



March 2024

NEWSLETTER



EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Ian Bond 0420859540
VICE PRESIDENT: Grant Sullivan
TREASURER: John Plunkett
SECRETARY: Paul Edgeworth 0497386846

PHONE: 0478614027 (prefer Tuesday and Thursday am)
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am– 12pm
1a McDonnell Drive

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BIRTHDAYS

Russell S	07/03
Kevin M	13/03
Jeff R	14/03
Stan B	26/03

CALENDAR - March

Thursday	7 th	10.30am	AGM
Wednesday	13 th	6.30pm	Tea with partners
at Wild Ginger Thai Restaurant, 17 Commercial Street West			
Thursday	14 th	10.30am	Members Meeting
Tuesday	26 th	10.30am	Management
	meeting		
Thursday	28 th		BBQ

If you would like to contribute information or an article to your newsletter, talk to Editor David N or email mgmensshed@gmail.com

The shed is a great equaliser.

**It doesn't matter how important
you once were.**

3. Sander

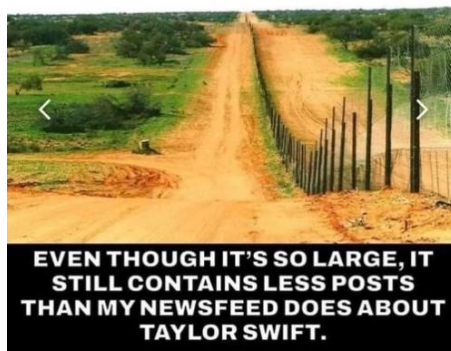


The Sander is a common power tool in woodworking. Fineness is complimented in woodworking and thus the sander is very important. This tool consists of a sanding pad on the bottom of the power wheel. The mechanism is different in different sanders. Woodworking requires various types of sanders based on their working technique. Some examples of sanders are orbital sander, detail sander, stroke sander, belt sander, flap sander, oscillating spindle sander and so on.

Uses of a Sander

The main purpose of a sander is to make wood surfaces smooth. Edge and the exposed layer of wood remain uneven and rough while working on it. The wood sander is used to work over these rough surfaces to make them smooth and flat.

THE DINGO FENCE IS ONE OF THE LARGEST MAN MADE STRUCTURES IN THE WORLD, STRETCHING MORE THAN 5000 KILOMETRES ACROSS AUSTRALIA.



EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO LARGE, IT STILL CONTAINS LESS POSTS THAN MY NEWSFEED DOES ABOUT TAYLOR SWIFT.

VALE – Kelvin Smibert born 1924, died 2024



On 30th March 2009, Kelvin attended a second meeting to form a Mens Shed in Mt Gambier and spent much of the rest of his life very involved in it. In 2022 he was awarded Life Membership for his commitment, hard work and creative ideas. He was a great friend and

inspiration to many of us. In response he said 'the mateship found in the Shed is second to none and a great contributor to one's mental health'.

Some of the more memorable moments of Kelvin's time with us in the Shed include -

- In 2015, while the current Shed was still being fitted out, he sourced very some large ceramic tiles for the ablutions area. No Shedders volunteered to lay them as they are notoriously difficult to put down properly so he quietly did the whole job on his own, aged 89. He also found floor carpet tiles and had them fixed to the wall in the morning tea room to help with noise reduction and echoing.
- Then in 2017, age 91, he put his hand up to be the 'shit house manager' as he put it, and the Committee accepted the offer.
- Kelvin was always thinking ahead and being creative. He challenged many men to develop new skills. He was a great and knowledgeable communicator on so many levels. Round table discussions ranged from his book writing, aboriginal cave engravings, how to become involved in e- transactions, drafting, his worldwide experiences and metal fabrication to enumerate a few.
- As an artist himself, Kelvin encouraged a Congolese migrant to enhance his artistic skills in mediums other than those from his native Africa, eg. using different Australian timbers and limestone. Kelvin successfully made a traditional Congolese chiseling tool for him from drawn sketches. During the sessions, Kelvin brought along Swahili to English translation books to help with communication.
- In his latter years Kelvin renewed his interest in watercolour and acrylic painting and a couple of years ago presented the Shed with a painting of a semi abstract view of the Blue Lake looking towards Mt Schank which you can see in the office. It reminds me that one of his retirement enterprises was to manufacture high quality painting canvasses here in Mount Gambier which were sold worldwide.
- Later on he became very interested in making movies with the U3A group and a couple of times he used the Shed as a backdrop for his movies and included some of the Shedders as stars in them. He also built a movie trolley at the Shed for his motion shots.
- He became interested in pottery and prepared everything for Shedders to try clay work - from sourcing

all the materials to pugging the clay ready for use; preparing glazes; building and firing a kiln and teaching the skills of pottery. He also built a forge for metal treatment.

