



News Channel



<p>Channel Men's Shed Inc. 24 Van Morey Road, Margate 7054 PO Box 318 Margate Tasmania 7054</p> <p>Tel.: (03) 6267 1696</p> <p>Inside this issue:</p> <p>President's Welcome Letter to new members 2</p> <p>Goings on at the shed 3</p> <p>What's happening 4</p> <p>Music Group 4</p> <p>Cooking Classes 5</p> <p>A bit of fun. 6</p> <p>Odds & end. 7</p>	<p>Issue 6 July 2015</p>	
	<p>Community Garden Project</p> <p>We are delighted to advise members that our recent application for funding to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Tasmanian Men's Shed Grants Programme was successful.</p> <p>Apart from receiving some funding to install Digital Readout Devices to the Metal lathe and Milling Machine, we shall receive \$2,500 towards the establishment of a Community Garden at the Shed.</p> <p>Preparations will soon be in train for fencing; mulching and some garden beds and we plan to make provision for small fruits, herbs and main-crop vegetables.</p> <p>The produce will be made available firstly to support the Shed's community involvement (check the website for details), for the various social events for members and guests and for sale to the members. Any funds raised will go to the maintenance and development of the garden.</p> <p>If you have an interest in gardening or in learning about how to improve your garden skills, please make sure that you get your name up on the whiteboard in the office as a potential participant.■</p>	<p>Shed Costs to Members</p> <p>Your committee of the Channel Men's Shed Inc (CMS) continues to strive to ensure that costs to members are minimised in all areas. The annual membership fee of \$44.00 includes \$4.00 GST and covers all personal and Shed insurances. The small balance is used to mitigate the monthly shortfall cost of consumable used within the shed.</p> <p>Members are reminded that materials used for personal projects undertaken in the Shed should be reimbursed as per the rates suggested. Costs of gas, welding equipment, sandpapers, blade sharpening and replacement are significant. The 'honour system' for payment is using an envelope with your name, the amount and date and placing it in the "donation box". This would be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>You may have also noticed that we have racked all of the timber in the Shed. This timber is available for member's projects in the Shed for a</p>
<p style="color: blue;">We need members to step up as Shed Coordinators.</p> <p style="color: blue;">It's not difficult; you're provided with a short introduction and you are still free to work on projects.</p> <p style="color: blue; text-align: center;">Please give it a go - It's your shed!</p>		

A copy of the President's welcome letter to new members.

Welcome to the Channel Men's Shed Inc.

You are now an equal member in one of the largest and well-equipped Men's sheds in the country and we hope you make the best of what is available to you in this organisation. As with most things, you are likely to get as much out of the companionship and activity at the shed as you put into it and your input is most welcome at all times.

You will find a DVD on our website entitled [What's Behind The Shed!](#), which provides an insight into what went into the making of the Channel Men's Shed and the teamwork involved building it.

The website www.channelmenshed.org.au has a calendar of activities along with other information and you are encouraged to explore the site and keep yourself up to date with what is happening at the shed. All communications are via the internet to keep costs down, so if you do not have access to this medium you will need to visit the shed to keep yourself up to date with shed activities.

There are periodical mentoring and skills sharing programs run on several topics including welding (ARC, TIG, MIG), woodwork, vintage car restoration, photography, jewellery making, net & rope work, metal lathe & milling machines, cooking, small engines, etc. If you wish to participate in courses or indeed, to make your own skills available to other members, please make this known to the Committee.

All members are responsible for their own safety and for tidying up after themselves and replacing items in their proper location in all areas including the workshop and kitchen.

Shed members are welcome to attend the monthly committee meetings as observers so please feel free to attend and learn how the Shed operates.

To enable everybody to get to know each other a little better, on the last Thursday of the month we hold a sausage BBQ at the Shed from around 3:30pm. We would be pleased to see you come along and feel comfortable in meeting other members in this relaxed environment

Once again, welcome to CMS.

Sincerely,

Peter Shelley

President

“Goings on at the Shed”

by Bruce Weller



Shareholders in the “Splitter Group” take delivery of their new 28 ton log splitter. This is not specifically a Shed activity but an initiative of a number of members (and hopefully future members) who clubbed together to purchase the splitter which, according to one of the shareholder's calculations will repay each shareholder's investment in less than a year

Local groups put the occasional challenge to members of the Shed. In this case, a member of the fund-raising group intent on providing a Chapel for Snug Village introduced us to the concept of a mock wedding on the bridal table of which they wanted a “wishing” well to collect donations toward the Chapel. The octagonal joinery provided a couple of our members with a little head scratching but the result is something quite impressive. Particularly considering the timber came from a packing case and the cost was just glue and screws. It is not so much what you have but perhaps how you use it !

