

NEWSLETTER



The Victorian Men's Shed Association is the Oldest Shed Support Organisation in the World

**The VMSA is proud to have as a patron,
the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC**

TOP STORY

BE CONNECTED

Being able to surf the internet through your computer or phone isn't all. Do you know how to do so securely? If no, read the story of Dieter and how men's sheds' program helped him. (More on Page 6)

TOP NEWS

FUNDS RAISED FOR MEN IN UNIFORM

Northern Men's Shed, Craigieburn with president, Tom Rolls, raised funds to support Defence personnel who suffered from PTSD. (PICS on Page 8)

TOP INITIATIVE

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Shedders from the founding team of Cardinia Men's Shed were awarded Life Memberships by VMSA. See pictures on Page 9.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Another successful year comes to a close. Sincere thanks to all sheds & shedders for the great work you all are doing in your communities. You all are making a real difference in your communities, particularly in the lives of men and women. (Page 5)

This Newsletter is emailed to a Representative of every Men's Shed in Victoria. Please print out a copy and distribute to members of your Shed.

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LIST OF VMSA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

OFFICE BEARERS

President	Lindsay Oates	pres@vmsa.org.au	Mirboo North Shed
Vice President	Geoff Witmitz	vice@vmsa.org.au	Horsham Shed
Secretary	Bruce Ward	sec@vmsa.org.au	Ocean Grove Shed
Treasurer	Barry Watson	treas@vmsa.org.au	Heywood Shed

COMMITTEE

Geoff Witmitz	g.witmitz@vmsa.org.au	Horsham Shed
Bruce Ward	b.ward@vmsa.org.au	Ocean Grove Shed
Julian Sellers	j.sellers@vmsa.org.au	Inverloch Shed
Lou Sigmund	l.sigmund@vmsa.org.au	Benalla Shed
Alan Davies	a.davies@vmsa.org.au	Ballarat East

PLEASE NOTE

The VMSA has received a number of queries and requests to find an avenue that sheds can easily list and advertise surplus items they have, that they wish to donate to other sheds, or to promote activities that the shed are involved in - such as market days, or fundraisers.

The VMSA has recently created and trialled a Facebook page, "VMSA Public Notices". This is now available for all sheds and shedders to join, and to place your ads and info on. Please note this is not the avenue if you wish to sell your surplus good, it is only if you want to donate goods.

The VMSA now has a Buy/ Swap and Sell Page on its website for shedders to use.

VMSA EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Hi Fellow Shedders,

Things have been moving quickly in Shed Land.

We welcome Luke Donnellan, the new Minister to the Department of Health and Human Services; and farewell Jenny Mikakos to the health portfolio. Luke has big shoes to fill, as Jenny Mikakos was an energetic and passionate supporter of men's sheds.

It is a pleasure for the VMSA and its member sheds to receive the Patronage of the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC. The Governor is a strong supporter of Victorian community groups and has a particular fondness for the men's shed movement. She was very pleased to receive a handmade pen from the Akoonah Park Men's Shed for use in her duties.

VMSA Annual General Meeting went off very well. It was a gathering of 40+ sheds who were entertained by the presentation by Stan Alves OAM. We welcomed Benalla President, Lou Sigmund and Inverloch President, Julian Sellers to the Committee of Management.

Sadly, we farewelled Barbara Look and David Mudge from the committee. Barbara and David have been great contributors to Victorian sheds and will hopefully be around the traps supporting sheds in future. John Drysdale finished his term and has been a tireless worker for all sheds.

On a personal note, I was very fortunate to be invited to the Cardinia Men's Shed AGM and present Life Memberships to two of their members - Dennis Jones, the founding President of the shed and Alby Mann a founding member. Both Denis and Alby were very worthy recipients of Life Memberships. These men are perfect examples of generous community-minded people who go out of their way to promote community benefits for their area.

The VMSA has many member benefits and details are available in the VMSA newsletter which you can register for on the website www.vmsa.org.au.

We are ecstatic with our Preferred Partner status with Jeep and our National Fleet discount for both JEEP and Hyundai. Please go to the website to register your interest in purchasing cars of either of these brands and receiving the discounts. OZITO and sia Abrasives have supplied tools

and abrasives to the VMSA for distribution.

The sheds at the AGM went away with some great practical freebies. The Raffle at the AGM raised \$400 for drought relief. We are happy to report the money will be used to promote well-being programs in the severely drought affected Wimmera. The raffle beneficiary of the last gathering was the Croydon Men's Shed's wonderful Angel Boxes project.

