

THE SHEDDERS DO ODD JOBS FOR RESIDENTS

The Men's Cave at Mark Moran Vacluse is promoted by Tom Wolf and Dach Hall, the founders of the Shed, as a coffee club for the residents, to give the men at the exclusive retirement village a haven to get away from the overpowering numbers of women compared to men at the Village.

This is undoubtedly true, but at the same time a service is provided to the residents (women as well as the men) by the various jobs, repairs and advice given to the residents.

That advice can vary from "If you don't put the gear into 'Park' you can't take the keys out" to "Don't do that, it will void your warranty. Please return it to where you bought it!". Other advice is more basic such as to what is the best glue to use, and the job may be as simple as punching additional holes in a belt as many seniors lose weight and their body shape changes.



Since July 2018 the pair have completed over 50 repairs, mostly small repairs ranging from Tom "knocking up" a wooden pawn in the Chess Set on the second floor housing people in "care", and the "boys" fixing a broken wooden bar stool to be as good as new. Quite often the job will involve assisting in assembling IKEA or other flatpack furniture and chairs, or unsticking drawers of a chest.

But more often than not, the job is fixing broken furniture where a resident tripped or unbalanced and fell onto. Helping the residents to decorate by making stands to display extra large plates is also a service that has been provided.

The changing of the height of tables, chairs, or even "walkers" and sticks is a regular task, but the adding of height presented a greater challenge. When a resident could not look at the million dollar view from her balcony because the railing was in the way, the seating was raised by fitting sleeved stilts for all the legs of the armchairs and the settee. One very satisfied resident! who now enjoys watching the Sun set slowly over the Harbour, the Bridge and the CBD.



Gluing ceramic knick-knacks that have sentimental value is the hardest. Anything from very special, broken ears of a ceramic "bunny" cup, to a pink elephant that is smaller than a 50 cent piece. Usually the job cannot be done fully because by the time the object gets to the Shed some of the fragments are missing. The resident is always informed of what is likely to be the result, but just as usually their reply is that their alternative is either to throw the object away or the have their keepsake, possibly a gift or memory of a grand/greatgrandchild, even if it is imperfect.

Doing occasional jobs for the residents is challenging but very satisfying.

