



Hello Members,

Welcome to the 2nd 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 our very own Shed President Tom Harris.

Tom Adam Harris was born in Sydney on 18th July 1943, the second of twins, & lived in William Street Hurstville until about 5 years of age then moved to The Mall South Hurstville.

He went to South Hurstville Primary School on King Georges Road, starting in 1948 and continued his education at Hurstville Boy's High School and finished after the Leaving Certificate in 1960.

Tom started work at Peerless Engineering in November 1960 as an Apprentice Draughtsman and attended Kogarah Tech. (Now TAFE) and gained his Engineering Certificate in 1967. Tom had known his childhood sweetheart Jan since the age of 9 and in 1966 they were married at St Marks Church South Hurstville where they had both had been members of the Youth Forum, a group consisting of about 240 members from all walks of life.

Tom continued working for Peerless, which became Drysis Engineering, as a Design Draughtsman, drawing & designing paint finishing systems, until 1977 when he was head hunted by Thomas Clark to join their new Paint Finishing team. Thomas Clark Metal Finishing Division became Apptech when "the powers that be" decided to separate the divisions of TC into self-funding entities.

Tom and Jan were blessed with 3 children, a boy & 2 girls. Unfortunately, their son Chris was killed in a car accident in August 2004, the same day that Tom was diagnosed with prostate cancer. As we can see he beat that particular challenge in his life.

Both daughters are married. Tom and Jan now have 5 Grandchildren, 4 girls & 1 boy, plus 1 Great Grand Son, 22 months to date over, and a Great Grand Daughter due in June.

While at Apptech, Tom designed the largest automotive curing oven in Australia, it was for Nissan, and was 49m long by 3m wide, 3m high and 4m above floor level with fume incineration and heat recovery systems to reduce running costs.

He continued working in that field at ITW Finishing Technologies on the Emjay Process System until his retirement in 1968.

After 3 years Tom joined Menai Men's Shed at their old shed at Alford's Point and was deeply involved in setting up the new shed at Barden Ridge, spending every week day for about 7 weeks building the dividing wall and arranging the equipment layout. He was elected to the committee 3 years ago, as vice president 2 years ago and as president this year.

Thank you Tom for participating.

Who will be in the next Profile Corner?

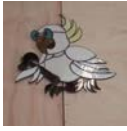
Recent Shed Projects;

There has been a lot of doing on various projects in the shed for Community Clients.

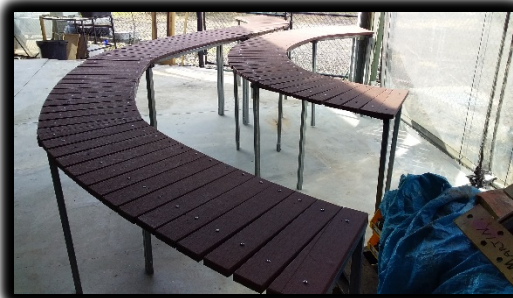
Apparently there has been an outbreak of possums and a number of Possum Boxes were ordered by the Sutherland Council.



The boxes were ably constructed by Phil Gant and Tom Harris.



The curved seating project was constructed for Rich Earth Landscaping on behalf of a local school.



After 128 hours of labour by Ron, H, Big Al, Mike, John and the minor adjustment advisors Tom, Colin and Steve, the job was completed and recently collected.

Metal Shed Activities:-

A lot of interest is being shown by some members and the lathes and welders are being used regularly.

A welding 'work' bench has been constructed and located in the covered work area outside the metal shed. This table is for welding and sanding jobs only.

For members involved in welding, please note that all welding is to be done outside under the covered area and that the doors are to be closed to avoid any flash eye injury to other members working nearby.

Also, as the BBQ is stored in that immediate area, it is the responsibility of the members undertaking any welding to ensure that all gas bottles are removed from the proximity of any welding activity.

Shed Clean Up:-

There was a recent clean-up of rubbish laying around the shed and a big thank you from the Executive to H for providing a tip truck for a day and also the members who assisted in loading the truck. H did two trips to the local tip and you could definitely see the results of the rubbish removal.

Menai Men's Shed (MMS) Growth;

The MMS membership is continually growing and we welcome all the new members. We have a responsibility towards safety in the shed and should we see any member struggling or having difficulty with machinery and or timber, then assistance ought to be offered.

Most of the new members have been through the induction process and are currently undergoing safety training and will be 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 the area 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 worn 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