

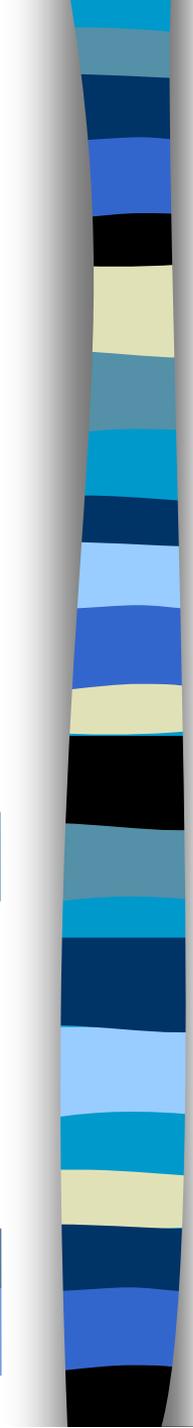
*‘What you told us ...’*



## AMSA Men's Shed Survey 2017

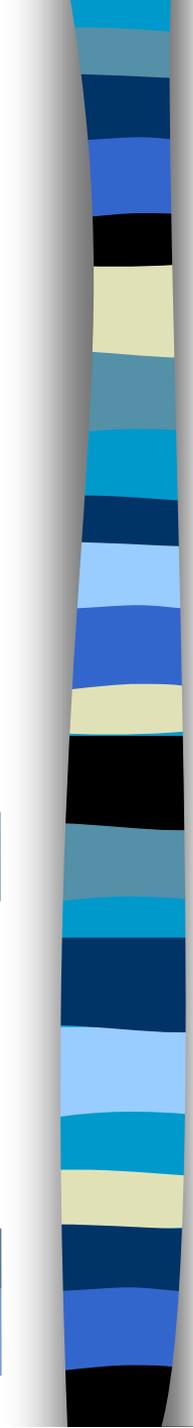
*AMSA 2017 Conference, Gold Coast,  
12-12.40pm, Sat 30 October 2017*

Professor (Adjunct) Barry Golding [b.golding@federation.edu.au](mailto:b.golding@federation.edu.au)



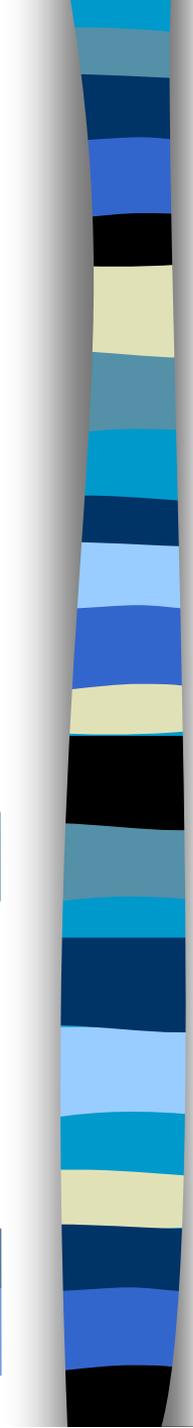
# Background to the 2017 AMSA Survey

- Circulated to 909 Australian Men's Sheds, May 2017.
- Aim to evaluate AMSA delivery of programs and services.
- Complements *Siggins Miller 2016 AMSA Evaluation*.
- Responses from 256 Sheds (28% response).
- 98% of responses from men with significant roles in the Shed.
- The survey data and written responses provide an accurate and detailed reflection of Shed opinions from respondent Sheds.
- Many responses can be compared with the 2013 survey.
- Survey & Final report (43 pages) by Barry Golding & Jack Harvey conducted & prepared independently of AMSA.
- All information identifying individuals, places & Sheds removed.
- **Sincere thanks to all participating & responding Sheds.**



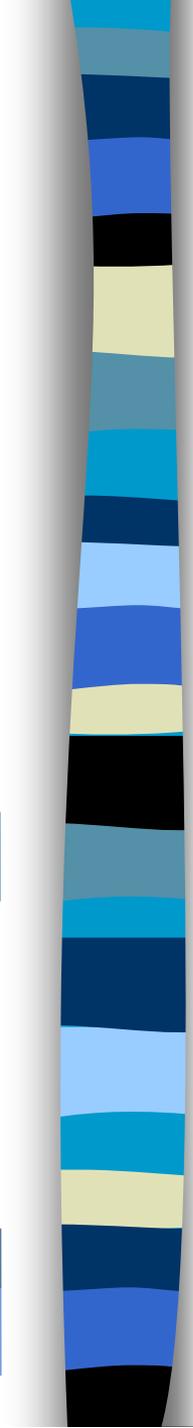
# Important to note:

- All Sheds are different, meeting different needs of shedders in different settings for different groups of men for different reasons.
- ‘Averages’ or percentages tend to homogenize diversity.
- It is the individual comments (all of which are included in the final full report to AMSA) that really start to ‘sing’.
- Surveys can only represent data, insights and stories from Sheds that responded.
- For this reason, answering fully and honestly helps *all* Men’s Sheds
- These survey insights should be valuable as a guide for other, younger national movements and associations.



