



'The Chin-Wag' Newsletter



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President's Ponderings

This issue of 'The Chin-Wag' is long overdue, the last issue being in October 2017 in which we reported on both the opening of the workshop 'Annexe' and the 10th Anniversary Celebration; both significant and positive events in the 2017 calendar.

It's nice to be able to welcome the following new members since the last issue:- David Connor, Mel Antcliffe, Eddie Smyth, Ian Somerville, Michael Tomic, Greg Hancock and Harold Stead.

Now almost half way into 2018, it's difficult at times to accept that we are now into our second decade of operating and have grown from a handful of foundation members to 77 at the end of April.

The project to erect new timber racks in the underbuilding storage area is progressing well, thanks mainly to the efforts of Tony Philips and those who have assisted him in shovelling dirt and in modifying and erecting the steel frames. There is still a great deal more work that needs to be done in building more racking so that we can meet our obligation to remove all timber from the 'dirt' section. More help will be needed!

We have commenced the implementation of the 'upgraded' Safety and Equipment Accreditation program and it is my hope that all of our members will have been appropriately accredited by the end of June. I urge all members to take the personal responsibility of ensuring that they have their Duty Supervisor take them through the equipment accreditation process as soon as possible.

Recently we received news via one of our members that a lady living on the Peninsular was facing a dilemma and hoped The Shed might be able to help. In short we discovered that her husband had become a 'chronic' buyer of tools and equipment and that there was so much 'stuff' in her garage that she could barely get the car inside. Initially we had intended investigating what she needed to dispose of and offer suggestions as to how she might go about the task. When we went to 'look see', we discovered thousands of dollars-worth of tools & equipment; some of these were taken to the shed at the War Vet's Village and some were brought back to our Shed. Tony and I took the decision to give the dear lady a donation in consideration for the gear that came to our Shed and we gave her a cheque for \$500.

Recently, it's been encouraging to hear a couple of prospective members tell us that even though they drive past 'other' sheds, they prefer to join our Shed because it simply feels like a great place!

Thank You - Enough Said!

Cheers:- Tim O'Sullivan



Here's something worth bragging about!

Narrabeen Tram Restoration Project

Recent members may not be aware that back in 2015, then Warringah Council asked The Shed if it would be willing to participate in a community project (volunteer time and effort) to restore an old Sydney Tram, which once restored, would become a key feature of a revamped Tram Shed community hub in Narrabeen. Neil Brough volunteered to coordinate this project which was to be a 'first' for our Shed insofar as it would be the first project to be undertaken 'offsite'. The project kicked off on December 8, 2015 and the restoration was completed in late July 2016. Under the leadership of both Neil Brough and Brian Priest, 17 Shed members volunteered over 1,600 man hours of effort to the restoration.

Since that time and until relatively recently, the restored tram has been under wraps both at the warehouse in Cromer where it was restored and for the past few months at Narrabeen.



On 26th April Northern Beaches Council held a public relations / media event to mark the 'unofficial opening' of the restored tram and our volunteers were invited to attend. Perhaps you may have seen a photo in The Manly Daily. Afternoon tea was provided by the Council in the new Tram Shed Café.

The tram restoration is something that those 17 members (and our Shed) can be truly proud of; the transformation from a piece of 'graffitied junk' into a fully restored tram is something to behold.

A fantastic volunteer effort, that we can all be proud to BRAG ABOUT.



Guess Who?



Brian Priest (L), Mayor Michael Regan (C), Neil Brough (Shed's Team Leader) with Council's Project Manager Eliza Halsey

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Another Reason to Celebrate

'Our Milk & Bikkies Man' Turns Ninety

We had yet another cause for celebration late in March, when Morrie Thacker turned 90 and the Tuesday crew surprised him with not just one but two Birthday Cakes.

As well, the Management Committee presented Morrie with the Inaugural Golden Oldie Award which we will display in the lunchroom.



Hopefully we will be able to add more certificates to the wall as more of our members reach that milestone age.

How is Your Vision?

There are lots of jokes made about loss of hearing and more often than not the

comments are about hearing aids that do or don't work effectively for those who need to use them. Annoying as it may be to use them, at least they provide some assistance to the hearing impaired,



BUT... what about our vision?

For many of us, as we age our vision deteriorates and we may end up needing reading glasses for example. HOWEVER what if we were to suffer a major vision defect that could not be restored with spectacles?

This short article appeared in the April edition of The Australian Reader's Digest; it highlights a very common vision defect that is age related - Detached Retina.

Retinal detachment is a Medical Emergency and is more common after the age of 40. It's often caused by the ageing process.

The interior of the eye is filled with a gel-like viscous substance called the vitreous. As we get older, the vitreous can shrink and lose its flexibility and in doing so may pull on the Retina as it shifts. Sometimes it pulls with enough force to tear the retina, separating it from the back of the eye so that the retina no longer works effectively.

Ophthalmologists can easily detect a detached retina and re-attach it using laser surgery and although it may be complex surgery, surgeons get good results.

So if you start seeing black spots, or worse bright flashes of light, you need to **ACT FAST** and get to a Vision specialist as fast as possible. **DO NOT DELAY.**

Equipment Safety Accreditation (How It Works)

There are 4 Safety Classification categories for all rotating workshop equipment & for some tools:-

EXTREME SIGNIFICANT MODERATE MINIMAL

- ★ For reasons of Occupational Health & Safety all members are now required to be accredited to use rotating equipment.
- ★ The Duty Supervisor with help from other Supervisors is responsible for implementing the accreditation process.
- ★ The Duty Supervisor is charged with the responsibility of determining the competence of members to use the equipment safely.
- ★ Members who demonstrate their competence to use equipment in each classification category will be ticked off ✓ on the Workshop Member Authorisation Schedule and will have an appropriate coloured sticker attached to their name badge.
- ★ Members are required to be accredited on each item of equipment they wish to use. Members may only use those items of equipment for which they are accredited.
- ★ A particular coloured sticker indicates to Supervisors that the member is accredited to use some equipment classified in that category.

Please note:- A RED sticker, for example, does not necessarily mean that the member may use all equipment rated as Extreme Danger; only that specific equipment for which they have the accreditation.

- ★ For most members the accreditation process should take no more than 10-15 minutes unless they require to be given further 'training'.

Laughter The Best Medicine

A travelling saleswoman was driving through Arizona when she sees a Navajo Indian woman hitchhiking. She stops the car and the Navajo woman climbs in. During their small talk the Navajo woman glances at the brown bag on the front seat between them.

"If you're wondering what's in the bag" offers the saleswoman, "it's a bottle of wine I got for my husband."

The Navajo woman is silent for a while, nods several times and then says....."Me Think Good Trade."

Indeed, The Shed's a great place to share a laugh, a cuppa and muck about with wood.