

Nicol's Blacksmith Newsletter November 2018

Greeting

Well November is almost over and December looming, what happened to October. Phew.

On Friday 7th December at 6pm Duntroon is having a combined BQ for all its volunteers including Nicols Blacksmith Historic Trust, Vanished World, Wetland gardening group, the new pharmacy building, and the Duntroon District Development association, and anyone else involved with furthing Duntroon and helping to make Duntroon a great place to live and visit. So if you are free please join us and get to meet some of the local people who help to make Duntroon what it is. Please let me know if you can make it, for catering purposes.

**You are invited to join our local Community and Volunteers
at a combined “End Of Year” barbecue.**

on Friday December 7th, from 6pm

To be held in Duntroon Hall or On Village Green

Barbeque food will be provided - Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

Bring your own DRINKS and UTENSILS (plates, cutlery, cups..)

Thanks to Meridian Energy we now have a new grinder and a belt sander (which will help with the knife making courses we will eventually run and our own knives and sharpening) and safety welding curtains (see picture). Due to these new grunty machines we have concerns for the safety of the operators (us) and the visiting public, so we have to put some safety measures in place. Therefore we all need to have some training in operating these machines if you wish to use them. Lindsay is prepared to train up anyone interested on his next tool sharpening day Sunday 16th December, and also a chance to learn some tool sharpening skills. I am hoping to arrange other days in future and will let you all know when.

We are also looking at excluding the public from workshop area when it is in use, have a chain over back door and signage. Also restricting visitors in the main forge area, with chains and barriers. We have all voiced concern about people wandering through when we are working, so it's work in progress to keep us safe as well as visitors. Safety glasses must be worn at all times etc. Ideas, suggestions, implementations welcome.

Its not just me running the forge, its all of us working together to help keep the forge working and growing.

The sales area is now in the office area, and will set up the barrow and place outside with a few items. Richard made up a ramp to help get barrow out the door which frees up workshop area.

On Sunday John forged a bracket hold the welding curtains in place few hooks here and there and voila red wee welding cubby hole. We have a welding sign in place when welding happens and a common welding safety measure is when are closing welding helmet you EYES, so anyone close by is aware welding flash is happening. We be aware when visitors are around, or we hold off welding they are gone.



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We have a concise health and safety manual that Mike did when we first started out which should be read as we must all be aware of safety requirements. Enough of the lecture, but I have had a few sleepless moments when concerned for the safety our volunteers and our wonderfull forge.

Yesterday I was up the ladder in the rain unblocking the guttering and realize the old building needs some loving care as well ongoing maintenance. So it's not only forging needed but help in maintaining building and grounds. So if you arnt rostered on but want to come and play and help out you are most welcome.

Thanks to Grant for spraying the never ending weeds, and Alex has got the motor and belt driven machinery working, although a few adjustments and oiling needed. Also Alex is keen to get the drill press working (how does it work), Robert is a wizz with the old machinery and is rostered on this Sat 2nd.

I will be working on roster for Jan Feb and March in the next week or so, so if you have any days you can't work (like on holiday etc) please let me know otherwise will work on formula from last 3 months.

Also had Imogen Keeling come in and set up a smithy group email list for me, so with the press of one button I should be able to email you all. Saved me hours of frustration and I am only just learning how this email works.

The special dust control oil is working a treat, the dust is still there but dosnt fly about. Steve sprayed the floor and a 20ltr container did the whole floor, although a bit thin in places. Hope to get another container to keep it all in place, has made a big difference to the air we breath.

Dave did another training day last Sunday and Steve has made a few more tools, unfortunately I was sick in bed and was meant to be doing course as well, still dreaming of a good pair of tongs. Steve has now made a few good pairs and Harry especially likes the last ones he made so I recon a few more tongs will be in the making in the future.

It has been very quiet on the visitor front, but has given us all more time to forge and lots of skills have been passed on and items made. Have had a few good sales, and Harry has been forging stuff flat out as people keep buying his stuff.

Have had a few enquiries regards introduction courses, which I have been putting off until my back came right. Also we no longer get the extra funding for training that has supplemented the old price, so the new still cheap price of 80 dollars adult and 50 per youth will apply to any new queries (10 till 3, 4 hour course). We might have to honour the old price of 60 adult and 40 youth from those that have seen The Shed article or previous web site prices.

I am hoping to do any training on a Saturday when there is usually only one other rostered on and Harry will help me as he can and I hope anyone rostered on will help encourage our new enthusiasts. I can't do it all on my own, but have really enjoyed helping teach what skills I have and still always learning more. It has been fun weekends forging so far, things are getting made, the time goes so fast, so thank you all and hope to see you on the Friday 7th or your next rostered day. Please let me know if you can't do any rostered days, a cell text to me 027 9366 225 is the easiest contact.



Cheers Judy Waterston, Manager.