



News Channel



October 2016

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Members' Meeting

The Members' Meeting scheduled for 30th August was not held, but it has been re-scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 25th October.

This provides members with an opportunity to have your say on any aspect of the Shed, whether it be training, equipment, planning, functions or the management.

The meeting is an informal event without a specific agenda, so join in and express your proactive thoughts and ideas of how things could be improved. Positive feedback is always welcome.

Committee Vacancy

In becoming involved in a long time ambition, by assisting with the construction of a clinker boat at Franklin, Graeme Nichols finds he is unable to devote time to Shed as a Committee Member and has resigned. Thanks for your contributions to our shed Graeme.

We therefore have a vacancy on the Committee for which any member to nominate themselves. Nominations close on 13th October, so if you would like more information or to submit your nomination, please contact the Secretary or any Committee member.

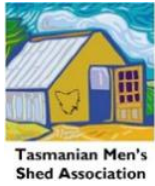


Future Events & Activities

In-House Computer Assistance 1st & 3rd Friday of the month from 10:00 a.m. is when Ross Thomas can assist with computers.	Music Appreciation Group 17 October — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you need more information, contact Bruce Laffer.	Kingston LINC Computer Training 21 October—The 3rd session dealing with emails and how you can improve the management of them
Committee Meeting 25 October - starting at 1:00 p.m., attendance is open to members	Members' Meeting 25 October—After the Committee Meeting, this is a chance to have your say in the Shed.	Monthly Shed BBQ This has been deferred to Tuesday 1st November to coincide with the Melbourne Cup function

"The things I make may be for others, but how I make them, is for me."

Link to Tasmanian Men's Shed Association



The front page of our website now has a link to the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association, where you can read information about their activities and their newsletters.

The association held its AGM on 8th September 2016, when Bob Thomas from the Longford Shed was elected as President, having been Vice President the previous year. With succession in mind, Peter Shelley did not renominate for the presidency, but remains on the Board as one of 3 representatives for the southern region.

There are a few new faces on the Board: Michael Dennis, Kelly Woodward and George Andrews.

Primary Health Tasmania supported a survey of sheds in Tasmania by TasCOSS (Tasmanian Council of Social Service), which was performed in conjunction with TMSA. The findings of the report are interesting, and confirm some of the benefits from being a shed member. Some are:

- ⇒ most members are retired men over the age of 65
- ⇒ primary benefits are friendship and having a social connection
- ⇒ health benefits are directly related to being a member and not from active health promotion
- ⇒ gender defines sheds, as much as the tools and
- ⇒ sheds generate enormous and diverse benefits to the local community.

The full document, "Constructing Connections: A profile of Men's Sheds in Tasmania" can be read at: https://issuu.com/tascoss7/docs/tasmanian_mens_sheds_final_050916

CWA Jessie Kean Holiday Home Pergola

A request was received to repair the pergola and picnic table at the Snug holiday home owned by the Country Women's Association. Heiko de Groot took the lead role and has been supported spasmodically by a few members, but mainly by his wife Bess.

The project has been slow due to the lack of volunteers and also wet weather has prevented sanding and painting.

So far, the pergola has been stripped of the old timber, been water blasted and had cracks filled. New cross braces have been fitted to the picnic table. Sanding and painting is the next step and this will be followed by the final stage – sheeting the roof.



October BBQ / Melbourne Cup Fun Day

The Melbourne Cup Sub-committee comprises Peter Alexis, Stephen Sakell, Ross Thomas and Judy Norman, who are organising a Melbourne Cup social event to be held at the Shed.

Submissions made to the Committee have been discussed and the decision was made to defer the October BBQ by 4 days to coincide with the Melbourne Cup function.

The function will start at 12:30 p.m. and the BBQ will kick off as usual around 3:30 p.m.



