

SHED SHAVINGS

The Newsletter of the

Laurieton Men's Shed



No 2. Christmas 2010

Greeting Shedders

Welcome to the November/December edition of Shed Shavings and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our shedders.

In this Issue:

- ▶ **The November Meeting at LUSC.** – an open discussion; membership numbers; and progress with the shed development application.
- ▶ **\$50,000 Community Building Projects Grant**
- ▶ **Shed Running Costs** – fundraising
- ▶ **Out and About** – the 2010 NSW Men's Shed State Gathering; the Mid North Coast cluster.
- ▶ **Steptoe's Column** – the scrounging continues!
- ▶ **Odds and Sods** – says it all.
- ▶ **On the Web** – a smorgasbord of sites
- ▶ **Any Other Business** – next meeting, guests, shed design feedback, contacts, notes, ...
- ▶ **Shedoku** – a 'two spanner' quickie.

The November Meeting

Upwards of 60 members attended the meeting this month.

Although there were no guest speakers this month, president Rob 'winged it' over a very open and useful round table discussion on the shed's design and development, what been achieved so far and what we hope to achieve in the coming year once the shed complex is up and running.

The mood of the meeting was very positive indeed, with a lot of input, ideas and suggestions from the floor (not all printable).

Rob also spoke on the good results of the October survey into shedder's interests, skills, trades, etc; so we now have a pretty good idea of the range of experience and interests. But there's bound to a lot more experience amongst the membership than just that shown in the questionnaires; which is all the better for members as a group.

The results of the survey will be analysed to give shedders an overview of the range of the membership's experience and interests.

Membership — Membership now stands at a healthy 130+, with a steady trickle of new inquiries and membership forms. So:

- Do you have your nametag (thanks to Pearl Bay of Laurieton for doing a deal for us)?
- If so, is your monica spelled write?
- Have you given us your e-mail address (saves printing and postage if you have e-mail)?
- Grab a few brochures to give your mates.

\$\$ Could any members who have not paid their annual membership fee please fix it up on or before the next meeting. Thank you.

The Shed Build – Work to address the issues raised by the Hastings Council in their assessment of the Development Application continued this month with the help of some very patient professionals who continue to offer their services. Much appreciated assistance from:

Brian Bucket – architect

Murray Dalton – surveyor

Greg Knight and **Alan Taylor** – structural engineers

Rod Page – arborist

David Persini – bush fire assessment

Lyn Richardson – waste management planning

Ross Frazier – construction certificate

Daintry Gerrand – Koala habitat study

The issues raised by council were wide ranging and include shed usage, hours of operation, purpose of the meeting room (we may say 'to hold meetings in'), purpose of the Rotary Club book store (we may say 'to store books in'), effects on the neighbouring van park, noise, smell (of the shed, not the shedders), remoteness of the site, what is our 'community engagement strategy?', what is our 'transport strategy?', what about the koalas? (they're quite welcome to join, and we'll even waive the membership fee), how's our ecological impact assessment?, our tree pruning strategy?, etc, etc.

That's the short version. Red tape aside, all the issues are being patiently addressed and the steering committee should have a response to council by 10th January. So watch this space.

If the DA is approved, we should be able to start work around early February. One of the first jobs will be to install the (expensive) power supply transformer now that funding has come through from Peter Besseling (see later item on grants). Once we have the slabs laid, the main shed will be built by Mid Coast Garages, after which shedders will do the annexes, fit outs, landscaping, etc.

The area of the main shed has been increased slightly to provide better wheelchair access to an enlarged computer room.

Community Building Projects Grant

This month we received confirmation of a **\$50,000** grant obtained for us by Peter Besseling. We can now breathe a sigh of relief that we have the funding for three essential and expensive items of work: the mains power transformer, the sewage treatment facilities, and the rain water tanks. Many thanks to Peter from the men's shed steering committee for obtaining this important funding for us. And if you want to see some of your committee jubilantly making fools of themselves, don't miss the Camden Haven Courier.

Shed Running Costs

It's been estimated that the shed will cost about \$40,000 per year to run — and that's just bills, upkeep and essential stuff; we won't be paying any staff. We expect to receive some grants, donations and sponsorships throughout the year to help with our costs, but the full extent of this income won't be known until we're up and running. Eventually, a list of all our sponsors and benefactors will be published. We will, however, still have to generate some income (or goods in kind) ourselves and the committee are always open to fund raising ideas.

At the last meeting, it was agreed that a donations box would 'appear' at the January meeting for any shedder who wished to make a donation. Bruce Curtis has kindly offered to make the box. When men's sheds are running, it's apparently normal practice for shedders to make a gold coin donation when they use the shed, just to help things along, but this will be strictly voluntary.

Out and About

The NSW Men's Shed Association 2010 State Gathering at Myuna Bay

Unfortunately Laurieton was unable to send a representative, but it appears that a good time was had by all and the gathering was fairly productive. Around 200 delegates attended from men's sheds as far afield as Dubbo, Trundle and Jervis Bay.

The organisers aim to get more information about the event out in due course.

