



Australian Men's Shed Association

New South Wales

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

## *ZONE 8 - NEWSLETTER - April 2017*

Welcome to the Zone 8 Newsletter for April.

### Insurance Offer

It comes as no surprise that with the number of sheds and the attention they receive in our communities that traders of all kinds are seeing the opportunities to expand their businesses.

This has been very evident this past month with an insurance company contacting individuals and sheds offering their product.

I'm aware of a couple of sheds that were looking at other insurance options other than the AMSA product but have no knowledge if they chose to purchase a package from them. Years ago, before the AMSA insurance was available my shed considered 3 different policies from large insurers. What a nightmare! All were off the shelf packs with no idea as to what men's sheds were about and it was like comparing apples with oranges with bananas. One put the shed into a social club category with a stipulation that we had to clean the grease filters in the kitchen each month. Numerous phone calls to the local office to ask questions were never returned and I'm sure this was because we were outside the companies understanding of our needs.

Shedders there is more to deciding on an insurance package than the final cost. One offer doing the rounds has restrictions on a shed organizing a mountain bike event, digging tunnels and has a requirement that the shed must be able to prove that each member using power equipment was suitably trained in its' use – yes prove.

### Community Builders Program

You will all be aware that the NSW Government has a yearly grant program for community groups. As I have far too much spare time I checked how many sheds

in the Zone had received funding from 2010 to 2016 (the 2017 funding information is yet to be announced)

The figures make interesting reading:

In 2010 5 sheds received a total of \$128,000.00

In 2011 3 sheds received a total of \$38,000.00

In 2012 3 sheds received a total of \$43,000.00

In 2013 7 sheds received a total of \$88,000.00

In 2014 4 sheds received a total \$35,000.00

In 2015 2 sheds received a total \$17,500.00

In 2016 2 sheds received a total of \$8,500.00

In 2017 how many Zone 8 sheds will be receiving funding?

The trend is interesting, either we are all comfortable with our setups and don't desire any improvements or perhaps we haven't considered applying. Bateau Bay, Denman, Murrurundi, Peninsula, Singleton, Terrigal, Upper Hunter and Wyong have received funding on multiple occasions and in total 17 of the 24 sheds in the Zone have benefited from the grants.

I hear rumblings that, "we applied once and didn't get anything so why bother" I suppose that leaves more for other groups, and how many buy Lotto tickets each week in the hope.

Application should be opening in June but I'll attempt to mention the program again as time approaches. To give you an idea as to what programs were funded check out [communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au](http://communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au) and select the 'successful grants' tab at the top where every successful applicant is listed in their electorates. You will be surprised.

Stories for the Web

A good many sheds have their local Newsletters with information of coming events, photos of members and local stories that are only really of interest to the members.

BUT there are also many stories and photos that would be of interest to all shedders. You may have read some published in AMSA Newsletters so if you have something that promotes your shed and you think others should know about it why not send it on the AMSA and ask that it be published. Someone worthy may even get their name and photo in print.

*Please let me know if you have any changes to your sheds contacts and at the same time inform AMSA.*

And Finally – one from Noel Findley at the Cessnock Shed

*I've finally worked out why we have so many elderly gentlemen are attending The Shed. It's because they go to the doctors and he tells them.....*

*“You're well on your way to dementia, and there's nothing you can do about it”*

*With their bad elderly hearing and crappy hearing aids they go home and tell their wives the doctor said I'm well on my way to da-men's-shed and there's nuthin I can do about it!..... So wifey packs them off with a cut lunch and says “Don't come home until dinner”*

*John Sharples*

Secretary

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Aberdeen Men's Shed, Bateau Bay Men's Shed, Branxton-Greta Men's Shed, Cessnock Men's Shed & Community Garden, Cooranbong Men's Shed, Denman and District Men's Shed, Erina Community Men's Shed, Gosford City Model Railroad Club, Gosford Community Men's Shed, Kincumber Men's Shed, Kurri Kurri Community Centre, Manno Men's Shed, Murrurundi Community Men's Shed, Muswellbrook Men's Shed, Peninsular Community Men's Shed, San Remo Community Men's Shed, South Lake Macquarie Community Men's Shed, Singleton Men's Shed, Terrigal Men's Shed, The Entrance Men's Shed, , Umina Beach Men's Shed, Upper Hunter Men's Shed, Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed, Wyong Men's Shed