

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 sixth Annual General Meeting.

2017 has proved to be another full year of action and activities for the "Shed" and its membership. We have again seen increasing use of the "Shed" for members own projects, community outreach programmes and of course activities that enabled members to work together, exchanging skills, ideas and good companionship. The Willys car restoration has slowed a little but we expect this great project to see further development during 2018.

Our membership numbers have stabilised at around 180 financial members as at 31 December 2017, a small decline in numbers from the previous year. We are delighted that our new members appear to be enjoying the Shed and in particular feel comfortable and safe in the friendly atmosphere of this great facility. New friendships are being made, new skills learnt and much personal satisfaction achieved.

During 2017 we have again been fortunate to have many of our members assist others in learning new skills and becoming proficient with them. Mentoring sessions have been held in MIG welding, small engine maintenance, wood lathe work and pewter craft work. Thanks go to those shed members who freely gave of their time to facilitate these classes. They have been received with much appreciation and satisfaction from those attending.

Our Shed again held our annual Members Health Check Day which again received great support from both members and visiting medical professionals alike. Members had the opportunity of discussing health matters with a local GP, visiting specialists in hearing, dementia, cancer, diabetes and wellbeing, and coronary disease. This Shed initiative is highly acclaimed by the medical professionals who support the day, many of whom have already indicated their willingness to be involved in the 2018 day.

Our involvement with the "work for the dole" (WFD) programme has again provided mutual rewards during 2017. We were able to negotiate a satisfactory arrangement to again have WFD clients be mentored at the Shed this year. This programme has had a great result during the year in review with several of the participants obtaining employment following their time with us. The Shed's activities and members attitudes must have some appeal to our WFD participants as four of them have become members of the Shed following the completion of their WFD activities. We have also been fortunate that many of those involved have played an important role in further assisting with Shed projects during this period including the laying of pavers in the new path around the front of the building. The Shed generated a satisfactory level of income from this involvement which we anticipate will be replicated in the 2018 year.

On behalf of all Shed members, I would like to sincerely thank all of those members who have so readily given of their time and skills to supervise and mentor the WFD participants. You have done a wonderful job and we recognise your significant contribution.

In the early part of 2017, the Shed accepted a donation of a 1999 Daihatsu Sirion from a member of the public. Members sourced and fitted a new clutch to the vehicle and then donated it to a worthy single mother who was having difficulties in arranging transport to her work.

We are also pleased to report that our “social outreach” community involvement has continued during 2017. We have maintained our soup supplies to Kingborough Helping Hands and in turn to the local Louis Van. We have continued to host the Boronia Guide Leaders Trefoil dinners, host the regular Monday “Stitch and Share ladies and the fortnightly “crib” players. With the assistance of Adbri Masonry, members of the Shed and some of the WFD participants completed paving work and roof top ventilation in the storage areas of Kingborough Helping Hands.

Members of the Shed have also had the opportunity to attend outings organised by the Shed. A visit to the InCat shipbuilding yard was a highlight for many and our visit to the TaAnn timber veneer plant at Lonnavale was thoroughly enjoyed and proved to be a real eye opener. If members have ideas of what may prove of interest to visit in 2018, we would be delighted to try and arrange them.

Your committee has also been active in ensuring that the planning for the long term future of the Shed is ongoing. The ongoing strategic plan has been further developed and will be finalised by the incoming committee for 2018. This plan takes into account the ongoing financial needs of the Shed, the equipment requirements, repairs and replacements and the impacts of changing technology.

As part of this forward planning process, we have been fortunate to have been in a position to apply for and receive two grants that will greatly assist the shed in the immediate and medium term. The Kingborough Council recognised the importance of the Shed to the local community and supported our application for funding of \$3000 towards new computers and a system upgrade. Together with some \$4,500 of our own Shed funds, we now have a complete new system in place and working well.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet/Tasmanian Government and Tasmanian Men’s Shed Association grants programme also supported our application for some \$8000 towards the cost of purchasing, modifying and fitting out a 40’ shipping container for use at the rear of the Shed for storage and dust free finishing. This project is well under way and will create further and much needed working space within the main building. It will also enable the completion and installation of the dust extraction system that has been awaited for so long.

The Shed garden established in 2016 continues to provide wonderful varieties of vegetables on a weekly basis. This project is skilfully supervised and managed by a dedicated Shed member who devotes a great amount of his time for the benefit of many Shed members. We are very fortunate to have this great annexe to our normal Shed activities. Thank you Lawrie Fisher for all your hard work.

In early 2017, the Shed was given the opportunity to acquire all the steel and timber from the Kingborough Councils Sports Centre basketball seating which was being replaced. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to have some \$10,000's worth of timber and steel at no cost to us. We were able to use much of this within the Shed on new shelving and lining of walls etc. Again, this project involved many Shed members giving of their time to build and install the shelves etc. Thank you to all involved.

Your Shed continues to assist those community projects that are deserving of our support. We have again undertaken numerous projects that have enabled other organisations to benefit from our skills base. Such projects have included the building of a special outdoor table at the Kingston Tennis Club to accommodate a person in a wheelchair, the building of small boxes that are used for the transfer of the endangered Orange Belly Parrot in the South West of Tasmania.

We have also partnered with the Lions Club of Kingborough in undertaking the repair of the children's train at Dru Point for the Kingborough Council. Many other small and individual projects have also been undertaken at the Shed which have assisted many in the community.