One of the main aims of the gathering was to elect a NSW regional committee to represent NSW sheds. However, due to some technicalities in the constitution and election processes, a committee for NSW was not elected. The five delegates who formally nominated (Ted Donnelly, Roger Greenan, Bill Clifford, Len Keogh, and Ray Cawthorne) did, however, agree to form a steering committee to meet in December and work out the way ahead for the NSW regional association and to arrange an AGM and election within the next six months.



Other issues identified that need to be addressed in the very near future were effective communication, a strong constitution, and to research the implementation of Regions/clusters for voting purposes and supporting networks.

Cluster Meeting of the 10th November

Representatives of several sheds around the district attended the Cluster meeting held at the Port Macquarie shed. It was agreed to form an informal cluster centred around the Port Macquarie/Wauchope area (the Mid North Coast cluster) but the exact shed 'catchment area' will develop naturally over time. Representatives from each shed will meet every three months (sheds will host meetings in rotation) to swap ideas, share advice and offer assistance. The next cluster meeting is planned for February 2011 at the Taree men's shed.

Steptoe's Column

A Load of Old Rubbish — We've obtained approval from the Hastings Council to extract salvageable material from the Dunbogan Waste Depot. This will obviously be subject to certain conditions such as health and safety, public health, etc, and details of the arrangements will be promulgated once the shed is up and running.

Obvious treasures sought from the depot will be bicycles for the Rotary Club overseas wheelchairs project and raw material for shedder's own projects.

Begged, Borrowed or Stolen — We had a look at some workshop machinery generously offered this month, but modern health and safety and insurance requirements means that we can only accept items for use in the shed that meet current standards. However we are taking some older items for use as spares (motors, belts, bearings, etc) or perhaps some modification later on.

Donations — All in all, it was a lean month for donations of tools and equipment. We did gain some furniture suitable for general use or the craft areas, and we have a promise of a fitted kitchen (good enough for the men's area) and PC items coming from the Garden Village refurbishment. A useful storage compactus came from the Laurieton Post Office, we have two motorised wheelchairs for use in the shed, and yet another bike.

Still on the Scrounge — It's now hoped to fit reticulated compressed air in the workshops, so we're adding **air tools** and related items to our wish list of donated items. And a **pallet jack** would be useful to move the heavier stuff around the sheds, so we'll be looking for a good cheap used one (a freebie's probably too much to hope for). And we're also looking for a **shipping container**, dead or alive.

Anything decent that we can scrounge instead of having to buy new means that dollars saved can be spent elsewhere. Donations of tools and materials are always welcome; we can collect and store them until the first shed is up and running.

Odds & Sods

A Fund Raising Trailer — We plan to acquire a trailer fitted out to cater for fund raising activities. The trailer will be purpose built to stow and transport the gear needed for sausage sizzles and similar fund raising and may be shared by other not-for-profit community organisations such as the Mid North Coast branch of 'Canassist', the local cancer support group.

More Storage — We now have four storage units to store any (more) tools, equipment or furniture that we buy or have donated to us. Two leased units are in Port Macquarie and two (free of charge at the community pre-school) in Kendall. This is in addition to our main Laurieton storage.

First Aid Certificates — It will be beneficial to have as many shedders as possible able to provide basic first aid to anyone who has a spot of bother in the shed. This is in addition to the shedders officially nominated as 'First Aiders'. We will be seeking first aid training in 'bulk' to keep any costs down so, if you're interested, put your name forward.

Donations — We have received a donation from the Kendal Community Pre School in addition to the use of two storage bays free of charge. At some stage we'll be helping them with small projects such as erecting a garden shed or doing a bit of DIY.

New Sponsors — Your cheapskate committee is always on the scrounge for freebies or sponsorships to offset the cost of 'operations', so our thanks to our latest sponsors:

- Scott of Scott's Bakery Laurieton who will be providing the bread for our BBQ meetings, &
- the fresh food people at Woolworths of Lakewood Village for the fresh food.




The Shed Library — We're off the ground with one, yes one, book folks, and further donations of suitable material are welcome — books, manuals, magazines, blueprints, plans, specifications, etc.

On the Web



This month, a veritable smorgasbord of web sites

For the Local Fisherman or Boatie —

Tides (Includes a real-time tide clock): 
<http://tides.willyweather.com.au/nsw/mid-north-coast.html>

Coastal Waters Weather — Macquarie Coast; Bureau of Meteorology; includes marine warnings:
<http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/macquariecoast.shtml>

Laurieton Weather
<http://www.weatherzone.com.au/nsw/mid-north-coast/laurieton>

Some Converters & Calculators — 

Online Calculators — A collection of functional online calculators for everyday use:
<http://www.online-calculators.co.uk/>

Online Conversions — Convert just about anything: over 5,000 units and 50,000 conversions:
<http://www.onlineconversion.com/>

Currency Converter — What will the Aussie \$ buy?
<http://www.ozforex.com.au/cgi-bin/currency-converter.asp>

World Time Zones — Current time around the globe:
<http://www.timeanddate.com/>

Distance and route calculator — Australia (and some overseas countries):
http://distancecalculator.globefeed.com/Australia_Distance_Calculator.asp

