



WESTON CREEK
MEN'S SHED



WCMS NEWSLETTER

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Coming Events

January

11th Committee Meeting

26th Australia Day BBQ Breakfast for all members and family

February

3rd Sunday BBQ at Bunnings Tuggeranong

President's Report

Welcome to a new year, Shedders.

I am hoping that this new year will see the shed consolidate and leverage the changes that have occurred around the grounds and in the administration. I am hoping that the Shed will become a magnet for more men, just like you and me, out there in our community, who would benefit from some socialising and the facilities that we have to offer.

We are getting known around the town for who we are and what we can do, as is witnessed by the invitations that we receive to participate in community events. The thing is, that you never know what effect you might have on someone's life through a simple gesture or through a spoken word. So when you are out there manning a stall or the BBQ, or in the shed going about your business, just remember that every stranger that we see is a potential link to a new member, to a man out there who needs us.

Best news of the past three months is that Warren Jones has volunteered to take up the Secretary position again. Many Thanks Warren. Also joining us on the committee is Bruce McKenzie who has stepped in to replace Jon Warren. John has had to resign due to his long-term hospitalisation.

The Rule Change saga staggered on, causing another General Meeting to be called for further changes to be ratified by the members. This latest change is to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission for the WCMS to gain charity status. The members passed the changes unanimously and the updated rules have been submitted to Access Canberra for approval prior to being resubmitted to the ACNC.

Our run of success with receiving Grants has dried up, temporarily I hope, and so it is even more important now that we make the best of any fundraising opportunities such as the BBQ at Bunnings and the odd stall that we run. If you can, please come and help, even for an hour to give someone else a break.

We have certainly been busy around the shed, constructing our lovely new veranda and deck, installing another container for storage, and erecting another small shed. That deck certainly looks like it could be a big hit with the coffee and tea drinkers over the summer months. It is part of our facilities, to be used by all, only time will tell what its best use will be.



There is still lots to be done to get our shed spick and span, but with a little help from a lot of hands it will happen. Our next major project and expenditure will be the restoration / installation of the outdoor security lights. This will give us both enhanced security and the ability to use the facility at night, should we wish to so do.

We have secured some funding from the IMB Bank to instigate a Caring for Kids program which involves us engaging with the local day-care and preschools. Our aim is to provide a free service to repair broken garden furniture, build new toys for the kids or set up street libraries or bird-boxes for them, meanwhile spreading the word that there are older men in the community who can make a difference to the lives of others.

Who knows what the future hold? We'll just have to see where the new year takes us, eh?

Shoulder to shoulder, that's the way.

Yours in Shedding,

President, WCMS

Social & Welfare

Several of our members have had health issues over recent months, and we wish them all a safe and speedy recovery. One of those affected is Tony Burns, who would normally write this piece, but who was sidelined for ages waiting to have his quadruple bypass surgery. Tony is now recovering at home and looking forward to re-joining us at the shed.

In his absence, Alan Castle has been working to keep the events and activities going. Thanks Alan.

Report: Brian Black

Gardening Report

With all the rain and warm weather, the garden has been going gangbusters. The zucchinis were out of control so I picked some of the monsters and put them out on a table next to the street library for the locals to help themselves as they pass by. Also, I put out a few cucumbers which were also very plentiful. This is the first time I've done this, so will be interesting to see how it goes.

We'll have to put out a sign "Read and Feed"!

Cheers, Graham



Report & images: Graham Lacey

Some of the things we did during the previous months.

Bunnings BBQ

3rd December 2023

Our last Bunnings BBQ of the year came late, the weather had been rotten and to be frank we weren't expecting much in the way of crowds. However, we set ourselves up and after some initial drama getting the BBQ to work, we set off at a sizzling pace. The morning had

turned out fine and clear for a change and people were coming out and about, and best of all, buying snags from us.

It wasn't exactly our best day and when the threatening rain became a reality in the mid-afternoon, it really slowed things down. Everything was wet, the tables, the snags, the eftpos, us, everything. There weren't any complaints when four o'clock came into view and we 'snatched it', as my old man was wont to say.

