

## Showgrounds Community Men's Shed Newsletter – February 2021

### PRESIDENT'S UPDATE – *Mike Wiggin*

There has been a lot happening at your Shed over the last two months. We have undertaken a huge re-organisation of the Shed and a clean-up of unwanted items in late January. This resulted in:

- Moving of the lathes from the machine room to what was formally the store room
- The installation of the new router table in the machine shop
- Moving the wood racks away from the wall to allow access to both sides
- Clearing all timber from across the road and the commissioning of the new 6m Sea Container for longer term timber storage

Unfortunately, we filled three 9m<sup>3</sup> waste bins in the process of disposing of the unwanted material, which cost us around \$1800. This re-enforces the need for all of us to be wary of accepting anything that someone wants us to have. If you can't see a direct need for the offered goods in the immediate future, please don't take anything "just in case."

Our first sundowner was a great success, so much so that we are going to make it a regular feature of our monthly schedule from now on. The inclusion of partners has brought both a civilising change to the tone of these events and an improvement in the standards of the foods on offer ... a gain all round!

In the coming months, your Shed will be getting involved in a number of community-based initiatives, starting with greater cooperation with the military and veterans and stretching through possible yoga classes in the evening to a 2-day workshop on making resin tables. Our Shed is a community resource and these things are part of getting involved with our local community.

### WOODWORKING GROUP – *Mike Wiggin*

The woodworkers are busy with a number of projects:

- We've recently completed a pair of portable change rooms for the new pop-up recycled clothing that Anglicare has opened on Bay View Tce in conjunction with the Town of Claremont.
- We also made a pair of planter boxes to hold the Pop-up Shop's trademark lemon trees.

- The 50 bowls boxes for the Claremont Bowls Club are over half-finished and should be delivered within the next week.
- The windows to replace the louvers in the kitchen are close to completion and should be ready for painting in the next few days.
- The modifications to the TV cabinet are completed and awaiting pick-up.
- Various smaller projects have been coming and going more or less continuously.
- Last but not least, the Chairman's monster bookcase is now complete and ready for delivery! This has been a long-term effort, largely because he was making it up as he went along and the bench space it frees up will be most welcomed.

As well as all this, we have had a plethora of member's projects being completed and quite a number of members completing the woodwork induction course.

This is my last report as leader of the woodwork group. Mike Cahill has agreed to take over my role here, so welcome Mike.

## GARDEN GROUP – *Steve Gerreyn*

Well, the plants loved the recent rainfall, but we did lose a few over the past week when the RAS turned off the Bore and we didn't realise before it was too late. Anyway, all up and running again with three days per week from the Bore.

Since the last Newsletter we have completed the external Shade House on the Western Side and also installed a shade sail adjacent to the Peppercorn tree. All the Shade plants have now been moved into these areas.



Last week six members of the Garden Group met to start planning "Where to from Here". Below are the key strategies that we will further explore for the future of the Shed Garden.

- More focus on Shade Plants/Indoor Plants, Trees and with smaller numbers of specific varieties
- Continue to beautify the Shed Grounds
- Greater engagement with the RAS and Town of Claremont to look at joint initiatives
- Explore "one stop shop" garden Service Offerings to local Apartment Residents
- Sell, donate and dispose of current stock of sun hardy plants
- Invite external parties to present gardening ideas and tips to garden group and other interested parties
- Greater emphasis working on Community Garden initiatives and Fund-Raising causes
- Sectionalise Garden and allocate specific ongoing responsibilities to teams of two
- Review and redesign the Garden/Bicycle area to better accommodate the three main groups that use this area, Gardening, Bicycles and Kitchen Groups

We have also decided to hold a Shed Open Day on Saturday 10th of April between 9.30 and 12.30. A key focus of this will be to move a lot of the existing plant stock at very reasonable prices, along with Woodworking items and food prepared by our Kitchen Group.

## KITCHEN GROUP – *Werner Ribul*



Following a well-deserved break over the Xmas and New Year's holiday period, the newly formed SCMS Kitchen Leadership Group went to work to design a programme for the 1st half of 2021. It was decided to structure an events programme based on one Monthly Luncheon and one Sundowner in conjunction with the Monthly Members Presentation. And, of course, there will again be the ever-popular Morning Teas on Thursdays to support our volunteer members at the weekly shed clean-up.

### Highlights

The 1st SCMS Sundowner of the year was held on 27th January, the day after Australia Day. Despite the absence of a Monthly Presentation (or maybe because of it!), we welcomed over 50 members, many of whom brought along their partners. And what a party it turned out to be!

