

## **NSWMSA Newsletter**

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform shedders from each shed of the outcome of the recent elections, the result of election of office bearers of NSWMSA and the actions planned to progress support for the organisation and individual sheds.

The result of nominations and elections is as follows:

***Zone 1. Alan Brink – (Leeton Men’s Shed)***

***Zone 2. Bill Clifford – (Gulgong Men’s Shed)***

***Zone 3. Alex Paton – (Sanctuary Point Men’s Shed)***

***Zone 4. No nominations. Position vacant for Zone Sheds to fill.***

***Since the meeting Len Wallace has been appointed as representative of Zone 4***

***Zone 5. Mick O’Bryan – (Trundle Men’s Shed)***

***Zone 6. Len Keogh – (Taree Manning River Men’s Shed)***

***Zone 7. Roger Greenan - (Windale Men’s Shed)***

***Zone 8. John Sharples – (Bateau Bay Men’s Shed)***

***Zone 9. Kevin Callinan – (Ku-ring-gai Community Workshop “The Shed”)***

At the AMSA Conference in Brisbane the Committee met for the first time and elections were held for office bearers of the association. Bill Clifford was elected, President; Alex Paton, Vice president and Kevin Callinan, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer. The Committee noted and thanked Ted Donnelly for his contribution as Interim Secretary who was very active in establishing both AMSA and NSWMSA. Ted has agreed to continue to support the committee in defining its role and how to best support the men’s shed movement.

Since this meeting we have met with the Hon. Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Ageing in NSW government seeking financial support for the Men’s Shed movement throughout the state. Whilst no funding was immediately available the Minister agreed that he would pursue the issue with the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Health. He provided a contact with member of his staff to work with our representatives to develop the proposal and identify sources of additional or, alternate funding. It was agreed that we would meet again in two months following the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October referred to below.

It is important that each shed contact their local Member of Parliament and secure their support not only their local shed, but also, the need for NSWMSA to receive adequate financial support to assist it carry out its vital administrative and support functions to enable each shed to become sustainable and contribute to the local community.

NSWMSA has a very important role to play in supporting AMSA as the number of sheds continues to grow. There are now over 600 sheds throughout Australia and over 200 sheds in NSW. NSWMSA has to carry its fair share of the workload in assisting new sheds develop and support existing and new sheds in managing for the future. NSWMSA will work in cooperation with AMSA to ensure that there is no unnecessary duplication of functions.

We have a committee meeting scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> October with a very comprehensive agenda addressing many of the administrative and policy issues that need to be considered, developed and strategies put in place. The ability to implement these will depend largely on the availability of finance to support the activities considered necessary. We have taken steps to secure funding additional to that being sought from NSW government in order to secure a more independent status and reduce our dependence upon funding from government. It is very early days and we are not guaranteed funding from any particular source at this stage.

Meetings have been held with AMSA to update the manual on 'how to set up a shed' and the manual will also include important useful information on 'how to run a shed'. It is anticipated this will be made available to sheds early next year.

I hope to be able to keep you up to date as we achieve important milestones along the way. Would you please ensure that the information in this Newsletter is made available to as many shedders as possible.

Kevin Callinan  
Secretary  
New South Wales Men's Shed Association  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011