Preview For Rotary

In response to a suggestion, and with gratitude for their unstinting generosity, we were pleased to host a shed preview barbeque for Castlemaine Rotary.

Our 4th Birthday Present to Us

It is almost four years to the day since our first significant meeting, according to the attendance book (below). Having the new shed at ‘ready’ stage.

New Shed Takes Shape. We Move In!

Our new shed has progressed to the Certificate of Occupancy stage. The grant from the State Government, generous help from our partners and fundraising by our members finally delivers a tangible dividend.

Happy Birthday to Us

Doug was our ‘Founding Member’ and ‘Driving Force’ over the first years of our existence. It was his idea to have a Men’s Shed in Castlemaine.

Doug gathered the first members together and forged a relationship with the Bendigo Community Bank in Maldon. Bendigo Bank’s reference to Men’s Sheds in their advertising is eminently justified.

Doug’s rapport with local member, Maree Edwards MP, has allowed us to use her skills to navigate our way through the submission process.

Doug passed away when we were within sight of our new shed - we feel his name should grace the building.
It’s good to have a bit of space around us, both inside and out. The site preparation and driveway were undertaken by Graeme Jennings of Jennings earthmoving.

The sheltered verandah, with beautiful vistas, will be the place for barbeques (featuring Don, Castlemaine KR of course).

Time for a ‘cuppa’?
Plenty of room for new members at the new shed.

Doug’s Ironbark tree being planted

The late Doug McConville was enamoured of a flowering ironbark tree that he could see from his back door.

We felt that it would be nice to have our own Doug Ironbark in front of our back door. Thanks to Joe Hancock’s friend, Sociana from Green Frog Nursery Wesley Hill, we obtained a good one which we planted in a soil containing some of Doug’s ashes.

22 September 2017.

Is That a Shed I See?

A Couple of Blasts from the Past

10 March 2017.

Maree turns the 1st Sod

We were excited about starting our shed building project, although we thought it would be difficult and would take a long time.
A Short History of Our Shed

The idea for a Men’s Shed in Castlemaine was floating around among some of the Maldon Shed members at the end of 2013. Prominent drivers of the project appear to be Doug McConville and Michael Martin (both dec.). The nascent Shed had joined VMSA and held its initial meeting on 28/3/14 (9 members) A week later 17 members were present.

The major activity at this time was the transformation of half of the shed behind Windarring into a workshop suitable for men’s projects. The photos show the cramped nature of the area in question.

Between March/April 2014 and the end of 2015 many projects were completed. These included helping out two schools, Indian mynah bird traps and many others detailed on our website.

Meanwhile the search for existing empty space for renovation or a vacant piece of land for building continued. There were a number of sausage sizzles and garage sales and a major gathering of nearby Men’s Sheds at the Botanic Gardens, all to raise money for construction.

Beavering away in the background, the committee incorporated the group and negotiated a sublease on what was the old 16th green at the Mt Alexander Golf Club. With local MP, Maree Edwards, holding our hands, the lease agreement was shepherded through DWELP and an application submitted for a shed grant from DHHS.

Shed designs were drawn up and quotations for various parts of the work and building permits were solicited in anticipation. The DHHS grant was approved in September 2016, but we continued fundraising with sausage sizzles and garage sales and a stall at Wesley Hill Saturday market. EGBP, who have proved very proficient, took charge of the Building Permit and by 10 March 2017 we were ready to declare ‘project on’ with a Turning of the Sod ceremony starring Maree Edwards.

By the end of 2017 we were busy fitting out our workshop even though there was still a bit of work to do for a Certificate of Occupancy. A number of working bees were held to line walls, paint and fit doors at the same time as tradesmen were completing their tasks. Finally we were able to clean up the site and, in the middle of April this year, the Certificate was issued.

We have acquired some useful equipment and tools with which to make things. We have also been gifted a piano and a billiard table, so we expect that we will be able to keep everyone busy and entertained.

The increase in area endowed by our new shed will enable us to cope with extra membership. It will also allow us to spread out our job without inconveniencing other members. We can now start to make things happen.

For more details see our website:
castlemainemensshed.my.free-website