

Umina Beach Men's Shed Inc October 2022 Newsletter.

November is here – the Melbourne Cup has been run and it's hard to get one's mind around the fact that there are only 49 shopping days to Xmas!!

News has it that whilst the world is seemingly past and over the Covid pandemic we are now focusing on increasing cost of power/gas and fuel – inflation – interest rates – declining house prices. The flood zones and bush fire recovery areas whilst still understandably suffering from the damage and property loss etc are pretty much off the news screens/papers etc [oh, except for the odd drowning of people driving through flood waters!]. It would appear that unless one is personally “gripped” by one of these major happenings our focus tends to move on to the next happening! Well Shedders, the medics are talking about a new Covid variant which apparently is highly infectious and looks at this stage to climb over the existing “shots and boosters”. So let's be very conscious, careful and active in regard to our safety, it's easy to think “been there done that before and I'm still here!!” bringing your own mug to the shed, sanitizing, keeping sensible distances and having a mask handy etc need to be very much back on every body's agenda until an “all clear” is sounded by the top medics.

Whilst still on the topic of one's wellbeing, we thought it could be helpful if we popped up the issue of scammers – do you think you have had one or a few contact you over the last few months or weeks? Phone calls or SMS messages that are looking to get your personnel details that then lead to identity theft? Phishing scams are the most prevalent in Australia, there were 44,000 incidents reported across Australia in 2020 –and no doubt more unreported.

THREE GOLDEN 'NEVERS' TO AVOID A SCAMMER

NEVER - click on a link in a message from a number or address you don't know. A massive amount of malware gets downloaded to your P.C or phone via these links.

NEVER – answer a number you don't recognise, instead, let the call go through to voice mail.

NEVER – share the numbers of your Government-issued identity documents to callers [or anyone]

If you get what you think is a scam call, hang up immediately. Don't engage. If a caller gives you a number or email address to re-contact them – don't use it – look in the phone book for the banks/company/organization that the contact claimed to represent and call them direct on the phone book number.

If you're a victim of a scam and suspect your identity is at risk of being stolen – you need to act fast to avoid financial loss. Contact IDCare on 1800 595 160 – it is a free government funded service that can assist with developing a response plan.

Finally, also remember that calls made by real people are particularly troublesome, as these people are skilled in the art of scam psychology.

Now back to the "little Shed with the big heart" what's been happening in October? Well we have been recruiting volunteers to undertake projects at the new Shed in Osborne Av, now that the technical construction items are nearing completion, we need Sheddors to volunteer their services for a broad variety of jobs, like low level painting [no ladders or steps] garden preparation, mowing and cutting the grass, assisting in building access ramps along with hand rails, mopping and etching the Sheds' floor areas in preparation for painting. We urge any members who have the energy and interest in assisting in the preparation of Osborne Av to contact Bill G in the office. The work times/days are not necessarily Mon/Wed /Thurs mornings, at this point in time there is work underway across the week.

For those of you that have already had a tour of the new premises, you will recognise this picture of the reception /site office – well now this has changed to blend with the new building.



We had a special working bee arranged via one of our major sponsors who undertook the painting of the kitchen and bathroom area whilst simultaneously assembling the pre-packed kitchen cabinets in preparation for installing in the kitchen area. This was followed by lads from the Shed undertaking the Epoxy coating of the kitchen floor in preparation for the kitchen installation.



Did we hear somebody say “NBN”, well between Bill G and Stedy they were able to organize for an NBN connection to be made for the Osborne site at which point Dave P and Larry S took up the challenge of extending the connection from the street side to the reception office. Not an easy task by any measure given that it was an underground conduit from the street pole to under the office. Here we see Larry looking down the hole he has just dug – then he is into it! – then Dave at the other end at the office – not a “walker” insight! A great effort by the pair of them, well done and a great connection!



It's important that we keep the site clear of rubbish and debris etc so from time to time Graham and Harvey put a team together and along with the Ute visit the Osborne site and undertake a clean-up and drop it off at the tip etc



Another little Community Garden Project.

This is a delighted Sona using her new compost sieve that We knocked up one morning in the shed, thanks to Brian and Rick for their help. The only thing is, She would like a pink one next time, please Ricky.

Compost making is a black art, far beyond the comprehension of a green fingered earth prodder like Me, requiring complexed recipes, careful temperature monitoring and enthusiastic mixing and turning and Sona is a compost Queen, suffice to say that I live in awe of Her.

Joking aside She was delighted and gave Me a large bar of chocolate as a reward, but sorry Boys it melted before I could get it to the Shed and before You ask her phone number is ex directory.



Our esteemed Shed Secretary, Mr Vic Brown, who now rejoices in the titles of, Shedder of the year 2022 and also that of our newest life member, both of which are richly deserved.

I understand that Vic has been with the shed since it's conception, and has been instrumental over the years, in securing the various permissions and grants necessary to the running and expansion of the shed as well as a guiding hand in day to day affairs.

With the planning and building of the new shed, Vic has been especially busy, through what has been an extremely difficult period. I can only say that viewing the proceedings from a safe distance, and offering useful advice whether it's required not, that the committee in general and Vic in particular deserve a hearty vote of thanks from all of us members, I think it fair to say that a minefield has been navigated with distinction.

However does anyone notice anything strange about the attached photo? That's right, Vic Brown with a shovel in His hand, resorting to physical toil! I think it's fair to say that this photo ranks for rarity with those of Bigfoot and the Lock Ness Monster.

With tongue firmly in cheek
Pommie John.



The last Sunday of October saw the biannual Woytopia festival, held in the grounds of Woy Woy South School and a team from the shed were on duty to promote the shed, encourage new members and generally inform members of the public of what we get up to, well the polite bits anyway.

The festivals aims are to promote Sustainability, Music , the Arts and especially community involvement and was host to over 70 different organisations covering a wide range of topics,

some selling products, food stuffs, garden plants, refreshments and so on, others like the Men's Shed taking the opportunity to reach out to the public.

We had a fantastic day, with a team of volunteers kept busy meeting and greeting and generally chatting to folks about who we are. Interest in the shed was positive with many people being aware of the move to Osbourne Avenue and wishing Us well for the future. It turn We we're able to inform people of the community work that We get involved with.

We displayed items that had been made by shed members, thanks to Mario, Ron and Steve B. It would be great if We were able to display a far greater range of products from more Members on future occasions and to update our photo displays.

There were several inquiries if We had ever considered running training days for Ladies in the use of power tools and basic carpentry techniques, apparently some of the other sheds have all ready done so. Perhaps not possible at the present time but food for thought in the future

The team in the photo throughly enjoyed the day, with thanks to Vic and Steve Beer for early morning set up and a special thanks to Doug Hair for planning the day. Incidentally Doug was so enthusiastic in taking to folks about the shed that after at least 5 hours He declared that He was in danger of losing His voice and was going home for a cooling draft!

Pommie John



Just before we close, we have chosen to also include a quick shot of a recent “cuppa Session” in the somewhat ravaged garden area of our existing Shed, one can see that there certainly appears to be a great volume of tea available and looks like there’s a lot of thinking going on or did someone say KFC!!



The New Umina Beach Men’s Shed Inc.



Until the next edition happy shedding and stay safe.

Bill G, Vic B, John P



News Letter

109 Birdwood Ave
Umina Beach NSW 2257
Phone: 0243429606

Email: uminabeachmensshed@gmail.com Web: www.uminabeachmensshed.org.au