

May 2020 – Newsletter – Umina Beach Men's Shed Inc

A big and warm Hello to this month's Newsletter. With the Covid 19 restrictions still very much at work, although gradually lifting, we are not yet really in a position to forecast an accurate re-opening date. But to say that your committee is restless and jumping around to re-open – would be an understatement!!

Hopefully everybody has been trying to keep in contact with mates at the Shed and exchanging news and chatter about how the time is being filled, health and exercise etc and if you have concerns about a member – give Bill Ide our welfare committee man a call.

We wrote and advised a couple of weeks ago about the Australian Men's Shed Association introducing a Radio podcast facility on a weekly basis for its members. They release a new episode weekly on a Thursday afternoon and we are already up to episode 4. So far they have been really interesting and very easy to listen to - each episode is an hour and fifteen minutes or so and covers a good range of topics. We strongly recommend you give it a try – simply connect to theshedwireless@mensshed.net. Enjoy!

Whilst we have been closed for many weeks now Bill Ide and Bill Wood had undertaken a project for the Umina Beach Public School well before the closure of our Shed – however, the school like all the other schools also closed down their facility and moved to home based teaching. The project was an overhaul of the storage boxes alongside their much loved “Sand Pit.” A couple

of weeks ago Mr Chad Tsakissiris The Deputy Principal, contacted Bill Ide and advised him that the School was commencing preparations to open initially on a restricted attendance basis with a view to returning to normal full attendance etc. That being the case, they needed the storage boxes returned and installed. The two Bills arranged a suitable time and date with the Deputy Principal and delivered and re-installed the boxes.



Now let's have a quick look at what some of our members have been up to during the shut-down period:

John L'Estrange



I have completed the bike trailer for my sea kayak and have started on another for bulk items.

Larry Stewart



Photo shows a small section of yard works my wife and I have done since the Corona Virus restrictions have been in place. The new fence was already installed, and we took the opportunity to construct the rock garden, features and garden bench. She would like an additional feature, but it will have to wait until the shed reopens. In addition we have carried out those home maintenance jobs that were previously on the back burner.

Dave helped me trace electrical gremlins that surfaced in the house, I've delivered a few bags of recyclables to Merv, and I've spoken with the few members whose contact details I've got.

John Powell



A tool storage System that I've made for the community garden.



Harvey McDougall



Progressive of decking in our courtyard

Wayne Cooper



This this is a picture of me gardening as a life member it is important something that is doable within isolation ,
Wayne Cooper

Bill Graham



At my computer concentrating on putting the Newsletter together.



Ian Butler

I have a Triton Mk3 Saw table with the addition of an add-on Triton router table top. The Triton saw table, years ago, I'd fitted a genuine Triton wheel kit. Aging, as we're all are, I have been finding the thing a beast to move from the side of garage where I keep it stored to where I need it. So I've made up a retractable castor set-up so that I can press down on a pedal and the castors descend to the floor for easy moving. Once in place, I press on a second pedal that releases a catch and the unit descends by its own weight on to its four stable main legs. The reverse procedure sees the table raised onto the castors again and then moved back against the wall and then dropped on to its feet once more. A few scraps of melamine coated MDF, steel rod, homemade axle pivots, odd steel washers and nuts and a casement window catch and that was all it took.

I never really had a great fence for the Router Table so I finally had time to adapt the original Triton Saw rip fence into a proper set-up similar in style to the Shed's Kreg router table. I fashioned some insert panels to be slid into the adjustable fence opening for when I need to have a zero clearance with a router bit. Only mistake was I didn't plan for the panels to be sacrificial. Will just have to make up some more as spares.

Behind spurred on by the success of the Triton experiment, I've now started to make a similar set-up to support a stand for the Bench Grinder, Disc Sander, Compound Mitre Saw and Scroll Saw. These entail a box arrangement that holds two hinged plates with two swivel castors fix to one of the panels and two fixed castors to the other panel. This has a pedal arrangement also but the one pedal does the latching and unlatching. Have almost completed the first one and at this stage it also appears to be a successful project. So I'm planning to go forward and produce similar bases for the other tools. The Bench Grinder, I'll make a stand from some old melamine coated pine board for a slim cabinet to sit atop the moveable base. In the case of the other three machines, I intend to use three IKEA steel cabinets atop of each moveable base. Why IKEA? Well the cost of the ply sheeting to make the cabinets costs far, far more than that of the cabinets. Plus, the steel cabinets are stronger and more durable than ply.

So that's how I'm spending my time in isolation.

Stay safe and healthy guys, well be let out of purgatory soon. I hope to see you all again in not too long!

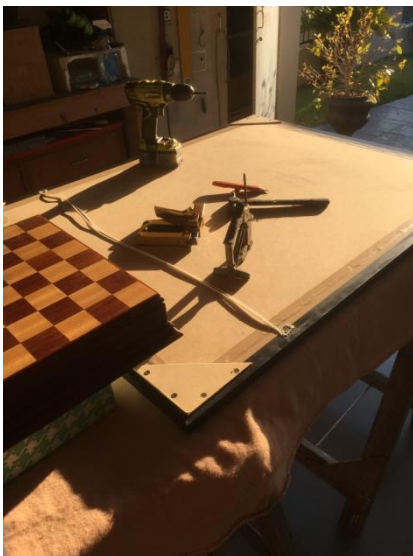
Cheers,



Gary Hansen



missing the shed but have been very occupied, luckily i was able to grind and sharpen my chisels at the shed before it shutdown.



project 1: cover the back deck witch was just basically a floor

project 2: Build a pergola/ BBQ area. (thumbs up to my wife who did all the planting and got them looking good)

project 3: made a chess set for my daughter (im hopeless at playing it she beats me every time)

next project derust my box trailer, cant wait for the shed to open as i need some pieces made and some steel bars bent

Good luck to all the guys and stay safe

Regards,



You will be pleased to hear that your committee got together for the first time since our shut down [although we regularly chat on the phone/e-mail]. This was primarily to discuss the potential challenges that will likely present as and when an opening date is sanctioned by the various governing authorities. The meeting also provided the opportunity to review the usual incoming mail/correspondence in/out etc - and for our Treasurer Bill Stedman, to provide us with an updated summary of the Sheds financials. Now, the 8 committee numbers needed 32 square meters of space – a bit tight for our Shed facilities! So we held the meeting at 90 Osborne Av under the trees with a very easy 1.5 meter spacing etc. Plenty of space for us all, although to take the photo we look a little bunched up!



Rest assured we will be in touch once we know some dates and planning starts to reopen the Shed – in the meantime, let's all stay well aware and conscious of the need to prevent a second wave of Covid19 hitting the Central Coast.

Stay well and stay safe

Vic B and Bill G.

PS,

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

- (1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
- (2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
- (3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
- (4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
- (5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
- (6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.
Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life,
difficult to find and impossible to replace!!