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| image.png | **Newsletter No 8**  **August 2017** |
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| **Update from Melbourne Men’s Shed**  ***Chairman’s Report***  I would like to thank the committee members for their contributions for the last six months, Lance for the website, Doug for keeping our membership up to date, Ray for the Walking Program, Greg for his tireless treasury work and Doug for his work on the Membership also Tamir with the photos and Simon with is valuable work with the computers, and Roger T and John Howarth, Roger M, Tony, Peter and Jack with their tireless work in the workshop as we have finished a few communities projects also with John Howarth building a special Table for Lachlan Jones.  The Herald Sun Tour was attended by seven MMS members who gave up their time to help out run the first day event in Federation Square and made $350 for the shed.  On feb.25th, myself and Tony Gualano volunteered in the 2017 East Melbourne (Picnic on the Green) barbecue duties for the day.  Roger Thornton finished a project for Animals Australia (Wooden gate in black) which they donated $100 dollars for the project.  It was a busy couple of months at the shed we had a visit by councillor Cathy Oakes on the Saturday 18th March it was organised by Tony Bright to highlight to the MCC the work we do for the community and for our health and wellbeing.  I was looking forward to the Moomba Birdman Rally which Greg and Tony B, but it did not eventuate maybe next year?  Jack Antonas, committee member organised a tour of the Hellenic exhibition at the Melbourne Mint on the 20th March and it was an eye opener, our thanks to Jack.  On March the 3rd. the MCC invited me to participate in a Sharing Economy Workshop which identified the MMS as supporting this sharing economy at the City of Melbourne Smart City Office.  We have had six sessions of the cooking classes and everyone is enjoying them  We have a framed photo of the heart foundation walk group which participated last year hanging the shed.  The Shed’s membership is slowly in an upward trend and at the moment we have 65 members.  The Melbourne Men’s Shed will be conducting a BBQ at Bunnings Port Melbourne on 2nd September please come and enjoy a sausage cooked to perfection by the members of MMS.  Keep safe, healthy and best of all happy.  **Andrew Stefanetti**  **Chairman**  **Melbourne Men’s Shed**  **Workshop Report (by John Howarth, Secretary and active workshop member)**  The previous six months has been a very busy and productive time in the workshop. We have been active with many private projects as well as undertaking some quite large community ones.  The numbers in the shop continue to grow, especially on a Wednesday evening when working people have a chance to visit/participate. One to two potential new members are investigating what we do and where we are each week.  Many of our members have only rudimentary or no skills in woodwork – currently. We foster an open, respectful environment for members to learn while under the watchful eye of our more experienced and skilled members ensuring we maintain a safe work place for members unfamiliar with some of the superb woodworking machines and tools.  **PRIVATE PROJECTS**  Our workshop, by Men’s Shed standards is very well equipped, but also very small in area. This limits the size of private projects that members can store at the Shed. In spite of this we have had a wide variety of innovative and interesting creations undertaken – spinning tops, masons’ mallets, hobby horses, jigsaw puzzles, picture frames, wool bobbins, free-form sculptures, furniture workbench, restoration of a singer sewing machine, cheeseboards, bird houses & feeders, 4X4 jerry can holder, wooden mobiles, goblets, phone charger, wooden trucks and cars.  **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**  The MMS made 5 large multi-coloured Jenga Block sets for use by the Big Issue organisation in their Australia head office here in Melbourne. This project had additional meaning as one of our members, Lachlan sells the Big Issue in the city. The building materials were offcuts that were salvaged from a residential building site skip in Richmond.  The MMS was approached in April by Wildlife Victoria (a volunteer not for profit organisation looking after sick or injured native animals) to build possum nesting boxes. A prototype was constructed, modified and approved. An inventory of 6 flat pack boxes was built from pallet timber destined for landfill. Paint was donated from Paintback (a not for profit initiative to collect waste paint destined for landfill and either reprocess it or dispose of it safely). MMS will receive half of the sale proceeds from Wildlife Victoria, who will manage the promotion and sale of the boxes. The boxes are designed to provide a more attractive nesting site than the suburban roof space.  A wheelchair-bound member of our Shed required a new table that would vary in heights so he could work at or eat his meals from. It is a valuable asset for him as he is now able to work on projects in the Shed.  MMS was asked to repair an antique drop-down table as the middle insert had been lost. The owner was very happy with her new extendable table.  