



## Editorial, July 2017

Not so much variety to report this month however, as the President's message below, indicates, your Shed is moving, improving and expanding on a number of fronts.

Over the next few weeks we will, thanks to the Kingborough Council Grant of \$3,000 (and our own contribution of some \$4,000) be upgrading our computers. Both the hardware and the software. Most excitingly we will have a full professional version of SketchUp Pro which will allow members print out plans that they have found or created from the home version (which is freely available but somewhat nobbled)

Communications

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The Editor

### **An Important Message from the President**

Your committee is delighted to see more and more activity going on in the “Shed”.

Peter Norris and his team have done a great job on completing the secured storage on the large mezzanine floor. This area is designed to house many small and valuable items and consumables that are used by members on a regular basis. Your committee has invested in having stocks available for members so that in the event of needing an extra dust mask, a new bit to replace one broken, more sandpaper or clean rags etc, these items and many more are now “on hand”. If you need to access this store to obtain any items, please see the Shed coordinator or a member of the committee who will unlock the store and obtain and record the item issued. This facility is a great step forward in ensuring the ease of access to the working needs and security of day to day items for all members benefit.

We are also delighted that David Cousins and his many helpers have now completed the new Pewter workshop on the new mezzanine floor. Again, the Shed has invested a considerable sum in the equipment and consumables that will enable the group of members to learn new skills and produce valued items under Dave’s skilled leadership. This project has evolved as a result of members interests being made known to the committee and with a prepared budget of both finance and equipment requirements. It is now up to members to make this work and we look forward to this project becoming another valued aspect of the operation of the Shed.

We are also pleased to report to members that we have received funding under the Tasmanian Men’s Shed Association Inc and the Department of Premier and Cabinet “Mens Shed Grant Programmes” to go ahead with the installation of a 40’ “hightop” container at the rear of the Shed. This project will commence in a few weeks when the container is delivered to us for modification ready for installation. The container will provide valuable storage space for larger items and free up the floor area for more project work on the original mezzanine floor. We shall keep you advised as this project continues.

Many of the regular attendees at the Shed will know that we have again had a number of Max Employment Work for the Dole (WFD) clients working with us during the past six months. This group of men has undertaken many skills training opportunities provided by our own members acting as mentors. They have proven to be a very reliable and enthusiastic group who have made a significant contribution to day to day Shed life and have assisted our own members in undertaking many of the Community Outreach activities initiated by the Channel Men’s Shed. It is very pleasing to confirm that we have now signed on again for a further six months contract with Max Employment and look forward to repeating the mutual successes generated in the last six months.

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## **Channel Men's Shed Casserole night**

As Judy put it "If you are suffering from cabin fever turn up to the CMS casserole night for some fun, food and fine company". Bring a plate and BYO. So we did, nearly twenty of us.

On Saturday evening 8<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm. Blokes, partners and strays. Each party brought a dish which the ladies organised into a wonderful buffet in the kitchen.

I can't tell you what a delicious range of main courses and how some of the best sweets in the Channel were served up to us but, by jingo it would have been a hundred dollar night out for two anywhere else, except this was all free.

Ross and Judy, our hosts for the night did a splendid job organising everything from Judy's flowers to Ross's coloured lights outside. It reminded me of the Sydney Olympics and made the night a splendidly festive occasion! Background music, a killer parlour game and a fantastic array of prizes to round off the evening. Everybody kept their clothes on but said that we must do this more often. A great evening and thank you very much to Ross and Judy.

**And speaking of social events...**

### **Discounts to Channel Mens' Shed Members**

A number of suppliers to Channel Mens' Shed will also offer a discount to Shed Members on request.

The following may assist:

Nubco give substantial discounts off their recommended retail prices on request.

Make it clear to staff you are paying cash. Do not put goods on the Shed's credit account.

Discounts substantially greater than Seniors Card or RACT Card can be obtained by purchasing as a Channel Mens' Shed Member paying Cash. Do not put goods on the Shed's credit account.

Purchases from Repco can be made using the Channel Mens' Shed Trade card.

While discounts are limited on Retail/Display items there can be a substantial benefit obtained when purchasing mechanical/service items such as filters, parts etc.

Repco Kingston are holding a Channel Mens' Shed Trade Card at their cash counter adjacent to their front entrance. Ask staff to locate and use this card when making a purchase

Webster Bearings and Industrial Supplies in Lampton Avenue will offer a discount to Channel Shed Members on request.

Inform staff you are purchasing for CMS and paying cash.

Do not use the Shed's credit account.

Beaurepaires in Mertonvale Circuit will give a discount to Channel Mens' Shed Members.

To receive a discount speak with the manager Mathew.

Note: Tyres can be an expensive/variable item and pricing can be dependent on offers available from tyre company suppliers.

It would be advisable to also shop around.

## *A FEW QUICK UPDATES AND EXPLANATIONS*

### **Pewtercraft**

I popped in on a couple of David's workshops just to see what was going on.

Lots of enthusiasm (pictured David and Ken working out their next step) with gifts for Christmas (and one wedding) already well advanced.

Hmm, Christmas... I think that I might try to wangle my way in to one of the classes.

David tells me that Saturdays is completely full, room for perhaps one on Mondays and now booking for Thursdays. Contact details are on the display cabinet beside the sign-in table on the ground floor.

### **Container**

The container for our extension for the Shed has been delivered thanks to the support and assistance of our Patron Robert Hazell who arranged transport using a Hazell Bros semi together with one of their skilled drivers who made a very neat job of dropping off the monster.

Once fitted out, lifted over the existing structure (that ought to be worth watching!) and connected to the Shed – a couple of decent doors to provide all-weather access – we will be able to free up some of the floor-space now occupied by materials waiting for a project. Look out for notices seeking your assistance for the preliminary work for the foundation and the installation of the external dust extraction system.

### **Canoe**

What are they thinking of?

Why are Bruce and Ken building a canoe out of 3mm medium density fibre board,

Do they actually think that it will float?

Well no, they are prototyping a CNC cut hull from an open source offering on the Internet with a view to making a couple

and, incidentally, getting some understanding of the so-called stitch'n'glue process.