

# SHED NEWS

TASMANIAN MEN'S SHED ASSOCIATION INC



TEAM WESTBURY

## FATHERS DAY

Group Help at Bunnings

6



## AGM

A big day in Campbell Town

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## HEALTH FOR MEN

How men can live life a little longer

20



# From the President and Executive Officer

## Hello everyone!

It's been such a busy time that we decided to combine our reports. First up, thanks to all that attended our major Gathering and AGM at The Grange in Campbell Town. The feedback has been very positive and while we can't ensure that we get everything perfect – for a group of volunteers and one Executive Officer, we do okay. Once again, we thank Sharp Airlines, Walden Accommodation (Dave and Anne-Maree Gray) Carbatec, COTA, Bunnings and Aurora for their support.

We also congratulate the winner of the '2023 Prestigious Aurora Volunteer of the Year' award. The nominations were of a very high standard with the eventual winner Stephen Youd, President of Zeehan Men's Shed getting the nod. The judges had a tough job. From a TMSA perspective, Steve has always helped us out and opened the Shed should we need and offers great hospitality. His community continue to be very grateful for the countless hours of volunteering that he gives.

### Sate-wide Muster

The date has been set – Friday the 10th of November and the destination again (by popular demand) will be the Great Lake Community Centre. We decided to make it a Friday as there's a number of Shed Members that plan on staying on for the weekend to have a fish. Further details will be sent directly to your Shed's email so make sure you check your mail!

### Shed Email Addresses

This continues to be a problem. We regularly have sheds contacting us saying they aren't getting information and that is because as positions change, email addresses change and members often are using their own email addresses – which we don't have. The most simple and effective way – as many Sheds have done, is to include your Shed Name and or location in your email address.

One email that is checked on a regular basis. We can only use what we have so please continue to provide any changes to your contact details – but we strongly encourage you to use your Shed Name/location as your email address.

### Committee Changes

We welcome back to the TMSA Committee in the position of Vice President, former President of Ulverstone Shed and previous member of our Committee Rob McKenzie – a familiar face to many. Rob was our inaugural 'Volunteer of the Year' winner and earlier this year took out the Central Coast's joint Citizen of the Year Award.

We would also like to welcome Mal McGinn who joins us as a Southern Representative. Mal is a member of the Claremont Men's Shed and is currently working with RACT. He is also a Board Member of Foodbank and brings a lot of corporate and governance experience to the role and we look forward to having him on board.

We look forward to seeing you all at Great Lake in November – book in early!

David and Wendy

### Membership Certificates

If you didn't collect your Shed's Certificate at Campbell Town gathering, then it should have arrived with this edition of Shed News! If it didn't let us know.





## Minister's Report

Jo Palmer Minister  
for Community Services  
and Development

*Jo Palmer*

### HELLO TMSA MEMBERS!

I am so honoured to be your Minister for Community Services and Development.

Our Men's Sheds are known as a safe place for people to turn to for help and comfort, and for acceptance. They provide an opportunity for people to come together to talk, to share their lives with each other over a cuppa and a biscuit, or simply a safe space for men who don't want to be alone.

I am continually amazed by the conversations and friendships within the four walls of a Men's Shed, a space that is so much more than just a building with cement floors and machinery.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of our Men's Sheds, for the contribution you make to the health and wellbeing of Tasmanian men by providing an important opportunity to make mates, connect with other men, learn, and share, all whilst working on projects that make an important contribution to our community.

We are incredibly fortunate to have so many active Men's Sheds across Tasmania that cover a large geographical area with many located in rural, regional, and more isolated areas, providing men with a vital avenue for connection.

Our Tasmanian Men's Sheds are also well known for being actively involved in their local communities, from creating benches for public spaces, repairing or repurposing furniture and household items, to creating handmade trophies and souvenirs with Tasmanian timbers.

We must also acknowledge the dedicated volunteers who contribute enormous amounts of their time and effort to ensure their Men's Sheds meet the needs of both their members and the local community.

I would also like to thank the Association for continuing to make Men's Sheds a thriving example of community connection and for their important role in improving the lives of Tasmanian men.

I was delighted to visit one of my local Men's Shed in Riverside last month, to officially open the 2023-24 Grants Program and to witness the exceptional camaraderie and mateship that is generated.

This current grant round that is open until 29 September, has \$25,000 available with up to \$7,000 for tools, equipment, mental health and wellbeing initiatives, member training and community initiatives; and up to \$20,000 for capital works.