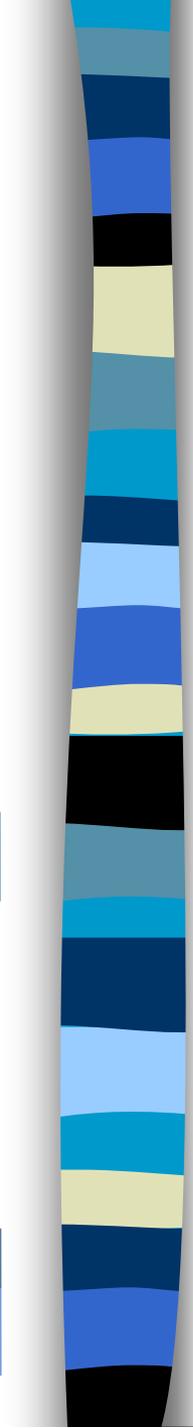
## ‘The major achievements of your Shed’

- *‘Ownership of our own Shed & a greater mix of mad buggers you could not find’.*
- *‘Bringing the community together & providing a forum for meaningful activities and interaction’.*
- *‘Bringing together Aboriginal men who previously would not interact socially’.*
- *‘Providing a facility for men to give them a purpose and self-worth in retirement, in addition addressing men’s health in a hands-on way’.*
- *‘Bringing local men of all types together & provide friendship’.*



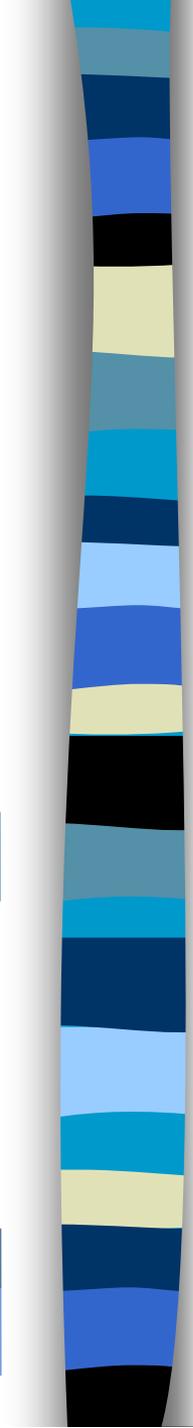
## Scope of questions

- One third of questions directed at AMSA's service roles.
- Others explored the Shed context, membership & participants.
- Questions about 'Men's Shed operations', 'Working with external agencies', 'Health', 'Community engagement', 'Fundraising & grants', 'Networking' & 'Risk management'.
- Open questions about 'Major achievements & challenges for each Shed'.
- 'Other suggestions, general feedback or comments regarding AMSA'.
- *All questions scoped and designed with input independent of AMSA.*



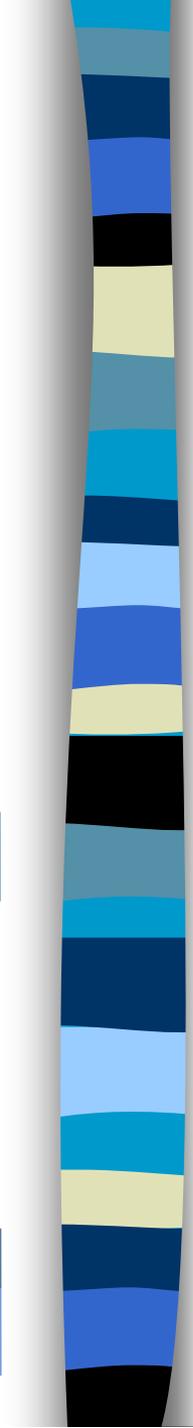
# Results

- Provide an excellent 'snapshot' of the incredible diversity of Australian Men's Sheds a decade after AMSA formed.
- Data and insights useful to both AMSA and Men's Sheds.
- Response rates remarkably consistent across all states & territories except WA (half, 10 less than anticipated responses).
- 2/3 of Sheds have contacted AMSA in the past year
- 9/10 Sheds refer to the AMSA website
- 6/10 Sheds use the AMSA 'policy & procedure' template.
- 1/2 of Sheds have regular 'Toolbox Meetings'.
- Comments about AMSA service almost universally positive
- 1/3 of Sheds also actively participate in State associations.
- 1/5 Sheds mentioned the 'tension' between AMSA and state associations, but of these, one half were more concerned 'it just be sorted' than blaming just AMSA.
- **That virtually all Men's Sheds are compliant with all key Men's Shed principles is remarkable given the huge diversity & spread nationally.**



