



# **WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC.**

## **NINTH ANNUAL REPORT**

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

### **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

President	Tom Wolf
Vice President	David Brem
Secretary	Graham Ely
Treasurer	Rodger Jamieson (co-opted)
Men's Representative	Tod Thompson (co-opted)
Board Member	Peter Black
Board Member	Ian Dawes
Board Member	Peter Charlton
Board Member	Peter Ulmer
Board Member	Jeff Silberbach (co-opted)
Board Member	William Honeyball (co-opted)
Board Member	Charles Gerrard (co-opted)

### **ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE:**

Waverley Community Men's Shed  
War Memorial Hospital  
125 Birrell St Waverley NSW 2024  
T: 02 9386 5998  
[www.waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au](http://www.waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au)  
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Presented to the  
Annual General Meeting  
28 September 2022

# WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

### 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.

## ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2021 to 30 JUNE 2022

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present this **9th Annual Report** to Shed members.

Yet again, the coronavirus caught up with us, and like all of NSW we were in lockdown as the year started on 1st July. By that time we had a well established newsletter ("Scuttlebutt") that could be used to communicate with all the members, as well as circular humorous emails to keep their spirits up. Thanks to Tod Thompson we were again able to offer personal contact by way of weekly lunchtime ZOOM sessions.

Regrettably we had no alternative but to cancel our anniversary celebrations for yet another year.

We re-opened the Shed in October 2021 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 utilising our own QR Code and thermometer, so we were able to "self-administer" attendances.

With all its issues and difficulties the members of the Waverley Shed have successfully continued operating 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 and we welcomed new faces (and some old ones)

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, last year David Brem, Peter Ulmer and Ian Dawes were elected for 2 year terms, at this AGM the **Tom Wolf, Peter Black, Graham Ely and Peter Charlton** are required to retire but are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand.

To enable better management and to ensure more members would have the experience to manage the Shed in the future, and to assist with their respective specialty and experience, we co-opted **Jeff Silberbach, Rodger Jamieson, William Honeyball, Tod Thompson and Charles Gerrard** to the Board. Further, **Tod Thompson** was appointed as Welfare Officer.

The executive positions were determined by the Board and the full composition and duties of the Board are as set out on page 1 (**Peter Ulmer** latter relinquished his position as Treasurer and **Rodger Jamieson** was appointed to that role).

### SHED ACTIVITIES

During the period 1 July 2021 to October 2021 the Shed remained closed due to Covid restrictions and from October 2021 to 30 June 2022 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

2021-2022 was the 9th year of operations for the Waverley Shed.

Despite the adverse conditions brought about by Covid, and having regard to some members moving from the area, it was particularly pleasing to observe that only 7 members failed to renew their membership and we reported to AMSA at the end of February 2022 that our Shed had **63 financial members**, ever so slightly up from the 62 we reported for the previous year.

It was also pleasing that our numbers have swelled substantially with a **flood of new Probationary members** many of whom became full members prior to the end of June 2022.

At the time of membership renewals members are given 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 and displaying the badge on their clothing.



## 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 and we thank **Tod Thompson** for his work in this regard. Tod 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.

Regrettably with the Covid restrictions, and the subsequent retirement of Phil Wicks, our friendly First Aid instructor, we have not been able to hold any more First Aid Courses and therefore we have not been able to acquit the generous grant from the **Volper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation** as we have only partially spent the grant.

We have been granted extensions of time for such acquittal but are trying to organise courses.

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

It is with great sadness and sorrow that we record the passing of **Dr Kelvin Edward Hopper**. Kelvin was one of our quiet achievers who just enjoyed coming along, working on his projects and being in our company.

Kelvin fought a long battle with Parkinson's disease and a few months ago his condition gradually worsened. Sadly Kelvin passed away peacefully on 22 December 2021.

It is with great sense of sadness and sorrow that we also record the passing of our foundation member and good friend **Alex McIntosh**.

