

History of Weston Creek Men's Shed

This document is a compilation of the original history document written by John Burrowes when he was president in 2016, and a collection of news items taken from the internet by the current Vice President, Brian Black. It is not meant as a definitive document, rather as a means to collect and preserve the available information and perhaps encourage others to contribute more information. The intention is to make it available to all members, and the public, by publishing it on the WCMS website.

Brian Black
July 2022

2013

1. The earliest information that I can find is from the Minutes of a Public Meeting of the Weston Creek Community Council held on 31st July 2013. Interested members of the Weston Creek had been invited to attend this Meeting to gauge the level of interest in the establishment of a Men's Shed within the Weston Creek area. There were presentations given to the Meeting by Representatives of two current ACT Men's Sheds (Melba Shed and Tuggeranong Men's Shed). There is no indication of how many expressions of interest were received at this Meeting.

Want to be part of a Men's Shed in Weston Creek?

5 AUGUST 2013



Following a well attended meeting on what Men's Shed's are all about there was interest in starting one in the Weston Creek area. If you wish to be involved then you can contact Communities at Work through admin@commsatwork.org. If you want to know more about Men's Shed's then visit their website at the [Australian Men's Shed Association](https://westoncreek.org.au/want-to-be-part-of/).

<https://westoncreek.org.au/want-to-be-part-of/>
accessed 18 April 2021

2014

2. I understand that the topic of trying to establish a Men's Shed in the Weston Creek was very much alive within the management of the Rotary Club of Canberra Weston Creek. Sometime during the middle of 2014 (about August) an advertisement appeared, in The Chronicle (I believe), advising the male members of the Weston Creek community that a Meeting was to be held at the Weston Creek Uniting Church Hall to discuss the possibility of forming a Men's Shed within the local area.

3. Interested males were asked to contact a Rotary Member (Mr Mal Ferguson). The Meeting was held in early September and a sufficient number of males attended. A subsequent Meeting was arranged for the following week. According to a Report in The Chronicle, following that Meeting, "some 40 blokes" had indicated that they would meet on a weekly basis to for a Men's Shed in the Weston C reek area.

4. Subsequent Meetings were held on a Thursday afternoon commencing at about 1.30 pm at the Church Hall. At that stage, the Men's Shed was being auspiced by the Rotary Club of Weston Creek, who had taken on the responsibility of supporting the Men's Shed and also to provide Public Liability Insurance cover for those men who were attending the meetings. A Rotary Club Member would attend each meeting of the Men's Shed.

5. During these "formative" Meetings, the Rotary Club suggested that a "Steering Committee" be set up, to be initially chaired by a Rotary Member. This suggestion was followed, and this Committee began planning the "way forward". During the next three months a draft set of Rules was prepared by the Steering Committee and a decision was made to form an Association to be named "Weston Creek Men's Shed" (WCMS) and that the Association would progress towards becoming an Incorporated Association in accordance with the ACT Associations Incorporation Act.

A Men's Shed for Weston Creek?

3 AUGUST 2014

Men interested in joining a Men's Shed in Weston Creek are asked to advise names and contact details to rotarywestoncreek@gmail.com, or Mal Ferguson or Graham Giles by 31 August 2014.

If there is enough interest, the Weston Creek Rotary Club will convene a meeting to discuss the way ahead. For further information, see the Australian Men's Shed Association website: <http://www.mensshed.org>

<https://westoncreek.org.au/a-men-s-shed-for/>
accessed 18 April 2021

Weston Creek Men's Shed

15 DECEMBER 2014



The Weston Creek Mens Shed is now up and running. Initially, we are a social Shed where men can meet for a cuppa and a chat, as well as having other activities including speakers, visits, and occasional lunches. We currently operate under the auspices of the Rotary Club of Canberra Weston Creek.

We meet each Thursday afternoon, from 1.30 pm, at the Weston Creek Uniting Church hall, in Parkinson Street, Weston (next-door-but-one to the Irish Club). (Re-commencing 22 January 2015)

Please join us, or for more information about our Shed, contact:

Mal Ferguson, (Rotary Club): or
John Burrowes (WCMS Committee):

For information on Mens Sheds: www.mensshed.org.au

<https://westoncreek.org.au/weston-creek-men-s-shed/>
accessed 18 April 2021

2015

6. In early February, a General Meeting, of all interested Members, was held to formally form the Association and to accept the Draft Rules, as presented by the Steering Committee, to be the Interim Rules of the new Association. At that same Meeting a Committee of eight (8) members was elected to progress the Association towards Incorporation.