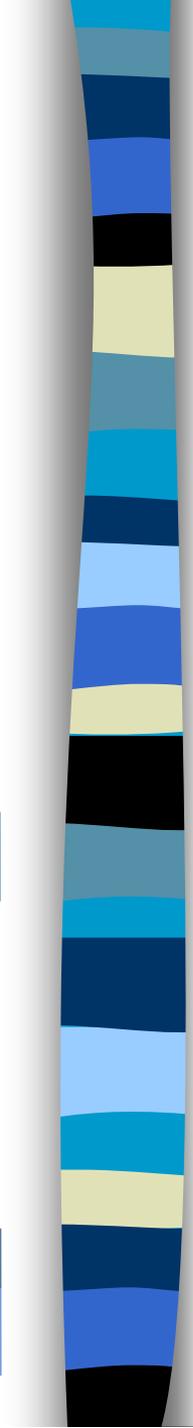
## How Sheds organise, operate and *regard* AMSA...

- 8/10 Sheds have standard operating procedures.
- However budgeting & fundraising, reporting, risk management & strategic planning is found in only around 2/3 of Sheds.
- ½ of Sheds have a Website or Facebook page.
- Succession and marketing plans are restricted to ¼ of Sheds.
- 6/10 Sheds accept third party referrals.
- ¼ Sheds have youth programs.
- 9/10 Sheds undertake community projects.
- ¾ of Sheds make/fix items for the community.
- Most Sheds actively engage with other Sheds, many on a regular basis.
- *4/10 Sheds say AMSA is doing a 'very good' job.*
- *1/5 of Sheds want the tensions between AMSA & State associations 'to be sorted'.*



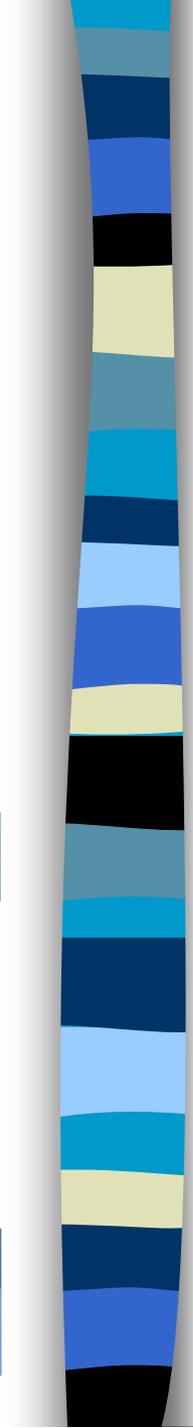
# AMSA and the State Associations

- 2/3 Sheds have active association & contact with AMSA.
- Approx 1/3 of Sheds (38%) 'actively participate' in a State association (38% in 2017 compared to 31% in 2013), but higher (54%) across four states combined: Qld, Vic, WA & Tas. Only 1/5 of Sheds in other states & territories (NSW, SA, NT & ACT participated).
- 53% of Sheds seek information & support from their state associations.
- WA Sheds have less positive interaction with AMSA than in Victoria.
- Most Sheds want AMSA's services as much as possible on their terms to avoid things become too bureaucratic or top down, and keep it 'grassroots' and free.



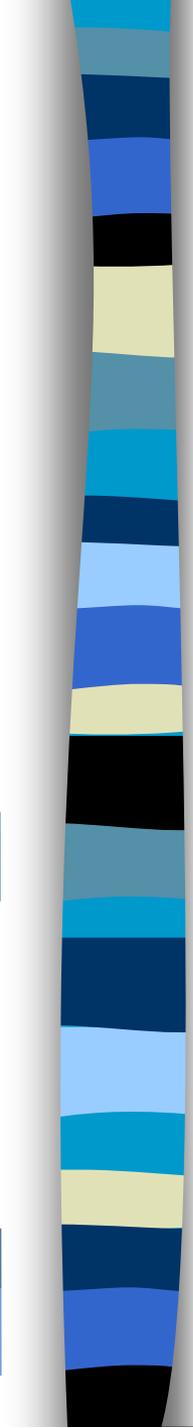
## Shed characteristics

- 90% charge a membership fee Most between \$20-\$60 per year.
- ½ of Sheds charge another fee (e.g. tea/coffee, joining fee, per session).
- 4/5 Sheds are incorporated associations (up from ¾ on 2013).
- 22% of Sheds 'share premises' with another organisation.
- Most Sheds estimate their members are age 65-74 years.
- Tuesday & Wed commonest opening days; 1/5 open Saturday.
- Only 4% of Sheds have 'any paid employees' (well down from 10% in 2013).



