



North Sydney Men's Shed



Joint Strategic Plan 2022-2024

*North Sydney Council
North Sydney Men's Shed*



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

The North Sydney Men's Shed Joint Strategic Plan is a joint planning statement by North Sydney Council and North Sydney Men's Shed. It is based on the Shed's own Strategic Plan 2021-2023 (Appendix 2), Council's Community, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy (Appendix 3), and programme of works (Appendix 1).

1.2 The Lease

Council has leased the existing Scout Hall at Smoothery Park, Wollstonecraft to the North Sydney Men's Shed from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025.

1.3 Community Consultation

Community consultation plays an important role in the production of any Strategic Plan. It provides Council and the Centre with a sound understanding of the important issues for the community with regard to the important role community centres play in their lives.

Public involvement in community centre strategic plans combats misinformation and misunderstanding, and fosters support for Council's and the centres' programs and policies. The consent and co-operation of the users of the Shed facilitates management and lends weight to the status of the Strategic Plan.

Writing a submission:

Submissions give members of the public an opportunity to express their opinions, provide information and suggest alternatives to the proposed management strategies for North Sydney Men's Shed.

To ensure submissions are as effective as possible:

- (1) List all points according to the sections and page number in the Strategic Plan
- (2) Briefly describe each subject or issue you wish to discuss
- (3) State which strategies you agree or disagree with, and give your reasons
- (4) Suggest alternatives to deal with any issue with which you disagree

Written submissions should be sent to:

council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Mail:

North Sydney Council

PO Box 12

NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Attention:

A/Director, Community and Library Services

1.4 The Joint Strategic Plan

The plan provides a basis for assigning priorities in programming and budgeting.

The plan will be reviewed annually to assess implementation and performance, and a review at the end of the lease to allow policy issues to be updated.

1.5 Purpose of the Strategic Plan

The aim of this document is to produce a Joint Strategic Plan for the North Sydney Men's Shed in Smoothey Park, incorporating both Council and the Men's Shed's objectives.

The North Sydney Men's Shed is a central place for men to meet on a regular basis, providing opportunities to socialise with peers, as well as providing a space where men can work on projects and nurture their hobbies and interests. The local area has a high proportion of older people living in unit and apartment blocks and having access to an onsite shed or workspace is limited. A Strategic Plan clearly setting out the existing, and anticipated future uses of the land occupied by the centre, is seen as an essential guide for the community and to Council and the Shed.

1.7 Council's Community Centre Policy

After extensive consultations involving those centres with community-based management boards, Council adopted a revised Community Centres Policy in 2013. Management of the North Sydney Men's Shed should be in accordance with the objectives set out in this policy:

- a) Provide a network of community spaces/programs throughout the North Sydney local government area, fostering among residents, students, the local workforce and Council, a sense of belonging to the North Sydney community;
- b) Provide or facilitate provision of high quality and appropriate services;
- c) Strive towards making centre based, and outreach, programs and activities for residents affordable and accessible;
- d) Overcome social isolation and encourage social networking;
- e) Provide the major community facilities, which would not otherwise be available to the North Sydney community;
- f) Maximise the community's use of Council facilities;
- g) Facilitate community involvement in management of centres;
- h) Support a mix of management models, each appropriate to the centre concerned, so as to tap the skills and enthusiasm of the widest cross section of the community;
- i) Provide for centres which, in total, give an adequate level of support to the following key areas - child care, including vacation care; youth services; aged and disability services; family services; arts and culture; activities and services for culturally and linguistically diverse communities; community health, including mental health; adult education; information dissemination; recreation; library services; and historical services;
- j) Develop and maintain strategic alliances with other councils, the State and Federal government departments, and the non-government community services sector, to enrich the range and depth of services available of the North Sydney community;

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- k) Maximise developer contribution, where appropriate, to the cost of new or expanded centre provision;
- l) Facilitate grant applications, relevant to centre programs;
- m) Maintain the centre buildings and grounds to agreed standards;
- n) Upgrade and enhance centres where appropriate, based on consultation with users and providers;
- o) Promote the centres as a council/community good;
- p) Monitor, and assist where appropriate, the centres' financial and management performance through a range of strategies; and
- q) Facilitate and initiate new uses/services;
- r) Ensure that services provided through the centres are accessible to all members of the public of the North Sydney local government area; and
- s) Ensure that sub-leasing or room hire of centres by Centre Management is restricted to groups serving the same needs as those identified in i) above.

1.8 Leasing of Community Facilities

It is Council's strategic practice to lease the old Scout Hall building to North Sydney Men's Shed for a maximum term of five years at any one time. The *Smoothey Park Plan of Management 2016* recognises the Men's Shed and its uses as positive contribution to Smoothey Park.

