



Shoulder to Shoulder

NSW Branch Australian Men's Shed Association

Newsletter No 1 January 2013

Zone 2 North West

Gentlemen

Greetings and best wishes for 2013 it is amazing how quickly 2012 has gone and we look to a new year and hopes for a good year for our sheds and members. I believe 2012 has been a good year for many sheds and the work you have been doing for your members and in many cases the community in which you live. These are all things to make your shed a success and an asset to your community.

The Men's Sheds this year have grown across Australia but also in NSW. We now have over 900 sheds across Australia and as of December last 300 shed's in NSW. This is an increase of about 70 sheds in the year in NSW. It certainly shows how popular they are becoming and as more men and communities find out about them and want to be not just involved but find ways to get a shed started where they are.

Because of this increase AMSA is now overwhelmed with the work this has created. This as you would appreciate has created an increased work load at the office for David and Mel and the few staff they have. So they have asked us the NSW committee to assist them in checking the shed lists for NSW so every month the committee members across the state receive a list of sheds from Mel so we can double check the sheds details but most of all the contact details

Believe it or not this is a mammoth task as some details that AMSA have been given are not even close when it comes to contacting some sheds. So I appeal to you if your details of your shed change PLEASE, PLEASE LET US KNOW or should I say let me know as I have the complete up to date list for all shed's . This allows us in NSW to be able to make contact and keep you informed about things you may need to know and of course assist AMSA at the same time.

Because of this increase in sheds and the way things are looking I have asked the committee to look at their zones and adjoining zones as far as boundaries are concerned. Many of the committee now have zones with sheds numbers in the high forties. So it is not always easy

to keep in contact with or visit while any travel comes out of the pocket of the committee member with no funding at all for any expenses the committee member may have.

The NSW committee has met on two occasions this year in Dubbo In February at the Central West Men's Expo and again in October in Goulburn.. During the year we have had meetings with state government Ministers in regard to funding for NSW sheds, it included talks on safety issues which relate to all sheds and to look at training in regard to duties and responsibilities you all carry in running your sheds. With changes in legislation on Work Place Health and Safety it is important you are aware of what responsibility we all carry as members of a shed. If you want more information on this please contact me.

After our meeting in Goulburn we moved on to the ACT for our meeting on the lawns of Federal Parliament House. I believe we had about 300 to 400 shed members from across Australia in attendance with a lot with exhibits from many sheds. Our zone was well represented and Mark Coulton spoke to most members in attendance. During the day many politicians came over and spent time talking and getting to know about Men's Sheds. This was all to do with AMSA trying to get more ongoing funding from the federal government as the money we received three years ago will run out in March.

So to put it into perspective for you .

When talks with the federal government for funding first occurred AMSA had about 150 sheds. In 2009 we had just hit the target of 300 sheds across Australia with 150 in NSW so the funding AMSA received in 2009, \$3 million dollars was in no way for this number of sheds 300 but for the 150 which it had when talks commenced. When the funding arrived the sheds as I have stated had grown to 300 across Australia and 150 in NSW so that funding has not gone very far over that three years. This was to cover grants and to pay for staff; three quarters was for grants to sheds. Every milestone and requirement which the federal government put on this funding has been achieved.

As I have stated above and moving forward just three years to 2012 we now have 900 sheds across Australia and 300 in NSW. So we are hoping to get this new funding to let AMSA to continue to be able to do its important job. We are optimistic that an increase in funding will occur and allow for an increase in staff to assist David and Mel and also allow for more funding for sheds.

We must thank Mark Coulton for organising such an important day for Men's Sheds.

While we were in the ACT the committee had a meeting at Tuggeranong Men's Shed with representatives from all the ACT sheds to see if they were interested in forming a closer alliance with NSW this is an ongoing work in progress. There are now eleven sheds in the ACT.

This year I have visited many sheds the last being Binnaway for the opening of their shed in November. This was done by Mark Coulton our federal MP accompanied by local state member Kevin Humphries. During the year I meet Justin Dowd the president of the Law Society in NSW another worthwhile meeting and also Jillian Cavanagh who is doing research

for the federal Minister Warren Snowden on Men's Sheds, you may have received a survey in regard to this.

At the end of the year Kevin Callinan the State Secretary, Ted Donnelly the Chairman of AMSA and myself meet with the Premier Barry O' Farrell in regard to the state branch and funding; the Premier gave us a good hearing and the Premier has promised to meet with some of his Ministers so again we are optimistic having had this meeting. I believe it was very worthwhile as it allowed us to speak directly to the Premier about Men's Sheds in NSW.

As I draw close to finishing this report to you let me make an observation about the other organisation **Men's Sheds Australia**. They have made a number claims that some of the men's sheds registered with AMSA are not AMSA sheds **but belong** to Men's Sheds Australia. You may for some reason want to belong to both. Why i do not know!!! If you do, **BUT** be aware there have been a number of sheds which have got into some funding and Management problems and who owns what by belonging to MSA, so please be careful and do some checking if you want to be part of MSA. Needless to say we would prefer that you were a member of AMSA and no other similar organisation.

In checking these claims about what sheds belongs to which organisation I will be writing to some individual sheds in this zone which MSA say are there's just to check these claims made by MSA.

This year half the state committee are up for re election I am not one of them but will be next year. It has been a great pleasure for me to represent you and our zone which is now nearly forty (40) sheds. If you have any concerns please contact me again best wishes for 2013.

Regards Bill

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Representative Zone 2

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