

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC (THE SHED)

The Shed was established in 2012 as an incorporated body through the vision of Rodger Jamieson (General Manager) The Lighthouse Community Inc., Catriona Beaumont (Health Promotions) from War Memorial Hospital (WMH), Clif Munro (Member of Lane Cove Men's Shed), and Peter Chapman (Church in the Market Place Bondi Junction).

We are Shed No 751 in the Australian Men's Shed Association. Our aim is to stand as men, shoulder to shoulder, working alongside one another - sharing a joke, friendships, hard issues and our lives.

So how did we get to here? I'd like to share a little of our journey with you. As part of the Lighthouse Community in Bondi, I was concerned that as a family support program we were not really reaching out effectively to men. I had read of the success of Men's Sheds around Australia and in August 2011, went throughout the municipality taking photos of possible Shed locations.

On coming back from a holiday in early October my wife showed me a Wentworth Courier Article 28 Sept 2011 where Councillor Moira Main was advocating for the old Queen's Park Scout Hall to become a Men's Shed. I rang Moira and asked if she was serious about a Men Shed for Waverley, and organised for us to get together for a coffee and chat. Thanks Moira, you were the catalyst and inspiration to start this venture. So on the 10 October 2011 we met and discussed Men's Sheds and possible locations including the Scout Hall. Unfortunately, having checked the Scout Hall with an architect, we found that it had too many challenges and was unsuitable.

That afternoon Peter (our Vice President) and I went over to the Lane Cove Shed to see a Men's Shed in action and there met Ted Donnelly and Ruth van Herk who went out of their way to explain the intricacies of Men's Shed life and explained how to effectively set up a shed. Thanks Ted and Ruth for your ongoing kindness, generosity of time and spirit given to us on our journey.

Ruth said, this is very strange, as I'm off over to Waverley next week to visit a Scout Hall and talk with Council about starting a Men's Shed in Waverley. She also mentioned that I really needed to connect with a lady named Catriona Beaumont, who runs Health Promotions at WMH, as she is very interested in the concept as well.



*Ruth van Herk (Centre from Lane Cove MS)
Cr Moira Main (second from right)
Cr Prue Cancian (second from left)
Cr Dominic Wy Kanak (third from right)
Waverley Councillors*

On 25 October 2011 Catriona and I met at WMH. As we talked it was plain that our visions coincided, and she invited me to a meeting the next day with the Executive Officer of WMH, Ged Hyde and a UnitingCare Ageing Representative, Garry O'Toole (who incidentally Peter and I were going to have a meeting with the following week).

On 26 October 2011 during our meeting the Hospital's Executive Officer announced he will make available a shed on WMH grounds for the Men's Shed. We then went to have our first glimpse of what was to become our Men's Shed. Ged, we are very grateful to you and Garry for that decision.

Concurrently, Clif Munro, a Waverley resident who travelled over to attend the Lane Cove Men's Shed, also realised the need for a Men's Shed in the Eastern Suburbs, and via Ruth connected with Catriona at WMH. Catriona with Ruth and Clif were invited by Moira to present the Men's Shed concept to a meeting of Waverley Council and received unanimous support.

Catriona and I then went into grant overdrive to obtain funding to make this happen. We applied to the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership and the Clovelly branch of the Bendigo Community Bank to help with renovations to the shed, and to UnitingCare Ageing through the Church in the Market Place for major tools and equipment. We were successful and these grants helped to convert the existing shed at WMH into a fully equipped woodworking workshop for men from the local community.

We would like to thank our local state member Bruce Notley-Smith for facilitating our application to the NSW government, and to the Mayor of Waverley John Wakefield, his councillors and officers for supporting and being partners with us in this grant process. We would also like to thank Rev Peter Godwin from the CMP for his support in helping us to secure funding for our major tools from UnitingCare Ageing. A great support for us has been Clovelly Community Bank – Nazife Halil (Community Officer) has been a constant encourager to us and a great help in establishing our banking facilities. We want to thank you and acknowledge your support and encouragement in making this Shed a reality.



Part of our Formation Committee

Having secured funding we then needed to get the Shed Organisation happening. We had seven interested people who became the Formation Committee. They lead us through the incorporation process, joining AMSA, meeting every 2 weeks, and working hard to make it happen. They then became the first Board of the Waverley Community Men's Shed Inc, which was incorporated on 15 May 2012.

The Board comprised President Rodger Jamieson; Vice President Peter Chapman;

Secretary Garry O'Toole from UnitingCare Ageing; Treasurer Alan Watson; Men's representatives Clif Munro – Technical; Catriona Beaumont (WMH Men's Health Promotions); Board member Dennis White – Creative Arts. Special thanks go to Garry our secretary who steered us carefully and was the liaison person between our Committee and UnitingCare Ageing and WMH.

Clif Munro played a very special part as our Chief Technical Specialist who put together all the men's toys/tools we see in the Shed today.



On 26 July 2012 we launched the Shed with an open invitation to men in the community to express their interest in a Men's Shed. A BBQ was held and the Mayor of Waverley Council, Cr John Wakefield, cut the ribbon to launch the Shed, with Ged Hyde, WMH Executive Manager, symbolically handing over the keys to the Shed to us.



Mayor Cr John Wakefield Cutting the Ribbon

Special thanks go to Andrew Chapman of Chapman Architecture for developing plans for renovating the Shed. On 30 July 2012 I submitted a Development Application to Waverley Council and this was approved on 6 September 2012. A contract with our fantastic builder, Allen Wilkins and his team was signed on 2 November 2012, and the renovations began. The 24th January 2013

saw the building completed and Council issued our Occupation Certificate.



Cr Dominic Wy Kanak

The official opening of the Shed on 22 March 2013 was celebrated with a BBQ. Councillor Dominic Wy Kanak opened the occasion with an Acknowledgement of Country.



Ged Hyde Exec Manager WMH

The Executive Manager, Ged Hyde, welcomed us to the hospital site, highlighting the donation of the Shed by UC Ageing and WMH.



Dignitaries inspecting the Shed

Rev Peter Godwin, Minister Church in the Market Place (CMP), acknowledged funding from UnitingCare Ageing for major wood working equipment to the Shed via CMP.

Peter Swan, Manager Clovelly Community Bank, spoke of the importance of the Shed and their help in funding the Shed renovations. Ted Donnelly AM, President of the Australian Men's Shed Association, highlighted the importance of men's sheds to men's health and congratulated us on our opening.



Ted Donnelly speaks about AMSA

Bruce Notley-Smith MP, our State Member for Coogee, spoke of the provision of major funding for the Shed renovation via the NSW Government Community Building Partnership, and then unveiled the Shed's Opening Plaque. As Shed President, I thanked all and acknowledged the assistance and funding from both Waverley Municipal Council and Woollahra Municipal Council to help equip our Shed.



Bruce Notley-Smith MP unveils the Shed's Opening Plaque

A Memorandum of Understanding for use of the Shed was signed with UnitingCare Ageing on 30 July 2013 and the shed opened for men to attend on 22 July 2013.

Rodger Jamieson
President (2012-2015)
Waverley Community Men's Shed Inc.