7. The Shed continued to meet, as a Social Shed, on Thursday afternoons at the Weston Creek Uniting Church Hall. During the ensuing months, the Shed Members went on a number of excursions, including the Snowy-Hydro Helicopter Base at Hume, the Canberra Railway Historical Society Museum at Kingston, the ACT Fire Museum, and the Life Line Book Fair Depot at Mitchell, as well as attending occasional Lunches at one of the local Clubs in the Weston Creek area.

8. By the middle of May, a General Meeting of the Members had accepted amendments to the Interim Rules and adopted those Rules to form the Application to ACT ORS for Incorporation. The Weston Creek Men's Shed Inc became an Incorporated Association in the ACT on 5th June 2015. WCMS Inc also became a Full Member of the Australian Mens' Sheds Association (AMSA).

9. Over the next six months, the Shed began considering the possibility of finding appropriate accommodation to enable us to become a "Workshop Shed". This would mean that we would require alternative accommodation, because there were no facilities at the Uniting Church Hall to establish a workshop.

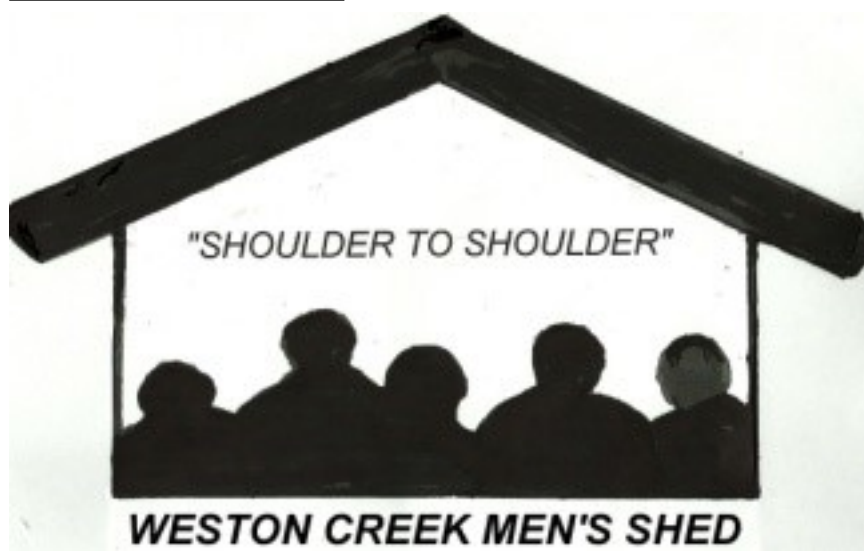
10. One of the WCMS Members was also a Member of the Eternity Church at Kambah (on the corner of Drakeford and Sulwood Drives). Through him the Church offered the use of a shed, within the Church grounds, for a workshop area. The offer also included the use of a Meeting Room within the Church building.

11. There were some concerns, however, because the shed was not connected to electrical power or reticulated water. The cost of having power connected turned out to be restrictive and an alternative suggestion was to purchase a stand-alone generator. This offer was subsequently accepted, and WCMS moved to the Eternity Church premises in November 2015.

12. As a result of the concerns about the need to provide 'generator power', a decision was made, by WCMS, to apply for a Federal Government Funding Grant through AMSA. This application was submitted in late October, with the results to be notified to the shed early in 2016.

The Weston Men's Shed Moves

16 NOVEMBER 2015



From 19 November 2015 the Weston Creek Men's Shed will meet at the Eternity Church, at the corner of Sulwood Drive and the Tuggeranong Parkway (next to the Fire/Ambulance Station) – [click for map](#).

Meetings will be on Thursdays from 1.30 pm onwards. The site offers meeting facilities and a shed for use as a workshop. In the longer term the Shed hopes to establish a workshop shed in the Weston Creek Group Centre. All men welcome

For more information contact:

- John Burrowes
- Tony Burns

<https://westoncreek.org.au/the-weston-mens-shed-moves/> Accessed 18 April 2021

2016

13. WCMS was notified on 18th January 2016 that we had been partially successful with our application for Funding (refer para 12 above). The amount received was enough to purchase the generator. We will, however, need to submit further Applications for funding from future Federal Grants Rounds.

