June Update 2021

With only one week left in June I thought it was about time to present members with an Update.  Pete Rawlins, President

Membership Fees

As notified in a previous email the membership fees are due by 30 June. Please pay on time as a non-financial member is an uninsured member and an uninsured member cannot work in the Shed. Bank transfer is the preferred method of payment. $50 for men, $31 for women. Please refer to the previous email for details.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 5th August at 12pm in the Shed. This will be followed by lunch at no cost to members. Please support your committee by attending. If you want to join the committee please contact me to have a chat. I believe all the existing committee members wish to continue and I will be nominating for the position of President. We do need a Secretary – I may already have somebody who is interested. No need to railroad anybody, yet!!!!

Projects

        Street Libraries

We have just finished and delivered 6 more Street Libraries which were commissioned by the City of PAE. These had a slight modification to strengthen the build and to keep out any driving rain. Time will tell as to the success of this. I also believe our quality of construction continues to improve.

I have heard that an Aboriginal artist has been decorating some of these. Hopefully we can get some photos when this has been completed.

Many local residents are keen to have one of these in their street so I am sure we will be making more in the future.

          Ramps and Boxes

Recently we, (lead by Chris Barnes), built a ramp and some boxes for a doggie day care company. Presumably these are now in use and the dogs are happily lifting their legs on all of them. Thank goodness they were painted.

Display Plinths

Just in the last two weeks we have been asked to build 8 art gallery plinths (boxes) for the City of PAE Visitors’ Information Centre. Even though these are not required in a hurry there has already been much discussion about their construction. I am sure it won’t be long before a prototype will be ready for our client’s viewing.

Memorial Outdoor Bench Seat

We have had this project on the books for some time now but there has been no rush for completion. This is something very new to us as this is an outdoor seat built from hardwood sleepers. Two areas of construction difficulty being 1. Hardwood and 2. Wood sleepers, heavy and hard to work with. Nevertheless, we have started with some sleepers cut to size and planing and sanding of the exposed surfaces. Much to do but we look forward to the finished product, so heavy that the final construction will need to be on site. Hopefully nobody will be strong enough to lift this seat and steal it.

Wicking Raised Garden Beds

This is an idea introduced to us by Murraylands Men’s Shed. This is a raised garden bed that has a reservoir of water in the base which ‘wicks’ up through the soil to water the plants – no need to water every day. These are made to order and they can either be wicking or not wicking. Wicking garden beds cost more as we need to install a reservoir etc. You can either make one of these yourself (supplying your own materials) or we can make one for you. One of these raised garden beds is in the Shed for you to look at. Talk to Peter Rawlins or Peter Sowden if you want to order one.

Ladies Project

As you know there is a women’s session held in the Shed every Monday afternoon.

They want to make some Christmas ornaments and children’s toys to sell before Christmas. They have asked the men for some help with some of the larger items and we are very happy to assist. This means that you could find yourself making a small dolls’ house, for example. We are certainly going to be busy with plenty to do in-between the other projects I have listed.

Mud Kitchen

A school in Woodville has asked us to design and construct a mud kitchen that their children can use in the playground. Three of our members are on to this. Further design discussions with the teacher concerned tomorrow should lead to final agreements. We just have to wait for the school to receive the money to pay for the job

Grow Free Carts

This is another initiative of the City of PAE. These are carts/trolleys that are put out in local streets so that residents can give away and swap plants and produce. Usually one person in the street takes responsibility for the cart, putting it out and taking it in each day. We have built a prototype under the leadership of Tony and received the big thumbs up for both the design and the build quality. We have an order for ten of these initially with the likelihood of many more in the future.

Shuttle Board Game

Two of these to make. One of our easier projects but still very interesting and we could belt these out over the next few days.

Working with Council

Members of the PAE Council continue to provide valued support of our Shed. Recently we have agreed on the terms of our lease and I have signed off on behalf of our committee and members. We also have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council and this has just been reviewed to evaluate the relevance of statements made in this document.

Grant Acquittals

When we started our Shed, we applied, and we were successful in receiving a number of grants (10 in total) that helped us buy the shipping container, shelving and tools, and helped us run training such as our First Aid Course. All of these grants had to be managed well as there is a high level of accountability for grants. It was very satisfying to do the last acquittal for these grants last week. Now for some more applications!!!!

Replacement Table Saw

Talking about grants; it is our intention to apply for a grant through the National Men’s Shed Association to purchase a new Stop Saw.

If we are successful we will have a saw which can’t cut your fingers off!

CNC Router/ Laser

First successful cut made last week. A steep learning curve and taking longer to get up to speed than I originally thought.

On Wednesday, 7th July, I am holding an information session in the shed at 11am to provide some insight into using a CNC router. This could be a matter of the blind leading the blind but I am interested in getting other members started on using the CNC.

There will be a soup lunch after the session.

Let me know if you want to attend, for catering and seating.

Pamphlet

We now have a new pamphlet to help us with advertising our Shed. Thanks Bill for designing this.

The pamphlets are on the table in the Shed. Please feel free to take and distribute some of these. Once again, the City of PAE is going to help us by getting the message out to the public, with our pamphlet.

Bunnings Barbecue

Another successful fundraiser last Saturday. Thanks, Peter Sowden, for your continued leadership in managing our Bunnings barbecues. Once again over $1000 was raised for our Shed.

Our thanks to the following for their support on the day, Russell Green, John Brades, Robert and Denise Dunn, Peter Sowden, Chris Barnes, Tony Sumner, Jenny Rossiter and Teresa Pizzino.

Two more barbecues left for the year and therefore another $2000 which will keep our membership fees low.

Thanks for reading this all the way through.

Peter Rawlins

President/Secretary/Workshop Coordinator