

Kempsey-Macleay Men's Shed

PO Box W270 West Kempsey NSW 2440
Phone 6563-1766 on shed days

Vol. 2 No. 3 — December 2010

NEWSLETTER

Ten-Pin Bowling Complex
South St South Kempsey



Compliments of the Season

At the end of another year,
may we wish you and yours
a happy, safe, peaceful
Christmas & New Year...



Last Garage Sale for 2010 Great!

Many thanks to the members who attended and helped make the two-day sale such a success.

Community support was really great, with sales running at a high level. The garden section was tops and had a great result, the barbecue was busy most of Saturday and sales were up on the previous garage sale.

Marketers in the car park were also very happy and say they will be back.



Ron Walsh of Dondingalong, winner of the first prize in the Shed competition, a mulcher donated by Bunnings of Kempsey.

The raffle was also a great success, with Ted Rees selling the remaining tickets on the Saturday before the draw at 1pm.

And the winners were...

First prize, Mulcher: Ticket 665, Ron Walsh, Dondingalong.

Second prize, Chair and Table: Ticket 494, Christa Schwoebel, Kempsey.

Third prize, Cup Garden: Ticket 171, Able, Kempsey.

Fourth prize, Dolls: Ticket 993, P. Wilson, Kempsey.

Fifth prize, Basket of Goodies: Ticket 807, Fisher, Turners Flat.

Sixth prize, programme and CD: Ticket 402, Wendy Scott, Kempsey.

Profits from the garage sale and raffle will pay the rent for the next three months.

While garage sales are a lot of effort, they are the Shed's biggest money earner and we need three of them per year.

Without the support of members and the community, they would not happen. We seem to have the right 'recipe' at present with garage, garden sales and barbecue combined with outside sellers in the car park making the day a good community event.

Volunteers are now being sought to run the next one in 2011. ❖

MARRIAGE: A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't. — A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

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Kempsey-Macleay Mens & Sheilas' Shed Information

Monday: Gardening and Preserves Group 10am. — **Tuesday:** The Sheilas' Shed 10am – 2pm. — **Wednesday:** The Men's Shed 9am – 3pm. — **Thursday:** The Men's Shed 9am – 3pm. — **Friday:** Melville High School 11am – 1pm woodwork and own projects

Members: Welcome to use the shed at other times providing there are at least two in attendance.

Committee Meets: On the second Wednesday of each month, 2pm. All welcome.

Phone: 6563-1766 on Shed days — **E-mail:** kempsey.mens.shed@gmail.com

Mens Sheds Form Local Network

A meeting held at Port Macquarie Men's Shed on November 10 decided to form a cluster group to share information.

The meeting was attended by shedders from the Hastings, Macleay, Laurieton, Wingham, Forster and Taree after a tour of Port Macquarie Shed and a barbecue lunch.

Information was exchanged on various aspects of our individual sheds, including insurance, Centrelink and work for the dole schemes, how sheds handled materials and organisation.

The consensus of the meeting was we should follow the

KISS principle as much as possible to ensure a minimum amount of work/expense for those involved, so most business would be conducted via e-mail.

The name of the group would simply be MNCC (Mid-North Coast Cluster); there would be no hard and fast borders so outside sheds would be welcome to participate.

Meetings will be held at three-monthly intervals with the first to be held at Taree shed on Tuesday February 8, 2011 at 12.30pm.

Mort Shearer of AMSA (Australian Men's Shed Association) told the meeting

sheds would have to be registered with AMSA (the national organisation of Men's Sheds) which was free at present but when they ran out of money it would probably cost sheds between \$30 and \$50 a year for membership. So far, a national organisation seems good.

There was no doubt in the minds of those attending the first meeting that a local network would be worthwhile in advancing the Men's Shed Movement. ❖

From The Chairman...

People say volunteering is a thankless job — no pay, no thanks, not even acknowledgement of a good job done well, why help people and waste your leisure time?

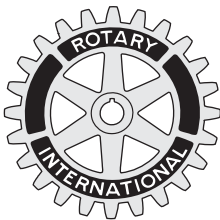
Well, we can tell you many

people do appreciate what volunteers do. Without volunteers, towns would be sorry places; volunteers are the backbone of this country, I call them the unpaid heroes.

Without volunteers, most charities would not exist. Volunteers give as much time as they can spare, are discrete, trustworthy, hard-working and devoted to what they do, that's your volunteer.

Talking of volunteers, I would like to thank four men from the Men's Shed who did not hesitate when the call came for volunteers to help Kempsey Quilters. Using their own transport to pick up display units from Crescent Head and then setting them up at the showground, which took many hours and there was not one complaint. Thank you Frank

• *Continued on Page 3*



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Men's Shed Membership — \$10 per year; Sheilas' Shed Membership — \$10 per year.
Corporate Sponsorship/Membership \$200 per year. Everyone is welcome.

