

# MENAI MEN'S SHED QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## EDITION NO. 6 MARCH 2020

Dear Members,

Now that we are well into 2020 it is time to reflect on what has happened since the last edition of the quarterly magazine.

To those who attended, the Christmas lunch held in the Shed was a memorable event. The food was good and plentiful, and the surprise of the day was a medley of tunes on the bagpipes by Rob McLean.



Rob, who joined the Shed in 2019, says that he learned to play the pipes in 1968 and was an Army Reserve Piper for the Sydney University Regiment for 32 years. He formed his own pipe and drum band in 2005 and now plays for Burwood RSL as the only Pipe & Drum band for the RSL. Rob continues to use the same set of bagpipes he started with.

Rob, Australian by birth, has a Scottish heritage and still works as an Electronics Tech. He started with Wormalds, designing fire alarms, and for the past 18 yrs. has designed roadway lighting systems for ESDR Electronics. He may well have provided you with a safer drive at night. In his spare time, he is a motorcycle fan and displayed his 1936 1200 cc twin Harley Davidson vintage bike and sidecar unit at the recent Bunnings sausage sizzle.

Here are a few snaps of members enjoying the Christmas lunch and of Gerry Flannery being presented with his very own OBE.

A big thankyou to those who organised the event



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Now onto what is available for your use in the Shed. In this edition we have pics of two of the more complicated but very useful machines. Some members may have already used them but to others they may seem quite daunting. The first is the milling machine in the metal workshop. This device can be used to fashion pieces of metal to various shapes that cannot be achieved on a lathe.



Please see Mick Inglis or Alan Carter for information and instruction on it.

The second machine is especially useful if you wish to cut large flat boards and cannot fit them onto the current table saw. The saw can be used in a vertical or horizontal plane and is very precise. Once trained, it is easy to use. You can see similar saws in action at Bunnings, where this one came from.

Jo Buchan 15.3.2020



With the upcoming Shed sale at the Padstow Bunnings, Mal Chins wife, Sandra, has made the glass items pictured below to go into the sale. Thanks Sandra.



Now for a conundrum, what is the easiest way to create a female mortice joint? By using our morticing drill, pictured over, it is possible to get a square hole using a round drill bit. Sizes are limited and practice is required but we have such a device in the wood working shop. Tom Harris and Bill Black can help you with the operating procedures for this.

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Unfortunately, our large thicknesser was found to be badly damaged recently, Investigations revealed that a recycled piece of wood had been passed through it without the necessary checking for and removal of nails. The result was that one of the cutters was completely broken off. It is one of our rules that all recycled timber be checked for nails and other bits of metal, before being processed on any of the Shed machinery.



The now repaired thicknesser above can cope with wood but not metal.

If you are unsure of anything, please ask. It is safer, cheaper and usually ends up being a better and more professional job.

**FOR SALE:** - In the big container at the rear of the Shed we have several sash windows made of cedar. Sizes are 500 D X 660 W and 760 D X 660 W. All are glassed and are in good condition. Any offers? Please see a committee member.

An example is shown below.



Our metal detector, (above) which lives in its drawer by the cordless drills and squares etc. must always be used when working with old timber.



Recent changes to the facilities in the Shed are proving to be a success. The kitchen area has now been cleared and the tables placed in the training/meeting room. This enables other things to be done in the kitchen including the provision of a bench

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top oven. Other ideas are being considered at this time. Here is a pic. of some happy



members who can now find a seat and enjoy their lunch in relative comfort. They may not look happy, but they are planning their next task and waiting for the clock to strike 12.30.

You asked for some humor: -



I heard that John Travolta wasn't feeling well. He suspected it might be the corona virus. Doctors confirmed that it was just the Saturday night fever. So, he will be staying alive after all.'



On a more serious note with the predicted increase in infections from the Corona virus please be careful with your family at home and members when in the Shed.

And to finish off be aware of all the offers being made by both Federal and State Govts. Two new NSW grants to pensioners recently announced are a \$250 fuel card and an electricity rebate in cash of \$200. Check out the NSW Sefvice Centre web site and see if you qualify.

I'm open to constructive suggestions for the next issue.

Till next time.

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