Still we made enough money to make it all worthwhile and we are ever thankful to Bunnings and the public for supporting us.



Report & images: Brian Black

Cooleman Court Christmas Stall

7/8th December 2023

On Thursday and Friday, Dennis and a swag of shedders ran a very successful stall at Cooleman Court. The workshop crew have been working their little bottoms off making toys and Christmas trees and reindeers and chopping boards and a host of other things for many months. All that work paid dividends when they sold most of it and made a very tidy sum to bolster the shed finances.

Well done to all concerned, and a big thank you to Mirvac / Cooleman Court management for inviting us in and providing the space for us to hold the stall.

Report & Images: Brian Black



Denman Prospect BBQ

Thursday 14th December 2023

We had an invitation from Denman Prospect to come and run the BBQ at their annual Christmas Party, held at Ridge Park. I don't know how we came to be invited, but I'm very

pleased that we were. I hope that it was because the name of Weston Creek Men's Shed is getting out there and we are becoming known for our community involvement and spirit. And I'm also pleased that I had no trouble getting support from members to come and help on the day.

The proposal sounded like it was too good to be true. Denman Prospect would supply everything, all we had to do was turn up, cook, and serve. And true to their word, the Denman Prospect crew supplied all that we needed and even went to fetch a few more onions when it became apparent that we were going to run short early in the day. They were really great on the day and a huge vote of thanks goes to them!

The BBQ was a big success, we made a healthy contribution to our finances, and we got to take our brand of community out into a wider audience. We even discovered that the community now has quite a few vegetarian members and we cooked and sold all the vegan patties, along with a number of onions only sandwiches.

Thanks Leno, and Bruce and Dennis and Graham and John, well done!



Report & Images: Brian Black

Christmas Lunch

23rd November 2023

Lunch for all members was provided again this year by the Shed and included the now usual but legendary turkey, ham, spuds, pumpkin, veggies and gravy. All followed by plum pudding and custard of course.

The tables were decked with tablecloths and chrissey decorations, real plates and flatware were provided and we all tucked in to a delicious meal.

As the resident president, I took the liberty of keeping us amused with a bit of old chat, a Christmas Quiz which had quite a few heads getting scratched, and more than one mobile being connected to Dr Google. Great fun and a pleasure to see so many of us talking and chatting and arguing the toss about reindeer and carols and other Christmas related stuff.

I also had a bit more fun with my Presidents Awards, none other than a Chocolate Santa, tossed out at random as I gave due credit, even if given in light-hearted good humour, to those members who make a contribution to the day-to-day running of the Shed. The Grand Award, however, was a large Chocolate Freddo Frog, an award I expect you all to fight over during the next twelve months. This year I gave the award to Mick Warke, who goes about his business quietly and efficiently, doing everything from test and tagging, light electrical works, to cleaning the toilets and vacuuming the carpets and anything else that he might be asked. He thoroughly deserved the round of applause, and the Freddo. Well done you, as they say.



Report & Images: Brian Black

St John Vianney Primary School Fete BBQ

4th November 2023

The Men's Shed was asked by the organiser of the St John Vianney Fete, Annette Dozpot, if we would be able to attend and do the BBQ cooking for them at their fete.

Some of us have had a long association with SJV, and as helping out at their fete would be a great community thing for us to be involved in, I agreed on our behalf. I even offered to lend them our new super BBQ, which was gratefully accepted. And then our two gazebos...

On the day, Lino, Allan, Bruce and myself cooked up a storm, doing sausages, bacon and egg rolls and steak sandwiches. I even roped-in my granddaughter, who was a past student, to work on our stall doing the computerised point of sale.

In summary, I had a great time, met a few old friends from our days at the school and made a few new friends. I want to thank Lino for cooking endless sausages, and Allan Castle and Bruce McKenzie for being the 'sous' chefs cooking all the other bits and pieces, preparing the meals, and serving on the counter.

Great job shedders!

Report: Brian Black

That's all folks!