

## Showgrounds Community Men's Shed Newsletter – December 2021

### PRESIDENT'S UPDATE – *Peter Panek*

Firstly, I would like to say what an honor it is to take over as the new President of the Showgrounds Community Men's Shed. Our past President, Mike Wiggin and the previous management committee have left the Shed in good financial shape with a wonderful Shed ethos which permeates throughout all our activities. So, thank you Mike Wiggin and the previous committee for your efforts, guidance and support for the Shed.

Our supervisors and group leaders help set the tone for the Shed, a tone which is one of active participation sprinkled with great camaraderie. My thanks to each of you in turn for your efforts to date and may you continue in the same vein long into the future. I look forward to working with you during my Presidency.

Our Shed has almost reached 260 members currently with the average number of visits recorded on our register of about 42 separate visits each day of the week, for 6 days of the week. As the shed membership grows, we obviously experience growing pains which require the Shed to modify and adapt our working methods to accommodate our membership safely and sensibly. We trust that our members will embrace these changes as they occur and realise that whilst things were quieter in the "old days", the more members we have means we can offer a greater number of members the benefits of Shed membership which helps an increasing number of our community.

Some of the activities and changes at the Shed which you may or may not be aware of are as follows.

1. The installation of the new CNC Router and training of our members for this machine. Whilst this machine is the most expensive machine in the Shed, we anticipate that the CNC router will generate sufficient revenue from outside jobs to cover its costs over time.
2. Following a successful grant application for solar panels for the Shed, it appears that the old Shed structure may not be sufficiently robust enough to cover the weight of the solar panels. We are currently working with the RASWA to locate a suitable site for the installation of solar panels within the Showgrounds precinct such that our grant conditions are not breached, and we can still have the benefit of the solar power.
3. The construction of the new wood fired oven in the garden area. This oven will be used to create wonderful pizzas and bread for our members to enjoy long into the future.
4. Additional training for new members and Supervisors to ensure all members have a good understanding of how our Shed operates and to engender a greater emphasis on safety for all members.
5. Increased requirement for cleaning of the work benches to ensure the Shed has adequate storage available for members to store their works temporarily and to ensure there is adequate access to work benches.
6. Commencing in the new year, there will be weekly specific training on the use of various pieces of equipment which our members can undertake in order to improve their working knowledge of the equipment that we have at the Shed. Every member is

invited to attend these sessions which will most likely be held after morning tea on Thursdays.

7. Due to the very high volume of works being put through the Shed, Monday and Thursday mornings are designated as being clean up mornings. No works are to be carried out on projects within the Shed until the Dust Extractor is fully emptied and made ready for ongoing works and the Shed cleaned. Whilst we recognize that members each have individual needs to complete their projects urgently the general policy is that if we all pitch in, the Shed will be cleaned in a shorter period and you can return to your urgent project faster.
8. We have been advised by the RASWA that the whole of the Showgrounds will be classified as a Healthcare facility (due to the vaccination centre). This means that all people attending the Shed must be fully vaccinated by 1 January. Note that “fully vaccinated” includes having a booster shot when eligible – see the email giving the details which was sent to all members on 23 December.
9. In the future, the paint room will be locked and access to the room will be obtained by seeking the key from the Supervisor of the day who will discuss the work you wish to undertake and how you will be cleaning up after yourself. The Shed has created this clean room for painting purposes, but it is currently not being used appropriately and hence some changes need to be implemented.
10. The Shed will be providing a means of disposal of paint cleaning products such that members do not dispose of chemicals down the sink or into the environment. Please make use of the disposal method for your project cleanup requirements.

When I started this report, I did not intend for it to be so long or to cover so many topics. It is merely a reflection of our growing Shed and my attempts to keep you informed.

I trust that all our Shed members have a very merry Christmas and wonderful New Year and that you all stay safe and well. I look forward to seeing you in the new year and sharing some good times at the Shed with you all.

