



# WCMS NEWSLETTER

Issue 4/2023

October 2023



**WANTED :** A member willing to be our Secretary. Must be comfortable using MS Word and any Email system. New laptop and printer supplied for sole use of Secretary. Apply to President by calling 0493574595 and leaving a message, or email to [president@westoncreekmensshed.org.au](mailto:president@westoncreekmensshed.org.au).

**WANTED :** A member or members willing to be our cleaners. All we can offer to someone, or maybe several someones, willing to take the role on for a full year, is membership fee reimbursement and no weekly fees, and our eternal gratitude of course. Apply to President by calling 0493574595 and leaving a message, or email to [president@westoncreekmensshed.org.au](mailto:president@westoncreekmensshed.org.au).

## Social & Welfare

A variety of happenings and events over the last three months. Full reports are available on our website: [www.westoncreekmensshed.org.au](http://www.westoncreekmensshed.org.au)

Many thanks to Tony and Alan for organizing the outings and speakers, their contribution to the Shed is highly appreciated.

## Australian War Memorial

Members from the Shed left Rivett at 11.15 on Thursday 20/7/23 to visit one of our national institutions, the Australian War Memorial.

We had lunch at Poppy's Cafe prior to taking the 80 minute tour at 1.30. Each of us found differing interests in all of the displays. Common ground was we all thought it was a place that everyone, old or young, should visit. The dioramas of battles and incidents were compelling as was the recital of the contents from our guide.

Suffice to say there were so many great things to see we could not get through them all in this short report. When we revisit the Memorial, we invite all Shed members to see the past and learn from a guided tour rather than attempt to 'flow' through the building. It was worth it for we members on that day, and I can assure you that everyone would find it informative and interesting.

Report: Tony Burns

### Lower Molonglo Water Treatment Plant

Report: missing in action.

Anyone can write something for the newsletter, just email it to [secretary@westoncreekmensshed.org.au](mailto:secretary@westoncreekmensshed.org.au) !

### Guest Speaker: Graham Lacey

Last Thursday past president Graham Lacey gave a presentation on the Army's Officer Training Unit, which was based at Scheyville NSW from 1965 to 1973, and his personal experiences there as an officer cadet from July 1972 until his graduation in June 1973. He outlined the history and operation of the unit which was established to primarily train selected National Servicemen as officers, all in 22 weeks. What was particularly sobering was his detailing of the eight graduates who were killed in action in Vietnam.

Also, very interesting as it was unknown to many members is that several prominent public figures were Scheyville graduates, including one deputy Prime Minister (Tim Fischer) and two state premiers (Kennett and Gutwein).

Thanks very much Graham. For those of us who did not serve, the talk provided a valuable insight to military service for that period (conscription !).

Report: Warren Jones

### Guest Speaker: Inspector Booth - Woden Police Station

Visit by Woden Police to the Shed: Inspector Nigel Booth from the Woden Police Station visited the Shed last Thursday to give a talk to members about policing in the Woden area. Nigel has extensive experience both in Australia and overseas and worked on the National Anti-Gang Squad and in counter terrorism. His very interesting talk covered a range of topics including scams (what to look out for and what to do), security in the home and break and enter (locks, alarms and 'attractive assets'), problems with the justice system, crime areas in Woden, the priority system for allocating resources (i.e. sending the cops out to a callout), and challenges for the future (bridging the intergenerational gap, globalisation and technology). He praised his young staff and the support he now gets within the Police Force. Along with stories of his experiences (very interesting!), Nigel provided an excellent insight into how the force has changed for the better by way of supporting its members. Thank you Inspector Booth and we look forward to having you come to the Shed again.

Report: Warren Jones

## Guest Speaker: Legal Aid

Adam Thompson from Legal Aid Canberra gave a very good presentation on Legal Aid issues and Elder Abuse. Of particular interest was information on the granting and use of the Power of Attorney and Enduring Power of Attorney as well as problems in dealing with older folk and their needs and issues.

The topic of conversation also flowed into the meaning of “capacity” in a legal sense, wills, abuse and other legal topics of interest.

Legal Aid Canberra Reception can be contacted on: (02) 6243 3411

Report: Warren Jones / Brian Black

## Father’s day stall at Bunnings

This was a first for the WCMS. We had been asked by Bunnings to come and man a stall for their Fathers’ Day activities. As we are regular recipients of Bunnings hospitality and largesse, it was only right that we attend and help out. We had no idea what to expect, perhaps a couple of hours standing around looking professional, an occasional cup of coffee. Boy were we wrong.