Weston Creek Men's Shed robbery a kick in the guts, says manager

Clare Sibthorpe

Latest News

- [Man burgles Weston Creek Men's Shed, then gets staff to help jump start his getaway car](#)

The thief who pretended his car had broken down at the Weston Creek Men's Shed, rammed into a good Samaritan's car and fled with the shed's power source has given workers a "kick in the guts".

The Men's Shed's manager Allan Booth said a member of the neighbouring Eternity Church was assisting with a youth meeting at the church on Sunday night when he saw a man trying to load a generator into his car outside the shed.



Weston Creek Men's Shed manager Allan Booth is distraught that a generator and power tools worth thousands of dollars have been stolen. Photo: Elesa Kurtz

Likely sensing that the church member was becoming suspicious, the thief said he was moving the generator from one Men's Shed to another.

He then claimed that his car had broken down and asked the church member to lend him some jump leads, Mr Booth said.

Mr Booth said the theft would delay work repairing disability aids for Disability ACT. Photo: Elesa Kurtz

"So the fellow from the church went back to the car to get some jump leads and while he is walking back to the car he rang me because he knows me and became suspicious," Mr Booth said.

"That's when he saw the fellow [thief] start the vehicle so he drove his car to block the exit. The fellow [thief] didn't stop and drove straight through and took the front off the church member's car, also damaging his own car."

The thief left with about \$3500 worth of stolen power tools, batteries and a generator, which powers the shed's lighting.

Mr Booth was shocked that the "brazen" thief smashed the good Samaritan's car and devastated that he stole from the shed, which is a workshop that brings skilled and unskilled men together to build items over a cup of coffee.

"It is disturbing for the men who do the work," Mr Booth said.

"They are dedicated to the shed and when this happens it can be a kick in the guts."

He said the theft will have a huge impact on the shed's 22 members who will have to pay the insurance excess and would delay their work repairing disability aids for Disability ACT.

"The generator is the only source of power for lighting in the shed and for powering the tools, so it is going to hold up the work we can do until we can get the power back on," he said.

"I have been offered a generator from a friend, but what the capacity is I don't know. It could be a couple of weeks until we sort it out."

ACT Policing said on Tuesday that they were called to the Men's Shed on Sulwood Drive in Kambah at about 7pm on Sunday.

They confirmed that a man had stolen Ryobi tools, batteries and a generator from the shed and fled after crashing into a car driven by a person who was helping the man jump-start his car.

Police are seeking witnesses to the burglary, describing the thief as caucasian, about 180cm tall (5'11"), 45 years old, unshaven with dark coloured hair with a solid build.

"He was wearing a grey hooded jumper with a white shirt underneath, white shorts and sneakers," their statement read.

"He was driving a black Jeep Cherokee with ACT registration beginning in YEP, and which is also likely to have significant front end damage on its right side."

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6045155/weston-creek-mens-shed-robbery-a-kick-in-the-guts-says-manager/>
accessed 18 April 2021

Wild burglary from the Weston Creek Men's Shed

By **CityNews** -

August 23, 2016

Share Canberra's trusted news:

ACT Policing is seeking witnesses to a burglary at the Weston Creek Men's Shed on Sunday, 21 August 2016.

About 7.00pm, police attended the shed on Sulwood Drive in Kambah, following reports of a burglary.

An employee of the Men's Shed had been assisting an unknown man outside the shed to jump-start his vehicle. The employee became suspicious of the man after noticing him handling property from the Men's Shed. The offender then fled in his vehicle, colliding with and significantly damaging the employee's vehicle as he left. The employee called police and later identified that a number of items had been stolen from the shed including Ryobi tools, batteries and a generator.

The offender is described as Caucasian in appearance, approximately 180cm tall (5'11"), 45 –years-old, unshaven with dark coloured hair with a solid build. He was wearing a grey hooded jumper with a white shirt underneath, white shorts and sneakers.

The offender's vehicle is a black Jeep Cherokee 4x4 with ACT registration beginning in YEP, and is also likely to have significant front end damage on its right side.

Police are seeking witnesses who were in the area of the Men's Shed, located at the back of Eternity Church, on Sulwood Drive in Kambah about 7pm on Sunday. As the offender fled in a vehicle, police are also urging drivers who were in the area to check any available dash-cam footage.

