



Katoomba Men's Shed
Building Better Blokes

NEWSLETTER

August 2011

We're In

After nearly eight years of hard work and frustration our Final Occupation Certificate was approved by the Council on 2 August 2011. This means we are no longer a building site and from now on we are a fully operational Men's Shed.

Congratulations to all those, past and present, who have made this a reality by donating their time, effort and money. We would particularly like to thank Trevor Donnelly, without whose skill and persistence the shed would not be possible.

So What Now?

Firstly, we will be open on Wednesday and Thursday each week. Hopefully, we will be able to extend to other days later. Kevin, Chris, Peter and Lucian have "willingly" raised their hands to be Day Co-ordinators.

Wednesday will be Personal Projects Day. Kevin and Lucian will be there to make sure you sign in and sign out and to take your money (\$4 to cover costs). Bring along your own personal projects or see one of the co-ordinators for some ideas.

Thursday will be Shed Day when we will concentrate on the tasks needed to keep the shed operational. Peter Miller will be the co-ordinator. The newly-formed Project Committee will be providing a list of tasks and these will be posted on the notice board in the tea room. There will be no charge for coming along on Thursdays.

Next, we have decided to adopt the Australian Men's Shed Association Health and Safety Manual as the basis of ensuring the safety of all our members while they are at the shed. An OH&S committee has been formed consisting of Kevin Wallace, Lucian Keegel, Peter Miller and David Brackenbridge, and they will have already commenced the shed induction process for our existing members. All members will need show their competency on each piece of machinery prior to them operating it. This process won't be difficult – just approach one of the committee members and they can assess your abilities and arrange some training where appropriate.

As mentioned, a Projects Committee has also been formed. This committee will look at future maintenance, shed, and possible community and income-generating projects. So far Trevor Donnelly, John King, David Christie and Greg Jaques, have "raised their hands" but we need a big involvement here, particularly if you have any production, design or artistic skills. See Trevor – PLEASE.

Courses

TAFE Outreach have generously offered to run some special courses on our behalf. These will be available primarily for shed members, at the shed on **Wednesdays** from 9:00 to 12:00. We have already run a very successful First aid course and the next course will probably be on Small Motor Repair and Maintenance (Mowers, Chainsaws, Brush cutters etc.). Other possibilities at this stage are Welding and Chain Saw Operation but the possibilities are endless. A form has been circulated asking for nominations and suggestions. If you haven't seen it yet please ask Trevor.

Vale Tim Gardener 1951-2011



Tim passed away in July following a long illness. For several years Tim served on the management committee and will be fondly remembered for his off-beat sense of humour. He attended Trinity Grammar School in Ashfield, remained unmarried and prior to joining the shed in 2008 worked in the IT industry.

Community Project

We have been asked to provide about 3 hours of woodwork activities to 20+ primary school age children at the Lawson Vacation Care Program on Tuesday 27st September. **Details are on the whiteboard in the tea room.** We need about good 10 men (we have five so far) and some woodwork ideas, materials and safe tools. The kids will be making cars, trucks and whatever their imagination allows. There is a stash of wood and off-cuts under one of the woodwork benches (clearly marked). We also have lots of wooden wheels. If you find something useful feel free to add to the pile. See Greg (or Trevor)

Other Projects (Full details of all current projects posted on the tea room notice board)

- Broadband for Seniors and Seniors Computer Club – David Bowskill
- Creating a *Rainbow Serpent* sculpture for Nth Katoomba Pre-school – Peter Miller/Greg Jaques
- KMS gardens – mowing, cleanup, weeding & planting – John King
- Deck – Install shade cloth, re-sealing – Thursdays
- Painting, roof leaks, signage (near grandstand entrance)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Parking in Orient St is becoming difficult. Plenty of safe parking is available in the showground near the grandstand. The entrance is from Woodlands Rd, just past the hospital