

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

PRESIDENT'S SEPTEMBER UPDATE – Mike Wiggin

Hello All!

Well, we've recovered from the loss of the Show this year and things are progressing well.

We had our first monthly members meeting on Wednesday 23rd with a presentation by David Beard on Aging Well. Unfortunately the meeting room is limited to 30 people and requests to attend came thick and fast, so the computer team set up a Zoomcast for the talk which attracted some members who were unable to attend.

Following the talk, we held a general members meeting with an update on the Management Committee's activities etc followed by a Q and A regarding our Shed and various activities. We rounded out the evening with a sausage sizzle and a beer/wine for members, courtesy of the Kitchen Crew.

Membership numbers are now above the level we achieved before the annual dues fell due. This is what normally happens in Men's Sheds; the trend is generally upwards with a dip when members decide whether or not to renew. I expect we will stabilise at around 300 members in two to three years.

The Dalkeith Rotary club is holding a session at our Shed on Monday, starting at 6.00pm and I have been invited to attend and provide a brief history of the Shed as well as answer questions. In a similar vein, the Rotary Club of Matilda Bay will be holding a breakfast on October 7th and I'm reprising my role for them. I should be good at this soon!

WOODWORKING GROUP – Mike Wiggin

The woodworking section has been getting busier over the last month, which is good to see, but we are starting to run up against the limit of what we can get done without more help. There are a number of projects – large and small – that you can get involved in, so if you have some free time, please contact Glen Sheppard and he will get you started.

The Claremont Council park bench is finished and will be collected this week. We are also:

- constructing a street library (thanks to Peter Blake)
- making a couple of bases for a pair of antique vases
- completing the flag stands for David Honey, our local member of parliament
- making cutting boards and picnic tables
- preparing a quote to build a fence for the Claremont Council's new community garden
- producing wooden stakes for gardens with the first 50 going to Claremont Council

- making hole name signs for the Rottnest Island Golf Club

... and I'm sure I've missed a few! As you can see, there's lots to do and any help will be most welcome.

As many of you will have seen, Glenn and Noel have graced the pages of the local press in a story about their work in repairing the boat in the playground at Annie's Playschool. Glen tells me that as a result, he's been fielding enquiries about similar work for other schools, kindies etc. Who knows where this will lead!

GARDEN GROUP – *Steve Gerreyn*

Hi Shedders

We have a group of enthusiastic garden team members working on several projects, which we hope to finalise within the next month. A couple of these have been completed including

- Cleanout of the garden Shed and installation of hanging racks for tools (see Pic below). A big thanks to Dennis Gregory for completing this.
- Planting out the eastern slope outside the Garden area with Agapanthus and Ivy. I can take credit for this. Thank you to me.
- Initial Planting out of the Bushland area adjacent to the new pathway to the rear of the Garden area. Thanks to Keng for sourcing and planting this out.



Other projects underway are:

- Removing grass and planting out of the front of the Shed
- Relocating the Veggie Beds from the main garden to the front of the shed adjacent to the carport.

Thanks to Stewart and Rick for leading these projects.

Other projects to start are:

- Installation of new lattice panel in Garden work Area
- Installation of a new sign in the Garden Area
- Construction of new potting platforms to accommodate our ever-increasing pots
- Construction of a shade house outside the Western side of the Garden fence line.



We will also be making a concentrated effort to start selling our plants as we have over 300 pots ready for sale.

If anyone would like to get involved in some of the projects please get in touch with me at gardenlead.msclaremont@mail.tidyhq.com

KITCHEN GROUP – Peter Goodes

This month's lunch was inspired by Kitchen team member Rick Stroud:



Steak and Mushroom Casserole

Twenty two members joined us for lunch and enjoyed a glass of quality Western Australian red wine.

Three cooking methods were demonstrated - Slow cooking, Oven temperature controlled and Stove Top, all served with fresh vegetables steamed carrots, small potatoes and spring peas.

Lunch was on time and judged a great success. Well done to all particularly the "washers up"!

Rick's recipe was recently printed the Monthly Newsletter. Check it out!

Coming Events

The Kitchen is delighted to prepare and present meals for the following Rotary Clubs:

- Dalkeith
- Matilda Day
- West Perth

The SCMS Kitchen is proud to support Rotary.



The Sheds BBQ's are cleaned up and ready to go. The Shed now has an extra gas Bottle. Thank you. A trial run is scheduled for next week.

Please keep an eye on Tidy HQ for the date of our next Lunch which promises to be popular homemade Pasta in our Kitchen and Sauces to popular Italian themes.

Finally thank you to our Nursery Group for providing fresh herbs and greens to the Kitchen.

I must get back to the Kitchen. Signing off and good Cooking!



