



Hello Members,

Welcome to the 1ST issue of the Menai Men's Shed newsletter for 2019.

Member Profile Corner:-

In this and future newsletters a willing Shed member will be profiled, providing the opportunity of getting to know our MMS colleagues a little better.

Our victim, sorry, I mean participating member for the profile corner is John Oste.

On a bright sunny afternoon in early November 1926, John arrived in the famous city Vlissingen which is situated in the south of the Netherlands and his family grew to give John 7 siblings. During his early youth he often helped in the family business and delivered products to customers.

In 1940 the German army invaded the Netherlands and during the following years John studied at the Graphics Academy where he finally received his papers as a graphic artist.

During these years the print shop was moved to the well-known city of Arnhem. This city was attacked by the Allies in 1944 in order to secure an important bridge. It turned out to be a very brutal battle where some 9000 allied soldiers lost their life. In later years a film was produced with the name "One Bridge Too Far". Some of us will still remember.

In 1947 John left the Netherlands to work in the graphics department of a large firm in Indonesia to introduce more modern methods in the printing section. Three years later things became uncomfortable for Dutch staff in Indonesia as they were constantly replaced by indigenous managers. Quite a few of his colleagues migrated to Australia.

In 1950, John moved to Sydney and after a few weeks found work and accommodation which was not easy as he had problems with the English language and grammar.

During a brief time in Tasmania another new Australian, also from the Netherlands, female and beautiful, timidly expressed a desire to become his wife.

John acquiesced and, following frequent requests from the then leading political experts, who kept on the radio telling the populace that "We must populate Australia" begat seven children. These are all working and paying exorbitant taxes, to enable the government to pay John's pension.

After five years in various printing shops John was offered a teaching role at the School of Graphic Arts in Ultimo for 25 years until his retirement in 1985. He told me that "They still regret their offer".

Not long after entering retirement, John was encouraged by one of his daughters to become a member of the local Men's Shed and he did.

Thank you John for participating.

Who will be in the next Profile Corner?

Recent Shed Activities;

Below are a few photos from the Postman's Run social outing. Judging by the smiling faces everyone had a wonderful time.





Recent Shed Projects;

Windows and guards have been installed in the new training room and metal workshop by several MMS members and Team Leader Tom.

The following members undertook a repair project of an antique light stand. The restoration was successfully completed by Steve, John, H, Big Al and Ron. Almost forgot the Team Leader, Bill Black.



We also have some additional storage located near the extraction unit. The rack was assembled in no time following the solid footing put in place by Steve. The erection was completed by Steve, Bill, H, Big Al, Mick, Colin and Ron.



MMS Growth;

The MMS membership is growing and we welcome all the new members. Membership count is approximately 107.

For the benefit of these new members I have listed below the MMS Committee Members for 2018 – 2019;

President:- Tom Harris	Committee Members:
Vice President – Bill Black	Ron Alexander
Secretary – Don Rothnie	Ric Schwartz
Treasurer – Phil O'Reilly	Ron Dickinson

Most of the new members have been through the induction process and are currently undergoing safety training and being signed off on the various wood and metal work machinery.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:-

Members who have not received induction and completed safety training, time has run out. Those not inducted or signed off will not be permitted to enter or operate the machinery or equipment.

The members who require training please let either Tom Harris or Bill Black know and arrangements will be made for the training which will be done at the convenience for Bill or Tom, on either Mondays or Wednesdays.

As a duty of care, members not wearing safety equipment will be asked to stop operating the machinery. Safety glasses, ear plugs, ear muffs are required to be work when in the wood or metal workshops. Closed toe shoes to be worn at all times when in the shed.

The MMS is involved in community projects from time to time and assistance from volunteers will be sought to help with these projects. This is also the case when manning the fund raising Bunnings BBQ events. Volunteers are sought to help out.

Men, share the brotherhood and get involved.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter.

NOTE:- If you have any relevant articles with photos for the MMS newsletter please submit for consideration, via email to ron.alexander.nsw@gmail.com