



WCMS NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

October 2022



COVID-19

'I had Covid-19, of the nasty variety, and survived. I think we just have to live with it in our midst, as we do with influenza.

My advice: stay safe, keep your hands clean, stay away from strangers and crowds, wear a mask if in doubt. Only good news is that after you've had Covid-19, you probably get immunity for 4-6 weeks." Brian Black

With age there are pressures on our ability to fight all manner of viruses and adverse medical decisions and while we have not mandated the wearing of masks, particularly for the social meetings, I think we all need to be mindful of other members and respect the use of masks by some members. If a member is wearing a mask either mask up when speaking to them or keep your distance. Masks are available at the Shed if you need one.

Bunnings BBQs

We keep doing them, and Bunnings keep asking us back, so we must be doing something right. We are certainly contributing to our finances, which is very welcome. In particular Brian Black and John Webster should be thanked for their roll in organising this latest BBQ. Please come along on 29th October and help us run another successful BBQ.

Pop-up Shops at Cooleman Court

To help us and Cooleman Court celebrate Men's Shed Week, we held a pop-up stall at Cooleman Court on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th September. Our sales were down from the stalls last Christmas and Easter, but that was expected for the time of the year. The upside was that we had a lot of interest in Men's Sheds and in ours in particular, which means we have succeeded in reaching out into the community that we seek to serve.

Garden Report

A few words on the garden.

Spring is with us, although it hasn't been real flash so far and doesn't look like getting better any time soon. Wasn't it only a couple of years back that we were in the middle a devastating drought and bushfires we were imploring it to rain! Nevertheless preparations for planting in the garden are in hand. The green manure crop that was planted from seed over winter in the three corrugated iron beds has been cut and dug in. These beds will be planted later this month. Plan is for corn, beans and beetroot to go into these beds.

The large concrete block bed was heavily mulched over winter in an attempt to smother the weeds that were threatening to take over the bed. This bed will be planted with silverbeet, tomatoes and egg plants. You would have noticed the steel mesh that has appeared on two sides of this bed. This mesh will be covered with shade cloth fabric so that it acts as a windbreak to protect the seedlings (saw this used at the Temora Men's Shed earlier this year).

Given the lack of interest last season from members in chillies and basil it is not planned to plant any this spring.

The creation of the four wicking bed gardens from the two Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) has yet to progress.

Late news: one of the large pots has been planted out with parsley seedlings.

Cheers, Graham Lacey

Containers For Good

The 6th container went to Quaama this quarter and was replaced with another empty one. However, at this stage there is no funding to transport this one back to Quaama so we are in a bit of a quandary as to what to do it, and with the donations that keep pouring in. Meanwhile the Quaama people are happy for us to use it as our own for the immediate future, so we have another storage area for the foreseeable future.

Quaama would still be interested in receiving tool donations. The arrival of a container loaded with goodies being an excuse to hold a community BBQ.



Message from Quaama:
***I think this photo says it all
Super clearance to lots of people
inc. first timers. We thought there
was more quality stuff and more of it
this time. So, from us all thank you,
thank you, thank you.***

October 2022

Committee News

The big news is that the Annual General Meeting was held on 18th August. All members are to be thanked for their attendance and participation. Never forget that the Shed is yours, and that you will derive benefit and enjoyment from your membership in proportion to the amount of involvement that you have.

There was some reluctance by previous Committee members to stand again, each having a desire to let others take a turn at leading and managing the organisation. However at the eleventh hour, as no-one else was prepared to stand up and be counted, it was left to the majority of past committee to fill the positions. It was disappointing that some members still perceive a bias in our activities and priorities toward the workshop and those that participate in those activities. The workshop is a very active centre for members who wish to get involved in that field, and as such requires a lot of management and organisation, along with support and funding. The members who work in the workshop are just some of the men from the local community who find The Weston Creek Men's Shed a place for diverse activity and social interaction with other men.

We, your committee wish to state that we never loose sight of the fact that we are here for ALL members, so please, if you have an issue, address it verbally to one of us, submit it formally for review or ask for a general meeting to discuss. If we don't know, we can't help.

Apart from activities in and around the workshop, here is a partial list of things that your committee does on your behalf: manage Containers for Good, manage Bunnings BBQ's, created and maintain a website for the shed, organised computers, created and applied for no fewer than five grant applications, worked with the ACT Government Property Group to get repairs done, and kept our credentials as a legal entity, namely an Association registered under the relevant Act of the ACT Parliament, up to date and accurate. And, smashed up big lumps of concrete, organised the purchase and placement of a new container, run a breakfast for the AMSA conference, organised and facilitated various guest speakers, followed up all offered donations, helped out other community groups when requested, and even organised, cooked and delivered your Christmas lunch. And fully support the gardening activities to produce a bounteous harvest which is offered unreservedly to all.

President's Report

Talking of grant applications, WCMS was successful in Round 23 National Shed Development Program with funds to purchase a defibrillator and installation of heaters for the workshop. As you may be aware the ACT Government Property Group installed heaters for the workshop so it has been agreed that the NSDP grant for heaters can be redirected to other purposes, in this case, paying our contribution towards maintenance costs of the facility.

Thanks go to all members who helped with the very successful AMSA Gathering Breakfast on 24 August. Our efforts have been acknowledged and WCMS was rewarded with a new 6 burner plate BBQ (that Lino is in raptures about), 3 metre square Folding Marque, and a wheeled esky. The Gathering conference at the Labor Club was well attended by representatives from regional sheds, with five WCMS members attending.

Christmas is fast approaching and we still have opportunities to promote WCMS to the community and improve our financial position. We have a Bunnings BBQ on 29 October, a pop-up stall at the Zoo and Aquarium Market Day on 3 December and pop-up stall at Cooleman Court (TBC) later in December. I encourage you all to get involved, enjoy the company of your fellow members and show Canberra what being part of a Men's Shed means.

Workshop Manager's Report

The workshop is very busy making items for events leading up-to Christmas. Last years best seller, reindeers, are in full production with the aim to sell more than the 70 sold last year. We have picnic tables, chopping boards, owl money boxes, wooden toy gorillas, dinosaurs, trucks and various other festive ornaments. Members are encouraged to be part of the production effort by helping to sand, oil and paint items. Just ask, you'll soon be found a job!

WCMS has taken delivery of the long promised shipping container that will be used as a storage facility for timber and other materials. Having this container will free up one of the small duplex sheds that has power and will be used as a small workshop thus freeing up space in the workshop. Thanks go to our very generous friends at Canberra Metal Fabrication who organised and funded the delivery and sighting of the container. Work will start shortly on making the racks for timber storage, metal has been purchased and we await its delivery.

No major purchases have taken place in this quarter however, there is plenty of activity lining and insulating the walls in the workshop. Currently we are lining the walls with donated plywood sheets collected from the Scout Hall in Lyons. We will need to purchase insulation batts to line the walls. Surplus insulation panels purchased to line the ceiling will clad the upper section of the walls above the plywood. All this activity will help to control the temperature in the workshop and make for a pleasant working environment.

Health and safety are paramount in any working environment and WCMS needs to address the issue of sawdust in the workshop. A significant amount of dust and sawdust is generated so the priority is to achieve a practical and economical solution for the safety and comfort of all that work in, or visit the workshop.

The workshop has been a very busy place but we will still find time to help WCMS members to learn practical skills. The workshop is a resource that can be used by all members and has proved to be successful in generating funds.

Stay safe and watch out for each other.

Allan Booth

President