The purpose of granting a lease of a public facility, such as the Men's Shed, is to facilitate the management of the community resource for the ultimate benefit of the community.

The granting of a lease authorises the management of the community facility by the appointed community organisation, which is granted tenure of the community facility. In this respect the practice of granting a lease is required where control of all or part of a community facility is desirable to ensure the optimum management of the facility.

Activities under a lease must be compatible with the zoning of the land and must provide a direct community benefit. In this regard the terms and conditions of lease must require that the lessee be accountable to ensure proper management of the community facility such that it functions in accordance with Council's policy and meets the wishes and expectations of the community.

The management of the Shed is required to be monitored by the Council to ensure the lessee's compliance with the terms and conditions of lease and to ensure the strategic objectives are met. Upon expiry of each five-year term the lessee's performance will be reviewed in order to determine whether the lessee has satisfactorily complied with the conditions of lease, and the conditions of lease will be reviewed to ensure consistency with Council policy.

1.9 Management Context

Smoothey Park is a prominent piece of open space in the North Sydney area. A significant Plan of Management has been developed for the park due to its diverse features including urban bushland, a public hall and parkland. The *Smoothey Park Plan of Management 2016* is available on Council's website. This Plan and the Men's Shed Plan of Management are compatible.

2.0 LOCATION

2.1 Site Location History and Heritage

Located at 14 Russell Street in Wollstonecraft, on the western edge of the North Sydney Council area, Smoothey Park is bounded to the east by the north shore railway line, to the north east by Russell Street, to the south by Milray Avenue, and to the west by Berrys Creek and Greendale Park, located in the Lane Cove Council area.

Smoothey Park was named after Mr S Smoothey, an Alderman of North Sydney Council from 1911 to 1920. Smoothey had a plumber's workshop on Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway). Both Smoothey Park and the adjacent Gore Cove Reserve were part of the original Berry/Wollstonecraft Estate that remained undeveloped during their ownership.

3.0 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

3.1 Background

The Men's Shed is adjacent to the railway line, reached either by a footpath from within the park or by a sealed road off Russell Street. This road also provides access to the railway line and associated railway lands. The park is a popular starting and finishing point for bushwalks, otherwise it is used predominantly as a thoroughfare, and a series of paved paths channel pedestrian movement.

3.3 Access

No special provisions have been made for parking at Smoothey Park, and people arriving by car must park in nearby residential streets including Milray Avenue and Russell Street. The park is located in close proximity to Wollstonecraft railway station and Council encourages the use of public transport (and bicycles) to reduce problems associated with traffic congestion and parking, as well as relieving pressure on local streets.

Whilst general vehicular access to Smoothey Park is prohibited, adequate access is provided for service and emergency vehicles. The service road off Russell Street gives access to a stormwater pollution trap and to the railway land beside the public hall and to the public hall for deliveries. Smoothey Park has a well-established system of pedestrian pathways running through it.

A well-graded pathway connects Russell Street to Wollstonecraft Station, and another major pathway links the station to the Greenwich residential area via the high-level pedestrian bridge. A low-level bridge which also crosses Berrys Creek forms part of the Gore Cove walking track. In 2000 a new section of pathway was constructed to create an improved link to Russell Street for cyclists.

The internal circulation system in Smoothey Park is an important component of the overall recreational experience. The existing pathways adequately cater for the majority of pedestrian and cyclist movements, are generally in good condition and many are accessible to all (although the pathway leading down to the creek is steep and has steps).

3.4 Relationship with other Centres and Council's Community Development Department

Having regard to the network of community centres supported through Council's Community Centres Policy, the Men's Shed will be open to conversations with other centres and Council's Community Development team, with a view to provide information exchange, avoidance of duplication, as well as opportunities to collaborate on projects.

3.5 Built Form

The Men's Shed is the most significant building in Smoothey Park. Built in 1966, it is a single storey brick building with a corrugated metal deck roof. Until 2008 the hall was leased to the Scouts

Association; since then it has become home to the North Sydney Men's Shed, a fully equipped workshop where both skilled and unskilled men can come to design and construct timber products. The appearance of the hall, once a prime target for vandals due to its secluded location, has now improved due to its regular use. The park also contains a small worker's shed that houses tools and materials used for bush regeneration activities. The shed is in relatively good condition.

3.6 Indicative Program of Maintenance and Upgrade

An indicative ten-year program of maintenance is provided.

4.0 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

4.1 Philosophical Basis for the Strategic Plan

The primary aim of the Men's Shed Strategic Plan is to provide guidelines for the future use, development, management and maintenance of the Centre. The Men's Shed is one of the LGA's most important community centres. The Management Committee holds overall responsibility for management of this centre. The Committee consists of the President, Secretary and Treasurer, elected at the Annual General meeting.

