

\$700,000 plan for men's shed

By PATRICIA GILL

THE Denmark Men's Shed hopes to build a \$700,000 facility at the Railway Historic Precinct on Inlet Drive early this year.

The Men's Shed group now awaits a \$340,000 announcement from Lottery West to match the funds it has raised from grants and fundraising, including \$195,000 from the Don Brandenburg Foundation and \$70,000 from the Jack Family Charitable Foundation.

At its December 17 meeting, the Denmark Shire Council decided to lease a portion of the land at the Railway Historic Precinct with the Men's Shed retaining ownership and responsibility of the buildings.

DMS would contribute \$60,000 of its own funds and \$60,000 of work in kind.

DMS president John O'Donnell said that members had worked hard on the shed project since the group's founding in 2015 and looked forward to imminent announcement of the Lottery West grant.

Construction would involve a three-part building.

One section would be for wood-working machinery, another benchwork, assembly and repair of timber items and the third a meeting area.

This would facilitate a relaxed environment for both meetings and fellowship.

Mr O'Donnell said agreements were in place for sharing the facility with the Denmark Machinery Restoration Group, the Denmark Woodturners and the Spirit of Play School.

"It is expected that other community groups will also benefit once the shed is complete," he said.

"Sharing this facility will mean that its community partners will have less reason to seek funding for duplicate facilities."

Mr O'Donnell said last year there had been big steps in the project and members looked forward to plans coming to fruition for their benefit and the community.

DMS had received enormous support from the Denmark com-

munity including many generous donations of machinery, tools and furniture which will be installed in the new shed.

However, DMS was urgently seeking secure, dry storage of 30-40sqm so that donations can be stored until the shed's completion later in 2020.

The alternative was for the group to hire commercial storage space which would deplete funds for building and fitting out the new shed.

Anyone who might be prepared to offer storage space can contact Mr O'Donnell on 0416 092 919.



An artist's impression of the men's shed complex.

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