A sizeable Kitchen Team around chef Bill Macleod delivered a sumptuous meal of barbequed prawns and rissoles in a tomato sauce with accompanying salads. So popular was the food offering that two latecomers could only be served part portions

because everything had been snatched up by our hungry souls – I'm sure they won't be late again!



Bar Manager Robert was swamped from the get-go with dozens of thirsty Sheddies lining up to purchase some cool drinks and it took more than 30 mins to clear the long line of patrons to get the party started. The weather turned out to be picture-perfect for our new, extended garden sundowner set-up and Dennis's shade sail installation proved mission-critical to keep the cooking/serving station cool amid the beautiful evening sunset.



If this Sundowner was a sign for what's to come in 2021, we are going to have one hell of a catering year at the SCMS!

By the time you read this, our regular SCMS luncheon sessions will have started with a South African-themed menu of Beef Bobotie with an intriguing dessert called Koeksisters prepared under the watchful eye of chef Stewart Forbes. I'm sure that those who attended will have thoroughly enjoyed the fare, especially since there was the added attraction of Castle Lager on ice, one of the most popular beers from South Africa.

The planned March luncheon (9th March) will take us back to South East Asia with a traditional "Beef Rendang" with accompaniments being prepared by chef Keng Wong. Trust me, you do not want to miss this special treat!

In addition to a number of enhancement projects for our SCMS Kitchen, the Leadership Group has also started the groundwork to deliver a number of Cooking Courses for our shed members. Watch the space for further announcements later this year.

Stay safe & eat healthy (at the SCMS Kitchen)!



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH – *Bill MacLeod*

### BBQ Prawn Salad with Avocado Mayo

*An Australian classic – prawns on the barbie. But this recipe has added class with a bit of salad so that it looks healthy and inviting. Prepare the mayo ahead of time as it can be stored in the fridge until required. Purchase frozen local prawn tails with the shell removed to take the fuss out of preparation.*

Prep Time: 40 minutes

Serves: 12

Cook Time: 10 minutes

Total Time: 50 minutes

#### Ingredients

##### Avocado Mayo

- ½ cup whole-egg mayo
- 1 large (300 g) avocado coarsely chopped
- 1 ½ tbsp wasabi paste
- 1 ½ tbsp lime (lemon) juice



##### BBQ Prawn salad

- 1 kg medium prawn tails (shell removed)
- 120 ml olive oil
- 150 ml lime (lemon) juice
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 red chilli, finely chopped
- 200 g baby rocket leaves
- 500 g Lebanese cucumber, finely sliced diagonally
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### Method

##### Avocado Mayo

1. Put mayonnaise, avocado, wasabi and lime juice into blender
2. Blend until smooth.
3. Season to taste.
4. Add water if required to form a drizzling consistency
5. Cover and refrigerate until required.

##### BBQ prawn salad

1. Combine oil, juice, garlic and chilli in a large bowl and season to taste.
2. Blanch frozen prawn tails in boiling water for 30 seconds and refresh in iced water.
3. Add blanched prawn tails to marinade and toss to combine.
4. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

5. Prepare serving tray by creating a bed of rocket and cucumber.
6. Pre-heat a lightly oil a non-stick frying pan over a moderate flame.
7. Cook prawns in batches for 1 minute on each side until just cooked through.
8. Keep warm on plate until all prawns are cooked.
9. Spread warm cooked prawn across salad bed.
10. Drizzle avocado mayonnaise over prawns and salad.
11. Serve any left-over dressing on the side for diners who want more.

### Recipe Notes

- Prepare the mayo ahead of time.
- You can also put the frozen prawns directly into the marinade to defrost, however, do not leave them for too long otherwise you will have ceviche prawns - which is an entirely different dish!!

## COMPUTING AND SOCIAL MEDIA – *Les Gunn*

This has been a relatively quiet period due to holidays and Covid-19 related closures of The Shed. We configured and installed computer equipment including a new multi-function printer/scanner for the Photography Group. Various members were helped with understanding of smartphone functions including SMS (Text), email and important applications including SafeWA and (Federal) Covid-19 Apps.

This year the Computer and Smartphone Help Desk is open on Mondays and Wednesdays by appointment and you are welcome to bring your PC, Tablet or smartphone or just use one of our desktop PCs/Mac. Whatever you decide, almost always, a password is required so don't leave those credentials for Google/Microsoft/Apple account sign-on at home.

Please contact Les Gunn at [les.gunn@gmail.com](mailto:les.gunn@gmail.com) or 0412171006 for help with email, smartphones, WiFi, Cloud storage, malware or virus protection and any other IT issues that may have you bogged-down in technology.