Council supports this management model in several ways, including adequate maintenance of the building, replacement of tools where necessary and management mentoring. Council and the Men's Shed must be responsive to the changing needs of the community and users of the Centre. The Strategic Plan must have the flexibility to incorporate and take advantage of future requirements and respond to changing needs and social changes as they arise.

4.2 Management Objectives

Based on community needs and expectations, and the values and assets of Men's Shed itself, the following broad, primary management objectives have been identified:

- To manage the Centre in accordance with the North Sydney Men's Shed Strategic Plan 2021- 23 (see attached)
- To manage the centre for community use in accordance with the overall objectives of the Council's Community Strategic Plan
- To manage the Centre in accordance with the aims and objectives of Council's Community Centres Policy (see attached)
- To provide and maintain a high-quality community facility which meets the need of the local and wider community
- To cater for people with disabilities within the physical constraints of the centre
- To provide for public safety
- To ensure the Strategic Plan is flexible and able to evolve with changing community attitude

4.3 Specific Management Objectives

In adopting its 2021-23 Strategic Plan the North Sydney Men's Shed identified the following target areas:

Opportunities

- a) Further joint projects with council such as Lost Birds Found, Community Libraries and White Ribbon and Seniors Week now that COVID restrictions have been discontinued.
- b) Continuing support for the Sustainability Centre at the Coal Loader.
- c) Continuing interaction with local community members and sundry furniture repairs for members of the public, which engage the community and provide positive feedback for The Shed and for Council.

Challenges

- a) Rapid growth in Shed Member numbers.

Strategy: Larger numbers of daily attendees can be handled with a system of attendance restrictions which would balance daily attendance numbers. A consequence of the COVID 19 restrictions, and some members not renewing their membership since the Shed reopened, a rapid growth in Shed Member numbers is currently a lesser risk. The Shed is actively recruiting new members to rebuild the number of members.

- b) Fire, vandalism/theft is a risk because the Shed is physically isolated.

Strategy: A high quality back-to-base fire/entry alarm is installed to reduce the risk factor.

The building is of double brick construction and highly secure, and the contents are comprehensively insured mitigating the risk of theft and vandalism to the Shed's financial position and operating capacity.

We see no other threats to The Shed currently and are working to increase membership levels to at least pre-COVID.

4.4 Reporting

The North Sydney Men's Shed Management Committee will review the Joint Strategic Plan annually and provide a report to Council each March, according to a template provided by Council, so that Council can review the progress of the Plan.

North Sydney Men's Shed Joint Strategic Plan 2022-2024

Smoothey Park Scout Hall 10 Year Asset Management Plan

Item Description	Code	Last Done	Cost	Cycle	<i>Ledger year</i>								
					2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Plumbing	RR1	2018	\$800	1	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Electrical	RR1	2018	\$800	1	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Building repairs	RBR	2018	\$1,100	1	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
Fire services	RR1	2018	\$500	1	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Exit and emergency lights	RR1	2018	\$800	1	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Electricity	FC1	2018	\$900	1	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
Insurance	FC1	2018	\$1,600	1	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600
Other expenses - misc., keys etc	RR1	2018	\$400	1	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
Share of admin costs	FC1	2018	\$500	1	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Total Recurrent Expenditure					\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400
Capital Works Program													
Roof ventilators and skylights		2006	\$5,000						\$5,000				
Internal Re-painting	PGA	2006	\$8,000	7	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Capital Works Expenditure					\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

North Sydney Men's Shed Inc Strategic Plan 2022 - 2024

North Sydney Men's Shed Inc (Incorporation
Number: INC 301521) 14
Russell St
Wollstonecraft, NSW, 2065

North Sydney Men's Shed ("The Shed") provides a social environment where older men can gather, socialise and work (mainly) with wood if they wish. The Shed has a range of woodworking equipment for use by members who work predominantly on their own individual projects. Special projects are undertaken for council, community organisations or local residents, for which a fee is charged to defray the cost of materials and use of the equipment.

All members are provided with training on any of the equipment they choose to use. A training record maintained for each member and members may only work on equipment on which they have completed the training. Training is provided by the Shed's supervisor members.

Members agree, as a condition of membership, to observe a Code of Conduct published by the committee and are encouraged to take part in Shed projects when appropriate.

1. Governance Structure

1.1 Legal Structure and North Sydney Council Lease

The Shed is an Incorporated Association under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009 Registration Number 1301521, dated 5 December 2013. The Shed was incorporated after its separation from Uniting Care, which originally established the Shed as an organisation.

The Shed leases its premises from North Sydney Council and the current lease runs from January 2021 to December 2024.

