



Channel Mens Shed News

EDITORIAL, MARCH 2017

A couple of changes because your new Honorary Secretary has nervous problems with Microsoft and rather than struggle each month with the vagaries of that system at the Shed, will do most of his collation of YOUR articles at home on the operating system with which he is comfortable. Anyone with those alien, MS, skills is more than welcome to take over the editor's position.

That said, any contributions, and thanks to Peter A., for his input, can be sent to <bruce@weller.id.au> for his attention as the newsletter is put together towards the end of (hopefully) each calendar month. Email, Word or plain text is OK and for the pictures, likely .JPG best (though most formats are available). It goes without saying that the copyright vests in the Channel Men's Shed Inc and once out on the web, anything seems to go.

Other than those contributions, you will be getting what catches your editor's eye, camera and wandering attention.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Last week, our fifth annual general meeting was held at the Shed. Thank you to the forty or so members who attended and participated in yet another milestone for our Shed. I was very proud to have again been nominated and elected as President of the Shed for 2017 and will do my best to ensure to continuing success of the Shed, its community outreach and indeed its ongoing development. I indicated to those in attendance at the meeting that this would be my last year in the role as I hold the firm belief that succession planning and good governance is essential in any progressive organisation. Our Shed should be no different.

An election of office bearers was not required as sufficient nominations had been received for all positions within the prescribed time. We have lost three valuable committee members who chose not to seek re-election this year. Graeme Nichols, Tim Oxley and Graham Fogarty all gave us notice of their intent to have a break from the committee. On your behalf we thanked them for their past contributions to the committee and we shall all look forward to perhaps now seeing them more often in the Shed in a relaxed mode.

Your committee for 2017 is;

Peter Shelley	President
Bruce Weller	Secretary
Peter Johnstone	Treasurer
Peter Norris	Vice-President
Reuben Sternberg	Committee
Ivan Morrison	“
Bob Warne	“
Don Jamieson	“
Bruce Laffer	“
Ian Jay	“
Lyndley Chopping	“
Peter Ralph	“
Gary Durrant	“
Stuart Braunholz	“

The committee would like all members to welcome Peter Ralph, Bruce Laffer and Don Jamieson to the committee and we look forward to some new and fresh ideas in assisting us maintaining and building the remarkable Shed that is ours. Members should feel free to communicate on any Shed matter with any committee member be it a large or small matter. Your committee also take this opportunity of reminding all members that they are welcome to attend any committee meeting of the Shed. A list of meeting dates will be published on our website for your information.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Apart from the customary business that takes place at an annual general meeting, our Shed used this AGM to change our "Rules of Association" (previously known as the Constitution). This was done as a result of our need to bring our "rules" up to date given the experience and knowledge that has evolved since the establishment of the original committee and its' Incorporation. These draft rules were circulated to all members following a legal review by our Sheds legal advisor. With three minor modifications, these changes were adopted by the Shed members at the AGM and now form the basis of our Governance process. Again, these new rules will be published on the website for member's information.

My detailed report to members, presented at the AGM on behalf of the outgoing committee has also been placed on our website (as part of this newsletter for your information.

SHED OUTING

Many of you may remember that last year we attempted to arrange a visit to Ta-Ann at Lonnavale to look at their timber veneer processing plant. At that time, it was difficult to arrange but it has now been finalised with those members who expressed initial interest going to visit Ta-Ann on Tuesday 7th March.

Agfest proposed Shed event

Given the interest in the Ta-Ann visit (we were restricted to only twenty visitors!) by Shed members, I am now seeking "expressions of interest" in arranging a day-long return coach trip to Agfest in early May. At this stage I have only been able to obtain a "rough" indication of costs as the final fare would depend upon the size of the coach based on the number of passengers.

For a trip on either Friday 4th May (first day of Agfest) or Saturday 5th May on a luxury coach, (seatbelts etc) and including entrance fee at Agfest, we would be looking at between \$50/\$60 per member for the return trip. This would of course include pick-up and drop-off at the Shed with two stops both en-route and return.

