

# POTTSVILLE and DISTRICT MEN'S SHED Inc.

ABN 21 150 644 108

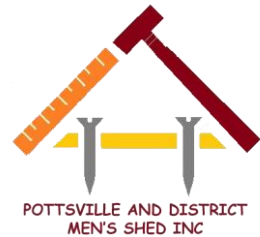
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9<sup>th</sup> July 2015

## P&DMS June / July Newsletter

A friend of mine shared the following thought that is an encouragement for us to continue to take hold of what we are doing and make P&DMS a dynamic, forward thinking force in our community.

### **When this generation snooze, the next generation lose.**

As I have indicated before, P&DMS is not only for our generation but for those who follow. We must not lessen our vision or reduce our determination to succeed, or the Pottsville community will lose.

Through the very positive efforts of people like Noel, Michael, John, the Peters, Ed, Craig, Leighton, Harry, Les, etc., etc., we have made brilliant progress and as long as we don't lose our focus, the sky is the limit. P&DMS has supported and in return has received tremendous support from our community who see us as a vital and important part of the Pottsville community. During our recent fund raising activities I had the opportunity to speak to numerous members of ours and other communities and I cannot remember a negative response when I said that we were raising funds for our men's shed. Such is the credibility of the men's shed movement. Testimony of this credibility can also be found in the letters of support that Michael collected from community organisations which we intend to use in our raising programs.

### **Why we need a Big Vision**

During a recent discussion with AMSA, Australian Men's Shed Association, the need to have a big vision at the beginning of the project was discussed. Many men's sheds find themselves in the position of not being able to cater for the range of activities in which the men in a community would like to be involved. This is because the long term vision for the shed was not extensive enough to consider the needs of future generations of men's shedders. This has resulted in two or even three sheds at different location, being built in the one town. The added cost and inconvenience of replicating the first shed has tended to slow the development of all the sheds. If the buildings can be kept on the same block, surrounded by garden plots, a covered BBQ and eating areas, etc., the whole facility becomes a place that the community can gain much use from.

Men and women can use such a facility to use, teach and develop woodworking, metalworking, mechanics skills, do boat/canoe/kayak building/repairs, crafts of all types, etc., etc. The list is only limited by our imagination.

The Pottsville Beach Neighbour Centre has achieved this with their open plan facility and provides exceptional services to the Pottsville community. A men's shed facility using a similar open plan but providing a wide range of very different activities can complement, not duplicate what the Neighbour Centre is doing. The Pottsville community can only be strengthened and will gain much benefit from the existence of these two and other community groups.



## **Splendour in the Grass Raffle**

The two tickets to splendour in the grass were raffled and won by Nicholas Sankey & Stephanie Francis from Margate in Brisbane. As a result of the efforts of our members we have raised \$1700. Thank you and well done.

## **School and Community Support**

Through the efforts of our members guided by Noel we are in the process of continuing our support for the schools in our district. Please refer to the attached report re these activities.

## **Fund Raising**

John and Michael are developing our submissions for State and club grants. We are hoping to raise funds to construct and stock our new shed at Black Rocks.

## **New shirts**

Discussions are continuing with a uniform distributor re the logo for our shed shirts. This has now been finalised and our embroiled shirts will soon be available, collected from the distributors and given to our members. These will be a great advertisement for our shed so I encourage everyone to wear them around town and not just to the shed. Thanks Michael and John for coordinating this process.

## **Tools and Equipment**

We are constantly receiving / purchasing more tools and equipment for the shed. A list of some of the new purchases / donations is in Noel's report. The shed and our resources are growing as is our capacity to do more activities in and through the shed

## **New Member**

Last week a new member joined our growing ranks. Ken Windows signed up last Wednesday and I look forward to getting to know Ken. I encourage everyone to make Ken to feel welcome and continue to promote the shed to increase our membership

## **Shed open days**

Our shed is now open on Wednesday and Thursday's from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Remember to log in at the school office and access the shed through the school carpark on the southern side of the school and not through the school. If you are new to the shed, come down to the shed and we will show you how to access the shed. Please remember do not come to the shed through the school.

## **Progress on our Shed at Black Rocks**

As previously reported, the development application for the shed has been completed and lodged. It is now being reviewed by an independent group approved by the Council and we are awaiting their response. To date this process has been fully supported by Tweed Shire Council who have gone out of their way to make the men's shed in Pottsville a reality.

We very much appreciate their ongoing support and their commitment to this community initiative. Their example is one that we must also adopt as we continue to assist other progressive community organisations in Pottsville.

### **Challengers of the future**

- Find better ways to operate and support men's health issues in Pottsville
- Select and train Shed Managers to take up the daily running of the shed
- Complete the workshop and surrounds. We are at an operational stage
- Continue to grow the shed membership and induct all members to operate safely in the shed

### **Shed Sponsors**

- Beachside Church, Pottsville
- Hutchinsons Builders
- Shackell Transport
- Pottsville Self-Storage
- Pottsville Beach Primary School
- Bupa Age Care Pottsville
- Stocklands
- Bunnings Hardware

Allan May

P&DMS President

### **Shed Progress Report: Noel Mather**

Great work being done in preparing the Shed for serious work-

- North facing windows have been fitted with baffles to prevent noise from interfering with school classes.
- Donated nails, screws, various tools, timber etc. have been sorted and are ready to be stored for use in Shed projects.
- Chairs, a lampshade, and three pushcarts (for Bogangar School) have been repaired, hand tools sharpened, and this is just the beginning! Thanks to Craig, Leighton, Harry, Andrew, Mal, Tim, Michael, Gordon, Ed, Peter Cobcroft, Peter Howell and Peter Roger (hope I haven't missed any one) for their excellent work.
- A large Drill Press and a small Carbatec Wood Lathe have been added to the inventory, and will be ready for work shortly.

We will be making some Playground Equipment (Tables and Chairs) for the new Catholic Primary School in the coming weeks, and contacting Bogangar School and Pottsville Kindergarten to offer our services.

We again stress that any jobs we do are small, Community related and do not interfere or compete with local Tradesmen in any way.

We have negotiated with the School to use spare timber, etc., that is stored under the Shed. Any that we use is for school projects only and is not to be used for member's jobs.

This term I will be running small woodworking classes for Year 6 pupils, supervised by one of the teachers (Paul Kahl). The school Administration is keen for this to happen. We will be concentrating on using very basic hand tools with the children making small Bird Boxes that they can hang in the trees around the school or be taken home. If the birds flock to the boxes in numbers, they will provide company for the MEN'S SHED KOALA, who introduced himself last week and took possession of the two gum trees just to the southern side of the Shed! He must have heard that we may be moving to Black Rocks and wants to make sure we are properly instructed in Koalacare!

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