

Safety in the Mens Shed





- Accidents are designed to take place when you least expect them, so “be aware”
- Machinery in particular just sits there waiting for the opportunity to bite somebody, so “don’t get complacent”



- Some of our members have used a variety of machinery all their working life
- While others are new to the array of power & hand tools and machinery within a Men's Shed
- So how do we cater for all the situations that could arise? – **Manage safety**



- Here is a model currently in practise in a Men's Shed with 120 members and all of those members have different and varying needs when it comes to their time in the Shed.
- Nobody is excluded no matter what their capabilities or disabilities.



Social engagement bloke

Comes to the Shed to meet other blokes, have a yarn and a cup of tea, is happy in the company of others but as far as the workshop is concerned is a bystander.

So we define where, when and how far that member will be encouraged to participate in the Shed.

Happy and Safe 😊





Occasional needs bloke

Comes to the Shed for social engagement and on occasions will require the use of some pieces of equipment to cut, dress or shape material.

As before, plus this member will request assistance from the Shed Supervisor of the day, Supervisor will allocate the member to a competent machinery user to process the material through various pieces of machinery/equipment while the occasional bloke looks on with amazement at his material exiting the machinery in its new form, to then take his material off to assembly or the next stage of assistance.

Happy and Safe 😊





Avid get on and make stuff bloke

Comes to the Shed to be involved in making stuff and enjoys the engagement with serious workshop equipment, when not totally occupied will be seen chatting with other blokes and downing a cuppa (sometimes up to 4 smoko's a day).

This is the bloke to concentrate on, as he (or in some cases she) is the one to be measured, as to their previous experience, frequency of use and overall interaction with machinery and equipment. Here we apply the greatest emphasis on familiarisation with each of the items to be used, going through the identified risks, correct way to operate, (show, tell and observe) references to refresh, and monitoring through task observation. Doing it right.

Happy and Safe 😊





How does this Shed manage safety?

- Identify and label every member ● ● ● ○
- Identify and label every known hazard
- Signpost the correct use procedures
- Identify who to ask for help
- Supervision and monitoring – every day
- Aim = everybody is Happy and Safe 😊



Every day, because some people forget, it can be a symptom of age or from a number of reasons.

People from industry are invaluable when it comes to implementing safety & training

Members or visitors with an industry background can do task observations, & provide improvement pointers



The key to helping safety happen is not in being overpowering, but in creating & providing the atmosphere where members feel comfortable and are always able to ask for help, that they all know the chain of command but also that they feel supported when in doubt about anything.

“Shedding has to be a great time in life”

Let's keep it that way

