





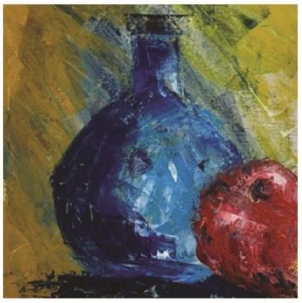






ANNUAL REPORT 2026

LAKE MONGER COMMUNITY SHED






ABOUT US

Introduction

This document is the Annual Report for the Lake Monger Community Shed (Inc) for the twelve months from the 2025 AGM (24 October 2025) and it includes the financial reporting from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, to be presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 23 October 2026.

Our Mission

The mission of the Lake Monger Community Shed (LMCS) is to enable members of the community to come together and share their experiences in life, develop new skills and friendships, pursue their hobbies, undertake community projects and /or just talk with LMCS members to promote longer, more active and healthier, happier lives.

Our Vision

The vision for the LMCS is to provide an accessible, safe, friendly and welcoming inclusive environment that will foster camaraderie, contribute to improved health, happiness and well-being of all LMCS members, so benefitting the community.

Our People

Management Committee Members

Name	Position	Dates Acted (if not for whole year)
Cornelis de Groot	Chairperson	
Colin Slattery	Deputy Chairperson	
Elaine Lopes	Secretary	
Catherine Wilkinson	Treasurer	
Diana Nason	Ordinary Committee Member	Until May 2026
Samantha Turner	Ordinary Committee Member	Until July 2026
Michelle Polglase	Ordinary Committee Member	
Michael Husbands	Ordinary Committee Member	
Anthony D'Alfonso	Ordinary Committee Member	
Michael Humphreys	Ordinary Committee Member	From August 2026
Matilda McCagh	Ordinary Committee Member	From August 2026

Safety Committee

Name	Position	Dates Acted (if not for whole year)
Max Puddey	Convenor	
Colin Ballantine	Member	
Joel Rabinowitz	Member	
Catherine Wilkinson	Member	
Richard Wilson	Member	
Tom Warren	Member	
Bill Barns	Member	

Functional Group Roles

Name	Position	Dates Acted (if not for whole year)
Michelle Polglase/ Colin Slattery	Pottery Group Leads	
Rob Scantlebury/Richard Wilson	Steel Group Lead	
Jay Funk	Wood Turning Group Lead	
Vacant	Woodwork Group Lead	
Martin Spence	Art Group Lead	
Andrew MacKenzie/Ben Jennings/Bas de Waard	Makers Group	

Shed Supervisors

Name	Position	Dates Acted (if not for whole year)
Samantha Turner/Elaine Lopes	Supervisor Coordinator	Until July 2026/From August 2026
Ailsa Malone	Supervisor (Pottery)	
Andy Oldham	Supervisor	
Catherine Wilkinson	Supervisor (Art)	
Colin Ballantine	Supervisor	
Colin Slattery	Supervisor	
Cornelis De Groot	Supervisor	
Gerry Murphy	Supervisor	
Ian Clark	Supervisor	
Karl Akers	Supervisor	
Jason Pelham	Supervisor	
Kim Outtrim	Supervisor	
Magda Morawiec	Supervisor (Pottery)	
Martin Spence	Supervisor (Art)	
Max Puddey	Supervisor	
Mike Husbands	Supervisor (Pottery)	
Miki Polglase	Supervisor (Pottery)	
Monia Allegre	Supervisor (Pottery)	
Raymond Yong	Supervisor	
Samantha Turner	Supervisor	Until July 2026
Thomas Maple	Supervisor	
Trevor Wenham	Supervisor	

Administrative Roles

Name	Position	Dates Acted (if not for whole year)
Andy Oldham/Colin Slattery/Anna Earnshaw	Membership	
Elaine Lopes/Anthony D'Alfonso/Michael Husbands/Rox Dawson	Communications / PR	
Karl Medik, Karl Ackers, Max Puddey, Colin Balantine, Trevor Wenham	Maintenance / Inventory	
Elaine Lopes	Comms – Newsletter Editor	
Simon Ray-Hills	Comms – Newsletter Designer	

Employees

Name	Position	Dates Acted (if not for whole year)
There are no permanent employees		Whole year

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

Lake Monger Community Shed Inc:

- Is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
- Has been approved by the ATO to permit the tax deductibility of donations made to LMCS (Inc) i.e. it has Deductible Gift Registration (DGR).

