



News Channel



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Governor's Shed Visit

On 20th April, we were privileged to receive a visit from Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania and her Husband, Mr Richard Warner.

Peter Shelley welcomed the Governor and Mr Warner and said how pleased he was that the invitation extended to them culminated with their visit.

The Governor congratulated the Shed for its community involvement and gave a precis of her roles relating to her legal requirements, her functions and her community participation. This was followed by a presentation of 2 green bellied parrot nesting boxes that were manufactured by Bruce Weller and a basket of goodies from the Stitch & Share Group.

A morning tea was prepared by the Stitch & Share ladies for which the Shed is very grateful. This followed an inspection of the Shed by the Governor and Mr Warner accompanied by Peter Shelley. Just prior to their departure, a viewing of the Kingston



The Governor addressing the Shed, with Mr Richard Warner at left and Peter Shelley in the foreground.

Future Events & Activities

Music Appreciation Group 19 May — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you need more information, contact Bruce Laffer.	Kingston LINC Computer Training 20 May - starting at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Register your interest in "Free magazines online using Zinio"	Kingston LINC Traffic Management Training 25 May—A group is using the training room to perform the theory part of their training. <u>This is not open to Shed Members</u>
Monthly Shed BBQ 26 May — the last Thursday in the month is normal day for the Shed BBQ, starting around 3:30 p.m.	Committee Meeting 31 May - starting at 2:00 p.m., attendance is open to members	Ta Ann Visit The Ta Ann visit will be arranged after the return of their representative.

If you are going
through hell,
keep going.

Winston Churchill

Sea Scouts boat, the Arunta, was made with Graeme Nichols explaining the extent of work required to renovate it and the extended period of its use.

Extract from post-visit email received from Government House: One of your beautiful nesting boxes has gone up in Her Excellency and Mr Warner's Native garden and the head gardener Steve Percival is working out where to put the next one. I thought it would be a great idea for you all to book into one of the gardening tours so you could come and see your beautiful boxes- get on line and book in www.govhouse.tas.gov.au/



Helen Wilson presenting the Governor with crafts made by the "Stitch & Share Group".



Morning tea prepared by the Stitch & Share ladies.

Training Programme

Gary Durrant has been communicating with mentors and trainers to put in place a programme for the training of members to improve your skills and knowledge.

All being well, it will be distributed to members in the coming weeks and you will be able to submit your nomination as a participant. In some cases, numbers will be limited due to the available space and the time required to perform the training. As usual – "first come best dressed" – so get your name in early after the programme has been made available to members.

Member's Ailments

There have been a few members with a few ailments, cuts, scratches and abdominal issues over the past few weeks.

Peter Shelley tested the strength of some stairs the stairs won the battle with Peter suffering a cut thumb requiring 6 stitches, sore knees and bruised all over. Rumour has it that Mary said she was glad to be behind Peter and not ahead of him.

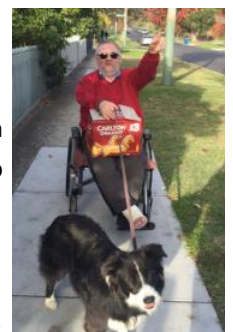
We also had Dave Weltman in hospital with a double duodenal ulcer and is slowly recovering.

News from the big island arrived to say that Brian Welch has had an extended stay there due to a fall. Your guess is as good as mine as to what might have caused the fall. Nonetheless, he seems to be in good spirits, so have a read of his email below, accompanied with a photo.

"Hi all,

Brian is officially in Victoria but he went AWOL and snuck home on Tuesday. Here till the 28th. [presumably 28th of April] He tells me he broke both sides of the ankle and dislocated the talus. First stop 10 weeks, then see what happens. He thinks the hospitals in Melbourne are fantastic.

Visited my employer and work site for an hour yesterday. They have been fantastic and wonderfully supportive - regular phone calls etc. They asked if there was anything they could do and I said yes, invite me to the BBQ on Monday. They saw the attached photo and think I should turn up with a slab, but I plan on turning up with a couple of packs of AF beer. I bought a new Iphone 6S which now reads me books, emails and texts. Oh what a clever little gadget! Kind regards, Brian and Jane"



News Flash!

GRANT APPROVAL ANNOUNCED

You may recall in previous newsletters where we kept you updated on the status of our grant application under the Stronger Communities Programme. It was for the construction of a mezzanine level to be located above the small engine and metalwork areas.

