



THE

Warbler

No 6

SEPTEMBER 2011

Newsletter of
WA Men's Shed
Association Inc.
ABN: 67979314821

To support and promote men's sheds in Western Australia

DEADLINE FOR NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS:

SEPTEMBER 19

CORRESPONDENCE TO:

PO Box 222,
MAYLANDS WA 6931



FROM THE BOARD

WAMSA NOW HAS A PATRON

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**WAMSA is pleased
to announce that
the Governor of
WA,**

His Excellency,

**Mr Malcolm
McCusker**

AO QC,

**has agreed to
become our
Patron.**

I CAN now confirm we have a Patron. See announcement at the left of this page.

We are looking forward to personally meeting him.

There may be an opportunity to meet him in the near future, so therefore the format for the Annual General Meeting may change.

It is contemplated we may have a Men's Shed seminar in the morning where we will be entertained by various guest speakers including a broad overview of where and how WAMSA is at this point.

If we go down this path there will be no Constitutional or controversial issues discussed in this session.

This sort of thing will be dealt with in the afternoon AGM after an informal lunch.

Our funding endeavours are progressing nicely.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend an apology to some of our fellow "shedders" who have contacted me and haven't received the follow up they should have.

If you haven't been successful please make contact again.

John McDougall, Interim President

DIARY DATE

Monday, November 14, 2011 for WAMSA Conference and AGM.

More details as the event nears.



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NEWS FROM OTHER SHEDS

Our shed has just had its 5th Annual General Meeting with all officebearers unchanged. After this meeting a Bowel Cancer presentation was shown this was sponsored by the Cancer Council of WA it was proceeded by a free healthy morning tea.

The next event we will be helping with is having displays at the Mukinbudin Spring Festival September 7 to 10.

We have planted around 60 hectares of wheat and this year so far looks set for a reasonable year. If this occurs we should be able to finish off a restoration on a model R John Deere tractor.

From Mukinbudin Community Shed

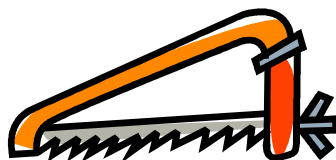
The Genesis of another new Shed?

Well we had our first gathering at the shed. More than 45 men turned up, and the feeling around the group was relief that they now have somewhere to meet and talk with other blokes, an overwhelming support for the project.

Support workers from the local Day Care Centre brought three or four blokes, one of whom said he was surrounded by women, had women neighbours, and he just missed male company, being able to talk to another bloke. We had representatives from the Richmond Fellowship and the local LAMP group that helps people with mental illness also attended. As well as a contingent of young people with disabilities, who attend Intework, the agency providing us the use of the shed free.

People are also already talking to me about well equipped personal workshops and equipment, with the possibility of donating it. I will keep you informed as this progresses, I am advising them that the WA Men's Shed Association intends to start an equipment register so that equipment can be donated and supplied to Men's Sheds across the State who are in need of items. Already I can see something beneficial in this, as farmers who have retired to places like Busselton, may have their heart and soul in more isolated regional farming communities where they farmed, and may like to see their equipment returned to that community for its benefit.

Will keep you posted as to how things progress down here.



DUCK DERBY UPDATE

The Duck Derby day planning is proceeding at a quacking pace (sorry!)

The Stirling Shed and the Canning Shed have volunteered to co-host the Men's Shed side of things and what we need is more sheds to join us. The details are:



The DD will be on Sunday, March 25, 2012. The fairground is being set up at Victoria Gardens, near Gloucester Park and what the organisers want is for the Men's Shed organisation to give kids from the age of five upwards a project that will take no more than an hour to complete. The children will use hand tools consisting of fret saws, small hand drills, hammers, nails and screws. They will be accompanied by a guardian who will sign an insurance waiver.