**Our Government is so proud to be a strong supporter of this treasured community service.**

Our wonderful new Minister with TMSA Treasurer David Gray



# Energy Saving Tips for Spring in Tassie



## Service your air-con

Routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15 percent.

## Cook Outdoors

On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor BBQ instead of indoor ovens.



## Bring in the Sunlight

During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.

## Set the Thermostat

When you need to use your heat-pump to cool, set the temperature at 23 degrees on the cool setting.



Read more energy and money saving tips at [www.auroraenergy.com.au/blog](http://www.auroraenergy.com.au/blog)

# Shed News

Men's Shed Week kicks off at Ulverstone with a guest speaker from Dementia Australia.



## IT'S MEN'S SHED WEEK



**MEN'S SHEDS  
WERE CREATED  
TO IMPROVE HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING OF MEN  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES**



# Around The Sheds

Who's up to what in our world of sheds and people



## Fathers Day group help!

Many of our Shed's helped out with Father's Day projects at Bunnings



# Around The Sheds

Who's up to what in our world of sheds and people



## Ulverstone's Fishing trip

It doesnt get any better a great trip had by all.



1: President David Seen hits a milestone with his 300th donation of blood. What an outstanding effort in helping others.

2: Pictured with David is Darren Clark who is no stranger to our Sheds who offers mental health and well-being help talks when needed. Thank you Darren.

3: (and yes this is becoming the David Seen page) pictured with Brigid Wilkinson from COTA who we thank so much for being a great partner in a lot of what we do.



# The Geeveston Community WORKSHOP



Workshop is busier than ever and now open 5 days per week! Geeveston Supervisors now have "Machine Free Mondays" where participants can come into a sensory-safe space.

The day is targeted at whittlers and carvers, and also members of the community who are sensitive to loud noise or have hearing issues.

We have also had great success with our induction programme, which runs on the last Saturday each month. It provides the opportunity to come and learn about the shed, be signed off on equipment and make a small project to whet the appetite of future woodworkers. Pictured are the induction projects from our August group, who made teardrop tealight holders.

We also found a great use for offcuts - membership fobs for all our new inductees. If anyone would like to chat about our activities, let us know at [communityworkshop@geevestoncommunitycentre.com](mailto:communityworkshop@geevestoncommunitycentre.com).

Trish Tinkler Workshop Manager  
Geeveston Community Workshop







### TMSA and Eat Well Tasmania partner as part of Men's Health Week 2023

On the 15th June as part of Men's Health week the Southern Network Meeting held at Howrah Men's shed conducted an information session with Eat Well Tasmania regarding their Plate with a Mate campaign. It was a fantastic day and there's many ways your local Men's shed can engage with the program.

Eat Well's Plate with a Mate campaign encourages all Tasmanians to connect with mates and consider a healthier meal alternative.

#### What makes a Plate with a Mate Meal?

- 1: Coming together to share a healthier meal
- 2: Eating within the season
- 3: Sourcing produce that is grown and produced locally
- 4: Reducing waste
- 5: It must be fun

#### Coming together

Sharing a meal can have positive effects on our mental health and well-being. It can reduce loneliness, improve mood, strengthen relationships, and enhance communication. It's a special time to bond, eat well, and build a sense of togetherness.

### Healthier Meals – Eating within the Seasons

Why eat seasonal food?

- Harvested at their peak ripeness. Fruits and vegetables, for example, are often more nutritious when they are freshly picked and consumed closer to their harvest time.
- Seasonal foods tend to have superior flavor and taste.
- Buying seasonal foods can be more cost-effective and can help you save money on your grocery bills.

### Local Producers and Produce

Connecting with local growers strengthens the local economy, provides fresher and higher quality produce, supports environmental sustainability and promotes food security.

### Reducing Waste

By reducing waste, we contribute to a more sustainable and responsible future, ensuring that resources are available for generations to come.

### Making it Fun

Bringing people together to share friendship, food, and fun not only creates wonderful moments but also has a significant impact on our communities and emotional well-being, shaping the places we call home and enhancing our sense of belonging.

Eat Well Tasmania have developed a range of resources to help groups run a Plate with a Mate event. If you wish to know more please contact Peta Fletcher at Eat Well Tasmania via

[peta@eatwelltas.org.au](mailto:peta@eatwelltas.org.au)

or register via their website -

<https://www.eatwell-tas.org.au/our-work/plate-with-a-mate/>

Eat Well have also updated their website to include some suggested Plate with a Mate meals  
Eat Well Tasmania Plate with a Mate recipes



# Shed News

Campbell Town Gathering/  
AGM Wrap up!



