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## **Karrinyup Men's Shed Bulletin 16 March 2020**

From: Karrinyup Men's Shed <[kcmensshed@iinet.net.au](mailto:kcmensshed@iinet.net.au)>

**To: Karrinyup Community Men's Shed members**

### **The Coronavirus Pandemic**

The KCMS management committee today reviewed the available information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and has decided that, at the current time, the shed will remain in normal operation.

The priority for all at this time is the health and safety of our families and our communities. This is a rapidly evolving issue, so we are advising members to closely monitor State and Federal Department of Health webpages for the most up-to-date and relevant information regarding the outbreak and to take all necessary precautions.

Many shedders are at an age where they may have chronic health issues and therefore compromised immune systems. When considering your own situation, we recommend that you review advice from the relevant professional sources to help shape your decision on whether to attend the shed or not.

Meanwhile, we would like to reinforce some basics:

- Minimise person to person contact where possible.
- If you are experiencing coughing, breathing difficulties or flu-like symptoms, stay away and seek medical help.
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly, using soap and water.
- Wash your cup thoroughly after use with wash-up liquid and hot water.
- If you have been in recent contact with someone who has just returned from overseas, stay away and seek medical advice.
- If you have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with the virus, stay away and also notify the shed manager.
- If you believe that a fellow shedder has any the above signs, you may wish to respectfully ask that they consider staying at home until they are feeling well and maybe seek medical advice.

Your committee will continue to monitor developments with the Covid 19 situation and advise as appropriate.

### **Dust Extraction System**

The extraction system has been in use now since early January and has contributed greatly to a reduction of suspended dust in the shed. A number of machines (small band-saw, lathe and router) are still awaiting resolution of some design issues before they can be linked into the system, but this will occur during the next few weeks.

It is however a serious concern that a number of members are failing to turn the extractor gates on and/or off when using the machines. Running machines for just a short time with the gate closed can quickly cause serious contamination of the shed atmosphere. Similarly, not closing a gate after use can compromise the draw on the overall system, again causing dust to escape.

Dust inhalation poses a serious health risk to individuals, with a number of members already suffering from respiratory illness - **so, if not for the sake of your own health, have some regard for your fellow members and operate the gates as intended!**

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

All members are once again reminded that the wearing of PPE is a health and safety requirement in the shed - especially when using the machines.

**PPE includes - face mask, eye protection and ear protection.**

Members not wearing PPE when using machines will be asked to leave the shed until such time as they agree to comply with this requirement.

### **Supervisors Wanted**

We still only have 6 shed supervisors to cover any 20 shed-day period. Inevitable absences to cover holidays and sickness means that the existing team are sometimes working multiple days during a roster period.

Being a shed supervisor requires no special skills and is not an onerous task. One half-day per fortnight can help lighten the load on the current team. If you think you would look smart in one of our new hi-viz vests, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Training will be provided.

### **Easter Break**

The shed will be closed for Easter from Friday 10th to Tuesday 13th April inclusive.

### **Earlier KCMS newsletters**

If you have missed any, all earlier newsletters/bulletins are on the KCMS website at <http://karrinyup.mensshedswa.org.au/newsletters.htm>

These are formatted for printing on A4 paper, and can be read on screen.

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