



Australian Men's Shed Association

New South Wales

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

## ZONE 8 - NEWSLETTER - April 2015

Welcome Shedders to the April Newsletter & a Happy Easter to you all

### It's Getting Closer

The 2015 Bi Annual AMSA Conference is getting closer so I hope each shed is planning on having at least 1 member attend this major event in our own backyard. With shedders, leaders in society, industry and health coming from Australia around the world, top line keynote speakers, interesting break out sessions, industry displays and exciting social events and excursions the program has been designed with something for everyone.

Many of you will be able to register by keep the costs of accommodation down by travelling home each night. Why not car-pool or stay with friends who live close to Newcastle.

Those sheds who 'keep their eyes on the ball' will have already seen the latest conference information on the AMSA website. Now is the time to apply if you are interested in presenting a paper during a workshop. One shed has already sent this information to all its members.

### Presenting a Paper Not Turning you On?

What about the entering the "Gizmo" section then? What's a Gizmo you ask (that's a question I asked as well and the dictionary on my computer tells me it's a *thing, thingy, doodad, thingamabob* or a *doohickey*, so now you know)

Marty Leist from AMSA, who came up with the idea, says a Gizmo is an innovative, quirky invention. He mentioned 2 examples he has seen in sheds, a milkshake maker powered by a pushbike and a hydraulic drink can crusher. Has your shed something that fits the definition of a Gizmo, if so fill out an application quickly.

### Discrimination in Men's Sheds

Last year I researched the issue of discrimination of females as shed members. This led me to read the NSW discrimination Act and I prepared a paper that was sent to all Zone 8 Sheds, and to all Zone representatives in NSW.

The issue was again raised at a meeting I attended a few weeks ago and my response was to add the paper to the NSW Branch Web. If you are still unsure where your shed sits in relation to females wanting to join your shed then please chase up the information that was added to the web on the 19th March.

## Round 9 Grants

Those of you who applied for funding from Round 9 Grants from the Australian Government National Shed Development Program will be wondering why you still haven't heard if your application was successful.

The AMSA panel with the task of assessing applications finished their deliberations on December 16 last year and final recommendations were lodged in Canberra before Christmas. After numerous phone calls to Canberra the following reply was received and is now on the AMSA web.

18/02/2015

*The Department of Health acknowledges the delay in processing Round 9 NSDP grants. An announcement of the outcome of Round 9 is expected to occur by late March. Thank you for your continuing patience.*

*About the Australian Government National Shed Development Programme (NSDP)*

Round Nine opened Monday 22 September 2014 and closed 24 October 2014

The Australian Men's Sheds Association (AMSA) administers the Australian Government National Shed Development Programme (NSDP) on behalf of the Australian Government in order to provide direct financial assistance to men's sheds across Australia.

If you have any enquiries regarding the Australian Government National Shed Development Programme (NSDP), please email [liz@mensshed.net](mailto:liz@mensshed.net)

Many of you may be thinking the holdup has been in the AMSA office, which is not the case, but with the delay in announcing last years Round 9 results the next round will unfortunately be delayed.

## Grievances in Sheds

It has recently been my lot to sit on a committee assessing two formal complaints concerning management practices in different sheds. Neither of these are in our Zone but the accusations are concerning and take considerable time to work through in an attempt to reach an agreement. In both cases I'm not sure this has been possible.

AMSA doesn't have the authority to investigate and rule on issues that are the responsibility of properly constituted legislative authorities that are the issues in these complaints. (Authorities such as Fair Trading, Local Government, Centrelink or Police to name a few).

Both the complaints could have been settled had the member and the shed committee properly dealt with the issues before they reached the point where others were asked to adjudicate. We all want to be in a shed where everyone gets along but human nature is not perfect and unfortunately conflicts arise from time to time. Every shed should have a Conflict Resolution Policy or a Grievance Policy and if a member is unhappy with the management of the shed or an activity in the shed the best time to work through it is immediately using your policy. So often the matter can be discussed in a friendly matter, hopefully the problem is resolved, and its back to enjoying what the shed has to offer.

When a grievance is formally lodged outside the shed it's as a result of a communication break down and the opposing sides are not talking. None of us enjoy conflict, well some might, so lets try and sort out concerns before they grow to be major problems.

Having said that I hope you all have a very happy and safe Easter and if your shed is closing during this time that you return refreshed

*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, 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, Lake Macquarie Heritage Boatshed, Manno Mens 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, Swansea & District Community Men's Shed, Terrigal Men's Shed, The Entrance Men's Shed, The Shed @ Lake Haven, Umina Beach Men's Shed, Upper Hunter Men's Shed, Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed, Wyong Men's Shed