



'The Chin-Wag' Newsletter

The Forest Community Men's Shed Assoc. Inc.

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President's Ponderings

In the February edition of 'The Chin-Wag' I posed the Shakespearian question, 'To Be or not To Be – Monday Opening', and I am very pleased that the question has been answered in the affirmative. The three month trial of Monday opening has been a success and The Shed will now continue to open for members on all Mondays except on the occasional public holiday.

I would again like to thank Brian Priest, Terry Karnaghan and Bill Royle for making themselves available to supervise on Monday and for their support during the trial period.

I recently had the opportunity to go and see for myself what some of our members have been accomplishing on 'The Tram Project' in collaboration with Warringah Council. Wow ! what a transformation.

Under the leadership of Neil Brough a small dedicated group of Shed member devotees have, since late last year, been revamping what was a badly worn and much graffitied old Sydney tram. It's hard to believe the difference between the very sad looking carcass they were asked to help restore and what has been achieved over the past 6 or so months. An amazing 1533 hours of effort. Neil tells me that the project is almost complete as far as our involvement goes (which has been considerable). What remains is for the exterior of the tram to be repainted, by commercial contractors and then, when the tram shed site at Narrabeen is ready, the 'new' tram will be relocated to become a café – so we are told. Well done fellas !

We continue to face the challenge of uncertainty concerning the much touted changed relationship with Uniting. Suffice to say we have yet to see (or even hear about) a final Licence Agreement – so we wait in anticipation.

Speaking of challenges, we continue to be the beneficiaries (or perhaps the victims) of tools and materials being deposited (or dumped) outside The Shed. Managing this situation has now become a chore and your management committee has decided to introduce a firm policy regarding the acceptance of 'gifted stuff', some of which is beneficial, some of which is junk. Please read more on this matter later in this newsletter.

Thanks go to Tony Philips, who after much research has acquired a brand new lathe for our gentle use – I am reliably informed that this is one very smart machine. It remembers who treats it badly, who doesn't keep it clean after their use, who loses bits to which it is understandably attached and who fails to shine an electric light upon it when it's hard at work.

Comprende Amigos?

Cheers:- Tim O'Sullivan



Gold Coins Only Please

Our plea to ONLY throw in GOLD COINS towards the cost of morning refreshments has largely been heard and understood for which our treasurer thanks you. Certainly he is spending less time sorting out the 50, 20, 10 and 5 cent pieces in the 'coffee box'. BUT we can do better – there does appear to be some resistance from a core group of die-hards, who appear hell bent on keeping our treasurer's fingers 'worn to the bone' from counting and bagging these annoying silver tokens.

**GENTLEMEN PLEASE... NO MORE SCHRAPNEL
GOLD COINS ONLY**



Defibrillator Training- Tut! Tut!

A casual examination of the Defibrillator cabinet leads us to conclude that the door has not been opened since the day the alarm was switched on. This observation is based on the unchanged position of the siren wiring, which was unintentionally left draped across the Defibrillator pouch. Sherlock has thus deduced that the Defibrillator has not been taken out of the cabinet and therefore unlikely to have been used to 'practice' using same.

Apologies if some have indeed undertaken the training & carefully replaced the AED so as to confuse Sherlock !

In the last newsletter we provided instructions on how to learn to use this life saving device. PLEASE ... Do not wait to learn how the Defibrillator works until a colleague actually needs you to use this device to potentially keep him alive at The Shed.

Self-Paced Defibrillator 'Instruction' at The Shed

Just follow these 3 simple steps:-

Step 1: With the lunchroom computer turned on, go to the DESKTOP (the screen with the Sydney Harbour view).

In the top right hand corner of the DESKTOP you will see 3 icons that look a bit like this and marked VIDEO 1, 2 and 3.



Step 2:- Double 'click' on the first video icon. A YouTube video should now play. Watch, Listen & Learn. There is no need to switch on our AED but certainly take it out of the pouch and get to know what it looks like.

Step 3:- Do the same as above for videos 2 and 3. Discuss with your Supervisor. So easy !

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Laughter's The Best Medicine – so claims The Reader's Digest

A middle aged man bought a brand new Holden Monaro.

He took off down the road, pushed it up to 130 km/h and was enjoying the wind blowing through his (thinning) hair. "This is great," he thought and he accelerated to an even higher speed.



But then he looked in his rear-view mirror and there was a police car behind him, blue and red lights flashing.

"I can get away from him with no problem" thought the man and he floored it some more and flew down the road at over 210 km/h to escape being stopped.

Then he thought, "What the hell am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing" and pulled over to the side of the road, and waited for the police car to catch up with him.

The policeman pulled in behind the Monaro and walked up on the driver's side. "Sir my shift ends in five minutes and today is Friday the 13th. If you can give me a good reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man looked up at the policeman and said, "Last week my wife ran off with a policeman, and I thought you were bringing her back."

The policeman said, "Cheers - Have a nice day."

A Change to The Men's Shed By-Laws
Please Read This

The By-Laws of The Association provide the Management Committee with the facility to implement Policies that improve the way in which The Association is administered and in which The Shed is managed, for the benefit of members. Amendments to the By-Laws can be made by the Management Committee as deemed necessary from time-to-time.

Reason for an amendment:- We continue to grapple with the problem of dealing with unwanted tools and materials being donated to The Shed and sometimes simply being 'dumped', while at the same time not wishing to decline the good stuff.

The difficulty is in deciding at short notice what we can and would like to accept and what we definitely don't want and then being faced with disposing of ourselves.

Added to this dilemma is the fact that put on the spot to make a decision, different members & supervisors will have different views and opinions as to what is worthwhile to accept and what is not. This difference of opinion has the potential to cause embarrassment to both the well intentioned donor and to Shed members.

In order to overcome the problem of who should decide and on what basis to make a decision about accepting donated materials, it has been decided to implement an **Acceptance of Donated Goods Policy** as an amendment to the By-Laws.

Henceforth this will be The Policy:-

That in order to better manage donations to The Shed of both desirable and, in particular, unwanted goods:-

- a. Approval to accept donations of any goods whatsoever, inclusive of tools, equipment and timber may only be granted by a member of the management committee they being President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and who, at the time of implementing this policy, are Tim O'Sullivan, Tony Philps, Neil Brough & Ian Hamilton respectively.
- b. Shed members including Supervisors are not authorised to tell any would-be donor that The Shed will or might accept donations.
- c. The provisional acceptance of donations is conditional upon the donor first contacting and discussing the offer with a committee member.
- d. The committee member contacted by a donor as in clause (c) will first discuss the offer with another committee member before agreeing to the offer.
- e. Notwithstanding a committee member agreeing to an offer of donations etc. the goods so offered will only be accepted if agreed by two committee members.
- f. Goods offered without having first been approved / agreed by two committee members will not be accepted.
- g. Notwithstanding any of the above, The Shed may at any time exercise the right to refuse goods on offer even if this potentially might cause embarrassment to the donor or a shed member and
- h. Signage will be erected outside The Shed indicating that would-be donors must contact The Shed prior to donating any goods.

We hope that all members will appreciate the necessity for introducing this policy and will take responsibility to ensure that this policy is adhered to whenever donated goods are offered to The Shed.

So... in all cases, promise nothing and defer to the committee for a decision.

Overcoming the problem of 'dumping' and Shed Security are also under consideration !