

Sunnybank District Community Men's Shed Inc.

Website : www.sunnybankshed.org

Men in sheds, building communities, working shoulder to shoulder.

Newsletter : March 2016

VALE David John Pitt



David has been a keen supporter of the Men's Shed since its inception. He was born in Penshurst, Sydney on 18 February 1937. He had an older and a younger sister. He suffered as a child with rheumatic fever, pleurisy and pneumonia. On Sunday afternoons his mother would play the piano for family singing-alongs. At Sunday dinner time his father would put on voices and act like a clown to take focus off the lack of food. David inherited his father's sense of humour and determination to make sad situations light and fun. His father passed away when David was 8 or 9 years old.

About this time he sang with the police boys' club choir which joined the children's chorus in the opera Carmen at the Tivoli Theatre. He was about 13 when his mother died. He was able to move in with the Eldridge family. Mrs Eldridge's brother found 15 year old David an apprenticeship with an engineering firm.

He met and married Beverley Green with whom he had 3 children; Meri, Cath and Rod. David and Bev were the first couple to have dancing at their wedding at the local Methodist Church. He sang in the choir for the Billy Graham crusade in Sydney and here gave his life to Jesus. He worked with Life Line for a time before moving his family up to Armidale. He became one of the main callers for a square dance group (he loved teaching dance) as well as joining the Armidale Musical Society. He was very involved with community groups and church service, helping and encouraging people. He hosted a Saturday afternoon show playing easy listening music at the community radio station. His marriage ended in 1983.

He later met Sylvia through dancing and they married in Brisbane in 1987. He joined a number of choirs; the Apollo Choir sang at his funeral. He really missed singing after getting throat cancer. He also loved his golf.

His relationship with God has been central to his life. His children are proud of the way he faced his illnesses (seven cancers in all) and his death with courage, never complaining, finding something positive in negative places and feeling at peace in the worst storm because he knew he was held by God.

We sang him "Happy Birthday" at his funeral—the day he would have turned 79. You will be greatly missed, David!

The committee is gathering quotes to remove a few trees and to erect a shed. We are moving forward and **getting closer!**

New Shed in sight!

Contacts : Dan Stark - Chairman 0404 983 502
Ken Griggs - Secretary 0478 224 269

Michael Langham - Treasurer 3272 8085
Phil Giles - Shed Manager 3273 8513

Location : Hillcrest St, Sunnybank Hills— Adjacent to Sunnybank Uniting Church parking area.
Postal Address : Unit 5 / 62 Pinelands Road, Sunnybank Hills. QLD. 4109



This shed is the initiative of the Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch and the Sunnybank Uniting Church.



Some Tributes for David Pitt

“David was a frequent and welcome visitor to my office. We worked together on many different projects ...and he was always up for a chat. .. my staff and I will miss him greatly but it was wonderful to see such a huge turnout for his funeral which goes to show what high esteem he was held in”.

Kim Marx & Heidi & Laurel

“Very saddened... but I take comfort in knowing he is no longer in pain or discomfort. He showed such great enthusiasm for creating Reading Trees and Little Free Libraries to help the children ...David selflessly volunteered ...I remember most ... his ability to make people feel welcome and to bring them together. You are missed.

Rebecca

“I have only known David through golf, we played as a 4 some David John Ben & myself, we played together for few years, had some good games, good laughs & won a few trophies. a pleasure to have been part of his life.”

Frank Alker

“When I remember David, the last two lines by William Shakespeare in Sonnet 30 summarise my memories.

“But if the while I think on thee, dear friend, All losses are restored and sorrows end.”

Colin C.

“So sad to learn of David's passing. I enjoyed working with him in our Outreach events at the library and thought he was such a nice man. I look forward to reading stories about his life in the next newsletter. My sincerest condolences to his family.”

Jane Frank

“When I first arrived to join the men's shed ..recovering from a lower back operation ...no energy or inclination to do much in my life, walking around the garden with David gave me inspiration. We worked together...the Rosella garden .. (he was so proud of his rosella jam making business thanks to Sylvia) ..putting sprinkler systems in, garden sink (he even brought the soap and towels in) the list goes on. Thank you David for giving me a boost in life.”

Kevin

“I am very saddened about David's passing. He has helped me with some projects here at Carramar, David has always been keen to assist in any way he can. David will be sadly missed. I would personally like to share my condolences to all his friends and family. Thank you from all the Residents at Carramar.”

Robyn

I've known David for over twenty years and in that time I've watched him overcome several major health issues but never once did he let the challenges in his life deter him from his passion for encouraging, inspiring and motivating others. David was an extraordinary man!

Ken G.

“David was a very special person who did everything possible to assist anyone ... I consider David to be the perfect example of a dedicated 24 / 7 Christian. A wonderful and enjoyable experience knowing David.”

Ian H.

From The Committee

- ◆ We've asked the Community Garden if it would be possible to add a plaque to the garden sign in honour of David.
- ◆ We thank Mike for keeping a watchful eye on the finances.
- ◆ Colin C. has agreed to be the Welfare Officer for the Shed, keeping track of absent members.
- ◆ We are planning on offering an upgrade to the First Aid training this year.
- ◆ Warwick and the team are working on 7 more Little Libraries for the community.
- ◆ The Beenleigh Rum Distillery is running tours for \$15. See Con if you'd like to make up a group.
- ◆ Any suggestions for small wooden projects? Please place them in the box in the office.

DATES for 2016

Committee Meetings **3rd Friday** each month
March 18
April 15
May 20

Shed B-B-Q s – **last Friday** of the month
—**next one 18 March**
29 April
27 May

This SBDCMS Inc. Newsletter is compiled by Ken Tedford, Publicity Officer for the Shed. Contact Ken at kenjan.tedford@bigpond.com