



# Katoomba Men's Shed

*Building Better Blokes*

## Noise from the Shed

No. 20 February 2019

### Vale David Williams

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Shed member David Williams in late January. David was one of the original group of men who established the Katoomba Men's Shed and David was instrumental in preparing the Development Application for the conversion of the old trotting stables into the space we now enjoy.

David lived an exceptionally full life. He served time in the army in a parachute regiment, built boats, sailed three oceans and earned his living in seven countries on five continents. He was self-employed most of his life and delivered numerous major works projects, for all three levels of Australian government.

He worked as a volunteer in men's-circles for nearly 30 years. Until recently he was a board member of the NSW Men's Health and Wellbeing Association.

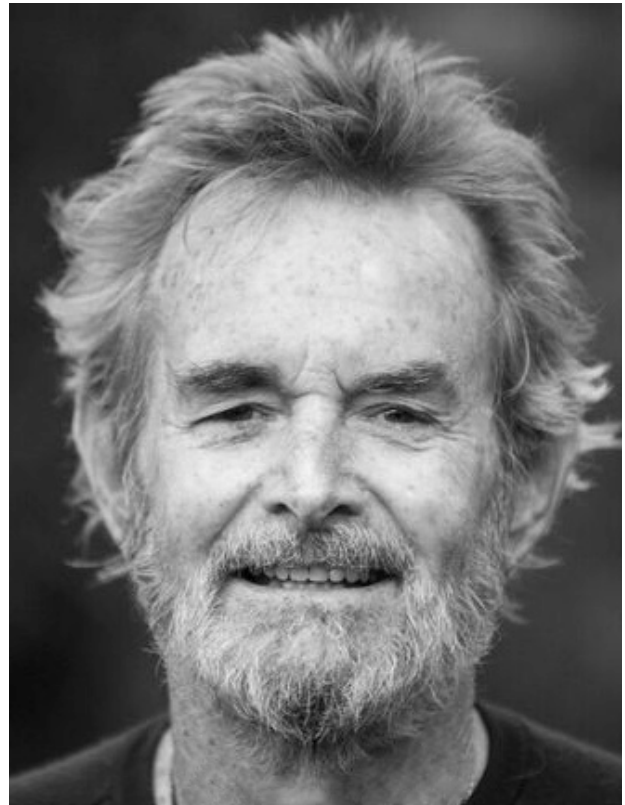
His dictum was 'Living on Purpose' by being there for others - being present with intent, listening without judgement, and sharing from the heart.

Shortly after the Katoomba Shed was established, David's work took him away from the Blue Mountains, but he reconnected on his return early in 2018.

During Men's Health week last year, David led the Shed members through a process of thinking about their state of health and wellbeing. He pointed out that we all have different circumstances, but we can all help and support each other.

David's family has planned a celebration of his life to be held on:

Saturday 2 March 2019  
3.00 pm.  
45 Camp Street  
KATOOMBA



**David Williams.** Photo courtesy NSW Men's Health and Wellbeing Association

Please put your name on the list at the Shed if you intend going so we can let the family know how many to expect.

### President's message

#### Peter Kinhead

As we approach our Annual General Meeting in March, it is a good time to look back on what we have achieved in the last year.

Our Shed has been operating at the Showground site since 2006. We are grateful that the Blue Mountains City Council had the foresight back then to support the establishment of the Shed and thereby provide a space for men to share

time together, swap yarns and work on community, group or personal projects.

Even after 12 years of operation, we are still trying to improve what we offer members and what we do for the community.

- In conjunction with the Lawson Community Health Centre, we organised monthly Men's Health talks by medical professionals. The talks covered a wide range of topics.
- We purchased a 3D printer to allow members to explore this relatively new technology.
- In conjunction with the Katoomba RSL Sub-Branch, the Leura Gardens Festival and the Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital, we participated in the restoration of the Memorial Gardens at the Hospital in time for the centenary of the WWI armistice. The Shed's part of the project involved replacing the posts and mounts on over 120 memorial plaques.
- We purchased a new metalwork milling machine for our workshop. This has expanded our capabilities. The new machine allowed us to help the local lapidary club repair their gem faceting machine. It has also been used within the Shed to make a new sheet metal bending machine.
- Some of our members have been helping with a weekly life and social skills program at Katoomba North Primary School.
- We introduced a financial stability plan and a succession plan. These plans are intended to secure the ongoing future of the Shed as a well-managed and well-funded organisation.
- An ongoing program was started with the local WIRES (wildlife rescue) to build possum boxes. The boxes will be used to house rescued animals during recovery and also for release and rehousing of possums.
- Our first open day for a number of years was held and we hope to make this a more regular event.
- We supported the Council in their activity for Grandparents and Elders Day. We staged an activity that children could undertake with Shed members standing in as the 'elders'.