The Bunnings Father’s Day night was a huge success. There was approx. 6000 people through the door, we were supposed to do two hours from 6 to 8 but the punters started about 5.45 and we were still flat out at 8.30 when the Bunnings staff called time. We helped kids of all ages build almost 1200 crates from small flat pack kits supplied free from Bunnings. If they were big enough to press the trigger on the drill driver while mum held them up, all good.

Many thanks to Bill, Dennis, Mick, Allan and John

Report: John Webster

## AMSA 30 Year BBQ at Parliament House

We, the WCMS, were asked by AMSA to provide a display table and a speaker for the 30th Anniversary celebrations, held on the Senate Garden and grounds.

AMSA was represented by Paul Sladdin, Chairman, David Helmers, Executive Officer, Beth Gow, ACT/NSW Shed Support and Jim Thornton, Area 13 Representative.

The weather was fabulous after a cold start to the day. Parking was a nightmare due to a large protest rally being conducted outside on the front lawns.

At the allotted time, guests started streaming out of “the House” and filled up the area. Everyone expressed interest in the Shed movement and many requested photos with the AMSA people, and one or two with Allan and me. meanwhile Dennis was busy giving an interview to John Paul Young, who as you know is the media voice for AMSA, and a keen shedder himself.

The formal part of the event was hosted by AMSA Chairman, Paul Sladdin, who gave a brief rundown of AMSA history and introduced the guest speakers, Rob Mitchell, Member for McEwen, Ted O'Brien, Member for Fairfax, and yours truly.

Rob Mitchell and Ted O'Brien are co-chairs of a parliamentary group known as *Parliamentary Friends of Men's Sheds*. To quote from the PH website: "It is intended that this Group will provide a non-partisan forum for MPs to meet and interact with Australian Men's Shed Association and other organisations on matters relating to Men's Sheds." Friends in high places, indeed.

I must admit that it was just a little bit daunting to deliver a speech in front of 200 or so professional speech givers, so I just apologised in advance for reading mine, thought about them all standing there naked and gave it my best shot! I hope it was well received, and judging by the polite ripple of applause they either thought it was OK or were just pleased that I had finished.

Anyhow, the Tuggeranong men cooked themselves to a standstill and everyone got a snag or a steak sandwich and a cool drink. Well done to them all. I snagged a steak sandwich and rather good it was too.

And well done us for waving our WCMS banner in such auspicious company. We done good.



Vice President Brian giving them a little bit of 'old chat'

Report: Brian Black  
Image: Allan Booth

## Bunnings BBQ

A Sunday BBQ for a change of pace. And what a pace it was! From the off those snags kept selling like hot cakes. We had taken more than the advisory quota of 800, but even an extra 40 left us short, so another 100 were grabbed from the nearest shop and we kept on cooking and selling. Once again, right down to the wire. We had a great day thanks to Bunnings, the volunteers and of course to the public at large, who just can't get enough of a Bunnings Sausage sizzle.



Report & images: Brian Black

## General meeting

A General Meeting was called by the committee to discuss and vote on the adoption of a refreshed set of Rules. It was held on Thursday 14th September at 10AM. The WCMS Committee had reviewed the existing Rules (2016) of the WCMS Shed. The review has been deemed necessary due to several factors:

- Request by auditor to update and amend our Finance Management to reflect current use of EFTPOS and Credit Cards, and to remove references to outmoded instruments, e.g. cheques;
- Changes in Taxation laws that require Associations such as ours to become registered charities to maintain our tax-exempt status giving rise to the inclusion of Financial Model as a section;
- Changes in methods used by WCMS regarding applications for membership and membership fees;
- Change to reflect that our association is formally registered as The Weston Creek Men's Shed Incorporated and to amend all references within the document to our preferred acronym: WCMS;
- Removal of two appendices that referred to Application for Membership and Appointment of Proxy Forms; and
- Update of logo, address, and contact details.

These Rules were duly validated by the Members of the Weston Creek Men's Shed and have been submitted to ACT Government, Access Canberra for endorsement.  
Report: Brian Black

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the WCMS was held on Thursday 14th September at 12 Noon.

The minutes of this meeting can be found in the Member's Section on our website [➔](#).

The result of that meeting, and a subsequent Committee Meeting, is that the Committee for 2023/2024 is:

Position	Elected Member
President	Brian Black
Vice President	John Webster
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Dennis Mitchell
Member	Allan Booth
Member	Tony Burns
Member	Alex Zvargulis
Member	John Warren

The incoming President wished to thank Allan Booth for all his efforts and dedication to the Shed over its entire history, starting up and managing the Workshop, being Secretary at one time and President for the last 4 years.

