



NSW Men's Sheds Association Newsletter - January 2011

Welcome from the President



Gentleman Fellow Shedders,

I would like to introduce the first newsletter from the New South Wales Men's Shed Association (NSWMSA). This newsletter outlines information regarding the formation of an interim committee which will formulate the state constitution and guidelines for an election of a management committee.

We are a little behind in NSW as a number of our members have been involved in assisting in the development of AMSA. I recommend that you read this newsletter and discuss the proposals with your fellow Shed members. I hope that you will support this important step forward in our development.

I believe having a State Management Committee is good for NSW and good for all our Sheds. It is there to assist you in anyway and help NSW Men's Sheds operate more efficiently. Soon you will receive information on how we will conduct our elections and asking for members to nominate as Regional Representatives for the Committee. Please give this matter your consideration.

The NSWMSA interim committee has worked as quickly and efficiently as possible to overcome the challenges that were laid before them at the Myuna Bay Meeting. As detailed overleaf the Dept of Fair Trading is now fully satisfied that we have completed all our legal requirements and plans are well in hand to ensure that each area will be fairly represented. I wish to thank the committee members for volunteering their time and effort in what was a very complex situation and also the support received from AMSA.

It is an honour to be elected as the first interim president of the NSW Men's Shed Association and I look forward to working for the best for NSW Men's Sheds

Thank you - Bill Clifford Interim President

NSW Men;s Sheds Association Committee Members

After the interim committee was established at the "Gathering" in November the following people were elected as officers

President:- Bill Clifford - (Gulgong Men's Shed)

Vice President:- Ray Cawthorne - (Grenfell Men's Shed)

Secretary/Treasurer:- Ted Donnelly - (Lane Cove Community Men's Shed)

Member:- Roger Greenan - (Windale Men's Shed)

Member:- Len Keogh - (Taree Manning River Men's Shed Inc)

Details of the Committee Members are given on Pages 4 & 5

For all matters relating to NSW Mens Sheds - Contact us on nswmsa@mensshed.net

Current situation of the NSW Men's Sheds Association

Background

The NSWMSA was registered on 17th November 2008 by AMSA, together with all the other States, to reserve the name. However, at that time, the NSW members interested in setting up the Association were heavily involved in establishing AMSA and little progress was made.

Calls for members for a working committee were advertised in the AMSA newsletter in April 09 and from the few volunteers who responded, and the original organisers a Steering Committee was established. This group formally established The NSW Men's Shed Association (NSWMSA) in February 2010 at a meeting held at Lake Macquarie. Their objective was to organise elections throughout NSW so that the Steering Committee could be replaced by elected representatives.

Proposed Election

This was organised but only 5 candidates were nominated and, as this was less than the 9 committee positions required, no election was held. The election was planned to be completed and announced at the "Gathering" held at Myuna Bay in November 2010 but instead there was a robust discussion on the constitution and election which raised a number of legal queries.

It was agreed that the 5 people who had been nominated would form a "Transient" committee and that they could co-opt other members to this group if required. The committee was to investigate the queries raised at the meeting and organise an AGM by mid 2011. It was also clear from the discussion that members would prefer future elections to be carried out on a regional basis and the committee was to develop a procedure for this to occur.

Legal Situation

Following the "Gathering" the committee, and AMSA, had four separate discussions with the Dept of Fair Trading and visited two of their offices to ensure that the Association was properly set up and that we were not in conflict with their rules and to seek advice on how to proceed forward.

As there had not previously been an elected committee the current transient committee was acceptable to them as a management committee of the Association.

There was however the potential for a dispute regarding membership of the Association. The initial registration of the NSWMSA, together with most of the other States, was carried out by AMSA. In the AMSA constitution when a Shed is registered with them it is automatically registered as a member of the State organisation and this is currently the situation with the other States. This is also the situation in the new NSWMSA constitution which had been drawn up but, because of discussions on other items, the constitution had not been submitted.

The advice from the Department was that as it could be construed that there are currently no official members they recommended that the committee register as members of the Association, using the form from the old model rules, and then hold an AGM to confirm acceptance of the new Constitution. All Sheds that had registered with AMSA, and were geographically in NSW, would then automatically become members of the NSWMSA.

