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14 Gormley Drive, Kingston

## Newsletter No 11, June 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:**

Noteworthy to members will be the news that we have been successful in securing funds via our recent application to the Tasmanian Community Fund. While it's a little short of the amount requested, it means construction of our much-needed extension can proceed. There is some paperwork to be signed off first, but don't be surprised to see some preliminary excavations being carried out in, hopefully, the next few weeks!

### **Goings-on in The Shed:**

Some maintenance work involving cleaning up the back of the property; paving and a shaded area for the Garden Group; Lodge railings and fence painted; construction of five wheelchair accessible raised garden beds; construction and installation of gates for local resident; restoration of the ride-on mower; and projects currently being undertaken include numerous wood-turning products, as well as helping members with projects of their own.

### **Membership Matters:**

With the new financial year almost here, membership fees are due as, and from, 1<sup>st</sup> July. Membership remains at \$40 per year.

On the subject of membership, numbers have increased substantially over the last several months swelling the ranks to over 40. No wonder we need the new extension!

Those of you who know Fenn Oost, may have heard that he has resigned from the Committee and as a member of The Shed. Fenn has decided to resume playing golf, but he has also expressed a keen interest in bee-keeping - so there might be some honey

for sale at The Shed one of these days! We wish Fenn all the best and thank him for his input to The Shed and the committee.

Heard tell there's a "one-eyed" fellow roaming round The Shed - if he has a wooden leg and a parrot on his shoulder, it might be Pirate Pete!

**Member Profile: Graeme Euston**

I have been retired about six years, my last job was with Hydro Tasmania working as an Electrical Engineer in the Hydro Consulting Division.

Most of my working life was spent as an Electrical Engineer with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria. I worked in a department called Power Department which as the name implies was concerned with building power stations, mostly in the Latrobe Valley. My work involved specification writing, tender analysis, and contract management. Power stations take about 10 years from start to finish and involve most aspects of engineering at a heavy industry level.

After the SEC was sold off I worked as a contract engineer in private industry mostly what you would call heavy industry finally coming to Tasmania for about four years and then retiring in our lovely State. My work in Tasmania was mostly involved in upgrading and refurbishing work at the older Hydro power stations.

People who know me, know that I am in a wheelchair, this is due to a rare muscular disease that causes muscles to simply fade away. As I know now, this has been happening for nearly 30 years, but very slowly. Obviously this now restricts my activities to ones which I can do with my limited strength and from the wheelchair.

I come from a family background of largely tradespeople, my grandfather was a carpenter and all of my close relatives, during growing up, were skilled in most facets of home maintenance and building all sorts of things. This gave me a similar capacity throughout my life of which I am really appreciative, I have a good mind for design and finding ways of fixing things or achieving an alternative solution.



My IOM No 27 in the foreground

Besides enjoying the comradeship of men's shed, I have a couple of enjoyable hobbies, the first one is, sailing a radio controlled model yacht called an International One Meter , or IOM for short. This is an international class of yacht and enjoys a huge following with national and world championships. As the name implies, one of the key dimensions of the yacht is its length of one meter. . The class rules of sailing are almost identical to the rules used for larger boats. The competition is very keen with the races conducted over a typical scaled course as per larger yachts.



Kodak Retina (117) (1934-35)

I also have a keen interest in collecting older cameras, mostly, 35mm film cameras from their early days in the mid 30s to around 1980 when plastics became the norm instead of metal bodies. I also have a smattering of larger format cameras over the same era.

My wife Roza and I enjoy many activities including, classical music. We are regular attendees at TSO concerts and other musical events. We also enjoy the countryside and eating out as well as a host of other activities which many people enjoy.

I find the Men's Shed a wonderful place to meet new people and solve the world's problems, as you do!

We have a wonderful collection of people of diverse background and skills, there is not much that we can't achieve as a group if we put our minds to it, as well as helping members in need of any assistance in life's difficulties it is great working as a team doing projects or making submissions for grants etc.