Best regards

Peter Panek

President

## WOODWORKING GROUP – *Mike Cahill*

There has been a flurry of activity at the shed in the past couple of weeks turning out all manner of Christmas paraphernalia, flat-pack Christmas trees, wine tables, bread boards and an impressive array of medieval weaponry, are all set to impress on Christmas Day. Well done, guys - I hate Christmas shopping, too!

The big news this month is that our CNC router has arrived, and Simon Powell and John Hassell have been putting it through its paces. A CNC group has been formed so those interested should talk to Simon or John about joining their sessions.



Glen is intent on keeping us solvent and this month he scored an interesting local community project. The final year students at Freshwater Bay Primary School wanted to leave behind a legacy gift for the school - what better than a teepee! With Jim directing construction activities the teepee was up and tied off in a flash. We're pretty sure he must be part Cherokee - is that a Thom-Thom drum we can hear?!

### IMPORTANT Changes to Woodworking Inductions

Starting in the New Year woodworking inductions will change in concert with our renewed focus on Shed safety. Shed inductions will now be in three phases:

#### 1. General Safety and Familiarisation – “Yellow Dot” on name badge

All new Shed members signing up in 2022 will first do the general safety/ familiarisation induction. Existing members should be sufficiently aware of Shed protocols and hence are exempt from the general induction, however, you are not barred from attending if you wish to book in. With a “Yellow Dot” you will be permitted to use any of the tools in the main hall except for electric power tools (with plugs). Use of cordless drills is permitted. You can view the course content on the Shed website by clicking on the Menu and selecting [Our Safety Program](#). Use of any of the tools or machinery in the Machine Room and the Wood-turning Room is not permitted.

#### 2. Hand-held Power Tools - “Red Dot” on name badge

Members who wish to use electric “corded” power tools must complete the “Hand-held Power Tools” induction, however, you must have completed the “Yellow Dot” induction first.

On completion your “Yellow Dot” will be replaced with a “Red Dot” and you will be permitted to use all the tools in the main hall including the electric power tools. You still

won't be able to use any of the tools or machinery in the Machine Room or the Wood-turning Room. Existing members who already have a "Blue Dot" accreditation (see below) won't be required to attend a "Red Dot" induction, however, if you wish to brush up your skills in this area feel free to sign up for an induction. Existing members who don't already have a "Blue Dot" **will** be required to complete a "Red Dot" induction.

### 3. Advanced Skills

To progress to the third phase, members must have completed the "Red Dot" induction. Members can undertake train in any of the areas below:

#### 3a. Woodworking Machinery— "Blue Dot" on name badge

Members who wish to use the equipment in the Machine Room must complete the Woodworking Machinery training course, however, you must have completed the "Red Dot" induction first.

Whilst in training you will be identified by a "Half Blue Dot" on your name badge. This will permit you to only use the machinery to complete your assigned project. Once you have passed the training you will be given a full "Blue Dot" which will replace both your "Red Dot" and your "Half Blue Dot". Your "Blue Dot" **does not** permit use of Specialist Equipment (CNC Router and the Router Table) nor equipment in the Wood-turning Room.

#### 3b. Wood-turning - "Silver Dot" on name badge

Members who wish to use the lathes in the Wood-turning Room must complete the Wood-turning training course, however, you must have completed the "Red Dot" induction first.

Whilst in training you will be identified by a "Silver Dot with L" on your name badge. This will permit you to use the lathes to complete your assigned projects. Once you have passed the training you will be given a full "Silver Dot" which will replace both your "Red Dot" and "Silver Dot with L" - or it will sit alongside your "Blue Dot" if you have one. Your "Silver Dot" **does not** permit use of Specialist Equipment (CNC Router and the Router Table) nor equipment in the Woodworking Machinery Room.

