



The Curlew Capers – September 2026

Welcome to the Spring edition of the PADMS newsletter.

It has been another very busy season with social functions, educational presentations and fund-raising events, not to mention the regular workshop and focus group activities that have occurred over the last three months.

We welcomed the completion and re-opening of the refurbished Pottsville Tavern, a major sponsor of our Shed, and the return of the Thursday night raffles. These raffles continue to contribute to essential funds for our ongoing operation and shed extension and the support of both the Tavern Management, staff and the patrons is greatly appreciated. The support of the shed members who volunteer to sell tickets each week is also appreciated and we always welcome new volunteers to share the load.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in August and a new executive committee elected by the members, thank you to the members who volunteered for positions, without your commitment our shed could not operate.

Enjoy catching up on your shed news.



Annual General Meeting 12 August 2026

Presidents Report 2026

Hi shedders,

I want to open this report by thanking you for the honour of being your President for the last 12 months.

John left big shoes to fill with a very organised shed.

Over the last 12 months it became clear that the shed is not just the President. It is the members, all of whom contribute in their own way to making our shed the success it is.

So thank you to you all for your contributions.

Whether it is through opening up, raffles, our community work and profile, producing items, kitchen chores, cooking snags, helping with the finances, secretarial duties, music contribution, the excursions, the party days and so much more. Your efforts are appreciated.

A big thank you to the committee for all their hard work and support too. You guys are priceless.

Clearly the President is only the figurehead in this juggernaut we call the PADMS.

During the year we lost a few through relocation and death.



I should mention the passing of Cec Hayes, Julie Carrat and Cheryl Tempero, wives of members Steve Carratt and Roger Tempero.

We also gained a few new members.

The main item flowing behind the scenes is the revised DA for our extension. Bureaucracy via TSC delays much !

We press on.

We are a shed who runs well because of our volunteers. You are not taken for granted.

We look forward to an exciting 2026-2027 year and thank you for the privilege of being your President

Glenn Samuel

Election of Office Bearers and Member Committee Representatives 2026/27

President – Glenn Samuel
Vice Present – John Taylor
Secretary – Glenn Mackay
Treasurer – David Ross

Committee Representatives – Allan Whiting, Ben Vulker, Jim Hutchings

Shedder of the Year



A very worthy award to **Theo Detering** after being named **2026 Shedder of the Year**.

Life Membership

There was unanimous support for the nominations of **John Taylor** and **Glenn Mackay** to become Life Members of PADMS.



Theo, John and Glenn celebrate their recognition

Shed Calendar of Future Events

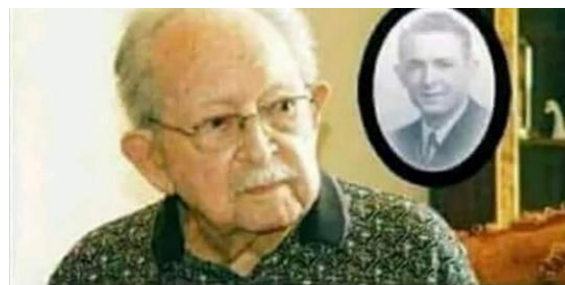
19 September – PADMS Annual Garage and Plant Sale

26 September – Pottsville Pluckers performing at the Nook Café

8 October – PADMS members General Meeting

29 October – PADMS members drinks at the Tavern

27 December – Bunnings BBQ



"I've often been asked, 'What do you old folks do now that you're retired?' Well...I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background and one of the things I enjoy most is converting beer, wine and vodka into urine. I do it every day and I really enjoy it."



Shed Social Activities

Christmas in July



If you are one of the 70 people who came to our Christmas in July Luncheon, on behalf of our committee I would like to thank you for your support.

What a wonderful day it was with the best dressed prize won by little Jim and a *lucky door prize* and over 30 raffle prizes shared among the guests. The prizes were donated by the traders in our village who have once again demonstrated wonderful support for the Mens Shed.



Many thanks to John Taylor for his assistance in organising prizes, Noel (Santa Claus) Hayes and our raffle master,

Owen Reynolds (the big O) for selling the tickets



and drawing the raffle prizes. If you weren't a tradie in your past life you would have been a great salesman!

Thank you again for your support, I do hope that you enjoyed your day.