CONSTITUTION

The LMCS Constitution has been changed following the General Meeting of 4 July 2026, when 4 special resolutions dealing with a minimum age for members (18 years), defining capacity for membership classes and creation of a Carer's associate membership and relevant membership fee passed with a vote of between 92 and 100% in favour for each of the special resolutions. The changes to the Constitution were registered with the Associations Branch of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and have subsequently been approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Where we are now

The focus of LMCS activities is on operational issues, with members working mainly on personal projects, and a few community projects.

Additional equipment and materials have been procured during the year to meet and support the increasing demand of delivering our activities and the interests of our increasing membership. Examples are a new (off-the-shelf) laser cutter, and a CNC plasma cutter designed, developed and completed in house.

Membership has grown significantly and is now 385 around the time of this AGM and that continues to demonstrate the success of our Community Shed. A decline in membership of some of the original founding members is masked by an even larger influx of new members.

LMCS membership is very diverse and reflects the changing needs of the community with over 60% of the membership under the age of 60 and 22% under the age of 40, and 20% over the age of 70, indicating that the Shed continues to evolve. It is evident that the inter-generational nature of our membership is contributing to very interesting conversations and broadening the Shed's overall array of capabilities.

We appreciate those members with a willingness to contribute and participate in Shed activities and busy bees, and to do the work that is required to facilitate the operations of the Shed. Together with the broad cross section of members' experiences and knowledge, this has helped to lay the foundation to create a collegial and very friendly environment. The number of volunteers enrolling is encouraging but there are always tasks and projects for more volunteers. The functional groups being established are Woodwork, Wood turning, Metalwork and 3D Makers.

There has also been an increase in members (and applications for membership) for those who have special needs. This presented some challenges which needed to be addressed. LMCS developed a Disability Access Inclusion Plan with the support of Men's Sheds of WA and Mission Australia, a strategy and operational policy to ensure we can support participation. LMCS is now using that policy.

The Open Day on 22 November 2025 was a great success and brought in significant funds, in fact it set a new record. Many thanks to all of those who helped make this a success. At the end of July 2026, a new Open Day Committee was established for the 2026 Open Day which will be held on Saturday 14 November 2026.

One of the recent changes in the Constitution addressed the conundrum of potential Youth Membership by raising the minimum age to 18 and above. Until the recent change in the Constitution, youths could technically apply for Youth Membership, but LMCS had no capacity to run a Youth Membership program due to the volunteer resources required to run such a programme during designated sessions and even more demanding, doing so in a compliant manner.

The new storage shed: As reported in the 2025 Annual Report, we received a significant Grant from the Western Australian Department of Communities for this project ($75,000). The process for obtaining approvals commenced in February 2025 and after numerous hurdles and much effort it has progressed to the point that construction is expected to commence before the end of this calendar year.

Community activities during the year included:

- The LMCS Shed hosting scheduled meetings of the Fine Woodwork Association of WA each quarter.
- Hosting bi-monthly repair labs for the Town of Cambridge, although recently the Town have paused this activity. However, where possible, members of LMCS repair items brought in by members of the public for a small donation to cover costs.
- A number of Shed members assist in our recycling efforts, with the Containers for Change programme, and recycling of blister packs from medicines.
- LMCS members ran the BBQ for Huntington's Australia Walk 4 Hope around Galup on 13 September 2026.
- The Big Afternoon Tea for the Cancer Council in June raised $4,046, led by Richard Kujda with the assistance of many other volunteers.
- A Lego League table was made for Bold Park Community School for their students to use in a STEM project. Bunnings at Subiaco kindly donated the materials for this venture.
- Now that the CNC machine is functioning again, work on the Toy Wall for Perth Children's Hospital has recommenced, and it is hoped that it will be completed and installed in late December 2026.
- 400 wooden poppies were produced for the City of Vincent 2026 Poppy Project using our new laser cutter.
- A new 'mud kitchen' was made from recycled pine pallets for a local Preschool, with assistance from Cambridge Rotary as well. There are a number of requests for more of these to be made for local schools, so they are in the pipeline.
- A number of wooden black cockatoos were produced on our CNC for a community group that plant trees to support our precious Black Cockatoos.

Safety and Environment

The LMCS Safety program is well advanced with all members completing their general induction, and the majority their chosen technical area inductions as well. New members undergo the general induction as they join LMCS, then their chosen area induction, and all induction training is recorded in our database, with the specific types of induction status displayed on the individual member's name badge.

