

Umina Beach Men's Shed October 2026 Newsletter.

Welcome to the October 2026 Umina Beach Men's Shed NEWSLETTER, we are pleased to say that the activities and attendance at the Shed have been good and strong. Notwithstanding that we have had quite a few members taking off on caravan trips, cruises, over sea's visits etc not to mention the ones that have been busy with medical appointments and treatments! If you haven't visited for a few weeks, it would be really good if you just send a very short note [couple of lines] advising that you are O.K. but busy with other things or if it's health issues etc – please let us know, after all, it's a Men's Shed, and we care. So take a couple of minutes and email Bill G at uminabeachmensshed@gmail.com

O.K what's been happening, well the month started with our member Sam P providing a very well attended and most interesting presentation [at morning tea time] on a life at sea. Sam had spent his working life in commercial shipping, being a Captain /Master of commercial cargo ships, before being in charge of shipping movements within Sydney harbour. His presentation was supported via the screen recently installed in the meeting room, which showed various ships /boats in all sorts of weather conditions. He covered the story of the James Craig – its life way way back in the early 1900's –eventually being abandoned and left to rust away in the estuary of a river in Tasmania before being picked up by Sydney Heritage Volunteers, made safe, after a lot of work, before being towed to Sydney and undertaking a restoration period of some 17 years . Then relaunched and now undertakes a variety of sailing activities based in Sydney harbour, however it sails every two years to Hobart for the Wooden Boat Festival. Lots of interesting questions were put to Sam during his interesting and thoughtful presentation.



Whilst on the topic of sea and sailing etc – our Shed was offered the opportunity to visit with Volunteer Marine Rescue Brisbane Water, as mentioned in an earlier newsletter. The visit was really interesting and their new premises, really great. Following our visit, it was decided at a committee meeting that our Shed would use one of our cherished IGA BBQ's to raise funds for Marine Rescue, which was undertaken. The funds raised on the day [which was well supported the IGA team] were duly transferred to Marine Rescue. In appreciation the Unit Commander Mr Ian Morrow and Mr Geoff Hawes Deputy Unit Commander attended our Shed representing Marine Rescue Brisbane Water to express their thanks and appreciation and delivered a certificate for UBMSI and IGA Lone Pine.



We thought it would be good if we included in our Newsletter a photograph of our major in Shed BBQ Chef, John H, here we see him quietly working on his own [normally he surrounded by a bunch of hungry shedders!] seemingly enjoying the new set up and location for the actual BBQ and shelving etc. It wasn't long before the waft of onions brought the lads out!!



John P, is as usual a very busy member, and he seems to really love a challenge. So when a lady arrived with a challenging and unusual request, he sort of jumped at it, she had a rough plan and measurements to build what she described as "a cat scratching facility" basically a structure that fits in a corner of specific room, and when she takes it away from the Shed and gets it home, she will cover the top with carpet. Which apparently the cat will use to Scratch, and thereby save the rest of the house from damage



The Shed was recently donated a very modern and attractive table, with the exception that there was a nasty blemish in the table top, caused by a leg fixture bolt/screw that had been driven too far. Initially it was thought to be an easy fix, however after a couple of attempts, that approach cooled off ! Then there was suggestion to cut the timber up leaving the damaged area out and make cutting boards and the like. However Ross D and Graham B were not convinced and continued to fix the damage area, it took some time and quite a bit of fiddling but word has it, that they have been successful.



A lady recently dropped off a vintage tripod structure [used by surveyors etc] and wanted it to be converted into a light stand. Peter M put his hand up for the task, he spent quite a few hours wandering around lighting stores in order to locate a suitable light shade and electrical fittings and then on another mission to locate a suitable metal tube in order to provide the extension facility required. Once he had the bits and pieces to hand he disappeared into the electrical corner of the Shed and emerged some time later with a happy smile on his face and invited us to view the now finished product.



Rich A one our artists in residence had just got busy with this very recently cut out version of a sea horse, and we thought well its already very colourful so we should take a quick photo whilst he is away having a cuppa whilst waiting for it to dry, before the next coat.



Our member Peter Moulding sent us a great note from his overseas travel location at the time – Glasgow in Scotland. During his time there he visited a Men's Shed called Shettleton Men's Shed, apparently it's a converted pub and open three afternoons a week. The report covering his visit is located in our office and very humorous, so if you haven't seen it or wish to read, please call by the office, it's worth that effort.

Well that brings to the end of this edition, but before we close just to let you know that "International Men's Day" is November 19 and being recognised by 80 countries. We hope you enjoyed this edition and if you haven't visited the Shed for some time "let's be hearing from you.

Happy Shedding

Bill G and Vic B