

Men's Shed Cluster meeting

On 15/3/2014 23 men from Lake Cargelligo, Nyngan, Narromine, Peak Hill, Parkes, Forbes and Trundle came together for a Cluster meeting at the Trundle Service Club.

Apologies from Tottenham, Warren, Trangie & Tullamore.

This meeting is held 3 times a year in a different town each time. It gives the men a chance to meet other fellow shedders and to see how the host shed runs their shed plus a chance to see what it looks like. They might be able to get an idea which they can incorporate into their shed in their home town.

Some of the guys got there about 10 and had a cup a coffee and a chat.

The meeting started about 11.10am with Mick O'Bryan Secretary of the Western Cluster giving a report from the NSW Men's Shed Committee of which he is Zone 5 Rep. Then each shed giving a report of what they have been doing since the last meeting.

The President of the host Shed chairs all meetings.

Some sheds have a mentoring program with the local high schools. The students come down and work with the shed members, they talk to them as men not kids and they get respect back. A lot of the kids come from single parent families and have no male they can relate to. The Schools have reported back to the sheds that the increase in behaviour and outlook on life is greatly enhanced.

It was a running joke that each Shed was restoring furniture especially chairs.

Parkes has the most members being the largest town as well with 126 members opening M-W-F 8.30-12.00, Narromine has 74 members opening Tues & Thurs, Peak Hill 23 members opening Mon & Fri 9-12, Lake Cargelligo has 25 members Tues-Thurs 9-5, Nyngan has 26 members opening Wed – Thurs 9-2.30, Trundle has 26 members opening Tues – Fri 9-12

These are just some of the things that keep the men busy. They are:

Parkes are extending their shed by 24M X 3.4M, they are making bird nesting boxes and have made approximately 100 for the RTA so far.

Lake Cargelligo is making RED GUM furniture contact Ray on 68981 188, Dog Kennels & Rocking Horses plus a lot of furniture restoring

Forbes have received an \$8,000 grant for new tools,

Narromine are already outgrowing their shed, they are also repairing furniture and mentoring school children.

Peak Hill have nearly paid there shed off in 5 years which is a fantastic effort plus they are doing a lot of furniture restoring, they have restored tables and seats in Memorial Park in Peak Hill

Nyngan have taken up a partnership with Joblink+ working with people on the dole plus they are doing a lot of furniture restoring, they clean the RFS building once a week to bring in some money, 8 Returned Servicemen are honorary members

Trundle has been busy building handrails for shops and community members and has nearly finished the making of a prefabricated Toilet for the Catholic Church. We have been doing BBQ's for the community as well.

This is just a small part of what the Men's Shed movement can do.

For a movement that started about 10-12 years ago there are over 1,000 Shed's in Australia and many more in NZ, Great Britain Ireland, Europe and the USA it is the biggest growing movement since the 2nd World War.

If you wish to find out or join your local Men's Shed you can look up your nearest one at <http://www.nswmensshed.org/> this is the NSW Men's Shed Website.