

Showgrounds Community Men's Shed **Newsletter – August 2020**

PRESIDENT'S AUGUST UPDATE –Mike Wiggin

Hello All!

The biggest news for this month has been the cancellation of the 2020 Royal Show. It's extremely unfortunate for us all, but the health of the community would have been put at unnecessary risk had it been allowed to go ahead, so the decision was inevitable once the State Medical Officer decided WA wasn't yet ready to go to Stage 5.

Shed members have been extremely busy preparing items for sale, organising the Raffle, developing rosters and so on in the lead up to the Show. While some of that work has been put on hold, we will be able to continue the raffle (so be prepared to buy tickets for a good cause!) and the items for sale are now destined for market stalls in the coming months. As a result, our efforts will not go unrewarded.

The various groups in the Shed are all active and busy, you can read the details below, and the important thing is that so many of you are getting involved in our activities. The whole purpose of the Shed is to foster engagement of our members with one another and the community, and we are seeing this happening now.

The construction of the Shed is practically complete now that we have finished the toilets and the disabled access to the gardens. I have been involved in starting a number of Sheds and in the development of quite a few more and I can say without fear of contradiction that what we have achieved in the last year normally takes three to five years. The support of our Patron and members, the Service Clubs, the RAS, Claremont Council and the local community have made our Shed amongst the best in the State and a rival for any in the country.

WOODWORKING GROUP – Mike Wiggin

Woodwork inductions are a necessary prerequisite for anyone who wants to use the equipment in the Machine Shop. They are being conducted on a regular basis by Mike Cahill and myself, so I would urge any potential woodworkers to complete the required induction as soon as possible.

Noel and Rick are nearly finished the bench for the compound mitre saws. This is (currently) the last addition to the Machine Shop and it should make the use of these tools easier and more effective. However, Bruce Mazza has generously donated a number of excellent additions to our tool set, so I think we will soon be re-arranging the Shop to accommodate them.

Woodwork projects for a range of customers is providing a steady stream of income for the Shed as well as keeping the woodies occupied. If you want to get involved, contact myself or Glen Sheppard and we'll be able to get you onto something that suits your availability and skill level. In Addition, there is always the Thursday morning Shed clean-up starting at 9.00am followed by morning tea provided by the Kitchen Crew.

GARDEN GROUP – *Steve Gerreyn*

Hi Shedders,

We now have 17 Shedders nominated as part of the Garden Team.

A few of us have been particularly busy over the past few weeks planting cuttings and re-potting plants in readiness for the Royal Show, but sadly as we all know the Show has been cancelled for 2020.

The Plants have been getting lots of water but not a lot of sun, so this will change as we get into Spring and see some real growth.

With the show cancelled we have more time to undertake a few projects in the Garden in readiness for Plant Sales during Spring and Summer.

The main projects we would like to complete before Christmas include:

- Building a Shadehouse on the Western side of the Shed Garden adjacent to the new pathway that was completed recently. This will house a lot of the Plants we caretake for the RAS for each Show
- Cleaning up and planting out the Bushland area adjacent to the new Pathway on the Western side of the Shed
- Planting out the Eastern side of the Shed adjacent to the Wood Storage Area
- Installing a new lattice panel in the Garden Work Area to effectively hide the pots and soil containers
- Installing the Water Fountain that has been donated to us
- Removing some of the grass and planting out the front of the Shed to beautify this in time for next years Royal Show
- Building a standalone Pergola in the Garden Area and plant vines which will cover this in future years
- Identifying all the plants we have and preparing signage for these

We will also be pursuing opportunities to open the Garden to the General Public over Spring and Summer for the sale of plants, along with attending local fairs and markets.

So please reach out to me and let me know if you can assist in any of these projects at gardenlead.msclaremont@mail.tidyhq.com.

Cheers Steve

KITCHEN GROUP – *Peter Goodes*



Life goes on in the Kitchen despite rigid Covid-19 conditions hanging over us all.

- **Every Thursday morning**, freshly baked scones, biscuits, cakes are specially made in the kitchen for the Shed cleaners. Of course, Werner's scones with Strawberry jam & mountains of cream are already legendary!

Thanks to Victor for supplementing the morning tea with superb homemade Curry egg sandwiches. What a winner!

- **Coming Events**

The next cooking training experience is scheduled for Thursday 10th September. Rick Stroud will lead the prep, cooking & of course the eating of his famous slow cooked Stew written up recently in the Presidents Newsletter.

