

# OLD FARTS NEWSLETTER

## No. 5 - Summer/Autumn 2020

### CROWS NEST & DISTRICT MENS SHED



The most significant event since the last newsletter has been the disastrous fires around the country. It was not isolated pockets of destruction, but huge areas stretching along almost the entire east coast and beyond. Mallacoota (Vic.) hit the news when thousands of residents were trapped on the beach awaiting rescue. Our Shed sent a donation to the Mallacoota Shed to enable them to help someone in need.



**New Sheds** are popping up all over the place. Hatton Vale and Boonah are two new local Sheds, but a new Shed is in the process of being formed in Norway. This would then be the most northerly Shed in the world, beating the Orkney Shed in Scotland.

Invercargill Menz Shed in New Zealand is the most southerly, with a distance of 4854km to the South Pole. There are approximately 25 sheds in Canada and 575 operational sheds in the UK with an additional 142 in the development stages. Ireland has over 450 sheds. There are also Sheds in Finland, Sweden, Spain, The Netherlands, Denmark, Iceland and the U.S.



**Friends in Sheds.** Social Media has provided a wonderful opportunity to interact with Sheds all over Australia, and the World. Many Sheds have their own Facebook Pages (with friends) or have formed a Facebook Group (with members). Current Facebook rules do not allow Groups to join other Groups,

so it is difficult to connect with other shed groups, but Facebook pages can become members of groups. To bypass this restriction, a Facebook page has been created called 'Crows Nest Men's Shed'. Our Shed, by means of this new page has now joined and is a member of a significant number of Shed groups and also sent friend requests to a considerable number of National and International Sheds. Send a 'friend request' to this new page so you can keep abreast of what is happening in other sheds. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/mens.shed.7543>

## Projects

There have been a few projects completed. The first two photos are the 'before' and 'after' shots of the old Crows Nest Railway Seat. Upholsterer did a magnificent job. The work bench (minus the tools) was made for the CN Children's Centre.



As reported in the last newsletter, Another project for Churches of Christ was construction of a Nativity Scene. Ben did all the hard work, cutting each piece out with a jigsaw. Here it is, all lit up.



A recent initiative by the Queensland Police Service called 'Look To The Stars', saw the Crows Nest & District Men's Shed being asked to design and create a special garden area at the local police station. The central feature is a large granite rock with a plaque highlighting a special piece of artwork by indigenous artist Jenna Lee.



Who could resist a project like this? The truck, which had seen better days, belonged to the grandson of a local resident. Several axles were broken, and the wheels had fallen off. Shed members made new wheels, axles, and lovingly restored this classic truck and make it roadworthy once again. We even added a pair of exhaust smoke stacks. Needless to say, it was a job very well done.

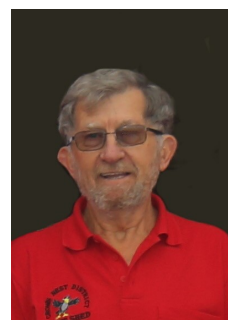
## Grants/Donations

Several new Grants applications have been made, and if they are successful a Plasma Cutter and TIG welder will be purchased for the metal shop. A very generous donation was also received from a Bosch Rep whom we met through Total Tools in Toowoomba. Over 20 separate power tools were included in the package. Thank you very much, Total Tools and Bosch.



A big sign now adorns the end of the shed. Visitors can now see exactly where we are. The sign was produced by Barmic Designs of Crows Nest. Barmic also produce our name badges, so if you don't have one, please let Nick or Ron know.

**El Presidente (also known as Peter Long)** was invited by His Excellency the Honourable **Paul de Jersey** AC, Governor of Queensland to an afternoon tea at Bunnyconnellen recently. This was to officially recognise members of communities affected by the recent bushfires.



Guess who was a winner (B Grade), in the recent 72 hole Championship at CN Golf Course?

## Community Events/Fundraising

Who do you call when you want someone to cook up a storm? The Men's Shed, that's who. In the last few months we have catered for the Carer's Day lunch, a special dinner organised by Peadon Rural and a breakfast for Toowoomba Regional Council employees. Council has again asked us to cater for them next week and there are two more functions for the RSL coming up. More shed members need to volunteer for these, as it is generally the same people each time. Some of us need a break. Our Commander in Chief, or El Presidente has been banned from cooking the steaks, so someone is needed to take over that job.

**CROWS NEST DAY** has been and gone, and was a great success. The Coffee Table (pictured) was one of our raffle prizes. We had lots of stuff for sale, along with demonstrations of pen making and scroll saw work. A couple of short heavy showers tried to dampen our enthusiasm, but everyone carried on regardless.



**Safety at the Shed.** A dispenser of disposable ear plugs has been provided for your use. It is situated in the wood shop. Please use them. Several members have required medical attention for injuries sustained while working on projects. One occurred at the members home and was quite serious, but it emphasises the need for a second person to be present at all times. No work involving the use of tools or equipment is to be undertaken while at the shed if you are the only one present.

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**



Ron Anderson  
Editor