Well on 27th April, 3 years to the day after the official opening of the Shed, we received a visit from [Julie Collins - Federal Labor Member for Franklin](#), who announced that our application was successful. Formal confirmation is expected in the next week or so and then we'll need to complete an agreement before the funds (just shy of \$15,000) are received into our account.

This is great news for the Shed as it will create additional work space for light machinery such as metal forming equipment, sewing machines and work benches.



The submission and approval process proved to be quite lengthy and detailed, based on the need to respond to many queries from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. But we got there!



Above: Julie Collins discussing the location of the proposed mezzanine level (with a bit of "editorial freedom" with the insertion of Peter's comment) and at right: Members of the Shed in a photo opportunity to commemorate Julie's wonderful announcement.

Brushcutter Raffle

After another successful BBQ, it was suggested that we draw the Brushcutter raffle at next month's Shed BBQ. However not before running the mini raffle among members only for one more month prior to drawing it at the May Shed BBQ. Therefore the raffle book and a money box with the Brushcutter will be at the signing-in desk outside the shed office for members to buy a ticket **This is your chance for \$5 to pick up a new Brushcutter** (the grass will grow again some time soon !!).

Royal Botanical Gardens Tour



Just in case you missed the email, Peter Alexis is arranging a tour of the Royal Botanical Gardens in groups of up to 10. The cost of the 1½ hour tour is \$6, so if you are interested, contact Peter either by telephone on 6227 8339 or 0417 487 488, or by email at emailments@gmail.com

Shed Visitor Requirements

This is not the first time this topic has appeared in the “News Channel” and was again discussed at our recent Committee Meeting.

The prime use of the Shed facilities is for financial Members, who have undergone an induction and competence assessment process. However, occasional visitors are accepted on the following conditions.

- They are not authorised or entitled to use Shed equipment or materials unless accompanied by and closely supervised by a suitably competent member.
- They are not covered by our Personal Accident Policy and they indemnify the Shed from all responsibilities and liabilities.
- They are required to sign-in and sign-out.
- They do not visit the Shed more than twice in any 30 day period. After this and if over the age of 18 years, they need to apply for membership.
- They are required make an appropriate donation for the use of equipment and / or materials (as required of Shed Members).
- They clean up after themselves in the same manner required of Shed Members.

Should any member intend to bring along a visitor, you need to make them aware and gain their acceptance of the above requirements.

Garden Project

Work has commenced on the garden project in earnest with the installation of 4 beds and a plan for at least one more, probably two. There will also be an open area for other plantings such as potatoes or pumpkins.

Peter Norris has been the prime mover in getting the project to this stage, which is partially funded by a grant from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, through the Tasmanian Men’s Shed Association .



Above: Willing workers preparing the ground just prior to installation of the treated sleepers

Water lines have been installed and connected to the mains, with a shed to be erected and installed soon.

What is needed now is a willing group of members (who are not Committee Members) to manage the day to day running, care and maintenance of it. The garden will have the support of Ian Jay and Stuart Braunholz, as your Committee Members responsible for the portfolio of Building & Grounds.



Peter Norris at the wheel of Ian Jay’s tractor, loading vegetable mix into one of the beds

The Lighter Side of Life

Ocean View Restaurant

A group of chaps, all at age 40, discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the waitresses there were gorgeous, with tight skirts, perky breasts and nice bums.



Ten years later, at age 50, the friends once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the food and service was good and the wine selection was excellent.

Ten years later, at age 60, the friends again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they could dine in peace and quiet and the restaurant had a beautiful view of the ocean.

Ten years later, at age 70, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had an elevator.

Ten years later, at age 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they had never been there before.

Dying to Confess!

Jake was dying. His wife sat at the bedside. He looked up and said weakly: 'I have something I must confess.'

'There's no need to', his wife replied.

'No,' he insisted, 'I want to die in peace.'

'I slept with your sister, your best friend, her best friend, and your mother!'

'I know,' she replied.

'Now just rest and let the poison go to work.'



Member's Profile

Name: Bruce Laffer

Birthplace: Perth, Western Australia.

Family: Partner Marilyn since 1964 and three fifty-ish children, two of whom live in Tasmania and one in Ireland. Parents and grandparents all born in Australia, but their parents came from England or Ireland.

