



WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

President	Tom Wolf
Vice President	David Brem
Secretary	Graham Ely
Treasurer	Rodger Jamieson
Men's Representative	Tom Wolf
Board Member	Peter Black
Board Member	Ian Dawes
Board Member	Peter Charlton

Co-opted Board Members:

Board Member	Jeff Silberbach
Board Member	William Honeyball

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE:

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Presented to the
Annual General Meeting
24 November 2021

WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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.

Acknowledgment of Country: We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional owners and custodians on whose land we walk, work & live.



The members of the Waverley Community Men's Shed are grateful for the friendly and helpful service when purchasing refreshments and food by Alma and the staff at the Manos Café run by the War Memorial Hospital.

We were delighted to assist in creating decorations for the Cafe requested by Alma for Christmas 2020.

ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2020 to 30 JUNE 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present this **8th Annual Report** to Shed members.

We re-opened the Shed in June 2020 with great fanfare and hoping to continue operations, be it with great limitations. From the outset it is appropriate to thank Peter Black for administering attendances. Initially we relied on the Covid administration by the War Memorial Hospital but we eventually obtained our own QR Code and thermometer and were able to "self-administer" attendances.

The mid-2021 Covid related lockdown caused disruption to our activities, including (for the second year running) cancellation of our anniversary celebrations in July, but circular emails to members with humorous bits and pieces, and ZOOM sessions at lunchtimes enabled contact with member to raise their spirits.

With all its issues and difficulties the members of the Waverley Shed have successfully continued with our core values of supporting the health and well-being of our members and giving tangible support to our local communities, as will be apparent from what follows in the following pages.

The composition of the Shed Board changed at the last AGM when our President, **Clif Munro**, announced his retirement and he didn't seek re-election.

Additionally, 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, and this year retiring members available for re-election were **David Brem, Rodger Jamieson, and Graham Ely**. They all stood for re-election and were re-elected.

The continuing members were **Tom Wolf and Peter Black**. To fill the additional 2 vacancies we welcomed **Ian Dawes and Peter Charlton** who were duly elected to the Board.

During the year the Board co-opted **William Honeyball, and Jeff Silberbach** to assist with their respective specialty and experience.

The executive positions were determined by the Board and the full composition and duties of the Board are as set out on page 1.

SHED ACTIVITIES

During the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 the Shed was open for operation three days a week (subject to public holidays), from 10am to 3pm, for 48 weeks with a 4 week break over the Christmas-New Year period. We operated with some limitations throughout the period as required from time to time during the Covid restrictions.

MEMBERSHIP

2020-2021 was the 8th year of operations for the Waverley Shed. It may have been the onset of the pandemic shortly after the membership renewal process started, but nevertheless many former members did not renew their membership for the 2019-2020 year and we reported to AMSA at the end of February 2021 that our Shed had **62 financial members**, slightly down from the 74 we reported for the previous year.

In spite of this decrease, it was particularly pleasing that, despite the prevailing conditions and Covid restrictions, since February 2021 our numbers have swelled substantially with all but 2 members from the previous year renewing their membership and a **flood of new Probationary members** many of whom became full members prior to the end of June 2021.

Along with membership renewals we gave members the opportunity to show their pride in the Shed by wearing a distinctive badge on their work shirt, and many members have taken up this opportunity by buying a badge.



HEALTH AND WELFARE

A primary objective of Waverley Men's Shed is to enhance the wellbeing of men in the community. Our Shed is a home away from home for many men, one that offers social support, a sense of purpose and belonging. All this has been shown to strengthen our immune systems and improve our health.

Through regular contact with all members who absent themselves from the Shed, we ensure members' welfare.

We had arranged health and welfare discussions that were unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic, nevertheless we were able to hold a well attended discussion on the topic of "Prostate myths, problems and issues that concern" led by **Dr Gad Kainer**, a Shed member.



Gad Kainer leading "Prostate" discussion

Our members have attended the Health Promotion Seminars held by Uniting at the nearby Day Centre at the War Memorial Hospital.

We look forward to, a number of health and welfare related presentations in the coming year.

The 'no work' lunch break, is strictly observed and all daily participants in the Shed get a chance to talk together and solve the world's problems.



'No Work' lunch break

The conversation is lively and enjoyed by all, assisting in socialisation and inclusion for new members.

Funded by a generous grant from the **Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation** we were able to offer members First Aid Course and Emergency Care Course during June 2020 conducted by **Phil Wicks** and the Royal Life Saving Society. 10 members attended these courses and we expect that more men will attend the courses next year



Despite the "play-acting", Rodger Jamieson and Rodney Goldberg take real interest in first aid

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of **Harold Gold** on 12 October 2020. Harold had been a member of WCMS for many years and is remembered for his sense of humour and his infectious smile. Harold was quite a craftsman with his marquetry, which amazed all the members. He attended regularly until his lengthy illness prevented him from doing so.

