

THE CUTTING EDGE

NO 215 JULY 2020

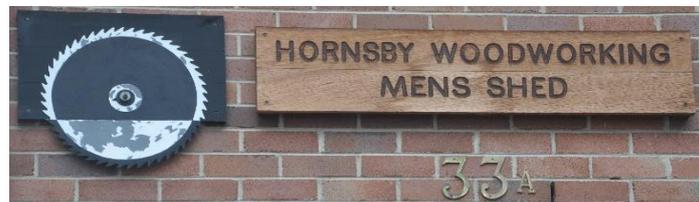
JOURNAL OF HORNSBY WOODWORKING MEN'S SHED INCORPORATED

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15 July 2020

Hello from The Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed!

COMING IN TO WORK IN THE SHED

Since my last report we have (I think) successfully transitioned into some sort of normality in the Shed. The "limited numbers" in the Shed seems to have worked well and there has only been one or two incidences where members have turned up that did not book in, and were asked to leave, as the maximum number of 15 has been exceeded. I had anticipated at the start, of the "booking a spot in the Shed" process, that there would be the inevitable stuff-up. However, these have been minimal.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the members who turned up on the three days before our opening on June 25, to dust, vacuum and clean; restack timber racks; and assist in the getting the Shed ready for the electrical "test & tag" process, which was overdue, due to the shut-down. Keith Day was also busy during the

shut-down refurbishing and sharpening all the hand planes and spoke shaves. It is wonderful to use a plane with a sharp blade. Many thanks to Keith, from all those members who use these hand tools.

The Turners were also busy with Elwyn Muller, Colin Hunter and Greg Croker running three successful internet “Zoom” meetings, from Elwyn’s home workshop, demonstrating oval turning among other things. Their first challenge was to work out how to organise the meeting on “Zoom” and operate cameras. Thanks to our relatively new member Pierre Fonsny who did the recording of the three hours meeting and editing it down to a 35 minutes YouTube sensation.

It is important if you want to come into the Shed that you contact me via email (hwmspres@gmail.com) and book a place. If you want a regular spot (IE every Tuesday or Friday) you need to indicate that, and I will book you in for that day every week. The Turners roster is being looked after by Greg Croker, and you need to contact him if you want to attend on Thursdays.

There was some discussion during a lunchtime brake, about Shed numbers and how strict we should be on enforcing the 15 members maximum. Although the Shed is about 243 square metres in area, and thus could accommodate about 60 people, based on the 4 square metre rule the maximum 15 members rule was calculated on the available bench space. There are 4 work benches (at the back of the shed) which would accommodate 8 members; 2 more benches near the band saws for 2 other members; 3 members using the finishing benches and 2 supervisors patrolling the Shed; total 15. This limited number also helps to maintain the 1.5 metre rule; or helps the situation anyway.



There was also a discussion about how long we would need to “book” a spot in the Shed. I had anticipated that by August we would not have to continue the “booking process” but the COVID-19 situation is very fluid and with the recent Melbourne and south-west Sydney outbreaks, I think we will maintain this practice into the foreseeable future. It is a timely reminder for us to remain vigilant. If there was a COVID-19 time-bomb waiting to go off it is a bunch of old folks (some with pre-existing medical conditions) clustered together. That is us! So, we will just continue to work around the situation. COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon so we can not afford to be too complacent.

MEMBERSHIP

And now for some good news! I would like to thank all those members who paid their membership fees during the shut-down. The payment of these membership fees has helped the Shed finances. We were fortunate that the Hornsby Shire Council did not charge us for rent, for three months and every member has had an extension of their financial membership by three months.

When we had to close the Shed, back in March, the Committee was concerned that we would lose some of our membership. However, it has been far from the case and we have had a wonderful influx of new members. Our membership now numbers 171. A warm welcome to our new members: Jessica Dolton, Emma Stuart, Raj Naidoo, Garth Pillay, Bill Chi and Peter Sexton. Please make them feel welcome and included in the Shed. Our more experienced members should take some time to assist them with their projects.

GENERAL MEETING JULY 31.

We normally have a General Meeting on the third Friday of each month. However, again due to the COVID-19 restrictions it has not taken place since March 20. On August 1, restrictions in NSW should be eased again (situation permitting) so I'm pleased to announce the Committee has decided to hold a General Meeting in the Shed on July 31, (one day ahead) starting at 12.00 noon. This will be our last opportunity to hold a General Meeting before the AGM, scheduled on August 21, three weeks later (situation permitting). The meeting/gathering will, of course, need to be carefully managed to maintain (any resemblance of) the 1.5 metre social distancing rule. We will need to space out the seating in the Shed and avoid clustering together inside or outside the Shed. There is plenty of room outside to chat (in groups of two or three) but we don't want large numbers of members grouped together. We are one of the most venerable demographics.

