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14 Gormley Drive, Kingston

Newsletter No 12 July 2013

Regular Activities: 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 continues throughout the term.

News from The Shed:

Your Committee met on Tuesday 2nd July. Correspondence was received from Kingborough Council with regard to a safety inspection being organised by their officers, to be carried out at some future date. The program has not yet begun, but the Committee is happy for it to be done as soon as possible. An appropriate logo for The Shed is also being investigated.

Although it might appear that nothing is happening re our extension, certain things are on-going and, as well as confirmation of our successful grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund, a Council grant has also been approved. With the absence of one or two key committee members, construction works are expected to commence in September. Anyone who feels they are able to assist in some way with the project should let the Committee know so that you can be contacted at the appropriate time.

Councillor Paula Wriedt was most impressed with the set up and activities during a recent visit to The Shed, as was councillor and recently nominated Liberal Party candidate for Kingston, Nic Street.

Dave Ellis is taking a well-deserved break and heading off to the UK for some R&R. However, judging from some of his comments, he might be needing a rest when he gets back! Enjoy your trip, Dave - and a few glasses of the good stuff while you're at it!

Our "one-eyed gunner" is coping reasonably well - still manages his share of the cooking, although it seems there was a problem with a slightly underdone chook in the new turbo

oven. And "Lopey Joe" was observed doing a "Jake-the -Peg" act with his walking stick! This seems to be improving and, with some new orthotics in his shoes, will allow him to enjoy his Baltic cruise!

While a large number of members have already done so, a reminder that membership fees are now due, just in case you've forgotten or been in other -parts of this wonderful country of ours!

Library : A nice selection of books and journals relating to woodwork, wood-turning, spindle turning and tools have been catalogued and are available from our library. Members can borrow for a period of one month at no cost. Please fill in the loan sheet with the book's number, together with your name and the date borrowed. 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:

Perhaps members could note in their diaries that Tuesday 17th September is set down as the date of the AGM for The Shed.

Member Profile: Julian Scott

Some of you will know me as the tall thin Pom who turned up in March this year and has been appearing every Wednesday or Thursday since then. In February I was made redundant by the ABC where I have worked for 26 years. This suited me just fine - in fact I was rather hoping it would happen! Originally my plan was to retire at the age of 65 anyway and, having reached 63, I am able to cover the missing 2 years thanks to the redundancy payout I was entitled to.

Born just after the war in Newcastle Upon Tyne, England, I grew up in the industrial North East. My father had an unusual occupation as a Stained Glass Designer and he spent most of his working life reinventing damaged windows in churches all over the country. Often this required knowledge of history and the ability to re-create the original style.

Alas I inherited little of his artistic ability but I do have some talent working with my hands. Apart from what he taught me as a child, most of what I have learned over the years has been through necessity; fixing up various houses that I have lived in and, more recently, repairing a boat.

My school years ended with three years at Newcastle Polytechnic (now a University) where I gained a degree in Electronic Engineering and this led to my first job working for a telephone company in Birmingham as a management trainee. I stuck that out for a year and then had the chance to get into the exciting world of television when my father sent me an ad for a job back in the North East with Tyne Tees Television. I jumped at the chance, applied and got the job. This time I managed to last for 11 years working in a very friendly and enjoyable environment which had many talented and

interesting people. I was now working as a Sound Engineer and although my technical knowledge was useful, it was largely an operational role helping to make television programs. In those days commercial television was a license to print money and so we had generous budgets and no shortage of crews. I was lucky enough to be involved in all sorts of work from making variety shows in the tv studios to filming in Europe. Probably the highlight was filming the British Army on the tank ranges in Germany, charging around in an Alvis Stalwart (6 wheel drive personnel carrier) in deep mud with Chieftan tanks roaring along behind us. On that same job I had an unforgettable flight in a military helicopter (which I think was called a Gazelle) - very high performance and absolutely terrifying. And I was being paid for it!!

While with Tyne Tees Television, I married my wife Jane and we had two children. Although my job was well paid and often enjoyable, things were beginning to turn sour in the industry and in the country so we decided we would like to have a change and move away somewhere. After much research and deliberation we settled on Australia. Even then the process of applying and gaining acceptance to this country was not easy, but with my qualifications and Jane being a Physiotherapist we were accepted.

We moved to Melbourne in 1981 with 2 young children, no jobs to go to and nowhere to live! That sounds very irresponsible but in fact I had done my homework and knew there were jobs to be had. We were very fortunate in that I had a 2nd cousin who lived in Albert Park and was able to put us up while we looked for a house. We probably overstayed our welcome because we were there for a number of weeks, but eventually we bought a place in Glen Waverley. Within 3 weeks of arriving I had a job, so things worked out well but after 2 years in Melbourne we realised it wasn't for us and we moved to Hobart. I worked for The Tasmanian Film Corporation and had some more fun doing plenty of flying around in helicopters and making tourism films and commercials. Best of all was a 3 week shoot with some sailboarders from Queensland who circumnavigated Tasmania. That got me to the west coast and some very isolated spots including Port Davey, so I quickly discovered what incredible beauty this state has to offer. Unfortunately after 2 years the business was struggling so I moved again; this time to ABC radio. I soon found that radio did not thrill me much and so I grabbed the first opportunity to get back into television.

During the 26 years I was with the ABC, I met some very nice people and was able to explore Tasmania comprehensively. Much of the time the work was interesting and enjoyable. In later years I became what is known as a Technical Producer, or TP for short. A TP's role is to plan and oversee the work in studios and Outside Broadcasts, managing the crew and making sure all the technical facilities needed are available and working properly. This could be challenging and sometimes very busy, but latterly the work dwindled and eventually stopped altogether when the management decided to cease outside broadcasts in this state.

During all this time I have been a keen sailor and spent as much time as I could racing dinghies until my early 50's whereupon I had a go in bigger boats. Eventually I bought a

27ft glass fibre yacht called 'Wizard of Id' and used it for day sailing around the channel. This was a good experience but I sold it after about 5 years and had a rest from sailing for a while. Regretfully I then made what turned out to be a big mistake and bought a large Huon pine motor sailor. This is a long story in itself but suffice to say I hardly used it at all because it needed so much work that I had to devote all my time and money to restoring it. I sold it just recently at a huge loss and brought to an end a very bad experience. Still I did learn all sorts of shipwright skills in the process! Now I have just purchased a sea kayak. It needs no work, costs nothing to keep and will even (I hope) keep me fit!

Joining the Kingston Men's Shed has been a very rewarding experience and I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for welcoming me so warmly and making me feel like part of the team. I look forward to being involved for many years to come.

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