



Australian Men's Shed Association

New South Wales

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

## *ZONE 8 - NEWSLETTER - May 2015*

Hi Again Fellow Men's Shedders

While there's not a lot to tell you about this month but what I can tell you is important, well I think it is!

### Conference 2015

As this sits on my computer there is 164 days to go before the 2015 conference opens in Newcastle.

While early bird registrations are yet to open expressions of interest are being received and the conference secretariat will then advise you when they do.

The closing date for abstracts from people seeking to present papers has closed and the selection committee is in the process of deciding which will be included in the program. There were many more abstracts received than could be fitted into the program and a number covered the same topic so not all will be in the program.

One major item that has been added to the conference website is the video promotion presented by Aaron Kearney from ABC Newcastle who will also be our MC. Check it out it's certainly worth viewing and I hope it attracts a lot of visitors who are not already aware of what Newcastle and its surrounds have to offer.

### NSW Men's Shed Committee Voting 2015

Each year half the NSW Committee stand down and sheds in the Zones affected move into election mode. 2015, being a year ending in an odd number means Zones with odd numbers are in this category and sheds and the representatives involved have been advised that they must nominate representatives by Friday June 5.

There are also a couple of Zones represented by casual appointments who also must nominate if they seek to continue in the position.

This doesn't affect our Zone, Zone 8 but you may be talking with members from other sheds who are and wonder why you aren't involved.

### AMSA Head Office Refurbishment

In my March Newsletter I mentioned that AMSA were moving their offices from Windale to the centre of Newcastle. The lease at Windale is expiring and for some time now the accommodation has been unsatisfactory with extremely limited office and meeting space.

A number of Zone 8 sheds are volunteering their time and skills to repaint, repair fixtures, lay flooring and generally get the offices ready for occupation. Optometrists originally used the offices but left behind 6,12 and 240V power points, some in the middle of rooms, and later when various "hippy art groups" occupied the building they decorated the walls to suit their individual tastes. So you get some idea as to the task of making rooms suitable for a more standard office set up.

But when the work is done the new offices will be an area that is fitting to a major Men's Health movement.

### The SUEZ Community Grants Program

Not heard of this Program, neither had I until I saw it on the AMSA website.

The program is open for applications from sustainable, local projects. If you are interested visit the AMSA web site but some examples of successful applications last year include: - \$5,00 for a shed to purchase tools and equipment, \$3,978 to place a Solar Panel on a roof and \$3,500 to install a smart hot water heater.

I'm sure if your shed is looking to make improvements in or around the shed this is an opportunity to put in a little effort and perhaps be a successful applicant. But hurry as applications close Friday 22 May 2015.

## Australian Government National Shed Development Program – Round 10

Applications for this round close on 13 May so if you are planning on lodging an application time is starting to run out.

Individual Men's Sheds in Australia can apply for up to a total of **\$8,000** for a range of financial support across the following three funding categories:

***Category One: Tools & Equipment*** to a maximum of **\$5,000**

***Category Two: Building Maintenance & Development*** to a maximum of **\$7,500**

***Category Three: Shed Activities & Programs*** to a maximum of **\$2,500**

Application details are available on the AMSA website.

I hope the information in this Newsletter is of interest to sheds and I wish those who spend some time applying for one, or all, of the grants available are successful.

Happy shedding and if I can be of assistance to you please don't hesitate to contact me

*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 Classic 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