#### 3c. Specialist Equipment - "Magenta Dot" on name badge

Members who wish to use the Specialist Equipment (CNC Router and Router Table) in the Woodworking Room must have completed the "Red Dot" induction as a minimum. We don't currently run courses for this equipment so you will need to be supervised by one of the trainers (orange vest) until you prove your proficiency. Once deemed competent to operate the equipment unsupervised you'll be issued with a "Magenta Dot" placed next to your Blue and/or Silver Dots. Your "Magenta Dot" **does not** permit use of equipment in the Woodworking Machinery Room nor equipment in the Wood-turning Room.

For those who are about to ask what the "Green Dot" is for, go back and read [Our Safety Program](#) on the website. It simply means you have paid your annual membership fee and hence are "Financial". Note: this colour will change each year.



## GARDEN GROUP – *Stewart Forbes*

The garden team has been very busy since the last newsletter in October.

Gavin has been propagating geraniums of a variety of colours (see photo) and has just had to plant a new series of white geraniums to replace all the earlier ones which have been sold. Gavin has also become an expert on the differences between geraniums and pelargoniums – anyone wanting to discuss this is welcome to approach him.

We received a grant from the Town of Claremont for a 3m x 3m garden shed and a 36V Ryobi lawnmower, both of which have already proved to be very useful. Many thanks to Noel and Dennis for the construction of the new shed.

The first flushes of sunflowers on the Eastern side of the shed and in the apiary have already come and gone but the second round has just started.

The shade area under the Peruvian Pink Pepper tree has been improved to facilitate morning teas and now includes staghorn ferns, hydrangeas, fuchsias and more. Two wisteria and two sultana grape vines have been planted to replace and supplement the existing shade cloth in time. Many thanks to Jim Thom and Dennis for all their pipe cutting and bending to build the framework.

We now have a good range of herbs available, including perennial basil, curry leaf trees, mint, chilli pepper plants, sage, thyme, lemon grass, marjoram, rosemary and garlic chives.

In the vegetable garden the chillis are already producing red chillis for Bill's fiery chilli jam and the corn will soon be as high as an elephant's eye (a dose of urea now and then helps).

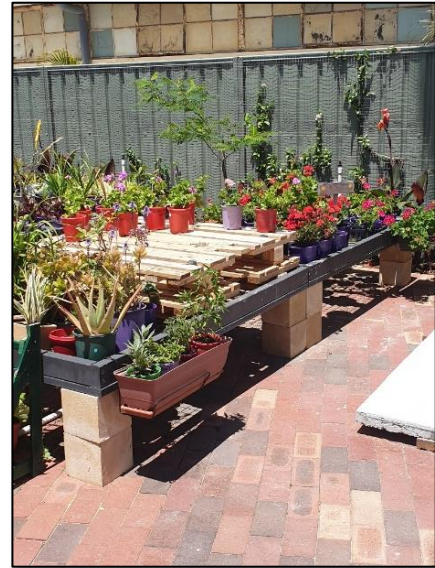
The recent hot spell threw up some challenges to keep all the potted plants hydrated, especially in the afternoons when the garden tends to be overrun by bees wanting to drink all the surface moisture.

Peter Reading and Peter Goodes are working on putting together a plan for making a range of window boxes, either pre-planted or made to order, for the nearby apartments around Claremont Oval.

Members should also keep an eye out for Colin's daisies next to the Scarlet Moon grevillea at the top of the slope on the western side of the apiary, which have now been joined by a few marigolds which should self-seed and multiply.

In the New Year we should at last be able to start work on the treed area on the north western side of the shed, once some overhanging branches have been pruned and thinned out, weather permitting.

Happy Christmas and may all our gardens flourish in 2022.



## KITCHEN GROUP – *Werner Ribul*



I think most of you will agree with me that this year has come and gone at an almost unbelievable speed and your SCMS Kitchen Team has, in our view, gone from strength to strength. We are now looking to get some well-deserved rest and recovery for yet another year of fun with our pots and pans!

