



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

President	Clif Munro
Vice President	Tom Wolf
Secretary	Graham Ely
Treasurer	Rodger Jamieson
Men's Representative	Tom Wolf
Board Member	Peter Black
Board Member	Steve Mitchell (6 months)
Board Member	David Brem

Co-opted Board Members:

Board Member	Jeff Silberbach
Board Member	William Honeyball

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE:

Waverley Community Men's Shed
War Memorial Hospital
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www.waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au
E: secretary@waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au

Presented to the
Annual General Meeting
18 November 2020

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WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC.
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

WCMS COVID 19 ATTENDANCE ROSTER						
DAY			DATE			MANAGER COMMENTS
MANAGER			TECH			
CONDITIONS OF ENTRY						
1. You must be screened by WMH staff before entering the Shed.			8. Shed tools to be placed in collection bin after use for sanitising.			
2. Social distancing applies at all times.			9. Avoid sharing tools and other Shed equipment.			
3. Hand sanitising procedures apply at all times.			10. Take your work/project home at end of the session.			
4. Cover mouth when coughing.						
5. Dispose contaminated waste immediately outside Shed.						
6. No food to be brought into the Shed (medical exemption permitted).						
7. Disposable beverage containers to be binned outside after use.						
BY SIGNING IN YOU ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE CONDITIONS LISTED ABOVE						
SESSION TWO - AFTERNOON						
NO	NAME	CONTACT	WMH CHECKED	SIGNATURE	TIME IN	TIME OUT
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						

THE ROLE OF 'THE SHED'

The Waverley Community Men's Shed (the Shed) is an incorporated body operating under the umbrella of the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) – we are Shed No 751 of over 1000 Sheds in the Association. Our Shed is normally open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 3pm and we invite men to join with us to socialise and work alongside other men on various community and individual projects.

The aim of our Shed is to advance the health and well-being of our members by providing a safe and happy environment where men can, in the company of other men, socialise, use and develop their creative skills (such as with woodwork), learn new skills, and learn about men's health and well-being.

Our Shed seeks to address the issues of isolation, loneliness and depression sometimes faced by men when they cease full-time employment or are looking for work. We provide space, tools, support and programs. We also offer a referral service to members directed towards meeting their physical, emotional, mental health needs and support for the human spirit.

We support our local community (not-for-profit and individuals) by using our facilities to fill their needs through repairs or custom making.

We support our local trades by refusing requests or commissions from businesses operating for-profit.

The Shed is located on the grounds of War Memorial Hospital Waverley, a UNITING NSW/ACT facility, and we are grateful to both organisations who encouraged the formation of our Men's Shed and provided the physical facilities for our use and development.

ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2019 to 30 JUNE 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present this **7th Annual Report** to Shed members.

2019-20 will be remembered as **'The Year of Living COVID-ly'** as we endeavoured to continue with our **core values** of supporting the health and well-being of our members and giving tangible support to our local communities, as you will read in the following pages.

The composition of the Shed Board changed at the last AGM when Graham Ely replaced Peter Chapman and our Treasurer, Steve Mitchell (who resigned from the Shed mid-term) was replaced by Rodger Jamieson. During the year the Board co-opted William Honeyball, Jeff Silberbach and Peter Chapman (briefly) to assist with particular aspects.

Under the terms set out in our Constitution, seven (7) Board members are elected for 2 year terms with approximately half of the Board standing down at each AGM.

The continuing members are: David Brem, Rodger Jamieson, and Graham Ely

Retiring members available for re-election are: Tom Wolf, and Peter Black.

SHED ACTIVITIES

During 2019-2020 the Shed was open for operation three days a week, from 10am to 3pm, for 33 weeks with a 4 week break over the Christmas-New Year period. We were closed for 15 weeks during the pandemic restrictions.

MEMBERSHIP

2019-2020 was the **seventh year of operations** for the Shed. At the end of February 2020 we reported to AMSA that our Shed had **74 financial members**, a **34%** increase from **55** the previous year.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

A primary objective of Waverley Men's Shed is **to enhance the wellbeing of men in the community.**

A Shed can be a home from home for many men. One that offers social support, a sense of purpose and belonging. All of which have been shown to strengthen our immune systems and improve our health. We aim to change the narrative around how men do health. To change the outdated view that men have no interest in their health.

