

## **October 2023 Umina Beach Men's Shed NewsLetter.**

Welcome to the October News letter and hopefully this reaches out to all our members and finds them contending well with the challenges of ageing and realities of the current economic climate and international happenings.

It's 30 years since {1993}, when the first or original Men's Shed started up, now we are advised that there are more Men's Sheds in Australia than there are "Macca" outlets – over a thousand Shed's. Furthermore they have migrated to 12 overseas countries and in total, now number in the three thousand range!

Your Shed, UBMSI was founded in 2011 so is in its twelfth year, interestingly we recorded the fifth year anniversary Oct 19 of the first meeting with the Central Coast Council senior management team and Councillors on the Osborne Av project – the new Shed. It is still ongoing –in as much as your current Shed is basically all packed up and pretty ready to relocate to the new Shed in Osborne but delayed awaiting the finalization of the Occupation Certificate. We are in very regular contact with the authorities but the formalities make for slow progress.

Whilst our Birdwood Av location is not really super inviting [due to relocation preparations] for members to get on with their own projects and we naturally slowed down taking on team type projects, simply due to work and storage space etc, understandably our attendance numbers have flattened. However a good number of our members drop by, have a chat and a cuppa simply to catch up with the news and when we are moving?

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We had a call from our local Eagle Plumbing manager Dayn Marson who advised us that he was going to call in at the Shed, for a visit the next day. On his arrival he had a large picture of a cheque with him which he proceeded to present to our members. The funds being the proceeds of the recent Eagle Plumbing Golf Day which they decided to donate to our Shed. All the members present at the presentation thanked Dayn Marson and his team and management to their ongoing support.



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Our member Bill Wood expressed his concern about the condition of the Shed's hard working Thickenisser machine and proceeded to give it his personal attention. It turns out to be a long story [ a tad too long for the newsletter] but apparently involved various instruction manuals, a different requirement of parts than first envisaged and fair bit of work! But B.W. cracked it and returned the machine to good working order.



Our member J.P. and a few helpers undertook a project for the local community garden creating a couple of sheltered and protective seedling cultivation beds, mounted on stands, a lot of work and space was involved in the project – so time was “ of the essence”.

Firstly creating the initial wooden frame work, and then lining it with a protective fabric to prevent insects etc entering.



Then the structure is covered in weather protective corrugated plastic



Meanwhile in the metal work area W.D. is busy fabricating the steel frames on which the cultivation beds will be mounted, once the frames were completed and painted the structure and frames temporarily joined together to test the precision before being separated and loaded for delivery.



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Whilst the above project was underway, our member A.D. was super keen to construct a sub frame work for a garden sink arrangement – but J.P's project {above} claimed most of the available bench top work areas, and the air compressor had already been disconnected ready for relocation. No problem for A.D. quietly measured up all the timbers he had brought with him in his ute, cut them to size on the drop saw, hooked up the portable compressor [parked in the area] connected up his nail gun and used the floor as the flat work surface for assembling the frames. Personal fitness and flexibility is certainly a great asset!



Well with J.P.'s project delivered and A.D.'s project cut, assembled and nailed then loaded back into the ute –given that, the table of knowledge was quickly back into being, given the available space and lack of noise.



Something else that caught the eye of the camera, at a meeting [or perhaps table of knowledge] in the office, our member D.P. was wearing a very flashy tee-shirt which had a message about “exercise or extra fries” –the members all looked pretty happy in the tight fitting office!



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Final photo for this edition is simply to illustrate how our member B.W. keeps his “eyes on things” as we know he opens and closes the Shed on many occasions, so that talent is very useful indeed. But in this photo It looks like he has one eye on the angle of the wood structure on the bench whilst assisting his mate with the project and the other eye on something on his right hand side – a multi tasker indeed.



Well that brings us to the end of this edition of the Newsletter, rest assured when we have the green light to relocate to Osborne Av you will hear from us Chop – Chop! but as the end of year is also approaching quickly, we all also need to bunch up! To make sure, [best possible] that all our mates /members are connecting and we are all looking after each other at what can be a lonely and challenging time of year for some. If you haven't been at the Shed for a few weeks/months - lets' be hearing from you, call in and have "a cuppa and a chat" over the next six weeks.

Best regards and Happy Shedding

Bill G and Vic B