I believe that, by providing our members with a choice of activities, we are helping to address a number of health issues within our community.

When I sit back and look at it, the Shed has had a very busy year – and yet day-by-day and week-by-week we just seem to be going at a reasonable pace.

If we can keep that up, I am sure we will have another successful year in 2019.



**Shedders at one of the monthly health talks – a successful addition to the 2018 program.**

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Shed will be held on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 1.00 pm. All the documents relevant to the AGM, including the meeting notice, proxy form and nomination form are available for viewing on the Shed website at kms.org.au.

Members who are interested in serving on the Management Committee are encouraged to formally nominate for Committee positions before the AGM.

Members and guests are also invited to an informal sausage BBQ before the AGM. The first sausage will be served at 12.00 pm.

## What's on

**March 2, 3.00 pm, Celebration of life for Shed member David Williams.** 45 Camp Street, Katoomba.

**March 13, 1.00 pm, Annual General Meeting.** 6 Orient Street, Katoomba. Join us for a pre-meeting BBQ from 12.00 pm.

**March 16, 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm Repair Cafe,** Junction 142 Op Shop Building, 142 Katoomba Street, Katoomba.

**April 19, Good Friday – Shed Closed.**

**May 18, 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm Repair Cafe,** Junction 142 Op Shop Building, 142 Katoomba Street, Katoomba.

**June 7-9, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Timber Tools & Artisan Show,** Rosehill Racecourse.

## Computer club

### Steve Crisdale

Our new 3D printer is up and running. It took a little longer than anticipated to get it working properly, but we have now sorted it out and have run the first training course to show interested members how to use it.

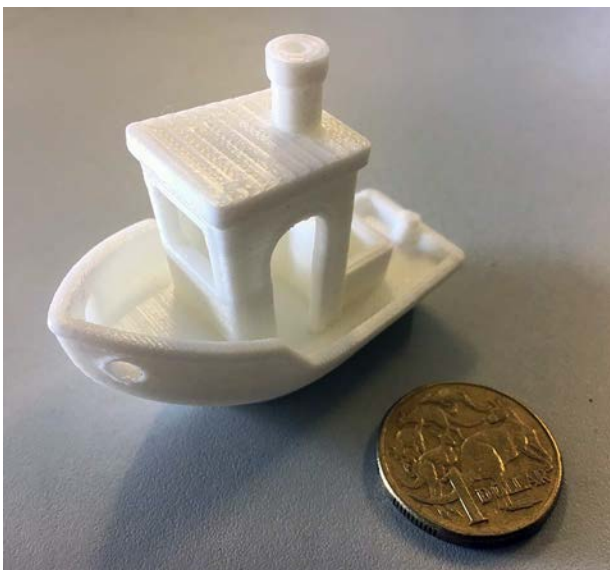
A 3D printer builds up an object by applying successive layers of molten plastic. The photo below shows a printed test piece – a model of a tugboat. This project is specially designed to test the accuracy and functionality of the printer.

A 3D printer can be used to make a wide variety of objects. Some practical uses include the following:

- Small models or parts of models. I expect our model railway enthusiasts will be early users!
- Parts for broken gadgets.
- Scale model prototypes for design projects, such as furniture pieces.
- Making original pieces for 'lost wax' casting. In this case, the 3D printed model would be sacrificed in the final metal casting.

To produce an object, you need to start from a 3D 'model' of the project. This could be a model prepared in 3D software, but you can also download many pre-prepared projects from an Internet website called thingiverse.com.

Once you have the 3D model, you then need to prepare it for printing with special 3D printing software that converts the 3D shapes into 'slices' that the printer can use to build the object from the ground up.