Police are urging anyone who may have any information that could assist police to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or via the Crime Stoppers ACT website. Please quote reference 6001955. Information can be provided anonymously.

<https://citynews.com.au/2016/wild-burglary-weston-creek-mens-shed/>
accessed 18 April 2021

From tin to brick: Southside Men's Sheds enjoy an upgrade

- **Cassandra Morgan**

JANUARY 16 2019 - 12:00AM

Latest News

Down in Rivett, at the edge of an oval, there sits a little brick structure with a sign hanging from the wire fence out the front: 'Weston Creek Men's Shed'.

It mightn't look much to the average Canberran, but it's a huge step up for the 30-odd men who gather here every week - looking to have a chat, a coffee, and help out the local community.



Workshop manager Allan Booth, committee member Graeme Ireland, vice president Bryan Blackburn, and (front) president Graham Lacey at the new Men's Shed facilities at Weston Creek. Photo: Jamila Toderas

"Where we were before was just a tin shed. There was no power, there was no water. It did serve a purpose for us to get started but this one is much better," said long-time member Allan Booth.

"We've got a kitchen and the option to expand, which is great for us ... we've done some [carpentry] work for Mount Stromlo High School, disability services, and Noah's Ark Pre-School around the corner.

"They're just little things, but it keeps us busy."

The Weston Creek Men's Shed has been relocated to Bangalay Crescent in Rivett as part of an \$80,000 ACT government initiative, which will also see a new site built in Hughes.

Prior to the move, the men of Weston Creek were located out at Kambah in a tin shed on the grounds of the Eternity Church.



The old Weston Creek Men's Shed in Kambah. Photo: Cassandra Morgan

The conditions were basic - they were surrounded by scrub, without power or plumbing, but shed president Graham Lacey said they were grateful for the stepping stone it provided them.

And, despite three moves since their establishment five years ago, many of the men have stuck by the group's motto - "shoulder to shoulder" - staying on in the different locations.

"Men's Sheds are traditionally seen as [being a place where] you must make stuff. That's true to an extent, but it's just a vehicle for camaraderie. It's about the shared interests of men," Mr Lacey said.

"They're about providing an outlet for men who might otherwise be socially isolated. It gives them an opportunity to get together ... [and] it's been shown to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing."

Mr Lacey said the Weston Creek Men's Shed would hold a "tentative" open day on February 28, following the closure over the holiday period and the re-opening last week on January 8.

Committee member Graeme Ireland promised a "damn good" barbecue, and Mr Lacey said they anticipated local interest to increase over the coming months.

"Certainly the relocation has been very well received by the membership," Mr Lacey said.

"The expectation is that now we are more centrally located, and we've got a better and larger facility, we will be able to provide more activities and have more diverse people."

Weston Creek has the oldest population in Canberra, with a median age of 41. Woden Valley and the Inner South are the second oldest, with a median age of 39.

Minister for Community Services and Facilities Chris Steel said the new Weston Creek site would offer the Men's Shed a "permanent home to grow".

"Men's Sheds provide a fantastic opportunity for older men to participate and socialise with other men, while giving back to the community," Mr Steel said.

A spokeswoman for Minister Steel's office said construction would begin on the new Hughes Men's Shed facility, which would be located on the corner of Groom and Whittle Streets, in mid-2019.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/5996914/from-tin-to-brick-southside-mens-sheds-enjoy-an-upgrade/>
accessed 18 April 2021

A new home for Men's Sheds on the Southside

Released 16/01/2019

Men's Sheds on the Southside have found new homes with the ACT Government providing \$80,000 for a brand new purpose built shed in Hughes, and a new local site for Weston Creek Men's Shed group, Minister for Community Services and Facilities Chris Steel announced today.

"Men's Sheds provide a fantastic opportunity for older men to participate and socialise with other men, while giving back to the community," Minister Steel said.

"The reality for many men as we age is that we're not as good as we should be at keeping up our friendships, but it's so important for our health.

Weston Creek has the oldest population in Canberra at 41. Woden Valley and the Inner South are the second oldest with a median age of 39.

“We’ve got the oldest population in Canberra here on the Southside so I’ve been working with the local men’s sheds to ensure they’re in an adequate facility so they can support even more men to get active and involved.”