**Channel Men's Shed
Melbourne Cup
Fun Day
Tuesday 1st November
from 12.30pm**

**DRESS CASUAL WITH A HAT! FINGER FOOD,
COMPLIMENTARY GLASS CHAMPAGNE, RANGE OF
SWEEPS, RACES, MEMBERS, PARTNERS, FRIENDS
GUESTS ALL WELCOME.
BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

RSVP

**Entry \$10
BYO drinks**

Email: cupday@willodene.com.au
Mob: 0417 487 488

Healthy Living Expo

The Channel Men's Shed is supporting the Kingborough Healthy Living Expo to be held at Channel Court on 13th October.

This event is in partnership with the Tasmanian Health Service and the Kingborough Council. The aims are to:

- * attract a wide range of informative displays related to health advice,
- * healthy living,
- * and community connectedness.

We'll be manning a desk to provide information to visitors and extol the benefits of being involved in a men's shed.

Kingston LINC Computer Courses

Kingston LINC is again delivering outreach classes in digital skills to members of the Channel Men's Shed.

To date there has been a session on Keeping your brain in shape and learning how to use the myGOV system. The sessions are delivered by highly skilled volunteers with LINC, who have extensive background in computers and technology. They are assisted by Kingston High School Big Picture students doing an internship with Kingston LINC.



This is a fantastic partnership and shows how community groups and government can work together on the ground, to improve access and digital skills for individuals.

The next session is being held on Friday 21 October starting at 10:00 a.m. Graeme Ingram will deliver this session, which is on how to get the best out of your email. He will show you how to organise and archive emails as well as how you can deal with that unwanted spam, block senders and unsubscribe.

The session for November is on Watching Catch Up TV, so you can go out and enjoy the longer hours without missing out on your favourite shows. December is about using Skype, Whats App or Facetime to stay in touch with friends and family interstate or overseas via video and voice calling.



We look forward to seeing you at the Shed for these great classes.

Bookings are required by using the following on-line links:

21 October — Getting the most out of emails

Some handy hints to keep your communications organized.

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/computing-and-technology-classes-channel-mens-shed-tickets-26387540845

18 November — Catch Up TV

Learn how to watch TV on your device or computer and have a play around with some apps.

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/computing-and-technology-classes-channel-mens-shed-tickets-26387541848

16 December — Using SKYPE, FaceTime and What's App to keep in touch

Free programs you can use to keep in touch at home and overseas.

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/computing-and-technology-classes-channel-mens-shed-tickets-26387542851

or by emailing sonya.moon@education.tas.gov.au

Committee Meeting Briefs

As most of you would be aware, Committee Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month, during which many topics are discussed. On average, each meeting lasts about 3 hours with the minutes being about 11 pages. This might give you some understanding of the extent of the meetings. And no, it's not a "gabfest", where the minutes are kept and the hours are lost!

Members are always welcome to observe the process and make your comments during the meeting ... but alas, you won't be able to vote on any items.

The next Committee Meeting is on Tuesday, 25th October, starting at 1:00 p.m.—a little earlier than usual.

Membership

Membership numbers have been steadily climbed towards 190. Of the total, only 6 have yet to be inducted (all new members except 1) and only 5 new members yet to pay their subscription. This number of members is indicative of the popularity of the Shed and the facilities it provides.

Site Visit to Ta Ann

For those who some time ago registered an interest in visiting Ta Ann, you haven't been forgotten. It is still on the agenda and Peter Shelley is trying to confirm a date for up to 20 members.

The idea is we'll load up a few vehicles with 4 or 5 members each, then travel in convoy to the Huonville veneer mill. Simon Kang, one of the Directors of Ta Ann, will lead us through the tour. Simon has been involved in the operations, management and trading of timber related products for more than 33 years in Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Australia.

When a firm date and time has been set, those already registered will be given first opportunity to confirm their participation. After that, it will open to all members on a first come first serve basis.

