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Editorial, November 2017

As this is written another holiday season is looming and the main function of the year is due on 14 December -- our Annual Christmas Party at which our patron, Robert Hazel, will be drawing the raffle.

If you have not done so already, please RETURN THE TICKET STUBS AND THE MONEY. This raffle is, apart from being the focal point of the Party (get your RSVPs in ASAP) the single most important fundraiser for your Shed.

As usual your editor thanks those members who have supported this newsletter with their thoughts and pictures -- a good month for contributions.

Communications and Internet access sponsored by Telstra

The Editor

Melbourne Cup Function

The second annual Melbourne Cup party held at the shed this year was a huge success. Good attendance with members, partners and friends all enjoying the fun. The champagne flowed freely with Judy Norman and Christine Larratt doing an amazing job on the catering and decorations. Thank you both very much.

For only \$10 per head it was a lavish spread and nobody complained about the quality or quantity of food or refreshments available to all. Ross Thomas organised the sweeps and got us all laughing with the Cup Trivia Quiz. A truly beautiful, genuine freshwater pearl necklace was so kindly donated by Miffy McTaggart for the ladies fancy hat competition which was won by Christine Larratt. Suzi Chopping picked up first prize on the lottery with one of the sides of smoked salmon kindly donated by Tassal going to her.

Thanks to Peter Shelley for hosting the event which looks like becoming a permanent fixture on the shed's social calendar, so pop it in next year's diary right now for the first Tuesday in November 2018.



**CMS Vegie Patch – Proudly Supported by:
Hollander Imports
(87 Brooker Highway Hobart)**

THIS MONTH IN THE CMS VEGIE PATCH

Most spring summer crops have been planted or will be soon. Broad Beans are maturing quickly & are currently available for purchase. Other produce currently available include:

Silver Beet
English Spinach (limited quantity)
Parsley (limited quantity)
Rhubarb (limited quantity)

Other produce expected to be available over the coming summer months include:

Pink Eye Potatoes – best salads, boil mash.
King Edward Potatoes – best bake, roast.
Nicola potatoes – best salads & mash
Kipfler potatoes – best salads, boil, mash & roast.
Salad Rose Potatoes – creamy yellow flesh – best salad, steaming, boiling & mash.
Peas & snow peas.
Beans runner & bush.
Garlic
Zucchini –Black Beauty, Cucumber – Lebanese Mini Muncher.
Japanese Salad Turnips, Broccoli, Kale, Beetroot, Onions, Carrots, Parsnip, Potato Onions, Cabbages-sugarloaf, Pumpkins, Corn, Tomatoes & some lettuces.

As usual a major pick of available produce is made available at the shed on Mondays & is otherwise always available on request.

Margate Primary School P&F BBQ

Pictured with the newly repaired (and those wheels look good for the Dakar Rally let alone the Primary School grounds) is Stuart who, together with our Vice President Norris, replaced the damaged castors and added a handle so that the BBQ could be transported to whatever venue the Parents & Friends of the school required.

Another aspect of our ongoing community involvement.



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.

Train at Dru Point

Channel Men's Shed has been involved with Kingborough Council and Kingborough Lions renovating the train that is situated at Dru Point. New plywood pieces have been manufactured to replace aging components and other pieces have been repaired and sanded. The train is off to the next stop for painting prior to reassembly at Dru Point. We hope it makes many children happy in the coming years.

Pictured is Jason Bowerman from Hazel Brothers loading up train components with the main shed renovator Scottie Roberts. Not present is Bruce McLeod, shed member, who mentored Scottie in the restoration project.



Equipment improvements

For some time now the Committee has wished to replace the grinder fitted with the wire brush and polishing mop.

Resurrected from lapidary equipment and stock purchased, by the Shed, some time ago is pictured the “new” grinder. We believe that this will make the buffing operations safer with integrated switch rather than using the power point switch on the wall.

The newly donated grinder (in the background) will be next for our attention so that we can have a proper 200 mm grinder for dressing up wood turning gouges.

Our thanks to committee-man Reuben for attending to this matter



LINC Partnership

From time to time your Shed is asked to host various groups and for those who notice a small mob of young men (and two young women) in the Shed earlier in the month, this was but one instance of this type of support. Allyson Ekin, from link had a group of 9 people coming up to Van Morey's to do the traffic control certificate practical using the room from 9-10 to revise some of the theory before they go out on the road.