This had to be completed before the end of the year and an AGM was held attended by the five members that the Dept. regarded as representing the Association. The two items of business were to accept the new Constitution and the annual financial report that is required by the Dept. (zero financial transactions in this year).

The Dept of Fair Trading is now fully satisfied that we have completed all our legal requirements. The Dept. acceptance notice for the Constitution was received on the 19th Jan.2011.

Current situation of the NSWMSA - (Continued)

Constitution

This is not our final definitive constitution and alterations can be made at a later date. The new constitution accommodates the automatic enrolment of Members from AMSA to NSWMSA without Sheds having to provide further unnecessary applications that would repeat what they have already submitted. It will shortly be added to all the NSWMSA website for all sheds to be able to view.

Regional Elections

The December AGM was conducted to solve a particular problem and is not regarded by the committee as replacing the AGM later in the year that was promised at the November "Gathering". This will occur later in the year and will also consider the second item – elections on a Regional basis.

The Committee has developed a breakdown of the State into 9 Zones each of which will elect its own representative to the Committee. This will ensure full coverage and representation of the whole State removing the need for all 160 Sheds in NSW to travel extensively to attend any meetings and eliminates the need for State wide elections. This zoning creates groups for voting purposes but also takes into account existing sub-groups. Sheds may also apply to the committee to be rezoned if suitable reasons exist.

The Committee will soon be sending to each Shed the details of each Zone, as well as guidelines for Zone elections. Shortly after that each Zone will be requested to nominate candidates and after reviewing them hold an election to choose their Regional representative. These elections can also be held using electronic means to accommodate those who cannot attend meetings.

The NSWMSA has received assurance from AMSA that they will provide any administration assistance that may be needed throughout this process.

In summary a Shed joins AMSA, automatically becomes a member of the State Association and is then placed into an electoral zone without the need for multiple applications and book keeping.

What about a new State Logo?

This is the first NSWMSA newsletter and as we have never had an official Logo we have included in the front banner headline the design that was used for the "Gathering" in November.

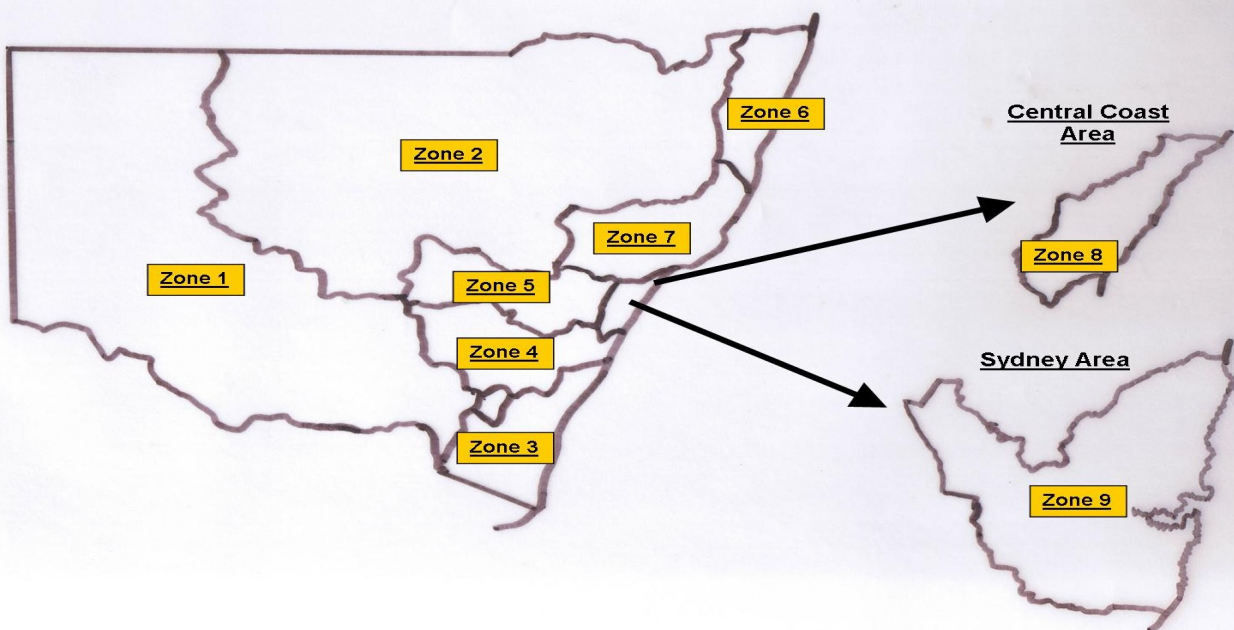
This was produced quickly with very few resources and now that we have time available perhaps some of the many designers that must exist amongst our Sheds would like to put up alternative logos.