What Have We Achieved

There is much to be proud of for the outcomes that have been achieved over the past 12-months including:

- Continued upgrade and purchase of some additional equipment, including a much-desired laser cutter. This purchase was assisted with grants from the Town of Cambridge ($2,000) and Men's Sheds of WA ($2,200)
- Continued consolidation of our safety program, including the completion of members' specific machine safety inductions. Woodwork machine inductions have been moved to Wednesday evenings to improve the functioning of these sessions
- Woodwork hand tools courses were run for new members wishing to improve their skills. These were well attended
- Pottery courses have been run for members to improve their skills in various areas
- Continuation of an Art Painting group on Wednesday afternoons
- Continuation of a CNC routing group and along with this, a major refurbishment of the CNC was carried out
- Building from scratch a CNC plasma cutter

- Continuation of a Makers group, covering CAD computing and 3D printing, and use of the new laser cutter
- Facilitating the training of additional first aiders

Shed Operational Status

Whilst the original design of the LMCS recognised and successfully addressed most of the internal and external environmental issues, there are some unexpected challenges which have now been identified. The growth in membership and the establishment of the above new activity groups, while very positive for LMCS, is putting pressure on the available physical space in the shed.

In the previous year a survey was held to finetune the opening times of the Shed and the outcome was that the Friday afternoon session was removed. There was an interest to open on Sundays, so this year the Sunday afternoon sessions commenced for pottery, hand tools and makers only.

The Shed facility is now well equipped and configured, and provides the necessary support for the following vocational activities:

- Woodwork and Wood Machining
    - The wood machining equipment is now heavily used.
    - This has highlighted several operational issues and problems that have had to be worked through, which include that machine maintenance now needs more frequent attention, with additional wear and tear on all saw and thicknesser/planer blades, router bits and sanding consumables.
    - A dedicated machinery maintenance group has now commenced.

- Pottery

  Pottery in the Shed has been very successful and is a good example of the need to meet the changing membership interests and demand. A pottery subcommittee manages the Pottery area and all issues involved with Pottery. Pottery membership has grown to 185 in just under 5 years.
    - On Tuesday and Thursday nights a Pottery session takes place alongside the woodworking hand tools and Makers' sessions.
    - Pottery workshops demonstrating new skills have also been established along with training for kiln use and glaze making.
    - The Pottery group is now self-sustaining.

- Wood Turning
    - A new separate bench sharpening station has been established to provide gouge sharpening options.
    - The number of members who are turning has increased, and it is becoming more popular amongst female members.
    - Full-face shields are mandatory.

- Metalwork and welding

  The Steel area has undergone a significant layout change to optimise space.
    - Steel bending equipment has been relocated to a bench in the wood assembly area
    - Grinding is required to be done outside
    - Welding inductions and training for a black badge are progressing on the MIG, TIG and Stick welding machines
    - A separate 'Silver' induction for the metal lathe has been implemented
    - Most recently, a dedicated group has been formed to guide the development of our Plasma CNC including inductions, maintenance and use.

- Art, and CNC Routing & 3D Printing;

  These two groups share the Shed socialisation area on different days and times due to shed overall space constraints:
    - Art sessions are conducted on Wednesday afternoons with a growing number of participants
    - The Makers CNC Routing & 3D Printing group meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and have been conducting training courses in the use of Fusion 360 and V-carve software which interface with the CNC router. They have also commenced inductions on use of the new laser cutter.
- Membership and Induction fees
    - Due to anticipation of low income streams from community projects, and rising costs, the annual membership fee was increased to $175 pa on December 1st 2025, following the passing of a resolution at the 2025 AGM. It was the first increase since the Shed opened in 2021.
    - Inductions for Woodwork and Metal are resource intensive. There is also a hidden cost of consumables in these areas, so the management committee implemented a charge for Woodwork and Metal inductions during the 2026 financial year.

Supporting Organisations, Fund Raising and Donations

The LMCS achievements described above are the result of a great deal of voluntary work by our members, and with the fantastic support of the following organisations:

- The Town of Cambridge, to whom we extend our thanks to the Mayor, Councillors and staff for the financial contribution, ongoing advice, and facility maintenance
- The Rotary Club of Cambridge, to whom we extend our thanks to the President and members for advice on financial matters
- The Lake Monger Recreation Club, to whom we extend our thanks to the President and staff for their continued support in permitting the use of their facilities.