Members have also had many opportunities to share time relaxing at the Shed at our monthly BBQ's, at our Melbourne Cup luncheon and at our now famous Christmas get-together. These social gatherings are an important fabric and part of Shed life. They create the forum for discussion and bring together new members and their partners in a relaxed environment. Our thanks go to all of those who regularly go to the trouble of organising, running and manning these functions.

Our Christmas function in December 2017 was one to remember. We had some one hundred people present including many new members. We also drew the Shed 2017 raffle which again raised in excess of \$3000 for Shed activities. We take this opportunity of thanking those sponsors who generously donated substantial prizes for the raffle, the ticket sellers who did such a great job in selling all of the printed tickets and to the buyers who so keenly purchased tickets.

Our communications with members has continued through the use of the email system which appears to now be working well. This is supported by our regular newsletter which is emailed with a link for all members to read. It is also available on the Shed's website and is circulated to those "friends of the Shed" who have asked to be included on our communications list. It is important to remember that this newsletter will only be of value if it has content that is relevant, current and supplied to the newsletter editor on a regular basis. Please feel free to

pass on any stories or information that you would like to see circulated to all members, it will make the editor's job a little less tedious!

Your committee have continued to manage the Shed on a very business-like basis. We have met monthly and have considered all aspects of the Shed's operation on an ongoing basis

Of particular importance to our membership is our capacity to be financially viable now and in the future. Again, we have managed our funds well this year. We have maintained our approach to operate the Shed at as lower cost as we are able and we are pleased to report that we have again achieved this objective for 2017. We were able to increase Shed revenues by \$11000 over our budget and reduce costs by nearly \$2000 against our budget, a positive outcome of \$13000. This situation has enabled us to spend a total of \$29000 on capital projects for the Shed during 2017 and has still enabled us to increase our bank balance at 31 December 2017 by another \$7600. In line with Shed policy, we have increased our term deposit by nearly \$20,000 over the 2016 balance.

In-keeping with our policy of ensuring maximum benefits of the Shed are being enjoyed by as many members as possible whilst at the same time maximising the outcome of the funds available, we are continually reviewing our cost of daily operation of the Shed. We believe that we have managed to keep the costs well under control and are fortunate that we have been assisted in this way through benefits received through sponsorship of our communications costs by Telstra. Unfortunately our other major cost is energy and although we have enjoyed the benefits of low electricity cost by having the solar panels, we must budget for 2019 when the rebate for solar power generated by the Shed's system will drop substantially from 26c per kw/hr to around 8c per kw/hr. To minimise the impact of this known cost increase, we are planning to undertake an internal audit of our energy consumption with a view to ensuring that we are operating at optimum levels of usage. Should this audit reveal that we need to update the technology of equipment used and lighting then we shall have time to seek funding support for any capital costs that may be required for such improvement. We shall keep you advised on this important aspect of our Sheds operation as this matter progresses.

It is important to recognise that whilst we have considerable funds in fixed deposit, we must also be prepared for the time when our revenues may fall and we may need to draw on these funds to maintain the ongoing needs of the Shed and its membership. We believe that this conservative approach is adding longevity to the capacity of the Shed.

Finally, I would take this opportunity of thanking the Committee of the Shed for your hard work and commitment during the past year. It has been another remarkable year for the Shed, its members and the community at large. Your efforts as a team have been invaluable in ensuring that our volunteer body achieves its substantial objectives in providing resources for so many people and groups that would otherwise not have access to such facilities.

You are a key component of the Sheds operation and success and on behalf of our membership; I take this opportunity of again thanking you for your ready participation and involvement. Unfortunately, Bruce Laffer has chosen not to seek re-election this year and on your behalf, I thank him for his efforts during 2017.

On your behalf, I take this opportunity of thanking Bruce Weller for his outstanding contribution to the life of the Shed. Bruce willingly took over the Secretary's role at the beginning of 2017. He also maintained the editorial responsibilities for the publication of our regular newsletter, ensured that our communication with all members was maintained through our email system and still managed to be in the Shed a couple of days every week to ensure its smooth operation. Many of you will know that Bruce has recently undergone major heart surgery and I am sure that you would all join me in wishing Bruce a full and speedy recovery so that he may again rejoin and enjoy the day to day life of the Shed.

We must also thank Rex Johnson for his ongoing commitment to ensuring the cleanliness of the Shed and its facilities. Rex has worked tirelessly in making sure that the conditions of all aspects of the Shed's hygiene are maintained on a daily basis. This thankless task mostly goes unnoticed by members but is appreciated by us all, Thank-you Rex.

I would also wish to record my most genuine and sincere thanks to Peter Norris for his consistent efforts in the ongoing development of the Shed. Peter has been unswerving in his total commitment to ensuring the best outcomes for members. He has overseen and personally made major contributions to Shed extensions, building shelves and the secure lock-up, overseen the WFD programme and assisted in boosting Shed income through his ability to sell surplus Shed items on Gumtree! Thank you Peter for all you have done for us again this year.

As I indicated at this time last year, I have chosen not to seek re-election as President for 2018. It has been a privilege and honour to have been President of the Channel Men's Shed Inc for the past six years but now is the time to pass the baton on. Thank you all for your support and assistance during this time. I am personally delighted that our Vice-President, Peter Norris has nominated for the position of President and I know that he will be given the high level of support and encouragement that you all so generously shared with me.

May I take this opportunity of wishing the incoming committee and all of our members and stakeholders every success for a great 2018 at our wonderful Shed.

Thank you.

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

Margate March 1st 2018.

