



News Channel



January 2016

Welcome to the New Year

New Year's greeting to all members, their families and their loved ones. With the "silly season" behind us, we can look forward to a prosperous and healthy 2016.

The year ahead brings about some new topics in the newsletter, such as future events & activities (see below) and a member profile. The intent of these is to bring some of the planned events and activities to your notice and to provide you with an insight into your fellow Shed members.

The 1st of January also signifies the commencement of our new financial year, so it's time to pay your subscription (if you haven't done so already). Individual invoices have been sent out, so if you can't find yours, please advise the secretary who can forward it to you again.

We are about to enter into a new agreement with Max Employment for the training of their clients and have a few interesting projects in store for them, but still need members to step up and assist in training / supervision. This work is important to the financial well-being of the Shed.

Following the achievements of previous years, we look forward to a successful 2016 and seek the assistance of members to attain the goal.

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Ask yourself.

What can I do to benefit the Shed and its members?

Then, act on it.

Future Events & Activities

Music Appreciation Group

21 January starting at 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Read Bruce Laffer's article in this edition for more information.

Monthly Shed BBQ

This starts around 3:30 p.m. and will be held on 21 January. As usual, a donation towards the cost of food and beverage is the norm.

Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings start at 2:00 p.m. with the next 2 to be held on 27 January & 23 February. Attendance is open to members.

Computer Training

19 February includes security on the internet for your iPad & "cloud" training

Nominations

Nominations for officer and committee position open on 24 January and close on 14 February (10 days before the AGM).

Annual General Meeting

The members' meeting is to be held on 24 February starting at 7:00 p.m.

Win, Win for Boronia Trefoil Guild & CMS

(by Vicky Norris, President of the Boronia Trefoil Guild)

The Boronia Trefoil Guild hold their dinner meetings at the Channel Men's Shed every two months.

The Trefoil Guild is an adult section of Girl Guides, who through fun and fellowship provide financial support and mentoring to Guide groups in the Kingborough community and also have provided financial support for overseas and local groups, such as an orphanage in Bolivia, the Nepal earthquake, the floods in Queensland, Melanoma Tasmania, the Julie Miller Fund to support Girl Guides in outdoor events, Kingborough Helping Hands and the Uplift Project, by providing personal items



for young women in Third World countries to name just a few. We also volunteer at the Scout Guide Regatta held at Snug on the long weekend of March every year by assisting with the catering and rescue boat activities.

Previously our Trefoil Guild held dinner meetings

at various locations. However in early 2014, shortly after the Channel Men's Shed began operation, the Shed offered to provide meeting facilities and the use of their kitchen for our dinner meetings. A few Shed members now do the catering for our dinner meetings with up to 30 people attending on any night.

The Guild members enjoy the friendly and relaxed atmosphere that the Shed facility offers and particularly enjoy the fresh home cooked roasts and vegies cooked by the Shed members on the night.

The Channel Men's Shed receives a substantial donation from the Guild on the night and in this regard, both groups benefit financially, which provides assistance to our respective community groups. We all agree that this is a great way to conduct business and to fundraise at the same time.



Foot Note:

The Committee of the Channel Men's Shed is pleased to be able to facilitate the dinner meetings of the Guild and appreciates the financial contributions the Guild makes towards the Shed's operations.

Appreciation also goes to the Shed members who prepare the meals for the ladies, because without them, this would not be a win-win situation for both parties.

2015 Christmas BBQ

Our thanks are extended to all those involved in the organisation of the 2015 Christmas BBQ and to all the helpers on the day, particularly those who prepared the food, cooked and cleaned up afterwards.

The day was highlighted by the presentation of an achievement award to Max Brumby-Smith, who was mentored during the year by Heiko de Groot, who was in turn supported by his wife Bess. The award is recognition of Max's application and capability to tackle projects and complete them with distinction. He has one proud mother in Bec.

The raffle draw was held courtesy of our Patron, Don Hazell. All winners have been notified and sponsors thanked with certificates of appreciation.

Various invited guests seemed to enjoy the day, albeit many could not stay long due to other commitments at the time of the year.

The food was superb thanks to "Farmhouse Meats" in Margate, "Get Shucked" on Bruny Island and special thanks to "Huon Aquaculture" for the donation of the delicious salmon. Also of note was the effort with the

salads (see photo at left) thanks to some of the wives of Shed members.



Max standing next to his mother while Peter Shelley reads the award, with Heiko (partially concealed) on Peter's left.



Huon Aquaculture donated the salmon for the BBQ, which may be the topic of the "fish tale" being told by Mary Shelley (in pink top). Even if it's not a fish story, she's got everyone's attention.

