

# Channel Men's Shed Inc Presidents Report for 2013

Gentlemen, On behalf of the Committee of the Channel Men's Shed Inc, it gives me great pleasure to present this report to you on the occasion of our second Annual General Meeting. The past year has seen enormous progress of our "Shed" and its development as a major community asset in Kingborough.

**OFFICIAL OPENING:** The official opening in April 2013 by our Patron, Mr Donald Hazell OBE was attended by many, including politicians and other interested members of the community.

This opening created the opportunity for us to showcase our commitment to the district through the building, fit-out and completion of this substantial "community education and skills exchange centre".

The level of interest and support for the "Shed" has exceeded all of our initial expectations with in excess of one-hundred and forty paid up members as at 31 December 2013.

Your committee trust that the majority of these will renew their membership and continue to assist with the ongoing needs of the community and "Shed" projects alike.

We are indebted to a small number of regular "Shed" members and attendees who have given freely of their time and resources to assist in two major undertakings of the "Shed".

You will be aware that we have been fortunate to enter into an arrangement with Mission Australia to provide mentoring and skills training to their job-seeker clients.

We are remunerated for this service which is provided two days per week.

## **TRAINING and MENTORING:**

Our training and mentoring activities have included many aspects of the "Shed" operations including cooking, machining, woodwork, small engines and motor vehicle maintenance.

We do need to expand our range of undertakings for this very important "Shed" activity and seek additional member support to continue with our initiatives already being undertaken.

Please consider if you could provide a given amount of time monthly to assist the development of new programmes for these men utilising the experience of other trades and skills.

We have also been mentoring young boys from the Margate Primary School. This undertaking has proven most successful and we are indebted to the volunteer mentors who have assisted in this important community undertaking. It is our expectation that the School will again require our support and we anticipate that

there may be more boys (and possibly girls) wishing to be part of this external education activity.

Your committee visualise this role of our “Shed” activity as very important and to this end we seek further volunteers who are prepared to assist in mentoring this young people at such an important time in their lives. Police checks on individual “Shed” members are imperative for us to maintain our involvement and we urge as many members as possible take part in this activity of the “Shed”.

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS:** Our community “Shed” activities since opening have included the construction, assembly and installation of the “Red Cottage” for the Margate Primary School, the refurbishment of a 21 foot clinker sail training vessel the “Recherche” for the North West Bay Sea Scouts and the building of some steel framework for the Channel Heritage Museum. These projects have been undertaken as part of our intent to play a part in volunteer community support. They have been most rewarding from all points of view. We are also hopeful of shortly extending our activities to include a “Shed” garden. We are awaiting a supply of railway sleepers to install as raised bed gardens that could be constructed behind suitable fencing at the top end of the presently grassed area.

We shall keep you posted as this progresses.

#### **FINANCIALS:**

Financially the “Shed” is in good shape. We have generated a cash surplus for the year of \$17,681 which, added together with our carried forward cash of \$3,925 from 2012 has us with a bank balance of \$21,606 at year end. Of this balance, some \$5,000 from a Kingborough Council grant, has been set aside for car-parking and landscaping requirements and a further \$2,200 towards our Solar Power installation. Given these provisions, we have net available cash of approximately \$14,400 at 31 December 2013. Your committee recommends that in line with good financial practice, we place approximately 40% of these funds in a “future reserve account”. We therefore intend to place \$6,000 into such a reserve for future use and leaving some \$8,400 as “working capital” for the year ahead. Of our surplus funds available, it should be noted that approximately 50% of this amount was raised through raffles and our October garage sale. We are indebted to those sponsors who provided prizes for the raffles and to the donors who enabled our garage sale to be the success it was. Your committee has also completed budgets for the 2014 year and has forecasted a surplus of \$5,460 for that year. These forecasts take into account many of the initiatives developed and implemented by the committee for the benefit of members but will only be achieved with the support and involvement of the majority of members. During the year under review, we were successful in obtaining a Federal Government Volunteers Grant for some \$5,000 which has been allocated to the purchase of small tools for the workshop area.

#### **GRANTS:**

Subsequent to the 2013 year, we are also pleased to report that we have been successful with three more grant applications.

The Tasmanian Community Fund supported of grant application for approximately \$9,000 towards the installation of 40 solar panels. This initiative should minimise all future energy costs to the “Shed”.

Huon Aquaculture have also provided \$2,000 cash towards new kitchen equipment that will enable our “Chefs” to create even more wonderful mentoring and events for “Shed” participants.

The Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services (from Gambling Funds) have also seen fit to support our application for \$4,700 towards the purchase of a series of metal forming equipment that will prove invaluable to the “Shed”.

### **THE FUTURE:**

Your committee believe that the Channel Men’s Shed has been most fortunate to have achieved so much in such a short time. Without doubt we must now be one of the best equipped and operative “Sheds” in the State.

We must not rest on our laurels, but do our best to continue to utilise our combined resources for the benefit of the wider community.

Our objectives for the continuing development and operations of the “Shed” are now well in place.

We welcome and support the involvement in the day to day running of the “shed” by as many members as possible.

We encourage you to take an active role in these activities and would really welcome additional members to volunteer their services as daily co-ordinators.

Your committee are recommending an increase of three members to assist with the “Shed” responsibilities.

Such additions are sought to ensure we have a continual input and appropriate action outcomes in the various areas of operations. Your support for this increase in committee numbers is welcomed.

During 2013, we lost two of the founding members of our “Shed.”

The passing of both Graham Lane and Dennis O’Donnell was a very sad time for many of our members, but more so for their families.

Our deepest sympathies to their respective families have been expressed along with our very genuine thanks for the efforts, time and advice that were freely given by these gentlemen during the planning and construction of our “Shed”.

Sadly, two weeks ago we lost another valued “Shed” member and active contributor in Brendan Smith. Brendan was tragically taken when a tree fell upon his vehicle during a massive storm in Margate. Brendan was a younger member of our “Shed” and facilitated and mentored members in the plastering of the entire internal complex.

Our sympathies and commitments to the support of his loving family have been extended on member's behalf.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for their outstanding work and contribution during the past year.

We have all witnessed the results of a "can do" attitude of a group of people working together with a common aim.

On behalf of all members and the community at large, thank you all again for your superb efforts.

Peter Shelley

President