From The Chairman – Continued from Page 2

Ward, Ted Rees, John Judd and John Cruickshanks.

The quilters were very happy with our response and showed their appreciation by donating a substantial amount to the Men's Shed — thank you, Quilters. —◇—

A very, very big thank you goes to one of the Men's Shed founders who has worked tirelessly since our inception as publicity officer and has never refused a request for help; the cashier at every garage sale; first to arrive and last to leave; sits around the town many days a week selling raffle tickets; has been recognised by Rotary International by receiving a Community Service Volunteer Recognition award; keeps the community informed on what's happening at the Shed.

I am talking about our one and only Lyn Saul. With a little help, Lyn ran our Christmas Raffle and sold all the tickets, a great result!

The Men's Shed is very proud to have such a great volunteer. —◇—

The Shed has an overseas traveller on holidays in Aus-

tralia, one Graham Smith. With time on his hands while staying in Kempsey, Graham decided to visit the Men's Shed to meet people and see what we were about. It took only one visit for him to realise this was for him.

He is a very productive person with several projects on the

tend their meetings on Monday mornings at the Shed. At the moment they are down to one day a month (the fourth Monday of each month). If enough people are interested, they will meet more regularly. The group supplied plants to be sold at the garage sale. —◇—



go and has donated some of his handiwork to our next garage sale.

He must like it at the Shed as he never misses a day. We hope he will remember the good time he had in Kempsey and at the Men's Shed. We also have fond memories of Graham Smith. —◇—

Two of our long-term members have been on sick leave. I am happy to report they are back on deck fighting fit. Kevin Harris is that fit he is taking on the Sheilas as a supervisor; Ian Rowell is back keeping the tools and materials in order. He nearly went on sick leave again when he saw the mess he came back to. Good health lads! —◇—

The Garden Discussion Group is looking for people interested in gardening to at-

Response to requests for donated goods to be sold at the garage sale was overwhelming and a big thank you goes out to those generous people who made the day such a success.

A big thank you to the men and women who gave up their

◆ *Continued on Page 4*

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From The Chairman – Continued from Page 3

time to help make it the best ever. Monies raised will help in keeping the shed open for another day.

—◇—

Congratulations to Madge Burgin, a Sheilas' Shed member who lives at Walla Walla and received six first prizes and four

second prizes for her knitting in the Culcairn Show. Madge has donated one of her first prize items, a ladies bed jacket, to the Shed to raise money. It is a beautiful item which will be used in a fund raiser early next year.

—◇—

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The garden stall was an attraction at the garage sale

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—◇—

2010 is another year gone — and what a year it was! I am very happy to say thank goodness that's over as it has been a hard slog to make ends meet, but we got there.

We had no success this year in grant applications, though there are more in the pipeline. Money is short in the community so we have to work harder to make a quid.

We need more membership; more corporate membership and more attendance at the Shed.

Members are asked to con-

sider there are no free lunches in life. Next time you use a piece of timber, a nail or screw ask yourself who paid for this or where did this come from?

—◇—

I just happened to visit the Shed on a Tuesday recently and got the shock of my life: The

car park was full as well as a lot of activity inside. It was ladies day; John C. had all four computers humming with all seats full on Broadband for Seniors; in the workshop, nearly every machine was going and a woman on each doing something. It was like a factory in full production.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw Kevin Harris helping with a project on the bench surrounded by women and Huey helping on the planer. I was surprised to see so many ladies taking advantage of the Shed and working on their own projects.

The Sheilas' Shed is becoming more popular as the weather gets warmer, so ladies, visit the Shed — you will enjoy the day and there is something there for you!

—◇—

A month or more back, we had a donation of a box full of toys, from which emerged a black teddy bear. You don't see many black bears so it stood out.

It hung around the Shed making a nuisance of itself, became dirty and covered in sawdust, so a kind person from Sherwood took it home for a wash and brush which made it look like new. It was last seen in a gold car travelling north to Queensland.

—◇—

It has been brought to our notice that our phone number is nowhere to be seen and we most humbly apologise. It will be rectified immediately, the number will appear in the next edition of the phone books.

The Shed number is 6563-1766 and someone is there most days or you can leave a message. If it is important, you can ring John after hours on 6562-7310; you can now e-mail on kempsey.mens.shed@gmail.com and we are working on a website to keep you informed.

You may like to call in to the Shed any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at the rear of the Ten-pin Bowling Complex, South Street South Kempsey or by post PO Box 270, West Kempsey NSW 2440. We apologise again, and hope you forgive our slackness. After all, we are only mere men! ❖

My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.

