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**Editorial,**

September 2018

Quite a lot of news in this edition but, so as to indulge myself, I will start with my favourite picture, let that introduce the news (and assure you that Bruce L., is alive and well.

The Editor



**Recognising Peter Shelley's contribution**

Peter Shelley, inaugural and past president of the Channel Men's Shed was acknowledged at the shed committee meeting in August 2018.

Peter was presented with a Huon Pine trophy by the current shed president, Peter Norris. The inscription with a Channel Men's Shed logo read:

Peter Shelley AO  
 Inaugural Founding President  
 Channel Men's Shed

22 June 2011 to 1 February 2018

Presented in appreciation from shed members and local community

I am sure that all members would concur with these sentiments in acknowledgement of Peter's commitment and untiring work in leading to the establishment of an excellent facility at Margate and that serves The Channel.

Peter Shelley has also announced that 2018 will be his last year on the TSMA committee after seven year serving in that capacity. Thanks again Peter and we hope to see more of at the shed as a result!

The trophy was made by Jim Burke, day supervisor and Peter Ralph, Vice President.



**CMS WALKING GROUP**

The Channel Men's Shed Thursday Walking Group continues to enjoy their outings. Pictured, is only one of the scenic local vistas enjoyed. Rest assured that each walk is tailored to accommodate all levels of fitness and you can proceed at your own pace. Assemble early on Thursday morning and chat to other participants about the proposed route before committing.

Leaves from the Shed about 9:30AM and returning in time for a quiet chat and cup of coffee at the Shed -- the coffee is only 50cents a mug and bring your own biscuit to sustain yourself while you bask in the glow of exercise and companionship



## OPEN INVITATION.

For those whose induction was in the far past, and at the request of one of our members, we take this opportunity to remind all members that:

All Members are both entitled and welcome to attend Committee Meetings (held on the last Tuesday of the month at the Shed) to see your representatives at work

The minutes of the meeting, for a number of reasons, are not made public (membership applications impose a need for confidentiality for example), members are entitled, by arrangement, to read these on site.

The nearest defibrillator, is not at the BP Service Station but is located in the office and can be seen in the window. On that note, members are encouraged to note the location of the fire extinguishers, fire hose, fire blanket throughout the Shed. Additionally, the two first aid kits, recently renewed by St John's Ambulance, are located in the kitchen and close to the workshop sinks. (All of this is covered off in our induction sessions and Gary Durrant will happily accommodate members who want a reminder in one of his usual sessions)

## Willys Overlander Restoration.

As most of our members will have noticed that restoration work, for various reasons, has slowed.

We have been fortunate to have some encouraging input from one of our valued sponsors -- Justin Polley-- who tells us that the Shed is acquiring a valuable asset and the work is proceeding very well.

The team are now approaching the position where wiring, and getting the engine to a stage for testing are priorities.

From the line of expenses listed we suspect that tyres will be most costly, followed by the seats et cetera.

As to the skills schedule, fitting out the interior, including coachwork will offer our members plenty of challenges. If you have skills and are willing to get involved in this valuable project, please contact either Stuart Braunholz and/or Reuben Sternberg.

## Table saw upgrade

Have you ever noticed that the smallest change leads to major alterations?

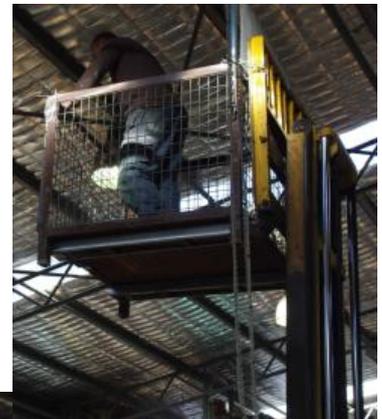
Well, the replacement of our table saw, is not a small change of course. The present saw was one of the first purchases by the then newly formed Channel Men's Shed Inc., and has done sterling service since installation. Indeed, with a small repair – replacement of the blade elevation mechanism – it will be an excellent upgrade for someone's home shop. Check out notifications once we are ready to sell.

All of this said, your Committee recognised that, as one of the most, if not the most used tool in the Shed, the time had come for upgrade to meet the growing needs of our members.

The new saw is a much larger tool, with added facilities and requires a major change –or series of changes – to the Woodworking floor. And then the domino effect kicked in.

Pictured are the change sub-committee contemplating the work of our electrician as the 3-phase power for the Drum Sander is relocated. There will be more, and more far-reaching changes to come.

Watch this space.



## Rex Johnson is the Master of the Motor.

Working in the north-west corner of the shed, Rex administers his healing powers to a range of small engines – two strokes and four strokes, mowers, chainsaws, brush-cutters and generators.

Shed members bring him their broken, neglected and recalcitrant and Rex brings them back to life.

Some members refer to this area as ‘Rex’s Workshop’ and it has the look and feel of a small engine workshop. The smell is of two-stroke, oil and spray-pack lubricants. The look is of engines in various states or repair, along with a wide range of tools, somewhat scattered around the benches.

Rex is a big man but he likes to work on the small engines, although he admits they can test one at times. He thinks a lot of people don’t like working on them because they’re challenging and they don’t have the patience. They probably don’t have Rex’s skill, either.

Rex and his wife Glenus live at Margate, but their history together is mainly on the North-West Coast.

