

WINDALE Men's Shed & Community Group Inc.

Presidents Annual Report 2009-2010

The Windale Men's Shed and Community Group has experienced a very successful year in terms of activities for the members and viability. Members have completed quite a number of personal projects together with *shed* projects such as constructing six 'Sailability' metal boat trailers for the 16 Footer Sailing Club, two fold- away work benches for aged care facilities and a full size 'office' desk. Children's play furniture (see photo) and a dolls cradle as a raffle prize for a local community group were also completed during the year.



Other projects such as walker trays for HNEH Occupational Health Therapy Department were completed during the year. Members also attended many meetings and exhibitions during the year as well as supporting information stands at Lake Macquarie City Council's Seniors Week Breakfast and at Glendale TAFE

Notwithstanding the membership number hovers around seventy, the attendance rate per day has drastically increased with the attendance mean average for 2010 increasing by in excess of 100% compared to the 2009 July statistics. The down side of this success is the limited safe work area within the shed because of an increase in numbers and physical storage. On behalf of the *Shed*, I wish to express appreciation to Matthew Morris for his assistance in resolving the storage problem by providing a \$5000.00 donation by the state government to assist with the storage dilemma. We purchased and fitted out two twenty foot storage containers as a result.

A change of name for the association from Windale Community Group Inc to Windale Men's Shed & Community Group Inc. was achieved during the year as was deductible gift recipient status with the ATO. This change was pursued as a result of advice from ATO personnel who suggested that the associations name had a negative affect on our application for DGR as the name distorted the primary focus for the *Shed*.

We have been busy also developing and producing a *Shed* brochure reflecting our position and our own web site, which is regularly maintained and updated. The web site has been regularly visited and is a proven good information tool, with a number of enquiries and visits occurring as a result.

Beside mentoring youth from socially disadvantaged backgrounds in the Shed through Alambi, members have been involved in an off-site pilot scheme to mentor selected students from years 9 & 10 at schools. The aim is to impart their own career experiences with a view to a encourage

students to at least review their future in regards to remaining in school or their personal career selection. Furthermore, it is anticipated we could trial mentoring at the Shed of students from local primary schools to provide a form of transition from primary level to secondary level

In addition, the Shed has been involved in providing support for the New South Wales Men's Shed Association advisory committee and a Beyond Blue advisory committee that was formed to assist with the development of a web site that can reflect the men's shed movement. The site is aimed at potential users suffering with mental illness who are unable to physically attend a Shed. This web site was launched in November this year.

Shed members were involved in seven fund raising BBQS at Bunnings – Belmont with an additional BBQ occurring on December 22. They are very successful days for both members and the association as the event provides good bonding and raises good funds, thereby helping our sustainability. Members were also involved in the September and November Try A Trade days for the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie located secondary school. These events attract approximately 500 students who were able to experience a variety of career opportunities for them to assess. Two shed committee members attended a meeting/dinner with the MacKillop Men's Group from Gateshead and gave a presentation on the activities of the Shed. Other presentations were also made during the year to other like groups.

Martin Leist was appointed as the new coordinator in July 2010 to the role vacated by David Helmers; David has moved on and is now the Exec Officer for AMSA. Martin has primarily been engaged in duties related to establishing the NSWMSA and assisting AMSA.

The association was extremely pleased to be nominated by Career Links for an award for "Workplace Excellence-Community Service 2010". The presentation to *Shed* representatives Mick Malone and Neville Weibe was made by Jill Hall - Member for Shortland and was held at the 16 Footer Club during November.

Special thanks go to the committee and the office bearers for their ongoing effort and participation during the year. Committee duties are in excess to ones own personal requirements and shed demands and your support is very much appreciated, thankyou.

Congratulations for a job well done and I wish the very best for the elected committee for 2011.

Roger Greenan
16 December 2010