

Men's Shed at St Andrews Inc
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Newsletter March 2018

The Men's Shed continues to provide a place for blokes in the area to get together for work and play. The current membership number is 50. Some of the newer members have been very busy and have further developed metalworking crafts within the shed. The pool table rescued from under a rotting tarp on a deck and restored within a very tight budget continues to attract a queue to play on evening sessions (and confirms that many members had a very misspent youth).

The AGM was held in November with 25 members attending. The committee now has 10 members, with Steve Jenkinson and Kevin Morton joining Daryl Brooke, Brett Barclay, Hermann Ritzinger and Dennis Simpson as general members. Tony Barbeta continues as President, Spencer Field as Vice-President, Peter Wiltshire as Treasurer and Michael Aldred as Secretary. December saw almost 30 members attend a Christmas meal at the shed.

Vandals have damaged a decorative sign at the Black Saturday Memorial at the top of Bald Spur Road – not once but twice! The Men's Shed took the sign back to repair and strengthen it before returning it to the site and reinstalling it in a more secure manner. Special thanks go to Adrian Mugavin of Valley Rural in Hurstbridge for making his plant machinery available to help erect the third version of the sign. (At the time of writing the sign remains intact.)



Adrian Mugavin of Valley Rural using a large auger to bore a very deep hole for the sign to deter further removal



Shed members propping up the sign to make sure it did not fall down immediately (apparently the beer cans were used as spirit levels)

The Men's Shed provided support for the St Andrews Festival. The shed was open during the day and provided an opportunity for almost 100 kids to assemble a wooden toolbox with assistance from adults. Many members of the public toured the shed and a number of men joined the shed on that same day.

About a dozen members enjoyed a visit to Giammarino Winery on Rifle Range Road in St Andrews. Winemaker Dino Giammarino talked about his enthusiasm for grape-growing and winemaking, his career as a winemaker and gave those present a tour of the winemaking facilities. He also provided generous samples of his (delicious) wines to accompany a barbecue supper. The Fiano and Sangiovese wines were particular favourites among our members that night.

Steve Jenkinson used the shed as a workshop to construct a wooden ramp to assist disabled horseriders to mount their horses at St Andrews Pony Club. Funding was provided by Bendigo Bank, Nillumbik Shire Council and Greensborough Rotary. Shed members assisted in moving the ramp to the Pony Club and setting it up for use.



The completed ramp ready for use to assist disabled riders to mount their horse

Blacksmithing has been a feature of Saturday mornings at the shed in the past year. This activity has been suspended during the hotter part of the year and will recommence after the end of the Fire Danger Period.

The shed members have been making nestboxes for endangered brushtail phascogales and sugar gliders for a number of years now. An order for 65 nestboxes for these animals and other fourlegged mammals as well as birds and bats has just been filled. These nestboxes will be placed to provide shelter for animals affected by the tree removal associated with the preparations for the duplication of Yan Yean Road. Money raised from such activities helps to provide some of the amenities for shed members. Thank you to all those who helped with the cutting of wood and assembly and painting of the nestboxes.

Many people will be aware that the adventure playground on Wattletree Road in Eltham North was burnt to the ground by arsonists just after Christmas of last year. Sheds in the area were asked to be involved in provision of a noticeboard at the site to give information to local people about the redevelopment of the park and also to allow locals to make suggestions on a blackboard. Representatives of Eltham Men's Shed, Diamond Creek Men's Shed and the Men's Shed at St Andrews met to discuss the project and within a week the noticeboards had been constructed in kit form by Eltham Men's Shed. Our shed deputation provided a post-hole digger and dug the holes necessary for the erection of the shelter. This is a great example of collaboration and cooperation between sheds for the benefit of the community.



The completed blackboard and noticeboard assembly with roof over to provide shade and shelter

Shed members have also assisted in manufacturing and fitting supports on the verandah of the St Andrews Community Centre to allow umbrellas to be put up to give welcome shade on sunny days.

The shed is open on Wednesday 9am-1pm, Thursday 7pm-10pm and Saturday 9am-1pm.

Michael Aldred
Secretary