Wildlife biologist Shannon Troy delivers some orange bellied parrots to Melaleuca on Tasmania's southwest coast

Parrot boxes

It is not often that the Shed's makes the national press and it is this time (although there was no naming of ourselves) that we are particularly proud. For a couple of years now one of the many --we will list the lot one day -- Social Outreach Program's initiatives has been involved with our Tasmanian birdlife. Indeed, last newsletter covered off the construction of transport boxes and now we see, for the first time, the boxes in use.

Sadly we have no pictures of our own, but thanks to the Australian...

Tannum Sands Shed - Brotherhood of Sheds

Heiko DeGroot attached a picture of the Tannum Sands Qld Men's Shed.

We had an input into it; Heiko showed two members of the steering committee over our shed.

They had intended to build a double garage, however looking over our shed fired up their imaginations and their ambition.

Their shed is ex-army. It was destined for Vietnam but did not go as the war was cancelled. The shed has now been put to good use.

It is really heartening to see that the brotherhood of Sheds is growing



Your Shed -an occasional explanation

What is a Shed coordinator?

Is a Member, volunteer, rostered for the day

IDEALLY: 0900 to 1530 Monday through Saturday although this will depend on volunteer availability. Roster, half to a full day a month if possible.

Gets Shed opened by a key-holder (Committee provides list of key-holders and contact details1)

Checks Members accreditation, sign-in and badge issue (latter is self-service)

Arranges for any required inductions on the day

Closes shed and arms doors (Committee to provide Shed closure check list)

We round out this report with a couple of more serious issues.

Most of our members are at a time of life where age related problems can crop up. If not directly, then somewhere out there in the extended family.

Channel Men's Shed does not make a big issue of health related items but two opportunities have come up in the last few weeks.

Some eight of our members and associates were able to attend a forum on Understanding Dementia.

It consisted of two parts, one where the attendees contributed details of their present understanding of dementia, this largely as a result of personal encounters with the problem. This information, together with questionnaires completed will be used by the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre in their efforts to improve public understanding of this important and growing problem for society at large.

The second part involved Wicking providing information about the present scientific and medical understanding of dementia.

A valuable forum and the Wicking folk indicated that they would be willing to provide a more information based event if there were a demand for it.

Contact the Secretary if you are interested in attending a Wicking discussion group. (Likely in the New Year)

Coffin Club

It will come as no surprise that the cost of a funeral can be a worrisome matter for any of us.

We offer the following thoughts, researched by our Committeeman Bruce L., which individual members might find useful.

"There is no legal impediment to a person making their own coffin, but there are design considerations. Most important is that the coffin must be leak proof, but this can be achieved by using an approved coffin lining. Also, a coffin must be able to withstand "manhandling" by persons handling it. A funeral director can refuse to use a hand-made coffin if it does not meet requirements.

A coffin intended for cremation can be secured by metal fastenings but must not contain glass, plastics or inflammable materials(!)

I have found several websites which offer step-by-step instructions on coffin construction. Most of these come from the US, so are in inches.

The Community Coffin Club in Ulverstone is an initiative of "Care Beyond Cure", an Association which provides free access to various services and therapies to persons with a terminal illness and their families and/or carers. The website www.jumave.com.au is worth viewing; it contains much useful information on topics associated with ageing, eg guardianship forms, estate planning advice and burial regulations. The Community Coffin Club operates from the community shed in Ulverstone.

Simon Fraser, of the West Moonah Community Shed, tells me that the West Moonah group is developing its own coffin-making program and intends to have an information session in the New Year. Members of our Shed would be welcome to attend.

I suggest that we alert our members to the possibility of establishing our own "Coffin Club", and that we ask Simon Fraser at West Moonah to advise us of the date of their information session and to invite some of us along."

(Subsequent to the meeting, the Secretary emailed Mr Simon Fraser to confirm our interest.)

Contact the Secretary if you have an interest in either the Club establishment or attending West Moonah.



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.

Beaupaires 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.

In a late-breaking piece of news, Ms Judy Norman writes to the editor:

Hi Bruce

I have just seen where the Understanding Dementia MOOC is now open for enrolments for the course beginning 20th February 2018.

Here is the link to the site

<https://mooc.utas.edu.au/courses/understanding-dementia-2018-02>

The site gives a brief description of the course and some answers to commonly asked questions.

I thought you might like to add this to the newsletter report on the focus group that we attended last week.

I have found the course very interesting and easy to navigate and not too onerous on time, and would be happy to talk to anyone about it.

Judy Norman