



WHY NOT WOMEN?

- 1) **We are not anti-women.** But our shed is designed to allow men to be together and talk about things that are important to men. Women find it easy to talk together and make conversation. That is why, when women are present, many men withdraw into themselves and don't contribute to the chat.
- 2) There are few opportunities for men to gather to talk together and do things together. There are many organisations that cater for women's needs exclusively.
- 3) At organisations for both sexes it is usually women who steer the conversation.
- 4) Are we discriminatory? No – we just do things that interest men. There are many organisations such as The Women's Institute and various guilds etc. where men are not expected to attend for the same reasons that we cater for men. Where there is no such organisation, women will gather in houses, coffee shops or wherever. Men won't.
- 5) In sheds where women have been allowed to attend, men's wives and partners become suspicious of why their other half wants to go out alone – therefore the men don't come back to the shed.
- 6) If women want to do the sort of things that men do in sheds, there is scope for a so-called "She Shed" possibly using the same space as a Men's Shed on days when the Men's Shed does not function.
- 7) Whilst we may be seen as doing and making things in and for the community, our top priority is the health and wellbeing of men and socially isolated men in particular and anything that stands in the way of that objective is discouraged.

That is why we operate a Men's Shed

The Trustees of Garnock Valley Men's Shed