



# Rosefield Community Shed

## Annual Report - Calendar Year 2020

### *Summary*

2020 has been an extraordinary year. Despite the challenges, restrictions and limited operations due to Covid-19 we have been able to achieve a number of significant goals and milestones. Our meeting room ceiling has been installed, we have constructed a new bird aviary 4.0m x 4.0m x 3.6m high for the Showgrounds, introduced our first official budget, commissioned two computer numeric controlled (CNC) machines, received our first orders for mass produced items for sale, established relationships with the Adelaide Farmer's Market and Campbelltown Rotary Club, entertained several significant visitors to the facility and received some significant donations from individuals and organisations.

Although we were shut down for 17 weeks and had to operate under restricted conditions when we were opened, we were still able to maintain our average weekly attendance numbers at near pre-Covid-19 levels. This was partly due to the introduction of a third session on Monday mornings.

Our low fixed overheads, and economical spending in 2020 left us in a sound financial position. We now know that we can successfully continue operation of the Shed through any foreseeable financial difficulties in the future.

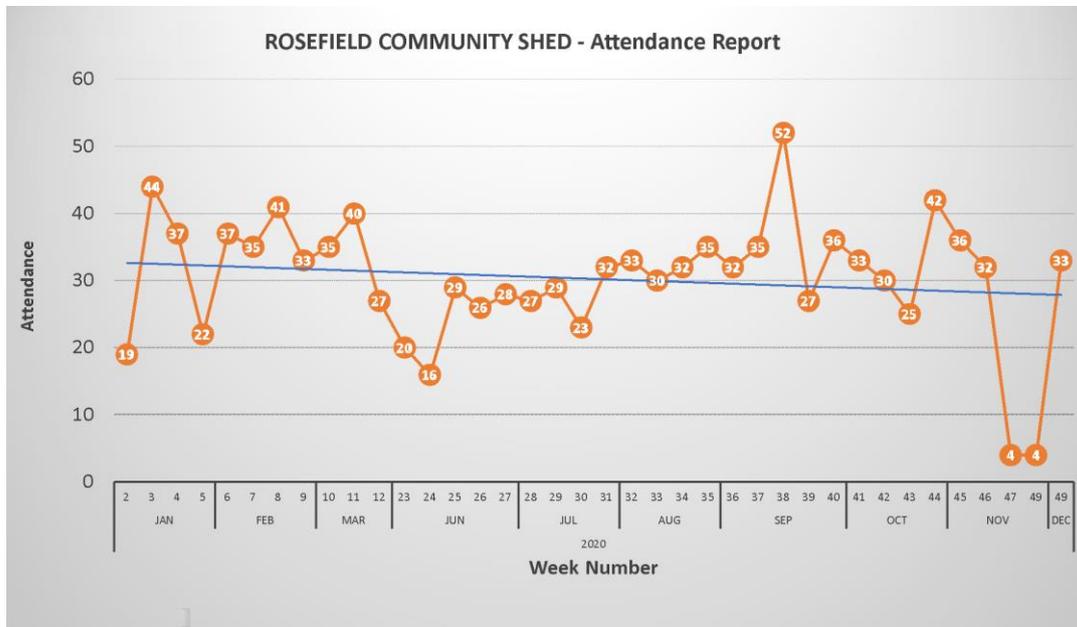
### *Covid-19 Impact*

It would be hard to write a report for 2020 and not include the impacts of Covid-19. Although this has been a difficult period due to the pandemic the Shed fared quite well. Overall, we lost 14 weeks of operation due to the pandemic, and a further 3 weeks in November due to the Parafield Cluster.

Coming back in June was not an easy task. To help reduce the impact imposed by restricted numbers the management team decided to introduce a third session on Monday mornings. We now have a registered Covid-19 Safe Plan, introduced Covid-19 sign in procedures, Covid-19 Marshalls, QR check in capability and an array of procedures and checks to ensure that we meet all physical distancing, hygiene and awareness requirements set by the Government. Sadly, this has been the major focus of our attention for most of the year. Despite all the above dramas, we have managed to hold our average attendance numbers on a relatively steady keel approaching 30 attendees per week, see the chart below. The spike in week 38 was due to holding a BBQ for all members to celebrate our return to almost normal operations. Although our attendance numbers are almost at per Covid-19 levels we still have a several members who have not returned to date due to health concerns.



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As the saying goes “every cloud has a silver lining”, our silver lining manifested in the fact that we did not have to vacate our premises for six weeks during the Royal Adelaide Show this year.

## *Membership*

Due to Covid-19 limitations new members were not accepted until mid-November. Six new members joined after this restriction was lifted.

## *Health*

Several of our members have had major health setbacks this year. The most significant are John Carrangis, our former co-ordinator, suffering a heart attack, Ross Butler and Don Osborne with significant cardiac problems and Reinhold Schiefer whose dementia has significantly accelerated. Unfortunately, Reinhold will not be back as a member and now resides in the Tobruk Ward at the War Veterans’ Home.