Estimated departure time would be 07:30am and return by 7:30pm.

As coaches for these days are in limited supply, we would need to arrange this trip quickly. Again it will depend upon numbers. So as we may at least "test the water" for such day away together, could you kindly let me know if you are definitely keen to go. My email address is:

petershelley@bigpond.com and my mobile 0418 120 772. Could you please respond to me NOT later than Friday March 17th.

If we have sufficient numbers to obtain a firm quote, I shall do this and report back directly to all those (if any) interested.

This could be another great day out for members.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Shelley
President

Music Appreciation Group

The meetings of this group have been put on hold for the time being. Bruce L., tells us that he will be taking advantage of the Shed's turntable and system from time to time to listen to his vinyl but until further notice there will be no formal meetings of the Music Appreciation Group.

New Wood Splitter Group (*are you interested*)?

A number of (15) shed members got together two years ago and collectively purchased a high quality wood splitter, to part own and use as required. This has been a very successful venture with each member continuing to take individual responsibility to maintain and use the equipment sensibly thus saving a small fortune in firewood costs.

Over this period, a number of other members and outside friends have expressed interest in joining the group. As the original group is fully subscribed, it is apparent that there may be enough interest to consider forming a second splitter cooperative if sufficient numbers can be found to make it a viable proposition.

Whilst the majority of members of the group are shed members, this is not specifically a shed activity and as such is open to anybody wishing to become a part owner. The first step is to find enough members interested in forming a group. The second step is to get together and discuss what is involved in the project and the third step is to set up a second fully independent splitter group, using all the knowledge and experienced gained by the original



group.

If you (or your friend, neighbour or other) are interested in becoming a part owner of a wood

splitter, we offer this opportunity for those potential owners to use our experience and structure to form their own group. The total cost to each member of the first group to obtain

and modify a first class machine (to make the unit road registrable etc) was originally under \$240 each. Since then models may

have changed and prices moved up or down but with a membership of around twelve to fifteen, it makes for a very economical long-term investment in saving money.

At present, Peter Alexis is to coordinate expressions of interest so please reply with your name, email address and phone number to Peter Alexis (pictured in the red jumper) at either

Email: emailments@gmail.com

Phone: 0417487488 or 62278339.

CMS Community Garden

The garden is in full production with organically grown produce available at reasonable prices to all members. Check the kitchen on Mondays.



Kayak Challenge

The Committee and a couple of member have, before them a proposal, to build a small number of stitch and glue kayaks. The idea is that the Shed will finance one of the kayaks with a view to selling or raffling it to raise funds for the Shed's work.

The others, at this stage there may be two other starters, will be financed by the buiolders for their own use.

Clearly there are space limitations which will constrain exactly how many of these that we can accommodate

however if the first Challenge is successful, the opportunity for future projects of this type is open... perhaps dinghies or small sail-boats.

Members who are interested in learning with the project team about stitch and glue construction should contact the Honorary Secretary.

For those interested in what will be (we hope) going forward can follow the URL to

<<http://www.woodenboatstore.com>> to get an idea of the planned boat.



Channel Men's Shed Inc. Presidents Report for 2016.

Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee of the Channel Men's Shed Inc it again gives me much pleasure in presenting this report to you at the time of our fifth Annual General Meeting.

The year in review proved to be another full year of action and activities for the "Shed" and its growing

membership. This year we witnessed increased use of the "Shed" for members own projects, community outreach programmes and of course activities that enabled members to work together on new equipment purchased by the Shed, the Willys car, sewing machines and lapidary equipment. It is most satisfying to witness the growth of Shed membership which at the end of December 2016 stood at 196 financial members. This is a seventeen percent increase in membership over the past twelve months.

In comparing this outcome against our original forecast of membership prepared some six years ago of around 100

members after four years of Shed operations, your committee is satisfied that our Shed is performing a much valued community service well above early expectations.

