Australian Men's Shed Association
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Rutherglen Community MEN'S SHED

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2020

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Opening Times: Tuesday 8am – 12 noon Thursday 8am – 1pm Lunch available

NEW MEMBERS MOST WELCOME

Like all aspects of life in 2020, the shed has had a very interrupted year with lockdowns and various operating restrictions throughout most of the year. However, when the opportunity arose, we have been very productive with our limited time in the shed. We are now open on our regular days and attendance has been good with some potential new members also participating on some days.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Well, another year has passed and what a year we have had. I would like to thank all our members for the work and effort they have put in. Coming into winter Lenny and some of the members talked about the supply of kindling for people during winter so our kindling operation got under way. Stan became the number one man and along with a number of other members we produced a trial run which turned into a very profitable operation. Three outlets were sourced- The Newsagents, The Butchers and MITRE 10. Little did we know Coronavirus would strike, but as all good workers, we soldiered on with limited numbers. Ted kept the deliveries up, and the kindling kept being turned out. So, a big thanks to all who made this happen.

While in isolation, members manufactured items at home, so with the shed now open we are making some of them at the shed.

We were asked if we would be able to produce a breadboard for Valentines, Moss took this project on, and as he said it took a number of prototypes to arrive at the requested product. The first five were delivered on Tuesday and were a hit, with more being ordered. Well done Moss and his team of helpers.

We have undertaken work for the local kindergarten, renovating a number of tables for outdoor use.

The shed was given four large trailer loads of goods from a farm including cupboards, small motors, along with other items which we will be able to turn into garden art. Alistair's eyes lit up when he saw what was there.

There have been a number of other items fixed and produced at the shed this year, so it is a BIG THANKS to all of our members.

Last of all I Would like to wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR …. see you all next year.

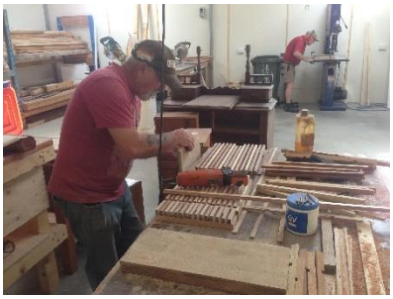
A Big Thanks
Ern Walder - President

PROJECTS

Kindling

We managed to keep the supply of kindling to meet the demand over winter despite the restrictions on the shed operations. This was our only fundraising activity since COVID restrictions were enforced in March. The response from the community has been exceptional and we thank our retailers **Mitre 10, Rutherglen Newsagency** and **Rutherglen Butchery** for selling the bags in their stores. We sold over 370 bags for the year.

Bread Boards



We had a request from **Valentines Bakery** to make some bread cutting boards. **Moss Harkness** has been refining the design and with the assistance of **Stan Baker**, we have made some high-quality boards which are now

available for sale from Valentines. They have a slotted cutting board and a timber catch tray for the crumbs. Have a look the next time you are shopping in Valentines.

Shipping Container re-location

Our shipping container, which is a vital part of our storage space was finally re-located from our old shed in November. We are very grateful to **Chris Bourke** and **Complete Bodycraft** for their donation to facilitate this complex move. They are a great local business that offers generous support to the community.

Leaving the old shed!

On the move!

Unloading

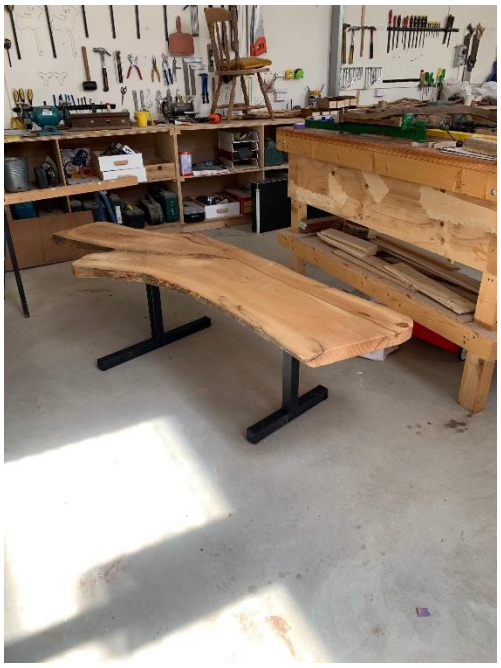
Finalising the position

In its new home behind the kindergarten

Multi-purpose timber products

A number of small tables, cheese boards, cutting boards and other timber products are now available for sale at the **Rutherglen Visitor Information Centre**. These are high quality, carefully crafted products assembled by our skilled wood working members.

President **Ern** has been busy making some **playing card holders** whilst in lockdown at home.



