



CENTENARY SHEDDERS



Official Newsletter
of the
Centenary Suburbs
Men's Shed

Season's Greetings

No. 7 - Christmas 2020



Errol "Jone'se" Jones is pictured heating a piece of metal in a forge in the hot metal shop

All fired up. Errol "Jone'se" Jones who recently joined the Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed, is eager to learn the age old skills of working with metals under the guidance of the workshop manager Mark Beale. Mark, a fitter and turner by profession who has created and repaired objects from steel or wrought

iron throughout his working life. Errol hopes to use his creative and artistic skills learned as a former photographer in the RAAF which will enable him to forge and shape metals into objects of interest. The skill of working with metals date back hundreds of years where artisans created fine art and custom metal pieces by

forging or shaping the metal using hammers, tongs and chisels. Errol is pictured heating a piece of steel in a forge to a temperature ready for manipulating into a desired shape.



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GROUNDS MANAGER

ERIC FINDLAY

The Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed has started an Electronics Group that meets on the premises from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm on Monday nights. Run by Electronics Engineer Garth Niethé and supported by software developer Jamie Clayton participants can learn about how electronic circuits work and how to program them using a Raspberry Pi. Cost for the night is \$5.00. For details contact Trevor Johnsson on johnssontm@bigpond.com

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

FORGET COVID !



Hi. I could easily begin this report with a long dissertation about the virus and how it has affected us all and Australia. Lets forget it for the moment and talk about the positives that our shed has enjoyed.

We began the year on a high and finished on a high. Our membership is now over 90 and all of the new members have exciting skills to further brighten our activities.

Speaking of which, we now have a great vegie garden with work under way to increase it twofold. The art classes are well established and we are selling our manufactured goods on our

website faster than we can produce. We now have structured training for those who need an upgrade on their computer skills as well as a Monday evenings dealing with the mysteries (to me) of electronics and coding. The shed is building bee hives and birdboxes for the council and library boxes for local community organisations. Our biggest project in the woodwork section is the photo boxes. I am going to break the rules of this report and say to Brilliant Prints boss Liam, many thanks. The Steam Traction engine is progressing well. Over 14 of our members have been involved in the construction process. Thank you to the Committee Members for your support and hard work in steering the shed in the great position it is in now.

Finally Members and wives, partners have a Merry Xmas and may 2021 be kind to all. A very special Merry Xmas to Norm. Great to hear the best news around for 2020.

David Cope
President
Centenary Suburb Men's Shed Inc.



The Shed Christmas party was once again held at the Monier Hotel and was well attended by members and their partners. Our secretary, Rob Troy was leading the cheer at his table.



MY FIRST 12 MONTHS WITH THE SHED

Story by Ian Schroder

I joined the shed just twelve months ago and am marvelled at the wealth of knowledge that is passed on from member to member, learning how to operate the equipment and enjoy what the shed has to offer its members. Coming from a background in logistics, I was soon earmarked to take on a management role in coordinating and organising the scheduling of projects for sale which are made within the shed. I work closely with our IT manager who coordinates the sales through facebook and our Web site.

My passion is gardening and on joining the shed, established some vegie gardens which has attracted other members to assist in maintaining the gardens. It has been so successful that the vegie gardens have been expanded and now have possum proof fencing protecting fifteen types of vegetables, as well as watermelons and rockmelons all cared for by an automatic watering system.

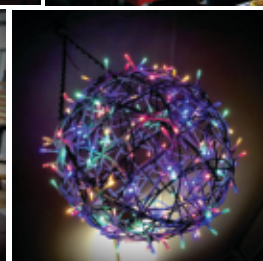
Ian, from gardening to managing the Wood Shop....

My long term goal is to be able to provide our members with fresh vegetables throughout the year as well as herbs, berries and fruit.

Looking forward to the New Year, maybe I can set up a chook run. which will supply fertiliser to our gardens and produce an income through the sale of eggs.



