

Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee of the Channel Men's Shed Inc it again gives me much pleasure in presenting this report to you at the time of our fifth Annual General Meeting.

The year in review proved to be another full year of action and activities for the "Shed" and its growing membership. This year we witnessed increased use of the "Shed" for members own projects, community outreach programmes and of course activities that enabled members to work together on new equipment purchased by the Shed, the Willys car, sewing machines and lapidary equipment. It is most satisfying to witness the growth of Shed membership which at the end of December 2016 stood at 196 financial members. This is a seventeen percent increase in membership over the past twelve months.

In comparing this outcome against our original forecast of membership prepared some six years ago of around 100 members after four years of Shed operations, your committee is satisfied that our Shed is performing a much valued community service well above early expectations.

New members appear to be utilising the Shed resources well and many have made new friendships as a result of their involvement with the Shed. We actively encourage all members' participation in all aspects of the Sheds life.

Shed members will be aware of our previous involvements with the Work for the Dole (WFD) programme and of the benefits that accrued to the Shed as a result of our efforts. Regrettably, we were unable to resolve an agreement with the WFD provider in the last year and as such have not had the benefit of assisting in the skills development of unemployed men nor the income that resulted from our participation. At the time of preparing this report, it is pleasing to advise that we have negotiated a different arrangement for 2017 that will enable a mutually rewarding programme to be undertaken, albeit with a lower return to the Shed. We do however see this role as an important adjunct to Shed activity and by providing such an essential service within the community; we are assisting men to gain valued employment and the opportunity to restore their self esteem.

Our "Social Outreach" programme continues to develop and enhance our reputation across the wider community. We have continued with making and providing regular supplies of soup for the Kingborough "Louis" Van for the Kingborough Helping Hands Group , hosted the Boronia Guide Leaders Trefoil dinners and the group of "Stitch and Share" ladies on a weekly basis. In addition to these activities, we have also had the opportunity to assist the local CWA to do some essential maintenance on their holiday home at Snug, build "book seats" for the LINC at Kingston, build display cases for the Friends of Melaleuca enabling the housing of memorabilia associated with the Denny King tin mining museum at Port Davey, built transport boxes for Orange Belly Parrot Transport, repaired and modified penguin breeding boxes for a local council and again ran our annual "health check" day at the Shed.

In mid 2016, our Shed was approached to see if we could provide some voluntary assistance for the Australian Wooden Boat Festival taking place in Hobart in February 2017. Some seven members offered to assist and become part of the team of volunteers who made this event happen. Thank you to those members for your ready help for this wonderful event.

All of these activities were undertaken with the great contribution by a large number of Shed members. Your efforts are greatly appreciated not only by your fellow members, but by so many others within the community.

In April 2016, we were delighted to have as visitors to the Shed Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Professor, The Honourable Kate Warner AC and Mr. Richard Warner. During their time at the Shed, the Governor expressed genuine interest in the activities, work and social outreach programmes undertaken by members and others associated with the Shed. Morning tea was served in the kitchen courtesy of the Stitch and Share Ladies where the Governor mingled with members and again shared experiences with the group attending. We were proud to present to the Governor a memento of Her Excellency's visit to us in the form of two Green Parrot nesting boxes to be installed in the grounds at Government House. It is our understanding that these boxes have been installed and are being used.

In June 2016, the Shed lost a great supporter, friend, mentor and Patron. Mr Donald Hazell MBE lost his battle with illness just two days after learning of his wife Gwen's passing away. Donald was the Sheds greatest supporter when the concept was first discussed in Margate. He was responsible for the structure of the building being donated to us and many other aspects of its construction. He was very proud to be our Patron and thoroughly enjoyed coming to the Shed for a chat and a sausage on BBQ nights. We do miss him. Your committee agreed that following Donald's passing we should ask his eldest son Robert to become our Patron. Robert was delighted to accept this role and is a regular visitor to the Shed.