New members appear to be utilising the Shed resources well and many have made new friendships as a result of their involvement with the Shed. We actively encourage all members' participation in all aspects of the Sheds life.

Shed members will be aware of our previous involvements with the Work for the Dole (WFD) programme and of the benefits that accrued to the Shed as a result of our efforts. Regrettably, we were unable to resolve an agreement with the WFD provider in the last year and as such have not had the benefit of assisting in the skills development of unemployed men nor the income that resulted from our participation. At the time of preparing this report, it is pleasing to advise that we have negotiated a different arrangement for 2017 that will enable a mutually rewarding programme to be undertaken, albeit with a lower return to the Shed. We do however see this role as an important adjunct to Shed activity and by providing such an essential service within the community; we are assisting men to gain valued employment and the opportunity to restore their self esteem.



Our "Social Outreach" programme continues to develop and enhance our reputation across the wider community. We have continued with making and providing regular supplies of soup for the Kingborough "Louis" Van for the Kingborough Helping Hands Group, hosted the Boronia Guide Leaders Trefoil dinners and the group of "Stitch and Share" ladies on a weekly basis. In addition to these activities, we have also had the opportunity to assist the local CWA to do some essential maintenance on their holiday home at Snug, build "book seats" for the LINC at Kingston, build display cases for the Friends of Melaleuca enabling the housing of memorabilia associated with the Denny King tin mining museum at Port Davey, built transport boxes for Orange Belly Parrot Transport, repaired and modified penguin breeding boxes for a local council and again ran our annual "health check" day at the Shed. In mid 2016, our Shed was approached to see if we could provide some voluntary assistance for the Australian Wooden Boat Festival taking place in Hobart in February 2017. Some seven members offered to assist and become part of the team of volunteers who made this event happen. Thank you to those members for your ready help for this wonderful event.

All of these activities were undertaken with the great contribution by a large number of Shed members. Your efforts are greatly appreciated not only by your fellow members, but by so many others within the community.

In April 2016, we were delighted to have as visitors to the Shed Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Professor, The Honourable Kate Warner AC and Mr. Richard Warner. During their time at the Shed, the Governor expressed genuine interest in the activities, work and social outreach programmes undertaken by members and others associated with the Shed. Morning tea was served in the kitchen courtesy of the Stitch and Share Ladies where the Governor mingled with members and again shared experiences with the group attending. We were proud to present to the Governor a memento of Her Excellency's visit to us in the form of two Green Parrot nesting boxes to be installed in the grounds at Government House. It is our understanding that these boxes have been installed and are being used.

In June 2016, the Shed lost a great supporter, friend, mentor and Patron. Mr Donald Hazell MBE lost his battle with illness just two days after learning of his wife Gwen's passing away. Donald was the Sheds greatest supporter when the concept was first discussed in Margate. He was responsible for the structure of the building being donated to us and many other aspects of its construction. He was very proud to be our Patron and thoroughly enjoyed coming to the Shed for a chat and a sausage on BBQ nights. We do miss him. Your committee agreed that following Donald's passing we should ask his eldest son Robert to become our Patron. Robert was delighted to accept this role and is a regular visitor to the Shed.

The Willys restoration team have continued their great work on this valued project. Much of the work has been "unseen" in terms of the individual outcomes. For example many hours went into the complete restoration of the radiator alone. This worked saved over one thousand dollars that it would have cost to replace it. Similarly the distributor required many minute parts to be made, all of which were done on the equipment in the Shed and by those members with the intricate skills to undertake this work. Whilst this project may be seen by some as "slow", it does provide a very worthwhile and rewarding experience for those involved.

