

Port Noarlunga men's shed restores motorbike to support mechanically-minded residents

By Harry Fisher

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A GROUP of mechanically-minded men at ACH Group's Perry Park aged care home in Port Noarlunga are doing something different to woodwork by restoring a motorbike back to its former glory.

With the help of some enthusiastic volunteers, the residents are getting the opportunity to put their hands to work on a project that is aligned with what they used to do for a living.



RESTORATION: ACH Group's Perry Park residents Lloyd Wenham, volunteer John Roach, Keith Hills, volunteer Peter Van Drunen and Lionel O'Brien are restoring a motorbike.

“Not all men are into woodwork – there are plenty who prefer to work with engines, and we could see that there was quite a bit of interest in a mechanical workshop,” Perry Park lifestyle coordinator Lynette Rann said.

“These are the sorts of activities these blokes love doing.

They enjoy coming out here and doing what they’ve always done.”

The bike being restored is a Suzuki TS185 and when it arrived at Perry Park it was rusty and in poor condition.

A lot of the work the residents do involves pulling the bike apart and cleaning each individual part.

Volunteer Peter Van Drunen takes the cleaned parts offsite and sprays them before they are brought back to the shed ready to be put back on.

Mr Van Drunen said he was passionate about helping out in any way he could after retiring.

“I left work last year but I wanted to keep doing something,” he said.

“I had five uncles who are no longer with us, but I had a good relationship with them, and I thought I wouldn't mind helping out some of the old guys over here.

“The best bit about it is that when it's done, there's a real sense of satisfaction.”

The residents get a two-hour session each week on Wednesday mornings to work on the bike and some of them also partake in activities in the carpentry workshop as well.

The bike has been at Perry Park for a little more than a year and although there is no rush to get it finished it is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Ms Rann said when it was completed it would be sold, with the profit being used to buy another bike and start another project.