Shed Incident Update

You may recall there was an incident when a person caught one finger between the work and the feed belt on the drum sander. The person hit the emergency stop, but it did not stop the feed motor – it only stopped the drum motor. The good news is that we have rectified the controls so that all motors cease operation when the emergency stop is depressed.

The bad news is, we have yet to receive a communication from the manufacturer on our concern about only one motor stopping, given there could be many more drum sanders with the same design fault. We were advised by the Australian agent that they have passed on our concerns, but no written response on any corrective action has been seen.

Potential Grant

When the right opportunity presents itself, we propose to submit a grant application for new computer equipment including a server, software and 2 new UPS (uninterruptable power supply) units. The current equipment is all "hand-me-down" and is getting outdated with new programmes that require more technical aspects and memory to run them. Our current equipment is ill-equipped to serve the purpose and nor can it be modified easily to accept the newer programmes.

Projects

The requests by external organisations for assistance continues to increase our "Social Outreach" through the kindness of (unfortunately only a few) members who provide their time and skills to assist.

If you can assist with projects, you will be providing a great benefit to the community (refer to the article on page 2 of this newsletter where TasCOSS identify this as a benefit of being a member of a men's sheds). Some projects either recently completed or commenced are:

- Donation boxes for Movember Movement (our thanks go to Ken Lapworth)
- flooring support rails in zodiac boats for the Australian Antarctic Division
- the CWA's Snug holiday house pergola (thanks Heiko, Bess & others, but helpers still needed)
- bench seats for Kingston LINC (pending design details)
- pre-drilled items for children to assemble during the Margate Parents & Friends fete to be held at Margate Primary School
- mining tools display cases (in flat pack) for the Friends of Melaleuca
- refurbishment of 2 art tables for the Margate Primary School
- a variety of student blackboards for a part time primary school teacher

Christmas Raffle

Whilst it may be a bit time consuming, the sale of raffle tickets provides a financial benefit to the Shed. Approval to hold our annual Christmas raffle at Channel Court has been confirmed for November and December. Many prizes have already been identified, including financial advice. Lyndley and Tim will be looking for members to volunteer their time to sell tickets once a schedule of days and times has been established.

On-Going Income Stream

Concern has been expressed about the future income for CMS with the distinct likelihood that we will be drawing down from our capital account next year. The budgeted revenue from the Work for the Dole program did not eventuate due to bureaucratic acquittal reasons in Canberra. We are not expecting there will be any change to this in the forthcoming year, so we need to consider alternative funding sources.

During deliberation over the 2016 budget (January to December), it was forecast that each member would be subsidized around \$89 over and above membership fees to cover operating expenses. This highlights the very low membership fees currently applied to members.

The Committee is open to suggestions to bolster our income and we would like to think we have some entrepreneurial members who could provide suggestions to alleviate what we forecast to be a year of deficits.

Strategic Planning

To assist with the forecast deficit (above), a sub-committee will meet to discuss income & expenditure for the next 3 years, which no doubt will need to be modified as time goes by, but at least a plan will be in place.

Other matters involved with the strategic plan include a review of the policies and procedures, which is a rather lengthy task, but it has commenced.

There is also the requirement to review the current Rules of Association (Constitution) as there are aspects of it that need change. A separate sub-committee is to be formed to draft a revision for the Committee's review & comment before the final document is submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting as an item of Special Business.

GARDEN PROJECT

Hollander Imports, of 87 Brooker Highway Hobart, has been generous in sponsoring the garden project to the value of \$150 worth of products. Our thanks go to Hollander for their support of our Shed, which in turn will benefit the community.



As foreshadowed in the April and May newsletters, the green manure crop was successfully established in August and will be ready to dig in during October. Tomato and cap-sicum seedlings are now thriving in pots, brought inside at night, and will be ready to plant out in mid-October.

The need for a degree of planning, especially concerning crop rotations, should be apparent.

As an aid to this process a written record of plantings (what, when and where) will be kept in a yellow A4 notebook in the filing cabinet in the locker room. Look for the "Garden Project" folder.

