

Little Bit of Shed History – June 2013 (Newsletter #185)

In early 2008, The Rotary Club of Ginninderra initiated a project to establish a Men's Shed in Belconnen. This initiative was driven by Don Gruber who had witnessed the success of such an initiative in Boorowa and believed that there was a need for a similar venture in the Belconnen region.

After some preliminary investigations, The Rotary Club of Ginninderra approached North Belconnen Uniting Church (Barry Howe was also involved here) and suggested a joint sponsoring of a Men's Shed. As a result, Colin Wales and Phil Laird were nominated as the Church's representatives to work with the Rotary team of Don, John Inglis and Ken Hogan to make it all happen.

Our first Shed meeting and official opening was held on Friday 29 August 2008 in the Church's Community Centre building we currently occupy.

The Shed was officially opened by the then Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope. The opening was attended by a small group of about ten men interested in joining the Melba Shed plus quite a large number of Church members, Rotary members and several community and political party representatives. The Master of Ceremonies for the day was Ken Hogan and addresses were made by Monica Garrett (Rotary President), Bob Woolley (Assistant Rotary Governor) and Rev Colin Bradford as well as by the Chief Minister.

By 29 October 2008, the Shed had grown to 18 members - Barry Howe, Clarrie Hockley, Colin Bradford, Colin Wales, Don Gruber, Ilya Hadzi-Popovic, John Inglis, Ken Baker, Ken Hogan, Martin van der Hoek, Mike Munk, Norrie Lochhead, Paul Cunningham, Peter Hider, Phil Laird, Stuart Allan, Ted Tregillgas and Terry Mether.