Among the Shed's members are a small group of rock hounds. They organise expeditions to search out local stones and thanks to equipment loans from a couple of enthusiasts, are able to cut their finds using for example, the diamond saw. There is always the hope of an attractive jewel-like section.

Esmail is a regular attendee at the Shed is putting the final touches to his latest project, a slightly retro take on the coffee table in Tasmanian Myrtle. Using the Shed's large tools, a great deal of patience and skill an (expensive) purchase of rough sawn timber has been transformed into an heirloom piece of furniture.



One of our job seekers, Mark, is pictured below working on a project for the Southern Christian College. The Shed has undertaken the construction of a set of training equipment for the junior school designed to enhance motor skills and coordination. The plans required careful consideration to keep cost within the College's budget and provide suitable training for the job-seekers involved. The Shed's relationship with Max Employment is presently under review and volunteers interested in supporting this community outreach program are encouraged to call in an chat about the various opportunities available.



Community Heart Defibrillator

In conjunction with our great friends Channel Constructions, Margate, the Channel Men's Shed Inc is donating to the Channel Community a Heart Defibrillator for installation at the local Margate BP Margate Service Station. This station is open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week so this life saving device will be available to any in the community if needed. More publicity to the community will be forthcoming shortly■

Shed Woodwork Upgrade

We are pleased to let you know that we have recently installed a new larger three phase thicknesser and jointer in the Shed. This machine replaces the smaller machine we first purchased two years ago. It was the most used piece of woodworking gear in the Shed so the new machine should prove very popular.

We are also about to order a new double belt three phase sanding machine. We have not previously had a piece of equipment like this in the Shed and we believe again that this unit will prove very popular with our woodworking members. We shall let members know when it is installed, so that you may become accredited on it■

Shed Clean-up

Thanks to the guys that turned up for the shed cleanup.

Let's keep it that way by putting things back where they belong.

Thanks also to Laurie and Bob who do the job month in and month out and go unnoticed for the main part.

They're not your mum fellas, so do your bit and put it back in its proper place■

Do you have a spare CD player?

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The Shed CD player is "playing up" so if you have a spare one kicking about at home and you feel like donating/loaning it please do. The Shed's Music Appreciation Group meets on the morning of the third Thursday of each month. We enjoy a wide range of classical items mostly from the Baroque era, although you can bring along any selection of our own favourites, on vinyl, CD or other formats. If you want to enjoy hearing your own music while being exposed to other styles in a convivial environment, just turn up at the Shed between 9.30am and 12.30pm on the third Thursday. The next "concert" will be on Thursday 16 July■



**JERRY & MATT JAMMING**

*"I told you I'm going to fix it.  
There's no need to remind me  
every six months"*

## Cooking classes at the Shed

Professional chefs and Shed members Stephen and Paul put on a terrific show of culinary teaching skills for a member's cooking class. The lesson incorporated some basics but at the same time each bloke got a hands on experience of preparing and cooking a really tasty stir fry. We were taught how to prepare and then blanch carrots julienned, garlic, broccolini, paprika, cauliflower,



snow peas etc. As well as preparing the beef strips and getting it all from the wok to the plate. It was a lot of fun. And boy, was it



Not only can he build boats, he can cook as well!

tasty! These guys really know their business and provided members with an excellent, entertaining, fun and funny cooking session that beats all the TV style cooking shows by a country mile! We ended up inviting other "Sheddies" to come and eat and all agreed that our in house chefs should hold many more classes at the Shed. Top marks guys!



Here's some of the boys getting stuck in with their meal preparation before enjoying the benefit of their toil.

## The Tong Master (a bit of BBQ fun)

Acknowledgements to Danny Katz



Griff was at the barbecue and Joel was at the barbecue and I was at the barbecue; three men standing around a barbecue sipping beer, staring at sausages, rolling them backwards and forwards, never leaving them alone. We didn't know why we were at the barbecue; we were just drawn there like moths to a flame. The barbecue was a powerful gravitational force, a man-magnet.

