

Vale Frank Bates

The Father of Coolum Men's Shed

Good morning, all.

Thank you, John. (Previous speaker).

From the members of the Coolum Men's Shed I would like to offer our deepest sympathy to you Janet, Kylee, Clare, Laura and the four grandchildren.

I would like to outline how Frank became the inspiration and driving force behind our shed.

I first meet Frank in 2010 when he and I were members of the Nambour Men's Shed.

Frank expressed interest in late 2011 in establishing a Men's Shed in Coolum Beach area. Frank who was good mates with members of the Coolum Lions Club executive presented a case for a shed to them and as a result of this a steering committee was formed to investigate the idea.

A public meeting was called in October 2012 and the Coolum Men's Shed was created. A committee was formed and Frank voted in as a member.

As funds were needed to help set up the shed structure loans were given on the quiet. I suspect Frank was one contributed.

By 2013 Frank who was now our secretary accepted keys for our first rented shed.

The problem now was finding money to pay our rent.

Frank through his contacts at the Coolum Beach Hotel managed to find people who needed stuff fixed.

These paying jobs helped and as we became known in the community other work began to come in so we managed to survive.

Frank organised the social side of things too, we found ourselves enjoying activities such as monthly lunches in the park, Birthday bashes and Christmas parties.

He initiated Friday lunches for our members at the shed.

He took on the role of cook and continued this until about a month ago.

In 2016 and after being in three rental sheds we finally moved into our own premises in the industrial park behind Coolum.

As we did the fit out of our new shed, we needed lots of help. I remember that if we were looking for a particular trade Frank would say "leave it to me" and sure enough a tradie who he knew through the pub would turn up.

Mostly they would do the job for the right price (Frank's price -a carton).

During the time of construction of our first shed Frank became aware of surplus Department of Defence Kit Form sheds that were held at Wallangarra N.S.W.

Using his military background Frank was able to acquire one for us. the sheds measured 25 meters x 8 meters. Half the transport costs kindly paid by him.

This shed when erected in 2019 and commissioned in 2020 is now the main wood working workshop for all our activities.

It was known as the DOD shed but from now will be known as "**Frank's Shed**".

Frank's experience was invaluable when making the many decisions that arose, he always addressed each problem with good sound well thought out judgement.

Franks had many and varied achievements through out his Men's Shed years, He was a good committee man, an ideas man, and fund raiser.

Our two major fund-raising events are a result of Frank's energy and vision.

The Sportsman Lunch, attracting top sporting legends including Shane Webcke and Jason Akermanis.

This event is held in conjunction with the Lions and Coolum beach Hotel, sadly he has missed this year by a month.

The annual sponsored **Corbould Park race day**.

Frank loved his horses and this was a chance for him to visit the race track.

He was fond of **Shed Outings**, usually visiting another shed. However, it always seemed to include three or four pub stops.

Some of the highlights of Frank's leadership included.

Secretary from 2014 to 2022.

Finding major sponsors for the shed.

Pushed for the establishment of the shed Memorial Garden where a plaque could be displayed for deceased members.

Created the Shedder of the year award.

Organised the Annual birthday, Bash.

Organised the Christmas lunch for members and spouses.

Came up with the idea to create "The First 10 year book" which was published two years ago.

Setting up and running the shed library.

Organising Bunnings Sausage sizzles.

Made the Coolum Women's Shed welcome when they were setting up.

One of Frank's **not so memorable** moments was that he backed a 30-1 shot which came home a winner for his Wednesday Pub Group.

They then worshiped the "Water he walked on" until he lost the next five punts and all their winnings.

Frank became president in 2023 and set about achieving his ambition of completion of the 10-year plan. This plan involved finishing all the shed development in 10 years.

He put into motion all the things that had been overlooked, things like documenting job descriptions, reporting procedures and streamlining ordering procedures etc.

One thing he didn't complete and always wanted to do was put up a flag pole to proudly fly the Men's Shed flag, sadly he didn't see this happen.

We have now completed this for him and thus finished his 10-year plan.

Frank you were a good mate to us all, a good friend, a committee man, a mentor and well respected by all the members and associates of the shed.

You greeted each person with a smile, always took an interest in what people were doing and most of all you were passionate about the Coolum Men's Shed.

Without your vision I doubt that the Coolum Men's Shed would have come about.

This Shed is now where all men can come together, learn from each other, express themselves and revel in the company of like-minded people and most of all have a place that they feel they can contribute to.

Frank, I look upon you now as the "**Father of the Coolum Men's Shed**".

Rest in Peace mate.

You will be sadly missed by all of us.

Thank You
Russell Lunn
Coolum Men's Shed.