



WCMS NEWSLETTER

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COVID-19

All, a reminder that Covid-19 #5 and influenza vaccines are now available. Most of us are blithely ignoring the continuing presence of Covid-19. It has now been 3 years since it started wreaking havoc on the world, and now, thanks largely to the interventions imposed on us and the availability of potent vaccines, we can all go about our lives in a normal fashion.

It's still a good idea to:

- Get the vaccination
- Wear a mask where appropriate
- Use hand sanitiser whenever you see it

NOTE !! Make sure your ICE envelope is up today. We have had several cases of members requiring emergency assistance and the ICE information has proved to be invaluable. Also be aware that it is WCMS policy that every member that attends an outing must have an ICE envelope or they will be excluded. The outing leader will have these envelopes with them. "Outings" includes Bunnings BBQs and Coleman Court Pop-up stalls.

Position Vacant

We need a cleaner. Someone who can give the loos a once over, tidy the kitchen, empty the waste bins, wipe the tables down and vacuum the carpets. Once a week. The Committee had an 'arrangement' with the last member who did it, which amounted to Membership fee refunded and no Weekly Fee. Interested? Talk to Allan.

Social & Welfare

Thanks to the efforts of Tony Burns and Allan Castle our Social and Welfare Sub-Committee, members have been treated to a veritable whirlwind of guest speakers, outings and lunches. This is what we got up to over the last few months:

April 20 Guest Speaker C. Moore from the Health Consumers Association gave a comprehensive talk regarding the minefield that is our health system
 April 27 Outing to the Police Museum
 May 6 Bunning BBQ at Tuggeranong
 May 18 Outing to the Fire Brigade Museum
 June 6 Guest Speaker. Wayne Simp[son from Rise Above talked about cancer and prostate cancer in particular
 June 15 Guest Speaker. Our own Allan Castle gave a brilliant talk about the legal system in Australia. Some members appeared to be quite familiar with it as well....
 June 22 Outing to the Burns Club for a slap-up luncheon.

BUT:

This is what's coming up over the next couple of months:

July	13	Lino's lunch & Committee Meeting
	20	War Memorial tour – lunch at Poppys - 12noon, Tour, 1pm
	27	Lino's lunch
Aug	3	Hydro 2 Snowy Mountains presentation. - 1pm
	10	Lino's lunch & Committee Meeting
	17	O.I.C Woden Police – Policing in Woden Area
	24	Lino's lunch
	31	Lower Molonglo Treatment Plant Tour - 1pm
Sept	3	Bunnings Fathers Day Stall / stand
	7	Legal Aid on Elder Abuse. - 1pm
	10	Sunday - Bunnings BBQ
	14	Annual General Meeting – Election of Committee – 1pm
	21	YPS (Golf and lunch) Maybe train rides. Lunch – 12noon
	28	Lino's lunch

Not all the dates are finalised, but you get the general idea. Keep a watch out at the Shed and in your weekly briefs for more details.

Many thanks to Tony and Allan, their contribution to the Shed is highly appreciated.

New Toy!

One of our Grant applications was to fund the purchase of a CNC Router. What is a CNC Router? Most would know that a router is power tool that has a special 'bit' in it which is used to carve wood, things like putting nice round edges on timber panels. They are great for a solid surface and a straight line, but notoriously difficult and dangerous to use free-style. CNC stands for Computer Numeric Control, and is basically a way of harnessing the special abilities of a router in a machine, that can then be precisely controlled by a computer to carve basically any shape you can imagine.

The specific purpose of the Shed acquiring such a machine, was to broaden our appeal to a wider section of the community, although the immediate benefit is to any member interested in seeing how this is done.

Fire Museum

Nine WCMS shedders visited the Fire Brigade Museum in Manaka last Thursday, after a delicious pizza lunch organised by Lino. Thanks Lino.

