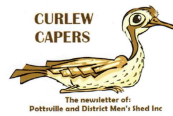




The Christmas in July luncheon on the 31st was a resounding success attended by 68 shedders and partners. (Pappy's count was 84!)



Roger on the sound controls



Santa, aka Noel, appeared and undertook the task of issuing each of the 30 ladies present their secret Santa gift.



Big O and Pappy decided to get in on the act!



Little Jim was more wary!

It's not true that Santa had to undertake a knee replacement operation the following week!

Thank you to everybody who was involved in making the day as enjoyable and profitable as we possibly could. Thanks is extended to all who attended and supported us buying tickets in every raffle. \$1,251 was raised through the raffles and the Tavern donation. There were some wonderful follow ups with generous members, guests and partners giving their raffle prize to others they deemed in greater need. That includes the winner of the \$50 Food Works voucher who returned it to the store for someone else in greater need than them to use. Thank You. Without everyone's support the day wouldn't have been the success that it was. It is further proof what a powerful community group the Men's Shed is! Our thanks should also be extended to the village businesses who all generously donated prizes for our fundraising raffles. And last, by no means least, a huge thank you to the Pluckers for a fantastic performance and creating such a wonderful atmosphere for our event.



Ross and Fred enjoying some time out following a busy kitchen session.



The Pluckers Monday afternoon practice sessions have returned to the Shed from Tricare. Many thanks to Tricare for their contribution of several months of the Pluckers occupation. There will surely be some residents who will miss their attendance at these sessions!

Don't forget the 8th November, the Garage Sale. Following the success of last year's cake stall, the idea of a plant stall has been put forward. WE ARE ASKING MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE POTS AND PLANTS. Our advertising for the Garage Sale will include this and we may draw more customers to the Shed for this event.

MEMBER PROJECTS

John and Dave in the process of converting a redundant water heater and the finished article!





Roger applied the finishing touches to a Christmas tree.



Shelving for the pre school

These are just a sample of a wide variety of projects, including the ever present planter boxes, chess boards, etc.

FUND RAISING

The Thursday evening raffles at the Tavern continue to bring in a regular source of income. A big thanks to the Tavern and to the 12 shedders who volunteer on a roster. A grant application has been lodged with the Gaming Machine Benefit Fund and we await the decision.

The market stall on 17th August raised \$1900. Well done to those who were on the production line and to those who manned the stall. Congratulations to those shedders who manned the Bunnings BBQ raising nearly \$2,500 profit. As the team were short handed, some shedders had to double up. Thank you so much for your time and effort.





DONATIONS

The Shed welcomed Tim Hagreaves, NAB Small Business Regional Manager for Northern NSW on 23rd July. Tim presented the shed with a donation of \$12,802. Thank you Tim and NAB for their generosity.



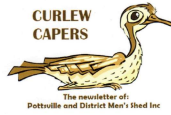
Also thanks to **Hayes Toyota** for their \$1,000 donation. This support is so important to the running of the Shed and of course towards our expansion.

Thank you to **The Nook** for their \$300 donation to The Pluckers for their performance at the Italian dinner on 13th June.

Thank you too to **Sam's Fruit Stall** for their contribution of onions and 20kg of tomatoes to our Bunnings BBQ on 23rd August.



**Thursday Night Meat Raffles
supporting the Shed Extension**



MEMBER PROFILES

GLENN SAMUEL

Glenn is the Shed's new President taking over from John Taylor. For those who aren't familiar with Glenn, a reprint of his profile, published in the Capers last December, follows:

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. At this time 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.

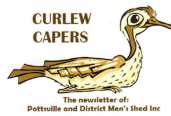
Glenn tells a story about a long lunch with the Qantas board where many \$300 bottles of red were consumed. On receiving the receipt the next day the Managing Director nearly had a heart attack! Next week they received an order for \$1 million for pieces of china. Waterford Crystal took Wedgwood over and this expanded the range considerably. While in this job Glenn obtained a degree in Forensic Medicine.

He 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 moving 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 over two weeks to complete.

For a bit of diversion he has also participated in the running of the bulls in Pamplona, toured South America, including hiking to Machu 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!



LESTER COOKE

Lester was born in September 1939 at Mossman to English dad, Frank and Italian mum, Vienna Adelaide Bazzo. Mum was referred to as “the tale of two cities”.

Moving down to Pomona, they lived on a dairy farm that Lester shared with five brothers and a sister. Sister Gwen, who was a real tomboy, was his playmate. Frank had joined the army and the move south was an evacuation due to the Japanese presence just north in New Guinea. He stayed in the army until 1950 returning as a complete stranger to Lester. Lester attended Pomona Public School graduating to Pomona High School, where he was awarded dux in his final year. Lester attributes this to the true dux moving before the end of the year!

His first job at the age of 12 was helping his dad in restumping Queenslanders. Lester explained that this consisted of replacing stumps on which the houses were supported. He then moved onto his second job operating petrol bowsters at the local garage, then graduating to mechanical work, replacing truck gear boxes etc. On leaving school, Lester joined the RAAF on a 15 year term, as a radio apprentice, training at Royal Melbourne Technical College, earning certification recognised in the trade. He was involved in ground communications and early warning radar and was posted to the UK for six months on missile radar and then the USA on early warning radar, eventually returning to Australia and posted to Beacon Hill on Sydney's Northern Beaches. (Editor - God's own country!) His sporting activity was rugby, where he played scrum half, representing the Air Force in their games against the Navy and Army.

Lester attained the rank of Flight Sergeant and finally departed the Air Force to experience civilian life. He married Ludvika in 1966 and they had two boys and a girl. His first civilian work was a real come down, repairing juke boxes in Newcastle. He was then interviewed for and accepted as the Senior Technical Officer with PNG Communications in the Papua Region. After four years he was promoted to Senior Radio Inspector, bringing the first successful radio breach prosecution for the PNG nation. At this time the marriage broke up and Lester returned to Australia with his three children to raise.

He started his own business repairing metal detectors and electronic cash registers, a very busy and successful venture. At the same time he took on teaching at Newcastle TAFE for the next two years. All this and caring for his children. Lester then moved to a position of Senior Technical Officer Physics and Psychology with Newcastle University. He left the university after 10 years but then rejoined as a private contractor designing and making equipment for physiology measuring.

During his time in Newcastle, Lester met and married Evelyn. Four years later he retired to Lawrence, on the Clarence River, living a self sufficient life style on a small farm, making wine and preserving fruit. His Italian heritage drew him to New Italy where he became very involved in the running of the place and was elected to the committee as Vice President.

This idyllic life lasted 15 years when he and Evelyn moved to Tricare in 2023. Lester met Rocket Rod at a Pluckers performance at Tricare and volunteered to manage the microphone amplifiers. At this time, the bass guitarist left to take some time off and Lester divulged to Rod that he had trained at Newcastle Conservatorium on classic guitar. Rod asked him what were the four bottom strings and as they were identical to bass guitar, Lester's correct answer secured him the role of the Plucker's bass guitarist. Lester is enjoying his life at Tricare with Evelyn and seeing his two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

(Ed. Thank you for the interview Lester. It took over two hours but it was well worthwhile to share your very full life)



NEW MEMBERS

The shed welcomes new members, Chris Hourn, Nari McCauley, Andrew Wright, James Russell, Gordon Wiseman, Roger Salt and John Baillee. Andrew and Roger have settled in very nicely, Andrew picking up three prizes in the Christmas in July luncheon raffles and Roger handling the sound equipment for the Pluckers!

A LIGHTER SIDE

