

President's message

Merry Christmas everyone. As usual the festive season comes around earlier each year – or so it seems. My thoughts this time have centred around a number of issues but most of all about the opportunities Christmas brings. I look forward to seeing my children who have been quarantined in Melbourne for so long. A family Christmas together is something I am really looking forward to. I guess many of you are in a similar position and I hope the gatherings of your family and friends bring lots of joy and laughter to you. For those of you who celebrate Christmas as a religious festival you may be interested to know that the Men's Shed will be represented at St Barnabas on Sunday. I am delighted to have been asked to present a reading at the Christmas service.

I was returning from a visit to my grandchildren and passed through Devonport just before the tragedy at Hillcrest Primary School occurred. It was a lovely windless day and my thoughts were about my two granddaughters and their anticipation of a fun day they were to have at their own school. The heartbreaking events at Hillcrest are unimaginable but I know that we who have children and grandchildren who are safe and sound and will be with us at Christmas are blessed. I know that we all are mindful of the huge sadness that will hang over families in Devonport today.

This year has seen much progress towards our aim of building a Men's Shed at South Arm. We have moved forward in a number of ways. Our funding has improved greatly through our successful grant applications and our membership efforts. In addition we have gained planning approval for our shed.

To reach this position the committee have followed the wishes of the membership who required us to build a wooden structure on the Calverton Oval site. This, we have diligently pursued, to reach our current position. Along the way certain significant events occurred. The cost of materials has escalated by some 20% due in part to Council requirements for unexpected structural features as well as an increase in the cost of building materials.

As a result of this escalation in costs the committee has acted responsibly to investigate a cheaper option on another site. At this stage we have the support of the RSL and Community Club to build a Shed on their land but to this point have not progressed this option any further other than to gain a quote for the purchase and erection of a steel shed on the proposed site.

We expect that in the New Year the way forward on our build will be clarified. Next year will hopefully see a shed up and running or at the very least, significant progress towards having a fully operational Men's Shed in the South Arm Peninsula. In the meantime enjoy Christmas in the way you choose to celebrate and I hope to catch up in the New Year.

Farewell to Darcy

A few of us were privileged to attend the funeral of our friend and committee member Allan (Darcy) Duggan recently. Darcy was an inaugural committee member of the South Arm Peninsula Men's Shed. He was a strong supporter of our Shed and contributed to our work in many ways. Darcy saw the value in a Shed in this community and dearly wanted to see it up and running. At our meetings Darcy was always prepared to air his views in a direct and meaningful manner. A man of few words but we knew where he was coming from.

Darcy's contribution to the development of our Shed was seen where his woodworking skills were often on display with numerous donated products sold to bolster our funds. Many a lucky person is now the owner of a Darcy pen. Darcy's wife Patsy has been and remains a strong supporter of our Shed. We thank you Darcy for your contribution over our journey. Our sincere condolences and ongoing support is extended to Patsy and her family.

Rest In Peace Darcy.

Merry Christmas to all, Robin

QUIZ NIGHT – thank you!

On Saturday 27th November at Calverton Hall, we had a full house for the South Arm Peninsula Men's Shed by annual Quiz Challenge. There were 10 rounds on 10 questions to stretch the minds of the participants. The winning team was the *Shedaholics*, pictured, with the wonderful new perpetual trophy. Thanks to all entrants!



Thanks to our generous prize donors:

- Harmony Garden Centre
- Bunnings Mornington
- Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP
- David O'Byrne MP
- Senator Catryna Bilyk
- Dean Winter MP
- Nic Street MP
- Sarah Lovell MLC

whose prizes included cash gift vouchers and vouchers for Village Cinema, Coal River Farm and Carbatec, to name a few.

Thanks also to the volunteers behind the scenes for making this night fun and a successful fundraiser over \$1600 put in the bank!

Our new perpetual trophy was designed and made by good friends John Godfrey and Allan (Darcy) Duggan and turned out to be the last of many acts of generosity by Darcy for the Men's Shed. Vale Allan (Darcy) Duggan OAM.



Funding update

Our current bank balance is still on the improve and now sits at \$93,000. The status of other grants is as follows:

- Our application to the Federal Building Better Regions grants scheme has been successful adding another \$80,626 to our available funds. We are now finalising the Grant Deed agreement which, once signed by us and the Federal department, will allow funding to flow next year.
- We have been invited by Julie Collins MP to apply for \$20,000 from the Stronger Communities Program Round 7. The first step was to put forward an Expression of interest, which we have done, and this was successful. We now progress to a formal application to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. Results should be received by March/April 2022.

Our funding position continues to rapidly improve, from zero funds in Jan 2020 to \$173,000 in Jan 2022, and possibly \$193,000 by April. We will continue to actively seek out grant funding opportunities as we move forward towards our shed.

It is my understanding that all objections to our DA and Council lease for the land have been resolved so there should be no more obstacles to receiving the Council lease for consideration early in the new year.

Steve Hinton
Secretary

TREATED PINE GARDEN STAKES



Finally, the arrival of Summer now is the time to be working in the garden getting those tomato plants in the ground!

You may have seen our sign in the local shops or on Facebook advertising treated pine garden stakes at \$1.50 each for pointed stakes and \$1.00 each for unpointed stakes.

If you would like some, please give Steve a call on 0419 339 415 or email mensshed@southarm.tas.au

If you know someone who might be able to use some stakes, please pass on our details. You can support the Men's Shed project by purchasing some garden stakes or selling some on behalf of the Men's Shed to your gardening friends and family!

