

WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED INC.

12th ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

President. Peter Charlton

Vice President. Peter Black

Secretary. Graham Ely

Treasurer. Charles Gerrard

Board Member Ian Dawes

Board Member Jeff Silberbach

Board Member Steve Weymouth

Board Member Peter Ulmer

Board Member Frank Fay (co-opted)

Board Member William Honeyball (co-opted)

Board Member Brian Sutton (co-opted)

Board Member Rodger Jamieson (co-opted)

Patron: Marjorie O'Neil MP

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE:

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Presented to the Annual General Meeting on 15th October 2025.

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Waverley Community Men's Shed Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

THE ROLE OF '*THE SHED*'

The Waverley Community Men's Shed (the Shed) is an independent, incorporated registered charity operating under the umbrella of the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) – we are Shed No 751 of over 1300 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 skill, 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 for their encouragement and continued support by way of providing the physical facilities at a peppercorn rent as well as the power and water we use.

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

Waverley Community Men's Shed Annual Report

It is my pleasure to present this 12th Annual Report.

The Waverley Community Men's Shed Inc. (the Shed or WCMS) is an organisation focused on improving men's health and making a contribution to our community.

The Shed is a place where men can gather to socialise and participate in constructive projects to benefit themselves, the Shed and their communities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Shed is running well and is achieving its aims: members are working, socialising, exercising, learning, making, repairing and contributing to the community.

The Shed has repaired or recycled or repurposed a large range of household items in the last 12 months as well as making products for its members, their families, community groups, local schools, charities and local councils.

The Shed is financially stable and meeting its responsibilities.

Uniting, our landlord, is planning a major redevelopment of the War Memorial site. This means that the Shed will be unable to operate on the site while demolition and construction works are being performed. Uniting has offered to provide the Shed with a small area in Stage II of their proposed development but this is unlikely to be ready for 5 to 7 years. Without an alternative site, the Men's Shed understands that it will have to close within 12-18 months.

If the Shed is not able to move to a suitable location before having to relinquish its premises within the War Memorial Hospital site, the community will lose a significant asset, its resources, its membership and its benefits, which are unlikely to return. Thus the Board is focused on finding an alternative site and is expecting to be successful.

MANAGEMENT and BOARD

The Shed is being managed and guided by a group of volunteers who give a great deal of time and effort to ensure that the Shed is strong and a pleasant place for men to spend time and socialise while it supports the communities in which we live.

As President I am very grateful for the support afforded by the whole Board, particularly Peter Black the Vice President and the Secretary Graham Ely. The Board has had in this last year some new members that are younger and more energetic than the old guard, thanks to Frank Fay, Steve Weymouth and Graham Carthew.

In addition to the Board there are another group of members who take roles as Supervisors to help ensure that each day the Shed runs safely and well. These Technical and Administrative Supervisors include: Peter Black, Graham Ely, Kenny Lazarus, Craig Rubenstein, Jeff Silverbach, Ian Dawes, Rodney Goldberg, Nick Tyrrell, Frank Fay, Graham Carthew, Peter Ulmer, Tom Wolf & Rodger Jamieson.

But survival of the Shed involves a lot of behind the scenes tasks that many members may not appreciate. These tasks include preparing ACNC compliance returns, tax returns, Business Activity Statements, reconciliation reports and reports to our landlord as well as the day to banking, accounting and clerical duties, and in addition there is the equipment maintenance. In achieving these we have been supported in the background by our Treasurer Charles Gerrard, our Accountant Albert Verdian, Jeff Silverback, Past President Rodger Jamieson and Rodney Goldberg.

SUCSESSES in 2024/5

WCMS exists to improve men's health; physical, social, emotional and intellectual.

Given this as an aim, there have been many successes during the year. Some examples include; members attempting tasks they have never tried before as well as members completing very difficult design projects as well as tricky repair and construction tasks.

In addition to the physical outputs other important successes are harder to see but include the large number of members that are learning new skills, tackling more and more challenging tasks, working cooperatively with and training others. Who said 'you can't teach old dogs new tricks'?

As we get older with declines in health, loss of friends and family the camaraderie offered by the Men's Shed becomes more important, we must strive to continue our efforts.

For the community we have due to our work repairing and recycling household items reduced the waste stream costs in our local government areas. For many community members we have given them back family heirlooms that had suffered through misuse or neglect. For many not-for-profit organisations we have made signs, street libraries, seats, toys, possum boxes, bee motels and more. Making these things helps the recipients but also it gives members a sense of achievement and increased self worth.