The Willys restoration team have continued their great work on this valued project. Much of the work has been "unseen" in terms of the individual outcomes. For example many hours went into the complete restoration of the radiator alone. This worked saved over one thousand dollars that it would have cost to replace it. Similarly the distributor required many minute parts to be made, all of which were done on the equipment in the Shed and by those members with the intricate skills to undertake this work. Whilst this project may be seen by some as "slow", it does provide a very worthwhile and rewarding experience for those involved.

This year's Shed Skills programme was conducted during the period 15<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The programme conducted by Shed Mentors covered 9 skill areas. In all, 32 members completed 62 days of training. This was a great turn-out for a volunteer, not-for-profit organisation. Later in the year, specialist mentoring and assessment sessions were conducted on the pedestal drill press with some 20 members attending. Additional MIG welding sessions were also conducted to meet an ongoing demand by members. This year's skills sessions and training programmes would not have been successful without the help and guidance from Shed Mentors. Thank you to all who assisted in this important aspect of our Sheds culture.

This year has also seen the much discussed new mezzanine floor come to fruition. Resultant from our successful application to the Federal Governments “Building Stronger Communities” programme we were able to access nearly fifteen thousand dollars for this project. We added some funding from our own resources and with our own skilled members efforts were able to completely construct this valuable extension to the Shed. We expect that within a short period, we shall see some of the lighter machinery and equipment re-located to the mezzanine floor and as a result, we should free up further work space in the original mezzanine area. Thank you again to those members who gave freely of their time and expertise to complete these works. The development of the new mezzanine floor highlighted our immediate need for the better storage of materials for use within the Shed. Timber and steel take up a significant amount of space and need to be stored in a manner that will enable the most efficient utilisation of the various sizes and lengths that we have available. In an endeavour to overcome this problem, your committee have considered all options and have determined that the installation of a 40’ shipping container at the rear of the Shed would provide a good solution. We have had plans drawn for this installation which would have access from within the Shed itself. Engineering detail has also been addressed and application made to Council for approval to go ahead with this project. We have also made application for a funding grant from the DPAC/TMSA February 2017 Round. We would hope to learn the outcome of this application for some \$8,200.00 by end of April 2017. We shall advise members as soon as the results of this process are known.

Our grant application to the Tasmanian Community Fund for nearly \$3,500.00 to purchase a new and larger oven with induction cook top for the kitchen was successful. This Smeg unit is now in the kitchen and following the completion of suitable wiring, will be in use. This unit will enable more efficient cooking of larger volumes and will enable our soup for the “Louis” Van to be produced quickly and in larger quantities. We are grateful to the Tasmanian Community Fund for their ongoing support for our Shed and its related activities.

As mentioned in my 2015 report, we obtained funding from the DPAC/TMSA Grants programme of some \$4,000.00 towards our Shed garden project. It is very pleasing to report that this project was completed in early 2016, planted in early September 2016 and is now producing large volumes of fresh garden vegetables. Harvest are taking place early on Monday mornings with all fresh produce being available to Shed members at very reasonable prices. Thank you to those members who assisted with the construction of this impressive garden and to those who maintain it for the benefit of so many others. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. This is a further Shed investment that will continue to provide members with ongoing opportunities to share their knowledge and labour for many years to come.

Our communications method to members still raises discussion from time to time. From our experience, emails to members certainly appear to have an immediate impact and create the outcomes we need. Our monthly newsletters have also provided regular and up to date details of happenings within the Shed community and again provide an opportunity for member input. Our website is also a source of regular information and provides a broad base of information to

those accessing the site. Please remember that communication is a two way affair. We are only in a position to respond to member's requests, comments and suggestions when they are made. We do encourage and welcome you to be in touch with the Shed committee to discuss any matters relating to the Shed.

Members will be pleased to learn that your committee have continued to monitor and update the Shed's strategic plan. This plan enables priorities to be discussed and set and provides a firm basis on which to maintain the direction and focus of the Sheds ongoing activities. This plan also enables your committee to consider all financial matters pertaining to the Shed in line with the documented direction adopted and agreed.

