



Australian Men's Shed Association

New South Wales

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

ZONE 8 - NEWSLETTER - May 2017

Greetings Shedders

If last month was relaxing then the last 2 weeks have certainly made up for it.

Shed Growth in NSW Continues

When the NSW Men's Shed Committee began in 2010 it was felt that 9 regions – or Zones as they are now called- would be sufficient to support sheds across the state.

A week ago I met in Armidale with shed members from across the beautiful New England region to discuss the formation of our 16th Zone. Till now sheds in the New England/North West region have been part of 3 different zones on the North Coast, Far North Coast and the Western Slopes & Plains, none of which they related to. The representatives of these 3 zones lived in Bangalow, Taree and Gulgong, hardly convenient distances from their sheds.

It was a unanimous decision of the meeting to change the boundaries and start a new zone.

So now begins the task of seeking nominations for a Zone 16 representative.

NSW Committee Elections

It's the policy of NSW to hold elections for half the Committee each year and this year being an odd numbered year elections are being held in Zones 1, 3,5,7,9,11,13 and 15. The Committee members stepping down are eligible to nominate for a further 2 years.

As we are in Zone 8 I don't have to step aside so you will have to put up with me for another year.

Meeting with the Minister for Mental Health & Ageing

Last week I met with the Hon. Tanya Davies, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Ageing and Minister for Women at her office in Macquarie Street.

Along with David Helmers, AMSA Executive Officer and Bill Clifford, NSW Committee President we accepted the invitation to meet with the Minister to discuss funding for the support of sheds in NSW.

We left the meeting feeling positive because what we anticipated to be a 20-minute meeting ran for an hour in which time we were able to describe the roles of sheds in supporting men's mental health and presented a detailed submission for funding for 3 years.

We are requesting that funds be made available to NSW Men's Sheds to employ three full time State Coordinators. This will give us the opportunity to ensure the overall effectiveness of NSW Sheds and will assist in addressing men's health concerns and maintaining sustainable and safe facilities.

In addition to working with individual Sheds the Coordinators would liaise with Community groups, Government agencies and Sponsors of Shed's to look for different ways that can help enhance the operations of Shed's and their role in the community.

When funding is received and the coordinators appointed they would work towards improving the coordination and networking among sheds, run several small regional conferences and a State conference each year. Depending upon funding we also plan to hold a series of training seminars on OH&S, First Aid, Risk Analysis, Mentoring and general and mental Health education.

Now we wait.

Community Building Program

During my meeting with the Minister the Community Building Program her staff mentioned this program a number of times, obviously thinking that funding from this source might be sufficient for our needs. I believe we managed to explain that we were not seeking funding for tools and equipment but rather long term funding that would be used to employ 3 field officers with the knowledge and abilities to work with sheds in developing management policies and practices to support their sustainability.

CABOT'S 7TH NATIONAL MEN'S SHED CONFERENCE

Mantra on View Surfers Paradise

29 September – 1 October

The Cabot's 7th National Men's Shed Conference recognises the evolution of the Men's Shed movement – focusing on grassroots shed operations and sustainability.

Interactive conference sessions will encourage delegates to come together to **share** their lessons, **talk** in depth about experiences and **discover** ways to grow the success of their shed.

On Day 1, enjoy breakfast at the Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club followed by shed tours before our official conference opening at the social welcome reception. Over the weekend – pick from three streams of conference sessions, enjoy an exciting conference dinner on Saturday and cap it off with the close of Men's Shed Week on Sunday.

With something for every shedder – this conference will be one not to be missed!

Registrations are now open, [visit the conference website](#) to register or [complete your expression of interest](#) to sign up for conference updates.

Additional program details can be found on the AMSA website.

John Sharples

Secretary

Australian Men's Shed Association – NSW

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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