



Australian Men's Shed Association

New South Wales

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

ZONE 8 - NEWSLETTER - March 2017

Welcome Shedders to this months Zone 8 Newsletter

NSW Committee Update

The NSW Committee met in the AMSA Newcastle over 2 days last week to be the first state to receive Accreditation Training. Selected aims of this training was for committee members to 'act' as AMSA representatives in order to respond to enquiries and provide information to the wider Shed community on AMSA's behalf and to ensure that all information being disseminated about Men's Sheds and AMSA is correct.

Training included discussion on the new AMSA Handbook that is in the final stages of preparation before being distributed soon. Details on the vast amount of information on the AMSA website, input from AMSA staff, access to Association By Laws and a Q & A session.

If you haven't looked in the 'Shed Resources' section of the web for some time (or perhaps never checked it out) you would be surprised to see there are sections for Manuals, Policies & Procedures, Health, Templates/Forms, External Publications & Forms, Information sheets, Job Active, Research, Plans of Management, Sample Documents and AMSA Publications? In each of these sections there are many specific items, so if you want information the Shed resources section should be the first place to look.

In all there is 8 pages of documents listed which I'm happy to scan and email to you, just ask.

Road User Safety for Seniors

Wendy Birrell, Roads & Maritime Road User Safety Officer – Hunter, addressed the meeting and spoke of the need for people over 75 years to have their driving abilities and road knowledge assessed. She is available to talk to sheds and community members about the program and has recently presented to shedders in the Hunter Region. Wendy recommends that prior to the formal assessment people take a 60-minute driver assessment or refresher course or a 90-minute combined course. She spoke of a number of very practical things that an experienced instructor will look for during the 'lesson' that family members may not be aware of or simply accept that this is the way we have always driven.

Wendy sought comments from the meeting regarding developing a formal arrangement between AMSA – NRMA – Roads and Maritime and will investigate this further.

Her area of responsibility extends across the Zone so if you are seeking further information as to her role and her contact details please get back to me.

Insurance

Many will now have paid their sheds insurance and I suspect most will have again signed up for the specialized cover provided by AMSA's package. I think there may still be a couple of auspiced sheds in the Zone who are insured through their governing bodies.

There are 2 other companies promoting insurance policies for Men's Sheds but before signing with them I suggest you check out the Q & A Insurance newsletter and other insurance information sheets on the AMSA web.

A thorough read of what these companies cover – or don't cover – will almost certainly make you think again before signing anything. It has been said that one insurance would only cover members' playing cards!

If you are still not sure contact Melissa White at AMSA.

Seniors Week

So what's happening in your shed during Seniors Week?

If nothing has been organized then it's not too late to get something happening in the next week or so. Seniors Week is always full of activities so why not arrange an activity/open day/BBQ in a few weeks and perhaps draw a bigger crowd.

Risk Management & Men's Shed Health & Safety

I know I go on about this issue but it's an important management role in every shed.

There is a section on the AMSA website under this heading so it's not something that sheds have to develop themselves. The work has been done we simply have to implement what's expected of a well managed shed.

John Sharples

Secretary

Australian Men's Shed Association – NSW

Representing Zone 8 Men's Sheds in the Central Coast, Western & Upper Hunter

Mobile: 0423147326

Email: sharplesj@bigpond.com

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