



# 'The Chin-Wag'

## Newsletter

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### President's Ponderings

#### Commencing Our 14<sup>th</sup> Year of Friendship

The Pandemic events of 2020 Internationally, Nationally and within our Local Communities have left us all with a sense of disbelief - 'can this really be happening?' and as well, these events have created an environment that has now been described as 'the new normal'. But what is 'normal' and will tomorrow's 'normal' be different to today's?

As we commence a new year at The Shed, we regrettably are forced to carry with us the 'legacies' of the 2020 health and social distancing restrictions and no doubt many are questioning whether Shed life will ever return to pre-Covid times.

With no end in sight and with the likelihood of our need for the long term acceptance of 'the new normal', now more than ever we all need the support of our fellow Shed members and the comradery that can best be found by working alongside our Shed mates, albeit at a safe social distance.

The first Shed week of 2021 has already seen a great roll up of members with more than 40 having signed in on one or more days. I want to encourage all members to get back to The Shed and to support other members and in turn be supported by them during these very tough and uncertain times. It is SAFE to be at The Shed provided common sense prevails, so even if you are not comfortable in staying all day, please make the effort to put in an appearance so we don't forget who you are nor forget how much we value you being part of The Shed community



The wearing of face masks needs to be taken seriously although it is not mandatory and if we are all diligent in abiding by the 1.5 metre rule then it is OK to enjoy some 'mask free' time both in the workshop and during socialising time at Smoko and lunchtime. It's damn hard to

appreciate each other's smiles and laughter and to read the facial body language while wearing a mask.

And by the way... did you know that those 'like myself' with a hearing impairment, even if only moderate, pick up 'clues' on what is being said to them through sub-consciously lip reading the speaker's words; which makes sense of what one wit was heard to say namely:- "Sorry..... But you're wearing a mask and I can't see what you're saying".

Finally may I extend my best wishes to everyone for the year ahead; may everyone remain Covid safe and Covid free. Hope to seeya soon!

Cheers

Tim O'Sullivan

### Annual Membership Subscriptions

At the beginning of 2020 when the advice of upcoming (February) Annual Membership Fees was announced a number of members paid their subscriptions and had their payment recorded. Then in March The Shed was forced to close.

As the closure subsequently extended over several months, the Membership Committee decided (as was advised to all members) that due to the lengthy and unforeseen closure, Membership Fees would not be charged for 2020. The Committee also advised that those who had already paid their 2020 fees would be given a credit, to be applied to the following year.

Membership Fees for 2021 will again fall due in February/March and whilst the Membership Committee fully appreciates that some members are not returning to their prior 'normal' use of The Shed's facilities, nonetheless The Committee is still required to pay insurance premiums for the full complement of Shed membership; namely over 80 members.

Those who hold a subscription credit will be advised by the Treasurer and will not be required to pay their fees this year. Those not holding credits will be asked to pay their fees as in previous years and it is hoped that fees will not need to be increased; this however will need to be determined once AMSA advises The Committee of the Insurance Premium due.

### Safety/ Equipment Accreditation

The chaos of last year resulted in some important administration tasks and safety procedures receiving less attention than usual including the mandatory requirement for all members to be properly trained and accredited to use the workshop machinery.

A number of new members joined The Shed last year, some prior to the 'lockdown' closure beginning in March and others since the re-opening later in the year. It is important that those new members receive Safety Accreditation to use the workshop machinery (even though some have been using the machines without the requisite coloured stickers on their name tags).

**Effective immediately** all Supervisors are asked to ensure that every Shed member, new and old is instructed and accredited to use the machines they wish to use. Please also ensure that members have their accreditation details updated on the Register that is located on the outside wall of the tools room (opposite lunchroom).

### Police Checks

Please refer to the email recently sent to members by Secretary Ian Brissett advising that new Police Checks are required by some members whose existing certificates have expired and also by new members.

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### Thanks Leon !



For some considerable time the small Black & Decker portable table router has been out of commission whilst The Tools Team deliberated over how to affect the necessary repairs.

It would appear that unknown to everyone an important 'floating' nut had been removed from the spindle shaft and that as a consequence, router cutters were routinely being tightened and loosened in a way that was detrimental to both the spindle and to the lock/unlock spanners. The force being applied to the spanners to release the cutters had over time been so extreme as to distort the spanner faces and render the spanners useless.

Fortunately Leon Smith spotted 'the problem' having a very similar router in his own workshop.

There followed many hours of discussion as to how best to resolve the problem of the 'missing nut'. Regrettably this important part was no longer available from B&D either locally or the USA nor from other spare parts suppliers.



Now Leon being an expert metals machinist and determined to 'right the wrong', offered to manufacture a new 'floating nut' which necessitated first determining the unusual spindle thread size and then machining a new nut from raw stock. So whilst everyone else was enjoying some Christmas 'down-time', Leon was hard at work at home tinkering with the router.

Having machined a new 'floating nut', Leon was then faced with the problem of finding spanners that would be needed to replace those that had been 'trashed'. New (very thin) spanners were going to cost a fortune so once again Leon undeterred found a 'junk shop' where he was able to buy spanners that he could then machine down to the correct size; which he did.



**And so..... thanks to Leon's considerable efforts the small table router will soon be back in action.**

HOWEVER there will be a very important set of instructions to be followed by anyone using the router; instructions on how to correctly tighten and loosen the collet nut to avoid further damage to the spindle, the nuts and the spanners.

### Router Table Do's & Don'ts

Herewith is a brief summary of the important Do's and Don'ts when inserting and removing cutter blades into the Black & Decker Router.

Image 1



There are three (3) spanners required (unusual but true!). These are marked 'A', 'B', and 'C' as in the photo. Image 1.

Spanners 'A' and 'C' are together used for tightening the spindle collet. Spanner 'A' is for holding the bottom spindle nut (this nut is fixed to the spindle shaft) and spanner 'C' is used to tighten the collet nut.

Image 2



Image 2 shows the 'new floating nut' that has been missing for a long time. This nut is held with spanner 'B' when unlocking the collet nut and only when unlocking; it is not used when locking.

Image 3



Image 3 shows the spanner configuration for tightening the collet. Spanner 'A' is on the bottom fixed spindle nut (obscured by the spanner and the centre 'floating nut') and spanner 'C' is on the top collet nut.

Image 4 shows the spanner configuration for loosening the collet nut. Spanner 'A' is on the fixed bottom spindle nut, spanner 'B' is on the centre 'floating nut' and spanner 'C' is on the collet nut.

Image 4



To loosen the collet, spanners 'A' and 'B' are held together and spanner 'C' rotated anti clockwise.

Overheard by The Tools Team while discussing the workings of the repaired router:-

*"Let's hope that further damage is not incurred due to fourth nut syndrome - the fourth nut being the one holding the spanners"*

The above 'repair' is not the first time Leon's machining skills have been called upon and his contributions to the ongoing maintenance of our workshop machinery is very much appreciated. Thanks Leon!