**To the 95 guests that made their way to Campbell Town recently, we hoped you enjoyed your day.**

Whilst there's always the formalities of the AGM to get through, we hoped you enjoyed the inspirational talk from Royce Fairbrother, the fun and energy that Dr Shed brings to any occasion, along with the many prizes up for grabs and the wonderful COTA Bird Box Competition.

Congratulations to all that picked up a prize on the day and in particular to those that took the time and made the effort to enter the COTA Competition – well done!

Mole Creek Shed were the lucky winners of our major prize, a trip for two to Flinders Island with accommodation at the 'wonderful Walden' provided by TMSA Treasurer, Exeter and Furneaux Member David Gray and his wife Anne-Maree. Once again, our thanks to Sharp Airlines, Carbatec, Bunnings and all sponsors involved on the day.

Our 'Prestigious Aurora Volunteer of the Year' award went to Stephen Youd, who has led the Zeehan Shed since it's inception. Stephen and his Shed continue to provide an enormous contribution within their community. The hospitality they provide to visitors is second to none, while the care and comfort provided to Shed Members who need it is exemplary. The standard of nominations was exceptionally high and we thank all Sheds who took the time to nominate a Member's contribution. As we often say 'where would we be without our volunteers?' - we wouldn't exist.

### **Save the date!**

Our next major statewide get together will be held at Lake Great Community Centre on the 10th of November. **See you there!**



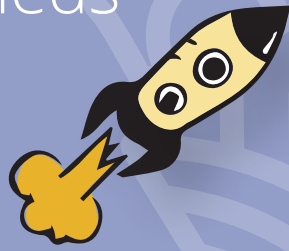
# Shed News

Our AGM



# Around The Sheds

Continued



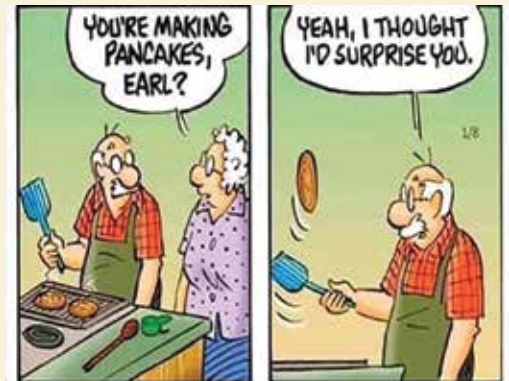
Channel Men's Shed  
Bruce on the broom, Peter up the ladder and Lyndley with a smile.

## Thank you Huonville

Huonville Men's Shed completes 14 boxes for Wildlife and Community Together Tasmania

.....a message of thanks,  
We are incredibly grateful and humbled by our awesome friends at the 'Huonville Mens Shed' for donating their time and expertise to make 14 possum nest boxes for our group. If it weren't for the kindness of these wonderful people (and others who've made nest boxes), we wouldn't be able to offer the boxes, particularly for such an affordable price!

Thank you to all our wonderful supporters and friends who are helping us help our wildlife. We couldn't do it without you!  
Wildlife and Community Together Tasmania



## News from Kentish

The Shed enjoyed a visit from Opposition Leader Bec White - Bob Read, Paul Robinson, Michael Capos, Terry Hughes and Mick Bailey

On the right we have the Shed's latest member, convict Eric who will take up residency at Bannon's Forge at the Shed



Winner

Third

# Around The Sheds

Postcard from Kym from our Huonville Shed



## Greetings from Hawaii



**Also I recently organised fire safety training at the shed and this was done by our local Huonville Fire Brigade. They came and talked about fire safety and then allowed the members to learn and use fire extinguishers.**

Maybe some of the other sheds might be interested in contacting their local stations to do the same thing. Took about 1 hour and they were more than happy to come across and teach us. We made a donation to the fire station of \$250 as a gesture for coming over. Photo of the group on the day, Ben (Trainer with Tas Fire Service) Steve (Staton Chief at Huonville) Paul and Tony with extinguishers.

The Aloha Community Shed was formed in 2021 by volunteers to encourage healthy physical, social, and mental opportunities for seniors to share friendships, experiences and projects with pride, dignity and aloha in a welcoming environment for the benefit of our members and the wider community. Photos also enclosed of the group on the day, some inside their shed with members. Some info below on shed.