IOM's Racing

*(Ed. Thank you Graeme - hopefully a few more members will be encouraged to participate.)*

### Shed History (part 2):

After two years there, a permanent Council site of approximately two acres became available at No. 14 Gormley Drive at a peppercorn rent of \$10 per annum, with an option to renew the lease after five years. There was also the very real bonus of



the Council arranging with the previous tenants, Riding for the Disabled, to leave behind most of their infrastructure - a small meeting room and kitchen, a toilet block with disabled access and a small colorbond shed that had served as a tack room. The transfer of the two containers from the old site provided invaluable storage for both Shed and Garden.

The fit-out of the small shed was soon completed and The Shed schools' program recommenced. In addition, a lot of time and effort was directed at raising funds for the construction of a sizeable Shed and the development of the Garden.

Since that time much of the work completed by the Shedders has been focussed on the Garden with the construction of over fifty raised garden beds, compost bins, a pergola, fencing and the creation of a garden for those confined to wheelchairs. This commitment to the partnership is ongoing, with the erection of a sheltered space for barbeques and the levelling and clearance of a storage site at the bottom of the block the next jobs on the list.

Towards the end of 2010 our efforts at fund raising were finally successful when we were given a grant of approximately \$45,000 by the Tasmanian Development Fund for the construction and fit out of a 10M x 8M colorbond shed.

This was a big step forward but all did not go exactly according to plan since inexperience in these matters



had caused us to underestimate just how much the fit out would cost. As always the devil is in the detail, and progress was slower than planned as additional funds were raised to cover the extras we needed. However, to our great advantage this phase coincided with the move of the High School to its new site and the Principal and Staff, on the basis of our success with the mentoring program, very generously donated to

The Shed equipment and furniture that the school no longer required. This has provided a very sound foundation for the future of The Shed.

Once opened the new Shed developed rapidly, underlining the need for such a place in the community. In six months the membership more than trebled and now stands at 25 regular attendees who all take an active part in what the Shed has to offer, plus a handful of others who support the work of the Shed in cash or kind but don't participate in any of the activities. As part of the new development and the increasing complexity of what is happening in each area, the Shed and the Garden have become separate autonomous units, each responsible for its own administration and finance, but remaining as members of the Incorporated body for matters such as public liability insurance and reclaiming GST. The Shed is organised by a committee of eight, but all members have an equal say in matters of importance.

At the moment the Shed is open Monday to Thursday mornings 9.00 to 12.30. In addition to supporting the Garden, current projects include:

- the ongoing Schools' mentoring program with students at the Shed three mornings a week;
- hosting of local aged care residents from 3 facilities for three Tuesdays each month.

Members can use the resources of the Shed to do their own thing, making or repairing for themselves. However, the great majority of members seem happiest as part of a group working on a project that helps to raise funds for the Shed - such as the Christmas Sleigh, Santa letterbox and bollards commissioned by Channel Court Shopping Centre management for last Christmas - a project which raised \$2500.

Probably the most valuable resource we can offer is the tiny tea/coffee and biscuits bar in a corner of the Shed adjacent to a large table and half a dozen or so plastic garden chairs. If he so wishes a bloke can park himself there and just watch what's happening - there are never any complaints provided he doesn't scoff too many biscuits! Members sitting at the table can range in age from 16 to 80, although the average would be in the late sixties. Knowledge and experiences are shared, information exchanged, jokes told and, when necessary, support and encouragement provided. In 2011 two members lost partners to lengthy terminal illness; both have acknowledged the value of the Shed as a refuge in difficult times. All the world's problems are frequently solved here, usually in a number of different and conflicting ways.

As to the future: we have already out-grown our present accommodation and the focus now is on extending the Shed to twice its current size. Local agencies are being approached and we have received significant offers of assistance. The plan is to move most of the existing workshop into the extension and to set up some of the heavier timber preparation machinery donated by the High School, together with an effective dust extraction system, in the space created. This will enable us to more efficiently recycle the material we are frequently given thus cutting costs and increasing

versatility. The dust extraction and greater room to move will also improve health, safety and access.

There are even tentative plans to extend the extension to provide a clean, dust free space for meetings, classroom activities, electronics and some computer studies. It is always encouraging to witness so many members of the older generation of our society eagerly giving so much thought to the future.



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

(Ed. Note: Due to some unforeseen circumstances, my apologies that there has been no newsletter since April. However, it is hoped it will be a regular feature from now on.)