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Editorial, July 2017

Not so much variety to report this month however, as the President's message below, indicates, your Shed is moving, improving and expanding on a number of fronts.

Over the next few weeks we will, thanks to the Kingborough Council Grant of \$3,000 (and our own contribution of some \$4,000) be upgrading our computers. Both the hardware and the software. Most excitingly we will have a full professional version of SketchUp Pro which will allow members print out plans that they have found or created from the home version (which is freely available but somewhat nobbled)

Communications

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The Editor

An Important Message from the President

Your committee is delighted to see more and more activity going on in the “Shed”.

Peter Norris and his team have done a great job on completing the secured storage on the large mezzanine floor. This area is designed to house many small and valuable items and consumables that are used by members on a regular basis. Your committee has invested in having stocks available for members so that in the event of needing an extra dust mask, a new bit to replace one broken, more sandpaper or clean rags etc, these items and many more are now “on hand”. If you need to access this store to obtain any items, please see the Shed coordinator or a member of the committee who will unlock the store and obtain and record the item issued. This facility is a great step forward in ensuring the ease of access to the working needs and security of day to day items for all members benefit.

We are also delighted that David Cousins and his many helpers have now completed the new Pewter workshop on the new mezzanine floor. Again, the Shed has invested a considerable sum in the equipment and consumables that will enable the group of members to learn new skills and produce valued items under Dave’s skilled leadership. This project has evolved as a result of members interests being made known to the committee and with a prepared budget of both finance and equipment requirements. It is now up to members to make this work and we look forward to this project becoming another valued aspect of the operation of the Shed.

We are also pleased to report to members that we have received funding under the Tasmanian Men’s Shed Association Inc and the Department of Premier and Cabinet “Mens Shed Grant Programmes” to go ahead with the installation of a 40” “hightop” container at the rear of the Shed. This project will commence in a few weeks when the container is delivered to us for modification ready for installation. The container will provide valuable storage space for larger items and free up the floor area for more project work on the original mezzanine floor. We shall keep you advised as this project continues.

Many of the regular attendees at the Shed will know that we have again had a number of Max Employment Work for the Dole (WFD) clients working with us during the past six months. This group of men has undertaken many skills training opportunities provided by our own members acting as mentors. They have proven to be a very reliable and enthusiastic group who have made a significant contribution to day to day Shed life and have assisted our own members in undertaking many of the Community Outreach activities initiated by the Channel Men’s Shed. It is very pleasing to confirm that we have now signed on again for a further six months contract with Max Employment and look forward to repeating the mutual successes generated in the last six months.

The revenue generated from our arrangements with our WFD programme was not budgeted for in the Sheds financial planning for this year. As a result of this additional income now being available for Shed use, your committee has decided to reinvest some of these funds back into the Shed for the benefit of members. We have agreed to replace the broken heat-pump in the kitchen and will install new heat pumps in both the computer/craft/meeting room and the office area. In addition, we have also agreed to purchase a large gas heater for the workshop area. These initiatives will make a substantial difference to the comfort levels of the Shed during the forthcoming winter months. Our thanks for these benefits must go to the members who readily assist with our WFD programme and therefore are responsible for the resultant income stream.

Members will recall that our Shed patron is Mr. Robert Hazell of Hazell Bros fame. Robert is often seen at the Shed and has taken a keen interest in our activities. At a monthly Thursday BBQ a few months ago, Robert made comment about our 50+ year old fork lift truck and suggested that maybe it was time that the Shed looked at an “upgrade”. Our old forklift (donated to us at the time of the Shed’s initial construction) is battery operated and if the batteries fail, then the fork lift is of no value! Robert then surprised the Shed by advising that he had a more modern, gas powered forklift that he would happily provide to the Shed on a permanent loan basis. We have now received this wonderful unit and have exchanged a loan agreement with Robert for this generous arrangement. The Shed will now look to sell our old unit.

Given the ongoing investment in the Sheds day to day activities and the increasing use of the extensive facilities available, it is timely to remind all members of our policy in regards all Shed owned equipment and consumables. Please understand that NO tools, equipment or consumables are to be removed from the Shed without first seeking approval from a committee member. If members wish to borrow any item for a short time it MUST be done with a committee member’s approval and written on the notice board near the “sign in” desk. If members wish purchase an item that is for sale from the Shed, again this must done with an appropriate committee members approval and agreement as to the price to be paid. Your cooperation and support in adhering to this policy will enable the Shed to avoid any unpleasant disputes with members over missing equipment, tools and consumables.

