

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Firm foundation for men's shed

After more than a decade of patient preparation, the Albany Men's Shed is starting to take shape.

Albany MenShed Chairman Mike Taylor recently joined secretary Kevin Richardson and treasurer Peter Hilditch on a site visit to see the concrete pad laid down for the organisation's purpose-built premises.

The \$800,000 men's shed is supported by a \$20,000 Royalties for Regions Community Chest Fund grant through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), along with \$550,000 through Lotterywest and \$50,000 through the Jack Family Trust.

Mr Taylor said the organisation's committee was excited by the start of construction of the shed, situated off Sanford Road behind Albany PCYC, and looked forward to the advantages of having a dedicated premises.

Albany MenShed was established in 2005 and has used premises at Centennial Park ever since.

The Centennial Park space is too small for the group's membership and will soon be demolished to make way for improvements in Albany's sports precinct.

"After 11 years, to now have some concrete evidence is pretty good," Mr Taylor said.

"We hope we can move in just after Easter.



Albany MenShed committee members, from left, Mike Taylor (Chairman), Peter Hilditch (treasurer) and Kevin Richardson (secretary) visited the site of the organisation's new premises as the concrete pad was laid.



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“We will probably open three days a week initially but, if we want to, access will be available twenty-four-seven.”

Mr Taylor said the 500 sq m premises will have a function space and a machinery area, separated by a soundproof wall.

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the project would enhance the constructive contribution of the men’s shed.

“Albany MenShed is a positive project that contributes to male mental health and community participation,” Mr Rundle said.

“Work carried out at the men’s shed benefits not only the participants but also a wide range of community organisations.”

Mr Taylor said members of the men’s shed gave practical help to the community on a scale that would not compete with local trades people.

“We made 12 picnic tables for the City of Albany for the campervan and motorhome show,” Mr Taylor said. “They are now distributed all around Albany in various parks.”

The Albany MenShed has also made items for the Albany Hospice, the Freemasons and Hawthorn House, among others.

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