### Legendary Luncheon Events

We were not exactly ‘cruising’ earlier on, but we certainly kept the biggest events in our calendar for the final months of the year. Hot on the heels of a very popular Nasi Goreng lunch, which **Keng Wong** delivered in his usual great style in October, we dared to tempt a new guest chef in **Curt McDonald** to step forward and introduce the SCMS faithful to a traditional **American Thanksgiving** feast. Over two busy days, the team prepared, cooked and served a wonderful – and, some might say, strange – medley of meat and veggies that included ingredients like yams, pineapple, jelly and marshmallows! The fact that over 50 diners left only a few crumbs for take-aways tells its own story and we may have to repeat this feast in the future.



Finally, with Christmas on the horizon, the SCMS Kitchen Team stepped up to deliver the biggest ever catering event in our short and colourful history. We set ourselves a target to allow 70 members to book their tickets for the **2021 SCMS Xmas lunch** and we ended up hosting 72 diners in our adapted woodworking hall – a new record has been set!

Chef **Bill Macleod** led a huge group of 16 Kitchen Team members to deliver a truly memorable menu that included cooked prawns, marmalade-glazed ham and a delicious passionfruit cheesecake which provided the proverbial ‘icing’ on the meal. Judging by the numerous positive feedbacks and a raucous standing ovation by the members at the end, we have done well as a team!







### Wood-fired Oven Project

After some preparatory work by our intrepid kitchen project 'action team' of **Dennis Gregory** and **Noel Hickman**, we finally took delivery of our custom-made wood-fired oven in early December. The DIY kit was carefully transported by **Brent Coulson** and yours truly on the load bed of our SCMS ute in early December. At the time of reading, installation of the kit on our prepared site in the SCMS garden is progressing and we expect to have the oven up and running in mid-



January, in time for our first event – a Pizza inspired SCMS Sundowner on 27<sup>th</sup> January!

With only the 'sky being the limit' this equipment will allow us to cook and deliver anything from roasts (piglet on the spit, capretto/goat) to vegetables and wood-fired sourdough breads, so watch this space!

Lastly, my deputy Bill and I want to say a big 'Thank you' to all Kitchen Team members who supported us so strongly during this year – we would not have been able to do all the great events without you! We hope you had as much fun & enjoyment as we did, and we are both looking forward to another year of great events in 2022!

Stay safe & eat healthy (at the SCMS Kitchen)!

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH – *Werner Ribul*

### Marmalade-glazed Xmas Ham

Prep Time: 30 minutes                      Serves: 12  
Cook Time: 80 minutes  
Total Time: 110 minutes

#### Ingredients

- 7kg cooked leg of ham (on bone)
- 350g jar SCMS Cumquat marmalade
- ¼ cup (55g) brown sugar
- ¼ cup (60ml) orange juice
- ½ cup of cloves

#### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced).
2. Cut through rind about 10cm from shank end of leg in a decorative pattern. Run your thumb around the edge of the rind, just under the skin, to remove the rind. Start pulling the rind from the shank end to widest edge of ham and discard rind.
3. Using a sharp knife, make shallow cuts in one direction diagonally across the fat at 3cm intervals, then shallow cut in opposite direction, forming diamonds. Do not cut through top fat or fat will spread apart during cooking.
4. Stir marmalade, sugar and orange juice in a small saucepan over a low heat until the sugar dissolves.
5. Line a large baking dish with overlapping sheets of baking paper (this will make cleaning the dish easier). Place ham on a wire rack in baking dish. Brush ham well with marmalade mixture and cover shank end with foil.
6. Bake the ham for 40 minutes then remove from oven and decorate with cloves. Bake for a further 40 minutes or until browned all over, brushing occasionally with glaze during cooking. Serve warm or cold.



#### *Serving suggestions with the ham:*

- Potato salad
- Tomato and Rocket Salad
- Simple Garden salad

#### SCMS Recipes of the Month

Please note that you can now also view and download all 'SCMS Recipes of the Month' from our Kitchen webpage, just follow this link and select your recipe:

<https://msclaremont.tidyhq.com/public/pages/cooking>



## COMPUTING AND SOCIAL MEDIA – Les Gunn

We support the Shed's diverse groups and members in many Information Technology areas. Most individual members have a unique combination of devices and applications that may require assistance from us on a personal basis from time to time.

