

New site for shed ☆

Nov. 28, 2012, midnight



THUMBS UP: John Belcher (men's shed president) Mayor Jan McWilliams, John Shirval (men's shed secretary) and men's shed members celebrate council's unanimous decision to build a new shed at the waste management centre Tuncurry.

RELIEF was the overwhelming sentiment for members of the Wallis Lake Men's Shed yesterday after Great Lakes Council gave unanimous approval to build a new shed at the waste management centre Tuncurry.

"It's an absolute relief," men's shed president John Belcher said yesterday.

"The mood around the shed was being affected as things dragged on, but that mood will lift considerably now. We've a got a real sense of purpose and direction."

In the report tabled at yesterday's meeting, council's manager of community services Andrew Braybrook said the waste management centre is "an ideal site for the establishment of a men's shed" given community programs, such as The Green already successfully operate there, there is a ready supply of materials for various activities and projects and the existing Tip Shop would provide an outlet for the sale of items produced at the men's shed.

The adopted plan was the result of thorough negotiations between council and the men's shed executive and will see council fund the supply and installation of a 450 square metre colour bond shed with water and electricity supply connected. It will also have wheelchair accessible toilet facilities attached to the building. The men's shed will then fund the outfitting of the shed through its own funds, and grant money.

The construction of the shed will be funded from council's waste management reserve funds, and manager of waste health and regulatory services John Cavanagh said the addition of the men's shed to waste management site would further diversify approaches to waste management and recycling.

“It’s shows our core waste management functions are broadening to embrace these types of projects and I think the men’s shed set up will integrate easily with existing waste management operations.”

The new shed will be huge upgrade from the current twelve-by-seven metre shed in Dee Crescent and, Mr Belcher says, see a huge increase in the number of projects available to members and greater benefits to the community.

“We currently work four days a week at our current premises but this agreement will let us open seven days a week if we wish. Also the new premises will be fully outfitted with wheelchair and disabled access so we can accommodate those men from nursing homes and aged care who desperately need this movement.”

The DA for the project will be submitted immediately and Mr Belcher hopes that work on the shed will begin by early March next year.