

## A new place to call home for penguins<sup>1</sup>

Lara Hay

Nesting boxes, fit for a family of plump little penguins, are ready for delivery thanks to the Somerset Men's Shed.

Tasmanian charity Pennies4Penguins commissioned the men's shed to help build the boxes, which will go into a registered carers aviary this coming season.

The men's shed donated both time and materials to build the nesting boxes.

Sharyn Rosewarne from Pennies4Penguins said she had approached the men's shed to make the nesting boxes.

"We are referring to them as five-star accommodation," Ms Rosewarne laughed.

She went on to explain that the men's shed had closely followed the design of Ewan Kennedy's, from the Department of Conservation (DoC) New Zealand.

Charlie Trafford, Somerset Men's Shed, said the boxes were one of the many projects undertaken by the group.

The boxes, which are an L shaped design, are able to fit up to four penguins and the entrance is "wide enough for a plump penguin", but designed to keep predators out.

"The boxes are very good insulators," Ms Rosewarne said.

Ms Rosewarne said she was a lover of all birds and her love for the winged animals had evolved into caring and focusing her conservation efforts on penguins.

She explained that although they are neither endangered or threatened, numbers of little blue penguins have been declining significantly over the years. "There used to be a whole lot more, in reality they are on the decline."

Mr Trafford said the boxes had taken a couple of weeks to put together.

Although a number of projects are undertaken by the shed, a key focus is to advance the well-being and health of its members and to encourage social inclusion.

Members of the men's shed come from all walks of life and the Somerset Men's Shed shed has recently opened Saturday and Monday, as well as continuing to be open Wednesday and Friday.

Mr Trafford explained that opening on a Saturday helped to encourage men in the community who work through the week to come out and check out the shed and what the group have to offer.

The shed at Somerset offers a friendly "feel good" environment and they even break for a communal lunch, served up by an ex-Army cook.

Located at 16 Frenchs Road, Somerset, the shed welcomes those interested.



*ON THE TOOLS: Charlie Trafford from the Somerset Men's Shed with one of the boxes made for the penguins. Picture: Lara Hay*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/5094939/a-new-place-to-call-home-for-penguins/>