

Channel Men's Shed Inc. - Presidents Report 2021

We are now about to begin our third year since the beginning of COVID and our first lock-down. COVID has been an enormous distraction and disruption to the Shed over the last two years. It has caused mandatory and partial lock-downs plus voluntary self-restrictions which have severely limited access and use of the Shed, plus placed most of our social activities on hold.

During the year CMS undertook a survey to establish vaccination status of Members. Of those who responded over 90% were fully vaccinated. This figure would have improved substantially since the survey.

During the year our COVID Plan was readjusted on a number of occasions:

- Use of the Tas Check-In app.
- Partial, temporary lock down.
- Warnings regarding Members returning from Mainland areas.
- Checks on vaccination status.
- Introduction of mask wearing.

Here I must acknowledge the work of our COVID subcommittee ably lead by Gary Durrant who has kept us on the straight and narrow (regulatory) track.

The partial opening of borders on 15th December forced our COVID Sub-Committee to again undertake a Risk Assessment as mandated by Workplace Safety and consequently review our CMS COVID Plan. The decision was made, to place restrictions on the internal rooms, while keeping the workshop area open for Members providing vaccination was up to date and masks were worn.

Since the relaxation of borders there have been Members either infected with COVID, or who have had to go into isolation as close contacts. Thanks to the willingness and flexibility of our small team of coordinators, there has been no disruption (apart from mandatory lock-down) to our opening hours.

For the time being, along with closing off our internal rooms, we have postponed Barbecues, the Music and Crib Groups. This will be reviewed on a Monthly basis and reinstated as the transmission risk reduces. There has been general acceptance of CMS COVID Plan. If anything, Members have been self-isolating. Any complaints appear to be, as usual, coming from numerically tiny minority.

Membership has over the past few years remained reasonably static at approximately 175. While we still have two months for Members to become financial, we are at the moment

sitting at approximately 130 financial Members. We do expect resignations to be slightly higher this year due to the requirement for Members to be up to date with vaccinations.

To date we are aware of four resignations due to vaccination objections, and a few whose circumstances and/or location has changed. On a positive note, we continue to receive new applications on a weekly basis.

The year marked the passing of Members Bob Burford and Harvey Skeg and past Member Peter Stopford.

Social outreach

During the year, assistance continued to be provided to Kingborough Helping Hands including:

- \$1000 to KHH Sharing Tree appeal.
- Twentyfive, plus Members participated with annual Christmas Hamper deliveries, our participation increased over last year.
- In addition to preparing soup for Kingborough Helping Hands we have now expanded to become a reliable meal preparation provider, led by John Rainbird and his team. Woolworths continue to assist with vegetables and some meat products. We are generally preparing batches of up to 100 meals at each cook-up.
- Back Boards for Margate Primary basket-ball courts built and about to be delivered.
- Orange belly parrot nesting boxes for DPIPWE. These are now being manufactured using a plastic polly product with welded seams thanks to advice from a member. Outcome of this being that the nesting boxes can be sterilised and re-used rather than burned to prevent parasite infestation.

Fundraising

During the last year we have been fortunate with our requests for grants. We have successfully raised almost \$40k.

- Election commitment from the incoming Liberal Government of \$21k from the Local Communities Facilities Fund to top up CMS contribution to Council for the extension and sealing of a portion of the car park.
- State Government TMSA grant of \$6k for the ducting for the dust extraction system.
- TMSA IT grant for a replacement iPad \$500. The iPad is used mainly for the Check-in Tas and Square payment apps.
- Federal Government Stronger Communities grant \$11200 for the outdoor entertainment area has been confirmed in the last few days.

We do acknowledge the advice and payment for the TMSA and Stronger Communities grants are in the 22 Financial Year.

The Committee agreed we should again cancel our annual Christmas raffle, due the impact of COVID restrictions on our extended community. The impact to CMS equates to approximately \$3,000 reduction in income.

Equipment.