On a similar subject we take this opportunity to remind members about storage of personal materials or projects. Whilst we undertake to do our best to facilitate members needs whilst undertaking small personal projects within the Shed we have experienced inconvenient situations where members have left personal materials or projects within the Shed for unreasonable time and taking up space that could be better utilised by other members. There is also the security of your project at risk when left within the Shed. If you need to have a project that is a “work in progress” left in the Shed for more than a day or two, please first discuss this with a committee member and therefore ensure that your equipment or project is not at risk of being removed in the interests of maximizing space for other members.

Should you require any clarification on these particular aspects of the Sheds operation, please feel free to discuss them with any committee member.

Free Wood Chips

The Shed has available an ongoing surplus of wood chips, available to Members "no charge".
This offer is for small quantities, up to a trailer load per interested Member.
For larger quantities we suggest dealing directly with a tree maintenance crew or a bulk supplier.

The following from one of our intrepid correspondents (who certainly had a good time at the newly instituted Casserole Night)

The Committee adds its thanks to our correspondent's appreciation for Ross' and Judy's efforts.

Channel Men's Shed Casserole night

As Judy put it "If you are suffering from cabin fever turn up to the CMS casserole night for some fun, food and fine company". Bring a plate and BYO. So we did, nearly twenty of us.

On Saturday evening 8th July at 6.30pm. Blokes, partners and strays. Each party brought a dish which the ladies organised into a wonderful buffet in the kitchen.

I can't tell you what a delicious range of main courses and how some of the best sweets in the Channel were served up to us but, by jingo it would have been a hundred dollar night out for two anywhere else, except this was all free.

Ross and Judy, our hosts for the night did a splendid job organising everything from Judy's flowers to Ross's coloured lights outside. It reminded me of the Sydney Olympics and made the night a splendidly festive occasion! Background music, a killer parlour game and a fantastic array of prizes to round off the evening. Everybody kept their clothes on but said that we must do this more often. A great evening and thank you very much to Ross and Judy.

And speaking of social events...



Channel Men's Shed Melbourne Cup Fun Day Tuesday 7th November from 12.30pm

Dress casual with a hat!

Finger food, complimentary glass champagne, Finger food. Sweeps, races, members, partners, friends guests all welcome.

Great prizes.

Email: cupday@willodene.com.au

Mob: 0417 487 488

RSVP

**Entry \$10 pp.
BYO drinks**



Discounts to Channel Mens' Shed Members

A number of suppliers to Channel Mens' Shed will also offer a discount to Shed Members on request.

The following may assist:

Nubco give substantial discounts off their recommended retail prices on request.

Make it clear to staff you are paying cash. Do not put goods on the Shed's credit account.

Discounts substantially greater than Seniors Card or RACT Card can be obtained by purchasing as a Channel Mens' Shed Member paying Cash. Do not put goods on the Shed's credit account.

Purchases from Repco can be made using the Channel Mens' Shed Trade card.

While discounts are limited on Retail/Display items there can be a substantial benefit obtained when purchasing mechanical/service items such as filters, parts etc.

Repco Kingston are holding a Channel Mens' Shed Trade Card at their cash counter adjacent to their front entrance. Ask staff to locate and use this card when making a purchase

Webster Bearings and Industrial Supplies in Lampton Avenue will offer a discount to Channel Shed Members on request.

Inform staff you are purchasing for CMS and paying cash.

Do not use the Shed's credit account.

Beaurepaires in Mertonvale Circuit will give a discount to Channel Mens' Shed Members.

To receive a discount speak with the manager Mathew.

Note: Tyres can be an expensive/variable item and pricing can be dependent on offers available from tyre company suppliers.

It would be advisable to also shop around.



A FEW QUICK UPDATES AND EXPLANATIONS

Pewtercraft

I popped in on a couple of David's workshops just to see what was going on.

Lots of enthusiasm (pictured David and Ken working out their next step) with gifts for Christmas (and one wedding) already well advanced.

Hmm, Christmas... I think that I might try to wangle my way in to one of the classes.

David tells me that Saturdays is completely full, room for perhaps one on Mondays and now booking for Thursdays. Contact details are on the display cabinet beside the sign-in table on the ground floor.



Container

The container for our extension for the Shed has been delivered thanks to the support and assistance of our Patron Robert Hazell who arranged transport using a Hazell Bros semi together with one of their skilled drivers who made a very neat job of dropping off the monster.

Once fitted out, lifted over the existing structure (that ought to be worth watching!) and connected to the Shed – a couple of decent doors to provide all-weather access – we will be able to free up some of the floor-space now occupied by materials waiting for a project. Look out for notices seeking your assistance for the preliminary work for the foundation and the installation of the external dust extraction system.

Canoe

What are they thinking of?

Why are Bruce and Ken building a canoe out of 3mm medium density fibre board, Do they actually think that it will float? Well no, they are prototyping a CNC cut hull from an open source offering on the Internet with a view to making a couple and, incidentally, getting some understanding of the so-called stitch'n'glue process.

