



melbourne men's shed inc.

Newsletter No 4  
March 2015

## The Fitout is Finally Happening!

We have all been waiting for the moment when work will start on setting up a properly equipped shed at Federation Square. The good news is that negotiations with the City of Melbourne and Federation Square have been completed, the necessary approvals are at hand and the funds are in place. We have retained a builder, who is currently lining up all the tradespeople that will be involved. Work will start this week and should be complete by the end of May. Some CAD images of the basic layout are shown below with a bit of explanation.

### **The Overall Plan;**

The project will result in an extremely well equipped workshop with proper dust control and higher security. In the foyer the reception desk will be reconfigured to open up more meeting space whilst providing several computer workstations. The old kitchen area will be fitted out for cooking demonstrations and one of the two washrooms converted into a pantry/ food preparation area. Additional security screening will be fitted to the foyer. All this has been made possible by grants awarded by the State Government and the City of Melbourne, demonstrating their belief in the Men's Shed concept.



## **The Workshop;**

This space, currently equipped with benches made from discarded pallets will be transformed with a range of brand new equipment funded by the City of Melbourne. We will have a professional grade dust collection system, a compound saw, combination planer/thicknesser, table saw, band saw, drill stand, combination belt and disc sander, router and router table, bench grinder, and of course the necessary hand tools stored in two high security multi drawer tool cabinets. The CAD sketch below gives an idea of the layout. All we need now is a bunch of trained enthusiasts!



## **The Reception Area;**

In order to provide a more flexible floor plan the existing reception desk will be reconfigured by relocating the front part of the desk to the back of the office area. The resulting desk will be equipped with large high quality computer monitors and CPU's to enable both computer and photography instruction.



## **The Kitchen;**

The old kitchen is to be replaced with two work areas; a pantry cum food preparation room in what was once a washroom and a new cooking demonstration area facing the foyer. The pantry will be equipped with a sink, benches and shelving and a new refrigerator. A servery will be cut through the wall adjacent to the old kitchen to connect the pantry to the cooking area. The cooking demonstration area will have stainless steel benches, a new large stove, sink and hand washing station. An overhead mirror will be installed to allow participants see the chef's hands at work.



## **And while all this is happening...**

During the construction phase there will be some disruption to the usual program. Nevertheless the Walking Group will be able to operate as normal and some woodworking can be progressed. At the same time there is an opportunity for members to help with the fit-out, in particular in installing the wooden lining on the workshop walls and possibly in the demolition phase.

Needless to say, this is a seminal event in the short history of the Melbourne Men's Shed, one that we will celebrate formally later in the year. The Committee would like to thank everybody at the State Government, the City of Melbourne and Federation Square who have helped us get to this point.