



## Editorial, April 2017

March has been a busy month and productive with changes in our WFD participants, an expedition of some sixteen members to Ta Ann, a seminar with Council on the Ageing, and an exciting proposal for a new activity in the Shed. We have had occasional visitors, some with a purpose and some just interested in what a Men's Shed is.

A couple of projects are approaching completion and, as usual, a couple more have commenced.

Read on to see what, this past month, has caught our editor's attention. I shall acknowledge any articles sent if the author want this recognition.

Among the changes in the newsletter will be the occasional unclassified advertisement, sometimes an appeal from a member, mostly items which the Shed has acquired, cannot use and wants to sell. Often the advert will merely be a link to Gumtree

The Editor

## Gas bottles for sale



The Shed has available a quantity of used 9kg LP gas bottles. They can be supplied as follows:

Tidy bottles which can be exchanged for refills.

or

Decommissioned (valves removed) where Shed Members wish to make a fire pot, gas furnace or whatever your imagination and YouTube can imagine. (Note: These must be 100% filled with water before touching with a grinder or flame.)

Donation for bottles is \$10: If interested, contact Peter Norris 0417109070

## Outing to Ta Ann and the Living Boat Trust

The Ta Ann tour was undertaken on the 7 Mar 2017 with 16 CMS members attending. The group also visited The Living Boat Trust in Franklin with a picnic lunch at Tahune. good day out with the actual tour over the Veneer Mill well worth the visit. We had an excellent overview of the work of the mill, the nature of the timber source (no it is not furniture grade lumber) and the close attention paid to minimising waste and close attention to resource management. The veneers are sliced off with a sharp monster razor (pictured with our tour guide).



Thanks to the members who provided transport (and provided the photo opportunities on the way home) and President Peter Shelley for arranging. Mr Shelley has indicated that Ta Ann welcomed visitors (by arrangement) and suggested that this may be an outing for other groups with which our members may be involved.

## New activity proposed

We have the offer of a new activity, pewter-smithing taught by David Cousins. David is a skilled craftsman (see the examples of his work in the photograph) who is confident that participants in the course will be able, with application, to turn out items of like quality.

The Committee seeks an indication of the level of interest in this new activity, which, if the photographs are anything to go by, will certainly multiply participants investment many time over and, with a little luck, act as a long term sweetener on the home front. Book now and really be prepared for Christmas early. We are looking for an indication of:

- Interest levels and subject to this (at least 6 preferably 8 starters to make a go of the offer)



- Some assistance with workplace construction and establishment (this will be in the new mezzanine and shared with the silver-smithing and lapidary work places).

- An up front contribution for materials and consumables acquisition (likely of the order of a thousand dollar) the actual amount to be worked out in the light of how many starters we can get but likely of the order of \$50 to \$100 reducing with more parties sharing the main cost. Pewter alone is in the vicinity to \$40 a kilo shipped to Tasmania.

*Email to the Secretary if you are an interested and willing starter.*

### Unclassified advertisement

Ray Dac (<cadyar@bigpond.com>) is chasing a bike rack for attachment to the back of his car. If you have one gathering dust, contact Ray and discuss pricing.

## Items for sale:

As members will likely be aware, from time to time the Shed receives by way of donation various items of equipment. These are accepted on the basis that,

- if they fall into our 'must have' listing, we will take them into inventory for the general use of members.
- If we cannot use them we will dispose of them either by way of sale or donation to one of our brother Sheds or lastly,
- if all else fails we will sell them and take the funds into our working account
- we try to avoid 'gifts' which will only incur tip fees but this has been the case... a worst case outcome.

Before listing on Gumtree, it seems fair that these items are offered first to members and, while the Committee is reluctant to increase the numbers of Emails flowing to members accounts, the choice is between newsletter listing (like this one) and an 'all-members' mail out. Let us have your views about this issue, meanwhile we are using the newsletter.

The mail-out does make sure that these bargains are brought to everyone's attention quickly.

Pictured below are Peter and Stuart evaluating the table saw which is now on offer for \$1,500.00 as is. If you are interested drop in to your Shed to inspect.



## Discussions with AMSA

For most of our Shedders the existence of the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) will be something of which they are vaguely aware but have no real idea of its role in the movement and its ability to represent their views and interests in Canberra. Indeed, it may come as some surprise that they have a right to make their Shed's ideals and wishes known at the national level.

