

THE CUTTING EDGE

NO 216 2020 AUGUST

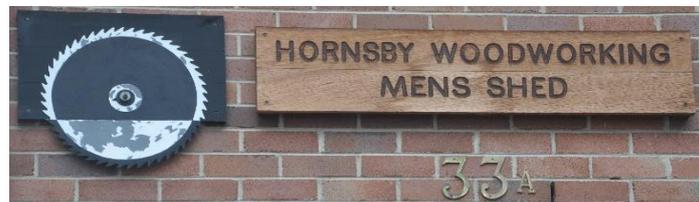
JOURNAL OF HORNSBY WOODWORKING MEN'S SHED INCORPORATED

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PRESIDENTS REPORT AUGUST 2020

Hello from The Hornsby Woodworking Men's Shed!

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS!

The bad news is that the COVID-19 is getting closer to the Shed, with outbreaks in Cherrybrook and two schools in Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook. We need to stay vigilant. The good news is we have cancelled the AGM and the current Committee will continue until such time as we can hold a large meeting without the threat of a risk to everyone's health.

This decision was made by the Executive (Office Bearers) of the Committee and is in line with the Constitution and the current (COVID-19) laws relating to the Office of Fair Trading, to whom we have to report regarding the functioning of the Shed. In the haste to call an AGM there were a number of mistakes made and the complexity of administering proxy votes was too much to organise in the short time available.

I have been corresponding with a number of long-standing "senior" members of the Shed, over the last few weeks and they have urged me to postpone the AGM until such time as it was safe to do so. This may well be mid-year 2021. Never waste an opportunity in a crisis! During the coming months the Committee, in consultation with senior members of the Shed, will update the Constitution. There are many anomalies in this document, and these have been highlighted in the last few days, with much debate about the wording and election of the four Shed Member representatives. The Committee consists of four Executive members (IE. President, Vice

President, Secretary and Treasurer) and four Shed Member representatives who fill various rolls. Currently, these positions are Membership Officer, Toy Production, Public Relations and Wood Turners representative. This revision and re-writing of the Constitution will be spear-headed by our Treasurer, Michael Kevin, who has an MBA in Corporate Law and is well equipped to take on the task.

There will be no General Meeting to replace the AGM in August. However, we may attempt another General (Members) Meeting in the third week of October 2020.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership continues to increase with the influx of new members. Our membership now numbers 178. I extend a warm welcome to our new members: Peter Collins (re-joining), Darren Cowley, Geoff Young, Roz and Chris Blair, Sandra Bryson, Ian Imrie and Zachary Simandl. 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.

There were about 30 members at the General Meeting on July 31. There were 11 apologies. We were all “socially distant” as best we could be. Our Treasurer, Michael Kevin delivered the end of year Financial Report and despite the disruptions to our finances due to the pandemic we are still in good financial shape. The granting of a three months deferral of everyone’s membership, cost around \$4000 and we are expecting a shortfall in annual revenue of about \$8000.

Other topics discussed were, increasing the Fire Risk insurance to \$150000 to reflect replacement value of our equipment and why the committee had changed the insurers.

COVID-19 AND SHED POLICY

The current advice from the NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant specifically recommends:

- 1) the use of face masks in indoor settings where physical distancing is hard to maintain, such as on public transport or in supermarkets
- 2) the use of face masks (where practical) in indoor settings with a higher risk of transmission, such as for the staff of hospitality and customer-facing venues i.e. cafes, restaurants, pubs and clubs
- 3) during attendance at places of worship.

Masks should be considered a “fourth line of defence” after staying home and getting tested if unwell, maintaining 1.5-metre social distancing and practising good hand hygiene.

STAY COVID SAFE

WHEN TO WEAR A MASK IN NSW

If 1.5 metres of physical distance can't be guaranteed.

If you have symptoms and are seeking medical advice.

If you are in isolation in the same room as another person.

For information, visit: nsw.gov.au/covid-19

Although we have limited the number of members in the Shed at any one time the physical distancing has been difficult to maintain as we move around the Shed and assist each other in our work. Old habits die hard! I have noticed that number of members are now wearing masks. The Committee has not discussed the issue of compulsory wearing of masks to date, but if the

pandemic situation gets worse, we may have to implement the compulsory wearing of masks. We are one of the most vulnerable demographics. Watch this space for further developments!

EXTENSION OF THE SHED LEASE

At the July 31 General Meeting, the matter of the Shed lease was raised. The current lease expires in October 2021. During the week I spoke to an officer of the Hornsby Shire Council; Mr Peter Thompson and discussed the matter with him. We can be granted a four years extension of the existing lease without going to the Council. This can be granted by the Managing Director and would be a simple process. If we wanted a longer term, i.e. say a six to ten years lease, this would have to go before the sitting members of the Council. Mr Thompson advised me that we should make enquires again around February 2021.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

I'd like to thank all those members who volunteered to assist with the maintenance of the Shed machinery. It will be quite a large team, numbering about eight to ten members, which will spread the workload. As indicated in the last report, Ian Raper will head-up the team and co-ordinate the routine maintenance functions. Brian Sugden, Jim Spence and John Talbot, will

assist with the technical aspects and training of the new recruits. Ian is in the early stages of a full audit of the machinery and equipment and a review of the Shed equipment register.

NEW STREET SIGN

My thanks to Bruce Campbell for organising our new street sign; the one on the A frame that sits outside on the kerb when the Shed is open. The information has our opening times and days, including Wednesday. Bruce also pointed out to me that members have been disposing USED rags back into the rag bin. Please do not do this, as this could cause a spontaneous ignition if there are solvents or other flammable substances on the rags. Play it SAFE and put ALL used rags in the rubbish bin.

