

DEVONPORT MENS SHED INC

Devonfield Complex

133 Middle Road

Devonport 7310

16/07/2020

Devonport City Council

Attention : Karen Hampton

Expression of Interest for use of old gymnastics building – Forbes Street Complex

The possible availability of this building is very opportune because we have been advised that the building the Shed currently rents from Devonfield will not be available for ongoing use due to changes resulting from new NDIS guidelines.

A Shed has operated for over 13 years in the City. Until three years ago a small shed was used at Community House until insurance concerns required relocation to a part of a disused workshop at the Devonfield Complex in July 2017.

The transfer to Devonfield under stand-alone management has resulted in an increase of membership from 8 in 2017 to 63 – comprised 47 men who attend Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 16 women who attend the “Women’s Day Wednesday” every week.

This membership increase is continuing with an additional 2 women and 2 men joining this week.

We are looking for an area where we can settle without fear of having to move again as such an undertaking is both costly and time consuming, detracting from the aim of Men Sheds of providing a safe and happy place for men {and women in our case} to meet, exchange experiences and lead a fulfilling life.

As such, the Forbes Street area can be adapted over time to cover both current and future needs, with double the time for opening available – now mornings only 9-12. Increased membership would see afternoon and Friday sessions commence.

We currently pay a rental at Devonfield which covers insurances and outgoings whilst ensuring membership fees can be capped at \$1 per week. This has allowed more pensioner member attendance and has contributed in part to membership increase. Coupled with this, introduction of community projects and purchase of computer-controlled machines has added a further dimension to the member experience.

We would like the opportunity to discuss the future lease with Council to see if we can reach a situation that benefits both parties.

The Shed membership encompasses a wide range of trade skills – currently there are 2 plumbers, 2 electricians, a welder, 2 fitters and a painter plus a group of skilled handymen who have workshop experience.

All Shed members have Working With Vulnerable Persons accreditation.

This will ensure whatever alterations or repairs are needed can be competently and safely handled. Initially we see the need for roller door access from the car park wall, upgrade of electrical circuitry to full earth leakage standard, fitting of additional flooring in both the old sauna and cleaning store area to bring the surface level with the main deck.

There would also be transfer of existing crib room / office and kitchen structure from Devonfield to the new area for installation as soundproofing between the Shed area and the playhouse.

Attached please find copies of support letters from the Devonfield Board of Management and The Tasmanian Men's Shed Association Board attesting to the benefits such a move would bring to people within the City.

Hopefully this information is sufficient to allow consideration for lease of the area to the Shed. Council can be assured we will be a good, long-term tenant which will add to the range of recreational activities at the site.

I am available to meet with and discuss these matters and answer any queries – just give me a call on 0438536695.

Yours in anticipation,



Malcolm Reid OAM

President

devmenshed@gmail.com

www.menssheddevonport.org



GPO Box 344
Hobart TAS 7001
ABN: 722 937 65 160
Secretary.TMSA@gmail.com
www.tasmanianmensshed.org.au

Karen Hampton
Devonport City Council
16 July 2020

Dear Karen

This letter seeks to provide support to the Devonport Men's Shed in their endeavours to secure new premises.

The Devonport Men's Shed is a member of the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association, a network of 59 Community and Men's Sheds across Tasmania.

With a total of 61 members, this Shed is a valuable community asset for both men and women, with community projects being their focus. Earlier this year the Shed provided support to those affected by the bushfires in the Fingal region. The Shed is well attended and very well managed and must seek new premises through no fault of their own.

As the Peak Body for Men's Sheds in Tasmania we are only too aware of the critical role our Sheds play within their communities, especially in providing a sense of place and purpose for those that are isolated. This has been highlighted even more during COVID-19 initial lockdowns. We are also finding people that have relocated from interstate often join Sheds as a way of connecting with their communities.

The Tasmanian Men's Shed Association have no hesitation in supporting Devonport Men's Shed with their Expression of Interest in securing new premises via Devonport City Council.

Yours sincerely

Keith Ellis

President
Tasmanian Men's Shed Association inc.
Peak Body for Men's Sheds in Tasmania

email:- presidentoftmsa@gmail.com
mobile:- 0417572668
website:- www.tasmanianmensshed.org.au

TMSA - KeepConnected

Malcolm Reid
President
Men's Shed Inc (Devonport)

Dear Malcolm,

Further to our recent discussions I write to reaffirm that Devonfield is unable to meet your requirements to execute a formal lease for the site that you currently occupy at our Middle Rd property. Since welcoming your operation to our site, some three years ago, and at a time that you were finding great difficulty in securing suitable accommodation within the community and your budgetary means, our "world" has, and continues to change significantly, impacted by diminishing local manufacturing business and evolving and transitional requirements of NDIS.

Our imperative is to ensure capacity to deliver client services into the future, which, in part, demands "best use" of assets. To that end, our freehold properties are under review as to their future suitability to meet our objectives.

Post our initial discussion, you have since advised that an opportunity has arisen whereby a suitable developed, Devonport City Council site has become available for lease, subject to your successful tendering. As a worthwhile and desirable community based organisation we support your cause and am hopeful that Council considers your expression favourably.

Yours faithfully
John Blyth
Chairman
Devonfield Enterprises Inc.

Wed 15th July 2020