Bob Jewell has been an essential and committed part of the #ShedsSF community from the start and we have been privileged to be alongside him and all at the Aloha Community Shed as this new #Shed-Community has come into the world in Hawaii.

Pictured Left to Right: Bob Jewell, Treasurer; Mark Campbell, Secretary; Mick McAndrews, Director; Jonathan Okabe, VP; Charlie McLaughlin, President.

We were given a plaque from the shed which hangs in our shed amenities room and I took flags and tshirts etc to them on first visit back in 2018.

Maybe some of the other sheds might be interested in contacting their local stations to do the same thing. Took about 1 hour and they were more than happy to come across and teach us. We made a donation to the fire station of \$250 as a gesture for coming over. Photo of the group on the day, Ben (Trainer with Tas Fire Service) Steve (Staton Chief at Huonville) Paul and Tony with extinguishers.

Kym Bearcock  
HMS Treasurer

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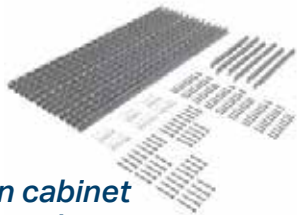


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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE

Contribution from TMSA  
Treasurer, Exeter and Furneaux Member

**DAVE GRAY**

## *The Importance* OF UNDERSTANDING MOISTURE CONTENT

The most important thing that one needs to understand is that timber is Hygroscopic and it will therefore seek to become in Equilibrium with the moisture content of the surrounding air and it will do this quite quickly.

The best moisture content that you can expect for air dried timber straight out of the rack in Tasmania will be around the 14% to 15% mark and it could as high as 18% to 19%. Whilst you may think this is too high remember that timber will seek to be in Equilibrium with the surrounding air and whatever that is will dictate the moisture content of the piece.

The moisture content of the air in your shed might be a bit less if you have a wood heater or if it is summer time so it will reduce a little simply by moving it inside and whilst working on it. The moisture content of the air in your home will highly likely be less thus causing the timber to dry even further. This is why it is very important to understand that timber will move according to how much moisture it absorbs or expels all depending on where the item is finally located. More often than not these days it will expel moisture and therefore shrink as soon as you take it from your workshop into your home. Wood heaters and Heat pumps create a very dry environment and subsequently dry and shrink the timber that you have so carefully fitted and sanded to make the perfect product. There are some important construction methods that need to be considered to allow for timber movement, I will discuss these in the next Newsletter.

Approximate percentages in relation to EMC	
Humidity of surrounding Air	EMC of timber
19 to 25%	5%
26 to 32%	6%
33 to 39%	7%
40 to 46%	8%
47 to 52%	9%

### How to determine the moisture content of a piece of timber-

Basically you are going to have to go and buy or borrow a moisture meter. The most common has two prongs about 50mm apart (Resistance Meter) which are pushed into the face of the piece and the electrical resistance within the timber is measured, this will show on the unit as the % moisture content. The more moist the timber is then the less resistance it will have. There are many brands available and the reliability of the information given is proportionate to the cost paid, just like your tools and equipment, so buy the best that you can afford or better still get your mate to buy the best available and then borrow it!

The most unreliable part of using one of these units is that you are only going to measure to about 2mm deep into the piece and the centre, or core, may be no-where near as dry so you may be somewhat mis-lead. A better approach is to take a piece from the centre of the rack, cut it in half and push the prongs into the centre of the cut end, this will mean that you are measuring the part that will have taken the longest to dry and you will therefore achieve a more reasonable indication of the average moisture content of the entire rack.

Cont.over

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Contribution from TMSA  
Treasurer, Exeter and Furneaux Member

## DAVE GRAY

# The Importance

## OF UNDERSTANDING MOISTURE CONTENT

Another type of moisture meter is the Capacitance Meter which measures the moisture content through the board, to my knowledge these are not generally used though they may be more reliable than resistance meters.

Another way requires you to wait until your partner is not home then cut a piece about 300mm long from the middle part of a piece of timber taken from the centre of the rack, weigh it on the kitchen scales and then bung it in the oven set at 100\*(when done scientifically it should be 103\* but hey?). After an hour or so remove the piece and weigh it again then put it back in the oven. Fifteen minutes later do the same and keep doing this until the weight no longer changes, you will then have removed all the moisture.