BOARD PRIORITIES

Given the threat to our continuing on the Uniting site the Board's priority has been to focus on finding somewhere to go but in addition we have and are continuing to work on:

- Potentially changing the Constitution to enable women members,
- Developing our capabilities in the area of social communications "socials" - Facebook and Instagram.
- Building the systems and infrastructure to support the creation of a large group of 'Friends of WCMS'

WOMEN MEMBERS

At a proposed Extraordinary General Meeting (proposed for December 2025) a motion to change the Constitution to allow women members is expected to be moved. If resolved and if women step up to take supervisory roles, it is expected that the Shed will be able to open 5 days per week. The plan is that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday would still be for men while Thursday and Friday would be mixed gender days. The addition of women to the Shed operation would warrant more reason for a large Shed in the Waverley LGA.

COMMUNICATIONS

We communicate with our community and members by way of our Web site, Scuttlebutt, our newsletter and our Facebook an Instagram presence. The constant and relenting pressure to provide material and updates weighs on those members who take these tasks.

Scuttlebutt continues to be a leader in the field of Men's Sheds newsletters as it does a wonderful job bringing members together and well as forming a 'document of record'.

In the new, new to WCMS, area of socials we have been very lucky to have found Marissa Ely to assist us in getting started. Thanks must also go to Tom Wolf and Jeff Silverbach for their efforts on Scuttlebutt and the web site. In these three areas members need to raise their game and provide our hard working volunteers more content more often.

WCMS has received honourable mentions in the press on several occasions during the year, they include; the Wentworth Courier, EastSide FM, ABC Radio and Chanel 7.

FRIENDS OF WCMS

In the mind of the general public, our elected representatives and the public service bureaucracy the Waverley Men's Shed is not world shattering, nor is it top of mind most days. It is our loss that despite our successes it does not weigh heavily in their consideration. If we are to receive more interest and support from the community we serve we need a more substantial profile, we need gravitas.

The Board is working to develop a new organisation that will sit beside WCMS - the 'Friends of WCMS.' The aim is to build a wider and larger understanding of the benefits that WCMS brings to the community and to improve our image.

The organisation 'Friends of WCMS' will in the future have a large data base of community members and organisations that appreciate the Shed's existence and will provide support to its continuing survival. To achieve this we need to build the infrastructure and provide regular directed communication to its members so that they become involved, so they know what we are doing, what we are achieving for the community and our members, and what our issues are. Members of Friends of WCMS need to be friends who are up to date and involved with WCMS.

YEAR in REVIEW: MEMBERSHIP

Membership is at capacity. We know this because when a new member arrives with the intention of making something he comes in all keen and says where can I work? The answer is have a cup of tea and wait till there is some vacant bench space, after this happens a few times he rarely comes back.

This means we do not go in search of new members and have a short waiting list, short because after a while those on the list drop off.

During the year the Shed lost of one of our most significant recent members, 'Bremmy' - David Brem.

Bremmy did most of the maintenance and adjustment on our machines for many years, taught many of us how to use them safely and was a Board member and Vice President. His passing left us without his humour and his vast knowledge, it was and is a great loss to the Shed.

There is an unofficial sub-group within the membership, that is the 'Over 90s'. It is of course logical that we get older every year but when the 'Over 90 club' has two very very active and very involved members it shows that something is going right. It is good to see both Harry Jacobs and William Honeyball at the Shed each week.

YEAR in REVIEW: EQUIPMENT

We are a wood work Shed and have some very capable, safe and well maintained wood working machines as well as a good range of hand tools for wood work.

Our equipment is capable of allowing members with no real trade experience (accountants & lawyers for example) to make with precision, near cabinet maker's quality items.

Yes, it would be nice to add to our kit a planer/jointer and a drum sander but we have nowhere to put either machine. We have not seen the need to apply for any equipment grants in recent years.

Many members would like: us to be able to offer 3D milling, 3D printing, metal working, art, leather work and upholstery but we have not enough room for wood working so have no intention of adding to the list of activities until we have a much bigger Shed. To offer these activities and improve the service the Shed provides to the community the Shed needs a very much larger floor area.

YEAR in REVIEW: UTILISATION

The Shed is open three days per week, Mon, Tue and Wed, but unable to open the other two days because we can't get enough members to volunteer to take supervisory roles. The opening hours are 10.00am to 3.00pm.