Not much to report save that as much of our equipment is ageing and maintenance and repairs requires regular attention. Here we are primarily reliant on Reuben Sternberg. Much of this work is done out of hours to avoid disruption of member's projects. We recently commissioned an older, heavy-duty jointer, which has been restored, modified by Reuben and fitted with a spiral cutter. The unit it replaced has now been sold. At our last AGM Members pressed for an upgrade to our wood lathes, we subsequently purchased a Vicmarc state of the art, unit, which has been positively received by Members. We have on order a bobbin sander which we expect to take delivery shortly.

Capital Works

Including grants CMS contributed \$30k toward the extension and sealing of the car park. Council assisted further by restricting access to heavy vehicles, which will remove an unnecessary load on the existing gravel surface.

The dust extraction enclosure is due for construction. Funding received for the ducting. Waiting on professional services.

The outdoor entertainment area also due for construction Stronger Communities funding committed. Also waiting on professional services.

We had planned to have a Christmas function at the Kingborough Bowls Club. Unfortunately, the costs were too high for the number prepared to attend. As an alternative we reverted back to the Shed and held a scaled down Christmas Barbecue on the 3rd December. While it was simpler than our usual fare, lower cost and BYO drinks, the function was supported by approximately 60 Members and partners who responded enthusiastically to a simpler lower cost function. More attention was given to available space and social distancing.

CMS hosted a TMSA Southern Sheds gathering. This is an opportunity for representative of brother-Sheds to exchange success stories, inspect our Shed and equipment and to meet, face-to-face with TMSA. The event was well attended, successful and superbly catered for by Shed Members. We hosted 30 plus visitors. Guest speaker Larissa Barrett from the Menzies Island Project gave a talk on dementia.

The visit by TASUni Medical students again cancelled due to COVID.

During November we organised a bus trip for 20 members to Cattle Hill Wind Farm. We hired a self-drive bus thanks to Ian Jay as the driver. The visit was well worthwhile and very informative regarding the impact of alternative energy and its place in the State's grid.

Closure of the Bendigo Bank at Kingston. By default, customer accounts were to be transferred to their Liverpool Street Branch. CMS decided to opt out and instead move our accounts to the Huonville Branch of the Bendigo Community Bank for the mutual benefit of banking with a locally supported entity. This necessitated some changes to our accounts and banking practices, the work of Ivan Morrison and Peter Allford in dealing with cash transaction side of things is acknowledged.

Council have almost completed the extension and sealing of the Car Park. The result can only be described as magnificent, compared to what we have in the past had to endure. The work has been primarily funded by Council with an all-up cost as I understand in excess of \$145k. CMS guaranteed \$30, which was made up of \$20k from the State Government as a result of an election promise with the balance from CMS funds. Not only is this an investment in our community, but a direct support to our aging member demographic.

Past President Peter Shelley has provided the initiative for a Hobart Community Shed to be located adjoining the site of the C3 Church, Anglesea Street South Hobart. Planning application with Hobart City Council has been approved. A steering Committee has been formed. Building designers, builders and professional services are now heavily involved. Fund raising for the Hobart City Community Shed has advanced:

- Land committed (peppercorn rental) by the C3 Church

- Hobart Rotary \$435k

- State Government \$260k

- Negotiations with Federal Politicians (pre-election) for a commitment of \$360k

Special thanks to Members in addition to those specifically mentioned above:

- Bruce Weller as Secretary.

- Peter Johnstone as Treasurer

- Current Committee Members

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

- Phillip Maher for his work on the web site.

- Col Hocking for monitoring our systems.

- Lawrie Fisher and his band of Helpers for their work in the vegetable garden.

I would also like to thank the previous Committee and the retiring Members Terry Long and Peter Shelley for their efforts during another difficult year.

After 11 years as a Committee Member, President, Vice-President and Immediate Past President and as social secretary, Peter Shelley has chosen to not re-stand for Committee, instead dedicating his efforts to the Hobart Community Shed of which he has been the driving force and is now a Director and Chair of the new body

It is my pleasure to welcome the returning members and officers and the new Committee Members Phillip Maher and Ken Hughes to Channel Men's Shed Committee. As always, I remind all members that they are welcome to attend Committee meetings to see how the business of the Shed is managed.

Peter Norris
President
Channel Men's Shed Inc.