The Shed is open to members on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week from 10 am to 4 pm. The Shed, its tools and equipment, may not be used for business or commercial purposes.

1.2 Constitution

The Constitution of The Shed was approved by members and lodged with The Department of Fair Trading on 1 March 2014. The Constitution was updated by the Management Committee in 2019 to remove some anomalies and update items no longer appropriate. The revised version of the constitution was accepted at the 2019 AGM and lodged with the Department of Fair Trading in October 2019.

1.3 Income, Costs, Overheads and Insurance

The Shed's income is derived from member subscriptions and fees for work provided to external organisations or members of the public. The Shed's overheads, being electricity, telephone/internet, council rates, garbage disposal and water charges, are paid on its behalf by North Sydney Council. North Sydney Council also provides financial support for the replacement of equipment and when trades are required to maintain the premises or equipment. General care and maintenance of the equipment is completed by members of The Shed. The Members and the Management Committee gratefully acknowledges Council's financial support for The Shed, without which it could not operate.

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The Shed maintains Public Liability and Building Contents Insurances, renewed annually on 28 February, and purchase of materials and consumable items used by members. Personal Accident Insurance for all members is maintained through the Australian Men's Shed Association umbrella insurance policy at an annual subscription of currently, \$28.00 per member, per annum.

1.4 Management Team

The Shed is run by a Management Committee, which is elected at the Annual General Meeting, and a team of Supervisors appointed and overseen by the Management Committee. The Management Committee consists of three members, President, Treasurer and Secretary. There are currently three Supervisors. All Management Committee and Supervisor positions are voluntary and there are no paid officials. The Management Committee also oversees the production and dissemination of a newsletter to members to keep them informed of activities and events at The Shed.

1.5 Functional Responsibilities

a) President

- i) Oversight of the Shed Committee and Supervisors.
- ii) Maintenance and upkeep of all equipment.
- iii) Chairman of all Management Committee and General Meetings.
- iv) WHS and Fire Warden Coordinator.

b) Treasurer

- i) All functions associated with The Shed's financial management and reporting.
- ii) Shed Supervisory duties as required.
- iii) Maintenance of Property Register.

c) Secretary

- i) Maintenance of The Shed's records and databases.
- ii) Public Officer.
- iii) Website Coordinator.

d) Supervisors

- i) Take responsibility of the opening and closing of the Shed.
- ii) Oversee the observance of the Attendance Register.
- iii) Oversee safety and conduct at all times.
- iv) Provide training on the safe use of equipment to members.
- v) Ensure equipment is in good order.
- vi) Ensure an adequate supply of consumable items.

2. SWOT Analysis

2.1 Strengths

- a) The high level of skills offered by The Committee and Supervisors.
- b) The ability of Supervisors to pass on these skills to new members.
- c) Strong financial management.
- d) Excellent record keeping, and communications with members.
- e) Strong financial and logistical support from Council.
- f) A relaxed and harmonious environment.
- g) Daily observation of safety procedures and personal risk minimisation.

- h) Working with the Joint Plan of Management with North Sydney Council.

2.2 Weaknesses

- a) Limited number of work spaces. There are only facilities for 8 - 10 members to work at the same time.
Strategy: If the number of members attending approach the work-space capacity The Shed can provide some temporary work space on the building's veranda, or could create a system of timed control of attendance to even the daily attendance numbers out. During periods of COVID 19 social distancing restrictions The Shed limited attendance to only 4 members at any one time using a booking arrangement.

2.3 Opportunities

- a) Further joint projects with council such as Lost Birds Found, Community Libraries and White Ribbon and Seniors Week now that COVID restrictions have been discontinued.
- b) Continuing support for the Sustainability Centre at the Coal Loader.
- c) Continuing interaction with local community members and sundry furniture repairs for members of the public, which engage the community and provide positive feedback for The Shed and for Council.

2.4 Threats

- a) Rapid growth in Shed Member numbers.
Strategy: Larger numbers of daily attendees can be handled with a system of attendance restrictions which would balance daily attendance numbers. A consequence of the COVID 19 restrictions, and some members not renewing their membership since the Shed reopened, a rapid growth in Shed Member numbers is currently a lesser risk. The Shed is actively recruiting new members to rebuild the number of members.
- b) Fire, vandalism/theft is a risk because the Shed is physically isolated.
Strategy: A high quality back-to-base fire/entry alarm is installed to reduce the risk factor. The building is of double brick construction and highly secure, and the contents are comprehensively insured mitigating the risk of theft and vandalism to the Shed's financial position and operating capacity.
- c) We see no other threats to The Shed currently and are working to increase membership levels to at least pre-COVID.

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