

UBMSI NEWSLETTER – May 2019

Good day and welcome to your Shed's monthly Newsletter - it seems a little unreal but we are into the sixth month of this year already! Now with the Federal election passed and the NSW State election also fairly recently decided hopefully the hubble and bubble of party politics will subside and all the successful politicians elected to government or opposition will quickly get back to work.

One outcome of the election activities appears to be a fall off in the exchange rate for the Australian dollar against a range of currencies – that, if it continues, will make overseas trips a tad more expensive. Another outcome closer to home, being your Shed [UBMSI] is the arrival of many foreign coins in the tea/coffee/biscuit/BBQ – money tin, at the sign in post!! No, we are not moving off the OZ dollar here in Umina and the exchange rate for this clutter is that of cheap washers! Even “*electric Dave*” an avid collector of specific coins agrees the coins being dumped in the tin are worthless. Now, since we opened the Shed a fee of \$2 a day sign in to cover the cuppas and biscuits has been the going rate –and we would like to keep it that way for as long as we can – so please let's keep it to Australian currency and the right amount.

If you follow the media at the moment there seems to be plethora of medical campaigns on the go to persuade virtually all age groups and types etc to be aware of certain health risks and the availability of tests and treatments following early diagnosis. Like the call for vaccinations against flu that appears to have worked insomuch as the log jam at the medical practices to actually supply the treatment! The campaigns that currently catch the eye of your writers' in regard to the profile of our Shed members are - simple annual heart tests conducted by your G.P. and the bowel cancer screening annually for all those up to 75 of age. It is a simple non-invasive process you do at home and post the testing sample off to the testing company. Early diagnosis of both these potential problems saves lives and often provides fast recoveries etc.

Now, let us move to what has been happening at the Shed. Well a young spritely and very active member arrived a few days ago, with a lovely smile on his face and a big plate of

beautiful cake, with which he proceeded to walk around the Shed and offer to the lads and join him in celebrating his birthday - he is a classic latish 1930's model! On behalf of all at the Shed many happy returns and thanks for the lovely cake.



The lads in the office have come to the conclusion that Russell is a noise fiend, simply based on the fact that he loves winding up whipper snippers or lawn motors outside the office on his work bench and if and when he turns to wood work – he spends hours reducing the volume of wood on the inside and outside of large tree limb crafting a didgeridoo, O.K. so he is on the adjacent bench but still close to office! Don't panic Russell we love your work.



We think we all know the hard work and concentration one needs to apply in garnering a new skill, well Stephen has been learning to design and craft stylish pens. He would be the first to admit that he has machined some disasters! But he has kept at it and is slowly improving his focus – here he is proudly exhibiting one of his more successful creations. Keep it up and keep it going Stephen, it looks like you have turned the corner.



A newish member is determined to create a frame work around the base of a tree, but such an idea/structure as this has a lot of angle joints and as the width of design widens increased lengths of timbers. When the Shed is busy it can also be noisy and hard to think. Not to be deterred by the environment Rudolf simply takes the pieces outside onto the pavement puts them down in position, studies the status and looks to develop a solution.



Larry and his family are well known for their off-road camping capability and over time he has created/crafted lots of gadgets/furniture, fittings for the vehicle etc. This is just another one for the road! Nice job, Larry.



Here we are looking at an old item that has been cruising in various generations of family and Jeff has already spent a number of hours restoring the surfaces and joins before giving it a coat of new paint, but it's starting to look like a wine rack once again.



The Shed often holds surprises for the likes of the writers, for example here we see two members having a quiet heart to heart discussion with each other whilst gazing at the centre fold of a magazine, and you don't have to think too hard to imagine what we thought the type of magazine was! Well, we were the ones that were shocked –



The following photo simply shows that not all our members are over 45! We are delighted to have Hannes join the Shed and we are sure all the members will enjoy the interaction and listening to the opinions of a younger member.



The table of knowledge!! Whilst the surroundings are not very sophisticated [likely more industrial] it is a place of great fellowship and comfortable enough to enjoy a cuppa and if a view of the lads working on projects starts to bore you, one just has turn a few degrees and look at these amazing plants in full production, just sitting quietly inside our fence, getting on with life.



Our monthly BBQ lunches would not be so well prepared or cooked if our trusty Chefs John and Larry were not out there on the job, here we see John just starting to set up prior to the start of cooking.



We were asked by a sailing club if the Shed could fix up their outside /quay side wood burning heater, it was certainly a rather unusual design, but Wally took on the challenge and very quickly restored the item to excellent working order.



One of our many Bills is busy restoring a rocking horse and in the process it was requiring a new saddle [this one like a bike saddle] Arron volunteered his skills and service and quickly turned out a saddle format which he then beautifully upholstered.



Well we think it's time to close, having covered just a few of the projects that have taken place during the month, if you as a member have not visited the Shed for period, make a plan to come on down, it always nice to see lads returning from travels, medical sessions, moving house etc. Having come on down for a visit, please give thought if you have a bad cold , onset of flue, to staying comfortably at home, so the Shed occupants stay healthy – thanks.

In the meantime, look after yourselves and family whilst we live through these challenging and changing weather conditions.

Happy shedding

Bill G and Vic B

