



# Narooma Men's Shed Newsletter

March 2020

Issue 25

## Bushfire Recovery

The Narooma Mens Shed has been very active in the community during the bushfire recovery, here is a list of the current activities:



- Raised over \$1100 at a men's shed cook-up from the members in January;
- Purchased and supplied three generators to Cobargo;
- Repaired the vandalised Narooma Scout Hall and organised the water and electricity to be restored to enable some people from Cobargo to escape the fires;
- Collecting and distributing tools to fire affected communities;
- Visiting a different restaurant each week with around 30 members to help the local businesses;
- Assembled about 100 water stations for Wires to be distributed in the bush;
- Building a water tank holder at the Belowra RFS;
- Helping the Nerrigundah RFS with shelving and water piping;
- Building 60 nesting boxes for the Eurobodalla Council to be distributed on the bush.

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Australian Men's Shed Association  
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

# Event Calendar

## March

Sunday 8th	Dalmeny Market
Tuesday 10th	Cook up
Thursday 12th	Dinner at Thai Narooma
Sunday 22th	Narooma Market
Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th	Gunuma Lodge, Smiggins Hole
Thursday 26th	Diner Bodalla Pub

## April

Tuesday 7th	Cook up
Wednesday 8th	Golf
Thursday 9th	Dinner La Bocca
Sunday 12th	Dalmeny Market
Wednesday 15th	Barefoot Bowls
Sunday 26th	Narooma Market

Contact the event secretary for further information on events

Steve McGourty (0417697256)

## President's Report

### EVER CHANGED YOUR MIND ON ANYTHING ?

Very early morning and I turn on the radio (ear plugs of course). A reporter is haranguing some poor sod about something, on and on ... and the sod says .."hey have you ever changed your mind on anything.....ever?". Got me thinking . Had I recently changed my mind on anything important . Hmmmm. Older man , dogmatic? Stuck in the mud? Locked in to a life time of my own experience? But then ... yes I have and it goes like this .

In amongst this countries greatest natural disaster, bewildered about the response of the powers that be and trying to support those worse off than me, I remember walls coming down on my ideas on polities and their hard bitten need to get re -elected above all other matters .

I met Andrew Constance at the Cobargo pub. He looked tired and was busy as, talking, hand shaking, reassuring and organizing. On TV later our local member looked tired, emotionally drawn and just about at the end of his tether, eyes black and he spoke of his and others terror at the events we have just been through. He spoke non partisan talk and damn near begged for action, help and a tearing down of red tape. He spoke as I felt. He was up to helping to his arm pits which is where he should have been. He was a different bloke.

Experience had got him: he had been "mugged by reality. " (to quote HG Nelson of Roy and HG fame). I had changed my mind about what polities do !!

And we have had to step up too and do what we can. Its been superb to be with a group of good men at a time never seen before.

The slab and tank stand at Belowra, the waterpipe and fittings at Nerrigundah, the marvellous "Restaurant Rescue" activity, money raising, generators and loads of tools for Cobargo, the fuel storage racks, the watering pipes for native animals and the bird nesting boxes of all sorts (so many)

But it is the generosity of spirit and the willingness to help from many men at the NMS that lifts my spirits and allows me the comfort of knowing our local area will grow again and build a new future. Brilliant.

New stuff. We were asked by MACS (Montague Art and Craft Society) to do a series of sessions on basic use of hand tools. I think Dick and Harry kicked off Monday 2nd March for 6 weekly sessions. Fits neatly into our community outreach and helps another not-for-profit mob to become more self sufficient. Another gold star for NMS.

## President's Report

Looks like we are within a spit of our CC and a build start date. Wal and group have been busy complying with the 43 DA conditions (Yep 43 , no misprint) laid on us by ESC planners . Phew!! A group of us are to meet mayor Innes on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to bring Liz up to date with our issues and plans.

GRANTS. We are able to apply for NSW clubs grants now. The committee looked at equipment, safety and health needs last week and I now have a list of stuff to go after. If you wish to step up into the rarified air of grant writing please see me. All offers gratefully received.

The health report. I wish to give a big shout out to our mighty man Ken Sheppard as he enters his recovery period. Looks pretty good to me !! Also to Mark Maclean. Mark is another dogged man who is still in the throes of treatment with a very positive attitude. We send our collective goodwill your way. Got much fishing to do Mark.

SOOO good to see John Gerrard into it again, back from a stint away in hospital.

As Brian said to me the other day“ they are rolling balls down our alley now!!”

Enough enough you long winded git !!! I will be away for three plus weeks or so as I go bionic in the knee department. Wal Sheehan is to take on my role for a while . Take it easy on him !!

**Cheers Bernie**

# Bushfire Recovery

## Belowra RFS Bush Fire Recovery Project

The Narooma Men's Shed, as part of its support to bush fire devastated communities in our region, has recently been involved in a recovery programme at the Belowra RFS Brigade's station in Belowra.

