



## Victorian Men's Shed Association Inc

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Incorporation No: A0055228H

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### Special Bulletin:

### FOR ALL SHEDS

#### Premier's Announcement:

- The Premier of Victoria announced in the Road Map to Recovery from Covid 19 in Victoria today minor changes only to Stage 4 and Stage 3 restrictions. **There has been no change in the restriction of ALL SHEDS remaining closed until further advised.** Please see: <http://www.vic.gov.au/roadmap>
- The majority of our Shedders across Victoria are in the most vulnerable group of people affected by Covid 19.
- The Committees of all Sheds are reminded that it is prudent to conduct regular safety inspections of their Shed building, particularly for rodents and water damage.
- Sheds are to be commended and especially thanked for their perseverance in coping with the lock down and for their contact, care and support of their fellow Shedders. Many Sheds have been not only innovative, but also most resourceful in their contact and support of their members and their local community. Sheds have different means of keeping in contact with their Shedders, some have set up telephone trees, walking trees, zoom, skype and You -Tube meetings etc. Some have taken photos of their kitchen or meeting room and shown their Shedders how to have this as a backdrop when using zoom. Those Shedders have felt far more comfortable in this environment to talk quite openly with each other without distraction. Other Sheds have sent letters, cards, or driven many kilometres out of town to deliver food, mail, etc., to Shedders and community members who are finding it a challenge to travel to their nearby town. The VMSA Cttee has also been busy contacting many Sheds to hear how they are coping and also assisting a good number with information on MOU's and relationships with Councils.
- **Please remember that ALL Sheds are closed until further advised. If Sheds break this law under the Emergency Laws there will be substantial fines for members in attendance and for the Shed. The VMSA has had to contact some Sheds after receiving advice from concerned members of the general public.**

#### Executive Officer:

- The VMSA is most grateful for Ric. Blackburn's service and contribution to the VMSA in his role as Executive Officer. As many Shedders are aware Ric. resigned on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Ric had contact with many Sheds and Shedders and assisted in the ongoing growth of the VMSA. The VMSA wishes him well for his future.
- The VMSA has now advertised for a new Executive Officer and applications are invited from any Shedders interested in this full-time position. Please see the VMSA website, Facebook page, last Sat. "Herald Sun", and Sat. "The Age", SEEK, or e-mail or ring the President of the VMSA for details.

#### Shed concerns due to the lockdown:

- The VMSA in June made representation to the State Government concerning Sheds losing income as a result of the lockdown and being unable in many cases to sell goods, or conduct barbeques etc., and yet still having expenses of rent, insurance, electricity and other necessary cost to keep their Shed going. A large number of Sheds have made contact with the VMSA concerning the effects of the lockdown on their Sheds finances. It is anticipated that the State Govt. may make some comment about this in the near future.

#### AGM's for Sheds:

- The VMSA has made representation on behalf of Victorian Sheds for the AGM's of Incorporated Associations and Co-Operatives to be extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 due to many Sheds inability to hold their AGM's. Most Sheds do not have all of their registered members, who would like to participate in their Shed's AGM, able to participate in an AGM conducted via electronic or telephone means. Sheds

will be advised as soon as the VMSA receives a reply. The VMSA has scheduled its AGM for 2020 to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### **Zoom Meetings:**

- The VMSA is inviting Heads of Sheds to participate in a Zoom meeting for an hour session with some of the Victorian Men's Sheds Association Committee members and with other Sheds between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September between 10.30am -11.30am or 2.30pm -3.30pm on any of those days and times. The Heads of Sheds may be allocated a date and time if there are too many wishing to participate in a session. Numbers participating per session will be limited initially to around 20.
- The purpose is hear how Sheds and Shedders are coping and to share this and any other information with each other seeing that it is most unlikely that the VMSA can hold a Gathering meeting this year.
- If your Shed is interested in participating, please contact the Secretary, Mobile: 0408 465 228 or e-mail: [pres@vmsa.org.au](mailto:pres@vmsa.org.au)

### **Commonwealth Govt: Review of the National Shed Development Programme:**

- The VMSA has been invited to participate in a review of this programme and it has agreed to participate in this review. If any Shed wishes to seek further information or make comment on the National Shed Development Programme please contact the President of the VMSA: 0408 343 531.

### **VMSA Committee:**

- The VMSA has received the resignations from some of its Committee members on account of personal ill health, or in the family, and also the recent resignations of Julian Sellers and Gerard Irvin. The VMSA thanks them for their contribution of their time and skills to furthering Men's Sheds in Victoria.
- The VMSA Cttee has invited Barbara Look, back onto the Cttee. Barbara was Vice President a few years ago and had to resign due to work pressures. Barbara is now making a great contribution again to the work of the VMSA.
- The VMSA is now looking for any Shedders interested in volunteering to assist the VMSA Cttee or its sub-committees until the AGM. Please contact the Secretary: 0408 465 228 or President 0408 343 531 or email: [sec@vmsa.org.au](mailto:sec@vmsa.org.au) or [pres@vmsa.org.au](mailto:pres@vmsa.org.au)

### **VMSA Award.**

- The VMSA in June won an award for Victoria in the "Heroes" section from the Australian Men's Health Forum for its work with Sheds and Shedders across Victoria. The President accepted the award on behalf of the VMSA. The VMSA was one of two runners up for the "Australian Heroes" award.

### **Million Minds Project:**

- The VMSA in partnership with Melbourne University is participating in a multi-disciplinary and multi institutional group of researchers and is collaborating with 14 community/industry groups in a project that focuses on interventions to prevent suicide. In many cases there will further training offered in Mental Health First Aid and in recognised First Aid Training for some Sheds. This research, together with VMSA Shed members' participation and working collaboratively with the Melbourne University researchers and trainers, will assist in furthering health policy and the improved delivery of practice to individuals and communities across Australia. Mental Health is a top priority for us all.

### **CAMSA:**

- The VMSA is not a member of Council of Australian Men's Shed Association (CAMSA) and wishes to remain independent of that organisation. There has been correspondence from CAMSA to many Sheds and to Federal Members of Parliament recently. The VMSA is not associated with that correspondence. The VMSA will continue to collaborate with Western Australian Men's Shed Association, Tasmanian Men's Shed Association and the Queensland Regional Men's Network.

### **VMSA Membership:**

- Renewal of membership forms will be mailed shortly to all Sheds. The delay has been due to Covid.

Lindsay Oates.

President.

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