



Australian Men's Shed Association

New South Wales

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

ZONE 8 -

NEWSLETTER - May 2016

Greeting to All men's Shedders and Supporters

Opening of Erina Community Men's Shed

It was a pleasure to attend the opening of the Erina Shed #2 on Saturday. Not many sheds can boast having 2 very separate sheds, one for metal and the other for wood but the members of the Erina shed have worked very hard in securing funding to have both. Now with the wood shed open for business those in the metal area have more room to get on with their projects. I must also acknowledge the work the gardeners have done in helping make the surrounds a very pleasing place in which to work/play and relax and they have plans to turn their surrounds into an even more welcoming feature.

Mrs Lucy Wicks – Federal member for Robertson and Mr Mr Adam Crouch – State member for Terrigal were both present and spoke extremely highly of the work of the Erina shed and the Men's Shed Movement in general. Adam officially opened the shed by cutting a timber beam with what I think was a blunt saw (or perhaps it was his acknowledged inability to manage the task) and he then unveiled a plaque in recognition of the occasion.

It was good to have a chat with the Erina shedders and also meet up with members from the Wisemans Ferry Shed (who are still working on getting their shed built) and the Kincumber Shed, the first Men's Shed on the Central Coast.



Bob Miller, Secretary, with Lucy Wicks and Adam Crouch addressing the crowd prior to Adam cutting the beam.



Who has ever been to a Men's Shed opening and not had a sausage sizzle? Good snags though!

Upper Hunter Men's Shed Meeting

I attended a gathering at the Scone shed recently and it also has a very enviable set up. The shed is build adjacent to the Senior Citizens Centre and have access to a kitchen, meeting room, office and computer room away from the noise and dust of the workshops.

I was impressed with their dust extraction system which I'm sure would be the envy of most sheds. With ducting to all machines feeding back to a cyclone extractor system built into a sound proof room the men should enjoy working in a almost dust free workshop.

I enjoy visiting sheds and seeing the enjoyment of men as they talk about the things they do while in the shed. I'm sure they don't stop talking about it when they leave which helps boost their self-esteem and improves lifestyles beyond the shed walls.



Support for the Gulargambone Shed

Following a request to help the Gulargambone Shed get back on its feet following the theft of just about everything they had it is so rewarding to hear of the efforts sheds have made to help out. I know that trucks have been hired to collect tools and equipment and then deliver it to Gulargambone and these reports have come to me from our own Zone and Zones in the south of the state. When the 'dust settles' I anticipate receiving a report with photos on the generosity of sheds which will be posted on the NSW web and I'm told those donating items will receive recognition with names on a board in the shed. Well done.

Celebrating National Volunteer Week 2016

Thanks to some kind shed or shedder, who remain anonymous, for nominating me to attend a gathering of volunteers in the NSW Parliament House to celebrate Volunteers Week. I look forward to the trip to the 'big smoke' and chatting with other volunteers over a light lunch. I hope to catch up with other shedders during the event.

Complaints from Sheds

The last 2 weeks have seen 4 complaints about the activities in sheds come across my desk. This number is unusual but it's not uncommon to be dealing with a formal complaint at least once a month. Not from this Zone I must say but if disputes could be sorted within a shed before a formal complaint arrives it would mean less work for all. Often sheds need to be contacted for formal replies in order to sort out the matter and this prolongs the grievances, which should have been resolved at shed level.

Every shed should have a disputes / grievance resolution plan that is available to all members. This hopefully helps resolve a situation before it becomes a full-blown dispute, which tends to bring other members into the matter. We all like to attend our sheds to enjoy ourselves and humans being as we are disagreements arise so the sooner they are resolved we can get back to enjoying the companionship of others.

John Sharples

Secretary

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Aberdeen Men's Shed, Bateau Bay Men's Shed, Branxton-Greta Men's Shed, Cessnock Men's Shed & Community Garden, Cooranbong Men's Shed, Denman and District Men's Shed, Erina Community Men's Shed, Gosford City Model Railroad Club, Gosford Community Men's Shed, Kincumber Men's Shed, Kurri Kurri Community Centre, Manno Men's Shed, Murrurundi Community Men's Shed, Muswellbrook Men's Shed, Peninsular Community Men's Shed, San Remo Community Men's Shed, South Lake Macquarie Community Men's Shed, Singleton Men's Shed, Swansea & District Community Men's Shed, Terrigal Men's Shed, The Entrance Men's Shed, The Shed @ Lake Haven, Umina Beach Men's Shed, Upper Hunter Men's Shed, Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed, Wyong Men's Shed