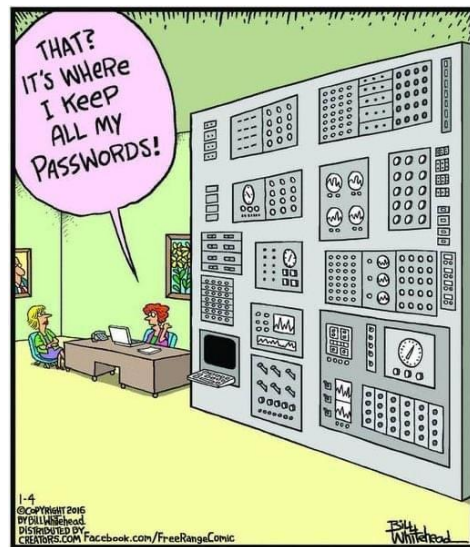
- We have assisted a few members to help scan old 35mm slides and negatives. This ties-in with the Photography Group because the scan results can always be improved with editing via Photoshop or Lightroom.
- The new CNC Router is supported by two or three “design computers” that required connection to our internet network. This was achieved with “Ethernet over power-line” devices, which avoided extra cabling or holes being drilled between rooms. Thanks to the member who kindly donated this equipment at just the right time.
- This period has been disruptive to our provision of computer facilities because most of our personal computers have been relocated to a much smaller room. This has enabled more room for members to be seated in the conference room. This project was fully supported by members of the Photography and Woodworking Groups.
- The Shed has a Facebook Page which we use to publicise events such as our Open Days. Friends of The Shed use Facebook Messenger to contact us about donations of materials, for example. There is also a popular Facebook Group for private posts that are shared to members only.

The Computer and Smart Phone Help Desk is open by appointment, and you are welcome to bring your PC, Tablet or smart phone or just use one of our desktop PCs/Macs.

Whatever you decide, almost always a password is required so don't leave at home those credentials for your Google/Microsoft/Apple/ TidyHQ account sign-on.

Please set up your appointment with Les Gunn via email: [les.gunn@gmail.com](mailto:les.gunn@gmail.com) or text: 0412171006, for help with email, smartphones, Wi-Fi, Cloud storage, malware or virus protection and any other IT issues that may have you bogged down in technology.

On Facebook see our page at: <https://www.facebook.com/SCMSClaremont> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/739066453191187> for the private Group.



## BICYCLES GROUP – *Michael Bisset*

The bike group has had a busy past 6 months where we delivered 150 bikes to Bicycles 4 Humanity, which is a significant increase on the same time last year. Sale of bikes was around 50 bikes which has brought around \$3,000 income into the shed.

We welcomed a number of new members to our team and thanks to everyone who is contributing to this partnership with B4H.

The broader community continues to give support through a steady stream of donated bikes as well as pick up points where we regularly get the bike supply from.

Again, thanks to all for supporting this activity as we push to deliver close to 300 bikes for the full year.

## WINE APPRECIATION GROUP – *Graeme Owens*

The Wine Appreciation Group gets together just once each month, so there is not a lot of meeting activity to report upon except that outside our meetings the Shed's wine cartons became available.

Some Shed members had approached the Group asking for a repeat of our previous offering of a carton of mixed wines. So Peter Goodes prevailed upon his contacts at West Cape Howe to again do something special for our Men's Shed members. Some Group members accepted the heavy burden of tasting and selecting the range of wines we considered most suitable, and three each of chardonnay, shiraz, cabernet and rose were put together in a mixed dozen at a most special price. Zoom! Members purchased those bargain cartons in a rush.

I have again been reminded by Group members of our formation principle that "The Group is not a wine education course, but questions from anyone seeking clarification on something would, of course, be addressed." Members said they are interested in listening, but without getting the feeling they are being given "a lecture". This was mentioned in a past Newsletter, but worth a repeat as I do try to maintain that principle.