Joel said the thin ones could use a turn, I said yeah reckon the thin ones could use a turn, Griff said yeah they really need a turn, it was a unanimous turning decision. Griff was the Tong-Master, (a true artist) he gave a couple of

practice snaps of his long silver tongs, SNAP SNAP, before moving in, prodding. Teasing and with an elegant flick of his wrist, rolling 'em onto their little backs. A lesser tong-man would've flicked too hard: the sausages would've gone full circle, back to where they started. Nice, I said. The others went yeah.

Kevin was passing us, he heard the siren-song - sizzle of the snags, the barbecue was calling, beckoning, Kevin - come. He stuck his head in and said any room? We said yeah and began the barbecue shuffle; Griff shuffled to the left, Joel shuffled to the left, I shuffled to the left, Kevin slipped in beside me, we sipped our beer. Now there were four of us staring at sausages and Griff gave me the nod, my cue.

I was second in-command and I had to take the raw sausages out of the plastic bag and lay them on the barbecue not too close together, not too far apart, curl them into each other's bodies like lovers; fat ones, thin ones, herbed and continental. The chipolatas were tiny, they could easily slip down between the grill, falling into the molten hot-bead-nether world below. Carefully I laid them sideways ACROSS the grill, clever thinking. Griff snapped his tongs with approval; there was no greater barbecue honour.

P.J. came along, he said looking good, looking good; the irresistible lure of the barbecue had pulled him in too. We said yeah and did the shuffle, Left, left, left, left. He slipped in beside Kevin; we sipped our beer; five men, lots of sausages. Joel was the Fork-pronger, he had the fork that pronged the tough hides of the Bavarian bratwursts and he showed a lot of promise. Stabbing away eagerly, leaving perfect little vampire holes up and down the casing, P.J. was shaking his head; he said I reckon they cook better if you don't poke them. There was a long silence, you could have heard a chipolata drop, and this newcomer was a rabble-rouser, bringing in his crazy ideas from outside. He didn't understand the hierarchy; first the Tong-master, then the Sausage-layer then the Fork pronger and everyone below was just a watcher. Maybe eventually they'll move up the ladder, but for now don't rock the Webber.

Dianne popped her head in; hmmm, smells good, she said. She was trying to jostle into the circle; we closed ranks, pulling our heads down and our shoulders in, mumbling yeah yeah yeah, but making no room for her, She was keen, going round to the far side of the barbecue, heading for the only available space, the gap in the circle where all the smoke and ashes blew. Nobody could survive the gap; Dianne was going to try. She stood there stubbornly, smoke blinding her eyes, ashes filling her nostrils, sausage fat spattering all over her arms and face. Until she couldn't take it anymore, she gave up and backed off.

Kevin waited till she was gone and sipped his beer. We sipped our beer, yeah. Griff handed me his tongs. I looked at him and he nodded. I knew what was happening, I'd waited a longtime for this moment, the abdication.

The tongs weighed heavy in my hands, firm in my grip. Was I ready for the responsibility? Yes, I was. I held them up high and they glistened in the sun, don't forget to turn the thin ones Griff said as he walked away from the barbecue, disappearing toward the house. Yeah I called back, I will, I will. I snapped them twice, SNAP SNAP, before moving in, prodding, teasing and with an elegant flick of my wrist rolling them back onto their little bellies. I was a natural; I was the TONG-MASTER. But only until Griff got back from the toilet.

**Don't forget the last  
Thursday of each  
month Shed BBQ.**

**RSVP**

**Bob Warne**

**0405373131**

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### **Craft wood for your project**

If you are looking for something special in timber then you are likely to find it at Island Specialty Timbers at Cemetery Road, Geeveston. If you have never visited, it is worth the trip just to see the size of the place and the range of stock. Take a walk out the back and say hello to Chris Emmett the Manager in the office. He is a helpful bloke so mention you are from the Channel Men's Shed and I am sure they will find just the piece you want - at a price■

### **Committee Meetings**

Committee Meetings are open to any financial member who wants to attend.

Members may have their say on any topic, however you do not have any voting rights at these meetings – you have to wait for a General Meeting to have your turn.

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Thanks to Tom for texting members and helping to make the monthly BBQ such a success.

Attendance is growing exponentially and many partners are also coming along. Even the snags have improved with spicy Mexi-

See what is coming up on the website Shed calendar by clicking

[http://www.channelmenshed.org.au/?page\\_id=808](http://www.channelmenshed.org.au/?page_id=808)