



Katoomba Men's Shed
Building Better Blokes

NEWSLETTER

December 2011

Waste To Art Workshop – Free!

Friday 20th Jan 2012, from 10am - 2:30pm

Katoomba Men's Shed will be running a FREE workshop in taking stuff that other people think is junk, and making it into something that is useful, beautiful or a bit weird! Learn or use your building skills to transform junk into something new!

Free lunch included!
Feel free to Bring Your Own Junk or use materials that will be available.

Bookings are essential so contact the Shed on 4782-7433 (4782-SHED) to book.

Workshop Facilitators: Laurie Strathdee and Kathy O'Hara

Sponsored by: Blue Mountains City Council

You can see past year's entries to the Waste to Art Competition here:

<http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcommunity/wastemanagement/wastetoart>

or type **waste to art blue mountains** into your favourite internet search engine.

Three Days-a-Week

Since 29 November we have been open for three days a week: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday opening will give us the opportunity for some special courses run by shed members. Mick Elliott is currently running a leatherwork course: "Make a Belt for Christmas". There are still some vacancies and its not too late to join in.

In the New Year David Brackenbury will be running a Woodturning course (see the November Newsletter) and in May Greg Jaques will commence a Digital Photo Editing course.

MEN AT WORK

Jim Monkman

Jim was born in Sheffield, City of Steel, in 1941. He has over fifty years experience in men's hairdressing, running his own business in the city centre for thirty years. Jim has honed his skills with the scissors to a fine art, and even had customers who would fly in from overseas just for a haircut.



He continues to keep his fellow KMS members looking dapper with regular trims.

Jim is married to Shirley and enjoys walking his energetic dog, Jess, woodwork, and classic British comedy.

Editor's note: Jim told me that some years ago he had a stroke while working. But with true Yorkshire finesse he managed to get the money off the customer, and provide the correct change, before he hit the floor.



Trevor, Greg and John represented KMS at the recent Mental Health Expo held at Wentworth Falls TAFE

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (membership fees) ARE NOW DUE

\$30 to be paid to a Committee Member

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

and photo day

9:00am Thursday 15th December at the shed (Barbecue at 1:00)

Cost is \$4.00 plus a plate of salad or a dessert to share

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

FOR SALE

8x4 Billiard Table, Herion & Smith slate top with cues, frame and balls. All good condition. \$1600

-see Trevor

CONGRATULATIONS to Kevin who finished building his first ukulele in November. It took him just over three weeks to complete and he now plans to build an acoustic guitar. Beautiful work.

It was a fascinating experience for all those who followed the production process.

Anyone else interested in lutherie?

SHED LIBRARY

There are two bookshelves at the shed. One in the meeting room has a collection of miscellaneous technical books and magazines. The other, at the back of the shed near wash area, has general reading matter and some CDs.

Browse, borrow (as long as you return them when you've read/listened) and, while you are about it, check out the brochures on the wall outside the tea room.

Donations are welcome

I was driving this morning when I saw an NRMA van parked on the side of the road. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable.

I thought to myself, "That bloke's heading for a breakdown."

President's report 2011

The year began with the good news that we had been successful with a Community Building Partnership Grant, although only partly successful, but enough to give hope that we would at last be able to construct the disabled access pathway, and eventually complete the Development Application.

Katoomba Men's Shed this year has been transformed from a work in progress to functioning Men's Shed, from something which had the appearance of a shed full of other peoples "give-aways" to an organised space ready for creativity and sharing.

At first we were hesitant that KMS would ever be open, and when TAFE wanted to run a project for their students it was suggested that they organise an "Open Day" not an Opening Day. However the Open Day on the 4th of June became a major milestone on our preparations. With the impetus provided by the TAFE students the shed seemed to be transformed overnight with more wood working benches, wood lathes, a metal working area and metal lathe and tool organisation, courtesy of the initiatives of Peter and Kevin. Painting of the front of the shed, the erection of our sign and wonderful landscaping meant the KMS was a hit on the Open Day with over 180 visitors to the shed.

And finally with the funds from the CBP grant the disabled access pathway and the Development Application was complete and we were given the certificate of occupancy of the building.

I would like pay tribute and say thank you to the many men and the two woman who have contributed so many hours of their time and a lot of energy to the fulfilment of the dream to open the Katoomba Men's Shed. And I want to single out several of our members for special mention - to our Treasurer, Trevor Donnelley who has been tireless in his dedication to the work of KMS, at and away from the shed for years and years, I would like to say Thank You. Without him and his drive we would not have been celebrating the success of the KMS now. Also another dedicated member, John King has rarely missed coming to the shed for as long as Trevor and has consistently and without fuss continually made improvements to almost every corner of the building, including especially the landscaping. And I would also like to pay tribute to Don Matthews, who we have come to rely on as almost the caretaker of the building.

Congratulations to you all for a very productive year.

David Christie, KMS President

Dates to Remember

- Thursday 15 December 2100 Christmas Barbecue and Photo Day
- Wednesday 21 December 2011 Committee Meeting 7pm at the shed. **ALL WELCOME**
- Tuesday 27 December 2011: **CLOSED**
- Wednesday 28 December 2011 **CLOSED**
- Thursday 29 December Shed reopens for the New Year

The shed is normally open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am to about 3:00pm. There will be a small daily fee of \$4.00 to cover costs – tea, phone, maintenance etc.

Committee Meetings are held in the 3rd Wednesday evening each month at the shed from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO CONTRIBUTE**

Current Grant Applications

Australian Men's Shed Association: \$5000 for much needed tools and community partnerships
State Government: \$25000 for a new roof.

TAFE Outreach Small Courses

Again in 2012 the shed will be offering a number of short courses in conjunction with Wentworth Falls TAFE. Possible courses include:

- Maintenance and repair of small motors
- Welding
- Chainsaws
- Blacksmithing
- Microsoft Excel for Budgeting
- Sustainable Gardening

See Trevor or ring the shed

The Shed is not just about getting your hands dirty and making stuff. Feel free to organise a game of euchre, bridge or chess, or simply watch the cricket or tennis on TV in the company of mates.

Scared of Computers? Want to know more?

Join a Broadband for Seniors course. One-to-one tuition from a professional computer trainer. Learn how to switch it on, browse the internet, send and receive email, use a word processor and more!

Then! Join the Computer Club and develop you new skills even further. Spreadsheets, Graphics, Linux, Windows, Fun.

Broadband for Seniors and the Computer Club will re-commence in the New Year – see David Bowskill