The difference in weight from start to finish when calculated as a % of the starting weight will tell you the average moisture content of the timber in your rack. The calculation method is Initial weight minus Final weight = X, divide X by the final weight and multiply by 100 (eg 600g less 520g = 80g, 80/520x100=15%). Don't forget to clean the oven and scales, turn the oven off and put the scales back where you got them from then go back to your workshop and make out that you didn't go into the house all day.

This method is used scientifically, particularly for resolving disputes involving timber movement, and the methodology is far more precise than described here but the above method will still give you a pretty good indication of moisture content.

## Shrinkage-

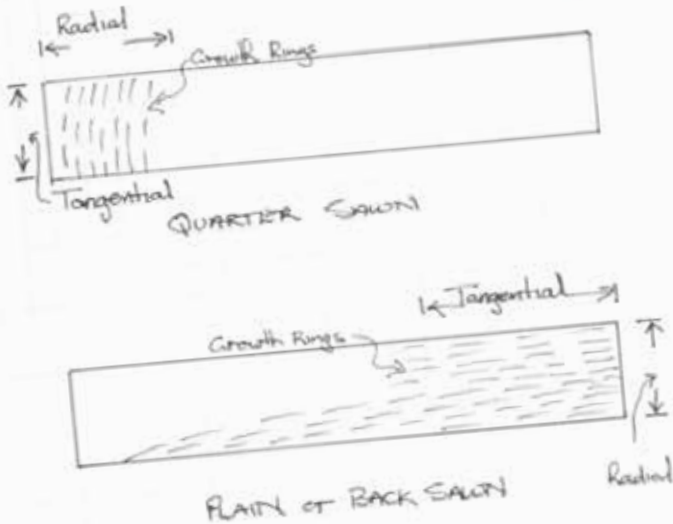
As mentioned previously all timber will shrink as it dries, some more than others and along with timber being Hygroscopic it is also Anisotropic which means that its dimensional shrinkage will differ according to its grain direction. Hardwoods will generally shrink more than Softwoods and all woods will shrink the most in a direction parallel to the growth rings, this is called Tangential Shrinkage or movement. The shrinkage at 90 degrees to the growth rings is called Radial Shrinkage and is usually less than Tangential Shrinkage due to the Medullary Rays offering a degree of restriction (I covered these rays in a previous article). The Longitudinal Shrinkage is less than either of these but some species can catch you out, Celery Top Pine and Macracarpa are particularly prone to it, says I from bitter experience! A quarter Sawn piece of timber will shrink mostly across its thickness and a Plain or Back Sawn board more across its width, this being on a % basis. I demonstrated the difference between Quarter Sawn and Plain Sawn in a previous article, each method creates a different presentation of the growth rings within the piece of timber so therefore the maximum % shrinkage will present differently accordingly., ie- in a Quarter Sawn board the shrinkage will want to occur most across its narrowest dimension and will therefore create a much more stable piece of timber.



Cont.over



THE  
NEXT  
BIG  
IDEA.



TASMANIAN  
**MEN'S SHED**  
ASSOCIATION INC

Men\* Matter

The purpose of this article is to give you a very basic understanding of the often-complicated matter of wood drying and movement because if you don't have that then you will become very disappointed when your beautifully constructed piece splits down the middle due to you not having allowed for it to move. I haven't bothered to elaborate on kiln drying as none of us have kilns and the basics of timber racking and movement due to EMC apply to kiln dried timber as for air dried.

Kiln drying timber speeds up the process and gives a definite identifiable moisture content of every piece. It just starts at a lower point, like when it leaves the kiln, and then behaves much the same as air dried. Generally speaking, properly air-dried timber is more stable and durable, the difficulty is that you need to be sure that each piece in the rack is the same and that is not easily done, especially if you can't wait another year!

< ...  
"Learn to be  
indifferent to what  
makes no difference."

- Marcus Aurelius

"Both optimists and pessimists  
contribute to society. The  
optimist invents the aeroplane,  
the pessimist the parachute."

PHILOSOPHYIDEAS

George Bernard Shaw

YOU JUST CALLED  
ME SMOOCHY MCGEE.  
YESTERDAY YOU CALLED  
ME FLUFF FACE.  
LAST NIGHT IT WAS  
FUZZY BUTT.

BE HONEST, JANET.  
IS IT A MEMORY PROBLEM  
OR IS IT THE DRINKING?



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# Shed News

Members of the Hobart Vintage Machinery Society have nearly finished erection of the framework for our shed at Penna.