Preparation gets underway at 9.15am. In the kitchen 6-8 buddy chefs can work together. The plan is to serve this dish in the Meeting room to hungry Shed members. The Stew recipe caters up to 16. There will be a donation of \$ 5.00 per head which represents good value. Wine & beer is available at additional cost.

- Our Kitchen Group is looking forward to serving two Rotary Club Meetings, dates to be confirmed.
- The Scrub up Room has had a recent facelift thanks to the efforts of Dennis, Werner & Robert. The large Wine Cooler, capacity of approx. 200 wine bottles now has a new home.
- Finally located in the kitchen fridge is a sealed plastic container crammed full of basics. Butter, eggs, peanut butter, vegemite etc. Bread is ready to go. Shed members may help themselves. This concept is designed for members who forgot breakfast or lunch. A gold coin donation will help keep the container contents topped up.

Remember to eat wholesome food, exercise regularly & have fun!!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Anna's Coconut Biscuits

Ingredients

- 1 Cup Self Raising Flour
- 1 Cup Coconut
- 1 Cup White Sugar
- 1 Cup Oats
- 1 Egg

½ Cup Melted Butter

Vanilla Essence

Cinnamon

Method

Step 1: Preheat oven to 200C.

Step 2: Add all ingredients (except for Vanilla Essence & Cinnamon) to a mixing bowl and mix them together with wooden spoon. If mixture is a little dry add small amounts of room temperature water.



Step 3: Add Vanilla Essence and Cinnamon & mix well.

Step 4: Put a sheet of baking paper on to a baking tray. Scoop up mixture with spoon and place onto tray.

Step 5: Lower oven temperature to 180C and bake in oven for 12 minutes or more depending on how soft or golden you would like them. Make sure you keep watch.

Serves: 10+

Prep: 15 mins

Great for afternoon tea served with a hot cup of tea.

GOOD HEALTH & REGARDS FROM THE KITCHEN GROUP, Peter Goodes

COMPUTING AND SOCIAL MEDIA – Les Gunn

The Shed (near Gate 10 at the Showgrounds) has always been isolated from any wired connections to the internet, including ADSL or NBN of any type. One year ago, we connected to a Mobile Broadband via a “4GX” WiFi Router and connected all computer hardware to this device. As activities have spread to outdoor and remote rooms, we have added a re-purposed router (access point) to extend the WiFi signal and in the area covered we are getting very good speeds. An additional workstation has been set up in the supervisor’s office and the Apple iMac hardware has been kindly provided by donation from Werner Ribul. If any other members have computer hardware (up to 10 years old) that they wish to donate, please contact Les.

Along with the leaders of the Photography Group, we have been testing the applicability of Online Classroom software as a means to provide a repository of educational material and a portal to other internet resources for the group.

We have had some issues with emails directed to certain Internet Service Providers where the communication from The Shed email server has email rejected or “bounced”. These problems have been largely overcome by Whitelisting the msclaremont@mail.tidyhq.com address,

however this needs to be implemented at each Internet Service Provider (as required), so one or two members may still be missing out on our emails.

Please contact Les Gunn at les.gunn@gmail.com or 0412171006 for help with email, smartphones, WiFi, Cloud storage, and any other IT issues that may have you flummoxed or bogged-down in technology.

BICYCLES GROUP – *Michael Bisset*

The bike group continues to meet Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Very productive output from the team. We have now delivered our second batch of bike to B4H, bringing our total to 31 so far. Our aim continues to be to deliver around 240 bikes for the financial year. As always we welcome extra members to our team so let us know if you want to help out.



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP – *Mike Somerville-Brown*

Photography Workshop

The Photography Group successfully ran a workshop for 17 members on 6 August 2020. This workshop led by Peter Buck built on the knowledge and skills gained at the one-day course in July 2020.

Peter's presentation focused on using "Aperture Priority". Peter then used various examples to show us how to apply Depth of Field to our photos. This was followed by a practical session in the Showgrounds where each person took a variety of photos changing aperture and focal length for different subjects.

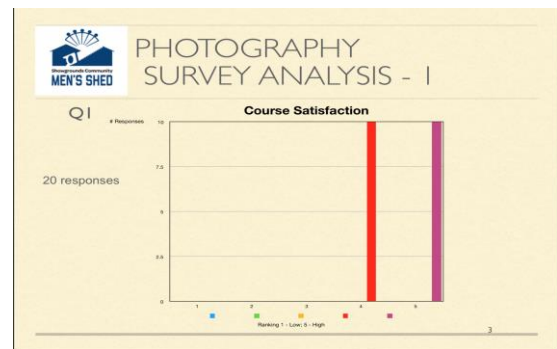




Photography Course Survey Results

Mike S-B presented the results of a satisfaction survey of attendees at the Short Course in July 2020. Attendees scored the course at 4.5 out of 5.