This year's Shed Skills programme was conducted during the period 15th June to 3rd August. The programme conducted by Shed Mentors covered 9 skill areas. In all, 32 members completed 62 days of training. This was a great turn-out for a volunteer, not-for-profit organisation. Later in the year, specialist mentoring and assessment sessions were conducted on the pedestal drill press with some 20 members attending. Additional MIG welding sessions were also conducted to meet an ongoing demand by members. This year's skills sessions and training programmes would not have been successful without the help and guidance from Shed Mentors. Thank you to all who assisted in this important aspect of our Sheds culture.

This year has also seen the much discussed new mezzanine floor come to fruition. Resultant from our successful application to the Federal Governments "Building Stronger Communities" programme we were able to access nearly fifteen thousand dollars for this project. We added some funding from our own resources and with our own skilled members efforts were able to completely construct this valuable extension to the Shed. We expect that within a short period, we shall see some of the lighter machinery and equipment re-located to the mezzanine floor and as a result, we should free up further work space in the original mezzanine area. Thank you again to those members who gave freely of their time and expertise to complete these works.

The development of the new mezzanine floor highlighted our immediate need for the better storage of materials for use within the Shed. Timber and steel take up a significant amount of space and need to be stored in a manner that will enable the most efficient utilisation of the various sizes and lengths that we have available. In an endeavour to overcome this problem, your committee have considered all options and have determined that the installation of a 40' shipping container at the rear of the Shed would provide a good solution. We have had plans drawn for this installation which would have access from within the Shed itself. Engineering detail has also been addressed and application made to Council for approval to go ahead with this project. We have also made application for a funding grant from the DPAC/TMSA February 2017 Round. We would hope to learn the outcome of this application for some \$8,200.00 by end of April 2017. We shall advise members as soon as the results of this process are known.

Our grant application to the Tasmanian Community Fund for nearly \$3,500.00 to purchase a new and larger oven with induction cook top for the kitchen was successful. This Smeg unit is now in the kitchen and following the completion of suitable wiring, will be in use. This unit will enable more efficient cooking of larger volumes and will enable our soup for the "Louis" Van to be produced quickly and in larger quantities. We are grateful to the Tasmanian Community Fund for their ongoing support for our Shed and its related activities.

As mentioned in my 2015 report, we obtained funding from the DPAC/TMSA Grants programme of some \$4,000.00 towards our Shed garden project. It is very pleasing to report that this project was completed in early 2016, planted in early September 2016 and is now producing large volumes of fresh garden vegetables. Harvest are taking place early on Monday mornings with all fresh produce being available to Shed members at very reasonable prices. Thank you to those members who assisted with the construction of this impressive garden and to those who maintain it for the benefit of so many others. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. This is a further Shed investment that will continue to provide members with ongoing opportunities to share their knowledge and labour for many years to come.

Our communications method to members still raises discussion from time to time. From our experience, emails to members certainly appear to have an immediate impact and create the outcomes we need. Our monthly newsletters have also provided regular and up to date details of happenings within the Shed community and again provide an opportunity for member input. Our website is also a source of regular information and provides a broad base of information to those accessing the site. Please remember that communication is a two way affair. We are only in a position to respond to member's requests, comments and suggestions when they are made. We do encourage and welcome you to be in touch with the Shed committee to discuss any matters relating to the Shed.

Members will be pleased to learn that your committee have continued to monitor and update the Shed's strategic plan. This plan enables priorities to be discussed and set and provides a firm basis on which to maintain the direction and focus of the Sheds ongoing activities. This plan also enables your committee to consider all financial matters pertaining to the Shed in line with the documented direction adopted and agreed.

Again, following the initiative of a committee member, your committee have reviewed the "Rules of Association" (or Constitution) of the Shed. The original Rules were developed as "model" rules at the time of incorporation of the Shed in 2011. As we have now progressed and have operated successfully for nearly six years, we felt it was time to bring our Rules up to date utilising the experience and knowledge gained. The final "draft" rules have been circulated to members for their input, comment and further suggestion. We are delighted that we have had positive feed-back on the suggested changes. Your committee look forward to further discussion and finally, adoption of the agreed changes at this Annual General Meeting. Thanks must go to Graham Fogarty for his great work in the review and commentary regarding this very important aspect of our administrative role.