**A testbed project – a small tugboat.**



**Printed workman to model railway scale, printed by Shedder Geoff during 3D printer training. There is a corresponding wheelbarrow available.**

## Magnabend machine

### Russell Anderson

Members of the Shed have been constructing a sheet-metal bending machine, based on the 'MagnaBend' machine, invented by Allan Bottomly. Allan was involved in the commercial production of these machines. Now that Allan has retired and his patents have expired, he has published his resources on the Internet *'to help preserve the technology and help would-be constructors get the basics right'*.

It has been a complex construction and many of the men who attend the Shed on Wednesdays and Thursdays have played some part in the process.

The three most critical components are the very complex hinge mechanism, the electro-magnet that drives the clamping mechanism and the electronics to control the magnet.

Anyone interested in the background should have a look at Allan Bottomly's website at [aaybee.com.au](http://aaybee.com.au). Follow the link to the MagnaBend machine.

This project was more about the challenge and less about the need for a sheet metal folding machine, but we are hoping that the machine will prove useful in the Shed.



Learning to use the new sheet-metal bender.

## Central Mountains Men's Shed

We are pleased to welcome a new Men's Shed in the Blue Mountains! An inaugural meeting held in January resolved to form the 'Central Mountains Men's Shed' that will meet in Lawson.

There were over 30 people at the meeting, with a range of interests.

KMS President Peter Kinkead attended the meeting and offered the new Shed every possible support in getting set up.

The new Shed will be meeting at Kihilla, 5-17 Queens Road Lawson, every Tuesday from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm. Interested men are welcome to drop in during those times.

## Wood Show – new format

For over 30 years, the *Timber & Working with Wood Show* has been an institution for woodworkers across Australia. Many people who have attended the show regularly over the years have reported a steady decline in the event, and it was getting to the point where it was possible that the shows would die out.

Last year, a new organiser took over the shows, which are staged throughout Australia. It was clear early on that the new organisers had a vision to revive the shows for visitors and exhibitors alike. The first evidence of this was a move to a new venue for the Sydney show last year. This required a change of date.

This year the show has had a name change, that foreshadows a change in focus. The new name is '*Timber Tools & Artisan Show*'.

The new show format will bring in a range of complimentary artisan trades, crafts and skills. The shows will remain strongly connected to woodworking and have a prominent timber and wood craft presence.

In past years, some of the Shed members have car-pooled to attend the Show, so if you are interested, keep your eye on the noticeboard for information.

Timber Tools & Artisan Show,  
June 7-9, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm  
Rosehill Racecourse.

## Helping rescued possums

KMS was recently approached by the local branch of WIRES (Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service) to see if we would help them make possum boxes. The boxes are used to house rescued possums while in care, and during their eventual release. Boxes are also used when re-housing problem possums.

WIRES need up to 15 boxes per month, and the Shed will be supplementing an existing volunteer who has been struggling to keep up with the demand. WIRES will be covering the costs of materials and the Shed members are providing their labour as a community service.

For more information see the Shed website under 'Projects'.

## Shed member Keith working on a possum box.



## Beekeeping anyone?

### Bruce Ward

Some Shed members will be aware that I had a professional background as a beekeeping advisor with the Department of Agriculture (now Department of Primary Industries). While my career took me away from my beekeeping roots, I have never lost my interest in bees and beekeeping, even though I have not kept any bees for over 30 years.

So you can imagine my delight to find that a new beekeeping club had started up in Katoomba. The Blue Mountains Branch of the Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW had its first meeting in November 2018 and usually meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, at about 10.00. am.

I have joined the new club, as have several other KMS members. I attended my first meeting in February and was interested to see that they also had a course running for new beekeepers.

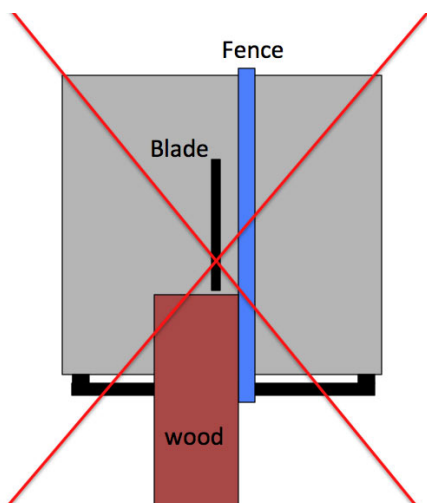
## Cutting thin strips on a table saw

### Bob Loss, Manning Men's Shed, WA

One of the most dangerous actions that can be performed with a table saw is cutting thin long strips from a wider piece of wood.