Maintaining good hygiene practices in the Shed at all times, is the key. All members should continue to use hand sanitiser when entering the Shed and use their own hand sanitiser when they feel the need. Stay home if you feel unwell.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE – POSITIONS VACANT

Always working quietly behind the scene are a band of members who maintain all the machinery in the Shed. Unfortunately, Brian Sugden, hasn't been seen much as of late, due to health concerns and Jim Spence is having trouble with his hands due to arthritis. John Talbot, our electrical whiz-kid, is spending too much time on the maintenance and not enough time on doing woodwork. Vice President, David Boyd, has been doing some maintenance work but can't keep up with the demand. You will notice that the thicknesser and planer are working much better. Kudos to David. We need about three or four members who are mechanically minded (or fast learners) to take on regular maintenance tasks. In the past this has been divided up between the maintenance crew into specialist tasks. Ian Raper has already volunteered, but we need a couple more members to put their "hands up". Could anyone with a mechanical and/or electrical background who would like to get involved, please contact me. We are blessed with good machines and need to maintain them to produce good work.

Many of you will have noticed a red light installed on the planer. This is to indicate that it is switched on. This is a safety precaution after I found the machine had been left running without an operator. The machine is very quiet and could, potentially, cause a nasty injury if someone was unaware of the danger. Thanks goes to John Talbot for installing this important warning light. Hopefully, it will remind members to turn off this machine after use.

FUND RAISING

We have received \$350.00 from the West Pymble Bowling Club for making 14 bowls carriers. John Barrett, Robert Plant and Michael Hannagan did much of the manufacturing, ably assisted by Joe Fletcher. During the COVID-19 shut-down, I hosted a “Men’s-Shed-in-my-Shed” with Robert, Michael, Joe and myself spending a morning, in my shed, painting the bowls carriers. They were tricky things to paint. Many thanks to all those involved. The last time we made bowls carriers for this Club was over twelve years ago.

On Saturday, August 8 we are scheduled to run the BBQ at the Bunnings Thornleigh store. This will be an interesting day with COVID-19 regulations in place. It will be held in the downstairs car park, rather than outside, adjacent to the main entrance, as it has been in the past. David Tarran, our BBQ co-ordinator, will give more details at the General Meeting on July 31. We need 5 people for two hour shifts (4 shifts) from 08.00 am to 04.00 pm. This is a vital fund-raising activity of the Shed. Please add your name to the list on the white-board adjacent to the Shed front desk. I think that is about all the news from the Presidential Desk. Stay safe and enjoy your time in the Shed. Kevin Wallace

MONTHLY MEETING 12.00 NOON* 31ST JULY 2020 **SOCIAL DISTANCING MUST BE OBSERVED**

* Work in Shed will cease at 11.45am and the meeting may start slightly earlier than 12.00Noon

Agenda

- Apologies.
 - Welcome to visitors & new members.
 - Secretary’s Report & Correspondence.
 - President’s Report.
 - Treasurer’s Report.
 - Woodturners’ Report.
 - Toy Makers’ Report.
 - Equipment Report.
 - Welfare Report.
 - Show & Tell.
 - Question & Answers.
 - General Business.
 - Close meeting and resume activities
-

Acknowledgements

Hornsby Woodworking Men’s Shed acknowledges the support provided by:

- the Hon Matt Kean, local state member of parliament for Hornsby
- the Hon Alister Henskens, local state member of parliament for Kuring-gai
- the Hon Julian Leeser, the local federal member of parliament for Berowra

- Hornsby Shire Council
- Hornsby RSL Club
- Magpies Waitara
- Westfield Hornsby
- Bendigo Banks, Turramurra and Lindfield

- Bunnings Warehouse Dural and Thornleigh
- North Shore Timber
- Orangelime Web Design
- Coca Cola Amatil
- Bakers Delight Hornsby

Please support the organisations that support HWMS.



[NEW MEMBERS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE](#)

Please welcome them and assist.

JESSICA DOLTON - RAJ NAIDOO – BILL CUI – EMMA STUART – PETER SEXTON – GARETH PILLAY

Much time was spent getting the shed ready for reopening. Thanks to all that participated. Great things were achieved. We are now in action with some restrictions: so far so good. Great work done by the committee.



Shed back in action.





Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 8th August 2020

Inbox

HWMS Secretary

To All Members

Bunnings Thornleigh are resuming their Sausage Sizzles from the end of July. Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed have been invited to run a BBQ on Saturday 8th August 2020 and all HWMS members are invited to participate.

The BBQ will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 requirements (e.g. physical distancing and strict hygiene measures). The BBQ will now be located in the basement carpark – this will provide the necessary 1.5m social separation for both the volunteers and customers.

As usual HWMS will operate in 2 hour shifts. Each shift will require 5 volunteers –

- Greeter,
- Order Taker,
- Server,
- Cook and
- Captain.

In addition, Bunnings will provide a supervisor to ensure Covid-19 requirements are maintained. Volunteers are required to arrive 10 minutes before their shift commences to ensure orderly change over. During change over all tables will be cleaned with disinfectant

Ideally HWMS requires at least **20 volunteers**. We know this is a big ask but the Sausage Sizzles are an important part of our fundraising even more so now given the deferred annual subscriptions and the loss of earlier BBQs and other fundraising activities.

Please put your name on the White Board in the Shed or let David Tarran know by email dstarran@optusnet.com.au.

Thanks

John Barrett

Secretary

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