## BICYCLES GROUP – *Michael Bisset*

Thanks to a regular and committed group of guys we have now delivered 140 bikes to Bicycles 4 Humanity over the past 7 months. We have also raised close to \$2,000 through bikes sales of donated bikes that are unsuitable for an African community destination.

We have developed strong community knowledge of the activity resulting in a regular flow of donated bikes, which is additional to our pick ups from specific B4H donation points.

If you have family or friends who have a bike that they no longer need then please encourage them to donate it to us to support the charitable work the Shed does through this activity.

## BEE KEEPING GROUP – *Peter Panek*



Due to the Covid-19 State Government enforced lockdown during the early part of February, our planned meeting for the 3rd was pushed back until Friday 19th February at the Shed meeting room.

Hopefully we had a few members along at this meeting, the topic of discussion being Honey Extraction (*meeting happened before newsletter published so details next month*). This season by all accounts has been a dreadful honey season and it will be interesting to hear the firsthand experience of our members and their own hives successes.

Also we shall have a quick quiz to determine who our most knowledgeable Apiarist is with a valuable prize to be awarded to the winner.

In the meantime, our own hives continue to struggle along. Hive Number 1 (Queen Elizabeth), which suffered an early season swarm but was replaced with a swarm which we captured has not survived. Inspection some weeks ago determined there was no visible queen, eggs, or new brood and this hive has subsequently died off.

Hive Number 2 (Queen Catherine) is alive and well and is our 2nd strongest hive.

Hive Number 3 (Queen Beyonce also known as Queen B) is the nucleus hive which we purchased, and this hive continues to grow slowly.

Hive Number 4 (with Queen Amidala from the movie Star Wars) is without doubt our strongest hive and it too continues to grow slowly.

Our last honey harvest produced an estimated 12 Litres of honey, which when added to our existing stocks resulted in approximately 40 jars containing 500 grams of honey.

It was very pleasing to have a couple of new members come along and experience the fun of opening the hives, inspecting them, and then withdrawing fullish frames, followed by the whole honey extraction process. Members are always welcome to participate in the management of the hives.

The Shed executive has determined that this honey will be donated to members of the Shed who have provided considerable assistance to the cause of the Shed with their efforts.

Hence over the next period, honey jars will be distributed to Members of the Shed Board, Shed Supervisors, Shed Group Team Leaders, Shed Gold and Silver members, and senior members of the RASWA.

Eventually, we hope to have enough honey to sell to Shed members and the general public and in so doing, provide an ongoing revenue stream for the Shed. Maybe next season.

On a separate note, one of our members suffered several bee stings to his face when undertaking a simple, quick inspection of his own hives. As a consequence, his whole face swelled up to the point that he was almost unrecognisable. The lesson to be learned, is to always wear your protective gear. It costs only a few minutes to put it on, but potentially saves hours of discomfort.

Finally, to assist our bees in the next season we have been in discussions with some of our Shed's keen gardeners and consequently we are planning on planting some canola in the bee area. The planting will take place in April and will probably be done in 2 or 3 plantings, spread 2 weeks apart. This will give us a longer period of flowering for our small crop. If you noticed the very positive effect the planting of the Sunflowers in front of the Shed had on our members, wait till you see our field of golden canola. Canola is very high in both pollen and nectar and the bees love it.

I look forward to greeting you at the Shed sometime soon and in the meantime, Bee Safe.

## WINE APPRECIATION GROUP – *Graeme Owens*

With the Shed closed on our January date, then locked down again on our February date, it looked like we would be enduring a long time between drinks - early December to early March. But the cavalry arrived in time. Lock-down ceased and we were able to slip in an alternative date in February. Our members complied with all regulations, they arrived wearing masks, they departed wearing masks, and were able to remain unmasked while seated and drinking (and talking - they did lots of that).

Wines presented for discussion were the usual interesting and varied lot. Our leader surprised all by presenting a sparkling shiraz. Sure, not the usual wine for such a gathering but it went down well accompanied by plenty of discussion. Michael Hart presented a red wine from



Sicily, and yes, that did confuse a few. Chris Harding went to great lengths for us, first with an explanatory slideshow then with two Rieslings, both disguised, which we compared having two different glasses. We found the differences were surprising, yet these were the same grape, same year, same winemaker, same winery processes. The



only difference being the grapes were picked from two different regions down South. There was lesson in that.

Three members have volunteered to select and present their choice of wines at our next meeting. We can hardly wait.