Support from: Pottsville Tavern, Village Meats, Ramsay Pharmacy, Pottsville IGA & Foodworks, Dune, The Village Hardware, Pottsville Bait & Tackle, Smokelands, Pottsville Post Office, Black Drop Cafe, Celebrations, Pottsville Cellars, Pottsville Newsagency, Hummingbird Cafe and of course the Pottsville Mens Shed.

I hope that we reciprocate where possible, by purchasing our needs from these local businesses

Glenn Mackay



PADMS Wives and Partners morning tea group



The support for the Morning Tea Group is growing, with 26 ladies attending the July morning tea at Tweed Valley Farm House Cheeses, Burringbah.

This group is an essential element of our success as a Mens Shed, not only by supporting our members personally but also contributing in practical ways like manning the plant stall at the Mens Shed market day as well as making and selling at the cakes, spreads and treats stand during our annual garage sale day.

Pottsville Market Day

We should say a huge thank you to Steve Carratt for his generous ongoing donation of Julie's plant collection to sell, raising funds for the Men's Shed.



Thanks to the Ladies Garden Group for their care of the plants and their participation selling the plants on the day.

The sale of these plants elevated our Pottsville Market day results to a new level of profit.

The result was a massive \$1,839.74, with the plant stall run by the ladies garden group contributing more than \$400.00.

Steve has donated even more of Julie's plants to our Garage Sale in September.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this day.

Christmas Fund Raiser Raffle

We are presently planning our Christmas fundraising raffle. First prize is a Yeti Tundra 45 litre esky, retailing at \$475.00, plus two cartons of Great Northern Super Crisp, both esky and beer donated by the Pottsville Tavern. Second prize is a four burner BBQ donated by Bunnings. Third prize is 4 passes to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Forth and fifth prizes are 2 backpacks filled with goodies including \$50 vouchers donated by Twin Towns. **Be in it to win it**



The Gravel Rashes - editorial by Little Jim, photos by Barry Lawrence

The cycling group started about 10 years ago with about a dozen enthusiastic riders venturing out on Friday mornings, followed by coffee, breakfast and colourful conversation at The Nook.



Sometime later it was decided to embellish this peloton with a name. This was quite a challenge to the intellect of the group. But as almost all the number had endured interesting and sometimes comedic falls connecting with the gravel, the name Gravel Rashes prevailed. It was also decided that they needed to don an identifying shirt, initially a printed navy blue one adorned with the name. A couple of years later it was felt that a more easily discerned yellow shirt would be preferable and these were kindly donated by the Pottsville Tavern, carrying their name.



The Friday morning rides to Cabarita and back, starting at the Pottsville oval, have



now been supplemented with much longer Monday morning rides.

The rail trail has been a real bonus and has taken the group to Murwillumbah, Lismore and Casino. Other outings include, Lennox Head, Ballina, Woodburn and the Gold Coast as far up as Southport. Of course, all including coffee stops and the usual colourful yarns.



There are some bodily damage records the Gravel Rashes have attained. Pat O'Kane, who is greatly missed, retiring from riding at 86, holds the most spectacular record with a one and a half somersault with pike over the handle bars, closely contested by one of



Richard Snell's effort. Richard however has broken the most ribs. Kevin Corrigan would dispute this, but his fall was ex curricular in Victoria



Richard also holds the record for the most facial damage. Big O has shed the most blood and Little Jim has received the most stitches, 20 in all, resulting in a retirement from the cycling role to breakfast at the Nook. Bill Crossley participated in the least understandable prang, riding headlong into a fence. There have been many others but if they were all recorded we would need a book.

The Rashes now comprises 22 members with anything from 6 to 16 riders at a time, depending on the weather. Many of the cyclists have now succumbed to the advance of technology with E bikes with Pappy one of the last to hold out.



This history reveals the great mate ship within the group and may the Gravel Rashes continue to strengthen their ties to each other and the shed.

STOP PRESS

Theo has unfortunately broken all the Gravel Rashes previous records.

Following an altercation with a car on a Monday morning Gravel Rashes ride, Theo had a spectacular fall suffering a dislocated collar bone, a broken foot and a great deal of lost skin from arms and legs. Ouch!

Theo can count himself lucky as cars are generally much bigger, heavier and faster than bikes!
Any damage to the car wasn't recorded!

He is recovering well but we don't know when he'll be venturing out again?



