




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Gravatt Men's Shed

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.03 pm): It is lovely to finish the evening on a positive note. Tonight I rise to speak about a truly great institution, an iconic organisation in my electorate: the Mount Gravatt Men's Shed. The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed began with small group of dedicated volunteers in 2009 with the support of the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds Trust, of which I was a member. With the support of the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds Trust the group was fortunate to establish its operation within the grounds of the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds. It now boasts a state-of-the-art facility that incorporates workshops, meeting rooms, library and office space. There are facilities that cater for many interests.

There are around 300 members who make up the Mount Gravatt Men's Shed, and they travel from over 40 different postcodes to participate in a range of activities. The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed makes a valuable contribution to the community through projects which have included restoration work on the Girl Guides' hut located near the shed. A popular output from the woodworking workshop is the number of wooden items that have been donated to local kindergartens and preschools. The Men's Shed movement has grown into an important institution. It promotes physical and emotional wellbeing amongst a group of men who have spent a lifetime in work and who now find themselves retired. A recent survey of Mount Gravatt Men's Shed members asked what was the thing they enjoyed least about the shed, and of course the answer, unsurprisingly, was 'Finishing the day's work and going home.'

The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed offers the traditional programs of wood and metal light fabrication as well as programs in art and photography, computer literacy and guitar lessons. The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed has also recently been successful in obtaining a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund—and I thank our Attorney-General and her staff—to purchase a digital projector which will be used extensively across a number of their programs. I know that many members of this House have vibrant Men's Shed organisations in their electorates. The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed is an outstanding example of the contribution the movement has made to my local community and to other communities right across Queensland.