FUND RAISING

All Bunnings BBQs have been cancelled for the remainder of 2020. This will impact on our fund raising and the 2020-21 budget has been downgraded from \$2600.00 to \$1000.00. This budget estimate is in the hope that we may be able to schedule two Weekend BBQs in the first half of 2021.

WOOD TURNERS

The Turners are continuing to hold internet “Zoom” meetings and everyone is welcome to join in. Contact Greg Croker for details if you are interested. They have been making “honey dippers” for sale to a commercial outlet in the Blue Mountains.

COMING INTO THE SHED

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.

I think that is about all the news from the Presidential Desk.

Stay safe and enjoy your time in the Shed.

Kevin Wallace

SOME GREAT TURNING

GREG GHAVALAS: More gems from the woodpile

Last week I got some wood from the corner woodpile. It resulted in these bowls.
This. I think is Jacaranda



Then there's this. Have no idea what the wood is, but it's hard. Had to sharpen the chisel about every three minutes of turning. The wood is absolutely beautiful. I still have another

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 JULY

Please welcome them and assist.

GEOFF YOUNG – DARREN COWLEY – JIM OMEROS – CHRIS BLAIR – ROZ BLAIR
– SANDRA BRYSON – ZACHARY SIMANDL – IAN IMRE – PETER COLLINS

NAUTICAL DELIGHTS: courtesy Bruce Campbell

Photo below is Peggies lighthouse in Nova Scotia, Canada, the famous Schooner, Bluenose, sailing by. It was built for fishing and racing. It took on and beat the might of USA racers. Length 43.6 metres, Beam 8.2 Metres, Height 38.4 Metres, displacement 258 tons. Home port was Lunenburg Nova Scotia, had a crew of 20. Built 1921, out of service 1946, it foundered on a reef off Haiti.



THE LESSON OF THE LIFE BOAT

The **Cutting Edge** article about Woolwich dry dock, reminded me about an incident which occurred on the S. S. Changte in the late nineteen fifties. I had advanced from fifth engineer to fourth engineer and was now a watch keeping officer on duty, 8am to 12 am (morning) and 8pm to 12pm (evening) ship's time.

This ship, and a similar sister ship, were mixed passenger, refrigeration and freight vessels, and sailed from east Australia via the Torres Straits, Borneo, Philippines, Hong Kong to Japan and return. The round trip was about ten weeks and so reliable that we knew where we would be a year ahead.

One of the new duties of the fourth engineer was, that in the event of catastrophe he was officer in command of port side number 8 lifeboat. This lifeboat also performed the macabre duty of transporting any deceased person that had died on board, at sea - it being unlawful to bury at sea.

The chief engineer was a complex character, who for some reason held an ongoing war of criticism against the deck department, as well as keeping tight control of we engineers, and after some weeks had elapsed I approached him explaining that because I was on watch at 10 am I was unable to attend the regular lifeboat drills held at that time.

The chief agreed, and one morning and after the ships alarms had sounded ,I was relieved of duty and went on deck to number 8 lifeboat to confirm and practice my duties.

My arrival at the lifeboat for practice was a shock for both me and the forty plus Asian crew I was to command, very few of whom could

understand basic English and myself who could not speak their different languages at all.

The lifeboat appeared to be in very good condition, well painted and fresh in appearance and was located approximately 5 to 6 stories above sea level. With the help of the crew I familiarised myself with procedures of launching before the arrival of the captain and his first officer for their inspection. The captain was pleased to see the lifeboats official O.I.C. in attendance, and asked if I had any questions.

My only question was " How do I get the canvas cover off the boat?" The captain indicated to the first officer to show me how to do it and he (without even looking) said " untie the hemp rope around the release latch, take the end rings of the tie ropes off the latch and they will fall away ." Absolutely correct, but where was the hemp rope around the release latch.?

A more diligent search by the mate discovered that the hemp rope around the release latch had been painted so many times it had become an impervious concrete-like blob, and was impossible to free without tools and effort.

The expression on the captain's face was unreadable and he said something to the mate like - "You better have a look at all of them mister".

I returned to my watchkeeping duties, and the bosun and some sailors were put to work to correct the situation. Because more work space was needed, they decided to mobilize the davits and lift the well painted boat out of its cradle. In doing so they pulled several planks off the boat's hull which had been stuck down by the continuous painting.

The lifeboat was now useless. I was horrified to learn this when informed by the chief engineer, who was pleased to be "one up" on

the deck department, and apparently indifferent to the potential danger present.

Now what can we learn from what could be described as a comical situation?

Beware of consequential damage!

This lifeboat was rendered useless by unthinking maintenance and lack of regular inspection.

Similar situations can occur all over the world, e.g. The French Concorde aircraft crashed (killing all on board), because of metal waste on the runway.

Closer to home, the Hornsby Men's Shed contains dangerous machinery used by members, ranging from competent to the truly inexperienced. Personal safety is paramount, and consequential damage to others must be considered as a result of our work actions.

Consider what may occur in the Hornsby Men's Shed if the following situations happened.

1. Failing to immobilize machines with dangerous faults, and not notifying the shed managers.
2. Throw chemical soaked wipe cloths in the waste bin.
3. Store heavy objects at high levels in unstable positions.
4. Swing long workpieces around work area without checking clearance.

Safety first, care and maintenance at all times must have absolute priority.

Picture of the Changte entering Sydney Heads is attached. She was built in Hong Kong in 1928, served honourably both in peace and WW2, until being decommissioned in circa 1962.

JOES FLETCHERS SHIP "CHANGTE"