## *Milestones/Personal Achievements*

Some of the significant personal milestones were Andrew Richardson celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and Ross Butler his 80<sup>th</sup>, while Bob and Patricia Perry celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Trevor Harrison had an eventful year, launching his purpose-built wheelchair driven boat at West Lakes and receiving his new high-tech wheelchair that gives him much more functionality than the old one.



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Greg Stevens left us temporarily at the end of 2019 to head up the Blaze Aid team at Edithburgh on the York Peninsula. Greg and his wife Ann were just settling into their new role when they were asked if they would consider heading up the much larger project on Kangaroo Island. Greg and Ann spent the majority of 2020 coordinating Blaze Aid volunteers restoring fences and other items on properties affected by the fires on Kangaroo Island. Greg returned to the Shed in November this year looking for a less stressful time.

Don Osborne was fortunate to participate in the last Antarctic Expedition for this year before Covid-19 put an end to all other voyages.

### *Visitors*

Although much of the year was limited by restrictions, we were fortunate to host a number of high profile visitors at the Shed this year. Visitors included:

- Campbelltown Rotary Club: Forty members of the club paid us a visit in the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> of September to see what we do. At the end of the visit, we were presented with a donation of \$1000
- Matt Ives Cultural Development Coordinator, City of Unley came to have a look at our facility and some of the work we were undertaking. He was most interested in the new CNC router machines, particularly the one purchased with grant money from Unley Council.
- Cr Don Palmer from the City of Unley.
- Judith Lowe, Active Aging Project Officer, Unley Council.
- Steve Georganis visited us on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to help celebrate Men's Shed week.
- Amanda Ward, Jobnet Regional manager for Community Bridging Services (CBS) visited us on several occasions in support of the work that Karsten Thole has undertaken to make and sell cake platters and hot pot stands through the Bearded Dragon Art Gallery and four other CBS outlets. Most of Karsten's work was sold by Christmas.
- John Rothwell, CEO Adelaide Showground passed by and called in to say hello on a few occasions.
- Domenic Quartuccio, the Production Manager of MAD TV Productions. MAD TV Productions used our shed to do a photo shoot depicting an emotional scene between an old man and his grandson at a Men's Shed.





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- The Shed participated in a research project which examines the opportunities for entrepreneurial activity among mature-age people. A partnership between the City of Unley and researchers, Dr Sanjee Perera, Dr Shruti Sardeshmukh and Professor Carol Kulik, from the Centre for Workplace Excellence (UniSA Business). The project is supported by an Age Friendly SA Grant from the Office for Ageing Well, SA Health. The aim is to identify resources and support needed to engage in entrepreneurial activity, taking initiative and making a difference in the community.

### *Occupational Health and Safety*

We were fortunate to receive a free defibrillator early this year. This unit has been mounted in the meeting room alongside our first aid kit. This was part of an initiative coordinated by the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) in conjunction with the Federal Department of Health to ensure that all Men's Sheds in Australia were given the opportunity to install a defibrillator in their sheds.

We now have an A-Class electrician within our membership. Garry Ellis is qualified and has volunteered to undertake the electrical testing and tagging requirements for the Shed. Garry has since tested, tagged and catalogued all of our electrical equipment. He also is our go-to person when we have any electrical issues to resolve or attend to. We are most grateful for his support in this regard.

We have spent just over \$2,000 to ensure that we have a reliable and efficient dust extraction system for our new CNC equipment.

### *Finance*

#### *General*

At the beginning of the year, we recognised that it was only a matter of time before it was necessary to be able to offer electronic payment facilities. We had already undertaken a reasonable amount of research on the matter and decided to run with the Square Reader. This proved to be a fortunate decision when Bunnings decreed that electronic payments were an essential requirement for their fundraising BBQ's due to Covid-19 requirements.

This was our first year with an official budget. Things were going along nicely until mid-March when the impacts of Covid-19 started to take hold. Having a detailed budget enabled us to quickly determine that whatever transpired, we would be able to remain in a sound financial position.

We have also managed to streamline and simplify our financial interactions with the Church treasurer and we extend our sincere thanks to Angela Zhang for supporting us in this endeavour.



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## Donations

Although 2020 was a difficult year for many people and organisations we were extremely fortunate to receive several very generous donations to help further our important service to the community. Some of the more significant donations included:

- An anonymous donation of \$1000 from a Church member to allow us to finish installing the new ceiling for our meeting room.
- A \$1000 donation from Campbelltown Rotary.
- A Sidchrome tool chest including tools valued in excess of \$1000 from Bunnings



- An assortment of laminated timber sheets and table and chair legs from Pfitzner Furniture in Mt Barker. We are now on selling these products to members who wish to make furniture items as projects.