Tom Hayes and Ian Schroder planting vegies in the new garden



INDISCRET - Richard Wilson tells his story about a French Navy vessel named "Indiscret" built in 1750. Richard began building a model of this sailing ship in 1989 and was completed in October this year after a delay.

A xebec of the French navy of 1750. Waterline length about 130 feet, 26 guns, crew about 250.

The year 1750 was a time of great change. The Mediterranean, or "middle sea" was no longer the centre of the known world. The traditional powers, Spain in the west and Turkey in the east, were in decline. The Knights of Malta, who had held the central basin, were becoming impotent while the North African Ottoman outposts in Algeria, Tunis and Morocco were becoming more powerful. Tunisian slavers were raiding as far as Devon and Cornwall. Merchant shipping east of Gibraltar was frequently under attack as were coastal communities anywhere from Cartagena to Cyprus.

France was resurgent after years of decline and the "Indiscret" class was put into service in 1750. A rig similar to that favoured by the Barbary pirates enabled her to close the range before being recognised and to sail as well or better than the enemy, which would not have been the case with conventional European sailing

craft. Ships of this class would have been based in forward ports such as Mahon, Palermo and Syracuse to allow rapid deployment in cases of pirate activity. Their cruises were short, 5 days or less, so crew accommodation and facilities were minimal. The short Mediterranean sailing season has light to moderate weather with stable wind patterns unlike the winter with cold gales and sudden storms.

The elegant and slender hull would have enabled her to be efficiently rowed in calm weather and while entering or leaving port. Her crew would have all been skilled seamen, topmen and gunners both, unlike the pirates who largely relied on slaves for manpower. The name has continued in the French navy until recent days.



FOR SALE Complete vessel "Indiscret" which can be purchased from the shed

More Shed Activities



Kenneth Clarke working on his long term project

THE ART SHED

Garry Dolan began instructing art classes at the mens shed about twelve months ago and for a change has put pen to paper instead of a brush to canvas to give his thoughts on how he has benefitted from being involved in the art classes.

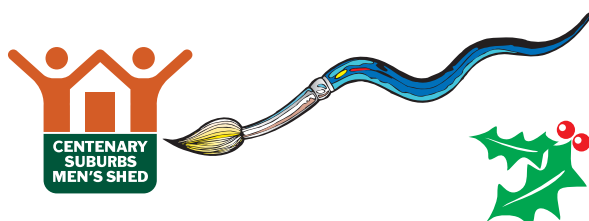
“Painting is easy when you don't know how, but very difficult when you do.” (Edgar Degas)

The more that I paint the more I am understanding that chucking paint at a canvas is only a small part of the artistic experience. Art has opened up a new community. Through art, I have close mates from the age of 21 to 80, people that share the passion of throwing paint at a canvas and hoping that something pleasant evolves.

It is a great privilege to be involved in the Shed's art program and gets me back to the real essence of what it means to be an artist. We have created a community of artists that spends as much time talking as painting. It is not easy creating a painting, but everyone is making great progress, not just in creating great masterpieces, but starting to look at the world through the eyes of an artist and becoming passionate about the creative process. I find myself regularly laughing as these new artists tell me that they have spent considerable time looking at clouds. The non-artist won't notice the yellows, greens, purples and blues in a cloud but as an artist you can't not look for the colours other than white.

It's immensely pleasing to feel that I have had a small impact on these wonderful ladies and gentlemen looking at their worlds in a different way.....

- 1. Garry Dolan** pictured with one of his paintings of a young Australian ballet dancer,
- 2. A pastel drawing** by one of the shed artists **Doug Morrison**
- 3. Kenneth Clark** showing one of his paintings which he framed and is now hanging on his wall at his home.
- 4. & 5. Two landscapes** by **Mal Lancaster**
- 6. Pam Mahler** has been painting with watercolour for the past fifteen years and has just completed a painting of an Australian Parrot.