AMSA is generously funded by the Federal Government, arguably to represent us and the wider, grassroots, Shed movement.

The outcomes of a meeting recently held in Melbourne follow in the form of an agreed communique:

## Meeting of Sheds organisations 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Quality Hotel, Melbourne Airport

### Present

Kevin Callinan; OAM, Chairman, Australian Men's Shed Association

Paul Sladdin; Board Member Australian Men's Shed Association

Lindsay Oates; President, Victorian Men's Shed Association

Ric Blackburn; Executive Officer, Victorian Men's Shed Association

Phil Keily; Vice President, Victorian Men's Shed Association.

Gary Bryant; Executive Officer, Western Australian Men's Shed Association.

Michael Woodhouse; Committee Member, Western Australian Men's Shed Association.

Trevor Taylor; President, Western Australian Men's Shed Association.

Peter Shelley; Past President, Tasmanian Men's Shed Association

Bob Thomas; President, Tasmanian Men's Shed Association.

Keith Ellis; Secretary, Tasmanian Men's Shed Association.

Ken Kipping; Committee Member, Queensland Men's Shed Association.

Murray Rogash; President, Queensland Men's Shed Association.

Peter Lustig; Facilitator, collaborative practitioner, mediator, lawyer.

## Overview

The summary below is the outcome of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 between the 4 States in Conversation and the 4 States in Conversation and representatives of the AMSA.

Both meetings were facilitated by Mr Peter Lustig, an independent Facilitator.

The meetings were positive, enabling a range of issues to be discussed and misunderstandings to be resolved. Not everything was resolved, but all participants agreed that we had moved forward.

The outcomes summarised below are those upon which a consensus had been reached. "

## AMSA Structure

The meeting reached consensus that State Associations could be incorporated, independent legal entities with some variations in their rules and structure, within the broad objectives of the Men's Shed Movement.

## Board Structure

The meeting reached consensus on an ideal structure for the AMSA Board as being:

- One person nominated by each of the State Associations.
- Up to 3 skills-based Directors to be appointed by the Board.
- A Chairman elected by the Board, with no vote except for a deciding vote in the case of a tied vote.
- The immediate past Chairman, with no vote.
- One further Director nominated by the State which originally nominated the person elected to be Chairman.

There was further consensus that the Territories are entitled to representation and that more work would be done to decide the best way in which to deliver this representation.

There was further consensus that more work be done to decide a structure enabling State Association to replace a representative whenever they choose, regardless of nominal term.

There was further consensus that more work be done to decide the term of the Past Chairman.

## Membership

The meeting reached consensus to conduct a survey of Sheds nationally, using a research professional, to determine the attitude of the movement to various membership structure options. The results will guide ongoing work and decisions on the membership structure.

All Sheds nominated by AMSA or their State Association will be included, regardless of their current membership status.

The key issue is whether Sheds should have the option of being direct members of AMSA, alternative to or in addition to membership via their State Association.

## Business name

Kevin undertook to ask the AMSA Board to consider transferring ownership of the Men's Sheds WA business names to WAMSA.

## Involvement of TMSA and WAMSA

Kevin undertook that the AMSA Board would consider including TMSA and WAMSA in the meeting planned by AMSA involving the States and Territories.

Kevin undertook that the AMSA Board would consider re-admittance of WAMSA and TMSA.

## Moving forward

The meeting reached consensus to continue the process begun, including by further meetings, to be held in Melbourne in late May or early June.

This communiqué is to be distributed to participants and then if agreed will be distributed by AMSA and State Associations to their members.



## Visit by Aurora Energy

Aurora Energy (whatever happened to The Hydro? A “green” name if ever there was one) is a generous supporter of the Men’s Shed Movement in Tasmania.

For just one example, check out the TMSA Newsletter which is funded by them —the latest edition is on the lunch room table; check it out soon as the copies are inclined to walk!

Your Shed agreed to host a representative of the company, together with their photographer, and to ‘show and tell’ what Channel Men’s Shed has been doing.

The old adage that any publicity is good publicity drove the decision to host this event and we certainly have benefited from this approach in the past. Thanks go to the members who were willing to attend, talk to our guests and to appear in Aurora’s proposed publications.

A selection of (our) photographs of the event follow.



## Projects in train

Finally a couple of important projects which are approaching finalisation. The LINC library seats and 'demuddification' of the front and what might be the last reminder of the success of our garden (thanks Lawrie)