Comments included “Very clear and thorough group presentation. Learnt a lot! “; “Has helped to get me going again!”; “Worth every \$” and “I learnt to use my camera again.”



Mike also introduced the Shed Photography Project where members of the Photography Group have nominated to photograph and document the activities of the various groups in our Shed over the next six months. The Workshop concluded with wine, cheese and nibbles provided by the Shed’s Kitchen Group which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Peter, Les, Chris and Stephen for their assistance in running the Workshop.



The Group’s next event will be a Field Trip to Pelican Point and Matilda Bay on 20 August 2020.

Mike Somerville-Brown
Photography Group Leader

ELECTRONICS GROUP – John Hassell

The storeroom beside the kitchen has now been cleared and work can begin on planning the construction of a suitable workbench and fit out of the room for our electronics workshop. There is plenty of timber and chipboard available to build our own workbench and storage units. Keep an eye out over the next week or so for a working bee to do a measure up and plan the layout of the workspace. We already have some equipment donated which includes a digital oscilloscope and an Icom IC-R100 scanning communications receiver.

BEE KEEPING GROUP – Peter Panek



The next meeting of the Beekeeping group will be held on Wednesday the 2nd of September at 2:00pm. At this meeting, the main topic for discussion will be the construction of beehive components for our future beehives. The beehive components should be reasonably simple pieces that the members can make using the ample equipment available to us within the Shed. This will enable our bee keeping members to become active members of the group and have a certain degree of ownership of our hives as well as enjoying the camaraderie of the Shed whilst we create our new beehives.

We will have several different plans available to review and discuss and select which items we shall be constructing.

As you will be aware the beehive enclosure has been completed and I must pass along the sheds thanks to both Stephen Keenihan and Alistair McMichael for their diligent undertaking of this necessary task. The compound will last for many years to come and we will all get the benefit of their hard work and it is certainly a first-class result.



It is hoped then at the time of the next meeting our first beehive will have been delivered and installed and so we hope that we will be able to go and view it in place. Our group will have transitioned from a thought bubble to an actual working group at last.

We shall also be discussing a schedule for the hives regular maintenance.

I hope you can all attend the upcoming meeting to be held at the Shed and look forward to seeing you all there.

Best regards

Peter Panek

(Editor: What about the honey, when will we first get to taste it?)



WINE APPRECIATION GROUP – Graeme Owens & Stephen Keenihan

A new group is just starting at the Shed for wine appreciation so keep a look out for notices and emails about their first official meeting soon. The group is to be run jointly by Graeme Owens & Stephen Keenihan.

PERTH ROYAL SHOW UPDATE – Steve Gerreyn

As we all know the Show must go on, but not in 2020. As lead of the Showgrounds Men's Shed Royal Show subcommittee, I wanted to thank all the members of the committee for the time and contributions they have made in the planning for this event. Also a big thanks to a number of members of the Woodworking and Gardening teams for the work they have done in making Woodworking items and preparing plants for the Show.

We now have lots of Cutting Boards and Serving Platters of various sizes as well as Picnic Style Wine Tables for sale, so jump in early and buy a few Christmas gifts for the family and help the Shed at the same time. We have many for sale online via our website at <https://msclaremont.tidyhq.com/public/shop/products> or come into the Shed and pick what you like and pay via credit card.

We have captured all our Show Planning in a document "Royal Show 2020 – Operational Plan", which will now be finalised and kept as a blueprint for our involvement in the 2021 Royal Show. The Sub Committee will re- form in May 2021 to kick off our planning and preparation for the 2021 Show.

Any questions or expressions of interest to take part in the 2021 Planning and Running the Shed for the 2021 Royal Show, please contact me at gardenlead.msclaremont@mail.tidyhq.com.

An example of one of the items for sale in the online shop is below and the fantastic picnic tables will be there soon too:



Large Cutting Board with handles

\$35.00

Availability: 10 in stock

[Add to Cart](#)

Cutting Board with Handles (430mm * 300mm * 25mm). Oiled and ready to go.

Buy online and pickup from the Shed. Or visit the Shed behind Gate 10 off Ashton Street and purchase by Credit Card only.

Stay Safe and enjoy the activities of the Shed