



The name behind the man beneath the car

Is it Murray or Robbo or something else?

LET'S START WITH the easy bit. According to Murray Robertson, D&S is the name of the original business owners, Donley and Sherrock. His father Ian bought the business in 1958 and kept the name. Originally the business was across the road in the shop now home to the Bernadoff's fine furniture and classy collectibles. Murray, or Robbo as he is known to many, was 12 or 13 when he first started working on cars. He started full-time as a mechanic when he was 16½.

Over the years Murray has worked on many different cars and fixed all types of mechanical failures. The Robertsons worked the Tallaganda patch for the NRMA for nearly fifty years and have rescued thousands of stranded motorists. Some stay in touch. The Robertsons have received a Christmas card every year since 1958 from one grateful family.

Ian Robertson at 95 years of age still climbs into his blue overalls every day and heads down to the workshop.

But perhaps you didn't know that D&S once also stood for David and Stephen. Murrays older brother David was tragically killed in an accident 10 years ago. Such was the high esteem of the Robertsons in this community, as well as all the people they have rescued from all over, David's funeral was attended by several thousand people.

So the other 'S' in D&S? Well, when Murray was born his aunt wanted to call him Stephen. His parents weren't so keen and wanted Murray, so he was christened Stephen Murray Robertson but always known as Murray.

In his time as the 'recovery man' for this area, Murray has rescued or collected all types of vehicles — cars, boats, caravans and even aeroplanes. So if you're driving around Palerang and you're tired, the road is wet, the surface is tricky or you're in a burning hurry, spare a thought for Murray. He's the guy who has to interrupt his dinner to drive the tow truck out to retrieve what's left of your vehicle.

THIS GUY MADE AN UN-PLANNED LANDING IN A FIELD. ROBBO'S RESCUE WAS ABLE TO MOVE THE PLANE TO THE COOMA ROAD WHERE, AFTER THE REMOVAL OF A RUN OF GUIDE POSTS, IT TOOK ONCE MORE TO THE SKY.



FAQ



MURRAY, IF YOU TELL HIM YOUR CAR NEEDS FIXING ...

BUT IF YOU TELL HIM IT'S A RANGE ROVER ...



YOU CAN GET THE MAN OUT OF THE SHED BUT ...

In 2008 a collection of local men got together, started a group, threw a few ideas around and then started to think about fundraising. We looked at several places around the district where we might build a shed. After consideration was given to the scout hall site, we ended up deciding on a place down the bottom of Lacelles Street next to Hassall Reserve. It all got approved but then we found out it was Crown land.

So we looked around elsewhere and were hoping we could get Sandholes Road, the sheds up there from the council, but they were being used by both the Fire Brigade and the council. Fortunately we have use of a couple of bays up there at the moment for temporary storage.

Then someone had the bright idea of using the SES site because all the facilities are currently there, water and electricity etc. — and it's a relatively level block.

Ed Gardener was the secretary at the time and he put in for a few grants and he kicked a goal with the Goulburn Mulwarree trust. Then the Braidwood Community Bank came on board with another substantial donation and we had enough to get going. Additional monetary assistance has been provided by the Lions Club, Integral Energy and the local IGA.

So where are we now? The slab has just been laid, the shed has arrived and pretty soon we'll be getting it put up. Everybody has been really good at helping us out all along the way. Andrew Mortimer has given us a really good deal on the concrete work, as has Tegra — and Braidwood Rural has given us a really good deal on the steel.

We've got two dozen members in the men's shed at the present. We expect our membership numbers to jump quite considerably when we get the shed built. Then we can start having meetings during the day as well as night, and we can get a few workshops going along with a cup of coffee. To sit around and have a bit of a yarn in a safe haven, that's the whole idea of the men's shed — help with men's mental health.

If there are any blokes out there interested in joining the men's shed, contact me, the secretary, Noel Shepherd, Johnny Bunn or Ian Faviell. The main aim in our shed will be to facilitate any of the ideas that come from our members. Like, perhaps, "let's go and split wood for some of the old people in our community." Providing the kindling for instance;



KEVIN LANG AND JOHN BUNN.

A man needs a shed

Kevin Lang provides some history on the Men's Shed

that maybe one of the tasks we can take on.

Or some one might have the skills to make something, to sell at the markets or over the internet. We could do that. We've had several items of machinery donated already. Once we get an electrician in to check all the leads and make sure everything is ridgy-didge we'll be right to go.

Our first task will be to use our member's skills to finish the shed, putting in windows, creating workspaces and things like that. We have to build a wash house and a sometime in the future will get all that connected. We hope to have a gazebo with mens shed written on it and then have barbecues and all type of stuff.

We hope to be able to make money from running raffles and things like that and then we may be able to channel money back into the community. But at this stage we're just looking for self-sufficiency and to get the thing up and running.

Yes it's true that there are a lot of skills held by our retired men and it's good for them to be able to pass them on. The school has approached us about

mentoring young men and I am certain that will be one avenue we will be pursuing.

We hope to get a computer and eventually to have a presence on the net. Getting some of these old fellas up to speed on computers in a nonthreatening environment is something we can do. I've given a couple of blokes lessons already. We have a couple of grant applications in already to get a net connection and maybe a few modern computers.

To become a member of the men's shed you just have to come to a meeting and pay your \$50 per year. We have bi-monthly meetings on the first Thursday of every second month. The next meeting will be on December 6.

The meetings start at 7 pm at the Servicemen's Club. When the shed's built the meeting will be there and maybe during the day. We have been offered the use of the SES meeting room and their toilet facilities in the meantime. Harry Cassilles and the others at the CES have been just great, very supportive.

It will really blossom once the shed's up and running.