If you want to plant anything in the garden, please be sure that ALL activities, including fertiliser and pesticide use, are recorded in this book.

If you need more information, please contact Bruce Laffer at the Shed.

Mezzanine Floor Progress

Peter Norris and his team of helpers have been very busy over the past few weeks as can be seen by the progress on the mezzanine floor. Lawrie Fisher has also been a willing worker in not only this project, but other works around the Shed.

You may recall that the project is partially funded through the Stronger Communities Grant from the Federal Government, with the balance at the Shed's cost. From the look of the photos, there are handrails to be installed, a lockable enclosure to be built under the stairs and the electrical work to be done.

Thanks go to all involved in developing another Shed asset.



SHED THANKYOU

Over the past few months, Tanya & Jacqui have been mentored by Bruce Weller in making a kitchen island. They turned up at the Shed recently with some chocolates and an album containing progress photos and a hand written thankyou note to Bruce & others, which is reproduced below.

Dear Bruce, Peter & The Channel Mens Shed Crew!

THANKYOU! This tiny gift is to thank you for welcoming us into your amazing space, and putting up with us for the last 5 months, as we worked on this project.

We could not be more grateful for the time, energy & knowledge shared - and for your willingness to give us the chance to learn. This Kitchen Island is now officially the nicest (albeit quirky & entirely imperfect 😊) piece of furniture in my house - made better by knowing exactly what was involved to create it! For a first project - we're pretty proud!

Progress on the rest of the house still feels a long way off - but thanks to Bruce's incredibly generous + valuable help at the Shed, at least I now have the confidence & knowledge to pick up the tools and know how to use them. So THANKYOU -

the community & space you have all created is something very special, and you should be incredibly proud. 😊

Thanks for sharing it with us!

Best Wishes,

Tanya + Jacqui.

SHED THANKYOU (cont.)

Regulars at the Shed will be aware of an unusual (for a Men's Shed) challenge taken on by the woodworking section. Was it possible for a couple of complete (and we do mean complete) novices to take on and successfully complete an ambitious piece of cabinet work?

Well the photos and the thank you letter received by the committee suggests that with the equipment in the Shed, a little patience, some support and guidance, success is possible.

It helps to have a clear idea of what you want to achieve and Tanja provided a sketch plan which we upgraded into a more detailed set of plans and specifications that were tossed back to the partners in the enterprise. We insisted that there be two women involved for a number of reasons and that our students took the incomplete work home at the end of the day. They were given directions about what they were to buy and where to buy it... information like this is readily available to all Shed members, but was less so to our two novices.

We understand that the amount and variety of stuff sold in Mitre 10, Bunnings and Specialized Joinery Supplies was something to a stunner to the pair and this alone does give you an idea of how new they were to carpentry.

We proceeded down the usual path from rough sawn timber to dimensioned dressed and cut to length using the fixed machines. And then came the challenging bit, assembly from the inside out and fitting the drawer runners and castors. Fortunately we made few enough mistakes and from the surplus offcuts, they fabricated a fairly plain end-grain cutting board for the top of the mobile kitchen cabinet. The Shed was generously compensated for the use of our equipment and premises ---and this assists with the running costs of your Shed--- and we have proved, to our satisfaction, that complete novices can take on quite complex and challenging projects.



Members,

Have you been putting off a project as too hard? There is plenty of advice and support available at the Shed. If you do not have a project of your own, get involved in one of the many Shed projects that are in train.

Will we do this sort of thing again? Well we have no current proposal from non-members but this one added a bit to kitty, made use of equipment without depriving our members, taught some more than basic craft skills and spread the word that Channel Men's Shed was approachable, friendly and more than able to think outside the square when challenged. As an aside, we also have a couple of jeweller-silver-smiths who have expressed themselves as willing to teach this craft to Shed Members. Got to be a win-win all round so why not have a go.