If the Shed were significantly larger it could accommodate more members and from the additional membership we would expect to find more volunteer supervisors and so be able to increase the number of open days per week. Another way of recruiting supervisors is to include women in our membership with the hope that they may be able to take supervisory roles on dual gender days.

YEAR in REVIEW: EVENTS & PARTIES

Yes we have been working under the threat of nowhere to go; having to close the Shed and put all the equipment into mothballs. This has caused many of our members to fear that they would not be able to come back but we still had our parties.

We had the Christmas party, the 12 year birthday party and several dinners some with partners and some just for the boys. The in-house parties were particularly successful after we appointed an official Party Manager and his chief Chef to organise the events and ensure all went well. Thanks go to Mike Barker and Dave Colwell.

We had visits from some of our elected representatives, Marjorie O’Neil MP, Senator Andrew Bragg, Kellie Sloane MP and Allegra Spender MP were some of the notables with Marjorie visiting several times despite her busy schedule.

YEAR in REVIEW: MAJOR PROJECTS

There were a lot of important projects completed during the year but the standout was the rebuilding of a model yacht. The model came to the Shed in a distressed condition but most of its parts were there, sails and all. The model was of His Majesty's Yacht **Britannia**, a gaff rigged cutter that was built in 1893 for Prince Edward the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. The restoration was a standout because of the meticulous research, the detailed re rigging and then the final finished product was just lovely.

Lots of chairs and other household treasures were repaired. The words repairing, recycling, reusing, repurposing and reducing landfill are often used when talking about this work we do and all are relevant to much of what the Shed does for its community. But the most important aspect of this work is that items that had a meaning and a history are given back to the families that loved them so they can continue providing enjoyment for years to come.

Our relationship with the Mark Moran Vaucluse retirement village community and Montefiore in Randwick continues, we have in effect an annex relationship wherein two of our members help run Men’s Shed activities for the residents who live there.

Some community organisations for whom we have done work during the year include:

Waverley Council: We made a bench and a large sign for the Community Garden as well as insect houses and components of their Mardi Gras float.

Ronald McDonald Home: A set of planter boxes and outdoor seats.

Dunera Museum in Hay: A model of the HMT Dunera.

Bunnings: A chocolate wheel.

The Girl Guides: A large street library in a trefoil shape.

WIRES: Possum boxes.

THE FUTURE: WHERE WILL WCMS GO?

As mentioned above Uniting, our landlord, is planning a major redevelopment of the War Memorial site and we need to find an alternative site.

The Board is searching for a suitable site for a Shed anywhere between Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay and while we have a list of “possibles” we have at this time no “probables”.

When looking for a site we are conscious of the fact that our current restricted space limits the number of men who are able to benefit from the social interaction, skill development, improved health and self-worth that attending a Men's Shed provides members.

This together with the fact that our community is growing and moving from houses to apartments means that the demand for Shed facilities will rise. Further, experience of Sheds located in other areas shows that Sydney's Eastern Suburbs have a population of 'Shed age men' that would easily fill three large Sheds. As a consequence, our Board is looking for both temporary and permanent sites so that the Shed or Sheds can both provide the service to more Shedders and offer a wider range of activities.

The search continues, none of us, neither the current board nor our elected representatives want the demise of WCMS to happen on our watch.

VOTES OF THANKS

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

We are indebted to and thank:

- The many Shed members who take turns as Administrative and Technical Supervisors, machinery maintenance technicians and perform general management tasks associated with the day to day running of the Shed. I need to particularly thank **Peter Black** who does everything, **Graham Ely** the Secretary, **Charles Gerrard** the Treasurer and the other Board members.
- **Tom Wolf** and **Jeff Silberbach** for their work on Scuttlebutt and the website respectively.
- **Uniting NSW/ACT** through their entities War Memorial Hospital and Church in the Market Place, for enabling us to operate in this wonderful setting.
- The **War Memorial Hospital** for actively supporting the Shed.
- Peter Swan, Nicola Powell and the Staff of the **Clovelly Community Bank** (Branch of Bendigo Bank) for their grant for Shed relocation and attending to our banking needs and promoting our Shed activities
- **Bunnings** Randwick and East-gardens for their donations of products and materials.
- **Peter Roebuck** for acting as our honorary auditor.
- Our Patron, **Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP**, State Member for Coogee and the Coogee Electorate Office of the NSW Parliament for supporting and promoting our activities.

IN CONCLUSION

I take great pride in the activities and achievements of our 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.

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

Peter Charlton

President

Waverley Community Men's Shed Inc.