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Seafood Bouillabaisse

Bouillabaisse Indian Ocean Style. With guidance from that widely renowned Master Chef, and writer of "Great Dishes of The World", Robert Carrier.

Ingredients, Preparation and Method:

- Sauté (2) Spanish Onions, (2) WA grown Leeks finely cut, with (2) cloves of Garlic in Olive Oil Slice thinly (4) medium Carrots and (6) Peeled Potatoes put aside.
- Add to your large heavy based saucepan, 430 g canned Tomatoes and 1 Litre of homemade
- Fish Stock bring to the boil and add vegetables including cut up, basil, parsley and celery, with a little Saffron and Ground Pepper to taste.
- Bring to the boil and turn down the heat to simmer.
- Now the fun part! Add Seafood, a nice skinned thick fillet 350gms of N W Spanish Mackerel or firm fresh fish i.e. Trevally, Shark etc cut into chunks and simmer for about 12 minutes.
- Add 8 large Exmouth Prawns wild and raw; 12 Cockburn Sound Fresh Mussels medium size; next Shark Bay Pippies. Add shellfish in shells and finally Pilbara small Squid tubes cut into strips.
- A half glass of port adds sweetness. Continue simmering for 10-15 minutes.

This dish is ready to serve. Ladle into deep soup dishes, sprinkle chopped parsley, celery and basil on top. French sticks on the side with a glass of crisp WA White makes a good compliment.

Preparation Time: 30 minutes.

Cooking Time: 15 -- 20 minutes



Tip: Red Emperor heads make excellent stock and can be made in advance.

Chef Note: Catching your fish may take longer!

I hope you enjoy this dish which is a favourite in my household.

COMPUTING AND SOCIAL MEDIA – *Les Gunn*

The Apple iMac hardware provided by donation from Werner Ribul has been put to good use. We recently trialled the use of the ZOOM service to provide a way to present events in The Shed to a larger audience – while we can accommodate around 30 people in the Conference Room under current Covid-19 restrictions, this facility will give us a way to include members who cannot make it to the event for any reason. The iMac computer has video, microphone and speakers so it was really useful for our testing of this approach. Look for more news about this next month.

With the Photography Group we have been testing the applicability of Google's Online Classroom software and currently 23 members are using this as a repository of educational material, photos and a useful portal to other internet resources for the group.

A new on-line Calendar has been added to the menu of the main public page of the <https://msclaremont.tidyhq.com/> web site. The Calendar usage will help us avoid double-booking of the Shed conference room and give members a fast notification to up-coming meeting and events.

The issues with emails directed through certain Internet Service Providers where the communication from The Shed email server has had email rejected by some ISPs continued. However, this has been bypassed by using "Gmail" email addresses for those individuals who had on-going problems with their email provider.

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

BICYCLES GROUP – *Michael Bisset*

The group has continued to be busy collecting and fixing bikes. To date we have delivered 51 bikes to Bicycles 4 Humanity. The community continue to support the project by donating unwanted bikes. We recently picked some bikes up from Joondalup Mens Shed and are hoping some of the local police may be able to supply some bikes as well.

We have outgrown our small workshop already!!



BEE KEEPING GROUP – *Peter Panek*



Richard Collis provided the following report, with editing and additions from Peter Panek

Hi All,

Following the installation of our first hive on September 2nd, a quick check on the 14th September found everything to be in perfect order.

The Spring has brought new flows of nectar and pollen into the colony and the brood nest and therefore our bee population will grow exponentially as the weeks move towards peak season, no more syrup feeding is required for our bees now.

Peter and I took a few moments to watch a healthy stream of workers returning to the flight board loaded with yellow pollen sacks on their rear legs.

Watching bees returning to a hive is fascinating and dare I say it is a very big part of the enjoyment of keeping bees in the first place. I am not short of things to do with my time, but I gladly will give time to observing the hives in my apiary.

I would encourage members of our group to go and spend a little time observing bee flows in and out of the hive. It tells the story of what is happening inside the walls of the hive and is a really good method of keeping ahead of problems. When visiting your hive, I would suggest you watch from a slight distance and try not to stand in the flight line of returning or outgoing bees.

For your safety you should have a head/face cover just to err on the safe side.

Our hive is very placid, opening the lid with just a loose veil, no smoke and bare hands and arms proved a delight. The residents paid no heed to our inspection which bodes well for future hive management.

Peter and I will endeavour to make a purchasing trip next week to gather all the equipment to see us through our start up period. This will lead to a host of flat pack frames and hive bodies that will need to be constructed as per our recent meeting/workshop. The work does not have to be done all at once, but we will need at least two hive bodies and waxed up frames ready by early/mid-October as we intend to split our colony to make increases. This does require two bottom boards to be made in the shed as well as lids/covers. These items are the simplest things to construct and we will seek willing hands to have a go. **Could we have a volunteer or two to build these pieces?** Full instructions will be provided. Please contact either myself or Peter Panek if you wish to be involved in building essential items for our hobby.