Rex acquired his skill as an engine-whisperer in a five-year apprenticeship at Motors at Devonport, before joining the Air Force for six years as an aircraft engine fitter, working at Laverton, Pt Cook and Wagga Wagga.

He then had a series of unrelated jobs which demonstrate his adventurous nature – he ran an ice skating rink, was a milk vendor and at one stage bought a delicatessen.

Then he bought into a small engine business at Devonport and had it for twenty-two years before selling up and moving to Margate with Glenus.

He has been with the shed since its inception.

Of the small engine devices, Rex has some respect for chainsaws, because of their very high performance. His favourite is Husqvarna because he believes the Swedish build quality and will not settle for “near enough”.

He nominates the American Tecumseh as the worst small engine. Rex thinks it has it all – bad design and poor performance. Oddly, they outsell old favourites like Briggs and Stratton in the United States.

Rex’s domain in the shed certainly has his stamp on it and he is widely respected. He is affable and generous and shed members feel comfortable asking the expert for advice or assistance.

Words – Terry Long





The CMS outing to the Hellfire Bluff Distillery proved to be one of the most popular events staged by the Shed. A luxury coach gather the team from the Shed and, with a brief stop for morning tea took the crew to the distillery which overlooks Hellfire Bluff, a rocky outcrop above Marion Bay in Tasmania — one of the world's last remaining wild and remote regions. The Bluff gets its name from the unusual colour of its sandstone cliffs.

On the day, we had wonderful weather but were told that Marion Bay alternates between glass-like stillness and angry white-caps depending on the moods of the fickle island weather. It is named, like quite a few Tasmanian coastal areas in the South for an early explorer, Marion du Fresne, a Breton navigator, who landed in March 1772 and declared the land “good and abundant” due to the large number of crayfish, lobsters and oysters.

The farm, on which the distillery is situate provides potatoes for Hellfire Bluff vodka – one of the last vodka's worldwide still using an old method (Polish distillers were consulted to establish a refine the current process. And quality ingredients are sourced locally wherever we can for our other spirits – the most popular at the sales table for our guys were the variety of gins.

While the farm is the proprietors' bread and butter, the distillery is a labour of love and gets the careful dedication you need to make really good stuff.

From the distillery our tour moved on to the Dunalley pub for an excellent counter meal and on home taking the scenic route.

We are hoping that, following the success of this expedition, members will be able to enjoy more outings to view the industries of Southern Tasmania. Watch your emails for future offerings.

## SOCIAL OUTREACH

The latest order of bird boxes for the Orange Bellied parrot is now complete and our thanks to all at the shed who assisted with the project. It is these projects which both showcase the value of the Shed to the community and give us that warm feeling that we are contributing.

For the first time cutting of the plywood was done using a CNC machine. This was at the initiative of David James, shed member, he organized for his son, Gareth, who works for Trimview Windows (0421 498 390) in Huntingfield, to prepare a cutting schedule for CNC cutting. Then Corey Schrapel from Precision Renovations and Maintenance, also in Huntingfield, did the plywood cutting for the shed. The second CNC cutting schedule was handled for us by Dan Beets of "Around the Twist" down in Electrona.

The finished products are show below together with some of the team who completed the assembly. For those still addicted to dead tree news sources, we have a Press Release presently waiting on the approval of the breeding programs Media Team and will hopefully be able to place this with the Chronicle



PICTURED some of the workers involved and the construction of the many nesting boxes



You don't see many of these nowadays

No, not the spindles, they are all over the place and made by who knows what computer driven mechanism.

The Shed has, and it works well as you can see, a Copy Lathe which pretty much solves the problem of duplicating spindle turnings. It is, in my experience, a little tricky to get precise measure but entirely possible with a little patience.

A project for one of you guys perhaps? One that has been put on the back-burner when you discovered how much practice it took to make a matching turning – help is at hand. And you do not need a degree in CNC programming.

This toy long pre-dates the computer and has everything you could want. Pending re-deployment of the wood shop and installation of centralised dust extraction, the lathe is in storage up in the old mezzanine.

For the past few Mondays, Bruce Weller has been playing with the machine. Drop in and find out how it went for him.



## MOTOR CYCLE CHALLENGE

One of our former members (Brian has since resigned on account of deteriorating health) writes to the Committee: I have been a member of CMS since Dec 2017, but ill health now dictates that I curtail some of my activities.

I have been restoring a 1982 Honda CM 250 Motor Cycle for my son (who owns the bike), but cannot continue any further with the project.

The project is now at the stage of reassembly. Work done includes:

- Frame and ancillary parts completely stripped and powder coated.
- All chrome work redone
- Engine has been checked over by Hobart Motorcycles, and a top overhaul carried out by Tas Engine

Reconditioners

- Engine and gearbox have been soda blasted and present close to new condition
- Wheels (Comstar Type) have been sandblasted and powder coated
- New wheel bearings to front and rear, and to steering head
- New sprockets and chain
- New Pirelli tyres fitted and balanced.
- New mufflers being fabricated( by Paul Verdouw at Kaoota).
- New downpipes and balance box

The bike was complete when I got it from a shed where it had been sitting for the last 15 years or so. It had done only 38,000kms.

I have meticulously bagged and labelled all parts.

Some parts are on still on order through Horizon Honda and contacts have been established with Wemoto (Sydney) and David Silver (USA) for any other bits which may be required.

If there are any Members interested in taking over this project I can be contacted on 0418 122 800 or email [briantur@bigpond.net.au](mailto:briantur@bigpond.net.au)