Regrettably, a number of health-related presentations were unable to happen this year due to the pandemic but we look forward to their resumption next year.

Through our policy of a 'no work' **lunch break**, all daily participants in the Shed get a chance to talk together and solve the world's problems. This assists socialisation and inclusion for new members.

Men's Representative **Tom Wolf** actively keeps a watchful eye on everyone's welfare.

MEN'S REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

To say that the past 12 months have been difficult would be an understatement, yet the members of WCMS have, on the main, coped well.

Since the last AGM we had a very successful end of year party but regrettably all activities since March have been curtailed due to COVID-19. The Shed was totally closed from mid-March and even when we re-opened it has been on a very limited and restricted basis.

During the time of total closure, contact was maintained with all the members by way of daily humorous emails to keep their spirits up (except for the duration of my own "episode" at St. Vincent's Hospital) and in fact the period of isolation and consequent need to contact members has resulted in the creation of a regular newsletter called Scuttlebutt, which has become a monthly publication.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of one of our Honorary Members, **Harold Gold**, whose humour and infectious laugh will be missed. We wish his widow Jill and his family and friends condolences and a long life.

Gad Kainer has undergone brain surgery and is recovering very slowly, and we wish Gad a full recovery and hope he will soon return to the Shed.

As referred to, my wife and I both contracted the dreaded COVID-19, in my case it was a close call, but, other than some ongoing issues with my lungs I am pleased to report that I am recovering.

Some members have chosen to remain in isolation and we continue to check with them as to their welfare.

Otherwise the members have generally enjoyed good health, with a few members undergoing successful surgeries and procedures, and apart from old (or is it older) age they continue to prosper.

Tom Wolf

WCMS Members' Welfare Representative.

ART SHOW

In July of 2019, Shed member **Rodney Bassetti** suggested the Shed promote an exhibition of work by our Shedders. From his conversations with the other men, Rodney believed there was untapped talent mostly unseen at the Shed.

The culmination after months of background work was our spectacular Arts and Crafts Show held in the WMH Training Rooms. Attendees were entranced with the variety of items on display. Our men not only brought in a variety of wooden objects but also ceramics, paintings, iron works and model making. The Opening Night was attended by our Shed Patron, Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP (Coogee) and the display continued the following two days. The overall proceeds from the sale of generously provided items by the members amounted to \$1305.10.

The Shed Board join me to thank Rodney for providing the drive for this most agreeable activity.



Shed Patron Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP (centre) pictured with Rodney Bassetti (L) and Clif Munro(R).

PATRON

Many Men's Sheds have formally appointed Patrons who can lend support in various ways.

It is with pleasure that the Shed Board confirms the acceptance of our invitation by **Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP**, State Member for Coogee.

Marjorie visited us shortly after she was elected and later delivered a **Community Recognition Statement** in the Legislative Assembly of the NSW Parliament. The text of the statement was published in the 2018-19 Annual Report.

NEWSLETTER

This year saw the inauguration of the Shed's newsletter **Scuttlebutt** under the capable editorship of Vice President and Men's Representative, **Tom Wolf**. The issues contain a host of information about

selected projects, event notifications, health promotions, and general interest. Produced monthly, each edition may be found on the website.

WEBSITE

After dreaming for years, www.waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au finally became a real entity this year. We now have an easily accessible vehicle to promote our Shed and provide many links to specific activities and interests. I invite everyone to try the link for up to date insights of our history, our menfolk, our newsletters, notifications and contact information.

Special thanks to **Jeff Silberbach** who is the principal creator of the site.

NEW LATHE

Interest in wood turning took a big leap with the delivery and commissioning of our new wood lathe and attendant accessories. The lathe was obtained under the Australian Government's MUSTER grants program facilitated by Wentworth local member, **Dave Sharma MP**.

Dave visited the Shed and brought federal Charities Minister Senator **Zed Seselja** along to see a Men's Shed in action. The extensive capabilities of the new lathe has seen many members trying their hand acquiring new skills under the tutelage of **Peter Charlton** and **Ian Dawes**.

