

FREMANTLE

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O'Connor, Samsom, South Fremantle and White Gum Valley



• Tim Kenworthy and Alan Gowland working with wood to repair lives. Photo by Jenny D'Anger.

Shed shines

by JENNY D'ANGER

FREMANTLE'S men's shed has been given \$20,000 to get people with mental illness out of hospital and back working in the community.

The blokes are working with Fremantle Hospital's Alma Street clinic to sort out the nuts and bolts of the project, which they are expecting will be expanded nationally.

"It's uncharted waters," shed coordinator Alan Gowland said.

Taking people out of the hospital environment to work on meaningful projects at the White Gum Valley shed - alongside Fremantleshed members - is a new

twist on the old institutional workshop, and it's hoped it will be a breath of fresh air, he added.

"A model to assist recovery... with the shed as the vehicle."

The pilot program will cover men of all ages from teens to seniors and a DVD is planned to spread the word.

"For other groups to use nationally," Mr Gowland said.

Fremantleshed also runs a number of workshops mentoring youths and frees local Tim

Kenworthy has just returned from Guatemala working with an international youth outreach,

and is setting up a 'youths tree' project with the help of the shed.

For more info call 9336 3959 or Bill Johnstone 9336 4408.