I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.

Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.

Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.

Gardening Group

This is a small informal group which is presently meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at the Shed.

They swap and research plants, seeds and information on everything gardening and other topics as well.

Everyone is welcome so drop in to the Shed on the fourth Monday around 10am, have a cuppa and catch up with like-minded people interested in horticulture. ❖

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.

You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me

Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.

Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

Being 'over the hill' is much better than being under it!

Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

*Need building...
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Broadband for Seniors

After some teething problems, this service became fair-dinkum from June onwards.

By November 17 we had signed up 22 clients and given over 250 lessons in Broadband for Seniors, which did not count the myriad of specific problems people brought to the Shed regarding general computer use and internet problems.

Some people breezed through the lessons, others went through them more than once. A few only came once, some are still coming and gradually gaining confidence and expertise in technology which is far from familiar to many members of our generation.

Even experienced users found things in the lessons they did not know and it is gratifying to instructors when people 'get it' and gain confidence.

Hamish is quite devious when confronted by someone who says: 'Computers, and the internet. Can't be bothered!'

'Oh', is his reply, 'what are you interested in?' and when he finds out, brings up information via Google and suddenly finds they have changed their minds.

Overall, it is a worthwhile programme which has even gained us a few members who, after coming in for the free lessons, decide the Shed has much to offer older folk. ❖

Kempsey Council and OMNi

OK folks, you read it here first — how's this for efficient use of funds?

Macleay Community Care Options (aged care services, part of Kempsey Shire Council) is inviting you to join a new group for seniors called the "Macleay Older Blokes". The idea is to provide an opportunity for senior men in the area to get together, have fun, have a chat, learn new things and to share their skills. A cuppa and lunch is provided.

The groups will meet every second week on a Thursday; Kempsey group meeting to be held at Community Care Centre (part of council) at 10am Thursday November 4; South West Rocks group, Boronia Gardens Hall, Lawson Street 10am on Thursday November 11.

This information came from a media release from an Ex-

ecutive Assistant Community Engagement person the Shed tried to contact on the afternoon of Friday November 12 to enquire if council knew about Kempsey-Macleay Men's Shed, which has the same aims and has been operational for almost three years.

It turns out the person is—
♦ *Continued on Page 6*



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Time To Smile :)

Outside a Car Exhaust Store:

**'No appointment necessary.
We hear you coming.'**

In a Vets waiting room:

'Back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!'

In a Restaurant window:

'Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up.'

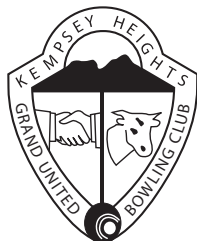
*In the front yard of a
Funeral Home:*

'Drive carefully. We'll wait.'

And don't forget the sign at a

RADIATOR SHOP:

**'Best place in town to
take a leak!'** ❖



*The friendly club
on the hill*

Cnr Polwood & Tozer Streets,
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Men's Shed**

Council and OMNi (From Page 5)

suings the media release was a temporary employee and the real *Executive Assistant Community Engagement* person, Lisa, knew nothing about the matter as she had been away. She would make enquiries to her director and return with information by 9am Monday.

At 8.30 Monday morning, Lisa duly phoned with the information that the meetings were called using grant monies. There was no intention of undermining the Men's Shed as it was aimed at an older, less active group than the Shed (we have two members over 80) and she still knew absolutely nothing about the grant (it was a small one) or anything else about the whole affair except to refer the Shed to the Older Men's Network (OMN.org.au). She also said attendance at the Kempsey meeting was two homeless men.

When it was suggested to her that the whole affair seemed a waste of time and money, she did not seem too pleased.

We duly checked out the Older Men's Network Incorpor-

ated and found this:

OMNi can help you to:

- Share knowledge, experience and skills
- Make new friends and reduce loneliness
- Keep active physically, mentally and socially
- Talk about health problems
- Enjoy the comradeship that can be provided in a male only group
- Have fun and enjoyment, and tell a joke or two
- Get involved in your community.

JOIN THE OLDER MEN'S NETWORK – YOU WILL BE IN GOOD COMPANY.

Seems familiar, doesn't it? Looks like a men's shed without the shed.

Whilst it is good to see an expanded interest in activities for senior men, it would be nice if our local council saw fit to support local organisations or at least were more efficient at organising an event which could draw more than just two people — especially when they are using public money to do it! ❖

Finding life a little dull... looking for purpose in life and interesting company?
Check out the Shed, everyone is welcome and it may be just what you need.

FOR SALE

3-6 x 1-9m MDF sheets — \$10
Pallets: \$4 each or 3 for \$10
44gal. Drums, \$10; lids off, \$15

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