There have been some excellent events around the state, but a special mention must go to the Badger Creek opening of their new extension. For a smaller but dynamic shed they really do "punch above their weight". The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tony Smith MP, and Victorian Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish MP, both enjoyed the opening and reinforced their ongoing support for the shed.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy and safe festive season.

Ric Blackburn

VMSA Executive Officer

Email: vmsa@vmsa.org.au



VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year we saw an overwhelming turnout at the Annual General Meeting -- 114 people from sheds around Victoria. We even had the Henty Shed from NSW, attending the AGM. We were very happy to have them amongst us.

The AGM was held at the Lakeside Centre in Benalla, in the football ground next to the Benalla city shopping strip.

The Mayor, Scott Upton, welcomed everyone to Benalla. He is a retired Australian soldier who has served in Afghanistan. Mr Upton is passionate about fitness and men's well-being. He spoke well on the many benefits of living in the Benalla region and on both physical and mental fitness for men. This was a good lead to introduce our guest speaker, Stan Alves OAM.

Stan is a born leader, motivator and communicator, dedicated to assisting people with his knowledge and experiences towards greater success across business, education, sport or, life. Stan is also passionate about men's health and well-being. In his talk, he spoke of his moving personal experiences and engaged the men with his interactive question and answer session.

The meeting heard very briefly from other speakers. Ric Blackburn spoke on a new initiative. Sheddors can not only purchase Hyundai vehicles but also Jeep vehicles through the VMSA National Fleet Discount scheme. This was followed by a short talk from each shed's representative on what was happening in their shed.

At the AGM, it was agreed to change the constitution in order to allow committee members to extend their terms to 9 years, in line with accepted practice in Not for Profit organisations. This means committee members must re-stand each 3 years to serve on the VMSA Committee for a maximum of three terms.

A detailed and well written Annual Report was presented, accepted and approved. Outgoing committee members Barbara Look, David Mudge and John Drysdale were thanked for their service on the committee. Our new committee members are Julian Sellers (Inverloch) and Lou Sigmund (Benalla).

The post AGM, VMSA Committee meeting confirmed the following:

- Lindsay Oates, President
- Geoff Witnitz, Vice President
- Barry Watson, Treasurer
- Bruce Ward, Secretary
- Lou Sigmund, Committee member
- Alan Davies, Committee member
- Julian Sellers, Committee member

Comments were sought from each table on what those present thought on "How the VMSA may be able to assist sheds?" Butcher's paper was available for to record the suggestions

We received 26 suggestions, and these will be included in the next newsletter. I thank those present at the AGM for their comments and ideas. I also wish to thank the Benalla Shed for hosting this event and the contributions by our staff in assisting with all of the logistical arrangements, transporting sandpaper and tools to be given away and arranging the raffle of the pedestal drill. The money raised from this was donated towards drought relief.

This was another successful Gathering and AGM.

Thank you to Ric, Phil and all those attending the Benalla Gathering and AGM and assisting. I particularly want to acknowledge our partners and sponsors: Hyundai, Jeep, APL Healthcare, Joe White Bequest, Ozito Industries, Robert Bosch (Australia), sia Abrasives, Think Pink Foundation, Parks Vic, Greyhound Racing Victoria, and

VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT.)

the Victorian Department of Health and Human services.

I wish to report some great news for the VMSA. The Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Linda Dessau, AC., has graciously agreed to be our Patron. The VMSA is indebted to the Governor for her interest and support of Victorian Men's Sheds.

A reminder that insurance policies are coming up for review soon. It is great idea that your shed reviews its insurance. The VMSA endorses Gallagher Insurance as it is in our opinion; the best price, most appropriate policy and definitely the best service.

The VMSA does not receive financial benefit from our endorsement and certainly does not endorse any product or company thing that is not in the best interest of sheds and shedders.

I wish to thank most sincerely all shedders and sheds from Victoria for the great work that you are doing in your communities. Sheds and shedders are making a real difference in their communities and particularly to the lives of the men and some women participating in the diverse shed programs.

At this time of year, it is a time for most of us to close down our sheds and slow down for a short period. I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a fruitful year for your shed and members.



Lindsay Oates
State President 2017-18

JEEP AUSTRALIA PARTNERS VMSA

Jeep Australia are offering discounts on their cars through their Preferred Partner Program to all VMSA member sheds and individual shedders in each of these sheds.