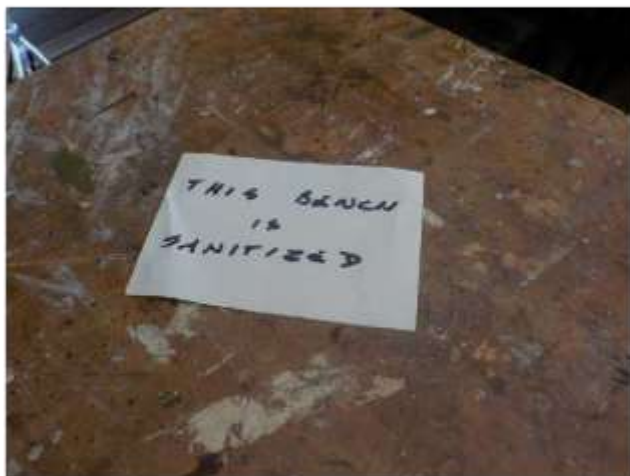
DEDUCTIBLE GIFT RECIPIENT STATUS (DGR)

The *Foundation Committee* for the Shed made two significant decisions. The first was to become Incorporated and the second was to become a Registered Charity. From the beginning, successive Boards have pursued the goal of becoming recognized as a Deductible Gift Recipient. From 1 October 2020, the Shed can issue a Tax Receipt for donations of amounts above \$2.00. This status will enable us to undertake fundraising activities to promote and sustain men-oriented support programs.

COVID- 19 PANDEMIC EFFECTS

Duty of Care has always been the ethos of our Shed. When the Shed was set up, the Foundation Committee ensured that the 'business model' would incorporate safeguards for the well-being of every man who attends. We were thus in a good place when we had to consider what to do and when, as our nation was overtaken by the pandemic. We closed our doors mid-March anticipating a relatively early re-opening. Following the advice of our Government we eventually re-opened cautiously mid-June with a Covid Safe Plan incorporating the 'four square metre' rule and 'one point five metre' social distancing. Due to this need to space out, we instituted a Morning/Afternoon

Sessional Model requiring attendance 'spots' to be pre-booked. Thus we were able to accommodate eight members at each session. Additionally, WMH temperature checks and contact tracking were required. Special attention was directed to sanitising tools and work surfaces.



Many of our more cautious members have elected to sit out the rest of the year.

Men's representative **Tom Wolf** instituted a 'Spirits Up' daily message to everyone until he contracted the virus and we spent anxious moments as he was hospitalised for 19 days. We were relieved when he was finally discharged. His brush with the virus dispelled any sense of 'she'll be right Mate'. We will continue to be guided by the science until we can fully reopen.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Our Shed was created with an ethos of 'giving back' and our men enjoy helping our wider community by using our resources to custom make or repair items for individuals or not-for-profit organisations. This is done free of charge but we happily receive any contribution offered by a grateful recipient.



The pandemic onset severely curtailed our ability in this regard – even so, we repaired or made:

drawers; tables; chairs; toys; boxes; breadboards; bee hives; chess pieces; face shields; piano stools; walkers; assembled furniture; possum boxes; work bench; trolley; street library; mahjong accessories; spinning wheel; art accessories; custom cutting and more. As mentioned elsewhere, we support our local trades by refusing requests or commissions from businesses operating for-profit.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE VISIT

Following his visit to the Shed in company with the Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters, Zed Seselja MP, **Dave Sharma MP**, our Federal Member for Wentworth read the following

Community Recognition Statement in the House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament on 21st October,;