Alex was quietly spoken and he was there from the outset, one of our original Technical Advisors

Alex introduced box-making and pen-turning to the members of the Waverley Shed. We recall his dry sense of humour and selfless dedication to passing on his knowledge and experience.

Alex had been in ill health for quite some time and moved to Queensland to be closer to his children. Alex finally gave up his gallant and determined fight against his illness on 26 April 2022.

We remember Kelvin and Alex fondly and they will be missed by the Waverley Shed community and all who knew them.

We have maintained a strict policy of minimum double vaccinations to permit attendance, and in fact most members have at 3 or many 4 vaccinations.

In spite of this (and we do understand the reasoning), some members feel that they should not attend the Shed until the pandemic ends.

## USE OF MACHINERY AND USE OF THE SHED

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

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, **Neil Barnard 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 one of the most frequently used machines in the workshop.

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 even though at times it is most onerous and difficult. **We thank them all.**

### NEWSLETTER

The Shed's newsletter **Scuttlebutt** has continued to be published monthly under the editorship of **Tom Wolf**.

The newsletter is aimed at promoting men's health initiatives and the various issues also 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 for the 2021/22 year (as well as previous issues) 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](http://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.

### CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS

We also encourage our members to participate in other activities that improve men's health outside of Shed hours. As for cultural activities, we are pleased to report that **Rodger Jamieson** performed the "Ballad of 1891" with the Solidarity Choir at the National Folk Festival in Canberra.



### 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 surfer **Roger Jamieson** competed in his Over 70's Division event in early May 2022 and came a very credible 4th.



### PATRON

We are most pleased that **Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP**, our local State member for Coogee, remains our Patron. She lends support in various ways and she visited us for our Christmas party in December 2021.

### FEDERAL MEMBER

Our friendly relationship with **Dave Sharma MP**, our Federal Member for Wentworth continued, we have always received great support due to Dave's assistance. We note that at the recent elections **Allegra Spender MP** was elected as the Member for Wentworth and we look forward to establishing a similar relationship with her. We do record that prior to the elections, Ms Spender attended the Shed to gain a better understanding of what we do and to review our activities.



## SHED FUNCTIONS

Due to the Covid restrictions then in force, the planned 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party (July 2021) 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 (State) and our (then) Federal Member Dave Sharma MP addressed the men at the end of year party.*

We thank Dr O'Neill (Member for Coogee) and Dave Sharma (the then Member for Wentworth) for addressing the men and their kind words of acknowledgment for our work and their continued encouragement and support.

## 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 in October 2021 cautiously with a Covid Safe Plan relevant to the then legal requirements with QR Codes being registered, temperature checks and contact tracking as required. Subsequently as the restrictions slowly eased, continued with enforcement of legal requirements for the balance of the year.

## 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 machinery maintenance** of the day to day activities and 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 **War Memorial Hospital** for actively supporting our venture.
- **Woollahra Municipal Council; Waverley Municipal Council and Randwick 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 the **Community Bank Clovelly** (Branch of Bendigo Bank) for attending to 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 facilitating the conduct of a marketplace.

## GRANTS

We are grateful to the following organisations for their generous grants to our Shed during the period July 2021 to June 2022:

- The **Australian Government** approved a grant of \$5,000.00 in the Community Grants Hub through the good services of Dave Sharma MP, our then Member for Wentworth. The proceeds of this grant were used to purchase a NOVA 16" Benchtop Drill Press, a scroll saw and various other items necessary for the beneficial use of the Shed by the members.



*Certificate of Volunteer Grant is presented by Dave Sharma MP (the then Member for Wentworth)*

- **Randwick Municipal Council** approved a grant of \$3055.00, the proceeds of which grant went a long way to enable the Shed to purchase a Festool Domino Machine and Dust Collector as well as other sundry tools necessary for the beneficial use of the Shed by the members.

