



The Shed News

Peninsula North Men's shed (Baxter Men's Shed)
Baxter-Tooradin rd. Baxter, Victoria, Australia 3911
Phone: 0487 276 806 (Charles)

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Special Editions of the Newsletter will be issued over the next few weeks /months as the Executive is fully aware of keeping all members informed as to the state of circumstances until normal schedules resume at our Baxter property.

Christmas breakup Lunch



A full roll up of members enjoyed another excellent break up lunch at the Tooradin sports club.

Take out comments from the lunch:

- Update from Bill and Graham regarding insurance claims, assessment inspection and Council reports from the shed fire. Bottom line we could be looking at 12 to 18 months before we are back at Baxter.
- Patrick awards (membership long service) deferred for now due to all information and ability to prepare mementos has been compromised by the fire.
- Nigel was singled out for special mention along with a most hearty rendition of "Happy Birthday" to celebrate his upcoming 90th birthday. Well done to our most senior member, his friendship and fellowship is truly valued by all members.
- John Warbrick was asked to present a special recognition award to show appreciation to a member who has been tireless in getting things done in the shed. As a Life member and a long serving Executive on the committee, John Hehir is certainly instrumental in so many things within the workings of the shed that most of us just take for granted. A very worthy recipient of this award.
- Andy was heard to cheer at the prospect of a bigger and brighter replacement shed.
- Good to see members circulating between tables, wives were introduced to each other and were able to put faces to names they hear during the year.

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By Dan Gibson



That better be a candy cane in your pocket old man!

Presidents update

I heard a chap in a movie many years ago say, "The end is nigh." With regard to the year 2022, "I hope he's right."

We faced many challengers during the past twelve months, the most difficult being the passing of John O and our Shed fire. Johnny cannot be replaced but our Shed can and will be.

We have received emails, phone calls and messages of condolence and support from the Federal and State Politicians whose electorates embrace our Shed boundaries. Our Shed is on land administered by the Shire. To increase our footprint (the size of our Shed) requires Shire approval. Perhaps our rebuild and offers of political support presents us an opportunity???

Increasing our public profile has been the subject of much discussion in past few months.

- We need to define our Statement of Purpose
- Increasing the public understanding of "who & what we are" in order to achieve a range of objectives.
- An internet presence through a Website.
- Membership, fund raising, government grants to name a few

In the last few weeks we have received many offers of support and assistance from local Organisations and Community Groups. A fire is a heck of a way to raise your profile but it certainly works.

Keep on Keeping on

After putting our fire out and thereby limiting the damage it quickly became apparent to the Firefighters that we would not be operating from our building for quite a considerable amount of time. Within hours they offered us the use of their fire station facilities for any passive activity from meetings to quiet chats over a coffee. In a matter of hours we forged a relationship with our local CFA which it is hoped will last for many, many years

Although there are Sheds scattered around the Peninsula and despite the efforts of some, there has not been what could be called a close or collegiate relationship between us. The same could be said of the VMSA. Within days of our fire we received offers of support and help from our Shed brothers. The response from Colin and his team at Bittern epitomises what the Shed Philosophy is all about.

I believe that often there is opportunity in adversity. It is a matter of looking through the doom and gloom for that tiny positive spark. It may take time but we will rebuild bigger and better than before. In the mean time we have a Shed on a Tue and Thu in which to meet and "build things". We have a CFA Station in Baxter to meet our mates and share a coffee each Wednesday morning. We have the Baxter Hall for a BBQ lunch the last Wednesday of each month.

The future might be difficult but it is not all doom & gloom unless we allow it to be.

Have a great family Christmas

Stay safe

C'ya at our Bittern Shed

Tue Jan 10th

Bill W