Ron Hourigan from the museum, and a retired ACT fireman, hosted the visit. The fire brigade in the ACT was established in 1912 with the Percy Douglas as the first fire chief. Percy remained with the brigade for 40 years, a real achievement. Ron spoke about the history of the brigade in the ACT and when it was merged with the NSW Fire Brigade and when it undertook ambulance services for the ACT. ACT Fire Brigade now operates as a standalone entity.

The museum has a fantastic collection of fire trucks, the oldest being a 1913 Hottchkiss with wooden wheels! This was not the original that operated in the ACT, but one on loan from a museum. Other vehicles included an Albion which went into service in 1923, and the famous Dennis pumpers (made in the UK) which were in service from 1935 to 1970. A real problem with the old pumpers was that the crew were exposed to the elements and had to hang on for dear life. Other pumpers on display included the International KB6, Dennis F12 (with a RR engine) and the Dennis Jaguar.

More modern engines incorporated crew cabs but early versions were more than converted commercial trucks with a 'box' added for the crew travel in. Not good for communication between the SO and the crew.

Another interesting feature was a display of old ladder trucks, including one with a wooden ladder (120 feet) mounted on large wheels. The wheels combo were detached from the truck for use.

The display included a collection of uniforms and communication Ron had a lot of interesting stories to tell about 'false alarms'.

In all, an excellent afternoon and well worth the visit. Thanks to our host, Ron Hourigan, and to members Alan Castle and Tony Burns for the visit.

Report: Warren Jones

Police Museum

If our ability to get into the Museum is any way to gauge how hard it would be to get into a police station, then we can conclude that they are as safe as houses. The usual 'defences' confronted us when we arrived and included: 3m high fencing, cameras all over the place and finally having to sign our lives away before we could put foot inside the door. From here our guide (Mr Brown) went through the history of the AFP from its inception to today. This proved very informative and had all intent. That is to say that not person drifted off during this presentation. From there we went through 3 different areas which contained a kings ransom of 'toys' from the police archives.

All of us decided that the Z1000 bike was the thing that we all wanted to take home. Secondly was the different cars and trucks that they have used over the decades. We all had our different idea of what we wanted to take away. The concept of how they keep them in pristine condition was also interesting – imagine huge blow up bags with pumps


that switch out air every so often. Finally we were shown the different 'keepsakes' that the police keep to show both the public and new officers when they are in Canberra.

Unfortunately we were not able to include photos – a big no-no! We were surprised to find that the visit had taken 1.5 hours. Our guide would have gone on for some more but some members had to get back to undertake chores. We thanked our guide and departed, vowing that we would make time to come back.

Thank you goes to Alan Castle for setting up this tour and we hope to go again in the future.

Author: Tony Burns

What's the buzz?

 The Committee has decided to embrace even more of today's technology in an attempt to broaden our appeal and make contacting us easier. To that end you will start to see these annoying little code things popping up all over the place . It's called a QR code and is like a barcode, only different. QR stands for Quick Response and it is basically a two dimensional barcode. Its only purpose for us is that it is translated by the scanner eg your SmartPhone, into an internet address, which then supplies our internet address and opens the SmartPhone internet browser at our web page.

Viola! The user then has instant access to all our information such as who we are, how to contact us, what we do etc etc.

Annoying, but very handy and very relevant in today's world

Brian

Bunnings BBQ

All the signs were there for a dismal failure. Freezing, high likelihood of thick fog, general lack of enthusiasm, even the public seemed to be moving slowly....

However, the sun came out, it didn't fog or rain, people came out to Bunnings in droves and we worked our behinds off all day selling , cooking, running, sandwiching.

Apart from the number of "sausage, no onion, no bread" orders, which we interpret as "one for the dog please" , and we are happy to oblige, the order of the day was for 10 of everything, but not made into sandwiches, the lady had her own containers and took away the ingredients for the family lunch! Thanks to all our public, we really appreciate your support.

