

## Umina Beach Men's Shed Inc. November / December 2024 Newsletter.

Welcome to the Shed's November/December Newsletter – following on from the official opening of our Shed at Osborne Av, attendance has picked up considerably –with old members returning and new members arriving.

The working areas, machines, benches are also settling in nicely- John P /Lionel B/ Bill S have kept the team focused on finally sorting out the consumable items [nuts /bolts/washers/ etc and the hand tools. The new wood turning lathes have been installed and are ready for use. They are now busy investigating with a view to developing a plan to install a “manifold approach” for dust extraction – it will be work in progress for some time as it is a complex issue. In the interim the existing dust extractor modules will be utilized.

Given the response from our guests and members to the “morning Tea” at the official opening, which was provided by and hosted by the ladies of Umina CWA - the committee decided that” a certificate of appreciation” for the Umina CWA was very much in order. Bill G designed a beautiful Certificate and had the President and Secretary sign it. Vic B and Graham B visited the CWA Ladies at their Hall and presented the certificate along with a very large verbal “thank You Ladies”, having told them of the glowing responses to the morning tea from the members / guests / press / politicians.



Mario, kindly took up the challenge presented by an elderly lady – to replicate an unusual kitchen tool, being a “ring can opener- puller”. We all know how difficult some of those cans of soft drinks and veggies etc that have a ring pull to open, can be very hard on the nails and fingers. This gadget hooks under the ring and opens it in a flash! The lady wanted a few making, as she intended giving them away to friends for Xmas.



Several of our members undertook the refurbishment of a vintage wooden round dining table – it took quite some time to clean up and quite a bit of effort, then all the surfaces had to be recoated 2-3 times. When the project was ready to return to the owner Ron F kindly offered to provide his vehicle for transport. The table was very carefully carried out by a team of members – not because it was heavy but to ensure it got safely down the ramps and out the gate without any markings or damage, then gently loaded into the van. The members then stood around and looked [almost respectfully] at the finished item ready for its return trip. The view of the photographer was that these fellows could easily become an “undertaker Team” as they appeared so quiet and respectful at the loading!



One of our long time and great sponsors Eagle Plumbing – visited our Shed the other day, with a beautiful presentation Cheque. A big “thank-You”, to the generous and hardworking team at Eagles - and for donating the proceeds of their recently held Trade Golf Day to Umina Beach Men’s Shed Inc, greatly appreciated by all our members and supporters.



Many of our members are multi skilled and here we have Peter Moulding who really enjoys gardening at the shed and has worked very hard removing the wild weeds etc and tidying up the natural landscape on the front of Osborne Av, he is also keen on I.T. projects. Then just the other day he arrived at the Shed with a big smile on his face and his latest project – a production of special cakes for the lads to enjoy with their morning tea. Several of our members also bring and donate cakes and snacks to enrich our morning “table of Knowledge sessions” thanks fellows very much appreciated.



John P as you would know is our Secretary and a shift Boss a couple of times a week along with lots of other rejuvenation work in and around the Shed. Busy John also enjoys taking on projects that challenge his skills etc –so he jumped at a project that Gary G wanted making for the peninsula Village. That is to design and make a table top “roll the ball challenge” this project is underway and off to a great start.



Our Shed is as you know a long term member of AMSA [Australian Men's Shed Association]. They requested our Shed to host their next Cluster meeting [ covers all the Sheds in our Zone] The meeting is chaired by our AMSA Zone representative being Grant Gordon and held on Friday 29 Nov. The general purpose of these meetings is for the Sheds to share ideas and types of projects with each other and review operating safety rules etc. Our Shed was represented by Vic B John P Graham B Warren D and John H. Graham B catered for lunch and morning tea and John H our wonderful Chef BBQ'd a lovely lunch. The visiting Sheds were given tours around the whole premises and their questions etc were answered on the way round. It was a good meeting and lots of very positive socializing and interaction during the visit.



As this will be our last Newsletter for 2024 – as our Shed closes on Thursday 19th December reopening Monday 6th January – we take this opportunity to wish everybody a safe and happy Xmas and the best of health and happiness to you and your loved ones in 2025.

Happy Shedding

Bill G and Vic B

