

Men's Shed set for expansion

By ASHLEIGH PILES

MEMBERS of Mount Beauty's Men's Shed will have their hands full next year when they begin works on the expansion of their Tennis Court Avenue premises.

The group was last week the recipient of a \$60,000 grant announced by Jaclyn Symes (MLC, Northern Victoria) and plan to build a 12m x 9m extension to the main shed where welding and metal works will now have their own home.

President Dick Puttyfoot said the money has secured a "good future" for the group which has been servicing Mount Beauty since 2011.

"It is just fantastic," he said.

"The money will be the major financial contribution to the cost of building the new shed and that will give us something to do next year.

"I think this is the biggest thing to happen to us since we actually built the shed."

With the expansion of the shed comes the expansion of services and programs offered to the community and surrounds.

Mr Puttyfoot said the plan is to keep "as much as possible" local when it comes to the big build, which is expected to get underway next year.

"It will become a facility

for all of Mount Beauty not just the men's shed," he said.

"We've had a lot of support from local groups which no doubt helped us with our application for the grant.

"So we are going to keep local contractors when we build the shed to return that."

Speaking to the Alpine Observer on Monday, Mr Puttyfoot couldn't be prouder of what the group has achieved this year, noting their most memorable achievement as helping those in the community.

"We have achieved a very good working group, fellowship wise, and a good rapport with the community, the education department, Alpine Health, the doctors, everyone really," he said.

"We have a fantastic location and we are a very active part of the town.

"Other members from other sheds who come and visit us recognize how well we have it because this is our shed and we're quite unique."

As for 2020, the to-do list is already quite full with the group's mission remaining community first.

"Building the shed is going to keep a lot of us very busy in 2020 but we will also need to maintain the service to our members and the community so it's a big year," Mr Puttyfoot said.



GRATEFUL: Mount Beauty Men's Shed members (L-R) Dick Puttyfoot, Mark Hardridge, Irvin Beeston, John Driver and Ian Howley are very pleased with the \$60,000 grant from the State Government last week. PHOTO: Tahlia Philp

"We're going to refurbish the secondary college, continue helping the elderly with their jobs, we're building beehives at the moment which is quite a project and we are going to be making

more signs for the parks."

For Mr Puttyfoot and members of the Mount Beauty Men's Shed, being a part of the unique group remains pretty special.

"The interaction is very

good because you've got to think of other people as well as yourself and be aware that they might be having a bad day," he said.

"The amount of different characters we have keeps us

aware that we need to keep an eye on people.

"I think that helping people and making things also helps blokes our age feel valued and living a worthwhile life."

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Mudgegonga Hall (outside)	12.00pm-12.30pm	No appointment necessary, drop by and say hello.	
Porepunkah Riverside Park	1.30pm-2.30pm		
Bright Mafeking Square	3.00pm-4.00pm		

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