This small community lost seven (7) homes out of eleven (11) together with countless outbuildings, farming equipment and stock when fires tore through the district on New Year's Eve. The ferocity of the event can be seen as one drives through the area.

Smiley McGill had noted that the



Belowra RFS Station urgently required the erection of a header tank system to the current plumbing network at the

station to help support community members who had sheltered at what had become their evacuation centre at

the height of the fires.

On Friday 5 February I drove Smiley McGill and Dave Trickett to the RFS



station in the small hamlet approximately 55 Km west of Bodalla to assess what was required.

Along the way we met up with the Belowra RFS President Trevor Kincaid who outlined what was required. While we spoke to Trevor and his wife at their home, we had the opportunity to assess the damage done to their property which they stayed to successfully defend.

While the countryside is slowly recovering after the rain, we could easily see how terrifying the fire event had been for the little community and to observe the damage caused to surrounding properties, the native bush and wild life. It was all sobering stuff.

# Bushfire Recovery

Enclosed with this small piece are some photographs taken of the devastation and of Smiley and Dave along with Trevor assessing what was required in the form of equipment and a work schedule.

Smiley who is managing the project is working with a team of Shedders to fabricate the steel header stand on site

for the efforts being made for them and their community by the Narooma Men's Shed.

**Brian Liddy**



and organizing the equipment required to take to the site to complete the task.



Since the visit I have had two phone calls from the Belowra community. One from Trevor and the other from Ewin Thomson the RFS Captain out there. Both have expressed their appreciation

# Bushfire Recovery

## Nerringundah RFS Bush Fire Recovery Project

It was only a small journey, to drop off some polypipe. It changed as Rick and I got close to Nerringundah. The emotions and wonder of what we saw was amazing

The complete wastage of the bush, As



far as you could see, and the destruction of the soil coverage was awesome.



Then the awareness of the green growth that has grown back.

The stories of people who stayed to protect homes, without water or power, with flames a metre from the back door!

The gratitude that someone was helping them, even in a little way.

The valiant effort etched on survivor's faces as they worked to reconstitute their way of life, with the mental tension already etched on faces stretched by the crisis.



The humour, always an Aussie way of rationalising, with washing machines on the slab outside the RFS, the floating away of the shipping container when the floods came, the fact that no-one had a mower anymore to cut the grass that has now proliferated: all shaft retorts that show these people are alive and coming back.

## Bushfire Recovery

The need for mental resilience, long-term, will be ongoing, for months, years and beyond.

The utter destruction of so many homes in the areas of Nerrigundah, Cadgee and Belowra, to mention a few. 70% are no longer there!

I am commending the efforts of the Narooma Men's Shed in taking this initiative. Well done, everyone. Keep it up.

**Geoff Broadfoot**



Don't forget these people. To a large extent, (and is happening now), being away from scrutiny, and having someone to champion their cause, is now putting more pressure on. (Witness: over 50 plus days without power from the fire storm on New Years' Eve.)

# Bushfire Recovery

## A Night Out In Central Tilba

Well what a good night Tilba Pub was. Social director Steve picked a great spot. Warren and Wendy were very appreciative of us turning up in such good numbers.



Steve wants the next night to be in a fortnights time at Bodalla Bowling Club. 27th Feb. They have plenty of room and a reasonable Chinese meal. They also do fish and chips and a chicken snitto.



Wendy was a marvelous hostess. The guys in the kitchen did us proud and they are good blokes too.



All the locals will be talking about our shed. Wendy was amazed at what a good group of people we were. Reports in are saying how good it all was.

# Bushfire Recovery

What are they doing?

It was a bit of fun and frivolity at the Men's shed on Tuesday and Thursday. What were they up too?

Where they playing the saxophone to



brighten us up?

Where they getting ready to take on the



Swiss at their own game?

No a lot more practical than that. WIRES asked the Men's shed if we could make 100 water stations for the native animals caught up in the local bushfires. So the men received the plastic pipes, pipe bends, caps and stoppers donated by REECE plumbing Bateman's Bay and in a matter of a day or two 100 water stations were made and handed over to WIRES. They simply walked out the

door to all parts of the South Coast.

Mind you the men had to be convinced before they started the task that the watering system actually worked. So after 10 of us stood around, many saying, "It will not work as the water will simply rush out the bottom". Well thanks to the Archimedes Principle, and the vacuum seal it did work.

Here we have Smilie handing over the first one to Jan Sheehan Treasurer WIRES.

Well done to the Men's shed team of volunteers that made it happen especially to Smilie, Tim, and Wayne for managing the smooth process.

With a Billion native animals destroyed in the bushfires and the ones that have survived under stress and attack by wild dogs, feral cats and foxes, any help they can get will be well received.



## New Building News

It has been an interesting couple of months, but considerable progress has been made on the building project.

Council listed 43 conditions on their development consent. As of today we have worked our way through each item to come to the happy position that we can now proceed to work with our Certifier to prepare our Construction Certificate.