The finances of the Shed continue to be in good shape. Coupled with a very close monitoring of Shed operating and capital expenses together with the proceeds of our annual raffle, sales of surplus and donated items, work undertaken within the Shed, small engine repair income from members, donations for the personal use of machinery within the Shed and sundry other fund sources, we have increased our bank balance for the year by approximately \$10,000.00. Our audited accounts will be presented later in this meeting but show that these additional funds have been placed into the Sheds reserve account. Your committee have taken the view that we have reserves in hand to cover several year's operational costs, replacements of machinery and equipment as required and for unexpected cash outflows such as excesses on insurance claims etc.

Our Shed budget for the 2017 year indicates an almost break-even scenario and highlights the impact of no income being forecast from WFD programmes or initiatives. To all of the members who have assisted with our costs management and fund raising efforts, please accept our genuine thanks for your commitment to the Shed.

We shall of course maintain our efforts to run the Shed in the most economical way possible thus ensuring the preservation of our cash reserves. Where possible, grant funding will be sought for items that we believe will further enhance the Shed and in turn, the wider community. We must also be mindful of our potential need to find future funds for replacement and repairs to our equipment as it ages and wears.

The social life of the Shed is an increasingly important aspect of our operation. It is great to see that our monthly barbeque is attended by so many members, their partners and others who enjoy sharing a simple barbeque and a social drink. These functions are not intended to be money making opportunities but rather a good way of meeting members and sharing experiences with them. Our Christmas barbeque was again an outstanding event with a large range of gourmet food and drinks available. It was again attended by many of our members, Shed supporters including senior state and federal politicians from all sides, the mayor and several local councillors. This great evening culminated with the drawing of our annual raffle by our new Patron Robert Hazell. Our Shed Christmas function is gaining a reputation for a "not to be missed" event so in this regard, we may expect the future and continuing support of our important guests.

Again during the year in review, your committee met monthly to maintain the smooth operation of Shed and its associated activities. You will note from this report that we have had a very busy, productive and satisfying year. Your elected committee have worked closely and in true voluntary spirit to achieve these outcomes. Our discussions and decision making processes have been robust and it is pleasing to report that there has always been a strong will to action decisions and ensure positive outcomes for the benefit of the Shed.

Three of the outgoing committee have chosen not to seek re-election at this Annual General Meeting. Graeme Nichols, Tim Oxley and Graham Fogarty have all indicated their desire to focus available time to other interests. On behalf of all Shed members, would you join me in thanking the three of them for their outstanding contributions to the Shed during their time on the committee? We shall miss their input, wisdom; advice and contribution that has helped develop the Shed to where it is today. We all look forward to still seeing them in the Shed as often as possible.

Thank you also to remaining committee members for your hard work, dedication and support during the year. It has been greatly appreciated. Thank you too to those members who have nominated to join the incoming committee. We look forward to welcoming you, your contributions, advice and input.

In conclusion, let me say how much of a pleasure it has been to have again had the opportunity to be the President of this great Shed. I have been very proud to have had the privilege of being associated with such a wonderful group of community minded people wanting to see their voluntary efforts help others less fortunate throughout our great community.

Peter Shelley

President and on behalf of Channel Men's Shed Inc.

Margate, 22nd February 2017

A project has been started to renovate a horse drawn plough, ostensibly used in the very early days of the settlement of Three Hut Point, now Gordon. The plough has been dated, and it feasible that it could have that provenance. The plan is that the CMS and Ted Domeney (as current owner of the plough) would bring it back to working order, and donate it to the Channel Heritage Centre at Margate.

The main work is derusting, and replacement of the timber sections, which have rotted away over time. Bruce and Ted have planned the work, located and identified the timber, but the project is on hold at present, owing to pressure of other activities.