Men's Representative **Tom Wolf** actively keeps a watchful eye on everyone's welfare and it is pleasing to report that, whilst some members have had periods of illness and have undergone successful surgeries and procedures, that apart from old (or is it older) age, they continue to prosper.

Although some members feel that they should not attend the Shed until the pandemic ends, or at least until successful vaccinations are prominent, most members have returned to work at the Shed, and we have been able to keep the Shed open (in the main) during the reporting period although at times on a very limited and restricted basis.

SHED FUNCTIONS

Due to the Covid restrictions then in force, the planned 7th Anniversary Party (July 2020) had to be cancelled.

Since the last AGM we had a very successful end of year party limited catering considerations due to the pandemic, so the members couldn't bring their favourite foods.



After most of the limitations and gatherings were lifted, the members enjoyed their end of year party

Despite the pandemic limitations still in force, well over 50 members attended the end of year party and we were also pleased to host our Patron, the **Dr. Marjorie O'Neill MP**, State Member for Coogee and our Patron, and **Ged Hyde**, Executive Manager of the War Memorial Hospital who attended.



Our Patron, Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP addressed the men at the end of year party.

We thank Dr O'Neill for addressing the men and her kind words of acknowledgment for our work and her continued encouragement and support.

ROYAL EASTER SHOW PRIZES

It is particularly pleasing to report that 2 Shed members were successful with entries in the 2021 Easter Arts & Crafts Competitions.

We congratulate **Rodney Bassetti** who won the the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Arts Committee Award, chosen from a total of 826 painting entries.



"The Long Day" with the winning ribbons

Rodney's entry was titled **"The Long Day"** and was entered into the "Painting Class 1: Rural Subject and/or Landscape Painting". Rodney received a second ribbon for winning this Class. It is a landscape painting in acrylic depicting children in the Arena on their ponies. It was painted based on a photo taken a couple of years ago as the children were still parading towards the end of a drawn out very hot day.

We also congratulate **Phil McLeod**, who entered a **"34cm Diameter Eucalyptus Burl Platter"** in the "Woodwork Class 287 - Platters/Bowls. Turned from one piece of timber, either solid or laminated but not segmented."



The winning entry, front and back

Phil is an avid woodworker specialising in particular in woodturning. As well being a member of the Waverley Shed, he is also the President of the Sydney Woodturners Guild Inc.

Those experienced in woodturning know the difficulties in turning a burl, let alone one this size.



A very proud Phil McLeod with his winning entry

USE OF MACHINERY AND USE OF THE SHED

We are proud that we have the best woodworking machinery in our workshed.

Our SawStop, lathe and other machines are the envy of many Sheds and will likely have saved many body parts being cut or severed by its special safety features. All machines are expertly maintained by our team of Machinery Advisors, **David Brem**, **William Honeyball**, **Rodney Goldberg**, and most recently **Peter Black**. It is appropriate that we express our gratitude to this team for their hard work in performing a thankless task.

We must also acknowledge the work of the Technical Supervisors, **Peter Black** and **Tom Wolf** who lend support by teaching members in the use of the various machines, and assist members who may not be trained in using the machines by helping their projects along by helping the members.

We cannot leave this subject without a very special mention of the work of **Ian Dawes** and **Peter Charlton**. They were charged by the Board with the responsibility of introducing members to woodturning on the lathe that was recently acquired and they went about this with gusto.

The lathe is now one of the most frequently used machines in the workshed.

The **Administrative Supervisors** give of their time without complaint. They are responsible for the daily harmonious conduct of the Shed and the members who attend, and they excel at this task. **We thank them all.**

NEWSLETTER

The Shed's newsletter **Scuttlebutt** has continued to be published monthly under the editorship of **Tom Wolf**. The issues contain lots of information about most of the projects being worked on in the Shed by the members, event notifications, health promotions, and items of general interest. Each edition may be found on the website and all projects for the past year may be found detailed (and photographed) by visiting the website.

WEBSITE

www.waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au is now a popular site used by members and non-members alike. It is an easily accessible site to promote our Shed and provide many links to specific activities and interests. We thank **Jeff Silberbach** who is the administrator of the site.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Within our 4 walls we encourage our members to also participate in activities that improve men's health outside of Shed hours.

As for sporting activities, we are pleased to report that at the **NSW STATE LONGBOARD TITLES** our resident surfers **Roger Jamieson** and **Peter Chapman** competed in their respective age group events in early May 2021.



