



## **Men's Shed** by Liz Janney

Female curiosity got the better of me so I dropped into the Broome Men's Shed to see what they actually get up to. I had a chat with Clive, John, Chris, Eric and Krishna and a new world was opened up as they told me of all the things they have been doing since the idea of the Men's Shed was first thought of just 3 years ago. These blokes are a real inspiration as to what you can do when you have a purpose, a vision and a shed! They have around 30 members and growing.

Their first hurdle was to find a shed, then to fill it with all types of equipment - a lot was donated by the businesses and Broome community, plus they were successful in getting a grant for some tools. People just started dropping off stuff that they didn't need anymore. They are inventors of how to recycle and give back to the community in a big way.

They have built kid sized kitchens for the Mental Health branches, vegetable gardens boxes for community gardens, beds for the Women's Refuge centre. They've had paying jobs where they have built park benches for a caravan park, fixing up wheel chairs so they can be reused and helping a business repaint their shop. Recently they made up tool boxes, toys and bird boxes for Mental Health week and the kids had to put them together. They have engaged with people, businesses and communities all over the Kimberley.

It is an opportunity for men to get together in an environment where they can chat about life, work together for a cause and have lots of laughs. They feel great doing something that is good for their wellbeing and the community they live in. They built a 3 wheeler motor bike from 2 scooters and the front end of a chinese Harley Davidson motorbike. It took 10 days to build and they had 15 minutes of fun at the Shinju Parade before it blew up! Come and have some fun in the Broome Men's Shed.

Contact Clive on 0438 929 978 if you want more information.