As it was, we put the last snag on the last slice of bread at 3:20 and decided enough was enough. That was our 800+ quota cooked and delivered. Never seen a bunch or tired blokes clean up, pack up and git so fast!

Thanks to all our customers and all the shed men who worked on the project in their own way, and of course thanks to Bunnings for making it possible.

Report : Brian

In Our Garden

What's happening in the garden? It might appear to be not much but that is not the true situation.

The vegetable garden is in winter hibernation however it is being prepared for spring. To rejuvenate the soil with nitrogen green manure seeds has been planted in three of the raised garden beds. In 2-3 months the mustard etc will be cut and dug into the soil. The largest bed has been covered with lucerne mulch to suppress the weeds that infest this bed and to rejuvenate the nitrogen in the soil.

There are a number of other maintenance and development tasks that need to be undertaken so look out for further details and a call for assistance.

Speaking of assistance, I have a number of commitments between now and the end of the year that will take me away. This means that I will be unable to devote as much time to the garden during spring and early summer as I have done in the past. Long story short if the garden is to be as productive for members as it has been in past years I need an assistant(s) who can help out during this period.

Report: Graham Lacey

Committee News

The big news this quarter is that all our Grant requests are coming true!!!!

This financial years Grants:

- \$2000 to buy the CNC router
- \$3500 to build an extension to the veranda
- \$2000 to buy "helpful items" for our volunteers
- \$7500 to install glass windows and doors where the roller doors are

We have also had to deal with some safety related issues, issues that just can't be ignored. All members are reminded that if they see something, say something about anything that might be a safety concern. Once the Committee has been alerted, we are duty bound to address the issue.

Workshop

The workshop continues to be busy making bird boxes and Possum boxes for community members in return for a financial donation to the workings of WCMS. There is action making items for sale at Christmas time with toys and ornamental table Christmas trees and there are plans to make jewellery boxes. We are still receiving timber and wood working tools from the community, the bulk of which are sent to the coast. The workshop has benefitted over the last few months from the donation of some major machines such as a belt sander. Another major purchase was the CNC Router with members of the workshop busy assembling the component parts. It is planned to commission the router shortly. See **New Toy** for more information on the router.

President's Report

A major project that we hope will involve all members is the extension to the veranda which we have grant funds to build. I appeal to all WCMS members to get involved in this project with plenty of small tasks that members would be capable of doing. Tasks like painting the timber, help moving timber and tools, supporting the active workshop members, prepare the site for working and help tidying up at the end of the building shifts. A contact person or Foreman will be appointed who members can ask how they can help.

The 'Container for Good' project that has seen 6 containers of tools and equipment sent to the coast is coming to an end. The 7th container will be the last and should be shipped late August. One downside of not having a container to send to the coast is what happens to the hand tool and powered tools that are regularly donated. Much of these tools like the Stanley Planes have value and can be sold for \$50 or more depending on the model. There are collectors out there that will pay good money for many older workshop hand tools. I am appealing for someone in WCMS to take on the job of selling items on-line.

Presidents Appeal

Thanks to those WCMS members who have renewed their membership for the 2023/2024 membership year. And to those who still need to renew their membership please renew ASAP and remember that you need to be a financial member to vote at the AGM or other meeting that requires voting by the full membership. EFTPOS facilities are available at the Shed during opening hours and don't forget to complete a Membership Renewal form and update your ICE details.

The AGM is set down for Thursday 14 September 2023 when all positions on the Executive Committee will be up for election. A position on the Executive Committee can be a rewarding experience especially when you have an active and rewarding year that 2023 has been. An active and cooperating committee like the present one can achieve great things for its members as evidenced by our success in grants programs and its standing in the community. A committee of a group of members with diverse skills and interests can bring greater benefits for all members. If you think that a member has the skills and interest in being on the committee, get them to nominate for a position. Remember if you are not available to attend the AGM fill in a proxy form so your vote will be counted.

Allan Booth
President, WCMS