I used to think I was indecisive, but now I am not sure



Health, Safety and Welfare

First Aid Training and Certification



No Dummies Here

On 19 June a first aid training course was conducted at the Shed to provide re-certification to existing First Aiders and qualification for new trainees. This training was presented by Gavin Clark, the Principal of Aable Training Australia.



Even the babies were not safe

Dementia Awareness and Support

The shed hosted a talk on 9th July on dementia from Amanda Ross, a Naturopath from the Naturopathic Care Clinic.

The presentation covered a most complex and complete presentation on dementia.

The subjects covered the following:

The types of dementia.

Early warning stages.

7 stages of Alzheimers.

Risk factors that underlie dementia.

The effect of sleep and hormones.

Nutrient deficiencies.

The makeup of vitamins and minerals required to produce serotonin.

The top 5 brain foods: fatty fish, green leafy vegetables, nuts and seeds, antioxidants and eggs.

The effects of viruses.

Common toxins - too much use of herbicides, plastics - including plastic food and drink containers.

What can we do?

- Start with a cognitive risk assessment questionnaire.
- Include the top 5 brain foods daily.
- 30 minutes of exercise daily.
- Social interaction.
- Reduce use of plastics, particularly including use of microwaving food in plastic containers.

The talk was very much appreciated by a 30+ audience including invited partners, Kingscliff Men's Shed members and the Mongrel Men's walking group.

The quickest way to find something you have lost is to buy a replacement.



The Pottsville Pluckers – Report by Rocking Rod

Alive and On Tour in June/July/Aug 2026

June 27th saw our first gig at Burringbar Public School.

As an ex-student of this great small school I was pleased that The Pluckers were available to support the school fete which was organised to raise much needed funds for the purchasing of resources. We performed for about three hours and had a great deal of fun entertaining the crowd with a program ranging from Country and Rock to Jazz, and everything in between. It was good to also see some of our loyal fan base from Hastings Point and Pottsville make the long journey across the Mooball (pronounced 'Mow-ball') flats to add their support to this event, and we thank them for that.

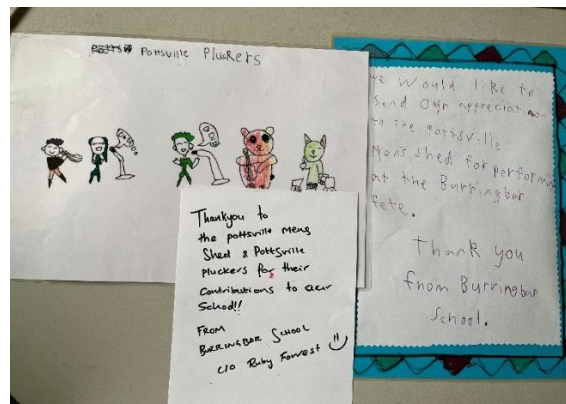
The school Principal and BPS parent, Ruby, were very appreciative of our efforts and have requested a return visit by The Pluckers for next year's event.



Christmas was all around us on Thursday July 30th for the Shed annual 'Christmas in July' celebration luncheon, with an audience of approximately seventy members and guests, plus a few additional public 'walk-in's' enjoying an hour of carols and other appropriate songs. The set list included some well-known Christmas songs along with a John Lennon classic (Happy Christmas War is Over), Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah', 'Xmas

is All Around You' (from the movie Love Actually) and Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life!

The band played whilst guests were arriving and chatting, with a number of the audience joining in the singing.



Fan mail received after the Burringbar performance

Upcoming performances will be at a few local aged-care facilities, our Shed garage sale September 19th. and another Italian night at The Nook cafe.

Over the past twelve months the band has performed many times including at multiple aged-care facilities, a regular gig at a local cafe, and for Shed events. We continue to receive donations to our Shed for our gigs and greatly appreciate them.

We thank Shed members and guests, plus our local community, for their on-going support for this men's mental health initiative.

Rod Stoker on behalf of The Pottsville Pluckers

PS I would like to pass on the best wishes of Lyall Sutcliffe to 'The Shed' members. Lyall was the founding member of the music group on joining our Shed in 2019 and, at 93yo he is still regularly busking and writing and recording albums in his home recording studio. He continues to enjoy performing his music and inspires us all



Pottsville Phantoms – The Walkers

The Monday morning walking group continue to enjoy the benefits of fresh air, exercise and companionship thanks to the organisation and commitment of John Taylor and his part-time deputy Richard Snell. The walks are varied each week to maintain interest and always conclude at a welcoming coffee stop.