Peter Chapman in action

Rodger Jamieson in action



Our boys did themselves proud, impressing the judges with their manoeuvres and style in the playful one metre surf, both of them making it to their respective age group finals, Rodger coming 4th overall in his (over 70's) and Peter 2nd in his (over 65's).

PATRON

Many Men's Sheds have formally appointed Patrons who can lend support in various ways and it is a great honour that **Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP**, our local State member for Coogee, remains our Patron. Marjorie visited us for our Christmas party in December 2020

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE VISIT

Always taking an interest in the Waverley Shed, **Dave Sharma MP**, our federal local member for Wentworth, took time out of his busy schedule to visit us in October 2020. He brought along with him **Senator Zed Seselja** (the then the Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters), and we were able to demonstrate our Men's Shed in action. The Senator was also keen to discuss our eligibility to being recognised as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)



Dave Sharma MP and Senator Zed Seselja with Tom Wolf and Rodger Jamieson

Following his visit to the Shed **Dave Sharma MP**, read the following **Community Recognition Statement** in the House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament on 21st October 2020:

"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"

As already indicated, it was with great pleasure that we entertained **Dr Marjorie O'Neill**, our local State member for Coogee and our Patron together with and **Ged Hyde**, Executive Manager of the War Memorial Hospital

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 has been able to issue a Tax Receipt for donations of amounts above \$2.00.

The donations received have enabled us to undertake fundraising activities to promote and sustain men-oriented support programs.

COVID- 19 PANDEMIC EFFECTS

Throughout this year we have had to continue our operations with the pandemic hanging over our heads. The conditions of our operations were always subject to the limits and restrictions necessitated by regulations, but this was not difficult to achieve as 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 re-opened at the beginning of the year cautiously 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.

Subsequently as the restrictions slowly eased, the sessional model was abandoned and the 'two square metre' rule was adopted just in time for our Christmas party, and over the Summer break we registered for **CovidSafe** operations with our own QR Code, temperature check and CovidSafe checking in system which continued until the Shed again closed for lockdown conditions just as June 2021 came to an end.

Many of our more cautious members elected to sit out the year but Men's representative **Tom Wolf** ensured that contact was maintained with

all members who were staying away by email or more personally by telephone. We believe that it is this "matey" attitude that resulted in such high proportion of membership renewals when they became due.

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.

Working within the pandemic constraints has not diminished our ability in this regard, it is best that these jobs and projects are described in a pictorial annexure to this report.

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

FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

For some years we have maintained a loose fraternal relationship with **Midland Men's Shed** in Western Australia. What began with their Secretary sending us their monthly newsletter has now developed with the input of our Scuttlebutt editor Tom Wolf to publishing selected articles in each other's newsletters.

We now have a similar reciprocal arrangement with the **Ballina** and the **Hornsby Men's Sheds**.

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 as **Administrative and Technical supervision, management and maintenance** of the day to day routine of the Shed.
- **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 the various grants and programmes created by the Federal Government
- **The Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation** for enabling the maintenance of our defibrillator and other first aid equipment and for assisting our members in receiving first aid training
- **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 generous grants to our Shed:

- **Woollahra Municipal Council** – Clean Air Filtration - the new dust collectors greatly improve the air quality for the members who attend the Shed and create a much safer environment



- **Dave Sharma MP (Member for Wentworth) and the Federal Government by way of the DSS Muster Grant** – new lathe - The VICMARC VL 240 heavy duty ASM swivel head lathe is a piece of much needed equipment as it will enable our members to do very precise turning



- **The Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation** – first aid training – the grant assists in the provision of health initiatives for our members by making it possible to update our AED defibrillator and provide funding for our members to receive First Aid training

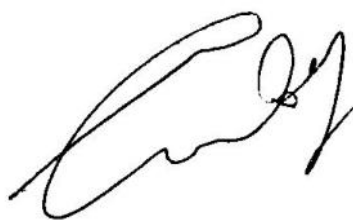


Danny Goulburn of the Wolper Foundation delivered the grant funds pictured with Rodger Jamieson, Gaham Ely and Tom Wolf

We currently have a number of grant applications either in progress or in contemplation and we hope to report our success next year.

GOALS

- Our principal goal this coming year is to continue to advance efforts to help our members through the remainder of the pandemic and thereafter to promote initiatives to promote their health
- Whilst our machines are “top of the tree”, we continue to crave for advancement and improvement and we continue to search for safety in the Shed.
- With the appointment of some fresh faces into the Technical Team, we would like to train more members to use the fantastic machines in the Shed
- We are conscious that our tenure at our present premises is temporary as WMH is planning building improvements on the site which will necessitate our relocation and a re-think of our machines and operations. This year may well involve negotiations with Uniting Care for the future location that is to be offered and we will need to prepare for the changes that are around the corner.
- These considerations are foremost in our minds in planning for the future.