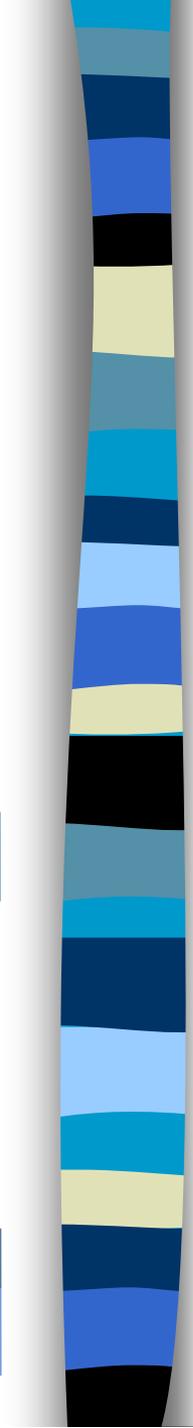
# Compliance with key Men's Shed principles

- 100% are 'not disrespectful or harmful to the community'.
- 100% are 'committed to the safety of member & visitors'.
- 99% provide a safe and friendly environment.
- 99% 'do not advance any particular political or religious views or practices'.
- 98% 'do not discriminate against members or potential members'.
- 98% are 'community not-for-profit' groups.



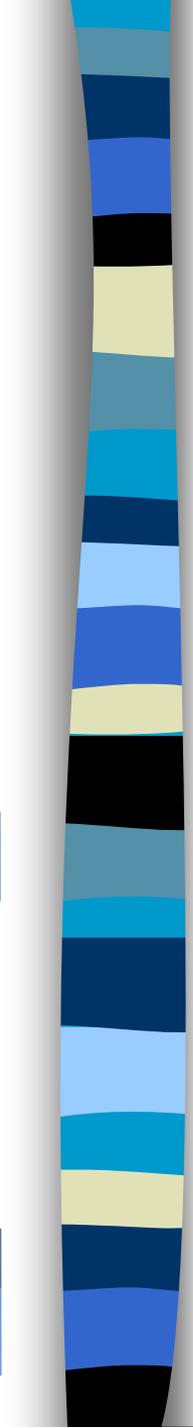
# Men's Shed operations

- 86% 'have written policies and procedures', 90% that are 'accessible to Shed members'.
- 88% have 'an induction for new members'.
- 84% 'undertake &/or deliver health & safety training for all members'.
- 77% have 'monthly reports for members'.
- 74% have 'complaints & grievance procedures' in place.
- 68% have monthly committee meetings.
- 63% have '*a budget*' or '*a health and safety manual*'.
- 59% *have 'a fundraising/sustainability plan'*.
- 48% *a 'strategic plan'*; 47% a Shed Website.
- 39% of Sheds on Facebook or have a 'regular Shed newsletter'.
- 25% Sheds have '*succession plan*' or '*marketing plan*'.
- *NOTE: Future oriented strategies in italics are somewhat lacking.*



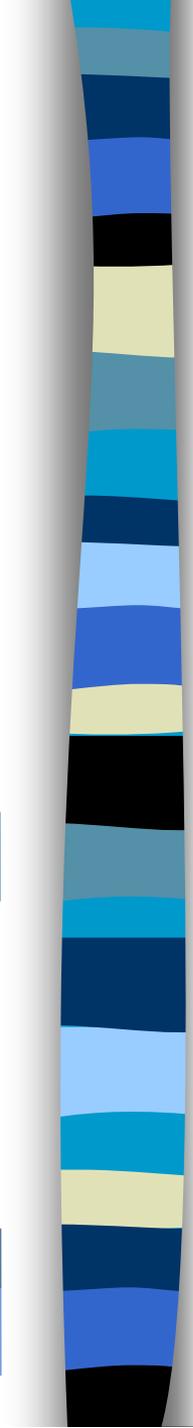
## *Main Shed achievements & challenges*

- $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sheds regard ‘getting and keeping the Shed’ open as their *main* achievement.
- $\frac{1}{3}$  regard ‘expanding the Shed’s programs and services’ as their *main* achievement.
- $\frac{1}{5}$  regard ‘improving men’s health and wellbeing’ as their *main* achievement.
  