Minister Steel said Weston Creek Men’s Shed was previously temporarily located at the Eternity Church Grounds in Kambah which unfortunately was not fit for purpose and required a generator to operate. The Rivett Depot which is owned by ACT Property Group is located next to Rivett shops at the sheds previously tenanted by Leapfrog.

“I have been working with the group and within government to find an accessible site in Weston Creek that will allow the men’s shed to find a permanent home to grow.”

CEO of COTA ACT Jenny Mobbs welcomed the announcement of new Men’s Shed and said it will complement the broader community.

“The idea of getting together ‘shoulder to shoulder’ and doing useful voluntary work is the core of the success of the Men’s Shed Movement,” Ms Mobbs said.

The Weston Creek Men’s Shed currently has around 30 members and is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The Hughes Men’s Shed will be constructed in 2019. The Weston Creek Men’s Shed will hold an open day on 28 February.

For more information about the Men’s Shed visit the website at:

westoncreekmensshed.org.au

- **Statement ends** -

Section: [Chris Steel, MLA](#) | Media Releases

https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/chris-steel-mla-media-releases/2019/a-new-home-for-mens-sheds-on-the-southside

accessed 18 April 2021

The Weston Creek Men’s Shed Re-locates to Rivett.

9 FEBRUARY 2019

The Weston Creek Community Council welcomes the re-location of the Weston Creek Men’s Shed to Rivett.

After an absence of some 3 years Weston Creek Men’s Shed has returned to Weston Creek. The Shed has recently completed its relocation from the Eternity Church at Kambah to the former City Parks Depot at 37 Bangalay Street, Rivett (between Rivett Shops and the Rivett Oval). The Rivett facility, which has been made available by the ACT Government, is a quantum leap forward for the Shed and its members. It provides vastly improved amenities with plenty of space for social activities, as well as current and future workshop activities.

The ACT Government is also undertaking repairs and additional works to further improve the facility. The Shed’s operating days/times are: Tuesdays and Fridays 1000 – 1400 for workshop activities and Thursdays 1300-1530 for social activities. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in our Mens Shed then our contacts are e:

w: www.westoncreekmensshed.org.au

m:

<https://westoncreek.org.au/the-weston-creek-mens-shed-re-locates-to-rivett/>

accessed 18 April 2021

Weston Creek Men's Shed finds a place to call home

Lachlan Roberts 3 March 2019



Weston Creek Men's Shed's new home. Photo: Supplied by ACT Government.

To the naked eye, it looks just like an ordinary shed, but for 30 local men who meet there three times a week for a chat and a coffee, it's their second home.

The Weston Creek Men's Shed has been relocated to Bangalay Crescent in Rivett as part of an \$80,000 ACT government initiative, which has also committed to building a new Men's Shed in Hughes.

Prior to the move, the Weston Creek men met in a tin shed on the grounds of the Eternity Church in Kambah. Despite

having to move three times to different locations since their establishment in 2014, many of the men have stuck with the group and now have a permanent place to call home.

The group runs social interactions from tea and coffee over a game of cards, to excursions to popular sights, to woodwork and metal workshops. Shed president Graham Lacey said the group had proven to improve men's mental and physical health, especially those who had retired.

“What we do is provide a social outlet for men, giving males an opportunity to interact with other men and to talk about men type issues,” Mr Lacey told *Region Media*. “They are increasingly being recognised as being beneficial for the mental and physical help of males.”

Mr Lacey, who joined the group four years ago, uses the weekly gatherings as a social outlet to catch up with his fellow retired friends and work colleagues.

The shed's motto – “shoulder to shoulder” – reflects the reliance and the support everyone involved gives to one another in the shed and Mr Lacey is encouraging more men to join the group.

“When I retired seven years ago, I kept fairly busy with the big to-do list around the place, but that runs out after a while so you start to look to maintain your social connections or establishing new social connections,” he shared.

“Men's shed provides that opportunity. It's not a high-cost activity, and you can do as much as you like or as little as you like.

“In terms of the workshops that we run, we help a variety of community groups which make them feel valued and that they are still contributing to the broader community.”

Minister for Community Services and Facilities Chris Steel said the shed in Weston Creek, which has the oldest population in Canberra with a median age of 41, was vital for the community.

“The Weston Creek Men’s Shed has been such an important part of the community since it opened in 2014, providing a safe and welcoming space for men to participate and socialise with other men while giving back to the community,” Mr Steel.