On Tuesday 11 August, 2026, 11 intrepid walkers set out on the Purlingbrook Falls nature walk at Springbrook National Park.



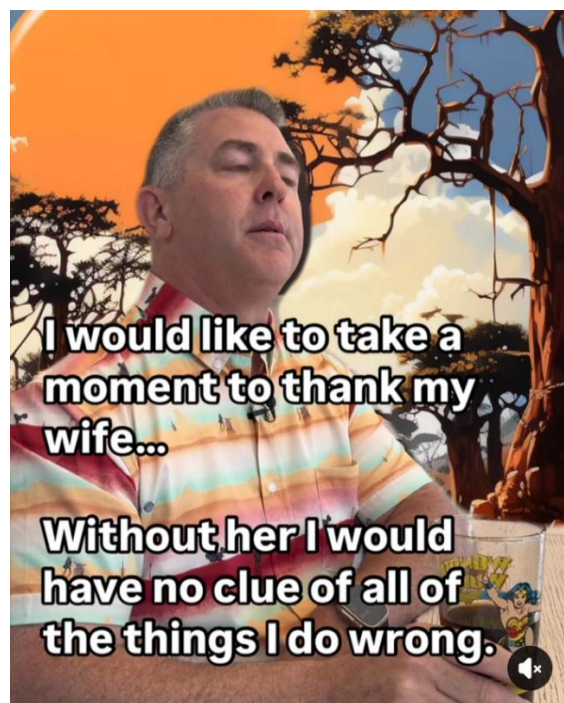
The group met at Pottsville and car pooled to the starting point where it was recommended to walk in a clockwise direction to avoid walking up 450 steps.

The walk was four kilometres' and is graded as medium.



At the time of going to press a second walk has been planned to Minyon Falls offering two grades of walk, the longer walk approximately 4.3 kms and the shorter walk approximately 2 klm. Thanks to Ray Britten for your initiative and planning relating to these activities.

Photos by Rod Richardson





MENS SHED NATIONAL GATHERING MARCH 2026

Early this year three representatives from PADMS, Dave Ross, Clency Bernard and Glenn Mackay attended the Mens Shed National Conference in Brisbane. In conjunction with the conference several site excursions were offered to participants. Glenn M has prepared the following insight to three of these visits.

Centenary Mens Shed:

A large series of sheds set on council land. Features of this shed included a well organised kitchen and meeting room, and several workshops with good shed income generated from photo boxes being made for a nearby commercial business. Another shed contained a metal workshop where the members were engaged making large working model trains with the capacity to carry an engine driver and several passengers. Another shed housed their well organised art workshop. Another shed contained gardening tools, etc. The external lawn areas featured bee hives, fruit, vegetable and herb gardens and a large chook pen with chickens roaming free over the lawn area.

The common room was well organised with ample tables for members smokos and meetings. One wall of this room included a white board in the common room listing daily tasks, which among other items included 'possum control'. One wall of the room contained a board with about 30 photos of members from various sub committees.

Mt. Gravatt Mens Shed:

This shed is situated at the Mt. Gravatt showgrounds owned by the Brisbane City Council. This was a large shed with generous veranda running down one side.

They had a well organised office at the entrance featuring computer software system controlling shed attendance and

other activities including a stand holding member ID cards which all included a bar code. They have 360 members and a \$2,000,000.00 grant over two years from the Qld state government.

A small room at tone end of the shed contained two laser machines producing lots of various items e.g. key rings.

Their office is well supported by a computer system that allows members to scan attendance.

With so many members to operate in this space they have a roster of activities dates and times.

This shed has women members.

Suncorp Stadium:

A group tour of the world-famous Suncorp Stadium was very interesting for those of us interested in the history of Brisbane and/or Rugby League. A series of history boards in the bowels of Lang Park were very informative. They told the story of the football ground, then known as Lang Park, transformation to Suncorp Stadium in the 1990's.

In 1843 this site was a burial ground for the rapidly growing Brisbane. Burials ceased in this overcrowded burial ground in 1875 when Toowong cemetery opened. By 1910 the North Brisbane burial ground was overgrown. At this point the state government decided to redevelop this site as park land for the city of Brisbane. From 1910 to 1914 the state government gave relatives the opportunity to move remains and memorials to another site at the governments expense. 500 odd unclaimed headstones were stored at the Milton church until 1930's when unclaimed headstones were broken up and used as land fill.

