

Background of the establishment of the official VICTOR HARBOR MENS SHED. now situated at Martha Close

A group of women called “sit and stitch” used to meet regularly in Adare Uniting Church Manse. These women shared fellowship as they quilted, knitted, crocheted every second Thursday.

On one occasion in 2011 women were concerned that there were men in the community who are alone and had to downsize because their wives had either passed on or were in permanent care. Several of these men no longer had their own shed or workshop the potter around.

The women were aware that there were plenty of community groups for women but very little for the special needs of men. One of the “sit and Stitch” members was Rhonda Richardson who was also a member of the home group associated with worship life at Adare. About that time this home group (called “all together now”) was discussing the question, what further could we do to support people in our community. Rhonda mentioned that the “Sit and Stich” group thought that there is a great need for somewhere where men could get together to fellowship and support one another. The Home group discussed the possibility of a men’s shed to meet that need.

Another member of the altogether group, Ross Ford, sent a letter to the Adare Church Council to see if they would consider establishing such a shed. The church council responded favourably to the idea and called a meeting for interested man to explore the possibilities. Dennis Williams chaired the meeting which resulted in five men Dennis Williams, Dean Wickham, Leon Parsons, Ross Ford and Christopher Wright being appointed to investigate how to get a shed up and running.

Adare church offered \$1000 to help get the shed started. Bruce Lindqvist, manager the encounter centre offered the use of the Centres woodwork area, which wasn't used on Fridays, for a fee of \$100 a week to get the shed underway. It so happened that the shed was financially viable from the beginning and never had to draw on the Adare to use the \$1000 promised.

The men's shed quickly outgrew the Encounter Centre, prompting the need for a permanent Victor Harbor location. Several options were investigated until the Victor Harbor City Council offered a block on Martha close where the shed now stands.

The shed was fortunate enough to have all the necessary qualified people along with their expertise to build what they have today. This became possible through a \$256,000 grant from the federal government. Adare church contributed \$25,000, and more than 100,000 was donated from our local service clubs and other donors, as well as an abundance of donated machinery and tools etc

The Victor Harbor Men’s Shed has proved to be an asset, starting with a group of women who recognised the need, and came into being through the instigation and support of the Adare Uniting Church.