

MEDIA RELEASE



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Men's Shed builds pride

Every Monday, the YellowBridge Men's Shed is abuzz with the sound of hammers, saws and sanders as men of all ages work on their eclectic creations.

The Toowoomba not-for-profit enterprise works exclusively with people with a disability, helping them learn new manual arts skills and build friendships.

Matthew Ollier is busy making garden planters from recycled timber crates while Mikey Jones and Chris O'Shea have helped build upcycled occasional tables.

In the lead up to Christmas they all worked together to create bespoke Christmas trees using reclaimed timber offcuts and brightly coloured beading.

The Men's Shed is more than a workshop filled with tools, it is also a launch pad for new ideas and projects.

Paul Holmes has found his own creative outlet, Holmes' Handyman, as a result of his Monday woodworking sessions. He is currently building timber kennels and day beds for people's four-legged canine friends.

With the encouragement of YellowBridge QLD and his support worker, Paul has started selling his creations in the boutique op shop Collectables, which is also run by YellowBridge to provide work and training opportunities for its clients who live with a disability.

Any proceeds from the sale of Paul's items are used to purchase more supplies so he can continue his handiwork.

The Men's Shed and Collectables boutique op shop are just one of the many support services that YellowBridge QLD offers its clients with a disability.

Its team of 70 dedicated support staff provide living assistance, community access support and many group activities such as craft, music, cooking, outdoor adventure, fitness and technology.

They also operate the Rainbow Choir, which is Toowoomba's only performance choir that helps people with a disability enjoy music and friendship.

To find out more, visit www.yellowbridgeqld.com.au or phone 4639 3271. Better still, pop in to Collectables at 2 Station Street from Wednesday to Saturday to see Paul's creations.

MEDIA CONTACT: Heather Smith, 0403 462 686, heather@wishbone.com.au

YellowBridge QLD is a local, independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides housing, disability support and home services across the greater Toowoomba region.