## ELECTRONICS GROUP – *John Hassell*

The Electronics Group will be holding a Learn to Solder skills session on the afternoon of Friday February 26th from 1:30pm until 4:00 pm in the Shed Meeting room.

Participants will be introduced to soldering small electronic parts and will construct an "Electronic Badge" to take home.

Numbers are limited to five per session due to the availability of tools and equipment, so register as soon as possible.

Don't worry if you miss out, further sessions will be run depending on the level of interest.

Cost is \$25 for the session and badge. Check your email for tickets to this event.

## WOODTURNING GROUP – *David Rechter*

I am pleased to present the first entry to the Shed's newsletter in regard to woodturning.

Many of you would have noticed the lessons which have been running most Fridays, in the machinery room, over the last 6 months. They have proven to be so popular, and the relevant members showed so much enthusiasm, that the Committee decided to form a full-blown Group in 2021.

Having simply been a guest instructor in 2020, but noting the support for our craft from all sections at the Shed, it was an easy decision for me to become a full member at the start of this year. Subsequently, with a little urging from Peter Panek, I agreed to take on the Group Leader's role, and here we are today with a band of 29 like-minded members.

We held an introductory meeting on 27th January, and from there have established a leadership group, which includes Mike Cahill, Noel Hickman and Anthony McGrath. We also found members to fill positions such as safety officers, cleaning supervisor, librarian, tutors, and equipment maintenance. It was very pleasing to see so many members step up to help, which indicates a very bright future for our Group.

We also agreed to meet twice a month, at 1.00pm on the first and third Tuesdays, with an interchange of demonstrations and hands-on. Other initiatives coming out of this meeting was a demonstrator training course involving four of our Group, ad-hoc tuition for previous class members, the acquiring of a quantity of good quality timber blanks for members to purchase at very reasonable prices, and the establishment of a library of instructional books and magazines.

During January, the Group was rehoused with our lathes to the front of the Shed, away from the noise of the machinery room, which makes working and teaching far more pleasurable. We are gradually making this area in to a workable "home", which should be finalized by the end of this month.

The biggest frustration being experienced, is the number of Shed members waiting to undertake one of our 8 week beginners classes, which is a necessary prerequisite before any person (except if proven to have current expertise), to undertake work on the Shed's lathes. We are currently underway with the January course, have closed off bookings for the second quarter, and have only one spot left for the third quarter of 2021.

Despite the delay in getting started, if any member of the Shed is interested in being involved, they are more than welcome to register with me (0412 886 500 or at [dkja.rechter@gmail.com](mailto:dkja.rechter@gmail.com)), and will then be kept up with all our emails, and can attend our twice monthly meetings.



*Peter Panek, who was one of the first Shed members to complete the formal woodturning training course, receiving a little additional personal tuition from David Rechter.*



*Woodturning member Stephen Keenihan, who is in the first group to undertake demonstrator training, discussing a different technique.*



## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP – Mike Somerville-Brown

### First Workshop for 2021

At the Workshop on 11 Feb 2021 we discussed the proposed Program of activities for 2021 (See Figure 1) which includes some exciting new initiatives including overnight field trips and member projects to help build camaraderie, and improve our knowledge and skills in photography. The members present were very supportive of the various activities offered with an enthusiastic showing of hands when we asked for indicative numbers for the overnight field trips.



We currently have 44 members in the Group and are the second largest group in the Shed. We are also now sharing the Treasurer's Office (next to the Conference Room) and have set it up as a "Photography Room" with a computer, colour printer and scanner.