Car Parking

As you will have noticed, the front of the Shed is a construction site, providing much better parking for members and the general public alike. The work obviously has caused some disruptions with access to the Shed, but the project manager is liaising with us to minimise the impact. The effect is that equipment stored on site has delayed completion of the Community Garden.

We therefore request that you refrain from parking on the grassed area and use the new parking area until such time as the work on the garden and the car park is complete.



There just might be a problem getting out of the members only car park!??

Music Appreciation Group (by Bruce Laffer)

The installation of quality loudspeakers has greatly improved the listening experience at gatherings of the Music Appreciation Group on the third Thursday of each month. There is the opportunity for playing CDs, vinyl records and cassette tapes. Yes, vinyl records: remember them? Also, there is provision for connecting your laptop computer to the sound system, so we can access "You Tube" specialist music sites (or your own collection) and other in high fidelity.

The repertoire is in the hands of the participants. We have had classical and serious non-Western music, and several other genres, but tend to draw the line at pop music: this is available anywhere and shouldn't take up any more air-time. So, bring along your own favourite music to hear in a comfortable environment and in good company, and be prepared to hear something you maybe hadn't heard before. It can be quite exciting!

Put this into your 2016 diary: Music at the Shed on the third Thursday of each month, 9.30 'til 12.30. Next meeting 21 January.

The Lighter Side of Life

After being married for thirty years, a wife asked her husband to describe her.

He looked at her for a while, then said, "You're an alphabet wife A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K."

She asks ... "What the hell does that mean?"

He said, "Adorable, Beautiful, Cute, Delightful, Elegant, Foxy, Gorgeous, and Hot".

She smiled happily and said ...

"Oh, that's so lovely, but what about I, J, K?"

He said, "I'm Just Kidding!"

The swelling in his eye is going down and the doctor is fairly optimistic about saving his testicles.



Acquisitions & Grant Applications (by Bruce Weller)

Copy Lathe

We have a newly acquired copy lathe dating, we believe, from the 1950s - they simply do not make things like they used to. OK it is not yet installed and we will be looking for volunteers to help with housing this valuable acquisition but we have all of the attachments to allow us to produce repetition spindles, fluted table legs and candy twist balustrades and lots more.



Digital Read-Out (DRO)

Thanks to Reuben's efforts the DRO installation on the metal lathe is pretty much complete. Metal turners will want a demonstration of how this will enhance accuracy and precision.



The next step is the DRO installation on the milling machine, but with three axis this time. This improvement has been a much-anticipated purchase by the Shed and was funded by a Round 2 grant from the Department of Premier and Cabinet / Tasmanian Men's Sheds Association (DPAC / TMSA).

Grant Applications

Three grant applications were submitted before December 2015.

Further success has been announced with Round 3 of the DPAC / TMSA grant for a geared pedestal drill. In very prompt fashion, the funds have already been received, so you can expect to see a new drill in the Shed in the near future.

Our application was unsuccessful for a new oven and hotplate from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR). We had high hopes this would be approved, to facilitate the work by our chefs in preparing food for the Louis Van.

The submission for funding under the Federal Government's "Stronger Communities Program" was submitted, however we are yet to know the outcome. The application is for a new mezzanine floor above the small engines section and machine shop. In the event we are successful, it will cause some disruption to the use of the Shed during construction, but just remember, "you can't have an omelet without broken egg shells". This will become a project for the Max Employment clients, which will include them obtaining their construction "white card".

We're Waiting to Hear From You

We are always keen to receive proposed articles for the News Channel, so send an email with it and photos (if available) to the Secretary .

Member's Profile

Name: Ross Thomas
Place of birth: Armadale, Victoria (an inner suburb of Melbourne)
Family: Judy Norman (partner), Erin & Andrew (children who both live in Sale, Vic)
Places you have lived: Victoria – Springvale & Keysborough; Japan – Tokyo; New South Wales – North Sydney; Victoria – Thornbury & Wattle Park; Tasmania - Margate

Educational background:

High School to matriculation (VCE). In 1971 I obtained a job as “computer operator” and received industry training from companies such as IBM & Memorex. There was very little tertiary training for computers back in those days, as the industry was still very new.

A few years later I went to Monash University and did several Computer-related subjects, then later did numerous personnel management subjects. In more recent times I have attended TAFE and am part way through an accounting diploma (hopefully to be completed in 2016).

Career / Employment:

Started with mainframe computers (those ones that used to take up complete floors of buildings, had false floors and their own plumbing & air conditioning) in operations, programming and systems programming. In the mid 70's I moved to Tokyo for a year and learned a whole new computing architecture. When I returned to Australia I travelled to all points running training courses for the new equipment & software.

