



WCMS NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

July 2022



ATTENTION!! Membership fees are now due. Please form an orderly queue in front of Dennis the Treasurer and renew yours now!

COVID-19

Covid-19 is still with us, and is now just part of our lives, but striking closer and closer to home. And now it's new best-friend, the cold / 'flu / virus has been striking us down as well.

All you can do is keep taking precautions: the mask when there are people about and the hand sanitiser every time you see one.

Bunnings BBQs

We've produced two very successful Bunnings BBQs this quarter, one on the 2nd April at Majura Park and another the day after the elections (22nd May for those who have erased it from their memory banks) at Tuggeranong. We have had to pay close attention to the regulations that Bunnings provide and I think we have developed a pretty 'slick' operation. It's a lot of effort to organise and set up, and a lot of hard work by those involved in the tent on the day, but the rewards are worthwhile. Not only do the funds help bolster the Shed's finances, but growing camaraderie between the members is also encouraging.

Pop-up Shops at Cooleman Court

The Easter stall held at Cooleman Court was a great success, with bunnies hopping off the shelf and away with happy new owners. Regular products such as the picnic tables and chopping boards continued to sell well, as did the toys made by Bruce McKenzie and Bruce Bailey. A big thank-you to all members who helped in the making of the products and manning the stall.

Now, what can we make for Christmas? Get your fresh ideas to the Workshop Manager, we can't keep making reindeer and picnic table forever!

Good Garden News

Autumn has come and gone, and the garden is now bare.



This Autumn was kind and lingered longer than usual which allowed the remaining vegetables to ripen. Attached is a photo of some of the last of the produce - carrots, beetroot and aubergine (aka eggplant) - from the four raised beds. These beds have now been given a top up with cow manure and compost, and planted with a blend of green manure seeds. In 2-3 months this

green manure will be cut and dug into the garden to add nitrogen to the soil in readiness for spring planting. In the pots the sweet marjoram, oregano and garlic are hanging in there through the cold weather, as is the Graeme Plows' blackberry.

In the next 4 weeks there will be a call for volunteers to commence work on turning the two IBCs (the plastic tanks in the metal cages) into four wicking beds for more vegetables. The IBCs will need to be cut in half, platforms constructed to sit them on, installation of the water inlet and drainage pipework, then filling with the wicking medium and the growing medium. There are also a number of other maintenance tasks that need doing so keep an ear out for the call for volunteers.

Cheers
Graham L

Containers For Good

Container 6 is ready to go and should ship out on the 6th of July. This will probably be the last container that will be replaced with an empty container. Containers For Good has been a great outcome and there are many families and tradies who lost everything in the fires that have benefitted from what has been sent. There is quite a party at Quaama when the containers are opened. Well done to all that have contributed to sorting and packing the container.

Committee News

Grant submissions for Round 23 of the National Shed Development Program and a submission to the IMB BankCommunity Foundation have been submitted and we are awaiting outcomes. Unfortunately the ACT Government IT Refresh Grant Application was unsuccessful.

A further visit from ACT Government Property Group to inspect and discuss various issues that we have raised with them took place in June. They have agreed to fix the broken light

in the ladies toilet and to look into water leakage problem that led to the broken light and the rotting wood around the windows. They have agreed to remove the 'stink' pipes from the old toilets, which is now our storage room, and which have been leaking when it rains. More importantly, they have undertaken to progress a plan to create a large flat concrete area, and potentially demolish the old cinder block shed, to the right of the workshop. This is great news as it will remove a dangerous environment and allow more participation in workshop activities.

The Annual General Meeting is fast approaching, so now is the time to consider your expectations and involvement in the Weston Creek Men's Shed's operations, direction and management [Don't forget renew membership first! - Ed]. All Committee positions will be declared vacant, as is the procedure, and it may well be high time for some 'new blood'. Are you up for it?

President's Report

Our thanks go to the ACT Government Property Group who have installed A/C in the meeting area and heaters in the workshop. We were not expecting them to instal the A/C and heaters but we are very grateful for their generosity.

Thanks for allowing me to attend the 9th Men's Shed Gathering in Albury in late March. It was a very rewarding event with representatives from over 150 Sheds. I highly recommend that WCMS attend these Bi-Annual Gatherings not just for the quality of the presentation but sharing experiences with members from other sheds big and small. WCMS will be hosting breakfast for shedders from the local area on Wednesday 24 August attending a local AMSA Gathering at the Labor Club in Stirling. I encourage WCMS members to attend - registration is available on the AMSA website.

The Committee continues to organise events and presentations for members and the calendar for the rest of 2022 is filling fast. We have a Bunnings BBQ on 30 July, host a breakfast on 24 August, a pop-up stall at Cooleman Court for Men's Shed Week on 8/9 September and stall at the National Zoo and Aquarium Markets on 3 December. Interestingly the invite to the Zoo Markets comes as a result of the sale of Toaster Tongs at the Easter stall at Cooleman Court.

Workshop Manager's Report

You have already heard about the success of the Easter stall and that the workshop is making items for sale in what is a busy lead up to Christmas. We will have Bilbys and reindeer for sale as well as picnic tables and cutting board and money boxes. If you want to help please talk to the Workshop Manager.

If you drive along Bangalay Crescent you may have seen the new and bigger Street Library. It would be great if there was a member who could take responsibility for making sure the library is tidy and stocked with acceptable books. We have also been making bird boxes and will shortly be making boxes for small marsupials.

There has been some major changes to the workshop, the kitchen has gone and workshop members now share the main kitchen and trust that they keep it tidy. A local engineering company has commenced installing insulation in the roof of the workshop and

coupled with the installation of heaters it makes the workshop a comfortable place to work during the winter chill.

We continue to review the capabilities of the workshop and where necessary seek to update our tools and equipment. We recently purchased a thicknesser to replace a smaller machine that was donated by Tuggeranong Men's Shed, but which has since 'expired'. This is a major piece of equipment that will greatly improve our ability to use much of the timber we have in store without the expense of buying new timber.

Members wishing to learn new skills are always welcome.

Stay safe during this time and watch out for those in need of support.

Allan Booth
President