



Shed Update – Newsletter - June 2022

Dear Members

Just as the Winter Solstice is the turning point in our climatic cycle so have we reached an important stage in our shed development. I'm not promising a change in the chilly weather we have been experiencing but I'm sure members will be heartened by the following:

PLANNING APPROVAL

We have received Planning Approval for the construction of our shed on the preferred site on the RSL and Community Club land. There are no restrictions on our build that we are unable to meet. Even the provision of 14 car parking spaces and 4 bicycle racks is within our capabilities. Furthermore, our operating procedures will be within our control rather than restricted by Council Lease provisions.

THE WAY FORWARD

Funding - work has been ongoing to (a) reassign funds to the new project (b) reconfigure existing timelines to meet our change of direction. This has all been largely successful although we are waiting for a response regarding one grant. The holdup is due to the backlog of work with this particular department, rather than any concern with our application.

Clearing the Site - a contract has been let for the removal of trees which are on the footprint of our proposed build. To save money we have agreed to cut limbs to size for firewood which we will split and stack. **To this end a WORKING BEE will be held on Saturday 9th July starting at 9am.** Members with chainsaws are needed and in addition others to split and stack logs. A log splitter will be provided.

Preparation of the Site - the preparation of the site to be built upon plus the carpark area will be undertaken once all the necessary permits are in place. Discussions are underway with all those concerned and we hope that within 2-3 months the build can commence.

The Shed Construction - a shed will be ordered as soon as the work of the building surveyor, engineer etc. is completed. We have reviewed our shed design and believe this to be appropriate to our needs. An important consideration concerns the provision of solar panels in the future. Given the current backlog in the supply chain we cannot be sure of the date of completion but believe that a date prior to the end of the year to be achievable.

MEMBERSHIP

We have enjoyed the support of approximately 100 members over the past two years. A small fee of \$10 has demonstrated the commitment of members to our project. We now enter a new phase where sometime during 2022/3 we will have an **operating Men's Shed**. During the past two years we have had the support of about 85 men and 15 women.

Our task has always been to establish a Men's Shed; a place where men can meet to engage in friendship and shared activities. The importance of men's mental health as the focus of Men's Sheds cannot be underestimated. Around the State the majority of sheds operate as "men only" sheds, others allocate a limited time to women's activities, while very few operate as community sheds with mixed activities.

The format for the operation of our shed would appear that a designated day per week be available to female members to conduct activities of their choosing. Other days would be "Men Shed Days".

An annual membership fee of \$20 will apply to all members. This will primarily cover insurance costs, basic power charges and other overheads. The fee structure for the use of the shed by all members will evolve over time but may be based on usage of materials, use of power tools or daily attendance.

Most men's sheds have an annual fee of between \$50 - \$70 as well as charges for consumables. Because our shed will not be functional until later in the year our fee structure reflects this. Much of the early activities in the shed will include internal fit outs and workshop setups. There will be limited time initially for personal projects.

All members using the shed will be subject to rules regarding the use of machines to ensure a high standard of safety is maintained. The hours of operation will be determined by the members using the shed, but at all times a suitably qualified "Supervisor" must be in attendance. We would like that a conversation regarding the way our shed is used now begins and that ideas for both men and women days, as well as special combined days are forthcoming.

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Last week the Southern Sheds held a gathering at the Veteran's Shed at Dowsing Point. Ian Glover and John Harvey attended and gained some valuable insight into the operation of other sheds. Talk to them if you want to know more.

WORKING BEE

Saturday 9th. July at the shed site at 2972 South Arm Road at 9 am.

HARMONY MARKETS

First Saturday of every month – Helpers to assist with traffic control always needed. Please advise Robin on 0408 446 249.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

These are now due and need to be paid before August 31st. Payment can be made in one of the following ways:

- Bank transfer of \$20 to South Arm Peninsula Men’s Shed at Bendigo Bank
BSB 633 000
Account No. 173 500 240
Please include your name in the transfer.
- Cash or cheque for \$20 to SAPMS c/- South Arm Post Office 7022. Please include your name and any changes to your details on the form below.

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SOUTH ARM PENINSULA MEN’S SHED
Membership Renewal

NAME:

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE

EMAIL