Last week, I was pleased to take the Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters, Zed Seselja, to visit the Waverley Community Men's Shed, the only men's shed in the eastern suburbs, in my electorate of Wentworth. It is an organisation that supports the health and wellbeing of men at a difficult time. Men's health sheds have been particularly relevant during COVID by providing men with the tools, the training and the social connections to combat issues such as isolation and mental health, which many men experience upon ceasing full-time employment. As Minister Seselja and I smelt the freshly cut wood and talked with members about our own less-than-perfect woodworking skills, we were impressed by the craftsmanship of some of the items on display. We admired an exquisite jewellery box that was being crafted by the treasurer, Rodger Jamieson, and the detail in the delicate ship being worked on by the vice-president, Tom Wolf. Tom Wolf, interestingly, also spoke about his ordeal fighting COVID and how, having survived ventilation and after being in a coma for 10 days, he no longer takes his health or his mates for granted. He is grateful to be back at the men's shed turning wood in the company of his friends. While it wasn't needed on the day, I also viewed the much appreciated air conditioner that was purchased and installed for the men's shed with a successful grant from the Stronger Communities Program. I'd like to thank the president, Clif Munro, and board member Peter Black for facilitating our visit to the men's shed and congratulate all the members in that men's shed and, indeed, men's shed across Australia for providing much-needed support to men at this challenging time.

SNIPPETS

We have for some time had a loose fraternal relationship with **Midland Men's Shed** in Western Australia. What began with their Secretary sending us

The Midland Line, their monthly newsletter has now developed with the input of our Scuttlebutt editor Tom Wolf to publishing selected articles in each other's newsletters. It might be that the two Boards will eventually explore a 'Twin Sheds' formalising.

When I visited Ireland in 2018 to attend the **Irish Men's Sheds Gathering** in Cork, one of the people I met was **John Brennan** from the **Penicuik & District Men's Shed**. John came to Australia to visit his daughter and dropped by several times to chat. When he left he presented us with a Penicuik Shed plaque. The Irish Men's Shed Association has around 500 Sheds on both sides of the border. They closely follow the Australian Men's Sheds Association model and collaborate in a number of common interests.

VOTES OF THANKS

We operate because we are underpinned by many organisations and individuals. We are indebted to:

The many **Shed members** who take turns with the **Administrative** and **Technical management** of the day to day routine.

UNITING NSW/ACT through their entities War Memorial Hospital and Church in the Market Place for enabling us to operate in this truly wonderful setting.

Ged Hyde, Executive Manager; **Jane McGuire**, Service Manager/DDON; and **Catriona Beaumont**, Health Promotion Coordinator, **War Memorial Hospital** for actively supporting our venture.

Woollahra Municipal Council and **Waverley Municipal Council** and their Community officers for support through their grants programs which enable us to continue to develop and run the Shed.

Rev Peter Godwin and **Church In the Market Place** Bondi Junction for their logistical support.

Peter Roebuck for acting as our honorary auditor each year.

Peter Swan and **Community Bank Clovelly** (Branch of Bendigo Bank) for attending our banking needs and promoting our Shed activities

Coogee Electorate-office of the NSW Parliament for supporting and promoting our activities

Wentworth Electorate-office of the Australian Government for facilitating grants under the Stronger Communities and MUSTER Programs

Bunnings Warehouse Randwick and **Eastgardens** for their donations of products and materials and Sausage Sizzle spot

Grants – we are grateful to the following organisations for their grants to our Shed:

- Woollahra Council – Clean Air Filtration
- Department of Infrastructure and Woollahra Council – Air Conditioning Systems
- Department of Social Service (MUSTER) Grant – new lathe

THE YEAR AHEAD

The Board is anticipates that the Shed will continue to meet the needs of men in our Eastern Suburbs community.

During the pandemic we received a number of membership enquiries and we anticipate that most will join in the New Year

We also have a number of probationary members transitioning to become full Shed members. As long-term shed administrators step back, more of the newer members will be needed to step up and volunteer as admin and technical supervisors to support our operating needs.

Goals for this coming year include

- replace our poorly functioning dust collection system with an industrial grade dust collection system
- developing a weekly ZOOM get together for our men who are still sitting out the pandemic
- to consider reprising the successful Art and Craft Show

IN CONCLUSION

I first met Rodger Jamieson in November 2011. He was sitting in the gloom of the Shed as it then was, furiously writing a Grant application that closed that day.

As I see how our Shed has developed, I have immense pride that I have played a small part in its success.

I thank the Shed's Board and all the members for the trust you have afforded me to be your President these past two years.

Thank you all for attending our AGM as your support is valued.



Clif Munro- President
Waverley Community Men's Shed Inc.