The organisers will provide a large tent with power and we will provide tables, wood, projects suitable for the children to make and a degree of supervision. The organisers hope to get some form of sponsorship for the tools which we would be able to keep at the end of the day (That is yet to be confirmed).

Sheds would be able to put up their own advertising and sell any goods that have been made by the shedders. We are not permitted to sell food or drinks, or conduct any raffles.

The planning is still in its early stages but I would like to get a commitment from a few sheds that would make their time available of the day, from 9am to 4 pm on March 25, 2012.

Once we get a few sheds willing to assist, we will determine what is to be constructed.

This is a great opportunity for sheds to be involved in a community project. Please get behind this project. **Note that anyone participating will need a Working With Children Check.**

Contacts are:

Mike Murphy, Stirling Shed Ph: 9205 7625

Oz Osborne, Canning Shed Ph: 9330 6854



IMPORTANT TO NOTE

If your shed has any events you would like to publicise please send to Editor BEFORE the deadline date on the front page!

Also please email your Shed's newsletter so Editor can publish snippets where space permits.



**REMINDER TO ALL SHEDS. . .PLEASE UPDATE YOUR LATEST DETAILS TO
W.A.M.S.A. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

AMSA (Australian Men's Shed Association Report



Ossie (Canning Shed) represented WA at the recent AMSA Conference in Brisbane. The venue was the Brisbane Convention Centre (3 storey) with a total area of 2500m². Approximately 370 delegates attended from all over Australia, the movers and shakers of Sheds.

There were Aboriginal men from Arnhem Land and others from other Aboriginal communities. Three blind men with their dogs and two amputees were in attendance so you can see we are open to all men. The following statistics were revealed: 600 sheds across Australia; 37 Ireland; 1 Europe; 1 Canada. The three Irish delegates reported that their sheds operate out of community centres and operate similar to ours in doing jobs for their communities.

One delegate from Canada was representing 37,000 retired schoolteachers on a fact-finding mission and will be opening sheds in Canada. I was lucky to meet blokes from all over Australia doing things for their communities. One major theme I noted was that the suicide rate in our age group has dropped considerably but the 40-year group is still high. AMSA now represents 50,000 blokes throughout Australia and the next Aus Shed Conference is to be held in Melbourne next year.

I was also very fortunate to visit the Pine Rivers Men's Shed out of Brisbane which has 110 members. They operate out of a 2-storey house which the council gave them as it was white ant-ridden. Their President is going to set up a Grey Nomads website so the Shedders can visit other Sheds when they hit the bitumen.

Ossie

Trekking for the Flying Doctor

This project has consumed the last 14 days of my life in a way that even I have trouble comprehending; briefly five older people walked from Narrogin to the Bell Tower in Perth (234km) in seven days, averaging 30-plus kilometres per day with the average age of 58½. No, I didn't walk, I and a fellow Men's shedder from Narrogin were the "roadies".

*Our 4WDs collectively covered 1500kms, consumed over 300 litres of diesel, the motors ran for over 60 hours and averaged a speed of 5.2kmh behind the walkers, and no we didn't use major highways we went overland on some very interesting roads. . .read Tracks! **Outcome:** Number one walker –Ann McLeish was awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award at the RFDS Gala Dinner and Ball and won herself a trip to El Questro Station – Ann and her little band have raised \$30,000 plus. The rest of us are still wandering around like zombies nursing sore bodies.*

John McDougall, Narrogin Shed



**HAVE YOU SEEN
THIS CAR?**

**Last seen travelling in
the direction of. . .????**



STIRLING SHED NOW OPEN

On Friday, August 19, the Stirling Community Men's Shed was officially opened by the Mayor of Stirling, David Boothman. Then the really big day arrived on Friday, August 26 where the Shed was open to the general public to come along and see what all the fuss was about. This was a busy day with heaps of sightseers and 65 application forms were taken to be filled in. Raffles, sausage sizzle, drinks etc was the order of the day and it may become an annual event.