



## Hello Members,

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of the Menai Men's Shed newsletter for 2019.

### Member Profile Corner:-

In this and future newsletters a willing Shed member will be profiled, providing the opportunity of getting to know our MMS colleagues a little better.

Our victim, sorry, I mean participating member for the profile corner is John Aston.

John was born in April 1937 in Burton on Trent, U K. followed and the eldest to a sister and brother. After 5 years at the local Grammar School he was accepted as an Articled Clerk for 5 years at a local firm of Chartered Accountants but after 7 years decided that life as a professional accountant did not appeal and moved into commerce, joining a large Motor dealer group as the accountant for the local Jaguar-Triumph dealer.

During this period the first 2.5 years of the articles paid 10/11d a week, the second 2.5 years 25/11d per week and the next 2 years 6 pounds per week.

In 1957 he joined a local dance band, playing the saxophone about 2 to 3 nights each week, for about 4 years. During this period each "gig" paid between 1 pound and 2 pounds 50 depending on the venue and hours played.

In 1958, met his wife, Anne and married in April 1961, and moved to Chesterfield to build their first house. Their first son, Nicholas, was born in September 1962.

In 1963, after much thought, sold the house and contents, jumped on a ship and became 10 pound poms. Their son Nicholas was eight months old and Anne was pregnant with their second son.

Arriving in Sydney June 10th 1963, living with family in Caringbah. Their new house was built in Miranda and moved in 1964. Their second son David was also born in that year.

John was employed as an accountant with a Sydney firm, however, resigned after 10 months having been threatened with a knife by an employee whose management position he had to terminate due to theft of funds.

The next twenty four years was spent as an accountant in the motor trade followed by fifteen years as an accountant in the legal profession until his retirement in 2002.

In 1980 he almost gave the District Commissioner for Boy Scouts a heart attack when he asked for a position of Scout Leader which led to spending some years as Senior Scout Leader of 1st Yowie Bay Sea Scouts. This led to many adventures including taking a bunch of teenagers over to South West Arm at night with no moon, John on the sweep and no idea which way to go or how to do it (also being a very poor swimmer).

In 1968 Anne and John bought an old plywood caravan and a 1963 Falcon station wagon and joined The Caravan Club of Australia. The family started going away on alternate weekends and their daughter Judy was only a few months old and her bed was in a television box at the bottom of the boys' bed. In 2004 John purchased a Winnebago Alpine motorhome, 7.5 metres long and weighing 7 tonnes. John and Anne were the only two using the motorhome and was eventually sold in 2018 after exploring most of Australia, some of it multiple times.

He and Anne now have seven grandchildren ranging from 25 down to 8 years old and live in Barden Ridge.

In early 2010 John saw a notice in the Leader looking for men interested in forming a Men's Shed and became one of the inaugural members, seeing the Shed grow from using a member's garage and bringing their own tools, rejecting a number of unsuitable offers, some years at Alford's Point and eventually to the present shed.

Thank you John for participating.

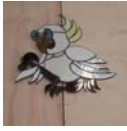
Who will be in the next Profile Corner?

Volunteers are being sought...

### Recent Shed Projects;

There has been a lot of doing on various projects in the shed for Community Clients.

The following foot bridge was constructed as an order from Rich Earth Landscaping for Woronora Public School. It took approximately 5 days to construct and has been delivered to the school.



Allan Carter and Phil Gants showing off their handy work. Ron Alexander and Tom Harris were camera shy.



Also an update of the previous school projects made at the MMS for local schools;



Recently Tom Harris and James Martin had a bit of free time recently and produced a video of a drone flight inside the Menai Men's Shed. Tom has provided a link to the YouTube for your viewing. Just copy the link shown below into Google. I am sure you will find it very interesting.

Thank you Tom and James.

<https://youtu.be/sInE649YBRY>

### Metal Shed Activities:-

Recently, our Secretary, Don Rothnie was recognised for his efforts by the IMB Bank which provides funding to various community organisations. Congratulations Don.



From (L) to (R) Don Rothnie MMS, Louise Farrowway – Project Youth and Nicole Jervis – Cancer Patients Foundation (on crutches) and Daryl Chipperfield Chair IMB Shire Community Foundation,

### Safety Reminder:-

As a duty of care, members not wearing safety equipment will be asked to stop operating the machinery. Safety glasses, ear plugs, ear muffs are required to be work when in the wood or metal workshops. Closed toe shoes to be worn at all times when in the shed.

**Men, share the brotherhood and get involved.**

Stay tuned for our next newsletter.

### NOTE:-

If you have any relevant articles with photos for the MMS newsletter please submit for consideration, via email to [ron.alexander.nsw@gmail.com](mailto:ron.alexander.nsw@gmail.com)