

Umina Beach Men's Shed Inc Newsletter January 2020

A “very warm” welcome to the first of our Newsletters for 2020, it feels like the Shed has been off to a lively start for the year. Our very local CWA team (Umina) wanted a new Honour Board constructed, as a replica of the existing but now full Honour Board. So Bill W undertook the challenge, selecting suitable timbers / stains/ glues/ and finishes to meet the task. This was after a session at the CWA Hall to measure up and record the detail structure of the original Board.



Whilst this was underway, Jeff S and Len undertook the task of re-doing the Hall floor surface coating, with the Hall having a regular high level of usage – this exercise had to be undertaken between Xmas and the New Year – to facilitate drying times and relocation of furniture etc.



Bill W and Bill I returned to the Hall with the completed Honour Board to meet with the CWA ladies and to work out with them the location to mount both boards. Once that was determined the boards were duly mounted and we think the photo showing the two boards in situ and the rejuvenated floor tells a great story.



Arron returned with a fancy and unusual project in mind and of course his satchel bag across his shoulder and under his arm. The project was to construct from scratch a "bench mounted pottery wheel". He crafted a solid wooden frame "for the chassis", for the motor and drive belt to enjoy a secure and safe home within the structure –whilst delivering the required revolving speed to the actual pottery wheel. The structure protected the moving parts from the clay and water activities that will eventually take place on the wheel.



As we all know it's been a hot summer and not a lot of rain – not the best time for the Shed's bore pump to “act up” and stop delivering the much needed water to the garden beds. Mathew /Merv /Stephen all managed to work on the pump installation at the same point in time ! from both sides of the fence! A fire rescue team would have been proud of them – within a little over a couple of hours {including time for tea and bickies}, they had the pump back – up and running at peak performance.



You may recall that a few years ago Scott Levi from the ABC Central Coast visited our Shed and conducted a range of interviews with our Members – Live to Air. It was fun morning and we had a lovely response from Central Coast listeners. Well this month several of Shed's team appeared live on Channel 7 SUNRISE PROGRAM and Bill Ide was interviewed on screen. The Shed was part of a major Sunrise link up with Peninsula Village. We know now why it's Sunrise, as we had to be on site before 6.00 in the morning! If you missed the program –Bill G has a few live clips on screen at the office. These photo's simply show the garden bed which Les and his team made for Peninsula Village especially for residents with mobility issues – the T.V interview on the Shed focused on this project. The photo's on show here were simply taken to record the preparation leading up to the live interview. But we would have to say, that being there and seeing the residents out and about at dawn all looking very happy and comfortable along with the staff and management of

Peninsula Village, plus a troop of Sea Scouts, all of the people on site interacting, socialising and being very much part of an extraordinary morning. Well done Peninsula Village and Channel 9 team.



The Shed has received a few donations of machines and equipment over the last couple of months –naturally most of it requires some T.L.C. and refurbishment –plus safety checks etc. Well with Dave on the electrics , Jeff ? and Harvey on the visuals and Lionel B on operating safety – they are being rejuvenated and well back on the road to a useful life once again.



When “Wally the Welder” returned from his Xmas break – his first task was to cut/form/weld a series of frame /stands that the village needed for their ongoing refurbishment program. The picture show the finished products already loaded on the motor trolley [camera man late again!!] for delivery back to the Village, and Stedy counting the number of frames.



A skill not often seen in action “around” the Shed, that being Panel Beating! Here we have J or G ?/// quietly and efficiently removing a dent from the front fender of our Ute, and getting it ready for a quick coat of paint.



Larry started his first of many planned “TOOL BOX” talks with members. This month he was at length to explain to the members where the monies that members pay in “Actually Goes”! like the \$2 a day not only has to cover the tea /coffee /biscuit cost of supply but ALSO the costs of Shed consumables [like glue/ masks/ cutting disks/ sand papers /toilet papers/ tapes] wash –up materials etc) –the list is almost endless. The talk generated a few questions

and comments from the members and was well received. Stand-by for more “Tool Box” from Larry in the coming months.



Now a visit with “John the gardener” – which we may just switch to “Artistic John”! Just look at this image that he created out of almost a piece of scrap and using one of our Jig Saws. There is a lovely story that goes with it as to why John has crafted this item which we will leave to you –to ask John!



A quick visit back to the welding section – firstly to look at a chair trolley [for moving stacks of chairs] which needed to be modified to cope with a different height of chairs – a simple solution was developed – a quick weld of some cut offs as height extenders. A simple solution –that will save plenty of back problems for chair movers and keeping the trolley out of retirement or going to scrap.



Now we all know our Shed's motto is the "the little Shed with the big heart", the writer was thinking the other day as I walked into the office perhaps we should have a motto for the office! How about -"the little Hub with a big range"?. Visitors and members pop –in and out of the office – the phones and screens are normally busy and the fixed occupants –BillG ,Doug H, John, beaver away and allow the "intermittent crew" Stedy,Darrell, Billi, BillW Larry, Lionel, Vic to utilize the one revolving chair and screen – yes it's certainly a busy Hub.



With the schools all back on track as of last week, some of our members who have been away on Grandparent duties during late Dec and Jan are now returning to the Shed. Whilst the caravan and outback traveller teams along with Ocean cruisers are no doubt busy with their plans for trips in 2020. If you have not visited your Shed for a while, why not make a plan to revisit. It looks like we have a few projects in the offing – which can occupy minds, provide a challenge, for members who wish to learn new skills and there is always room “at the table of Knowledge” [*Hey we are still only operating a single sitting – lots of opportunity!*] for those that most enjoy the socialising.



As we head to the close, it would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the efforts of the Fire fighters / SES / Ambulance / Police teams etc that have applied themselves to tackle the challenges of the Bush Fires, big storms and very hot conditions across 24 hr periods. The loss of lives and properties is a tragedy by any measure. The fact that at this point we are advised that 110,000 sq Miles of bush / properties have been burnt since October 2019 to-date. We certainly all need a fire plan and to be very aware of the risks and threats. We thought we would finish this letter with a copy of a short poem by Henry Lawson written in 1911! about fire experiences and awareness of the day. Perhaps nothing about climate change, or what are the Gov/Polities doing about this?, but a real sense of reality of an individual of that period. Until our next Newsletter- stay safe and in the shade - and happy Shedding.

An Australian Christmas Poem from 1911

Henry Lawson

Great Australian Storyteller



A BUSH FIRE.

One Christmas-time, when months of
drought

Had parched the western creeks,
The bush-fires started in the north
And travelled south for weeks.
At night, along the river side,
The scene was grand and strange;
The hill-fires looked like lighted streets
Of cities in the range.

The cattle tracks between the trees
Were like long, dusty aisles,
And, on a sudden breeze, the fire
Would sweep along for miles;
Like sounds of distant musketry
It crackled through the brakes,
And o'er the flat of silvery grass
It hissed like angry snakes.

It leapt across the flowing streams,
And raced o'er pastures broad;
It climbed the trees and lit the boughs,
And through the scrub it roared.
The bees fell stifled in the smoke
Or perished in their hives,
And, with the stock, the kangaroos
Went flying for their lives.

—Henry Lawson.

Though the struggle be grim, 'tis Australia that knows,
That her children shall fight while the waratah grows.

Best wishes

Bill G and Vic B