

POTTSVILLE and DISTRICT MEN'S SHED Inc.

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January/February Newsletter

We continue to move ahead with our plans to establish our shed at Black Rocks sports fields, even in the face of sporadic opposition from those who would oppose an organisation to support the wellbeing of the retired population of Pottsville.

We have stayed away from engaging those who would oppose the establishment of the men's shed and have chosen to continue doing what is best for the Pottsville community. At no time have we ever suggested that we do not support the preservation of wildlife or our fragile ecology, in fact we have suggested that we explore positive ways of effective coexistence and productive management processes, but have had little response. As a grandparent, I would hope that my grandchildren and their children have the privilege of seeing our unique wildlife in their natural habitat but we cannot also not deny the real needs of our aging population of which one day we will all become a part.

The aims of our men's shed also embrace support for the needs of the wider community and will include assistance for disadvantaged youth, the unemployed and other groups. These groups will benefit from working together and gaining input from men who have developed many work and life skills during their working life.

However the men's shed is not a service organisation but a place where men can come to work on their own projects and development friendships over a cupper with other men. In short it is all about men's health and restoring hope that there is a productive future after work, with like-minded people in a non-demanding environment.

School Program

Just prior to the end of the school year we were generously offered the use of one of the schools demountable buildings. I would like to sincerely thank the school Principal, Mrs McKinnon, her staff and parent group for taking the positive step and providing some very real and practical support for the men's shed. Over the school holidays we were able to move benches and equipment into the room and begin to the room setup. There is still quite a bit of work to be done but this should be accomplished over a couple of weekends with the help of our very capable men.

I would like to make mention of Noel Mather who has been responsible for coordinating this process as well as the work that the men shedders have done around the school. The school now has tables and chairs for the children's use, a new covered structure and a roof over the gate entrance to the school. Well done Ed, Peter, Wal, to name a few.

The beginning of any project is always the most demanding and ours is no different. I would like to encourage as many as possible to get behind the shed setup and fundraising activities such as the Bunning's BBQ on Sunday the 22nd. I'm told, hopefully soon to find out, that when you retire you never seem to have the time to do all that you want to do. If you are in that position try to prioritise some time for the shed so that we can get the setup behind us as soon as possible.

Shed Managers

We need at least six men to volunteer for the positions of shed managers. This is an essential role as the shed cannot operate without someone opening and closing the shed and overseeing shed operations. There is a job description for this position and anyone interested will be trained and inducted into this role. The number of days that we can operate will depend on the number of volunteers who put their hands up.

Shed operation

The shed can open every day between 9.30am and 2.00pm, and also on Saturdays. At our next meeting we will discuss the number of days we will be operating and decide on how the program will begin.

Shed membership

It is now the time to pay our annual membership fee so if you can see Tim he will provide you with a receipt. Our hope is that we will continue to grow and expand our facility but I can't see that happening until we are on a much larger site. However I am very thankful for what we have which will allow us to consulate who we are and what our potential is over the next one to two years.

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 our Black Rocks proposal and DA
- Complete the workshop and surrounds and get to 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

Allan May

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