NEW JUG FROM OLD ! Our illustrious Secretary, Rob sets himself a challenge

Rob with the restored jug



Rob Troy is always up for a challenge whether it be tracking through the desert in South Australia or learning to ride a

penny farthing bicycle , no task is too hard for Rob.

Recently, he was presented with a rather difficult challenge at the Men's Shed to restore an old wooden and copper water pitcher that had collapsed and was destined for the rubbish tip.

Not one to turn his back on a challenge Rob set about rebuilding the jug.

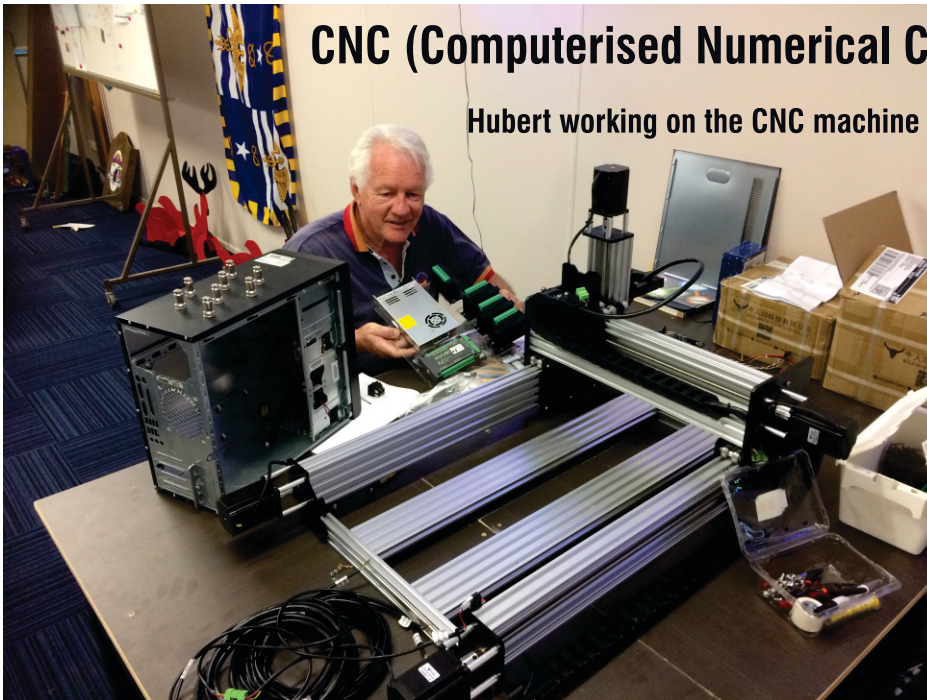
Using a combination of onion and cocoa cola plus plenty of elbow grease, Rob restored this old jug back to its former glory.



The old jug

CNC (Computerised Numerical Control) ROUTER/ENGRAVER

Hubert working on the CNC machine



Story by Hubert Gravendyk

The Mens shed identified an interest within the membership to purchase a CNC router/engraver machine known as a Workbee V2.2. An order was placed and it arrived in October in a box with 574 pieces and no instructional manual. The drawings that accompanied the parts were vague and difficult to read. Rob Murray searched the net and was successful in locating the right documentation.

The assembly of the mainframe took a lot of discussions between Rob Murray, Wayne Bazeley and myself on completion we could now install the 574 parts. We are now concentrating on the electrical side.

The CNC machine has a X-, Y- and Z axis. To be able to use the machine, we need to create a design in CAD (computer aided design), this information is then fed into other software on the computer which can calculate the coordinates for a particular spot of

the design, G code, which is then fed into the CNC control system so that the router can be positioned on all three axis to be able to mill the right spot. This is achieved by using stepper motors, one each for the X, Y, Z axis.

Complicated design can easily have several thousands of lines of code, luckily the software will assist in getting the lines in the correct order to complete the engraving.

It is intended that this CNC machine will help interested members learn the basic CAD drawing and manipulation of software to vary control parameters to achieve a routed or engraving result in materials such as, wood, plastic and soft metals..



