

Men's Shed at St Andrews Inc
35 Caledonia Street
St Andrews VIC 3761
standrewsmensshed@gmail.com

ABN 12 292 941 487
Incorporated in Victoria A0060308F
Australian Men's Shed Association Member
AMSA100878



Newsletter September 2017

The highlight of the winter months featured an outing to a working blacksmith's forge. Read on....

St Andrews Men's Shed visit to Mont De Lancey

Twelve of the Men's Shed members accepted an invitation to see a working blacksmith's forge at Mont De Lancey at Wandin in the Yarra Valley. The day dawned with thick fog which cleared to a clear blue sky for the rest of the day.



The shed housing the blacksmith's forge at Mont De Lancey

The forge is run by Oskar Huecherig, assisted by Paul Cacioli. The forge is open most Sundays and on other days by arrangement. The annual Australian Blacksmithing day is hosted every October.



Shed members look on as Oskar heats metal in the forge



Oskar working a heated metal bar on the anvil, with Paul in the background

After a demonstration of the various techniques involved, shedders were engaged in hands-on blacksmithing, producing some very elegant pokers under guidance from Oskar and Paul. Oskar followed up with some advanced demonstrations using a power hammer, making a more intricate poker with a leaf and stem wrapped around the shaft.



Oskar using the power hammer to shape heated metal



An intricate poker with a leaf and stem wrapped around the shaft

Oskar finished the demonstration by crafting an absolutely spectacular golden rose from a brass blank.



A brass rose from a blank of metal

Mont De Lancey runs blacksmithing classes for interested groups and individuals, including schools and TAFE organisations. The basic items that the students can make on these courses are a billy stand, triangle, fire poker and various wall brackets.



A billy stand and triangle as made by students attending classes at Mont De Lancey



Some of the blacksmithing wares available for purchase

The Men's Shed members who participated would like to thank Oskar and Paul for a fantastic day. Mont De Lancey is definitely worth a visit by other Men's Sheds interested in blacksmithing!

Other attractions at Mont De Lancey include the pioneer homestead with historic kitchen and home dairy set in beautiful gardens, St Marys Chapel built in the 1920s and a vintage machinery shed. The highlight of the year is a Draught Horse and Yesteryear Festival in November.

Mont De Lancey
71 Wellington Road
Wandin North VIC 3139

Web: montdelancey.org.au
Phone: (03) 5964 2088
Email: info@montdelancey.org.au

Other news

Seven members of the St Andrews and other sheds in the area participated in a Writing Workshop in early September run by author Neil Grant in conjunction with Butterfly Studio. The workshop was enjoyed by all who attended, Some beautiful stories emerged, well written and courageously shared. It is envisaged that similar workshops will be offered to other shed clusters.

Plans are underway for Men's Shed involvement in the St Andrews Festival on 17 September. Apart for general assistance in preparations for the Festival, the shed members have prepared kits to enable children (with assistance from an older family member) to put together a timber toolbox.

The shed currently has 46 members on its books. It is now open on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings as well as Saturday mornings for blacksmithing.

Shedders were pleased to be able to visit Saunders Garage in Hurstbridge where proprietor Rick showed the visitors one of his muscle cars, other interesting vehicles and memorabilia and especially the wartime truck used by his dad as a breakdown truck for decades; this occupies pride of place in the front of the workshop (under a few layers of dust!). Thanks to Rick from all those who attended.

Shed members are involved in an art project with Tammy Hulbert, Lecturer in Art at RMIT. The art project will be realised at Wadambuk St Andrews Community Centre.

The sign for the Black Saturday memorial on Bald Spur Road has been damaged by vandals on two occasions. The shed members have been involved in restoring the sign and its supporting hardware and will install the repaired version in September.

A horizontal milling machine has been added to the list of metalworking machines in the shed. The mill was donated to the shed and has been completely overhauled and rewired by Ken Neilson, Steve Jenkinson and David Gedge.



Ken, Steve and David with the refurbished horizontal mill

The metalworking lathe is now in working order. In the woodworking area a woodturning lathe can now be used and a linisher has also been installed.

Michael Aldred
Secretary

Thanks to Steve Jenkinson for words and pictures from Mont De Lancey