Places where you have lived: Lived in Perth (Inglewood, Claremont, Cottesloe) until 1973 then had five months in England where we discovered real seasons and found that grass could be green all summer, so upon returning to Perth (in January 1974 on a day which exceeded 40 degrees) we decided to make a sea change to Tasmania. By the end of 1974 we were here. In Tasmania we've lived at Grove, Huonville, Mount Nelson and Roches Beach before retiring to Margate.

Educational background: Schooling to grade 10 in Perth, grades 11 and 12 in Kalgoorlie. Then science degree at University of Western Australia 1962. Much later, arts degree (political science) and masters (public administration) at University of Tasmania.

Career progression: After leaving school entered a cadetship with WA Government Railways, which put me through university and guaranteed me employment as a chemist during all vacations. Next job was as a technologist at the University Department of Soil Science, where I met Marilyn. After six happy years there I was enticed into joining a company which offered analytical services to the booming mining industry. This was financially rewarding but stressful, and after four years (which included the sojourn in England) we decided to leave it all behind. I applied (from Perth) for the position of manager at the horticultural research station at Grove and got it, finding out much later that I was the only applicant! Jobs were much easier to get in the 1970s! After three years there I was transferred to an information position in Hobart and commuted every day from Huonville; after seven years I for some reason sought another information-type job at CSIRO in Hobart. This wasn't the smartest career move! In 1989 my position became redundant and I used my superannuation payout to establish a 4,000 square metre greenhouse hydroponic enterprise at Roches Beach, growing tomatoes, cucumber and lettuce for local and interstate markets. By 2003 retirement beckoned, I sold out and we built our present house at Margate. It wasn't in the original plan, but I'm very pleased that I had the opportunity at Roches Beach to learn some fundamentals of construction, plumbing and electrics.

Has anyone influenced you in your life / career and if so, why?

There's a long list, but no one or few that I could single out.

What the Shed means to you?

The Shed has been wonderful; I wish that it had been established when I was doing finishing touches to the house at Margate. I made pelmets for all windows and constructed a three-metre-square external studio using essentially a hand saw. If only I'd had access to all the fabulous equipment at the Shed! Aside from that, I've appreciated the opportunity at the Shed to be involved in its activities and to make some good friends. I'm looking forward to developments in the garden and enjoy the music appreciation group on the third Thursday of each month. This last is an advert: music appreciation third Thursdays, 9.30 'til 12.30. Be there!

What are your favourite sports and hobbies?

I was a bit sporty at school but never was interested in spectator sport: in recent years I've become very cynical about "sport"; I see it as much more about business and celebrity. My hobby at home is the veggie garden and orchard. Especially since retirement I've done a fair bit of international travel, concentrating mostly on Europe but with earlier adventures in India and Korea. Favourite country for varied experiences is India!

Another Election Year

As with other years when an election is looming, we receive requests politicians to visit the Shed.

We do not discriminate between the political parties, nor with any individual member requesting a visit. We remain apolitical and plan visit requests in the order they are received, so that no favouritism is applied to any party or individual.



Margate's 150th Anniversary

Here's an update on the 150th Anniversary of Margate.

A sub-committee was formed comprising of the fire brigade, the vintage machinery group, the Margate soccer group and the Shed for a joint event to be held on 25th June 2016.

The Shed's commitment is relatively simple. We shall hold an open day; provide attendants for parking control; provide power and space for the vintage machinery group; and donate some sausages to the football group as our support for their regular fund-raising.

For your information on the history of Margate, the following history was extracted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margate,_Tasmania

"In 1792 Bruni D'Entrecasteaux sailed up the channel now bearing his name, charting the coastline and naming features. He named the large bay at the top of the channel North West Bay. The expedition anchored there to collect fresh water and many aborigines were observed in the area. In January 1802, the French explorer, Nicolas Baudin anchored in the bay to collect fresh water, food and wood. An observatory was set up on a small island at the mouth of the North West Bay River to observe a solar eclipse and a number of aborigines were encountered during the expedition's stay. Baudin's two ships were forced to remain in the bay because of adverse wind conditions and didn't leave until 17 February 1802.

The original Margate township was along Beach Road because coal burning steamers would bring all the supplies by sea. Margate Post Office opened on 1 July 1866 and the primary school opened in 1869. From 1906-1922, the Sandfly Colliery Tramway ran from Margate Wharf to the coal mine at Kaoota. The jetty was about 80 metres (260 ft) long, and could service ships drawing 7 metres (23 ft)."