“We’ve got the oldest population in Canberra here on the Southside so I’ve been working with the local men’s sheds to ensure they’re in an adequate facility so they can support even more men to get active and involved.”

The Weston Creek Men’s Shed is open every week on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. For more information about the Men’s Shed visit their [website](#).

<https://the-riotact.com/weston-creek-mens-shed-finds-a-place-to-call-home/288943>

accessed 18 April 2021

Weston Creek Men's Shed opens

23 April 2019

The Weston Creek Men’s Shed has moved from the Eternity Church Ground in Kambah to a new home at the Rivett Depot in Bangalay Crescent.



Since originally opening in 2014, the Men's Shed has been an integral part of the community. It provides a safe and welcoming space for men to participate and socialise with other men, while supporting them to get active and involved.

At the same time, the Men's Shed enhances the health and wellbeing of retirees and older members of the community.

Weston Creek has the oldest population in Canberra with a median age of 41, while the median age for Woden Valley and the Inner South is 39.

The Men's Shed in Weston Creek currently has around 30 members and is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

There is planning underway for another Men's Shed to open in Hughes.

Find more or join the Men's Shed visit westoncreekmensshed.org.au

<https://www.act.gov.au/our-canberra/latest-news/2019/april/weston-creek-mens-shed-opens>

accessed 18 April 2021

Men's Sheds help with 'second wave' of bushfire recovery

Cassandra Power
December 17, 2020

Weston Creek Men's Shed president Alan Booth is coordinating with the Quaama Men's Shed to send a second shipping container of donated tools and craft supplies to help bushfire-affected residents in the NSW Bega Valley. The idea came when Quaama Men's Shed Member and South Coast businessman Don Firth began making shelving units and desks for people who had lost everything.

As demand grew, Don reached out to Weston Creek for help and they responded.

From just their own resources, they filled a shipping container with tools, but the appreciation, gratitude and continual need has expanded the project and they are now calling for donations to add to the cargo.

"They've got a second wave of people affected by the fire that's coming through," Alan said.

"They're the ones that got on with it, tidied up and did some things without worrying about all the handouts available and now they realise they need something extra.

"They are very proud people some of them. They know help is there, but they want to do it themselves or they think someone is worse off than them." The Australian Men's Shed Association has nearly 1,000 clubs across Australia and they exist to support the mental and physical wellbeing of men of all ages.

According to the association's website, "becoming a member of a Men's Shed provides a safe and busy environment where men can feel good about themselves, be productive, contribute to the community, connect with friends and maintain an active body and mind in an atmosphere of old-fashioned mateship".

Alan said they get a lot of phone calls, mostly from women whose husbands have died, and they want help clearing out their garage.

"We usually go around and clear it out for them and sort it out, what's rubbish and what we can use for ourselves," Alan said.

"But also, now we have this down the coast, we can put it in the container and send it down. Most of the stuff is tools, equipment, and chainsaws, but we put in some extra bit and pieces including craft work.

“That was well received by the women down there, because men get all the tools to play with but the women don’t get anything.”

The boys from the men’s shed are working on a needs-basis and are currently creating a list of needs, including fishing equipment and working white goods.

The Weston Creek Men’s Shed members meet socially on Thursday to take trips and play cards and conduct workshops on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, selling some of their made items for fundraising.

Alan said usually their biggest fundraisers of the year were their three Bunnings barbecues, but due to COVID they have made alternative plans. Alan Booth and the ‘band of merry men’ from Weston Men’s Shed will be at Cooleman Court this Friday (18 December) selling their woodwork, seeking donations and raising awareness. To contribute to their shipping container, email them via enquiries@westonmensshed.com.au

<https://canberraweekly.com.au/mens-sheds-help-with-second-wave-of-bushfire-recovery/>
Accessed 18 April 2021

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

6 April 2021

On Tuesday 6 April 2021, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), as Patron, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley visited the Weston Creek Men's Shed.

<https://www.gg.gov.au/about-governor-general/governor-generals-program/canberra-australian-capital-territory-256>
accessed 18 April 2021

Some notes since then:

May 2022 - ACT Property Group supplied and installed air-conditioning in the main meeting room and strip heating into the workshop.

June 2022 - Volunteers from CBC Canberra Metal Fabrication installed insulation into the roof of the Shed