In 1914 the ground was named Lang Park after Reverend John Lang, Australia's first publican, who helped migrants direct to



Brisbane in 1849. In WW1 the ground was used as a military parade ground. In 1920's the ground was used for cycling and athletics. In 1934 the ground was subleased by the Qld soccer association. My father played A grade soccer at this ground as a 16year old.

From the 1920's Wirth's Circus were frequent users of the land. In 1956 one of their elephant's, Carly, died and is buried on the Hale Street side of the park.

In 1957 Lang Park became the headquarters for the Queensland Rugby League. In 1974 Lang Park was inundated by floodwaters caused by tropical cyclone Wanda. In 1980 Lang Park hosted the first ever State of Origin game – which they won! In 1994 a new western grandstand was built and the stadium was renamed Suncorp-Metway Stadium.

In 1999 the Queensland government funded a \$280 million redevelopment of the ground which opened in 2003 hosting nine games of the Rugby World Cup. I attended two games! During renovations in 2000 the ground hosted the world rugby sevens tournament with fair style ground with teams being allocated marquees at either end of the ground. I worked as a volunteer at this event as a masseuse for the flying Fijians who beat Australia in the final.

Suncorp Stadium has been widely used for major sporting events, including rugby league and rugby union international test matches. Grand finals, Asian soccer cup matches and is home ground for the Brisbane Broncos, the Redcliff Dolphins and the Queensland Reds Super Rugby teams. The ground is the home of Rugby Leagues Super Round each year.

In both 2011 and 2022 Suncorp stadium was again inundated by flood waters.

The church at the eastern end of the stadium was originally built in 1873 and following storm damage was replaced with the current building in 1891.

Locals protested any attempts to demolish or remove the church.



Some More Facts to Forget

The King of Hearts is the only king in a pack of cards without a mustache

Your liver is the only organ in your body that can regenerate from 25%

A group of rhinos is called a "crash"

Reindeer eyes turn blue in winter for better low light vision

The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle

Cows have best friends and get stressed when separated



Workshop Activities and Member Projects



Can you see the resemblance



Big O developed new skill as a sign writer



A very handy contributor to the building fund



Ready for Christmas

If a book about failures doesn't sell, is it a success?



Member Profiles (Interviews and Editorial by Little Jim)

Rod Pickin

Rod was born in 1943 in Wimbledon.

While in primary school he won a scholarship to a grammar school for his secondary school education. While there he participated in the ATC, the Air Training Cadets, which initiated his interest in avionics.

Rod attests to being a boy soprano at the level of actually performing at the Albert Hall. Unfortunately this didn't carry over once his voice broke!

On leaving school, Rod voluntarily joined the RAF, in lieu of the compulsory National Service, for a three year term. National service was later discontinued and he took the option provided to be discharged.

Looking for adventure before settling down, he toured around Britain on a motor bike, meeting a variety of interesting people, among whom were three Aussie backpackers. They became friends and gave him a taste of their home country. After considering Canada, too cold, South Africa, apartheid, he opted for New Zealand or Australia and on visiting Australia House in London, chose Australia. His Dad, not too pleased, insisted on the purchase of a return ticket.

At the age of 20, he arrived in Melbourne on the MV Stratheden. He procured work with the Ames company, flogging their products and found accommodation with a most welcoming Italian family in Richmond.

At this time, Rod got himself heavily involved with a young lady whose father cornered him in a rather rigorous personal chat. Rod, certainly not ready to settle down, fled to Sydney in his Austin Westminster.

Arriving in Sydney, he took work selling commercial catering equipment. Then, undaunted, he moved to working on the MV Waratah, a Sydney Harbour tug boat as a deckhand.

Rod finally regained his calling in avionics, with TAA working in reservations, followed by moving to Qantas as a traffic officer behind a counter. Qantas then promoted him to flight traffic officer airport operations.

At this time he met Kay and after a year long engagement, married in 1965. They have a son and daughter.

Rod was posted to Brisbane where for 25 years he worked in airport operations controlling aircraft loading and cargo, rising to management in 1987.

