

POTTSVILLE and DISTRICT MEN'S SHED Inc.

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13th November 2014

October Newsletter

During October we have continued with our attempts to secure a site for our shed. At a recent council meeting we were offered a location at the Black Rock sports field for five years using a relocatable building. This site remains our only option at present. At our last monthly meeting it was decided to investigate the availability of the land adjacent to the Pottsville sports club and across Centennial Drive, west of the pumping station. A report on the progress of these investigations will be given at the next monthly meeting.

Change of Mayor

In this month there has also been a change of Mayor in Tweed Shire Council with Gary Bagnall replacing Barry Longland. We have had a very open and supportive relationship with the Tweed Shire Council and expect that this will continue with Mayor Bagnall.

The management committee had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Bagnall who promised to set up a meeting with councillors and council management to discuss the Black Rock site and any other options which may be available. This process is being coordinated by Michael. Since that informal meeting, Michael, Tim and myself have met with council officers who have indicated that the council will prepare and present the DA for the shed's establishment at Black rock sports field with us meeting the cost of the DA. Subsequent to that meeting the councillors have again voted on the Black rock proposal with a four to three majority to approve our application.

Social functions

Last month we held a barefoot bowls afternoon. Unfortunately only a small number of us were able to attend so the event continued with small numbers. This social event followed our very successful dinner at Cabarita where we had a very good turn out and a great night. These are good opportunities to get to know each other so if you are able to make it to our functions I encourage you to do so. Thanks Leighton and Michael for promoting this outing.

School projects

Our support for community projects continues with two school projects completed so far thanks to the coordination of Noel ably assisted by a number of our members. The entrance to the school now has a roof and is painted and three sets of seats have been built and installed in the preschool section of the school.

If you go to the photo page of our website you will see photos of the seats being constructed and installed. A better looking bunch of talented craftsmen will be hard to find.



Market stall

We have the opportunity to exhibit a market stall at the Pottsville markets to promote our shed and open more doors to assist more members of our community. This can also be used for fund raising where we can eventually begin to sell items made at the shed, when this comes into existence.

Storage

The owners of the storage facility west of Pottsville are sponsoring our shed by providing free storage for three months and storage at ½ the normal price after that for as long as we need it. Hopefully that will not be too long.

Presently the shed contains much of our donated tools and equipment and now the first of four benches made by the students of St Lawrence's school in Brisbane. Again thanks for Noel, our tools and equipment coordinator for organising this.

Recognising our supporters

Ian is presently designing a certificate of appreciation that we can frame and present to our sponsors. With this and by advertising their support on our website, newsletters, etc., we can show our appreciation and support for those who give their encouragement and support to us.

Grants

Unfortunately our recent grant application under the 2014/15 Club Grants Cat 3 was not successful. John had put a lot of work in preparing and presenting grant applications and I would like to express my appreciation for this and subsequent applications. Having made it through 60+ years with varying levels of success, we are used to having some wins and some losses. This experience should make us more determined to be successful with future grant applications, whatever for they take.

Fundraising

A number of fund raising opportunities have opened up to us. These include help with setting up the markets, assisting at the power boat event, etc. Three of our members have completed the training and familiarisation with another two of us due to complete it next weekend. If you can help with this program please let me know.

There were a number of members at the powerboat event over the two days and we have received a \$500 donation for their efforts. Thanks to everyone who committed their time and effort to build our bank account and get information about the shed out there.

The Crown lands department would like to know that we can be self-supportive to ensure the future of our shed before they will consider us for a crown land allocation, so we need as much support for these fund raising programs as possible, especially in our early existence. Also if the council lodge a DA on our behalf, we are required to pay for this which could be between \$10 to \$15k. The joys of being a pioneer.

Tool and equipment donations

I encourage you to have a look at our tools and equipment inventory and see what has been donated to the shed in preparation to fit our facility when it arrives. More has been promised and we hope to have enough to fill our present storage with what we need to get us started.

Contact Noel if you have spare tools and equipment or know of anyone who has, and would like to donate them to the shed and we can organise for them to be collected and stored. We haven't reached the 'too many' stage and when we get there we will let you know so please keep chasing up donations.

Shed shirts and caps

My past experience with selecting colours, designs, etc., for uniform clothes is never easy. Everyone's taste is different, which is a good thing, we all should enjoy diversity. One thing we do have is a great logo which will look good with lots of colours and designs.

Before much longer we need to determine the colours and designs for our shed uniform so that when we go out as a group and conduct fundraising or promotion we can present the uniqueness of P&DMS. If you have any suggestions we can discuss them at our general meeting and start the process of securing our uniform.

Shed Banner

The original banner used to promote the shed reads, 'Pottsville Beach Men's Shed' and this needs to change to our present name. The company that produced this banner for \$150 can do another I am sure for the same or similar price. If you know of someone else able to do it cheaper please let me know

Challengers of the future

It has now been twelve months since we began the process of developing a men's shed and together we have come a long way and achieved much due to the efforts of many people. There are many forces in our community which would like to push us into their mould of thinking and remove our ability to be self-determining. I suggest that this should never happen.

We began with a vision to establish an organisation which would benefit generations of men way beyond us and if we remain true to that vision future generations will applaud our determination.

We need land large enough to expand onto, not a postage stamp size to satisfy the conscience of others and a multipurpose building which can be replicated two or three times. My fear is that, 'this will do' narrow thinking will lock us and the future into a mould which will eliminate innovation and growth.

We don't know what the future holds so let us leave a legacy so that future growth can become a reality.

Allan May
P&DMS President