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M e n ' s S h e d

14 Gormley Drive, Kingston

Newsletter No 9, February 2013

As you will probably notice, some changes have been made to the Newsletter. This arose because our first editor, Ross Andrews, has decided to step down and I think it only fitting to thank Ross on behalf of all Shedders, for his efforts in getting the ball rolling. Ross will still make an appearance at The Shed from time to time.

Regular Activites: Kingston Men's Shed is open Monday - Thursday from 9am to 12.30pm. Tuesdays are set aside for members of various retirement villages in our Kingborough Council area to visit and participate. This does not exclude members from attending and interacting with our elderly citizens, perhaps lending a hand with one of their projects, or just enjoying a coffee and chat.

The Primary School mentoring programme recommences on Monday 18th February, with students from various schools within the community actively engaged in woodworking projects under the watchful eye of former teacher, Dave Ellis. No hanky-panky occurs during his watch!

News from The Shed: As you are aware, funds were raised from several projects completed over the last year or so, and your Committee opted to allocate some of this money towards the "Shed Extension Project". Part of the allocation allowed for the purchase and installation of two dust extractors to dramatically reduce the amount of dust emanating from the various sanders, grinders, saws and other equipment in The Shed, thus making for a healthier, cleaner work environment for everyone. This had been in the pipeline for a long time and has now finally, come to fruition.

Library collection: books and journals relating to woodwork, wood-turning, spindle turning and tools have been catalogued and are now available from our library. Members can borrow for a period of one month at no cost. If any of you have any technical material which you would like to donate to the collection, it would be most appreciated.



Up-coming Events: An Open Day will be held at The Shed on Friday, 1st March 2013 from 10am to 3pm. The Kingston Men's Shed will be hosting an informal get together for shedders in southern Tasmania. Morning tea and lunch will be supplied at a cost of \$5.00 per head. Help is required from 8.30am on the day to set up, and assistance is required with the BBQ lunch. If you will be attending and can help please put your name on the list at the shed or contact Kevin. We need to know numbers for catering purposes. (Please contact Kevin Clayton - Mobile: 0439 515236)

Members please note the following: Due to the above open day, the barbecue and get together which was set down for Thursday 28th February, has been re-scheduled for Thursday, 7th March. A notice of the change will also appear at The Shed.



Member Profile: As The Shed grows in membership, it would be interesting to know a little bit about each other - where we came from (overseas, mainland, local etc.); what we've done during our lives thus far; any unusual or interesting experiences along the way; hobbies or interests we pursue; how we became involved in The Shed. If you would like to put something together and email it to the editor, it will be included in future newsletters. (Email to: e.black@bigpond.com.au) For anyone who doesn't have email access or typing skills, I'm happy to organise an interview and record your comments, if you prefer.

While on the subject of membership, fees are \$40 per annum (of which \$15 goes towards the cost of compulsory public liability insurance) and are payable by 1st July each year. New members joining from 1st January pay a six monthly fee of \$30 with \$15 towards the insurance.

Shed History

Particularly for newer members who, perhaps, don't know the history of how the Kingston Men's Shed came to be, the first part of this article will provide some insight into the efforts of a few dedicated members who recognised the benefits associated with the "men's shed" concept, as expressed in these words:

"A men's shed focuses on providing a place for regular social interaction, promoting mateship and support, active participation in activities, making tangible things, learning new skills and creating new ideas, receiving information - especially about health and well-being, and helping the community."

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The story of the Kingston Men's Shed began on 31st August, 2006 with a public meeting held at the Kingston Community Health Centre which was attended by a mixed group of representatives of local community organisations and individuals keen to contribute to this new initiative. It was at that meeting that the organisation would be known as the Kingborough Community Garden and Men's Shed Association Incorporated. It was the first Shed established in the Kingborough Council area.

Most of the first twelve months were devoted to forming committees, doing research, (no AMSA to provide guidance and support back then) lobbying Kingborough Council for the provision of a site, raising funds and promoting the donation of tools and materials. Thanks to the generosity of local developer Robert Rockefeller, we also recycled approximately \$30,000 of building materials from the old Roberts' site when it was demolished to make way for the new Coles car park.

At the time Kingborough was experiencing rapid change, and the Council was understandably reluctant to make a commitment to a suitable site that might compromise future development. However, in 2007 we were offered a temporary site belonging to the Education Department that was administered by a group known as "The Channel Cluster" which is made up of the six local primary schools (Kingston, Illawarra,



Blackmans Bay, Margate, Snug and Woodbridge) and Kingston High School. In return for the use of the site we agreed to set up a mentoring program for students from those schools.

The site comprised an old weatherboard house, where the local Education Department Speech Therapists were based, which provided access to some storage space, a meeting room, toilet and small kitchen. At the rear of the house was an overgrown garden and a rather dilapidated small garden shed. Our immediate neighbour was a toddlers' day care centre. The shed was soon sandwiched between two containers donated by the Antarctic Division, one for storage and the other fitted out as a small but quite well equipped workshop. So we began.



With the help of small groups of wildly enthusiastic young people the gardeners set about creating a very productive garden where before there had only been sand and weeds. At the same time the Shedders introduced both primary and secondary students to the delights of bicycle maintenance, making wooden toys and puzzles and basic electronics.

Good fun though all this was, and productive in raising our profile in the community and with the Council, it was a long way from being a Men's Shed and Community Garden, especially since, because of the nature of the site, and the proximity of the Day Care Centre access was restricted to only those with Police Good Character checks. .

(Part 2 will appear in our next newsletter.)

(Ed. Note: Courtesy of Denis Newman, the various photos show preparation and fitting out of the containers which were used as workshops.

Your Committee is made up of the following members: Arnold Krieg, Dave Ellis, Denis Newman, Dennis O'Flynn, Mike Jackson, Fenn Oost, Bob Davis & Evelyn Black.

Are there any members out there who would be able to assist with applications for grants. These are infrequent, time-consuming exercises but, if successful, helpful in future development of The Shed - Your Shed.