The “mini-computer” came along in the late 1970's and made computers available to many more businesses – I spent a few years implementing systems for various businesses, and learned a whole lot more about communications and networking. I also continued in a training role.

In the early 1980's the personal computer was introduced (and many of us say, that was when the problems really started!!). I moved into management and looked after southern Australia, which was my introduction to Tasmania. I took on a sales role selling to large accounting, law and insurance companies. In 1988 I moved to Tasmania as a state manager, then in 1990 started the Tas branch of a new PC company. In 1993 I started my own IT consultancy (Willodene) and continue that today.

Who influenced you most in your life / career and why?

I have been lucky to find numerous mentors along the way – people who have been prepared to help steer me into the next career move, and I thank every one of them for that help. As a result I have always tried to assist others in their careers, especially once I joined various management teams.

What does the Shed means to you?

My original interest in the Shed was as a community project – something to become involved with in its planning and implementation phases. I have since found that it is a community resource that is very important to so many, especially males of all ages who need somewhere to go, something to do and, most importantly, someone to talk to. While I am still working full time I don't spend as much time as I'd like at the Shed, but I do enjoy our monthly “IT training” and social get-togethers.

What are your favourite sports and hobbies?

These have changed over the years, but I still have an interest in most types of motor sport having competed for several years. When the opportunity arises, I still enjoy tinkering with things automotive. My other real interest is our local business enterprise centre – I'm an active board member and take great pleasure assisting others to start and grow local businesses.

Editorial Note:

The intent of this section is simply for members to get to know one another a little more and not to intrude into your private lives. Thanks go to Ross for being the “guinea pig” in providing a summary of his life. Other members will be called on to provide a profile and you are assured that we will only print information that you are willing to have printed, as we respect individual rights to privacy.

Membership Subscriptions

The prime requirement in being a member of the Channel Men's Shed, is to make payment of the annual subscription. This is applied pro rata throughout the year, depending on the period in which a new applicant is approved by the Committee.

Whilst there is a recommendation from the Committee, the decision on the amount of the subscription is left to all members during each Annual General Meeting. Only financial members have a voting right at each AGM.

An analysis has been performed for the 2015 financial year and it reveals that approximately 30% of the revenue generated from subscriptions goes towards payment of our operating costs. Without revenue from training Max Employment clients, it means the Shed provides a subsidy to each member, which would be debited from our capital account rather than our operating account – not something that we can or should continue to do.

If you haven't already done so, members are requested to make their payment early to avoid the embarrassment of not being able to use the Shed facilities.

2015 Achievements

Without wanting to encroach on the President's and Treasurer's annual reports, to be tabled at the AGM, following are some Shed achievements during 2015.

- Building the "26Ten" boat and its sale by auction at the 2015 Australian Wooden Boat Festival
- In conjunction with Channel Construction, procurement and installation of a defibrillator at the BP Service Station in Margate and subsequent distribution of fridge magnets advising of its location
- Holding a well received health day, which included checks for hearing, blood pressure, glucose levels and discussions on prostate cancer
- Agreement and implementation of a Strategic Plan to 2018 (see the following pages)
- Ending the financial year with a surplus (rather than deficit)
- Preparation of a draft budget for 2016 (to be adopted at the January Committee Meeting)
- Improvements to the email system for Committee access at home
- Initial installation of dust and fume extraction systems, pending further works
- Completion and delivery of elevated garden beds for Snug Village
- Maintaining a membership base with a very widespread skill set and experiences
- Commencement of regular monthly barbeques
- Formal introduction of members meetings
- Successful grant applications

2015—2018 Strategic Plan Measurable Items

The measurable items contained within the 2015—2018 Strategic Plan are provided below. Each item has been prioritised in order of their due completion date and is being monitored for progress. Item 8.1 has been completed and item 8.2 will be decided at the Committee Meeting on 27th January. Should members like to read the complete plan, please contact the Secretary.

