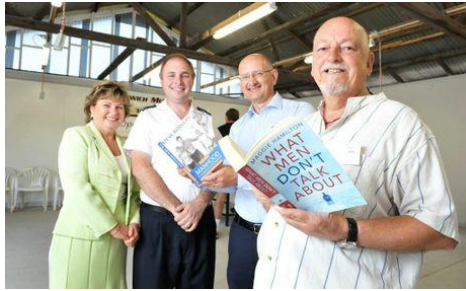


REV DEAN OLAFSEN
FOUNDER OF THE IPSWICH MEN'S SHED
PASSED AWAY 13/08/2024



THANK YOU DEAN-REST IN PEACE

IPSWICH MEN'S SHED



THE BEGINNING

ALL Aussie boys need a shed.

So, the saying goes... and it seems that they need one even more as time goes by. The Bundamba Men's Shed was opened on Monday and looks set to be an oasis for men looking to shoot the breeze and engage in creative activities.

Ipswich Men's Shed steering committee president Dean Olafsen said the shed "is a place you can do things with your hands and also open up your heart as well". He said the shed catered for men from 18 to 80 but "predominantly the target group is post-60".

"They are retirees who often get lonely, depressed and bored under their wives' feet," he said.

"There will be a range of activities such as woodworking, metalworking and tinkering with cars for those who were petrol heads when they were younger. We hope to have social programs, bus tours and lunches...and a

health system where guys can get checkups and listen to talks from dieticians. I've got a

dream that over time we'll be able to extend the shed and have an annex where there can be counselling and support. A lot of guys carry hidden and buried grief."

The shed is a joint project with the Salvation Army of Bundamba who have made the building available. Mr. Olafsen said funding was provided by the Mayor Paul Pisasale, Cr Bruce Casos with assistance from Federal MP Shayne Neumann. The shed was flood damaged and has been restored by workers from the former State Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

"We have a dozen graduates who did a fantastic job building this shed. But unfortunately, this Tory government has stopped the funding for this," Member for Bundamba Jo-Ann Miller



A DONATION of varnishes has put the finishing touches on Ipswich's new Men's Shed.

The Men's Shed, which will officially open on Monday, has received a donation of six cartons of varnishes, stains and finishes from the Ipswich Dulux Trade Centre worth more than \$3300.

The shed has come a long way from its original condition.

After the floods the shed, which stands behind the Bundamba Salvation Army shop, had no floor and no walls.

Today it is a fully contained shed soon to house several woodworking machines, and if the dreams of the committee come to fruition, pool tables and other gaming areas.

Ipswich Men's Shed Coordinator Dean Olafsen said the shed had received a great measure of support from the local community.

"We've received tremendous support from private individuals as well as businesses like Dulux," he said.

"The shed itself is being given to the Men's Shed group by the Salvation Army with no rent.

"A lot of our machines have been donated from guys who have retired from their trade, and we've received quite a lot from deceased estates too.

"We've had some of the stuff in my next-door neighbor's shed for two years after they donated it."

While the shed will be officially opened on Monday, it won't be open for use until early next year with the various machines still to be installed and final safety approval given.

The Men's Shed has been nearly two years in the making. Mr. Olafsen got behind the project in 2009.

The shed was designed to stop depression among newly retired men who struggled with the transition out of work.

Mr. Olafsen said he was hoping to connect the Ipswich Men's Sheds with other Men's Sheds across the Ipswich region and western Brisbane to create a local network.

The shed has already received donations of materials from Bunnings as well as Ipswich business.



ALWAYS A SMILE!



LIFE MEMBER DEAN WILL BE SADLY MISSED

STEVE BROWN USA AND DEAN



DEAN, TED AND BBQ BOB



DEAN AND GERDA CHRISTMAS 2017