On the subject of construction, Peter has built an absolutely splendid solar wax melter, (see the photo of the almost completed project).

These things cost over \$400 at the suppliers, so a fantastic effort from Peter, who by the way is also in the process of building our wiring jig which will be put into use at our next meeting.



I would very much like to take members of the group through our hive in the meetings ahead (weather and safety gear allowing) this will add some interest as well as getting members familiar with handling bees on frames, out of and back into, the hive. It would be very nice if on our first visit to the hive as a group, the queen showed herself and a royal photo call was made...

Hive management is a bit like a military drill, it has a series of objectives, it is routine, has an order of events, it needs to be done with an element of care and precision and this in some small way ensures that nothing is forgotten and calmness prevails! We hope!

The next meeting date for the Bee Keeping Group is 29th September 2020.

The Shed has been able to acquire some shelving which we would like to have installed in the Bee Room where we will store all our equipment. If anyone would like to contribute to the group and spend a couple of hours putting the brackets and shelves up, then please let Peter Panek know so he can point you in the right direction.

Also our room was previously used by others and needs a bit of a clean-up. Again if you would like to help with this task please contact Peter.

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP – Graeme Owens

The SCMS Wine Appreciation Group has had its first gathering.

Unlike other Shed groups which are more ‘hands on’, the Wine Appreciation Group was conceived to be more like a ‘social club’. It was believed that there must be a number of gentlemen within the Shed membership who had sufficient depth of interest in wine to enjoy opportunities to meet with others having a similar interest, getting together in company to taste wine, drink wine, discuss wine and share wine related thoughts and experiences.

Requests to join, participate and contribute to the Group have exceeded expectations, to the extent that there are now more names than there will be places available at meetings.

For the first couple of meetings Group Leader Graeme together with Stephen Keenihan have taken it upon themselves to get things going by selecting the wines and coordinating the discussion. At future meetings Group members will share such tasks, perhaps in rotation, to select and present the wines for tasting and lead the Group’s discussions.

The title “Appreciation” Group was particularly chosen to better illustrate that meetings are not wine ‘classes’ but are social gatherings of those who wish to appreciate wines of interest amongst the fine company of other Shed members.



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP – *Mike Somerville-Brown*

Field Trip to Pelican Point and Matilda Bay on 20 August 2020



After a number of workshops at the Shed we undertook a field trip to Pelican Point and Royal Perth Yacht Club, to practice our skills with Aperture priority mode on our cameras and depth of field to get various landscape photos of the wetlands, wildlife, boats and city views. As evening approached, we concluded with some well earned drinks at the Bar at RPYC.



Field Trip to Kings Park on 10th September 2020

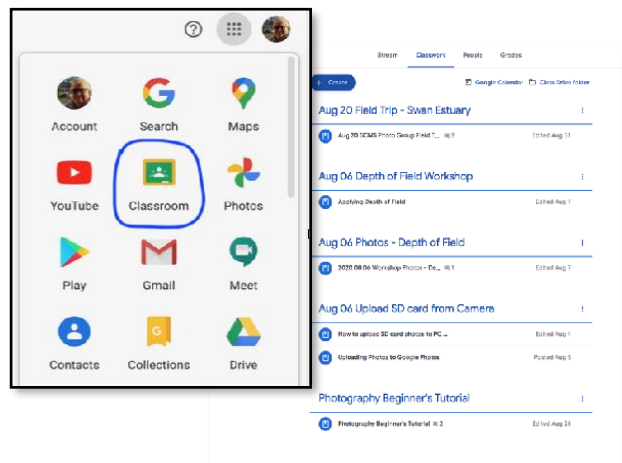
A happy group of photographers were treated to a wonderful display of wildflowers at Kings Park. Photographers applied their skills using Aperture priority mode on their cameras to manage a short depth of field to highlight the flowers. Wayne, an intrepid photographer went to extra effort to get a unique vantage point in photographing the flowers.



Photography Workshop - Accessing Google Classroom

The Photography Group ran a workshop for 10 members on 3 September 2020. This workshop led by Les Gunn provided clear instructions access the resources stored in the Google Classroom app. We now have 20 members who have access to these resources.

The resources include copies of PowerPoint presentation from recent workshops, some of the photos taken by members at our recent field trips and workshops and links to useful websites and YouTube videos on interesting photography topics.



The Shed Photography Project 2020

The Shed Photography Project involves members of the Photography Group who have nominated to photograph and document the activities of the various other groups in our Shed over the next six months.

This month we feature photos taken by Richard Werren of the preparation of the Bee Keeping enclosure and preparation of the hives.



Stay Safe and enjoy the activities of the Shed