One of our recent meetings was dedicated to Greek wines. "What? Greek?" you may say, but under the lead of Chris Harding we were taken on a vinous tour of the region and enjoyed some different but very good wines.

Our December meeting was different again, with a real Christmas theme. Curt presented a summer rose – from France. Graeme's offering was a top red, from Italy. Chris was into the season's celebrations by giving us a chilled sparkling shiraz. John Bolto was really into Christmas with a wonderful sweet wine which he accompanied with cake and cream. No kidding! And yes, John, that was way better than our usual cheese and crackers.

So time to say I hope you are having a lovely Christmas period and that you found in your stocking something really nice to drink.

## ELECTRONICS GROUP – *John Hassell*

Following decisions by the Management Committee to enhance safety in the Shed, a Kyoritsu 6502 portable appliance tester has been purchased. The aim is to test and tag all mains operated equipment in the Shed to ensure the safety of our members from electrical hazards. John Hassell and John Erbe from the Electronics Group have attended a one-day course to become qualified 'Test and Tag' operatives and will undertake the no small task of checking all the electrical equipment in the Shed. This will be a continuing project with all equipment checked on a yearly basis or more frequently if deemed necessary.

Shed members who would like their own power tools or appliances to be checked for electrical safety, should contact either me or John, who will be happy to run a quick check on them. (email John Hassell on [jah12@bigpond.com](mailto:jah12@bigpond.com))



## WOODTURNING GROUP – *David Rechter*

Since our last newsletter contribution, due to the receipt of a Veteran and Community Grant, three new lathes are now in place, together with a full set of chisels for each station, and a considerable variety of chucks and supplementary tools. It's great to see them receiving a good work-out, and especially by a number of regulars in our room, who are starting to be smitten by the "woodturning bug". Also pleasing is the recent advice of another successful government grant, which will enable a portable PA system to be utilized with our video equipment on demonstration days. The equipment we have chosen is suitable to use with an audience up to 200 persons, so it will be invaluable for all other Shed groups, and especially for the executive at Shed meetings.

In December, a further 3 members of our Group completed their beginners' course, which now gives us 25 fully qualified woodturners, of the 47 people we have on our roll. The next course is scheduled to commence on 14<sup>th</sup> January, and with the addition of our new lathes, will be the first to contain 5 students, which is the start of expediting those on our waiting list.

Recently a number of our members completed a questionnaire, which established that the majority are happy with the manner in which our Group is running, but did unearth some good suggestions which will be put into place over the coming months.

I close by wishing all our membership a very happy and restful festive season with their families and express my sincere thanks to quite a few willing members who have assisted with the running and maintaining of our Group throughout the year.





*Peter Blake demonstrating our new Vicmarc lathe*



*Peter's finished vase*

## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP – Mike Somerville-Brown

### Taking Better photos with your Smartphone Workshop – 28 October 2021

While everyone loves the look of a photo from a “real” camera, the best camera is usually the one you have with you. Smartphone cameras have gotten more phenomenal in the past few years, with companies beefing up photo resolution, adding more lenses, improved settings and integrating options to share photos with family and friends.

Les Gunn led this workshop captivating members as he took us through tips and tricks for taking better photos with your smartphone. The high interest in this topic led us to schedule a “repeat” presentation for all Shed member on 2 Dec 2021.



### Action Photography Workshop 11 Nov 2021 – Cameron Frost & John Bolto

This workshop was run in two parts:

#### Part 1: Action Photography – Cameron Frost

Cameron Frost is a young man who has travelled the world taking photographs and creating videos of “Action” sports and events in Australia, Asia to Hawaii and many places in between. Cameron was the lead photographer for the Bright Blue Charity’s Postie Bike Ride on the Gibb

River Road. He has also taken photos and videos of several surfing and windsurfing events in Australia and overseas. In his presentation Cam showed us some excerpts of his videos and then discuss the types of cameras and drones he used; issues encountered; editing software used and his tips for filming "action" events.