In an interview in 2017 he said 'If I am notorious for anything, maybe it's not becoming skilled at any one thing and changing direction too often.....'

I have taken a keen interest in this Mens Shed from the beginning..... Just turning up here is so satisfying, so I am happy to let others do the work.'

A truly remarkable man many of us were privileged to know here at the Shed.
Paul E



Around one of the tables at morning tea



Vice President Grant giving the 'good oil' at morning tea



Peter Ha and David N catching up

OSAGE ORANGE *Maclura pomifera* (hedge apple or horse apple)



Our master woodworker Don C has turned this beautiful bowl from a single piece of timber. A fallen tree was found many years ago near Mt Gambier and there are living specimens in the city. It is osage orange. Osage orange is native to south-central (Great Plains) USA. It has a straight grain and a high natural luster. It was used by the Osage (French named ‘warlike’) Native American tribe for war clubs and recurve archery bows. It is known as the ‘King of Bow Wood’ and is still used by archers today. It does not rot and is the very best firewood timber in the US. Its timber is almost equal to the European yew tree (taxus) from which archery bows were made.



At least Ray L is interested in the Osage Bowl. Ron T has other interests.



Ian L turns a bowl



Shane with one of many child size chairs



John K with his high back chair/clothes stand after his wife pinched his clothes chair!



Ron T thinks he has made a find from a box of donated goods.

MENS SHEDS CLUSTER GATHERING

HEALTH and INFORMATION DAY 10am May 16th 2024

at Wulanda, Margaret Street, Mt Gambier for Shedders, Partners and Friends

Until Covid arrived, Mens Sheds from the South East and Western Victoria used to meet every 4 to 6 months at a different Shed in the district. For instance, our Shedders would go to Heywood, Goroke, Portland, Coleraine, Hamilton, Kingston and Naracoorte and even as far as Murray Bridge. At these get togethers we would often have a guest speaker on all sorts of topics from NASA space agency tracking satellites, a huge range of health topics often tailored to aging and share what had been happening in each other's Sheds. It was also a time to make and renew friendships. Now we can move across state borders following Covid lockdowns and visit other Sheds, this event has restarted. First off, was an invitation from Portland Mens Shed where their topics were healthy eating and defibrillators. It is now Mt Gambier Shed's turn which was postponed at the onset of COVID.

We have an exciting program with two guest speakers – Ian

Lewis (per Border Watch) who you

may have heard recently on

ABC radio. He is one of only

a couple of people who has

the extraordinary knowledge

of volcanoes, sinkholes, fault

lines, caves and everything

that goes with these unique

geological formations that

stretch across western Victoria and the South East.

He has firsthand experience as a cave diver and has been

instrumental in the rules that now are in place for diving.

Dr Matthias Wichmann (per

Linkedin) a very well know surgeon

from the Mt Gambier Hospital is

our other speaker. Many of our

Shedders have had had personal

medical experiences with him.

Lots of things to do with guts and

bowels. He is a very engaging

speaker.

We are also organising many displays on health topics and

showcasing items that our Shedders have made and many

ideas for you to try at a Shed or at home - like building

miniature motors or tiny steam engines, lead lighting,

creative metal works, building special tools, wood working

and turning and even a couple of unique old cars.

