



### Editorial, May 2017

It seems that each month is as busy as any other and April has been no exception.

A number of Shed projects have been completed and, again as usual, there are a number of projects which can use assistance.

Pre-winter doldrums setting? Drop into the Shed and see what is happening. We still have a few pavers left, there are shelves and the new storage area to build and a couple of smaller projects need a bit of a lift.

The Editor

### Breanna and the car

We have a real heart-warmer report from the beginning of April.

It started with an attempt by a couple, who have no wish for publicity, to trade in the wife's car.

Failing to get a reasonable offer for the old vehicle (a 1999 Daihatsu Sirion) they decided to make it available for donation to a worthy cause. Generously, they also agreed to fund the replacement of the clutch which was giving



trouble.

The Tasmanian Men's Shed Association passed the offer on to us and, after some investigation we agreed to both repair the car and to find a worthy donor. The clutch was provided free by the local Repco store and, in return the donors agreed to extend the registration out to December.

Meanwhile, Ross Thomas ---our Shed computer mentor (first Friday monthly (and thanks Ross for putting the fix on the

Secretary's laptop)--- has also been volunteering at the "Gearing-Up" Learn to drive programme supported by the Huon Council became aware that learner driver and single mum, Breanna (and her delightful infant daughter) would be ideal recipients.

Ross spent some 40 hours mentoring Breanna with her driving skills. This mentoring proved very beneficial with Breanna satisfactorily gaining her provisional licence on Tuesday last. The RACT were approached regarding insuring the vehicles and made a welcome donation of \$500 to the Shed to assist with our good work... insurance and a new baby seat have been purchased as a result.

Breanna has been walking 45 minutes from home to casual work at a disability care centre and, as Ross explained in his persuasive appeal to the Committee, would benefit from the availability of a car to visit family on the other side of Hobart and, perhaps more importantly, would have more access to casual work with improved transport.





The car was presented at the Shed on a Thursday with representatives from WIN TV, the Huonville Council and your Committee... the picture above tells the story. How many of the attendees can you identify?

### **Pewter smithing**

Since the last report there have been developments on this front.



David (Cousins) ably supported by Gerry (Fletcher) have surveyed the available equipment located up on the mezzanine and have reported that much of the required equipment is already in stock.

The existing silversmithing and lapidary areas can be profitably and artistically combined with pewter work and at a significant saving in costs. Gerry has been ransacking local thrift stores for unwanted pewter tankards and has a personal cache of pewter sufficient, I would guess, for his first project.

Still quite a way to go with the "Dave and Gerry Show" plotting out, on paper, the footprints of the work stations and the equipment they are selecting with a view to submitting plans to the Committee. Members with an interest in pewter, lapidary and silver-smithing are urged to get on board and make their needs heard.

Contact either or both David Cousins and Gerry Fletcher for more information and to get involved with this exciting opportunity.

#### **Items for sale:**

Following on from last month's proposal for items available for sale to be the subject of an all members email, the Committee has received no objections to the approach. It is clear that the all-members approach will make sure that bargains available are not restricted to those who are regularly in the Shed. Mind you, being in the Shed has other advantages too!

Going forward you can expect the occasional Email offering items ---usually those donated to the Shed--- for sale.



### **We (might have) made the TV!**

Among the pictures taken during the presentation of the car to Breanna, there was one which I could not resist. No idea whether our revered Vice President made it to the news, but he did give it his best shot clearly explaining the amount of work put in by the Shed (mainly him ably supported by a number of volunteers) to prepare the little vehicle for presentation.

It is efforts like these which have given the Channel Mens' Shed its well-deserved reputation out in our community. (And yes, I rarely watch the box, so perhaps I am not the best to act as editor of this news link ---volunteers?)

### **David Heard**

David has been cleaning out his workshop (with the Channel Men's Shed, who needs a workshop anyway) and has kindly donated the jigs and templates for the construction of the stool pictured.

This may well prove to be a small but challenging project for some of our members. As you can see it involves some use of the saw, jointer and thicknesser, glue up and laminations of the top ---from old pallet timber perhaps--- some lathe-work and some finishing.

Has a lot going for it as a "stretch your skills" project and what family cannot use a low stool?

If we get enough interest we may be able to have David in to offer some guidance.



### **Five generations**

Our last Thursday of the month BBQ is, rightly, one of the more popular events scheduled by CMS (and, in case you have not attended, a wide variety of locally produced sausages are only \$2 each; bring your own wine for your partner (funny, very few women enjoy beer even with boutique and home brews) or whatever top-shelf-tipple is your poison of choice.

Just so you know that the shed really does welcome family members to the BBQ each month, Ivan has shared what the Committee believes to be record breaking first for the BBQ --- pictured, five generations from the one family!

At least no one in that family will wonder what great-grand dad does at the Shed!

Oh, and I think that they found the other boot.

## THIS MONTH IN THE CMS VEGIE PATCH

Most summer crops have been harvested including pumpkins which are hardening off & will be available for sale at \$1.50 /kg.