## Part 2: Drone Photography - John Bolto

Photography drones allow individuals to capture photos that previously could only be taken from helicopters or planes. More and more photographers are buying drones and trying their hand at aerial photography. John shared some of his drone photos and gave us an introduction to choosing a photography drone and the key elements to consider including flight safety, image systems, transmission systems, intelligent features, portability, and service.



## Sundowner

This Workshop concluded with an informal discussion including the opportunity to chat with our presenters Cameron and John over our usual drinks and nibbles.

## Vale Geoff Loftus-Hills

It is with great sadness and regret that we acknowledge the passing of Geoff Loftus-Hills on 14 November 2021. Geoff will be fondly remembered as a highly respected member of the community and a fellow Shedder. Sincere condolences to his family.





## Mustering Cattle - iPhone Photography Tips Workshop 2 December 2021

This was a special re-run of two popular presentations to the Photography Group earlier in 2021, opened to all Shed Members and run in two parts:

### Part 1: Cattle Mustering in the Kimberley - Jim Thom

Jim Thom, a very popular Shed member, showed snippets from his life during the 1960s in the Kimberley WA. It was a very tough life. Men, Cattle, Horses, Trucks and heavy machinery were featured in his talk with photographs collected by Jim and his family. Les Gunn of the Men's Shed Photography Group has assisted Jim with scanning many old photographs and slides, then selected and sorted them to help illustrate an inspiring story of Jim's role in the evolution of the cattle industry during the 1960s. Jim kept us engrossed with his stories of working and running a large cattle station near Hall Creek



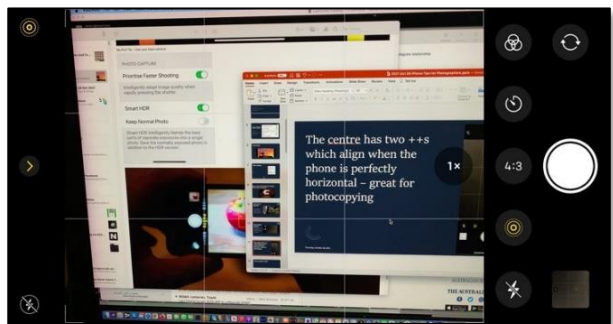
*Cattle Mustering*



*Jim riding a horse in a rodeo at Hall Creek*

### Part 2: Taking Better photos with your Smartphone - Les Gunn

Les Gunn conducted this workshop as a hands-on session identifying tips and tricks for taking better photos with your smartphone. He expanded on many of the concepts introduced at a similar presentation earlier in the year and covered settings and techniques for use with both iPhones and Android smartphones. He even covered how to use your phone as a scanner of photos or documents.



## Bunnings Christmas Night Market – 9 December 2021

The Showgrounds Men's Shed was invited by the Town of Claremont and Bunnings to participate in making a sausage in a bun for patrons and to sell some of the products produced at our Shed. The Photography Group prepared copies of some photos taken during the year;



some were in large format frames, while others were mounted ready for framing. Both sold well contributing to overall sales.



### New Photography Room

Our Shed continues to grow with new members and higher attendances at many of our activities run by the very successful Kitchen Group. Now there is a need for better utilisation of the Meeting Room and other workspaces for a range of activities. Following an evaluation of our various workspaces, the Treasurer's former office has been converted to a Photography Room to accommodate the computers, scanners, printer and other photography equipment. The room has now been fitted with benches on three sides, which were constructed from surplus timber and boards available at the Shed. With assistance from Stewart Forbes (sourcing the timber), Mike Wiggins (design), John Hassell, John Bolto, Chris Porter and myself (construction), the room fitout was completed over the last few weeks. After the installation of some curtains and other final touches, this room will be available for Photography Group members in the new year.

A photo display system in the Meeting room to better display the fantastic photos which have been taken by members during the year was installed by Stephen Keenihan, Chris Porter and myself.

Special thanks to all the volunteers for their time, skills and commitment in undertaking this work.