## There is quite a story to this framework.

During the Second World War it was brought to Tasmania from the United States of America under the lend lease agreement that Australia had. This shed was originally erected in the quarry where the Hobart City Council has its depot at Clearys Gates.

In 1993 the framework was made available to the Hobart Vintage Machinery Society for erection at the Hobart Showgrounds on land set aside by the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania. The frame was originally clad and roofed with asbestos which was removed before the frame was transported to the Showgrounds by the Hobart City Council. It was put in storage until a new concrete slab was poured. Erection was then done by members over a period of time.

The Society received a loan of \$3000 from the Show Society for roofing iron and wall cladding to complete the project and make it habitable.

In 2019 the Society was advised that it would have to vacate the showground site due to impending redevelopment.

After receiving the necessary demolition permit, members removed the cladding and roofing, dismantled the framework and transported it to our new location at Penna.

Engineering drawings had to be submitted to the Council before it could be re erected.

The steelwork is far superior to any that you would find in shed frames today. There was one issue. The roof purlins didn't meet the specifications of the National Construction Code. This meant that we had to source replacements.

We were in luck because we had salvaged some C section purlins from the stables at the Showgrounds. So after 5 years the framework is once again being erected ready for reroofing and cladding. All the work is being undertaken by our members who are now adept in this type of work. Some of our members who helped with the original erection are again performing this work. Shed size is 18metres x 6metres with a 6metre x 5 metre toilet block to be constructed on smaller concrete slab.



# Around The Sheds

Busy times at Port Sorell!



## Great Work

**A very productive Shed is that at Port Sorell and they do a lot of work for their community.**

Recent projects include the Rubicon Grove Library shelves, school honour boards, barrel bonanza trophy for a Beyond Blue fundraiser and plaques for the 3 participants from the Port Sorell fire brigade participating in the 2023 firefighter stair climb.



# Men's Health

HOW MEN CAN LIVE LIFE A LITTLE LONGER -

By Geoffrey Curtis

LATROBE SHED MEMBER CONTRIBUTION



**This is a true story and one that has been told countless times by others. At the counter in a DYO shop and waiting to pay the bill the conversation veered towards men and their glee towards retirement.**

Our story teller went on to say that a number of his mates including himself were looking forward to 'calling it a day'. However, in observing some of his mates who already had retired and those about to retire they had one thing in common which was to put up their feet up in a comfy chair, drink alcohol and watch sport on the 'telly'. This might seem appealing if not fair after all these men had been working in full time employment most of their lives and they did deserve a bit of comfort. Unfortunately, as the conversation unfolded it appeared a majority of these men were dead within eight years. None appeared to have passed away from an incurable disease, sickness or an unfortunate accident. What may you ask did these men do wrong that curtailed their life span? The short answer is their lifestyle before and after retiring and not planning for their future.

However, it has to be said there are certain factors that have nothing to do with retirement rather an individual genetically being disposed to having a shorter lifespan or an unknown condition such as elevated levels of cholesterol which affect the arteries. With regular checkups from his doctor especially in the latter years before retirement the condition of health could have been easily monitored. As it is most men shy away from a medical centre.

Ones form of employment can also be a factor for example sitting at a desk working at a computer or driving a truck for years on end, not eating a healthy diet and with little regular exercise this may give rise to a bulging stomach.

Health professionals have a range of tools to monitor ones health and favoured is the body mass index (BMI) or waist circumference. This is calculated by dividing your weight and height and based upon your age will inform you whether you are overweight or on the right path. Of course, there are many other things that shape men's health from having low or high blood pressure, the amount of alcohol and regular exercise and more.

The whole point of this publication for 'Shed News' is to inform men that they alone are responsible for their health and wellbeing and no one else. Tasmanian men continue to have the highest incidence of smoking in Australia and the next generation will continue including vaping unless legislation changes, or ill health awakens the individual. Most men have not seen a dentist for years on end for a checkup, and research shows that 10 men die every day as a result of being inactive. Also, 1 in 4 men have no good real mates and 1 in 3 men experience loneliness often without recognizing it or fearful to tell others, and sadly 4 out of 5 suicides are by men in Tasmania.

So, what can be done to save and improve men's lives especially as they move towards retirement? One way is to get on line and have a chat with 'Mens Help Line Australia' on 1300 78 99 78 as well as other men's support groups who go under the banner of 'RUOK?' Another way is to join a local 'Men's Shed' or a low key sport like bowling or a community gardening group. Men who have been inactive for a long time may want to join a gym with guidance on how to train. However, this is not necessary and the local aquatic and leisure centre that offer a range of activities may suit your needs. Take the plunge and go with a mate or by yourself and soon you will meet up with other men. Be outrageous and join a dancing group or a choir, go surfing and why not get a bike and ride, play with the grandchildren and take the dog for a walk every day and smile at others.