Item	Objective, Strategy & Activity	Possible Barriers	Measurement	Responsibility
1.0	Maintain the Shed's financial viability and sustainability			
1.1	Ensure all ongoing costs are minimised through good Shed management	Unexpected cost increases from suppliers or loss of sponsorship	Low annual operating costs	Committee / Ongoing
1.2	Maximise revenue earning opportunities for undertaking work for the dole" training and mentoring by members	Failure to be recognised as a preferred resource to employment placement contractors	Obtaining ongoing contracts to provide such services	Committee / Ongoing
1.3	Ensure outside funding and grant opportunities are maximised, peer reviewed and correctly lodged	Non- availability of committee person to complete application success	Grant and funding and application success	Committee / Ongoing
1.4	Maximise internal revenue raising through annual garage sales, surplus equipment sales and raffles	Lack of suitable goods to sell, lack of sponsors for raffle prizes	Financial success	Fund raising sub-committee / ongoing
2.0	Ensure that the Vision, Mission and Values of the Shed are attained and surpassed			
2.1	Through the implementation of programmes and activities that stimulate the membership and community into participation involvement	Lack of members and other community associates to create the activities	By the numbers of members and other community associates involved in the Shed.	Committee / Ongoing
3.0	Prioritise, plan and cost major Shed needs for next three years			
3.1	Identify & assess all Shed needs to maintain strategies required for self-sufficiency and viability. Determine funding and financial requirements and resources. Plan the timing and other resources required to achieve the outcomes agreed.	Lack of interest by members in achieving further Shed enhancement. No agreement by Committee to priorities determined.	Measuring the outcomes of the process against the three-year timeline.	Committee / 1 st draft by 30 March 2016
4.0	Maintain and improve the relevance of the Shed to the Members			
4.1	Hold regular informal meetings for the members to ascertain their desires	Not holding the meetings or poor member attendance	Meeting records and action taken from meeting resolutions	Committee / Ongoing
4.2	Set regular training, activity and project based programmes for member involvement	Failure to establish programmes and lack of member participation	Number of members attending programmes activities	Committee / Ongoing
5.0	Planning for succession			
	Open the matter up to the members and prepare a plan for succession	Members not willing to accept roles as either an Officer or a Committee member	Records identifying potential changes to the positions	Committee / Ongoing
6.0	Conduct Policy & Procedure Review			
6.1	Establish sub-committee to review all policies and procedures for relevance to current & future operations	Lack of members willing to undertake the task in an objective manner.	Revised documents defining the basis of the Shed's operations. Level of Committee input to proposed changes	Committee / May 2016
6.2	Submit proposed changes or additions to policies and procedures for Committee consideration, amendment and adoption	Committee Members not reading or understanding the documented policies and procedures	Approval of changes to policies and procedures and publishing them	Committee / July 2016

2015—2018 Strategic Plan Measurable Items (continued)

Item	Objective, Strategy & Activity	Possible Barriers	Measurement	Responsibility
7.0	Conduct Review of the Rules of Association (Constitution)			
7.1	Establish sub-committee to review the Rules of Association for relevance to current & future operations	Objection to a review and / or lack of members willing to undertake the task in an objective manner.	Production of a draft of a revised constitution	Sub-committee / October 2016
7.2	Submit draft of revised constitution for Committee consideration, amendment and adoption	Committee members not reading or understanding the draft revised constitution	Approval of changes to constitution and submission at AGM for members adoption	Committee / February 2017
8.0	Provide clear guidelines on roles and responsibilities of Officer and Committee positions			
8.1	Provide clear guidelines on roles and responsibilities of Officer and Committee positions	Objection to the guidelines being created and / or lack of members willing to undertake the task in an objective manner.	Production of a draft document	Sub-committee / January 2016
8.2	Submit draft guidelines for Committee consideration, amendment and adoption	Committee members not reading or understanding the draft document	Approval guidelines and submission to members before the AGM to be held in February 2016	Committee / January 2016

Psychology 101

If you start with a cage containing five monkeys, and inside the cage hangs a banana on a string from the top, and then you place a set of stairs under the banana, before long a monkey will go to the stairs and climb toward the banana. As soon as he touches the stairs, you spray all the monkeys with cold water.

After a while another monkey makes an attempt with same result -- all the monkeys are sprayed with cold water. Pretty soon when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it. Now, put the cold water away. Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new one.

The new monkey sees the banana and attempts to climb the stairs. To his shock, all of the other monkeys beat the crap out of him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs he will be assaulted. Next, remove another of the original five monkeys, replacing it with a new one.

The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment -- with enthusiasm -- because he is now part of the "team." Then, replace a third original monkey with a new one, followed by the fourth, then the fifth. Every time the newest monkey takes to the stairs, he is attacked.

Now, the monkeys that are beating him up have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs. Neither do they know why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey. Finally, having replaced all of the original monkeys, none of the remaining monkeys will have ever been sprayed with cold water. Nevertheless, not one of the monkeys will try to climb the stairway for the banana. Why, you ask? Because in their minds, that is the way it has always been!

Could this be the reason we need to have elections every few years???

