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# 'The Chin-Wag' Newsletter



Issue 25, February 2024

The Forest Community Men's Shed Assoc. Inc.

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## Martin's Musing

I would like to welcome you all to 2024. As you are aware, that after twenty years, Tim O'Sullivan our immediate past president stepped aside from this role. At our AGM held on the 22 December 2023 I was elected by the members to assume the role that Tim had held for so many years.

Tim will be remaining as a committee member of your executive team and no doubt I will call on his deep knowledge and expertise over the coming years. On your behalf I would like to acknowledge his record and his many achievements.

So, what can we look forward to in the coming year? For you, the members, it will by and large, be business as usual, and no major changes are planned. If it isn't broke, it doesn't need fixing.

The shed was successful in receiving a grant from AMSA (Australian Men's Shed Association) which we will use to upgrade our aging computer facilities. We live in an electronic age and the shed must be able to operate in this environment. For the members who wish to use the CNC and laser machines we will provide training in using the design software, incorporating general Windows training for those who wish to become more computer savvy.

Our barbecues are a great opportunity for all members to get together. It is my intention we should continue to get together through our barbecues. The aim will be to have two or three this year. We had three in 2023 and I'm confident of the same this year.

Last year our Administrative Coordinator Paul Smith with some assistance from your executive managed to produce an excellent newsletter. Our aim, to produce two or three newsletters this year.

Members, to produce a newsletter requires content above and beyond what I, or other members of the executive team can create. If you have a story you want to tell or showcase some of your work, please don't be shy. If you have a story, please put something together of no more than 100 words and a possible photo. If you're unsure talk to Paul our Administration Coordinator who will be overseeing producing the newsletter. It is always good to have a few stories in the can for future editions. Your stories can be sent to Paul at [forestmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:forestmensshed@gmail.com) or [denice.smith@bigpond.com](mailto:denice.smith@bigpond.com). Paul's mobile is 0417064277.

.... **Martin Rogers**

## Some Extracts John Maessen's Story



John was born in Amsterdam, Holland on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1943. Holland was under German Occupation at the time. He started school in 1946. His parents seeking a better life for themselves, and John's sister had heard about Australia "The Land of Tomorrow" and decided to emigrate to Australia and they arrived in January 1950. Life for immigrants and their children was tough and his school years in Australia were spent learning to read and write English.

He did well as school and went on to do the Leaving Certificate and won a bursary to go to university where he graduated in 1967 a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

He spent 6 months in Holland with an engineering firm translating documents from Dutch to English. John later went on to complete a Master of Engineering Science which he completed in 1970.

John spent much of his working life undertaking contract work on various projects. At one location he met Margaret who later became his wife.

He retired in 2000 and his world became a maze of investments and financial planners as well as his time at the shed. He passed away December 2023. Vale John. (Story submitted Jim.)



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### Tim Reflects on the last 20 years.

Well Lads, where has the last 20 years gone.? It seems like it was only yesterday that I commenced work to get the Forest Community Men's Shed underway. It has been very challenging at times, but nevertheless extremely rewarding.

At our Annual General Meeting held 22 December 2023, I handed over the reins to your new President Martin Rogers. I will still be part of your executive committee and will be actively contributing to the running of the shed. Martin will bring a fresh perspective to the shed management and I want to thank him for accepting the role that I held for so many years. I ask that you give him your full support as you extended to me over the past many years. Attached to your newsletter, I have put pen to paper and have recalled some of my many observations during my time as your president.

Please enjoy read reading, **Past President's Perspective It is a separate attachment.**



### Morris Thacker Aged 95

Morris Thacker born 26<sup>th</sup> March 1928  
Passed away 21 December 2023.  
Grant, we pray O Lord that your servant Morris, for whom we have celebrated this paschal Sacrament may pass over to a dwelling of place of light and peace.

An incredibly sad note on which to end our Christmas lunch. I was phoned at around 2.00 pm while we were still at The Shed to be advised by his son that Maurie had died during the week. I was quite literally in tears!

Maurie has been an integral part of The Shed since joining in July 2012 at times attending twice a week. Always happy despite failing health in recent years, his son told me that Maurie's home was full of items he had crafted at The Shed and said that "dad's times at The Shed were among his happiest".

For several years Maurie took on the task of ensuring that the lunchroom was well stocked with coffee, tea, milk and biscuits and in 2017 was presented with The President's Award for Consistent Performance Above Expectations 'Champion Milk and Biscuit Baron'.

We also presented Maurie with a commemorative plaque on his 90th Birthday as he was at that time our oldest member.

**Vale Maurie Thacker Tim O' Sullivan**

### Calendar of Events 2024.

- March 2024 members fees due.
- May barbecue subject to numbers
- June Newsletter subject to content
- August barbecue subject to numbers
- September Newsletter subject to content
- October barbecue subject to numbers
- December AGM and Xmas Party will be held around 13<sup>th</sup> December 24.
- **Annual Shed Cleanup (Mid July).**
- Barbecues require 20-25 attendees to make it worthwhile.
- Newsletters require content for publication