

Creswick Men's 'Friendship' Shed

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The Shed's 10th Anniversary. *And what a day it was!!*

Tuesday 6th December 2011

From a humble beginning where a few men met for coffee in a room on the Hospital grounds, to a converted garage bursting at the seams and now plans under way to build a large 'purpose built' home on the same site.

For ten years now, men facing social isolation and depression have had somewhere to turn to for a social gathering and some good old-fashioned bonding at the Creswick Men's Friendship Shed.

On the day around 45 people enjoyed a well catered lunch in a spacious marquee in the Shed grounds at 15 Bridge Street.

Past and present 'Sheddies' attended together with their friends and families.

Guests included Catherine King MP, Maureen Gleeson, Manager Community Health Services, Jacki Slade, Community Welfare Worker, Joan Stevens, Social Support Worker, Doctor Rob Watson, Research Services, University of Ballarat and Pam McKee, representing a major sponsor Ballarat United Way.

As one of the first Shed's in Victoria, the emphasis has always been on "Friendship." Important as woodwork and other activities are, they take second-place to the provision of an informal meeting place where men are free to just roll up, have a coffee, relax and have a yarn.

Shed co-ordinator John Quinlan said the resounding success of the Sheds programmes had inspired similar projects around the country. There are now more than 700 sheds in Australia and a number in New Zealand and Ireland.

Sadly missed on the day were Morrie, Tom and Jim, now passed away. These three founding members all gave much and asked little. "You will long be remembered guys!" We also appreciate the efforts of all those who helped set the Shed up and made it what it is today. Our sincere thanks to the cooks, guest speakers and all the willing helpers who helped to make the day a memorable one.

Thinking of joining us? The Creswick Shed is in the Park Lake grounds at 15 Bridge Street. It is open Tuesday and Thursday 10am-2pm and at other times depending on interest. (No joining or annual fees.) John Quinlan can be contacted on 0437 003 925 Tuesdays only.

This is the Shed's first newsletter and we hope it keeps you informed on what is happening and provides an opportunity for anyone to comment or express a point of view.