LMCS has been has also been very fortunate (and grateful) for the receipt of:

- Specific financial grants from:
    - The Australian Men's Shed Association – towards first aid and electrical testing training
    - Men's Sheds WA – towards the laser cutter, Open Day 2024 and materials for the PCH Toy Wall
    - Town of Cambridge – toward the laser cutter and Open Day 2025
- Donations of time, effort, willingness and commitment from our Management Committee, group committees and members on a voluntary basis to support Shed operations, supervision of sessions, conducting technical inductions, public relations, the implementation of our maintenance, electrical testing and community support projects.
    - All of our sessions require volunteer supervisors to operate the Shed. Due to the number of sessions per week, and the complexities and diversity of activities, we need to move from a 'supervisor only' model to a model where the supervisor on duty is supported by members of the various functional groups during the sessions. This transition is a work in progress.
    - Other volunteers also contribute significantly to our Shed's operations. These include in management and overall development and direction, financial and secretarial services, membership administration, maintenance management and maintenance activities.
    - Our newsletter, marketing and communications is also a large part of ensuring Shed members are kept informed and that the Shed has a public face. Occasionally, meetings are needed for communication with members, and these have been held on Saturday mornings in 2026. That timing is particularly important because of a significant part of the membership works during the week.
    - We also have volunteer induction facilitators, functional group coordinators, project leaders and committee participants that plan and run our Open Day and charitable commissions. We have volunteer

BBQ cooks to feed us and master chefs sometimes provide morning and afternoon teas to fuel our fellowship.
    - It's difficult to estimate the number of hours our volunteers put into all of these activities but conservatively it would be in excess of 2,000 hours.

- A significant donation from a local long-term Wembley resident who donated a metal lathe and milling machine including many accessories and bar-stock in May 2026, as she was wanting the equipment to go to a good cause.

Moving Forward

The key objective for the next 12 months is to continue our activities with an operational focus that will encourage members to carry out their personal projects, but to also do some projects for the community and Shed projects that will support the financial sustainability of the Shed over time.

We would also like to get the new Storage Shed project completed.

- **Functional Groups**

We have been moving to a model that has functional groups managing the specialist areas within the Shed and supporting our volunteer supervisors, thus allowing them to concentrate on the important task of ensuring the shed is a safe and welcoming place for members. While there is still some work to be done there has been significant progress this year with most functional areas within the shed banding together to support shed operations.

We are aiming to have a member of these functional groups attend sessions to aid the supervisors, provide technical assistance to members needing guidance, and to carry out minor maintenance. This additional assistance should enhance the Shed experience for our many members.

- **Volunteering within the Shed**

The Management Committee is optimistic and confident that we are collectively building a shed environment that has become a vibrant community hub and an outstanding Community Shed. However, key to this ongoing success is a need for all members to participate in volunteering in some way for the Shed. This is now stressed in the general induction given to all members. As always, we need significantly more volunteers to keep the Shed running and while there has been an increase in the number of people volunteering for activities and responsibilities in the Shed, we always need more, in particular those with experience in the woodworking area and support with administrative activities.

Without a significant increase, there is concern regarding the quality of the overall experience and the number of sessions may not be sustainable. We did not receive any nominations (for positions on the new committee of 26/27) from members who were not already on the committee. Overall, that means with 385 members only 2.5% of the members nominated. The Deputy position may remain vacant. To me, this metric would seem to further indicate that the expectations of a very large group of members need to be managed. Although we need to continually work on identifying new income streams, the Management Committee is confident about the financial sustainability of the Shed. We are in a fortunate position that the focus on sustainability of the operations of the shed should be less about financial matters, but far more so on having sufficient volunteers to relieve volunteers who are currently proportionally carrying too much weight on their shoulders to an extent it could interfere with their enjoyment of the shed.

Conclusions

We would also like to thank you (as members) very much for your support, work, and passion for our Shed. At the end of the day, it is our people that make the Shed, and who build friendships that promote and foster greater social interaction and inclusiveness as well as providing excellent opportunities to share knowledge and skills. There are a number of matters raised here that are of importance and have to be brought to the attention to all our members.

Yours sincerely

Cornelis de Groot
Chairperson of the Lake Monger Community Shed

SECTION 3 **OUR FINANCES**

TREASURER'S REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial report is attached as a separate document and has been prepared by Catherine Wilkinson - LMCS Treasurer.