

Umina Beach Men's Shed May 2021 Newsletter.

As we roll into the official start of winter your May newsletter is underway –so welcome to this edition. Rocking through June a new year for membership approaches so effectively we all need to renew our membership prior to July 2021 by way of a payment of Fifty dollars [\$50]. At a recent committee meeting it was agreed that persons wishing to join [or rejoin] our Shed –pay a joining fee of Thirty Dollars [\$30] and the annual membership of Fifty Dollars [\$50]. The intention is also to renew our 'name badges' at the point of membership renewal – in order to update the I.D. and update the First Aid status etc – so remember to bring your existing badge with you for it to be updated for 2021/2022.

With the ongoing scene around the globe with Covid and the incidents of virus break-outs and lock downs, mutations etc your committee has had initial discussions regarding the possible benefits to all members if we had a record of each member's position in regard to the vaccinations – i.e. First Vac date and second Vac date for Covid and also flu Vac date. If you have any dilemma or objection to the idea of recording this info please talk with a committee member over the next two weeks.

So what's been on the go at the Shed? Members have been quietly awaiting the return of our special members [life member] Bill G from sick leave. Tony De and Russell had designed a special 'welcome back' plaque/shield, [Tony De executed the artwork] which on Bill's return was presented to him by Larry S with the support of members around the table of knowledge area. Welcome back Bill – we all missed you.



The library boxes were finally finished and were made ready for collection – they will be located in public areas and stocked with used books [pre-read] which are then simply borrowed by members of the public [no charge etc] read and moved through the local communities. It's a terrific way of having good books being read by several individuals and shared via the concept of 'The Library Box'.



Our next photo is somewhat special insomuch as it shows a member comfortably and skilfully using an old technology to deliver a great result – John [an ex builder] wished to join and glue together two pieces of a structured wooden item. To do so he wanted a perfect joint along a good length – electric planer or sander? Not with this craftsman!! – out with one of our Old Hand planes- removes the blade sharpens it on a stone – fits it back into place and quietly planes the surfaces to a perfect match. Great to witness old skills very alive and well applied.



A local member of the public had an old table with a badly damaged leg, which was a tad ornamental and which he wanted replaced or repaired. Chopper undertook the challenge. He decided that it was more practical to repair the existing leg than machine a new one from scratch. He got John to turn out on the wood lathe a 'replacement item' then Chopper set about removing the damaged area from the leg and suitably fixing the replacement part.



Russell B, in an attempt to stay away from the whipper snippers and mowers that tend to follow him around the Shed, has taken up a combination of wood work and art. In this instance not as grand as the Didgeridoos that he has created and played at the Shed but we are sure you will agree –still very nice. We are told that his friend who he made the sign for was very surprised and delighted when Russell arrived with it.



Rich also appears to have some artistic talent as well as a 'dab hand with a paint brush' when he crafted this incense and candle holder out of a seemingly scrap piece of wood, showing off its grain and colour in a very artistic manner – unearthing its natural beauty.



John normally turns out pens/letter openers/stitch cutters etc as he works quietly along on one of our three wood lathes – it is a skill that he picked up and has grown over the last year. Seen here is one of his latest achievements – it's a knitting wool dispenser – well into the process of being beautifully crafted.



From the photo it looks as though Harvey and Graham are having a little shuffle of items on top of the saw! But in reality they are working out the various sizes of materials they need to complete the construction of a new storage area being worked on in the kitchen area [photos of the finished product next edition]



Mario arrived at the Shed a few weeks ago with a roundish and very lumpy chunk of wood, which on further examination he had constructed out of a mass of different woods and colours, layered in a specific and orderly fashion and glued together. He proceeded to mount this on a lathe and set about to turn out a colourful and crafted wooden bowl. Whilst he wasn't completely wrapt in his finished product – to us it looked terrific – but he strikes us as a fellow who enjoys a challenge! So let's wait and see if he starts on Mark 2.



On the last day of May, Sunday the 30th, young Bill I, John and Graham met at 6.00 am on a very dark and cold, windy morning at the car park in Dunban Street to set up for the Lions Club monthly 'Car Boot Sale'. It's the first time the Shed has attended such an event so we were not sure what would sell etc. Anyway the lads set up with a couple of tables in front of the Shed's Ute and at 7.00 the customers started rolling in and around the car park. There was probably another 50/60 car boot stalls in the car park so some of the stall holders turn out to be customers for other stalls products. Well John, Graham, and Bill joked with the customers, chatted lively and sold and delivered a great percentage of the items that we had on offer for sale. One thing that was noticeably popular was the kid's toys and bread boards – so we will need to start a production line at the Shed for such items – so that we can return again over the next few months.



Well, that brings us to the end of another month of activities and fellowship. On the 2nd of June some of our members are going on an organised bus trip to the Wiseman's Ferry Men's Shed, which was recently heavily damaged in the Hawkesbury river floods. The trip has been set up via the regional AMSA zone manager and our members will join members from another 6-8 Sheds. It should be a good day out and hopefully a few photo opportunities for our next edition.

Happy shedding and stay safe

Vic B and Bill G