

A Christmas Message

Today as I write this message I am looking forward to a lunch with some of my family. I guess that many of you have enjoyed similar occasions with family and friends. Over the coming festive season we will all hopefully be present at many such gatherings. We look forward to such times when friendships are renewed or reaffirmed.

This year has been particularly difficult for families and I know of a number of Men's Shed members who have been unusually separated from family members through Covid. While we now have been given the opportunity to travel I hope this continues because of the importance of maintaining connection with our families and friends. The establishment of a Men's Shed in South Arm is very much about creating and reaffirming friendships. While we at this moment do not have a physical shed the aim of our committee has been to maintain connection between members through social events, work projects and fundraising.

To achieve our aim of establishing our own community Men's Shed some serious negotiations with fund providers is required. While this is ongoing on many levels, for our part we need to continue with our fundraising programme to maximise our chances of a successful outcome. We have had some very successful events and have more planned for the New Year. Please keep these in your mind and participate where you can.

I have personally enjoyed working with members over the past year and thank you all for your contributions to our cause. Hopefully next year we will see some progress towards the construction of a Men's Shed. All that remains is for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a New Year which you can look forward to with renewed enthusiasm.

Best wishes

Robin Barnes

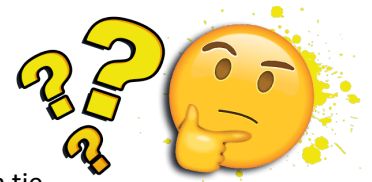


Quiz Night

On Saturday 28th November, 55 members and guest gathered at the RSL and Community Club for our first Quiz Night. Quiz Master Andy Quinn entertained us with questions on a variety of topics, from sport and music through to local knowledge.

After 10 rounds, many laughs, plenty of prizes and a few drinks we had a tie for first place, the Muddy Brains and CWA (Chooks With Attitude) each on 74 points. Thanks to all who came along and supported this event.

The evening raised over \$700 towards our Shed. A big thank you to Andy Quinn for his outstanding contribution to the evening and all the other helpers prior to and on the night.



Bunnings BBQ

Ten members shared the workload on Saturday 19th Dec when the Men's Shed team successfully cooked up over 600 sausages at the famous Bunnings BBQ. A roster system was in place to ensure that the required teams of 4 were always present and no individual was over worked.

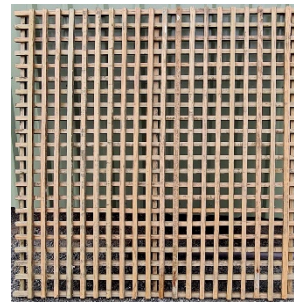
Total funds raised were well over \$1,000! We hope to secure a second Sausage Sizzle in the new year as this was a good fundraising opportunity. Thanks to the team before and on the day.



Other fund-raisers

Garden Stakes: You may be aware Pipe Clay Oysters has offered us thousands of 1800mm treated pine stakes. We've sold some at the South Arm Market (15 for \$10) and some members have used them to create items for the garden - lattice, obelisks, ornamental ladders, garden screens etc – for which we're also taking orders.

We also give a big shout out to Arm End who will be purchasing 2,000 stakes to use with their revegetation work. If you'd like to buy some stakes, the garden items or have any ideas on how we could use them, please let us know.



2021 events

Barn Dance: Planning is underway for a Barn Dance to be held on Saturday 27th February at Calverton Hall so lock this date into your calendar. Further details will follow in the new year.

Quiz Night 2: We'll be planning a second Quiz Night in the new year with more fun and games to raise some funds. Perhaps a rematch between the Muddy Brains and the CWA? Or a new challenger emerges... Stay tuned!

Keep an eye out for further details and news updates via southarm.tas.au and our next newsletter.

Ongoing activities

These include a presence at each South Arm Community Market, car park marshals at the Harmony Market and Bunnings Sausages Sizzles.

Thanks to Mike Lavender from SwimRunWild who also made a donation to the Shed in appreciation for some of our Members marshalling at the event at Arm End in November. We look forward to next year's event!

So far over a third of our 80 members have assisted in one or more events. If you're interested in helping out at any of these events or have some ideas for other events or fund-raising activities, please let us know.

We need all the help we can get to share the load - call Steve 0419 339 415 or Robin on 0408 446 249.

Funding & planning

We have now settled on what our fully completed shed will look like - 24m long by 9m wide, clad with timber and accommodating a large workshop area, crib room, storage shed, basic kitchen, accessible toilet and an outdoor area. These plans were submitted to Clarence Council for a Preliminary Planning Assessment and we've received advice that it meets all requirements. The next step is to obtain an acoustic report which will go with the formal Development Application to Council.

This is a big project and now the main task moves on to how we achieve our objective.

Given the large amount of funds required for a complete build first up, it may be that a staged construction becomes necessary. By taking the staging approach we have a much better chance of having a Shed to move into earlier and once we are in a shed, opportunities for fundraising, and further grant applications to complete the other stage(s) will improve.

Discussions with Council and potential funders will commence in earnest in the New Year.

If we do stage the construction, we will always retain the objective of the current plans and build each stage with the view to extending in accordance with that objective.

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