Plans for Regional Elections

At the recent "Gathering" most Sheds were in favour of some form of Regional election rather than having a statewide election and the committee agreed to set up such a system.

The State was broken down into areas using the Federal Parliamentary election boundaries and the neighbouring areas were combined to give regions in which were based 15 to 20 Sheds. This was then defined as an election Zone and the 9 Zones obtained are shown in the diagram below.

NSW Mens Sheds Association - ELECTORAL ZONES



However, there are already existing Cluster groups or other alliances that do not want to be split up and therefore the initial distribution was inspected and where possible these groups were kept together in the same electoral Zone.

Details of the Sheds in each Zone will soon be sent to all Sheds in NSW for them to confirm that they are agreeable to being in their allocated Zone. If there are good, credible reasons why a Shed needs to be in a different Zone then transfers can be arranged.

When these Zones are confirmed the members will be given full contact details of all the other Sheds in their Zone so that they can communicate with each other. They will then be asked to nominate candidates for a regional election.

NSWMSA and AMSA will help by circulating candidate details and Sheds will then be asked to vote for their regional representative. These elections can also be held using electronic means to accommodate those who cannot attend meetings.

Details of the Zone that your Shed is in will be sent out shortly together with further details of the election procedure.

NSWMSA Committee Members

President:- Bill Clifford - (Gulgong Men's Shed)

My background includes 40 years as a NSW Fire Brigade Officer and 10 years in Health and Welfare as Employee Assistance Co-ordinator writing and implementing programs to support the health and welfare of fire fighters.

Since retirement I have

- Participated on the negotiation team establishing our Shed
- Assisted in "Save Gulgong Hospital" campaign
- A good rapport with our Local, State and Federal politicians
- Attended the Hobart Conference
- Assisted organizing Men's Shed Rural Expo in Wellington, 2010 - 250 men attending from the Central West

As Coordinator I have visited many Sheds, making friendships and gaining knowledge of other Sheds and their needs.

I bring this expertise to the Shed movement and I believe I have a great deal to offer as a member of the State committee for the NSWMSA.



Vice President:- Ray Cawthorne - (Grenfell Men's Shed)

I joined the Grenfell Shed in 2004, and am now retired past President.

I have been involved with all 3 AMSA conferences, the Wellington conference early this year, and our group "Alliance" or Cluster since its inception and have an extensive knowledge of the formation and original concept of the Men's Shed concept.

I have been promoting the whole Mens Shed concept in many towns for many years and visiting Sheds in W.A., S.A., VIC. and many in NSW. As I travel I have seen many excellent examples of what can be achieved by dedicated members and genuine supporters from all walks of life.

I am confident that I can benefit the Mens Shed movement in the future and provide assistance needed to gain the recognition and help needed to ensure the long term future and the wider acceptance of the benefit of all Independent Men's Sheds.



Secretary:- Ted Donnelly - (Lane Cove Community Men's Shed)

Ted was a founder member of the Lane Cove Community Men's Shed when it started 12 years ago & is still responsible for its day to day operation. He has also helped with the start-up of several other Sheds and is co-author of the manual "Setting Up A Men's Shed".

In 2005 he developed the AMSA website and has administered it since then. This year he developed the separate websites for the 7 State Associations.

Ted was very involved in setting up AMSA in 2006 and administered the Association for the first two years. He is currently AMSA Secretary, and the NSW representative on the AMSA Board.

For the last two National Conferences (Manly & Hobart) Ted was responsible for planning the programme of papers and discussions.



