

## Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017**

### **Technology sneaks into Men's Shed**

The installation of a simple phone line has brought the world to The Cootamundra Men's shed (CMS). The final phase of the Men's Shed Stronger Communities Fund grant has been completed. After months of waiting, a telephone line has been installed and has brought with it technology most of us take for granted.

The Stronger Communities Fund, a program by the NSW State Government and in partnership with the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council injected over \$1 million into our local government area for community organisations to undertake projects that enhance and improve their functions.

The Cootamundra Men's Shed project has seen some new equipment purchases, a concrete floor laid in the welding shed and the installation of a dedicated telephone line.

With the installation of the line, the Men's Shed has been able to connect to the internet, have access to their own mobile telephone, create a Facebook page, and have an email address.

Cootamundra Men's Shed president Mr John Ashcroft said the final stage of our Stronger Communities Fund grant has given the Shed a new dimension in providing activities for members.

"We are teaching many of our older members the wonders of the internet, members are able to research designs and get ideas for fund raising projects. Many have a fear of computerisation and modern technology, we are helping them discover the modern world and what it has to offer," he said.

The technology now attaches the local branch to their peak body the Australian Men's Shed Association, where information can be obtained from newsletters, other Men's Shed activities and business partners such paint companies who offer significant discounts and donations to Men's Shed organisations across the country.

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council administrator Mr Stephen Sykes said the introduction of this technology for Cootamundra's Men's Shed can only enhance the experience of members.

"Being able to research projects, see what other Men's Shed organisations are doing and being contactable is a huge leap forward for the local Men's Shed, we are pleased that the Stronger Communities Fund has been able to facilitate this project." Mr Sykes added.

Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson MP said she was pleased to be able to help the Men's Shed with funding assistance from State Government.

"The Men's Shed movement provides a wonderful experience for men. This project can only enhance the experience for all who use the facility. Embracing technology is so important for the future of organisation," Katrina said.

If you would like to contact the Cootamundra Men's Shed, the new phone number is 0490 083 130, or email them on [cootamen@gmail.com](mailto:cootamen@gmail.com) or check out their Facebook page Coota Men's Shed Inc.

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Photo and caption:

Hooked up and ready to go: CMS member Ken You and President John Ashcroft embracing the technology that is now installed in the Shed. A dedicated telephone line has brought the wonders of the world wide web, email, Facebook and communication to Cootamundra Men' Shed.



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