Moss Harkness our woodworking expert has carefully crafted this slab of elm into a beautiful table that he is gifting to a family member. It is 2000 x 450 x 60mm. The timber was donated to the shed and Moss has levelled, sanded and varnished the timber over many weeks.

The small table in the photograph at right has also been crafted by **Moss** and is now available for sale.

Community Projects

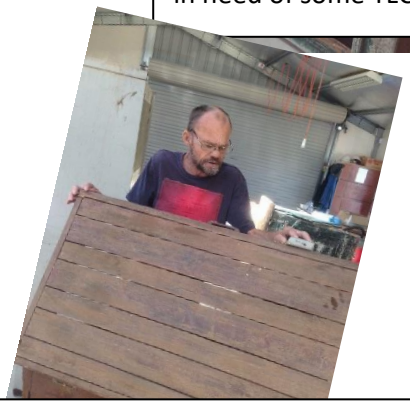
There have been limited opportunities to support the community in recent months, but we did manage to restore some old chairs for a local resident. This project was undertaken by our regular hard working member **Ted Shanks.**

We are currently undertaking some repair/restoration projects for both community members and from donated goods which will be available for sale

- these include an old butcher table from a local resident and an antique kitchen storage container (already SOLD) and an antique cupboard which were recently donated.

The butcher table being restored for a local resident

The antique cupboard in need of some TLC



The antique kitchen storage container which has already been purchased by a local community member. **Brett** will be busy for a few weeks restoring this to its former glory.

The roof from the Golf Club mower was in need of some repair after some recent damage. Pictured is **Alistair** using his metal work skills to build a new frame to support the roof. Another great example of community groups working together.

The Mens Shed was recently involved in helping a resident with some **tree lopping** after recent winds had brought down some trees and large branches. In exchange for the hard work, the timber has been donated to the shed for a wood raffle next winter. **Alistair** and **Ern** were the gun chainsaw operators. Good work guys on a rather warm day.

During lockdown, **President Ern** was busy in his shed at home making a sign for his neighbour's bar – Quinn's Inn. It is now proudly hanging in Mr. Quinn's yard. Great community work Ern.

New Member Profile

Stan Baker joined the Shed just prior to the 1st COVID lockdown. He has been a Rutherglen resident for 27 years having previously lived in Melbourne. He has been working in the wine industry doing a variety of general hands-on work in the vineyard. He retired 2 years ago.

Stan is a quick learner and a hard worker who gets things done. He was instrumental in keeping our supply of kindling going over the winter months. Lately, he has shown some deft skills in helping Moss assemble our breadboards.

His early career started as a 14yo strapping racehorses at the Mornington racecourse. Later he helped his father with repairs to lawnmowers and whipper snippers and has extensive factory work experience. Stan has been a valuable addition to the Men's Shed team – he just doesn't stop and he is happy to try his hand at anything.

Stan is married to Denise and they have a daughter Rosemary. He is a passionate Richmond supporter, so he is particularly enjoying 2020.

A big WELCOME to the Rutherglen Community Men's Shed, Stan

Grants

Government and private enterprise grants are a valuable source of funding for the Rutherglen Shed. **Uncle Tobys** offers grants to sheds in the Riverina and Indigo districts, and we were successful in obtaining funding for a planned memorial garden next to our shed. This will be a major project in early 2021.

The VMSA, via the State Government, also provided a one-off **COVID relief grant** to help cover some of our expenses during the shutdown period when we were unable to raise funds. We are very grateful to the DHHS for this funding.

Visitor Information Centre – Items for sale

A number of our hand-crafted timber products including toys, bowls and boards are now available for sale at the Visitor Information Centre

THE FUNNY BONE

Tech Support: "I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop."

Customer: "OK.".

Tech Support: "Did you get a pop-up menu?".
Customer: "No.".

Tech Support: "OK. Right-Click again, do you see a pop-up menu?".

Customer: "No.".

Tech Support: "OK, sir, can you tell me what you have done up until this point?".

Customer: "Sure: You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'."

FLYING IN THE OUTBACK

A four-seater Cessna was flying over the Australian outback. In it were the pilot, a priest, Australia's greatest athlete and Bill Gates. Suddenly, an illegal oxygen generator exploded loudly in the luggage compartment, and the passenger cabin began to fill with smoke. The pilot called back to his passengers, "we've got a hard decision ahead of us, folks. We're going to crash, but there are only three parachutes on board." Australia's greatest athlete immediately grabbed one of the parachutes and said, "Australia is gaining prominence in its performance in international sports,
and it's all because of me! Australia

needs me!" And he leapt out of the Cessna with his parachute. Then Bill Gates said, "I am the world's smartest man! Without me, the whole computer industry
would grind to a halt. The world needs smart men like me!" And with that, he took off with the second parachute. The priest looked at the pilot and said, "Young man, you have a wife and two children waiting for you at home. I have lived a long and happy life, and I am ready to meet my Maker. You take the last parachute." "Hey, don't worry about it," replied the pilot, "The world's smartest man just jumped out with my backpack...".