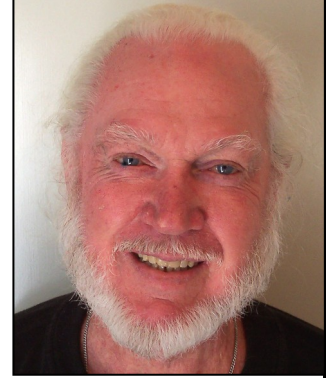
NSWMSA Committee Members

Roger Greenan - (Windale Men's Shed)

Roger is 74 years of age and has resided in Windale (Newcastle area) since 1959 after working 44 years with the Dept. of Motor Transport, (now RTA).

Since retiring in 1997 I have become involved in community activities, resulting in occupying the honorary position of secretary for the Windale Community Group, which focused on improving the welfare, image and self esteem for members of the Windale community. In 2002, I became involved in the Men's Shed project at Windale, later becoming a committee member; Treasurer and now the current president of the Windale Men's Shed & Community Group Association. I also currently hold the honorary position of President of the Hunter Valley Shed Cluster Group Inc which has about seventeen members.

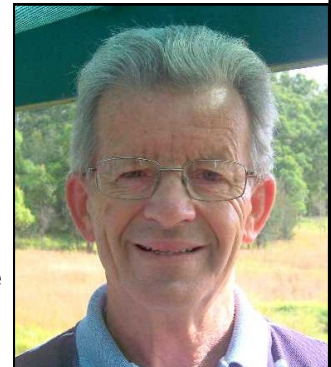
I believe my knowledge can be beneficial as a committee member of the NSW State Association having a long existence in the Shed movement since 2002 which has provided me with a broad understanding of the requirements and challenges Shed's can experience.



Len Keogh - (Taree Manning River Men's Shed Inc)

Len has been a member of the Taree Manning River Men's Shed Inc for over 5 years and is currently Secretary. He represents the Shed at Hunter Valley cluster meetings and is helping to establish a Mid North Coast Cluster servicing about 12 sheds.

During the lead up to the National Men's Health policy he attended meetings in Newcastle and the John Hunter hospital, meeting with the Hon. Warren Snowden to support the inclusion of the Men's Shed movement in this policy. Len believes strongly in programs that promote men's health and in particular Mental health initiatives. He enjoys Networking and forming partnerships for the mutual benefit of all. Part of his role is to link the shed with agencies offering services to men, deal with men's issues or promote men's activities. He has been involved with health seminars, Depression Awareness workshops and Mental Health week activities. His background is Youthwork and is keen to expand our movement's role in Mentoring.



Just for Fun— "Insults with Style from Masters"

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." - Paul Keating

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." - Forrest Tucker

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain

"He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

(More on Page 8)

State Parliamentary elections - chase your MP for funds

As you will all be aware the State Parliamentary elections will be held in March and many of you are probably already speaking to your local member to get funds for your shed. However, governments are usually inhibited from giving any large donations to local groups and instead prefer to make grants to larger Incorporated organisations such as NSWMSA and, of course, this is one reason why we have a State Association.

We are, therefore, asking you to extend your local request, and on behalf of NSWMSA, to pressure the politicians by asking your local MP for a statement on what their party plans to do to help Men's Sheds in the next three years. We have seen from the Federal situation the influence that Independents and small parties can have and, therefore, chase them up as well.

It is worth pointing out to the politicians that there are 165 sheds registered with the NSWMSA and probably another 30 to 50 still in development. This relates to a current membership of some 13,000 men and potentially another 3000 new members. When families are included this relates to about 40 to 50,000 people in NSW who have an interest in Men's Sheds. We are not a small group.

The Victorian State Government have granted \$5 million to the VMSA (including the cost of a State coordinator who is available to help all Sheds) and the Tasmanian Government has recently announced that each Shed that is registered with the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association will receive \$5000 annually to cover operational expenses. In NSW we have not received any grants.

As an Association we will be lobbying all the parties but it will certainly help if all Sheds can make it clear to their local MPs that we are doing good and useful work but need financial resources to carry on and develop further.

More - "Insults with Style from Masters"

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.." - *Oscar Wilde*

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - *Winston Churchill*

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - *John Bright*

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. *But this wasn't it.*" - *Groucho Marx*

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - *Irvin S. Cobb*

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - *Mark Twain*

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - *Oscar Wilde*

**"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."
- *Clarence Darrow***