The project is not forgotten and will be resumed as soon as practicable, certainly over winter, if not before. We think that it will have some interesting challenges for wood- (stem bernding or laminating the required curves) and metal- (replicating the parts now rusted beyond repair) workers alike and interested members are welcome to chat with Bruce Weller on (usually) Tuesdays and Thursdays.



WFD programme

Our President has mentioned in his Annual Report (see below for the full text), the present status of the Shed's Social Outreach efforts and it is with some pleasure that we note that the Work for the Dole portion is again getting some momentum. Pictured is our first participant (Stephen, do stop and make him and our other participants feel welcome when you are in the Shed) working on the bench seats we are making for the Kingborough Sports Centre (KSC).

This project offers some basic construction skills (including woodworking, welding and furniture finishing) as well as exemplifying the benefits —and downsides--- of recycling materials. Some of you will be aware that our bid, for the steel and plywood removed from the demolished bleachers at the KSC, was successful. This material comprises a substantial part of the four benches we have agreed to construct.

We will also be using the ply for the construction of more substantial shelving to replace the white, wire shop fittings which have done service for the past few years.

SHED VISITORS

It has been a month of external contacts for your committee. Most members are aware that your Shed is committed to furthering the “Men’s Shed Movement” in whatever way that we can. Our President and our former Secretary hold positions with the Tasmanian Men’s Shed Association (TMSA) and also take an interest in the developments at the national level in Australia.



In addition, and it is no real surprise, that there is very real interest internationally in the movement. In February we had the pleasure of entertaining two visitors engaged in researching the development of the Shed movement in Australia (its birthplace) with a view to examining its impact on men’s health and what would be required for a successful development in their own countries. From Sweden we welcomed Professor Helen Ahl (pictured here with our

president and Geoff Marsh of TMSA).

Helene is Professor and Research Director of Lifelong Learning at the School of Education and Communication, which comprises about ten senior scholars and doctoral students. In a wide-ranging discussion a number of our members and committee chatted about the establishment of our Shed, the factors leading to its present success and the implications for an like establishment in Sweden.

We learned that, while the challenges faced by male retirees in Sweden parallel those that we all face, the cultural context in Sweden, we gather, would suggest that a mixed gender approach will be more likely. A reliance on government intervention rather than (our own) self-help approach will, it seems, make for a radically different Shed environment in Sweden. In Great Britain, the story could possibly parallel the Australian experience somewhat.

Martin Price is the Chair of the recently launched Northampton Men’s Shed and is in Australia researching the Australian Shed experience (in Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland) and, in particular, the management of the establishment phase. In our discussion it became clear that the English experience have its own challenges. As an example Martin cited his own experience in attempting to locate a site in Northampton. As an interim compromise his solution has had to be a paid sharing arrangement (cash payment plus a commitment to share the work of) with a workshop and warehouse engaged in the refurbishment of furniture for the underprivileged.

Our discussion focussed on questions of scale and membership ownership of the whole enterprise and, in Martin’s own words:

“I most readily recall the enterprise approach that was taken from the start. You recognised Men’s Shed to be an important movement and realised that the Shed at Margate, if well conceived and developed well, would be valued by many local men.

Your thinking and strategy was from the outset, to go for a large facility with its accompanying goals. That would be the most effective way achieve your purpose - not to build a smaller Shed to then seek to grow it incrementally. That way to achieve the same goals, would be very difficult - better to give yourselves a big space; confident that members needs, ingenuity and community ambition would do the rest.”

We left these two discussion with the hope that the success of your Shed could be replicated in both Sweden and the UK.

These opportunities, to promote our role, arise from time to time and members are encouraged to join in our discussions as and when they can; the success of the Shed depends on all of us and every member has a point of view.

Coming up in early March, COTA (Council Of The Aging) that has been conducting community consultations to create an Active Ageing plan, which will be released later this year, on behalf of the Tasmanian Government and the Shed has agreed to assist them by arranging a group session at the Shed on 3rd March starting at 09:30 a.m. Please let your Committee know if you can make it to this event.