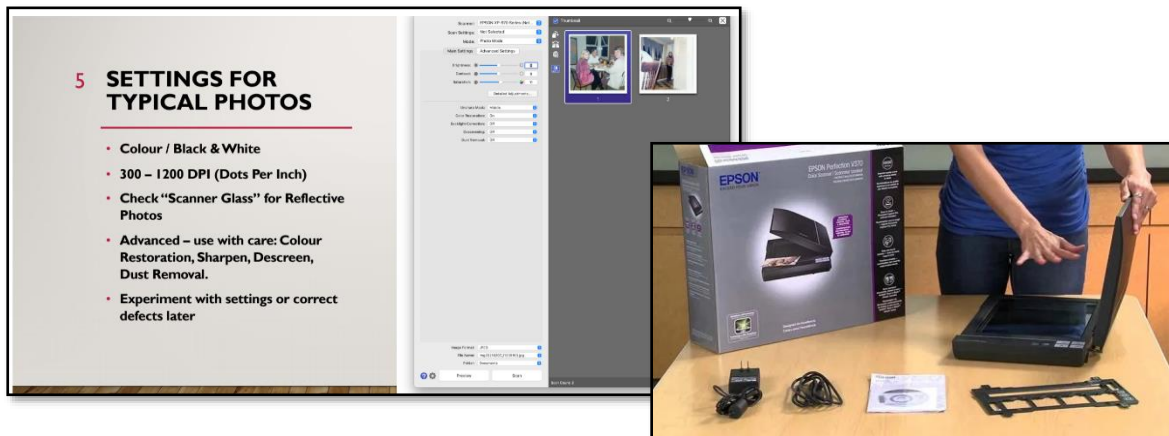
DATE	Duration (Hours)	Session	Stream	Resource/Presenter	Comments
11 Feb 2021	2	Program Overview & Review; Scanning Demonstration	General	Mike/Les	Take inventory of home desktop/laptops
25 Feb 2021	5	Lightroom Overview (Half Day)	Lightroom	Peter/Les	Half Day Workshop
11 March 2021	2	Lightroom Workshop - practical exercises	Lightroom	Peter/Les	Members use Lightroom on own/SCMS PCs
25 Mar 2021	4	Presentation on Sunsets followed by trip to South Perth and Elizabeth Quay	Photo	Peter/Les	City & South Perth shots; dinner at South Perth
8 April 2021	2	Historical Photos Theme: 1. Cattle Drives by Jim Thom 2. "Then & Now" using Historical photos (Project 1) 3. Scanning Workshop by Les Gunn	Project	Jim/Peter/Les	Projects - Members choose different locations; scanning advice from Les by appointment on Wed
22 April 2021	2	Video Overview - shooting & making short movies & slideshows	Video	Mike	
10 to 14 May 2021	96	Overnight Trip (Straw House Witchcliffe three nights)	Photo	ALL	Chris to check accommodation
13 May 2021		See above	Photo		
27 May 2021	2	Lightroom Workshop - practical exercises	Lightroom	Peter/Les	Members use Lightroom on own/SCMS PCs
10 June 2021	2	Video - Making Slideshows with iMovie	Video	Mike	Use photos from previous field trips
24 June 2021	2	Project 1 Historical Photo Presentations (slideshows)	Project	ALL	
8 July 2021	2	Night Shooting Presentation followed by trip to own locations	Photo	Martin	
22 July 2021	2	Presentation 1 on Photobooks including layouts; Presentation 2 by Mike Donaldson	Photo	Owen/ Mike D	Peter to arrange Mike D
12 August 2021	2	Presentation Shutter Priority & capturing movement; exercises & Project 2 allocation	Photo	Peter	Sports, Cars, Boats, Engineering Works/ Showgrounds Foundry, etc
26 August 2021	2	Preparation for Royal Show	General	ALL	Preparation of selected photos & videos for presentation during Royal Show
9 Sept 2021	36	Wildflower Field Trip - Mid West sites	Photo	Chris	Overnight Trip
23 Sept 2021	2	Royal Show	General	ALL	Display of photos and videos
14 Oct 2021	2	Workshop on Concerts; followed by Field Trip to a Concert by Jim McGuire (TBC)	Photo	Peter/Jim	Peter to arrange with Jim; Peter to arrange lighting with Jim
28 Oct 2021	2	Workshop - TBA	Photo	Peter/Les	
11 Nov 2021	2	Field Trip - Urban Streetscapes around Perth/Fremantle	Photo	Peter	Themes include Building Architecture; Laneways; Urban Art, etc.
25 Nov 2021	2	Workshop - TBA	Video	Mike	
9 Dec 2021	2	Presentation of Project 2	Project	ALL	
23 Dec 2021	NIL	No session			

Figure 1: Photography Group Program for 2021

At the Workshop we also discussed the need for a new computer with the required specifications to support the program for 2021 of presentations and series of workshops on Lightroom software for photos as well as Premiere Elements for making

short videos and slideshows. With the approval of the Shed Executive, subject to cost recovery, we bought a new computer, high resolution screen, external hard disks and software. We have proposed a \$50 fee for photography members in 2021 to recover these costs.

The Workshop also included a very informative demonstration on the use of a scanner by Les Gunn with some very useful tips on selecting settings for setup, modes and resolution.



The workshop concluded with a Sundowner where we enjoyed a glass of wine or two and some nibbles.

I hope to see our members continue to be active and attend the exciting program of presentations, workshops and field trips during 2021.

**Stay Safe and enjoy the activities of the Shed!**