THE PENNY PINCHING PASTOR

Pastor Smith, who was known to be rather tight with his money accepted that the church needed to be repainted. After determining that he would need a good 75 litres of paint, he set out for the
paint shop. Wanting to leave some of the funds he had collected for other purposes, he decided instead to purchase half the amount of paint he needed, and to thin it with water to make it go further.
Later that day, after finishing the job with just enough thinned-down paint to finish coating the church, Pastor Smith stood back to admire his handiwork. Suddenly, an unexpected storm broke over the area and rain poured down, washing all of the paint off the walls. This was followed by a booming voice from the thundercloud which cried out, "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

THE SPORTS BAR BET

Jack, a handsome man, walked into a sports bar around 9:58 pm. He sat down next to this blonde at the bar and stared up at the TV as the 10:00 news came on. The news crew was covering a story of a man on a ledge of a large building preparing to jump.

The blonde looked at Jack and said, "Do you think he'll jump?"

Jack says, "You know what, I bet he will." The blonde replied, "Well, I bet he won't." Jack placed $30 on the bar and said, "You're on!"

Just as the blonde placed her money on the bar, the guy did a swan dive off the building, falling to his death. The blonde was very upset and handed her $30 to Jack, saying, "Fair's fair... Here's your money."

Jack replied, "I can't take your money, I saw this earlier on the 5 o'clock news and knew he would jump."

The blonde replies, "I did too; but I didn't think he'd do it again."

Jack took the money.

COVID-19 Update – Summer restrictions

Staying safe (Source: DHHS website - www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

- As restrictions ease, it's important that we act to keep ourselves and others safe. These actions below can help protect you from coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Stay safe by washing your hands regularly, having a face mask with you and wearing it when required, coughing and sneezing into your elbow, and keeping at least 1.5 metres from others.
- Keep your friends and family safe by meeting outdoors. There is a lower risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19) between people if you are outdoors.
- Face masks must be worn on public transport, when in taxis or rideshare vehicles, or when going to shopping centres, indoor markets and some large retail stores such as supermarkets and department stores, unless you have a lawful reason not to. You must carry a face mask with you when you leave home. It is strongly recommended that you wear a face mask when you can't maintain 1.5 metres distance from other people in all other situations.
- Venues and facilities have specific requirements such as operating with a COVIDSafe Plan, density limits (maximum numbers of people allowed in a space), cleaning and record keeping – please respect these.
- If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) get tested and stay home. Stay at home if you feel unwell.

What is changing?

From 11:59pm on Sunday, 6 December 2020 Victoria moves to COVIDSafe Summer restrictions.

These eased restrictions will let Victorians get back to doing the things they love, while also protecting everything we have worked so hard to achieve this year. This means that:

- You must carry a face mask with you when you leave home.
- Wearing a face mask is only mandatory on public transport, while in taxis or ride share vehicles, or when going to large retail venues, including shopping centres, supermarkets and department stores.
- Wearing a face mask is strongly recommended indoors and outdoors when you can't keep 1.5 metres distance from other people.
- You can have up to 30 visitors to your home per day. There is no limit on the number of households those people come from. Front and backyards are considered part of the home.
- Up to 100 people can meet outdoors in a public place. There is no limit on the number of households those people come from.
- Record keeping continues to be an important tool for helping Victoria to stay safe and stay open. Businesses that are required to record the details of visitors should use electronic record keeping or QR codes. The Victorian Government has a free QR code service.
- Restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs can open for seated and unseated service. They must use electronic record keeping and apply the two square metre rule to ensure that customers have enough room to keep 1.5 metres between themselves and others. There are no other limits on the number of customers. Venues can have up to 25 people before the two square metre rule needs to be applied.
- Weddings, funerals and religious gatherings can occur with no limits on the number of guests or attendees. To ensure people can keep 1.5 metres distance the venue must apply the two square metre rule. If a service is conducted in a private home, the private gathering limit applies (30 visitors).
- Dance floors can reopen in bars and pubs as well as at weddings. The four-square metre rule must be applied to limit the number of people on the dance floor and there can only be up to 50 people on the dancefloor at one time, if space allows.
- There are also changes to the number of people allowed at community facilities such as libraries, sporting facilities (such as gyms), and entertainment facilities (such as cinemas).

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR SPONSORS, DONORS

AND THE RUTHERGLEN COMMUNITY

THANKS FOR HELPING US THROUGH A DIFFICULT 2020

- FROM THE RUTHERGLEN SHEDDERS

New member **Stan Baker** being presented with The Pride of Workmanship award by President Ern at our recent Christmas function.

Our Christmas function was well attended by members and partners at Caffeine Machine.