Tom Wolf - President
Waverley Community Men's Shed

IN CONCLUSION

In this year of my term as President of the Waverley Shed, I have come to appreciate the incredible work of my predecessors in office, and I thank **Rodger Jamieson, Peter Chapman**, and in particular **Clif Munro**, who built a solid base for the Shed's operations and continued success.

I take great pride in the Waverley Shed and its past and current members who continually contribute in their own way to the Shed's success. I am constantly reminded of the incredible skills our members possess

I thank the members for their trust, and I wish to express my gratitude to the Shed's Board who have worked very hard for the benefit of the entire membership. I thank them for their support. Thank you all for attending our AGM as your support is valued.

WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2020-2021



*Building chests of drawers and highboys for the **War Memorial Hospital**.*



***Peter Ulmer and Jeff Silberbach** have been working together restoring items they have found by the roadside and selling them to raise money for their "other interest", **Mentoring Men**.*

*Making a school activity table for the **Wairoa School**, the team was led by **Rodney Bassetti** and he was assisted by **Mo Dhanoya, Peter Black, David "Bremmy" Brem, Richard Cortis and Ian Dawes***





Graham Ely made 2 “street library” boxes for the **Junction Neighbourhood Centre** in Newland St, Bondi Junction



Waverley Shedders re-newed/refurbished a set of climbing bars for the **Bondi Beach Play Group**. This project was carried out by **Rodney Goldberg, Tony Mandarano, Peter Black, and many more**



The **Rose Bay Community Garden**, provides a space to create a beautiful garden for the local community where people can grow organic fruit and vegetables, it also houses a number of native Australian beehives which were expertly made by **Rodney Goldberg**



Mahjong is played weekly at the Randwick City Council’s Lionel Bowen Library at Maroubra. **David “Bremmy” Brem** expertly made a number of tile holders/stands for the convenor of this community activity.

Members **Tom Wolf** and **Dach Hall** continue to assist the residents of the **Mark Moran Vaucluse Village** with the work they do to assist that community.





Ian Dawes and David “Bremmy” Brem** make toys that they give away to just about all charities needing toys for children, but mostly they donate the toys to the **Childrens’ Hospital at Randwick



*Possum boxes are constantly being made at the Waverley Shed. There are too many members to list, because everybody chips in for this activity led by **Peter Black***

***William Honeyball’s** experience at fixing things is often called for. This time he was caught repairing/restoring a fold-down table and an art deco lamp.*



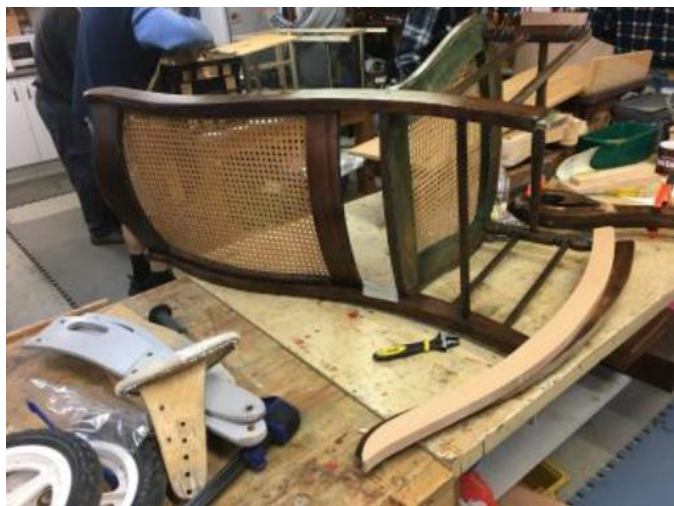
*The bushfires and the floods destroyed native and honey bees by the millions, so a collaboration between a number of Men’s Sheds called the **Beemergency Project** was started to making “5 Frame Nucleus” hives and bee hotels for those that remain. Our Shed participated thanks to **Rodney Goldberg***



Peter Black and **Peter Charlton** have been building “light boxes” at the request of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children based at WMH. These boxes are essential in the training of children to adapt to cochlear implants.



Volunteer music teacher **Philip Feinstein** has established music classes for children and adults inside immigration detention centres under the name “Music for Refugees”. The group is staging a musical and we were asked to help with some of the staging fixtures. **David “Bremmy” Brem** made one of the props for the show.



A community project that was undertaken was the repairs of an old wicker rocking chair. It had a broken rocker and leg and one of the armrests had seen happier days. **Tom Wolf** and **David “Bremmy” Brem** replicated or repaired the broken parts of the chair.

Apologies to those members who worked on other community projects but whose efforts are not recognised in this Report. Your work and efforts in advancing the Shed’s ideals is greatly appreciated.