There is a major advantage with some of these ideas and that is a minority of men reading this article may actually accept the challenge and be proactive to help themselves. The biggest threat is the known fear in some men not to do anything therefore it may be incumbent upon others to push, cajole or direct someone they know to take the appropriate action if they want them to stay reasonably healthy and live longer. As often is the case it is the wife or partner or another family member who will do this, or a warning given by a GP. Sometimes it's a chance conversation with another man or men's shed who will offer kindly guidance. Whatever it is the wise man will listen and take the new pathway towards an improved life style. We all have choices it's making the right ones that matter.



## Wooden it be Nice

The Woodcraft Guild Tasmania was established in 1986 by a group of people who shared a common interest in fostering the design and manufacture of Tasmanian woodcrafts, to support woodworkers, and conserve Tasmania's natural wood resources.

Meeting monthly, the Woodcraft Guild aims to raise the standard of fine woodworking and give its members the opportunity to learn or share skills. Throughout the year guest speakers cover a wide range of topics where practical demonstrations are welcomed. Before each monthly meeting, members and guests are invited to a BYO barbeque.

The Woodcraft Guild's well-equipped workshop is at Cosgrove High School and is available for members to use on Saturday mornings.

The Guild organises a range of social gatherings, excursions and exhibitions. Members tour workshops, furniture displays and the occasional timber collection expedition.

For a number of years Guild members have attended the Royal Hobart Show and the Wooden Boat Festival. Members give practical demonstrations and help children construct toy planes and boats. Volunteer members hope that having displays at these events may create an interest for future generations in crafting with wood. Saturday morning workshops can include Special Interest Groups like Kumiko panel design and woodturning demonstrations. It is also time where members maintain the workshop equipment and keep up to date with Health and Safety rules and regulations.

The Guild publishes a quarterly newsletter which is emailed to all members. It also has its own extensive library of books, videos and DVD's on all forms of wood crafts.

Becoming a member of the Woodcraft Guild Tasmania offers a wide range of opportunities for learning, developing new skills and mentoring others. Friendships and camaraderie grow through sharing an interest and passion for all things wood.

**Interested? Please contact via email:**  
[woodguildtas@gmail.com](mailto:woodguildtas@gmail.com)





# Trickey Business

– an interview with Paul Trickey from the Howrah Men's Shed

**Paul Trickey grew up in Bendigo, Victoria. Being more technology focussed he was never interested in making or creating things. Paul didn't begin working with wood until he was into his 50's. Living in the hills of Melbourne, on a bush block cutting firewood, he decided to make a didgeridoo. His interest in wood had just begun and he gradually purchased some basic workshop machines – sander, bandsaw and lathe.**

Paul's early career was as a technician with Telecom in Melbourne before becoming a technical support engineer in Telecommunications. He then moved into Graphic Arts whilst in Europe and the Middle East, and on his return to Australia he moved into Project

Management in Radiology and Healthcare. Paul began developing his woodcraft skills whilst he was still working in Victoria. As his skills advanced, he realised that he always made something different and rarely made the same thing twice. Situated at the time in Victoria where access to the stunning Tassie timbers was limited and expensive, it was the annual wood show where Tassie suppliers bought over a few truckloads, that was to become his prime source of timber.

Paul enjoys the creative side of his craft. 'I do like the artistic side of my woodwork; design, aesthetics and balance are very important. I gather many things from nature like shells, rocks, nuts and think creatively on how I can integrate them'. He also enjoys creating designs from recycled wood. 'I made a box for an English friend who had an antique mahogany sideboard that no one wanted. The wood still had the Over 100yo English watermark in it and was held together with handmade nails.'

It's Paul's creativity that drives his design and inspiration, considering himself as more of an artisan than a woodworker. 'I don't make anything just for the sake of making it, I always try something different. Sculpture and carving I find interesting and challenging. I always try different techniques like casting things in resin and then turning it on the lathe.'

His ideas often come from nature. 'It's always the piece of wood that tells me what it wants to be, especially the more artistic pieces I make. Many of my ideas come to me at night, I often wake up with a new design or idea. Living on the edge of the Derwent has also provided many ideas as I walk along and stumble across a unique piece of wood or shells.'