## How to Take Great Photos for Christmas & Photography Program for 2022

This was the final workshop for 2021 and was run in two parts:

### Part 1: How to take Great Photos for Christmas - Peter Buck

For many of us, it's on special occasions, such as Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations that we tend to take family shots. That is to say, infrequently.

Taking successful photos of family and friends is not as easy as it seems and does require quite a bit of practise. How many times have you taken shots that you later find to be out of focus, blurry due to movement, and with subjects having eyes closed, shooing flies, off with the fairies and with faces striped by shadows and sunlight. Let's face it, we all experience these disappointments."

Peter led us through techniques and tips for photographing family, and particularly kids which is a challenge as there are commonly a lot of moving parts and distractions. We often try to manage by just capturing images quickly or selecting Auto on a camera and hoping for the best. Equally so, some people just take photos indiscriminately, adopting the principle that more is better for success. This can create lots of unsatisfactory photos requiring a lot of culling. Peter familiarised us with the rule of "Ps: *"An absence of Prior Preparation increases the risk of a Piss-poor Performance"*.

### Photographing Groups of Kids - Posed

Challenging: Persevere, but recognize when its not going to work as kids will lose patience. Creating action opportunities and smaller groups often works



Failed



Success

## Part 2: Photography Group Program for 2022

Mike Somerville-Brown outlined the Photography Program for 2022. Mike presented a draft program of activities to be conducted on three Thursday afternoons each month next year. The Program plans 11 more sessions next year with a total of 33 sessions proposed including workshops to increase our knowledge and skills in photography, guest presentations/demonstrations; field trips and projects to have some fun and practice our skills. The Program includes several workshops to allow for a repeat of popular topics run in 2021 such as composition, photo storage & management particularly for recent new members to our Group; and the opportunity for more in-depth exploration of management, editing of photos/videos using Lightroom, Photoshop or iMovie and sharing of photos/videos with friends and family.

At the meeting we also discussed the capital purchase options for new equipment in 2022 including a drone for member training and the proposed fee structure for 2022 for Photography Group members. The meeting agreed that the best way forward is to set an annual fee for 2022 for all photography group members to cover all costs for capital and operating expenses. This will be outlined in an email to all photography members in the new year.

The Workshop concluded with our usual sundowner with plenty of chat over wine and nibbles and some Xmas cake made by Peter Goodes.

I hope to see all our members continue to be active and attend the exciting program of presentations, workshops and field trips during 2022.

## COMMUNITY LIAISON – *Steve Gerreyn*

This is a relatively new role for the Shed and I am very pleased to take this on. In a nutshell the role will be to:

- Provide a single point of contact for local Community based organisations and Local Government to engage with the Shed regarding participating in local Community Initiatives, possible Projects, and provision of assistance and services that would benefit both organisations.
- Promote our participation in Community events via local Newspapers and Social Media.
- Establish a quarterly Meeting with the Community Development Group within the Town of Claremont to exchange information and plan future joint initiatives.
- Establish relationships with other key Community Organisations and meet as required to exchange information and determine where the Shed can assist with the delivery of services or projects.
- Facilitate more social interactions with locally based like-minded groups.

I will also be maintaining a register of all Community Activities and Projects that we undertake and post this on our Website. This will be key to demonstrating the Shed's commitment to our Community and also underpin our efforts in securing Grants in the future.



Many of you would already know of our recent success in the Town of Claremont 2021 Volunteer Awards where we had several shortlisted nominations for the Shed and Members of the Shed. We hope to go one better in 2022.



*Left to Right: Bill McLeod, Mike Somerville-Brown, Michael Bissett, Steve Gerreyn, Richard McBride*

I will keep you informed of our progress in this area. In the meantime, if any of you know of any local Community initiatives that we could get involved in, please let me know by email [skgerreyn@gmail.com](mailto:skgerreyn@gmail.com) with a short description, name of organisation and key contact and I'll follow these up.

**Stay Safe and Merry Christmas to all Shedders and their families!**