

Channel Men's Shed Inc.
Presidents Report for 2020

2020 annus horribilis (quote from Queen Elizabeth referring to 1992).

Within days of our last AGM a special meeting was convened to discuss COVID19 and the effect on Shed activities.

On 23rd March following an Emergency Committee Meeting we announced termination of all Shed activities, effectively placing us in lockdown.

No Crib

No Stitch and Share meetings

No Music Group

No Guide Trefoil Dinners

No soup for KHH as they had ceased their service to the public.

A Sub Committee was formed to establish a Covid policy and to implement an appropriate plan to protect Members.

Effective March our committee meetings were held via video conferencing.

There was some work done by a very few individuals during the lockdown period: Completion of the air lock, electrical work, hot water installations and some general maintenance.

Limited access made available, by arrangement for essential Members jobs.

Committee Members regularly undertook Shed security checks.

April marked the passing of founding member Rick Gumley.

A number of Committee Members followed up and made contact during the lockdown period with potentially vulnerable CMS Members.

Donation of face masks to which were in short supply at the time were made to Kingborough Health Care workers.

Assistance was provided to Kingborough Helping Hands:

Food Voucher Donation of \$1000.

Donation to CMS of \$250 from a Member of the public for our assistance to KHH was re-directed back to KHH.

\$1000 to KHH Sharing Tree appeal.

It was interesting to note the KHH demographic change, due to Jobseeker. A shift to stranded Internationals rather than their usual clients.

Member Peter Alford spent time assisting Blaze Aid with fencing after the bush fires. This was interrupted by Covid and resulted in his isolation. He has recently been back for another session.

Member Terry Long planned to sail to Indonesia and Singapore, he spent a number of months at Broken Bay (Karingai National Park).

Following the opening of the Queensland border Terry and Jill moved to Airlie Beach then Brampton Island. They made it back to Hobart late February.

During May Lyndley Chopping organized donations of appropriate clothing for Blazeaid volunteers assisting farmers in NSW. Transport assistance was provided no charge by SRT Transport and Tumut Transport, to get the donations from Hobart to Adelong.

Late May/early June planning for reopening on 6th July with a restriction on numbers.

A Covid Workplace Safety Plan was developed by our Covid Sub-Committee. Special Thanks to Gary Durrant for the diligent work he did developing and implementing the plan.

Despite some criticism of our approach to Covid from an insignificant minority of Members, our Covid Plan was requested and/or accessed from our Website by a number of similar organisations for their use.

July 6th. We opened for a maximum of 20

COVID compliance and attendance numbers constantly reviewed by the sub-committee.

Our numbers attending the Shed were incrementally increased as Government regulations allowed.

A Midday Barbecue introduced as an interim measure for Members, but, without partners. Music Group reinstated for limited numbers.

September, The Committee agreed we should cancel our annual Christmas raffle, due to Covid restrictions and to avoid placing any financial pressure on the public. The impact to CMS approx. \$3k.

December 2020 our Christmas Barbecue was held, it was scaled down in size to Members and Partners only with more simple fare. Members responded enthusiastically to a simpler lower cost function.

More attention was given to available space and distancing.

February 2021:

Monthly Barbecue reinstated with more space made available.

Wednesday Ladies group reinstated with a numbers limit per room.

Guides Dinner reinstated, but limited to Ladies without their partners.

Crib group given the ok to go ahead.
Saturday opening was also re-instated.

During the year Council advised that they have allocated \$55k for the Car Park extension (but in gravel).

We received agreement from Council that they would give us time to raise \$20k, in addition to our \$10k contribution which was to be used to seal a large portion of the car park. Unfortunately, our TMSA and Stronger Communities Grants were unsuccessful. Council will now proceed as planned, in gravel. The expected start date is after Easter.

During the year Past President Peter Shelley spent a considerable time investigating the possibility of a Men's Shed (Community Shed) in the Hobart City area.

To date this has resulted in an offer of land at the C3 Church off Anglesea Street.

An expression of interest has been made Hobart Rotary to fund the construction of a shed at the site. Additional Federal/State funding will be required for fit-out and equipment.

There have been and will be ongoing discussions on this going forward.

January 18th, Member David James was involved in a serious accident on the Channel Highway. He has spent a considerable time in Intensive care, he will be looking at a long recovery period. Committee Members have been in contact with Gareth his son.

June marks 10 years since the first meeting to start a Men's Shed in Margate when a group led by Peter held a meeting at the Margate Hall to gauge interest and to start planning.

During 2021, depending on Covid outcomes we intend, hopefully to ease restrictions and get back to a more social way of life.

Special thanks to Members:

Bruce Weller as Secretary.

Peter Johnstone as Treasurer

Those Members who give their time on a regular basis as co-ordinators.

Phillip Maher for his work on the web site.

Col Hocking for monitoring our systems.

Lawrie Fisher for his work in the garden.

Greg Manning who has assisted with Saturday opening.

I would also like to thank the previous Committee and the retiring Members Stuart Braunholz and Ken Lapworth for their efforts during a very difficult year. I would also like to welcome new Committee Members Terry Long (Vice President) and Peter Alford to Channel Men's Shed Committee.

Peter Norris
President
Channel Men's Shed Inc.