Paul's favourite timber is Huon Pine – 'beautiful to turn but difficult to finish because of its internal oils. I love Myrtle – with its pink colours and patterns.'

Mixing woods is creative but fraught with problems if you are not aware of its characteristics – 'some move, shrink or expand under different temperatures. I always pick out the unusual pieces of wood, crazy patterns, holes, colours and splits.'

'You will have seen Paul's pieces entered in the annual Aroua Art Prize. 'Yes, I really enjoy the Art Prize as it makes me think very deeply on the meaning of the piece and how it relates the Men's Shed philosophy.'

One of Paul's standout sculptures is his Jellyfish. 'The trigger for him was the spines. Last year whilst caravanning up the Ningaloo coast I discovered a beach that was covered in these spines. I had to collect them and integrate into a piece somehow. I had a figured Myrtle bowl that I had turned and was not happy with so that became the body. Some twisty celery top pine pieces at the shed that were about to be burnt turned out to be the tentacles and a waste chunk of sassafras and Huon Pine finished off the body with a touch of black resin.'

Paul moved to Tassie about 3 years ago and wasted no time joining the Howrah Men's Shed. After retiring in Victoria and selling up to travel around the big island for 2 years – Paul moved to Tassie with the notion of becoming a potter.

Cont



It's Paul's creativity that drives his design



Cont.

Realising that he was now living amongst the best craft timbers in the world with no workshop – what do you do? You join a Men's Shed.

'At first I was hesitant to join the shed because my motivation and interest was more artistic than practical. After attending the Howrah Shed those views changed and I now enjoy sharing my ideas with other members.'

Paul enjoys having access to the shed and its resources along with meeting other members. 'I find it interesting, learning the backgrounds and experiences of the various members. Even though I still feel very young, I have found the shed environment challenging at times as some members struggle through health and personal issues, or at time just stop coming'.

But for Paul there is always a reason to come back. 'One of the things I enjoy is helping other members with wood turning, idea development, new projects, supporting them to make something that they would never have tried. Learning from their mistakes and fine tuning it next time.' 'I have learnt that not all members are there to use power tools and make or build something. Many wander in just to have a chat by the fire or are happy to watch someone else using their skills. Many members seem to enjoy just watching a piece of wood evolve into something beautiful on the lathe or while applying a special oil finish.'

Paul's advice is pretty simple when it comes to joining a shed – 'come along - look, listen, trust, observe, enquire, learn, share, and create, but most importantly enjoy the third trimester of our lives maybe doing something a bit different.'

## NEW TMSA COMMITTEE MEMBER



Mal McGinn with TMSA's Bruce Weller and Lyndley Chopping at the Channel Shed.



# Contacts



## TASMANIAN MEN'S SHED ASSOCIATION - COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS 2022 - 2023

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## TASMANIAN MEN'S SHED ASSOCIATION INC. HONOUR ROLL - FORMED 2009

Year	President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Shedder of the Year
2009	John Waters	Arnold Kreig	Mary-Anne Orchard	Greg Hunt	
2010	John Waters	Ken Sulman	Mary-Anne Orchard	Greg Hunt	
2011	John Waters	Ken Sulman / Arnold Krieg	Brendon Evans	Sandra Comins	
2012	John Waters	Peter Shelley	Ken Sulman	Sandra Comins	
2013	Peter Shelley	Charlie Trafford	Jonathan Bedloe	Sandra Comins	
2014	Peter Shelley	Ross Kent	Jonathan Bedloe	Sandra Comins	
2015	Peter Shelley	Bob Thomas	Keith Ellis	Sandra Comins	
2016	Bob Thomas	Bob Lowe	Keith Ellis	Graham Fogarty	
2017	Bob Thomas	Mike Dennis	Keith Ellis	Graham Fogarty	
2018	Mike Dennis	David Seen	Keith Ellis	Graham Fogarty	
2019	Keith Ellis	David Seen	Bruce Weller	John Bastick / David S. Gray	
2020	Keith Ellis / David Seen	David Seen / Fred Wales	Bruce Weller	David S. Gray	
2021	David Seen	Fred Wales	Bruce Weller	David S. Gray	
2022	David Seen	Fred Wales	Bruce Weller	David S. Gray	Rob McKenzie
2023	David Seen	Rob McKenzie	Bruce Weller	David S. Gray	Steve Youd
	Patron	Bob Clifford			