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Editorial, June 2017

Firstly an apology for the delay in publishing of this newsletter... just too much on the editor's plate and too little time to check out and write up what is happening at the Shed.

Likely the most important piece of news in this context is that Telstra have very generously agreed to continue their sponsorship of the Shed's telecommunication and internet access for another year.

We can confidently direct Shed funds to other avenues including our ongoing Social Outreach program.

The Editor

Visit by Ms Petrusma MP

Jacque Petrusma took time from her busy round of duties to visit Channel Men's Shed at Margate. Pictured with Peter Shelley. Accompanied by members of the Shed's Executive the Minister braved the inclement weather to inspect the site of the proposed extensions, funded in part by an \$8,208.15 grant from the Liberal Government's Tasmanian Men's Shed Association Grants Program.

Since opening in April of 2013, the Shed's membership has grown, and is growing, steadily, increasing both the quantity and variety of materials in store and the range of equipment "on the floor". The grant allows the purchase and installation of a 40 foot container, at the rear of the Shed, with all-weather access from the working area providing much needed storage for the materials and projects-in-train and freeing up work space to accommodate and enhance the safe and congenial environment which has contributed so much the Shed's success.

Ms Petrusma noted that "[t]he Government values the important role Men's Shed play in our community and the support they give to an increasing number of Tasmanian men..." and in her review of the Shed's wide range of facilities and activities took particular note of the most recently commenced craft area. The Shed is, under the guidance of an experienced craftsman with decades of practice, training in the creation of pewter-ware.

Given the Minister's responsibilities it was, she indicated, particularly pleasing that the Men's Shed was prepared to include members' wives and partners in social and other activities -- including this new venture -- and to be reminded of its long-term and ongoing work with Job-seekers.



Is the monthly BBQ better on the last Friday or Thursday of the month? Get chatty!

A taste of the future?

Is this ---see photograph--- the future of Channel Mens' Shed?

Pictured is Peter Allford's CNC machine in course of construction.

Of course it will need more work to complete the cutter, an attached computer, some special software (Peter tells us it is designed to deal with vector graphics) and the dedicated program which converts the drawing into cutting and movement instructions for the machine.



The Alford CNC machine (WiP)

Quite frankly your editor is intrigued but a little uncertain whether this new workshop avenue is for the Shed.

The technology is, as far as I can see, pretty

expensive for what it can do, and likely needs time to mature into a generally available “average woodworker” type hobby.

This is not to say that the facility is not locally available.

Your editor had a need for what seemed to be a kilometer of 3mm x 5mm slots in MDF (don't ask) and approached Shed Member Arie Beets who agreed to do the deed on a commercial basis – yes I did pay him! – which, turned out to be a more than reasonable approach.

I had to prepare a machine readable file (.DXF format for those interested) and the sheet of 12mm MDF and without any more hassle I had the bases and dividers of all of the type cases I needed.

More recently, Arie has kindly helped with the cutting of a prototype canoe.

I asked Arie how he had got into the business and he tells us:

I have been CNC routing for 15 years, we used to get our signs manufactured by someone in Kingston who had a CNC router. At the time we were running a market stall at Salamanca and were selling our aluminium and timber signs there, we also made some games, mirrors and clocks.

It became a bit expensive for us to pay someone to do the cutting and we were also very limited with researching and trying to get a new product ready for market due to having to try out stuff at a big cost.

In 2003 we decided to buy our own machine and we bought a Australian made Multicam, and over the years following we have cut a lot for the sign shops in and around Hobart and also some boat builders cutting their kits.

It keeps me busy and I enjoy all the different jobs (like yours) that keep coming in.

Check out Arie's website, <aroundthetwist.com.au>, for more information about the sort of things he can offer.

Equipment update

The amount of work that the Shed's sliding mitre saw does in an average week is considerable and your Committee felt it was time to upgrade.

As mentioned in a previous Newsletter, the old one was advertised on Gumtree and the listing was linked to an all-members' email advice.

We are delighted to confirm sale --to a member-- and the proceeds, together with what was realised on the sale of table saw (advertised previously) made a substantial contribution to the new, larger and more robust (we hope) sliding mitre saw.

Check it out on your next visit.

CWA Project - Folks who help us

The work that we do as Shed Members often gets us a note of thanks and if you look to the left on your way down to the kitchen, we have framed and displayed some of the letter and pictures that we have kept. A nice warm feeling to see that your efforts are appreciated.

All of this work would not be possible without the support of local business and, up until now, our only way of acknowledging the debt the Shed owes to the folk that support us is the big white Sponsors' Board near the entrance. Now, this Newsletter and the web-site can also give our supporters, from time to time, the recognition that they richly deserve.

