



melbourne men's shed inc.

Newsletter No 5
July 2015

The Fitout Finally Happened!

After a lengthy wait for work to start on constructing and fitting out the shed at Federation Square, it all happened fairly quickly. Of course it didn't just happen, lots of people helped and we now have a workshop fully equipped with some very nice woodworking gear – a keen carpenter will want for nothing!!



The kitchen and pantry are built and the major white goods installed, but we haven't yet purchased utensils required for cooking classes. When that is done, a keen chef will want for nothing!



The Computer/Digital Photography area has been revamped and is currently equipped with donated used equipment; 2 PC's, an Apple laptop and a printer. Desk heights have been set for wheelchair bound members. An internet connection will soon be completed, WiFi and all!



If you got the feeling this doesn't look quite like the CAD images you saw in Newsletter #4, you would be right. Significant design changes were made following consultation with the Good Foundation who run cooking classes and an architect who specialises in design for the disabled. All pro bono and just in time! Notwithstanding that, the project came in under budget. We are now talking to the City of Melbourne and DHHS about a formal opening event.

Through all the construction chaos the walking group never missed a beat and is now accredited by the Heart Foundation. Equally impressive was the effort put in by volunteers in site preparation, timber wall panel installation, tiling, painting, etc. All up these guys put in about 430 manhours of in kind contribution to the shed construction. And Federation Square staff were very helpful with a couple of heavy lifts, waste disposal, etc. Bunnings helped out again donating over \$500 worth of tools – much appreciated!

What Next?

A recent survey of member interests has reinforced the most wanted programs to be; hiking/walking, computer skills/digital photography, workshop activities and cooking. The walking program is well established and opening the shed for a second day each week for woodworking is manageable with our existing volunteers, but we need help with cooking classes and computer/digital photography. And we are being approached by disability care providers to help their clients in using shed facilities as part of their rehabilitation.

Come and See Us

So if you have time on a Monday (and soon on a Tuesday), drop in for a chat, a cup of tea, join the walk that morning, and have a look around at what has been created with the generous financial assistance of The State Government and the City of Melbourne. We think the result is something Government and Federation Square should be proud of and is an asset for the community to enjoy.

Even better if you would like to help in making the shed an even better place by teaching others about cooking or digital photography, we would love to talk to you!

Monash Volunteers Show the Way

With the support of Councillor Richard Foster, who is an Industry Fellow at Monash University, three students in the Business and Economics Faculty are volunteering at the Shed under a Community Placement Program. They are developing a submission for the shed to become DGR registered with the Tax Office and as part of that building an improved budgeting process for the Shed.

Alan Seale
Chairman



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