While in Brisbane he attended Griffith University obtaining a business degree. He was also seconded at times as trouble shooter for Qantas and associated airlines in Vancouver, Auckland, Wellington and Fiji. This was initiated with an incident at Hickham airport at Honolulu, where a Qantas aircraft with faulty undercarriage was passed. This was revealed while taxiing on the tarmac and the plane was brought back. Rod and a team arrived for checks and then double checks before the aircraft was cleared. Qantas established a separate unit, managed by Rod, to monitor customer service systems within their associated airlines and also while in Brisbane, had a posting to Port Moresby for 6 months heading up airport operations.

Back in Brisbane, Qantas, due to cost cutting measures, offered Rod retirement. As he was only 48, he declined, but then accepted voluntary redundancy with a good pay out.

Not to be deterred, Rod bought two taxi plates, driving one himself. The Chinese, who seem to know a good investment were buying taxi plates and Rod offered his plates at a nice profit and continued driving for another four years.



His leisure time in Brisbane was taken up with volunteering with the AVCG organisation involved with water rescue craft. On one occasion his crew enjoyed an encounter with a pod of whales in Moreton Bay. The ABC heard about this and asked Rod to come in for a broadcast interview on this spectacle. They were taken with Rod's "mellow" voice and offered him a 4 minute surf and tides information spot at 5.30 every morning. This covered the coastline from Byron Bay to Double Island Point, which although not a surfer, Rod carried this off with much panache! Rod's other interests extended to golf and bowls.

In 2004 Rod's marriage to Kay broke up. Rod bought a caravan and spent the next two years travelling around Australia. He bought a home in Tweed Heads and for the following 16 years continued his annual travels.

In 2024, Rod moved to Hastings Point to Tricare, where he met with some of the resident Pluckers who introduced him to the shed through John Taylor. After a faulty start in 2024, he rejoined in early 2026 and can be spotted as a regular in the wood work area with the venerable Pappy.

Ed. Many thanks for the interview Rod. Your have certainly travelled a most interesting journey.

Rene' Pabst

Rene' was born in 1957 in New Zealand at Reefton on the west coast of the South Island.

He was educated at St. Bede's College in Christchurch where he excelled at Rugby. At 191cm, 6'3", for those still in imperial measurements, he was a lock forward and lineout specialist. He was also a member of the school swimming team.

On leaving school at 18, Rene' joined the New Zealand police force, where he served for 43 years. He was assigned to general duties and later promoted to sergeant at Rangiora in North Canterbury for 23 years, spending 5 years on training in service and another 5 in communications and eventually for the last 10 years in traffic. This entailed attending fatal accidents, multiple car chases, processing drink drivers and on occasion, shadowing local bikies, sometimes as far as up to the North Island. He attests however that his biggest headache was dealing with staff!

During his time of service, Rene' was often assaulted. Three stand out, one with a rifle, another with a knife and finally with an assailant racing out of a butcher shop with a very large . Rene's size and expertise with a "horse baton" came in very handy.

In 1979 Rene' married an Aussie, Yvonne and they have two daughters.

They moved in August 2020 to the Gold Coast to be close to family in Kingscliff and due to the Covid epidemic, were quarantined for two weeks. Rene' took on casual work at Bunnings, two days a week, where after 6 years he is still employed.

Rene' and Yvonne moved to Pottsville in 2025 and on arrival met with the Gravel Rashes and joined the shed. He is an avid Monday rider and along with his standard bike, has also succumbed to a power assisted bike. Apart from this activity, Rene' plays golf as a 100+ hacker! In his younger days, he was a keen squash player.

He and Yvonne also enjoy caravanning up and down the coast and have travelled as far as Cooktown.

(Ed. Many thanks for the interview Rene'. You're the first policeman to have joined the shed and perhaps you could enlighten some of us on the road rules!)



We need **your** help to make this day a success.

POTTSVILLE AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED GARAGE SALE

**BLACK ROCKS SPORTS FIELD
OVERALL DRIVE - POTTSVILLE**

**SATURDAY 19th SEPT
8.30am - 1.30pm**



Sausage Sizzle

- * **COFFEE CART**
- * **CAKE STALL**
- * **BOOKS**
- * **2nd HAND TOOLS**
- * **THINGS MADE AT THE SHED Including**
- * **PLANTER BOXES**
- * **XMAS TREES**
- * **REINDEER**
- * **HEAPS OF PLANTS**
- * **SOME OLD CARS**
- * **KIDS GAMES**
- * **MUSIC PERFORMANCE**

