

NOVEMBER 2020 UMINA BEACH MEN'S Inc NEWSLETTER

A very warm welcome to the Shed's November 2020 Newsletter and as we write this letter we have 23 days clear of new Covid cases within the NSW community. There is talk of lifting restrictions, opening borders etc – but there is also a serious call for everybody to be sensible – masks to be used on public transport as the number of users ramp up – social distancing etc to be maintained etc.

A big “thank you” to the 29 members who attended and took part in the Shed's Extraordinary General Meeting to consider a motion to amend your Shed's Constitution to be in line with DGR Regulations. The motion was agreed and the Constitution suitably amended. Also another Big Thank You to the Ocean Beach Surf Club for hosting the meeting in order for us all to meet the social distancing requirements whilst be inside a quiet environment. It was a short formal meeting but that allowed time for fellowship and socializing for all the attendees, prior to us all heading back home etc.

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In our October edition we covered the clean-up project concerning the wall outside the Peninsula village's new project in Springwood St. This month Bill, Graeme and Brian were out on the job there installing borders around the new tree plantings and coating the root area with a generous covering of mulch – as a protective measure.



Saturday Nov 21 – our Shed held one of our Gara/Shed sales –again challenging in terms of Covid restrictions, which pretty much ruled out our normal location for these sales, being the lovely CWA Hall at Umina. However we were fortunate that the ‘Auto Barn’ facility in Charlton St Woy Woy (opposite the entrance to Deep Water Plaza) allowed the Shed to use their yard and facilities for a Pop-Up Gara/Shed Sale. Members: Larry, Dave, B.I, Rudolf, John P, Jeff, Les, Ron -all waded into the project in part or start to finish [prep days and sale day]. We had many lovely interactions between the customers and the Shed’s team during the course of the sales day – opening at 7.00 and closing at 15.30 followed by a half hour clean up and reloading the remaining merchandize into the trailers. Social distancing, log in-log out, sanitizing were in the system all day and our customers willingly complied – well done B.I., the Covid Marshal. We are pleased to advise that new homes/locations were found for several trailer loads of items/tools/equipment etc and the funds generated returned to the Shed.



A couple of weeks ago B.I. and Doug H were invited to visit with the local Probus Club and put on a presentation covering the activities and history of the Umina Beach Men's Shed – it went really well and two Probus members Ms Ransome and Ms Sue Parker visited the Shed a few days ago to present a thank you plaque to the Shed – unfortunately, Doug H was not at the Shed on the day but other members were recruited for the photo.



On Thursday, 26 November the Woy Woy Community Gardens held a beautiful morning tea and hosted their locally based supporters [the reality being that the number of actual supporters and Covid restrictions required the Gardens to run two morning Teas]. Bill S and Bill W attended on behalf of the Shed and on arrival they were given a personal guided tour of the actual gardens and the variety of plants/vegies/fruits etc were explained and everybody's questions were answered directly. During the actual morning tea, with beautiful home cooked treats etc, the organizer addressed the gathering and we learnt about the challenges, trials and tribulations of operating and growing a community garden.

It was a most enjoyable and worthwhile visit – Vic B attended on behalf of the Rotary Club.

The photos show the organiser speaking in the middle of a circle of attendees and Bill S in the background with Mr and Mrs Taylor of the Lions Club under the Gardens signage.



We are now pleased to take a trip outback with one of our reporters

A DIFFERENT SPIN ON DISTANCING

Wanting to put our own perspective on distancing, my wife and I loaded the Ranger and departed the Central Coast, to travel out west, first stop to be Hill End. Following a town tour we headed to Bathurst for an overnight cabin.

After a couple of slow laps of Mt Panorama the next morning we headed off to Trundle to view the widest main street and the longest wooden hotel verandah in Australia! The tent was erected that night at Gum Bend Lake, Condobolin.



We travelled to Ivanhoe and intended to go across to Menindee Lakes, but recent rains had closed the road to Menindee, so we were re-routed north toward Wilcannia. Camp that night was on the banks of the Darling River in the Darling/Paroo NP.

The next morning saw us visit Tilpa pub, which is practising covid safe restrictions by only allowing one person inside at a time. Further along, it was proving tiring driving hundreds and hundreds of kilometres of unfenced, unmaintained outback gravel roads over the last couple of days keeping a vigilant watch for potholes, bull dust, stock and wildlife. Finally, 37 degrees outside temperature drove us to an overnight air-conditioned cabin in Bourke.



After breakfast we were off to Pilliga for two nights at the hot Springs & campground. The first dawn saw a big wind develop that nearly blew the tent away, and it didn't subside until sundown.

The next stop was Moree, to visit friends for couple of days. A bumper grain harvest in the region had us dodging harvesters, B-doubles and Road Trains hauling grain. Moree Men's Shed has a new shed the size of a small aircraft hanger. Envy!!

The next leg of our trip took us via Warialda, to Coolatai and on to the Macintyre River Falls. Camped two nights at Lemon Tree Flat campground before moving on.

Calling in at a nearly empty (15%) Pindari Dam the next day reinforced that the drought has not broken in the State's northern region. Then we travelled to Ashford, Inverell, and on to spend the night in Walcha.

The following morning was to be the penultimate day of our homeward journey. However, gremlins had other ideas. Some hundred clicks out of Walcha the Ranger conked out. Unable to get it started again a rescue call was placed to the NRMA, and we were on our way back to Walcha on the back of the recovery truck.



After an unintentional second night in Walcha motel, a call from the NRMA workshop informed us that they were unable to revive the stricken Ranger and were arranging a loan car for us to return to the Central Coast. The Ranger would follow the next day on a flat bed truck. It wasn't the best way to end a happy holiday!

Returning now to the Shed – if you haven't booked and visited the Shed since we re-opened, perhaps it's time you should start to plan a visit – phone or E-mail Bill G and work out a day you can book a visit. The general view on Covid restrictions lifting is that they will be gradual and somewhat cautious –understandably – but we all need to get into gear and slowly and carefully move with the times. So consider booking your visit and let's get rolling.

The end of the year/Xmas etc is approaching at speed and Bill Ide, our welfare person, would appreciate your assistance. If you are aware of a Shed member who is not well etc –please give Bill Ide a call or email and let him know. It's important particularly at this coming time of the year that we all look out for each other.

Well, that brings us to the end of this edition - summer is underway, stay safe and enjoy the lovely Peninsula.

Best regards and happy Shedding
Bill G and Vic B

1 December 2020