MMS was approached by Hartwell Primary School to provide wooden jigs and cut materials to build 100 bedside tables. The year 6 students build and decorate the tables in their graduation year as a memento of their time at Hartwell. The tables have been a tradition at the school for approximately 20 years and the students and staff were distressed when the previous art teacher had taken the jigs when she left the school. A modest fee was charged to cover materials and maintenance of MMS tools. Bunnings Box Hill kindly donated gift vouchers to the school to help with their expenses.  C:\Users\Andrew\Desktop\20170711_105959-1.jpg  John Howarth and Roger Thornton in the workshop working with one of the projects  The Royal Children’s Hospital (RCH) auxiliary has received a couple of donations of wooden airplanes, trucks and cars to sell at their ground level shop. One of our members has just completed 20 new cars, some of which will be allocated to the RCH.  The RCH has asked if MMS can supply 4 bench seats and a table frame for the recreation area of the RCH patients. This project has been commenced and we expect completion/delivery in late August.  MMS was approached by Condell Growers group (a volunteer organisation providing garden plots for residents in Fitzroy) to build garden seats to promote communication and community for the gardeners. Bunnings Collingwood contributed $400 in gift vouchers for materials through their local community program. Two octagonal seats will go around two central trees in the garden adjacent to the Fitzroy Town Hall. Donated Cyprus posts have been machined down to provide the seating timber. The first seat is nearing completion.  MMS was approached by the John Street Community Early Childhood Co-Op to repair numerous wooden jigsaw puzzles. One MMS member volunteered to take on this detailed but substantial work with scroll saw. I am pleased to report that the work is completed and the last batch of puzzles await pick up by the Co-Op.  The MMS workshop is well aware of its community obligations both within our members and the community at large. New ideas/projects that develop a sense of pride and skills among our members is always welcome. **Below are Tamir Mirza woodwork project.**    C:\Users\dw-pa\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\20170620_103154-1 (002).jpg  **And this is one of John Howarth projects**  **C:\Users\Andrew\Desktop\20170711_104523-1.jpg**  **Walking Group**  The Monday weekly walk is a well-supported activity, but the highlight has to be the longer walk once a month around Melbourne’s suburbs. These walks can be challenging and take members to places that are not routinely seen. Typically, the walks are between 8 to 12 kilometres long. However, the highlight walk, so far this year, was less than 2 kilometres. It was tour of the Toyota Manufacturing plant in Altona, where a new Camry or Aurion is made every 2 minutes.  Other walks this year include;   * Footscray, past Swanson Container Dock, into the City; * Melbourne University, through Princess Park and along Capital City Trail, to Rushall; and * Fairfield, along the Outer Circle Railway Trail, to East Camberwell.          |  | | --- | | ***Cooking Report***  ***The Shed has initiated cooking classes this year with the help from the Department of Veterans Affairs in the form of a grant and a member to teach us how to cook. Graham Tongs from the DVA with is cooking skills which he acquired whilst in the Army is showing us the finer culinary skills how to cook. There has been 6 cooking lessons and delicious lunches!) Already with the members helping to prepare the meals. After the preparation members go for their weekly walk and when they return they finish the cooking.***  ***The enjoyment this brings to the members is fantastic. We have arranged for the cooking program to take place every two weeks as from July 2017. Members will get the chance to nominate the meal of their choice for the next cooking program and they get to eat the results.***  ***Below are some photos of the cooking program.***  ***cid:image009.jpg@01D2FFF5.3BC6CB40*** | |  |   **Computer Report**  We still have two desktop computers set up for members to use for Internet access, with one of them equipped for word-processing and similar tasks. These are connected to a network that is set up in a manner similar to a home network and has a Wi-Fi hotspot for members to connect laptops and mobile devices to while they are at the Shed. We are intending to create a server that will be used not just as an office backup / offload file server but also as a DLNA-compliant media server that works with the 4K Smart TV that the Shed recently purchased. Here, the TV can be used as an illustration tool for the photography classes or as visual merchandising for the Shed.  On Mondays and Tuesdays, Simon is running a computer-assistance clinic from 11am till 2pm. It operates on a one-to-one basis because he can work according to the member’s needs and expertise, especially as most of the membership are older than 60 years and have varying levels of personal-computing experience. It may be about teaching computer skills using the equipment at the Shed or equipment that the members bring with them. This same clinic also is also about troubleshooting members’ computing equipment, including assistance with removing junkware or updating software and configuring such equipment. In some cases, Simon had to visit members’ houses to sort out their home networks and equipment.  F:\Newsletter article - computing\IMG_3721.JPG  ***Melbourne Men’s Shed***  ***Level 1 Federation Square Car Park***  ***Melbourne Vic. 3000***  ***Phone : 9650 9491***  [***www.melbournemensshed.org***](http://www.melbournemensshed.org) | |