Another interesting addition to the Shed's resorses



FULL STEAM AHEAD...



Traction Engine Progress. by Trevor Johnsson

It is hard to believe that this time a year ago we were working on the Riding Truck for the Traction Engine and still waiting for the grant approval so that we could order the Traction Engine components. That approval was received in December and the components started arriving in late January. So how have we done? We are about two thirds complete so that if we maintain our present rate of progress we should finish midway through 2021. To date the doors on the smoke box and firebox are complete and all of the bearing housings have been machined.

The wheels and tyres for both the Riding Truck and the Traction Engine are ready to roll.

The gearbox shafts and associated components have been machined and should be ready for assembly starting around Xmas, the fabrication of the ash-box and grate is in progress and the assembly of the tender is well advanced.

From my point of view, it has taken over my life. It has been like running a small project with all the frustrations and victories and loss of sleep that go with it. We have built a dedicated crew with about twelve members contributing to the project who have managed to overcome all the obstacles thrown at them so far.

Robin Lacey has done all the work on the assembly of the tender whilst Bob McCorquodale, a perfectionist at his trade, has done the more complicated machining of items on the project and acted as mentor to John Holt (who has done a significant amount of the lathe work), and myself. Brian Brumby has done most of the painting of items as they are completed and helped in other areas when required. We hope to complete the project by mid 2021.



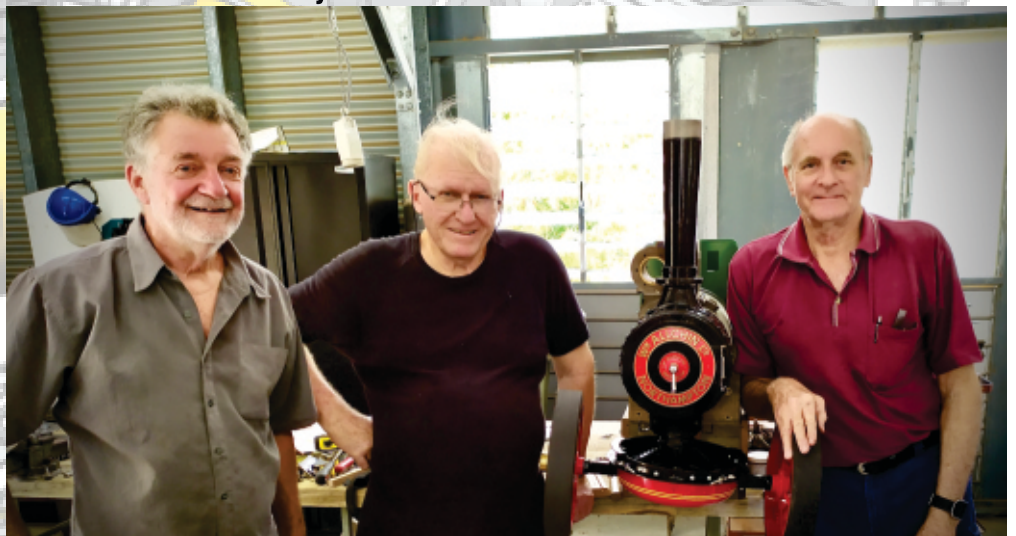
Brian Brumby pictured completing the painting of the iron wheels



Robin Lacey



From left to right: John Holt, Bob Mccorquodale, Darryl Rackley. Darryl is a recent member of the team



Industry Support



The Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed would like to sincerely thank Elastomers, Queensland at Clontarf for donating their services for the casting and machining of the polyurethane tyres for the rear wheels of the traction engine. At the time of requesting a quotation their manager, Scott McGaven, said that he would be happy to help in view of the great services that Men's Sheds provide to the community.

A BIG *Thank You* TO OUR WONDERFUL **SPONSORS**

If you would like to be a sponsor contact Jon Churven on 0418 754 884



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