Some beds are in the process of being rested & planted out with green manure.

Brassicas have been planted & will become available over the coming months together with Broad beans & garlic much later.

As usual a major pick of produce is made available at the shed on Mondays & is otherwise always available on request.

### Truckers' hitch

At a recent course taken by a number of our mentors and members, one of the participants (Trevor) demonstrated ---as his "graduation exercise" the use of the truckers' hitch. Definitely a useful addition to knot repertoire of any bloke with a ute or trailer.

Oddly enough, it was not the demonstration which caught our attention but the developing fact that there was more than one way to tie the hitch.

The Shed now has a demonstrator device so that you too can learn one of the many trucker's hitches.



### Front paving to the building

Thanks to a number of member volunteers (and others, Grant and Liam from our Job-seekers Programme are pictured with Peter N) the laying of pavers, provided courtesy of Kingborough Council, has proceeded apace (sorry, I just have to leave that little reference in here) and is now ready in time to prevent tracking of the mud, from around the front, into the Shed. An excellent project, ably lead and guided by Peter Norris, your Vice President.

I suspect that the better access now permitted, from both front and the kitchen doors, will turn members' attention to the embankment. No decisions have been made as yet but it seems pretty clear that some beautification will be a worthwhile investment of our time and effort.

Too, there are a few pavers remaining and these can, it is considered, best be laid at the door from the machine shop. Check out the quality work that has been done and, if you want a lesson in how paving should be done, look for the call for volunteers.

## Activities we will not be offering



Pictured are the Council' contractors removing threatening branches from one of the trees backing on the Shed.

At this stage your Committee has no intention of offering tree-felling as an activity.

Leave that one to the professionals!

The work has been undertaken by Kingborough Council to protect the Shed itself and in support of our recent application (grant is pending) for the installation of a 40 foot

container at the rear of the building.

The Council has provided planning permission so we are confident that this much needed extension will go ahead.

It is planned that this extension will relieve some of our current storage problems.

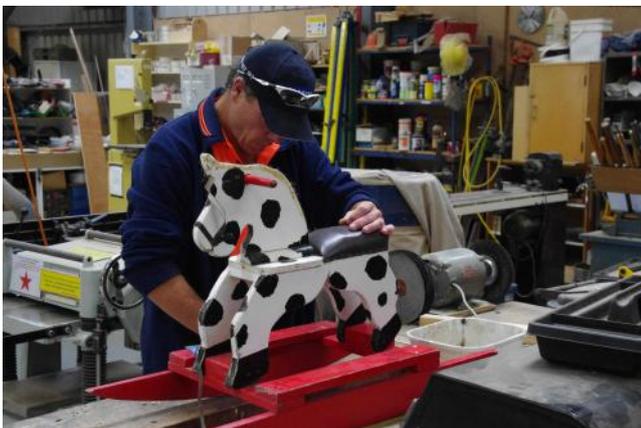
We will be looking for volunteers to assist with construction of the footings ---both for this and the long awaited dust extraction for the woodwork area--- once the way forward is clear.



It should be quite a spectacle as the plan is to hoist the container over the Shed and lower it on to the new footings at the rear. As you can see some clean up work has been undertaken already however, more will be required.

Once the container is in place it is back to construction work as we will need all-weather access from the Shed proper to the storage, lighting so that we can see what is in store, not to mention the installation of racking and the actual moving of items to the new storage to free up the mezzanines for future planned use.

Look for more news as this major project develops.



## Rocking horse restoration

Pictured to the left is one of our Job Seeker Participants engaged in the restoration of a rocking horse for the third generation. We have some experience in the wooden equitation arena having previously built three from scratch (one of which was raffled off benefiting Ronald McDonald House some \$393) and oddly enough have since been approached again with an offer of a rocking horse for restoration.

So much for a developing reputation?

## Repairs to the CWA Holiday House pavilion

A small number of our members has, for some months now, been working on a job for the Country Womens' Association.



For those who are unaware of it, the CWA maintain a holiday house in the area and let it out on generous terms to families who are in need of respite and are for one reason or another unable to finance the usual and more expensive holiday accomodation.

Heiko and Bess, with the help of a number of other members, have restored, repainted and re-roofed the BBQ pavilion.

Again, a project which gives back to the community in which we reside. The Committee thanks all of the members who are prepared to go the extra mile in this and similar projects.

## Projects in train

There are usually a number of projects in train at the Shed and there are several coming up as well (see above regarding another paving project). We have included a couple of pictures of things happening around the Shed without too much in the way of wordage. Check in to the Shed if you want a little more information or need to learn about what is going on.



## Kingston LINC "Book" Benches

Pictured are the two artists, Sonia Strong and Jane Burrell, responsible for illustrating the benches built for LINC by the Channel Mens' Shed for installation outside the library in Kingston. The illustrations are from books by the local artist

authors and once the seat and backrest artwork was

finished, they were returned to the Shed for the final

assembly and last touch ups.



[www.channelmenshed.org.au](http://www.channelmenshed.org.au)