We mentioned, last month, the successful completion of the CWA Pergola renovation but omitted to mention that once again, our good friends at Clennetts Mitre 10 and Mals Hire also assisted us in this project.



Cum grano salis

The Committee was recently charmed to receive a message offering to “congratulate you on receiving funding from the latest Men’s She Association Grants Program[.]” and we must admit that the money is welcome and we will now proceed with plans for the addition of the Container Storage at the rear of the Shed.

However desirable a Men’s She Association would be, we would expect accusations of political in-correctness would flow.

So, for the time being, while the Committee and the membership-at-large welcome our other halves to social occasions and celebrations, we do prefer to consider ourselves as part of the wider Men’s Shed movement, and, old-fashioned though it may be, host the ladies in our facility from time to time.

Guides Tasmania bookcase

Pictured are representatives of Guides Tasmania taking delivery of their recently commissioned bookcase which we understand will form part of the Guides Tasmania archive furnishings.

The case was constructed from plywood recycled from the Kingborough Sports Centre bleachers together with a small amount of new material. The work was done by our Job Seekers (shown assisting with the loading on to the trailer). A nice little project in which the Shed was able to reduce the amount of waste going to land fill while offering our Job Seeker participants an introduction to cabinet work. Two of them have since taken taking this experience forward with repair to a chair and a kitchen hutch on their own behalves.

These projects come up from time to time and the assistance of members who are interested in expanding their skills is always welcome.



Visitors



The Shed welcomes visitors from interstate and, from time to time, from overseas. We are proud to show off our facilities and spread the word about Men's Shed in general and, as often as not we learn something new. In the case of Hugo, a French-Canadian guest of Adam Combe, pictured here undertaking a little repair and replacement job on his hockey stick.

Hugo is here in Tasmania as a representative of the Canadian under 23 year old team in the World Championships.

Hockey, yes, but the surprise, to the editor at least, was that there is a strong Underwater Hockey movement here in Hobart.

Underwater Hockey – the things that people get up to for fun!



New workspace

Pictured is David the Pewter-meister at the jeweller's workbench in the new combined workspace. Check out the sort of work which can be achieved in the display case next to the sign-in table.

Courses will commence once the places are finally settled and the finishing touches to the workplace are put in place.

Appeal for new items

As always, any contributions, are welcome and can be sent to <bruce@weller.id.au> for his attention as the newsletter is put together towards the end of each calendar month. Bear in mind that anything published goes out into the wide world and will be out of the Shed's control so that some diplomacy is warranted.

Rocking horse

It is a pleasure to show off what can be achieved by our Work for the Dole participants. The picture show an extensively restored rocking horse brought in by a lady who had heard of the skills available in the Channel Mens' Shed. She tells us that the toy had been purchased at Salamanca Market for her daughter, was much loved and was now to be passed on to her infant grandson.

On inspection the horse, constructed of chipboard which had, over the years de-laminated, and the screws had rusted into place so that restoration required replacement of many of the parts. Quite a big job but well executed by Wayne who also selected the paints and upholstered the saddle. Now returned to its family as a grey, and generous donation to the Shed from its owner.



Definitely a win-win situation as we are now working on a new project using the skills that Wayne has acquired at the Shed.

Watch this space.



A couple of helping hands for the Kingborough Helping Hands

The work of the Kingborough Helping Hands – at least the public work – is pretty well known. What is less well-known is all of the hidden work which makes, for example, the Louis' Van food available for those in need.

Some of our Shed members will be aware that a dedicated small group of our own guys make soup, in our kitchen, on a regular basis, for donation to the Helping Hands.

Too, local retail outlets make food available and to store it, a small shed was donated and installed in one of the volunteer's yard.

The continual tracking back and forth to the storage required an all-weather paved path.

Thanks to the generosity of Joe Carver, long-time Shed supporter (remember the enormous job of pumping concrete for the slab?) of local paving suppliers Abri Masonry Contractors pavers were provided free of charge.

Add in labour provided by the Channel Men's Shed and Job-seeker participants, FCR and a little cement from Shed's own resources first class paving has now been installed in anticipation of the 2017 Winter.

Lastly, a roundup of some of the projects emerging from the Channel Men's Shed



Have be the only Shed with two forklifts! Thanks to Hazell Brothers, we will be able to dispose of the old forklift and rely on the replacement which is on loan from the company.



So, the book seats are in the library, a member's garden setting has been refurbished and the new range is in place with splashback and range hood installed