

The Year in Review 2016

Chairman's End of Year Report for 2016



It is my privilege to report on the activities, scope and importance of the Melbourne Men's Shed.

Firstly I would like acknowledge and thank all the members of the 2016 Committee past and present who gave energy, enthusiasm and commitment to their role. In particular, thanks to those Committee Members who completed their term(s) at the Annual General Meeting on 29 August 2016: Alan Seale, Murray Hohnen, Trisha Allen and Ray Brett. We welcomed new Committee Members: Jack Antonas, John Howarth, Roger Matthews and Tony Gualano who joined me, Greg Moran, Roger Thornton and Doug Robertson as the Committee for 2016/2017. I was re-elected Chairman, John Howarth Secretary, Greg Moran Treasurer and Doug Robertson as Membership Secretary.

Our programs continued during the year:

- the wood working team are having a great time turning out wonderful toys which will be donated to the Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary for their fundraising.
- there was great interest in photography with Ralph Alfonso. Hopefully we will start this program again in the New Year. We now have a TV to use for this interest and also for the use in presentations.
- the walking program with Peter & Ray has been great and wishing them another great year
- the IT guys have helped out to establish computers for the members use and progressing towards building a server to have all of the Shed's data stored safely.

During the year we acknowledged the volunteers who helped establish Melbourne Men's Shed with a breakfast ceremony at the Melbourne Town Hall hosted by Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley.

There is a sense of belonging when we come to the shed, we share our likes and our dislikes and laugh it off with smiles, enjoy the company of one another. Our membership is slowly moving in

an upward slope. We now have printed brochures and are able to advertise the Shed to the community and potential members.

The Shed is open every Monday 10-2pm / Tuesdays 10-2pm / Wed. 5-9pm and every third Saturday of the Month 1-3pm.

I would like to wish you and all your family an enjoyable and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2017; drive safely and look after yourself and family and see you all in the New Year.

Andrew Stefanetti (Chairman)

Workshop Report

The Workshop continued making toys over the year. They are well received by the Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary and sold to raise funds for the hospital. Also during the year some paid furniture restorations were completed, raising funds for the Shed.

A wood turning lathe has been installed and training on its use is available. Alan Seale is the coordinator of the workshop and his knowledge of the equipment is invaluable and a tower of strength. Here are some photos of the toys and members at work in the workshop.



Walking Group Report follows:

The Walking Group continued its strong program each Monday over the year. However for many, the highlight was the once a month walk which is a longer walk around Melbourne's suburbs. These walks can be challenging and take us to places that are not routinely seen.

This year our destinations included, the coast from Sandringham to Mentone, the Yarra River from Studley Park to Dights Falls, Elwood Canal to Albert Park, historic Williamstown and its botanic gardens. The highlight walk was along the beautiful Warburton Rail Trail. We walked from Woori Yallock to Yarra Junction. At Yarra Junction Mike and Valerie Hearne generously hosted a BBQ for the walkers at their home.

Next year we are planning walks which take in a tour of the Toyota Manufacturing plant in Altona, a visit to Newport Mosque, Swanson Dock, and the Outer Circle Rail Trail. Typically our walks are less than 10km and well within the capabilities of our members.



"Let's Get Cooking"

The Shed is currently looking for a volunteer Chef to conduct cooking classes. Please speak to the Committee if you know of someone who can help in this regard.

During the year MMS held a special luncheon. The atmosphere was electric. Woodworkers put down tools and the walkers kicked off their shoes! Members created the menu, prepared, cooked and served the delicious food. There were also many willing helpers who cleaned up afterwards.

Yanpu, a member of the Shed, regularly delights members with her hands-on cooking demonstrations. Members have made sushi, dumplings and spring rolls. Thank you Yanpu for enriching our lives with your talents. And of course members all enjoy good coffee, courtesy of vet Dr Bill Ryan from All Creatures Veterinary Clinic on Hoddle.



Computer Report

This year, Simon started to provide one-on-one personal IT support and tuition to teach the participants based on what they know already and want to know. This was especially helpful for those members who were not proficient in using personal computers. Other activities included identifying and rectifying computer problems, as well as explaining how one can gain better value out of their equipment and network.



Simon at the keyboard

Please Note:

- The Shed will close for the festive season from December 22nd until January 8th and re-open on Monday 9th January 2017
- The annual Xmas Party will be held on December 5th at the Shed, 10am - 4pm. For catering purposes, please let us know if you are bringing some food. (*Please advise Andrew on 0407 295 274*)



A normal day at the Melbourne Men's Shed