To obtain your letter of introduction to participate in this program please complete the 'Jeep National Fleet Discount Request Form' available on the VMSA website.

Cherokee - MY18 Longitude

\$42.5K Drive Away*

**+ Bonus \$7,000
Preferred Partner
Discount**

**+ 3 Years Free
Scheduled Servicing
Across a Range of
Jeep Vehicles#**



Features:

- 3.2L Pentastar V6 engine with 9-speed auto
- Active Drive I all-wheel drive system
- Dual-zone automatic climate control

STAY CONNECTED WITH MEN'S SHEDS



As a keen AFL supporter, 71-year old Dieter, runs a fantasy football league that he accesses on his smartphone and home computer.

Dieter's decision to attend the "Be Connected" program at his local men's shed was a result of him wanting to learn more.

Prior to attending the men's shed course, Dieter's grandson used to come and fix any issues for him after he'd played around on his computer and made some mistakes or wiped things out accidentally.

Dieter said, "I thought I knew a little bit but after going through the program I realised I'd missed some key things, like cyber safety."

"Through the "Be Connected" lessons at the men's shed, I learned that I'd had been paying too much for security software for my computer," said Dieter.

"After a few sessions, I was able to confidently review my security needs and now saving money as a result," Dieter further added.



Langwarrin
Men's Shed

"I've learnt about how to safely buy things online. I just bought a part for my car online; it was about \$50 cheaper than anything I had seen around, even with the postage."

Dieter believes that the beauty of this program is that you can start it all by yourself at home, and if you have any questions, you know who to ask to get the answers.

"I'm learning so much through "Be Connected" and it has now made me keen to learn even more. I'm already saving money by comparing prices online and I'm sure I've only scratched the surface of what's possible. This program is great for anyone wanting to learn more about computers or the internet or emails. No matter what you require, the staff will be able to help you," said Dieter.

POSTCARD FROM SIMPSON

We left the Simpson & Heytesbury area where we had lived for 42 years. With age catching up, we decided to move closer to our family at Wallan & Eden Park. Our house at Simpson got sold off very quickly followed by hectic weeks as the belongings had to be packed and moved.

We had made many strong relations over the last 42 years in the district as we worked with many organisations like Simpson men's shed.

I still remember in early 2009, Debbie called a public meeting to see if people were interested in having a men's shed in the district.

At the inaugural meeting, it was decided that Simpson Men's Shed will be formed. At the second meeting, it was decided to accept an offer from Joe Wettemans to commence Simpson Men's Shed.

The first Monday of October 2009 was the first day of the shed, with support from Cobden and Terang men's sheds. Interestingly, Simpson men's shed got off to a great start with around 26 members.

I am thrilled to tell you that Simpson men's shed will celebrate its tenth anniversary in October 2019, a benchmark to look forward to.

Since the commencement, Simpson shed has held a Christmas dinner every year. Since the first year, the shed has invited the widows of the district as guests. The shed's members are responsible for preparing the meal; and over the past two years Simpson shed has catered to 42 people.

This year our Christmas dinner will be held in the new premises of Lynda & Peter Page.



WORK DONE

Today, the shed completed 24 cross country jumps for Mount Duneed Pony Club. We need to build three more jumps for the Lockard Pony Club.

Funding for building the new garage has been received. Work on this project will commence in the New Year.

Debbie is following up on the installation of the dust extractor and will be seeking help from Eddie McDowell of Cobden Men's Shed.

Our Bunning's BBQ day returned an excess of \$500. These funds cover the cost of running the shed over 12 months.

Also, our members helped pull down the orchid house at 22 Jayarra Street, or, my property. This way the shed obtained a large amount of pine timber.

OUR THOUGHTS

Our member John Morris and his wife Margaret are both having medical problems. We wish them speedy recovery.

Another member, Hank Hayden, has recently had a surgery. We hope that it was successful and he'll soon back at the shed. We've heard Colin Kee's condition has improved. We're happy for Colin and hope to him soon.

I wish you all a very happy festive season. May 2019 be a great one.

Ken Unwin

Simpson Men's Shed

FUNDRAISER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNELS WITH PTSD

The members of Northern Men's Shed, Craigieburn, and president, Tom Rolls, raised funds to support personnel from Defence Forces who suffered from PTSD.