We will be making a number of grant applications in the next year 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 of the Shed 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 and we are putting our case forward as strongly as possible

### IN CONCLUSION

In this year of my second term as President of the Waverley Shed, I have come to appreciate the incredible work of my predecessors in office, 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.

In particular I wish to thank Rodger Jamieson who again stepped into the role of Treasurer after years of wishing to relinquish the job and to the incredible effort put in by Graham Ely as Secretary. Whilst most members don’t appreciate the responsibilities and additional work these 2 men have contributed, I for one admire them.

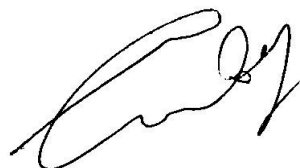
I also must record my admiration for the work put in by Peter Black and David Brem. Whenever a task or problem arises they are the “fall-to” guys and that is where the buck seems to stop. I thank you.

It is with great regret that, for personal reasons, I have decided to step back after nearly 9 years as a Committee member during which time I have served 2 terms as President and 5 years as Vice President.

Accordingly, I shall not be standing for election to any positions on the Board for the forthcoming year.

I wish the incoming Committee and all office holders continued success in advancing the Waverley Community Men’s Shed.

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



Tom Wolf - President  
Waverley Community Men’s Shed



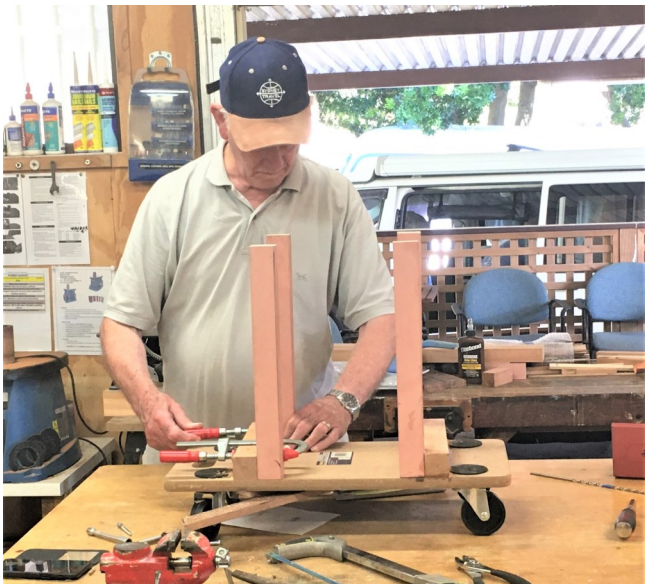
# WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC.

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2021-2022

Our members have worked all year on various projects for individual members of the local community, creating or repairing furniture or other household goods. Most of these projects are recognised in the monthly newsletter and photos of the members and the projects are included in that publication and is available on the Shed's website at <http://waverleycommunitymensshed.org.au>. We invite everybody to visit that site and see how hard we have been working for the community. In this photo report only the major projects for community organisations are shown



**Peter Black and William Honeyball** were busy making **street library boxes** for Soroptimist International Randwick Easter Suburbs, "a global voice for women".



**William Honeyball** also made a **street library trolley** for Soroptimist International Randwick.



Here he is being closely supervised by **Richard Cortis**





**Peter Black** and just about every Shed member get involved making large numbers of *possum boxes*, a project that seems to be going on all the time.



Our toy makers, **David “Bremmy” Brem** and **Ian Dawes** have been mass producing *creative wooden toys* that are regularly distributed to child care centres, including the Children’s Hospital at Randwick



**David Brem** made a replacement see-through *door* for the street library of the Coogee Synagogue.



**Peter Black** made a **playground “kitchen bench”** for the Galilee Private Primary School of North Bondi.

That project was so successful that a much larger project was undertaken, making a **playground fort**



All the playground toys made by our Shed for this school which are very popular with the students..



**Peter Charlton** received a request to make a **golf club rack** for the Avondale Golf Club archive room. The fact that it is already filled with clubs suggests that we may get a request for another, but that is only speculation

*I apologise 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.*