

3. Objectives

The need for the Shed is demonstrated and supported by the experiences of established men's sheds throughout Australia. Most older men in rural areas feel comfortable in a shed where they can socialize, use their practical skills and contribute to the community, which in turn leads to their better health and well-being.

Specific objectives for the Mount Beauty and District Men's Shed are;

- To provide a venue for on-going social interaction among members;
 - To develop a range of activities in which all members can participate;
 - To develop and run programs that will contribute to better health and well-being of the members;
 - To conduct a safe, well managed, and well operated community based men's shed;
 - To maintain the sustainability of the Men's Shed;
 - To retain members, as this is an important indicator of success;
 - To undertake community development and support activities;
 - To organize mentoring opportunities
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- To actively welcome new members and to be inclusive for all members.

4. SWOT Analyses

As part of the planning process, the Mount Beauty & District Men's Shed undertook a SWOT analyses. The output was recorded and summarised below;

Strengths

- Now have a good Shed in an excellent location
- Enthusiastic & proactive committee
- Good membership numbers
- Variety of skills & experience amongst members
- Good teamwork generated on larger projects
- Excellent website and good communications with members
- Good participation in regular BBQ's and morning teas
- Have a good working relationship with the Neighbourhood Centre (MOU)
- Well supported by Alpine Health
- Positive relationship with the Alpine Shire and AGL - Energy
- Active in the community and have good support from the community
- Holding a stock of tools and materials
- Proactive in sourcing funding opportunities and have a solid financial base
- Steady income sources eg. Footygate, Christmas decorations.

Weaknesses

- Limitations because of the age of members

- Low percentage of members involved in volunteering
- Limited range of activities for members
- Learning new skills not offered to members
- Activities and meetings held during normal work hours, excludes men in the workforce
- Not building up "social capital" through volunteering in the community
- Some non-compliance with agreed health & safety procedures
- No succession planning for leadership/committee roles
- Space limitations, particularly for storage

Opportunities

- Ongoing assistance from the Shire
- Loans/gifts from benefactors possible
- Grants from Governments, Banks, AMSA, etc may be available
- Support from Rotary, Lions, U3A, Senior Citizens, etc
- A range of fund raising activities including joint ventures with other clubs
- Manufacture and renovate items for sale
- Invite special needs groups to participate (maybe separate sessions)
- Invite Valley farmers to become involved
- Provide out of normal work hours opening times
- Facilitate recruitment of men with limited confidence in their workshop skills
- Run specific skills sessions, maybe outside the Shed's normal work hours
- Large potential membership in the community
- Expand Shed space by extensions and/or separate building (STCA)

Threats

- Serious accident occurs in the Shed
- Serious OH&S non-compliance
- Vandalism or theft of shed/equipment
- Average age of members is increasing
- Risk of member to member friction unable to be resolved
- Risk of reputation trashing in the community
- Overlap with a commercial operator causing problems
- Opposition to the Shed's activities
- Major reduction in membership numbers
- Unable to get enough volunteers for critical activities
- Health problems with key members
- Burn out in Shed leaders resulting in the Committee folding
- Lack of succession planning
- Shire support could disappear
- Loss of key income streams e.g. Footygate
- Competition/overlap by NHCentre, U3A, etc
- Funding shortfalls, Shed becomes unviable
- Loss of the use of the Storage Shed