Funds were raised with assistance from the Melbourne Markets Lions Club and from the profits earned from Bunnings sausage sizzles.

The Shed presented a cheque of \$2,500 to Mrs Carole Doyle from Young Diggers to supply, train and maintain a support dog.

Northern Men's Shed is grateful to Bendigo Bank in Wallan for extending its support and sponsorship.



STUDENTS HELP WITH TOY DRIVE

Recently, Kilmore Men's Shed welcomed Wallan Secondary College's students who are a part of school's Project Ready program.

These students joined the Shed to make a series of wooden toys under the guidance of the members of the Shed. The toys made by the students is to be donated to the Broadford Love in Action Christmas toy drive.

Students worked hard to shape up, cut, rout and sand wooden blocks for a toddler block stacker toy.

Take a look.



CARDINIA MEN'S SHED AGM



Ric Blackburn presents the Life Memberships to Denis Jones, Founding President of Cardinia Men's Shed



Ric Blackburn presents the Life Memberships to Alby Mann, Founding Member of Cardinia Men's Shed



Ric Blackburn with Denis Jones, Founding President of Cardinia Men's Shed, Alby Mann, Founding Member of Cardinia Men's Shed and Geoff Fluck, President of Cardinia Men's Shed

SOD TURNING AT NEW PENINSULA



New Peninsula Men's Shed President Andrew Doncovio and Daniel Mulino MP



New Peninsula Shedders and Supporters get stuck in!

MEN AT WORK



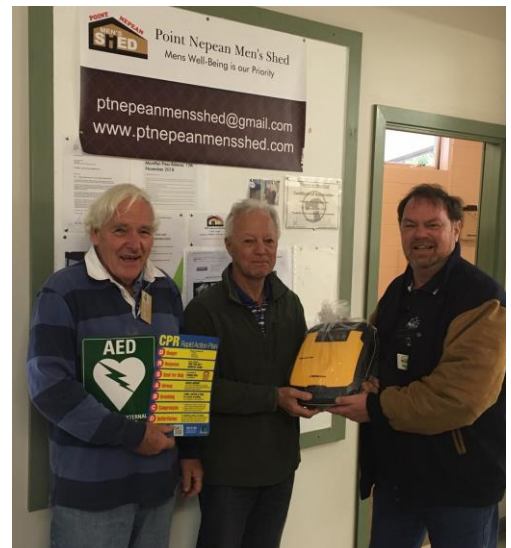
Wood work takes shape at Warrigal with plywood donated by VMSA



DEFIBRILLATORS PRESENTED TO SHEDS



VMSA Field Officer, Phil Keily presents a defibrillator to Bunurong Men's Shed President, Graham McIntosh



VMSA Field Officer, Phil Keily presents a defibrillator to Point Nepean Men's Shed's John Stevenson (President) and Rob Keller (Secretary)

ADIEU 2018!

As we welcome the New Year, we often wonder how will the New Year be more special than the year gone by? Well, it is up to us to make it special by

- welcoming everyone and being kind to them
- respecting, helping everyone and
- fostering happiness around us
- abiding by the Statement of Purpose, Code of Conduct of our shed
- being a true disciple of The Pines Men's Shed

SOME EVENTS FOR PINES' SHEDDERS

Our Break-up Friday 21 December 2018

Venue: 14 Stringybark Cres, Frankston North, VIC 3200

PINES SHED'S NEW COMMITTEE

A new committee was voted in at our Annual General Meeting, on 14 November 2018, for the next financial year 2018-19.

The elected members are:

- Andrew Maling, President
- Robert Bryant, Vice President
- Phillip Warrington, Secretary
- Clive Butler, Treasurer

Members

- Richard Groom
- Keith Hunter
- Chris Michel
- Patch Representative

Congratulations to the newly elected committee!

Andrew Maling

President, Pines Men's Shed

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

This Newsletter is being emailed to the Contact Person at each of the sheds on the VMSA database. We are limited in our ability to send the Newsletter to every shedder and so we ask that as the CONTACT PERSON for your shed please print and display the Newsletter.

If you have something to share with other sheds, write a short article (photos are handy) and send to the Executive Officer

vmsa@vmsa.org.au

Victorian Men's Shed Association acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



Disclaimer

This newsletter is for general information only. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of VMSA Committee. Reasonable measures have been taken to ensure that the material contained in this Newsletter is correct. However, there is no responsibility for the accuracy or the completeness of the material.

**VMSA WISHES YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