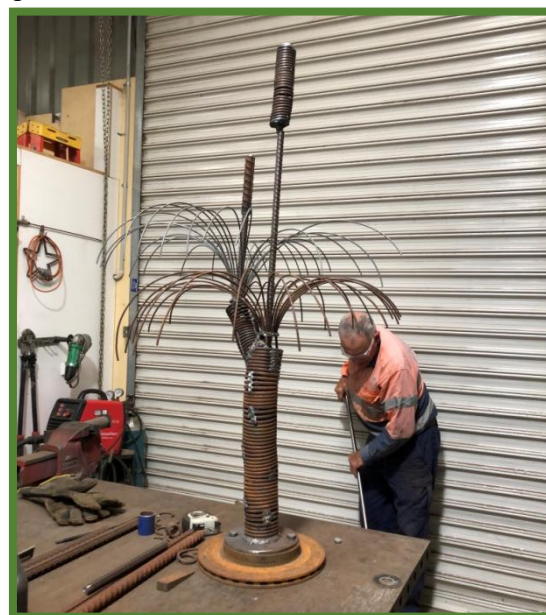
For seating numbers and catering at \$10 per person for a finger food lunch, contact the Mt Gambier Shed through our website, Facebook or phone your booking by mid-April.



Frame for holding iron made by Ian A



Above - Trevor A assisting Ian A to make a spiral of wire for a garden ornament. Below – the finished Grass Tree



I've learned that just one person saying to me, 'you've made my day' makes my day



Woodpecker



Gone Fishing

Creations by Ian A

I've learned that opportunities are never lost;
someone will take the ones you miss



Above & below - Dinner at the Commercial Hotel



Bunnings crew – Dave L, Rob B, Kevin M, Jeff R

Below – Jeff R, 'Checkout Rooster' on the money exchange



They strolled down the lane together,
the sky was studded with stars.
They reached the gate in silence
and he lifted the bars.
She neither smiled nor thanked him
because she knew not how,
For he was the farmer's son
and she was the Jersey cow.



Jim T turns up the shank of a drill to fit a smaller chuck

I've learned that the easiest way for me
to grow as a person
is to surround myself with people
smarter than I am



Ron P getting an early start on making Christmas decorations for the City Council



Ron P – 'How do these clippers go together?'

He who knows not,
and knows not that he knows not,
is a fool; shun him.
He who knows that he knows not,
is a student; Teach him.
He who knows and knows not that he knows,
is asleep; Wake him.
He who knows and knows that he knows,
is Wise; Follow him.



Tim H looking for something to make



Some shedders arrive in style!



Who is our cloaked person?



Herman repairing a bent & broken sofa bed



We don't get many photo's of the photographer!

Above – Paul E talking with Geoff H

Left – Paul E at work as photographer snapping Don C



Jim G with a finished 'ball in the cup' game

I've learned that being kind
is more important
than being right



Above - Gary A painting the bottom plate of a 'ring catch' game
Below – Peter He with the finished game



Dave L and Jim T checking an electric motor



Above – a bath dressing stool made by Mark P
& demonstrated below



Above - Dave L and Ray L with planter box
Below – finished planter box



Russell S constructing a small coffin to hold his 'spirits' bottles



Frank McA does the hard part inside a garden bed
while Grant S watches

I've learned that no matter
how serious your life requires you to be,
everyone needs a friend to act goofy with



Above – Glen B pot stand
Below – being strength tested by Glen & Ben



Dave L & David N discussing the makings of a pot stand/bench

I've learned that a smile is an inexpensive way
to improve your looks



Above – Geoff H constructing his work bench
Below – adding wheels



Don't wash your hair in the shower!
(It is so good to finally get a health warning
that is useful)

I don't know why I didn't figure this out
sooner! A warning to us all.

I use shampoo in the shower.

When I wash my hair the shampoo runs down
my whole body. Printed clearly on the shampoo
label is this warning -

FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME.

No wonder I have been gaining weight!

Well, I got rid of that shampoo and I am going
to start showering with Dawn dishwashing soap
instead. It's label reads -

**DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE
DIFFICULT TO REMOVE.**

Problem solved, if I don't answer the phone,
I will be in the shower.

You will notice **TDRS** on the sponsors page.
This is a local business run by Brett Pittard of Pittard Enterprises at 5 Gwendoline Street in Mount Gambier who specialises in Technology Development Research & Support. Brett supports our Mens Shed via our web design and domain name.

SPONSORS



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The bathtub test

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him,
"How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person and ask them to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

I've learned that life is like a roll of toilet paper.
The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.