Again, following the initiative of a committee member, your committee have reviewed the "Rules of Association" (or Constitution) of the Shed. The original Rules were developed as "model" rules at the time of incorporation of the Shed in 2011. As we have now progressed and have operated successfully for nearly six years, we felt it was time to bring our Rules up to date utilising the experience and knowledge gained. The final "draft" rules have been circulated to members for their input, comment and further suggestion. We are delighted that we have had positive feed- back on the suggested changes. Your committee look forward to further discussion and finally, adoption of the agreed changes at this Annual General Meeting. Thanks must go to Graham Fogarty for his great work in the review and commentary regarding this very important aspect of our administrative role.

The finances of the Shed continue to be in good shape. Coupled with a very close monitoring of Shed operating and capital expenses together with the proceeds of our annual raffle, sales of surplus and donated items, work undertaken within the Shed, small engine repair income from members, donations for the personal use of machinery within the Shed and sundry other fund sources, we have increased our bank balance for the year by approximately \$10,000.00. Our audited accounts will be presented later in this meeting but show that these additional funds have been placed into the Sheds reserve account. Your committee have taken the view that we have reserves in hand to cover several year's operational costs, replacements of machinery and equipment as required and for unexpected cash outflows such as excesses on insurance claims etc. Our Shed budget for the 2017 year indicates an almost break-even scenario and highlights the impact of no income being forecast from WFD programmes or initiatives. To all of the members who have assisted with our costs management and fund raising efforts, please accept our genuine thanks for your commitment to the Shed.

We shall of course maintain our efforts to run the Shed in the most economical way possible thus ensuring the preservation of our cash reserves. Where possible, grant funding will be sought for items that we believe will further enhance the Shed and in turn, the wider community. We must also be mindful of our potential need to find future funds for replacement and repairs to our equipment as it ages and wears.

The social life of the Shed is an increasingly important aspect of our operation. It is great to see that our monthly barbeque is attended by so many members, their partners and others who

enjoy sharing a simple barbeque and a social drink. These functions are not intended to be money making opportunities but rather a good way of meeting members and sharing experiences with them. Our Christmas barbeque was again an outstanding event with a large range of gourmet food and drinks available. It was again attended by many of our members, Shed supporters including senior state and federal politicians from all sides, the mayor and several local councillors. This great evening culminated with the drawing of our annual raffle by our new Patron Robert Hazell. Our Shed Christmas function is gaining a reputation for a “not to be missed” event so in this regard, we may expect the future and continuing support of our important guests.

Again during the year in review, your committee met monthly to maintain the smooth operation of Shed and its associated activities. You will note from this report that we have had a very busy, productive and satisfying year. Your elected committee have worked closely and in true voluntary spirit to achieve these outcomes. Our discussions and decision making processes have been robust and it is pleasing to report that there has always been a strong will to action decisions and ensure positive outcomes for the benefit of the Shed.

Three of the outgoing committee have chosen not to seek re-election at this Annual General Meeting. Graeme Nichols, Tim Oxley and Graham Fogarty have all indicated their desire to focus available time to other interests. On behalf of all Shed members, would you join me in thanking the three of them for their outstanding contributions to the Shed during their time on the committee? We shall miss their input, wisdom; advice and contribution that has helped develop the Shed to where it is today. We all look forward to still seeing them in the Shed as often as possible.

Thank you also to remaining committee members for your hard work, dedication and support during the year. It has been greatly appreciated. Thank you too to those members who have nominated to join the incoming committee. We look forward to welcoming you, your contributions, advice and input.

In conclusion, let me say how much of a pleasure it has been to have again had the opportunity to be the President of this great Shed. I have been very proud to have had the privilege of being associated with such a wonderful group of community minded people wanting to see their voluntary efforts help others less fortunate throughout our great community.

Peter Shelley  
President and on behalf of  
Channel Men’s Shed Inc.

Margate, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017