Report: Brian Black

### Last Container for Good sent to the Coast.

The time has come for one of the great initiatives of the WCMS and the Quaama Shed to come to an end. The last CFG, which may have been Number 6 or 7, was finally closed up and shipped off to the coast to the lovely people down there. But, as there is no more funding for the transport costs, approximately \$750 each changeover, this is the last one. An arrangement was made with Don at Quaama and this replacement container will become the property of WCMS for reasonable amount of cash. Here are a few snaps of our “new” container being dropped into ts forever home. It is intended to become the new timber store, enabling us to clean top the yard and make room for more sheds, more benches.... and more blokes!



Report&Image: Brian Black

## CNC Router

The CNC router is proving to be of interest to members. It has had a few teething problems but is now capable of producing good quality work in timber. We have produced a series of signs for the Whitlam Community Garden as our first project. When it finally finds it's forever home in the outside timber store everyone is welcome to have a sticky beak.



Report: John Webster & Brian Black  
Image: Brian Black

## Coming Events

### October

- 5th AMSA Mini-conference (invitation only)
- 12th Committee meeting

### November

- 4th Volunteer to help St John Vianney Fete doing the BBQ
- 9th Committee Meeting
- 13th President addressing Rotary Club meeting
- 23rd Shed Christmas Party

### December

- 3rd Bunnings Tuggeranong BBQ
- 7/8th Pop-up stall at Coleman Court
- 14th Committee Meeting

Report: Tony Burns

## Committee News

Our major work has been getting the rule changes into shape ready for ratification by the members at General Meeting. Other activities have been related to getting the meeting room door project started and working on the verandah extension. While there is not much to show for our efforts just now, it is all happening. And of course, that final container had to be filled and sent off to Quaama. The replacement container is, or will be soon, ours to keep and will provide further much needed storage for the piles of timber lying around the yard.

Apart from that there was the General Meeting, Annual General Meeting, multiple outings, speakers, and Bunnings BBQ to get organised and run. These things don't just happen, they take a lot of effort by the Committee to ensure that they actually happen and are run smoothly. Not to mention the coming events that need more attention and effort.

The most immediate problem facing your committee, and hence you, is that we have to have the meeting rooms cleaned once a week. It simply isn't right that one or two men have to perform this task every week along with the other things they do. The committee is facing having to contract out the cleaning, which won't be cheap and will certainly lead to another rise in both membership and weekly fees. And yes, we fully understand and appreciate that a good number of our members are no longer physically up to this task, especially the vacuuming, but unless we start seeing some volunteer help soon, then we will be left with no alternative other than to pay to have it done.

Report: Brian Black

## President's Report

Well, I'm brand new to the Presidential role, but as I have been the Vice-President for two years, I feel I have a fair understanding of what is required.

And what is required? Apart from ensuring that the administration is kept up to scratch, it is finding a way to get greater involvement in the day-to-day operations of the WCMS from more of the current, and future members. The thing is, we are a tiny organisation, with a big premises to maintain, and even bigger aspirations.

One only need look at the "Objects" in our rules to see that.

The Objects of the WCMS shall be:

- (1) To be accessible to all men and shall, primarily, provide a safe and friendly environment, where men are able to meet, and where appropriate, work on meaningful activities, at their own pace, in their own time, in the company of other men.
- (2) To support the well-being and health of all men who become Members of the WCMS.
- (3) To engage with relevant local bodies to achieve the purpose, and outcomes, of the WCMS within our local community.
- (4) To maintain communications between members and to promote and develop activities for men within our community.

Please remember that they are the OBJECTS of the WCMS, not of the committee. The committee's job is to provide an environment in which all members can work to achieve those objectives.



Now, I have absolutely no problem with men coming in once a week to drink coffee and have a chat, it directly meets our objectives and I heartily encourage it. Come in any time we are open. Turn the telly on, watch football or cricket or YouTube or whatever. Play cards. Sort the books out in the library. Restock the street library. Water the garden, Pull a few weeds out of the veggie patch.

And I hold the same sentiments for those that like to participate in workshop and other activities. Apart from making items for sale or working on commission or private jobs, there are a hundred and one things to do that require more physical help from the more able-bodied. The container needs shelves, the 'new' small shed needs erecting, the timber needs sorting out, the #2 shed needs a false floor...

Keep it up everyone, that's what the premises and equipment is being supplied for and while the gates are open and men are coming in, and while we continue to engage the community, then we are achieving our objectives.

We all come to the Shed for reasons of our own, just be mindful that each and every one of us engages in, and derives some benefit from, their chosen activity, but we are all collectively responsible for the wellbeing of the WCMS and thus, of every one of its members.

Yours in Shedding,



**Brian Black**  
**President, WCMS**

PS: We could also use some help with:

Newsletter Editor  
Web manager  
IT manager  
Public Officer  
Grant Funds manager  
Publicity Officer  
Groundsman

Just let me know, I'll find something for you to do!