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- Timber to construct bird boxes to assist Blaze Aid from Bunnings.
- A Symtec woodturning lathe and several Makita power tools in excellent condition from private donations.
- An 18V cordless Ozito spray gun from Bunnings to assist us in our endeavours to control graffiti on the western boundary walls of the Showground.

## Grants

We were fortunate to receive a grant of \$15,950 from the Department of Veteran Affairs to purchase our second Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) router machine. This machine is a precision machine and will enable us to produce high quality items for sale. We will initially be targeting the Adelaide Farmer's Market and the Royal Adelaide Show as outlets for the items produced.



The Axiom CNC Router (left) and associated dust extraction system (above)

We have also applied for grant money for first aid training and computer equipment to assist in our CNC training efforts in round 21 of the AMSA grants.

## Fundraising

Although we had six Bunnings BBQ's scheduled for 2020 only two of these took place due to Covid-19 restrictions cancelling the remainder. A total of \$2,456 was raised over the two dates. We are hopeful to get a reasonable allocation for 2021.



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## *Projects*

Although this has been a very disjointed year, we managed to complete several significant projects and make good progress on some others. The most significant would be the completion of the ceiling in our meeting room which has completed the transformation of this area into a comfortable and functional area for members to gather, relax, learn, share experiences, and enjoy some refreshments. This project was finished just as Covid-19 restriction came into effect.



The transformation of our meeting room space over the two years that we have occupied the Farmyard Nursery at the Royal Adelaide Showground.



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Bob Perry has been working on the construction of a kitchen cabinet for our newly completed meeting room and although progress on this project was seriously affected by the Covid-19 restrictions Bob is now continuing with the project and its near completion.



Another significant project completed this year was building a replacement bird Aviary for the Showground. Keith Large and Dennis Bauer worked on many Wednesday mornings when their welding and grinding activities would not affect normal operations. The result is very impressive as shown opposite.

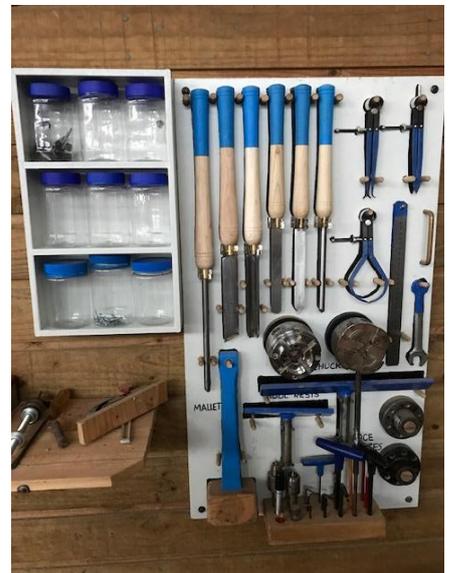
After a well-deserved rest Keith and Dennis have indicated that

they may start building a paint spray facility in the area south of our shipping containers.



After sitting mainly idle for several years our Symtec woodworking lathes are finally coming to life thanks to one of our newly recruited members Everard Noack. Everard was a

tech studies and woodworking teacher at Concordia College before retiring. He has excellent woodturning skills which he has very kindly offered to share with our members. In the short time that Everard has been with us he has transformed the woodturning corner into a well organised training ground for would be wood turners.



Community projects this year included making bird boxes and native bee hotels for the restoration of the Cuddlee Creek fire affected areas. We also restored some wooden items for the Questacon Science Museum in Canberra and hung sliding doors for the Army Museum of SA (AMOS) at the Keswick Barracks on Anzac Road.



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As a service to the Showground, we volunteered to remove graffiti that periodically appears on the western boundary wall and fence of the Showground. This has kept us busy on several occasions this year.



Our focus in the later part of this year has shifted towards looking for projects that are able to raise revenue for the Shed. As we commission our CNC routers, we will gain the capability to produce consistent high-quality items for sale. An order from the Queen Adelaide Bridge Club for 50 bridge score pad holders is the first order that has been produced on the Axion CNC machine.

We completed an order for the Farmer's market to build two rustic A-Frame mobile display boards.

We have also been successful in winning an order from the University of South Australia to make 100 bespoke cheese platters to be used as gifts for their clients. Each platter will be branded using our blue ray laser on the CNC machine.

### *Events*

This would have to be the non-event year if there is such a thing. The biggest cancellation was the Royal Adelaide Show, which meant that we did not have to vacate our premises this year. Other significant cancellations included the Concordia program. This year we had planned to assemble bird boxes at Bunning's with student from Concordia. The bird boxes were then destined to be donated to the Kangaroo Island and Cuddlee Creek fire relief programs through Blaze Aid. We also cancelled our Christmas Lunch for members of the Shed and RAHS management and board. A replacement event will be planned for early next year. The only significant event that we managed to participate in before the Covid-19 crisis hit was the Farmer's Market BBQ cook off. Graham Ellender, Karen Munro and Gary Stevens did a sterling job representing our Shed. Unfortunately, we did not win first prize which was a gas fired BBQ.