Yes the project has had a number of setbacks to date, such as:

In 2018 Council's advice that there was NO suitable site in Narooma for a Community Shed.

Signing the Lease on the Barker Parade site in February 2019.

Just about to sign the DA approval in July 2019 only to find last minute advice from Council and RMS not allowing us to build anything permanent on Lot 2 – so back to the drawing board.

Re-submitted our DA and received Development Consent in October 2019 along with 43 items to address.

March 2020 we will be ready to start digging at long last.

Yes, the Community Shed will start being built.



However, the major issue with projects like this, will be cost overruns.



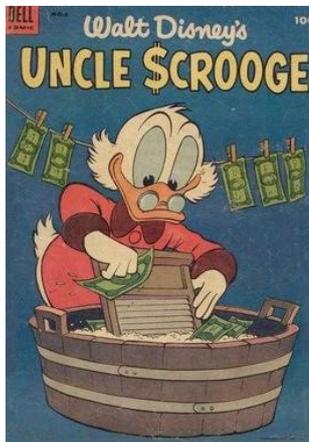
So far the following items that have added significant costs to the project budget:

Council requirement to make the Community shed more 'residential' than looking like a Shed! This simple council requirement added about \$50,000 to the cost of the project by not being able to buy off the shelf kit sheds but now requiring a purpose built shed. \$13,000 extra on design, engineering and survey services to accommodate RMS directions and to satisfy Council requirements.

## New Building News

Finally a potential \$6,000 cost to remake Taylor's Lane to satisfy Council conditions relating to firefighting access and sealing our car parks and car access.

Yes we are now in a tight budget position whereby we will build the Community shed, but we may have to modify our internal fitouts of the buildings until we raise more funds to do so.



We will be working with local contractors and tradespeople to keep the money local but at the same time we will be looking for "Mate's Rates" to keep inside our budget!

You can be assured that the building committee will be negotiating hard to save any penny we can!

Your help in doing some of the work around the new shed and the scout hall would be of great benefit and cost saving to the project.

So in summary, the plans have not changed dramatically for the building program. The first task is to get the Construction Certificate signed and available. Then we move to an orderly process of:

Remove the trees on the block. Let me know if you want firewood?

Earthworks flattening the site LOT 1 and LOT 2. Surplus Soil is spoken for!

Erect the block and sleeper walls. Strong backs needed!

Erect the security fence around our property, yes a contractor doing that.

So if you want to get involved Smilie will be the key man in having work parties to the site. More on that later!!

If you have any questions, just catch up with Smilie, Colin, Rody or Wal at the shed.

**Wal Sheehan**

## Member's Corner

This is a swing box for Joey roos and wallabies.



I am a talentless new member whose first project actually works.

A Wires Carer has tested it. Many thanks to Dick and Curly who walked me through the selection of wood, design refinement, selection and use of tools and machinery.

I would encourage any others who, like me, have little or no experience working with my hands, to join up and share the company and guidance of a great bunch of blokes.

**Tim Horstead**

A recent glance down our membership list indicated to me that we have members into double figures who have come to Australia from their country of origin.

How much they have to offer. They have enriched our group and how much we can learn from them of their earlier life experience.

Perhaps they can be encouraged to write some memories for the newsletter, to impart on their earlier life upbringing and now being part of "OZ".

A chat during Wednesday's or Rob's Coffee Club could also be a 'get to know you' opportunity.

The same could be said for our new members, for them to learn more of us and we of them, so they settle in more informed.

This is an opportunity to mention our 'Moroccan member in the hat', Faouzi. What a brave and courageous guy to arrive at the Shed to confront a group of Aussies of different views all unknown to him.

How well he has settled and how well we all have adjusted to his very likeable personality. Faouzi is a very popular member amongst us.

## Member's Corner

I'll acknowledge that when Faouzi arrived, I wasn't sure of the outcome. Rather than join us for lunch, Faouzi was seeking a quiet corner in the Shed to offer a prayer.

How we all have adjusted. Faouzi deserves a successful outcome of the documentary that is being centred around him. I wish him all the best. Faouzi is a very special person.

**Chas Rodgers**

## Communication

### Web Site

Remember we have a website.

[www.naroomamensshed.com.au](http://www.naroomamensshed.com.au)

If you have any news articles and photos that you would like published on the web site, or know of links to other interesting web site e.g. other Mens Sheds, please email details to the web master at [colin381@gmail.com](mailto:colin381@gmail.com)

# Committee Members

## Executive Committee Members

Bernie Perrett	President
Wal Sheehan	Vice-President
Colin Berry	Treasurer and Communications
Brian Liddy	Secretary

## Ordinary Committee Members

Rody Byrne	Public Officer
Smilie Magill	Work Party Manager on new build
Peter Lonergan	Metal Shed Manager
Steve McGourty	Social activity organiser
David Trickett	Business Manager
Dick Nagle	Wood Shed Manager
Bruce Hughes	Assistant Secretary and IT Manager
Peter Hartley	Manager Horticulture