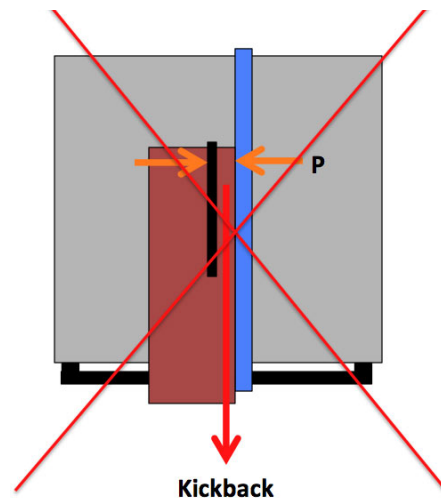
By "thin" I mean so thin, or long, that you cannot use a "push stick" to apply adequate downward pressure on the strip. See the August 2018 newsletter if you don't know what a "push stick" is.

Because it is so handy it is tempting to just place the fence close to the blade and use the fence to control the width of the strip, like Fig 1.



**Fig 1. Cutting a thin strip against the table saw fence can be very dangerous.**

The problem with this arrangement is that unless the fence is perfectly parallel to the blade the thin strip is now suspect to a pinch point (Fig 2.) which means the blade can throw the strip right back at the operator by a process known as Kickback



**Fig 2. There is a potential pinch point (P) that would result in a 'kickback'.**

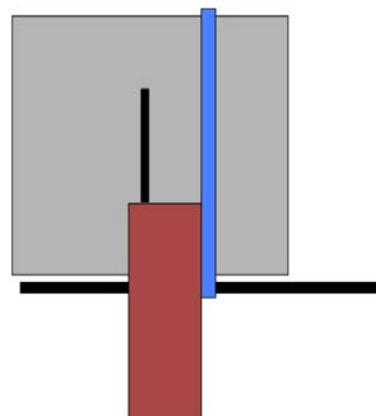
A safer way to do this is to reverse the side of the wood where the strip is being cut from – like in Fig 3.

Now a push stick can be more safely employed to control the wider piece of wood.

In this setup the potential pinch point has been relieved and there is now enough room to still use a push stick.

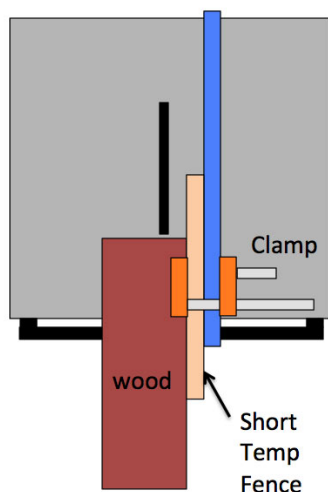
A video showing table saw kickback can be seen at <https://youtu.be/Fbca0Km8Q5E>

The narrator does waffle on a bit so skip through to around the 1' 40" mark in the video to see the effect. I also don't agree that it's just a blade/fence alignment issue as kickback can happen for other reasons.



**Fig 3. Cutting the thin strip on the outside of the blade allows you to use a push stick to better control the piece of wood between the blade and the fence.**

Sometimes the above is not possible so a temporary fence, such as a parallel strip of wood that is wider than the thickness of the timber being cut, can be used. The temporary fence is clamped onto the table saw fence so that the piece of wood being cut can pass underneath the clamp, and the end of the temporary fence should not be past the centre of the blade. See Fig 4. (See editor's note at the end of this article.)



**Fig 4. This alternative setup removes the pinch point and therefore reduces the risk of kickback.**

If you like blood and want to see kickback injuries try Googling “table saw kickback images”.

*Editor's note: The large panel saw at KMS has an adjustable fence that can be used to achieve this setup without resorting to temporary blocks and clamps. Ask a workshop supervisor to show you how to make this adjustment.*

## About Katoomba Men's Shed

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The Katoomba Men's Shed is a not for profit community organisation that promotes the health and well being of men by providing opportunities for men to share time together, swap yarns and work together on community or personal projects.

### Disclaimer

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## Thanking our supporters

The Katoomba Men's Shed thanks the following organisations who provide ongoing in-kind support to the Shed and its operations.

- Blue Mountains City Council
- Blue Mountains Burglar Alarms
- Bunnings Katoomba
- Cleanaway Katoomba
- Digital Mountain
- Mitre 10 Katoomba