



## *NEWSLETTER* - May 2011 EDITION

### *Hi to all interested readers*

The editor has been very guilty of not providing a newsletter this year.. The excuse has been “too busy” which may have some merit but no justification, heads may roll.

2011 started slow with the usual January clean up completed in readiness for an anticipated busy year. Well we weren't disappointed. Committee members have been invited to make presentations to several men's groups and associations with similar interest within the area including Port Stephens Shire Council.

Our Shed was one of ten Cluster group shed to attend the Men's Shed Expo held at Maitland during April. The expo attracted an huge interest from the local area as well as Newcastle district and the upper Hunter. We addressed a large number of enquiries about Shed activities and attracted about eight new members and two new projects that has the potential of providing renewable income. We have also been asked by Bennetts Green Rotary Club to assist with a major fundraising golf day later in the year which will generate further benefits to the association.

We are currently organising drafting of the plans and development application for an extension of one full bay to the front of the existing building, thanks to a grant from the State Government. Completion of this project will provide a long overdue area for administration and an additional area for meetings and quieter-low energy projects.

The Windale Shed has attracted some media moments recently. NBN Channel 3 pro-

duced a promo for the Maitland expo using the Windale Shed as the focal point and just last week they produced a news item at the Shed as a result of a renewal of a federal grant to the value of \$376,000. The Member for Shortland Jill Hall, who was interviewed at the time, saying she welcomed the grant which was over three years to help men in the Lake Macquarie area.

The Windale Men's Shed, auspiced by CatholicCare in Newcastle in regard to the grant, runs social and community activities for disadvantaged/mature aged men in Windale and the broader community.. This renewed funding will “help to really consolidate what the men do at Windale Shed. They are all volunteers and they really help young people with youth mentoring and other community support activities” according to Liz Macdonald, CatholicCare's Community Development Manager., who went on to say “The Windale Men's Shed is a pioneering Shed as it was one of the first in the region when it established in 2004. It shared a lot of its resources to help other Men's Sheds become established – both in the Hunter region and also nationwide”.

---

Shed membership continues to grow as does the number of projects to complete. However, some members are travelling with other cluster shedders to Lightning Ridge later this month to celebrate the opening of their men's shed. I'm sure there will be some celebrations to lighten the load and quality R & R.

*The Editor*