



SHED UPDATE from SECRETARY PETE September 2020

Word from Chairman Norm

Hi everyone.

Trust that you are keeping safe and well during the current health COVID19 Pandemic.

It has certainly changed our lifestyle over the past 6 months.

Our shed is up and running again after a hiatus for 3 months due to COVID19.

We are enjoying many activities and membership is growing steadily.

Our Newsletter is more detailed due to so much happening now and what is planned.

If you have any ideas or projects for us to preview, please contact us any time.

Please read on.....

Committee and Supervisors

You may or may not be aware that there have been some committee changes recently, mainly due to the resignations of Secretary, Peter Stapleton and Sandie Carless who have decided not to renew their membership. We have thanked them for their commitment in helping us start up our Men's Shed.

Until the AGM the Committee has appointed Peter Rawlins as Secretary and Gerald Choon as Treasurer and Teo Van Deventer has filled the other vacant position. All Committee positions become vacant at the AGM which will be held in October.

Each workshop session must have a workshop supervisor. We have tried to provide a different supervisor for each session. Current supervisors are Norm Ogier, Teo Van Deventer, Peter Rawlins, Tony Sumner, Leo Forrest and Bill Fisher. If you are interested in becoming a supervisor please have a discussion with Norm.

Grants



We started our shed with very little money to purchase equipment. The Port Adelaide Enfield Council provided us with a few thousand dollars to buy some basics and we then relied on some generous donations of second hand tools from a range of people. Some of that equipment was very good and worth a lot of money so we were very fortunate. Whilst all of this was happening, we were very busy applying for grants to buy the equipment we still needed. To date we have been successful in being awarded 11 grants ranging from \$500 to \$5000. These grants have supported the purchase of small equipment such as Ryobi drills as well as the purchase and outfitting of the shipping container storage area. Once again, the Port Adelaide Enfield Council have had a range of grants for

which we are eligible and we are grateful for their commitment to the community in this way. All these grants have accountability and keep us busy ensuring that the money spent is justified and that acquittal reports are properly addressed.

Purchases

I should have listed our purchases before now as the list is long and memory is getting shorter. There is much work that goes on behind the scenes and computer hardware and software purchases will make this easier. We have also made such purchases to provide computer support we are giving some of our members.

NORA (Northgate Oakden Residents Association) provided an initial amount \$2000.00 to assist with purchases of equipment for Lifestyle activities.

This program will continue when restrictions are reduced further in relation to COVID19.

When you look in one of the metal cupboards you will see the growing collecting of Ryobi tools which are being well used for the bird nest box project. If you want to do more delicate woodwork, we have purchased two scroll saws and it is pleasing to see these being used each week. Storage inside the shed is a big issue and we have built 'pigeon hole' shelving and bought 4 metal cupboards to store our every increasing collection of tool and equipment.

Usually found with a cover over it you will find a good quality wood workers bench. Who will be the first person to put a scratch on it?

Our biggest purchase has been the shipping container storage unit. The container, its painting, transport and shelving cost us over \$4500. We are very excited that at the early stage of the Shed's development that we have been able to set this up.

During these trying times it is sometimes hard to get what we want, or need, as manufacturing and supply have been affected by restrictions applied for COVID19. We have ordered and are waiting for a new dust extractor, two air filters and a new pedestal drill.

I have probably forgotten other purchases we have made but I am sure you get the idea of how well we are doing.

Storage Container

I have mentioned the container, but I must also recognise the goodwill of the PAE Council for giving us permission for locating it in the carpark. Pt Adelaide Enfield Council and NORA have assisted with \$1500.00 to fit the container out with steel shelving.

It has always been our intention to put a mural on the container. Currently we have one idea presented to us. This, as with most things is an expensive exercise and will have to be funded with a grant.



Concept Drawing

Donations

Since we started outfitting the Shed in October last year we have had many generous donations from business and individuals. The shelving/benches around the shed were donated, most of the hand tools and fasteners came from various sources (and there are so many more that are yet to be sorted). There are many power tools which you will find under the bench and still housed in the carry cases they were originally purchased in. Nearly everywhere we go we can negotiate good discounts by

mentioning that we are from a Men's Shed. Trailer hire generally cost us nothing and the sheet timber for our nesting boxes has been donated.

Soon we need to list all those who have generously supported us. When we start are 'honour' board there will be many names to proudly include.

Projects

So, what happens in a Men's Shed. Generally, we do projects for individuals or community groups. This is what keeps us 'alive', BUT we also encourage members to bring along their own project to work on and it has been encouraging to see some of our members do just that. We have one member who should stick to projects in the Shed rather than bathroom DIY which recently cost him over \$900 !!!

We have produced between 100 and 200 nesting boxes (somebody probably knows exactly how many), which have gone to the Adelaide Hills. Some Pardalotes, parrots, pigmy possums and bats hopefully now have somewhere to live and raise a family.

Apart from sanding down 6 dining room chairs we have produced a prototype street library box and have another four to produce and soon we are building two te-pees to go into a couple of classrooms to be used as reading nooks.

Do you belong to a community group who needs something made or repaired by us? All it costs is the material and a negotiated donation.

Sit and chat and other activities

So why this heading?

