



Team effort: The Residents Workshop men with Shepparton Access participants and staff celebrating 8000 boxes made.

Milestone in the box

By Nicola Ceccato

To build 8000 wooden boxes is a lot of work.

But that's exactly what Kensington Gardens residents have done, thanks to Graeme Thomson.

Since 2017, Mr Thomson has coordinated the production of 8000 wooden hamper boxes at Kensington Gardens Residents Workshop, which are then donated to Shepparton Access' Eco Store.

Though the initiative started in 2016, it wasn't until 2017 that the group began counting their production line, so the number is undoubtedly higher, but in terms of what has been counted, it's 8000.

On Friday, November 3, the men of the workshop, alongside Shepparton Access participants and staff, celebrated the milestone with balloons and various baked goods.

There, Mr Thomson was awarded the 8000th box filled with hamper goods.

The original idea was to celebrate 10,000 boxes, but Mr Thomson joked how 8000 seemed like a more achievable celebration for him.

"I might have gone off in smoke by the time we get to 10,000," he said.

The beauty of these boxes is they provide a home for



Proud: Shepparton Access participants Melinda Bohun, Geoff Morris and Nathanael Jessup present Graeme Thomson (centre) with the 8000th hamper box.

the homemade creations of Shepparton Access' Eco Store as a hamper.

From growing the produce in their Eco Park to making the jams and sauces to putting the hamper together, every step involves the Shepparton Access participants.

Shepparton Access chief executive Bridgette Herring-Neumann said the impressive effort made by Mr Thomson and the residents was well-commended.

"It really is a huge effort by the men here," Ms Herring-Neumann said.

"As we're building as a business, we're needing more and more boxes, of course, because our Hampers are fabulous.

"So it's a real community

partnership that starts from having that opportunity to create something together but also giving back to the community."

The Residents Workshop provides a space for residents of Kensington Gardens to get creative behind the workbench or even just chat with others over a coffee and a biscuit.

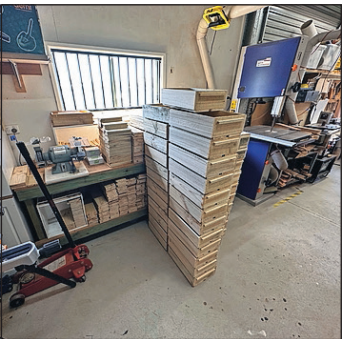
Every day, residents come in and lend a hand in building the boxes.

Over the years, production has ramped up with the popularity of the Hampers increasing, especially around the festive season.

"Our original orders were probably about 25 boxes, but as it's grown, the orders have got bigger and bigger," Mr Thomson said.



Homemade effort: The boxes are used for a variety of items, from Hampers to planters.



Keep on building: The impressive stack of wooden boxes made by the Residents Workshop at Kensington Gardens.

"We just got an order for 120, which we're in the process of doing now, so it's a fantastic effort."

● To purchase one of the Hampers, visit the Eco Store at 225 Wyndham St, Shepparton.

Eastbank set to host Jimmy Rees

Fans of quick-witted comedy and social media stars across Greater Shepparton will be circling April 26, 2024, in their calendars this week.

Aussie entertainer, comedian and TikTok star Jimmy Rees has announced a 17-date national tour, with Shepparton as one of the stops.

His 'Let's Get Regional' tour — slated from February to July next year — will land at Riverlinks Eastbank on Friday, April 26.

"Regional Australia, I'm coming for you," Rees said.

"After touring metro cities over the last few years, I

couldn't be more pumped to be bringing a new live show to many local towns around the country where some I'm visiting and performing for the very first time."

The 17 regional locations across six states on Rees' Frontier Touring event also include neighbouring Bendigo (February 17) and Albury (April 27) among the wider region.

Rees, who got his start in the industry as 'Jimmy Giggle' on ABC's Giggle & Hoot from 2009 to 2019, has crossed into multi-generational

entertainment in recent years through his appearances on *Dancing with the Stars* and Network Ten's *Taskmaster*.

He also has more than four million social media followers, 43 million likes on TikTok and more than 200 million viewing minutes last year on Facebook alone.

Frontier Member pre-sale for Rees' tour kicks off on Monday, November 20, from noon local time before the general sale opens on Wednesday, November 22.

● Tickets are available via frontiertouring.com/jimmyrees



Coming to Shepp: Jimmy Rees.

Photo: supplied



FROM 7PM



CHARITY RAFFLE

FRI 17 NOVEMBER

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN...

ONLINE PRIZES

- 30 x \$30 Club/Meat Vouchers online

MAIN PRIZES

- 20 x \$50 Meat Vouchers
- 8 x \$50 Club Vouchers
- 2 x \$50 Shepp access Eco Packs

MEMBERS BONUS DRAW

- \$100 Market Meats Voucher
- \$100 Club Voucher

PLUS! 2ND CHANCE DRAW...


Write your name on the back of your losing raffle tickets and place in the Big Barrel for a chance to win extra raffle prizes. Drawn the last Friday of the month after our regular Friday Night Raffles.

Shepparton Search & Rescue Squad (SSARS) is an independent volunteer organization based in Shepparton, serving the community for over 50 years. Many mistake us for VicSES or paid staff, but we are entirely separate from other emergency services and rely solely on dedicated volunteers without government funding. Our services, accessible through "000" or "132500,":


- Road Crash Rescue
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