



Australian Men's Shed Association

New South Wales

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

ZONE 8 - NEWSLETTER - August 2015

Greetings Shed Members and Shed Supporters

Welcome to Our Newest Shed

During last month I contacted and welcomed the Cooranbong Shed to the Zone and have had the pleasure of speaking with both the President and the Secretary. It will take a while before they are up and running and I'm sure most of you will know the feeling of having to take on such a major undertaking. So welcome to the Zone and I hope it won't be too long before sheds in the area make contact and offer support of tools and materials.

Farewell to our Only "Classic" Shed

Last month I wrote about attending the opening of The Lake Macquarie Classic Boatshed based on the lake edge at Rathmines and this month we farewell them. Not that they are closing down, far from it, but they are moving into the Hunter Zone seeing they are located between the Wangi Wangi and Toronto sheds which are both in the Zone adjacent to ours.

As a shed specialising in the maintenance and building of classic boats and dinghies they are unique in the area and while having opened only recently are reporting membership numbers increasing rapidly as boat lovers hear of their operations. One of their keen boat builders travels from Gosford to spend time with like-minded shedders.

AMSA – NSW Annual General Meeting

On a freezing day in Bathurst last week the AGM of the NSW Committee was held in front of a roaring fire. Travel home was just as interesting as the temperature dropped to minus 4.5 as we left and the 'ice on the roads signs' were flashing warnings.

A copy of the Presidents Annual Report has been added to the NSW web for those who may be interested.

I was again appointed as Secretary and continued to receive favour as Director of NSW on the AMSA Board of Management.

AMSA Newsletter – July 2015

The latest Newsletter from AMSA, which was emailed out last week, contains some very interesting information, which I'm positive, will be well received by many sheds.

Working with External Agencies Policy

Working with external agencies (or rather having external agencies sending men to a shed) has been an issue troubling sheds for some time now. A lot of time was spent on the Central Coast working with, and conducting training days for external agencies that were seeing to bring men to a shed. But this has not been the case in other areas and the issue has become a source of discontent and misunderstanding between sheds and many external agencies across Australia.

Hopefully new policies developed by AMSA and approved by their lawyers will be of great assistance to sheds when working with external agencies. For me a quote from an early statement in the policy helps set the tone of the Policy, *"A Men's Shed is not a service delivery centre – it is simply a male friendly environment where men choose to go if they wish."*

I believe every shed should make this their policy when approached by an external agency.

The AMSA Handbook 1st Edition

This great little Handbook has been included in a mail out going to all sheds and describes many of the initiatives that AMSA have achieved on behalf of their member sheds. It should also show shed members who ask, "What has AMSA done for us" just what they have achieved and what the future holds.

AMSA Conference

Early Bird Registrations close on 13th August so if you are planning on attending and have yet to register time is running out to lock in the best rate.

The Conference program has now been published with profiles of the keynote speakers, social activities and summaries of the breakout sessions.

I hear that one of the breakout session presenters from interstate is not able to attend the conference so plans are in place to fill the vacancy with a presentation on the "Working with External Agencies Policy".

Shed Contact Updates

Most sheds will be holding their AGM's shortly at which time there is often a change in the management team. If such changes occur, especially if the shed contact person changes please make sure you let me know so I can pass the updated information along.

I continue to hear whispers that AMSA/NSW don't keep us informed only to find that sheds haven't advised me of changes to key personnel, email changes or phone number changes.

Please make this a priority and to help I will shortly be sending out a reminder and ask that new contact information is updated and returned to me.

Thanks for the great work you are all doing in your communities.

As always I look forward to hearing from you and if I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to help

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, 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