Well, our Men's Shed is not just about the workshop. It is about a place for men to get together and socialise. As you know we have a kitchen area and this is full of conversation and generally awful jokes. I know I enjoy this time as much as I working in the workshop. Only 10 men are allowed to work in the workshop area at any time but there is room for another 10 in the kitchen. You don't want to do anything? Great, come down anyway, have a cuppa and chat. We are eventually going to have Lifestyle activities and these will be developed more as we lose more COVID19 restrictions.



The first activity for a handful of members, if they want, is to start building a wooden model ship we have purchased. I just need to get some more modelling tools and we can get started, probably on a Thursday morning. I think the model is big enough for 4 or 5 to be involved. I will need one of the group to take on overseeing the construction to share the workload. Please let Pete Rawlins know if you are interested in joining this group.

Also, in November, on a date yet to be decided, we are running a one day First Aid Course at the Community Centre at no cost to members. This usually cost about \$100 each. This will give you the knowledge to help anybody who has an injury or medical problem whilst in the shed and of course give assistance where required with friends and family. Good to refresh our memories at our age.

We may be able to run another program called 'Cooking on a Budget' which is a little harder with the current restrictions but we are looking at a way to still make it happen.

Membership

There is only a handful of members who have not returned after our forced closure. We currently have 45 financial members which is great for the amount of time we have been open. We are pleased to welcome some new members and some members from the Prospect Men's Shed which is currently closed. We hope all of you enjoy our company and our Shed and want to have a long association with us. Membership is available to all men over the age of 18. Membership of men with disabilities is welcomed but is assessed on the basis of safety to them and others. Women are able to use the Shed



on Monday afternoons only and with a minimum membership cost they are also insured

Weekly fee

As you know we have a weekly fee of \$3 which is needed to pay for biscuits, tea and coffee as well as our cleaning products, paper towel, disposable cups etc, etc. If *everybody* pays this fee, on the honour system, then we have enough money to cover the expenses and maybe, only maybe, buy cream biscuits. If it is easier for you to pay a few weeks in advance, by cash or bank transfer please organise this with Treasurer Gerald.

COVID19

Just a reminder that we can only be open if we adhere to the restrictions that have been laid down. In particular washing/sanitising hands on the way in and on the way out and be mindful of social distancing. We have also been asked to wipe down any surfaces and tools we have used before leaving. Basically at 11:50 we should stop work, get some wipes from the kitchen area and wipe down before we put the tools away. A bit of a pain but we want to stay open so we must do what is requested of us.

Each session has a trained COVID19 Marshall. This person is the Supervisor for that session. This person is identified by a badge they are wearing along with their name badge.

Please follow any COVID19 directions given to you by this person.

Car Boot Sale

The community centre is having a Car Boot Sale on Sat 31 Oct in the car park from 9am to 1pm.

We might have a stall (not yet discussed by the committee) If you have some stuff at home you want to donate to us to sell please let one of the committee members know. If you want to hold your own stall please see Liz in the community centre office.

Bunnings BBQ

Norm is making enquiries about us manning the BBQ at Windsor Gardens Bunnings on either a Friday, Sat or Sun. If we do, we will need your support so please keep this in mind. It is only a one-off at this stage

AGM

This is prior notice that our AGM will be held on Thursday 15 Oct at 1pm in the hall in the Community Centre. We do not expect this to take long, probably less than 1 hour. Further information about this and a call for any items of business will be emailed to you in the next few days.

Committee nominations

All committee positions become vacant at the AGM. The committee will require a President, Secretary, Treasurer and three other members.

Nomination forms will be available to all members as from Monday 14 Sept 2020. The nomination forms will be on the table in the Shed. Nominations only require one person to nominate a nominee (no seconder required), and self-nominations are acceptable.

Only nominations that have been handed to Peter Rawlins, in person, by Thursday 1st October, can be accepted. Peter is in the Shed on Monday mornings.

Training

It has always been our intention that before members use certain tools and equipment that they have been certified as a safe user. Teo is currently doing the work we need to make this happen and soon members will be able demonstrate their safe use or be trained in the safe use of designated equipment. Once you have gone through this process you will be signed off by the trainer. We hope this will be an easy process and we respect the fact that some members have been using woodwork equipment all their lives. This is a process required particularly for insurance purposes and protects all of us. Standard Operating Procedures are also being developed for all equipment and posted for all to see. These are about safe operating of the equipment so please take the time to read them.

Constitution

Also known as Rules of Association.

These guiding procedures were written before we officially opened the Shed. They have now been in operation for some months and through using them we have realized that some minor changes need to be made.

Changes can only be made at an AGM and only after notifying all member at least two weeks beforehand. I will be emailing you these changes soon so you can consider the changes and make an informed vote on the changes at the AGM.

PPE's

A reminder that Personal Protection Equipment is your responsibility and that you must provide your own. It is your responsibility and choice to use PPE.

MOU and Lease

Norm and Pete are currently working with PAE Council officers to finalise our Memorandum Of Understanding and Lease both of which form the basis of a continued positive working relationship between both parties. We have had good support from PAE right from the start and we look forward to that continuing for as long as we both exist.

Thanks for reading through to the end

Cheers,

Peter Rawlins
Secretary