- $\frac{1}{5}$  are mainly challenged by the ‘difficulty of attracting and actively engaging new and younger members’.
- $\frac{1}{5}$  of main problems were with ‘Shed funding’.
- $\frac{1}{7}$  were mainly struggling with ‘setting up and fitting out the Shed’.
- $\frac{1}{10}$  of Sheds experienced ‘many major challenges’.



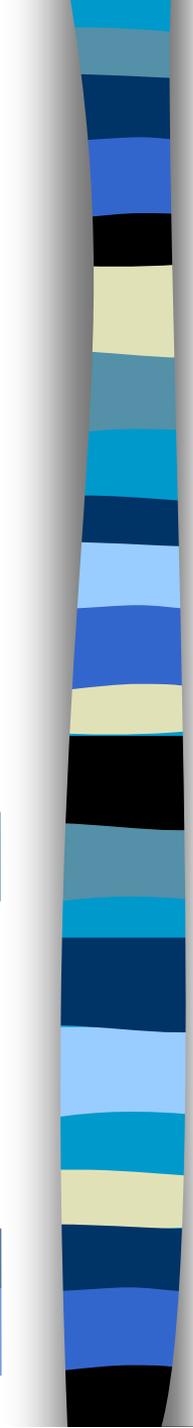
# Health

- More than half of Sheds actively engage with a local health provider.
- 6/10 of Sheds held a health event in the past year.
- $\frac{3}{4}$  of Sheds provide health resources to members.
- Formal health information and programs are strongly complemented by almost universal informal support and positive social interaction.
- *Risk management NOTE: 9% of Sheds reported a 'major incident' in the past 2 years, up from 3% in 2013).*



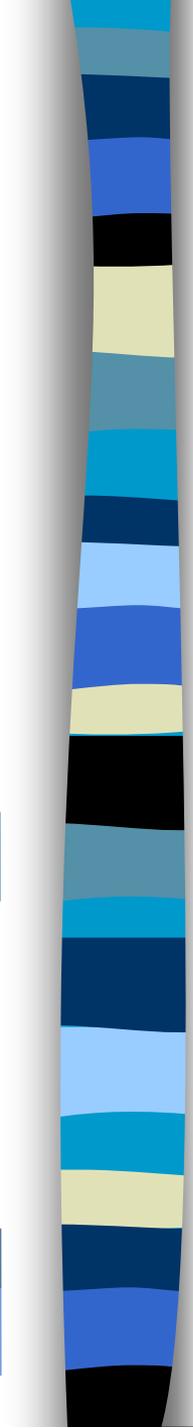
## In what ways do Sheds contribute to shedder health & wellbeing? (*italics*: achieved informally: total 63%)

- Health information, visits or talks (25% of Sheds).
- *Social interaction/companionship (21% of Sheds).*
- *Members supporting each other (20% of Sheds).*
- *An environment that is relaxing and safe (12% of Sheds).*
- Health checks / liaison with health services / referral (10% of Sheds).
- *Encouraging informal discussion (10% of Sheds).*
- Health food or exercise (3% of Sheds).



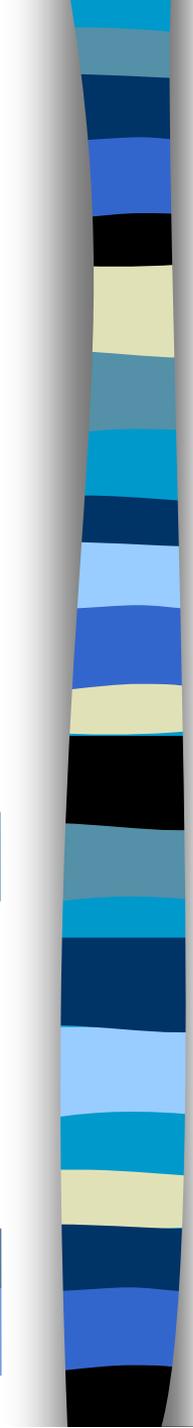
# Sheds, community engagement & *funding*

- 91% undertake community projects.
- 81% participate in community events.
- 73% make or fix items to be donated to community groups.
- 57% have an open day.
- 20% have a Patron.
  
- 93% of Sheds applied for grants.
- 69% have a fundraising strategy, mainly through:
  - Raffles 65%
  - Bunnings BBQs 61%
  - Other community BBQs 60%
  - Local markets 60%
  - 30% selling goods produced; 79% through 'other fundraising'.



## Major Shed Challenges (% of Sheds)

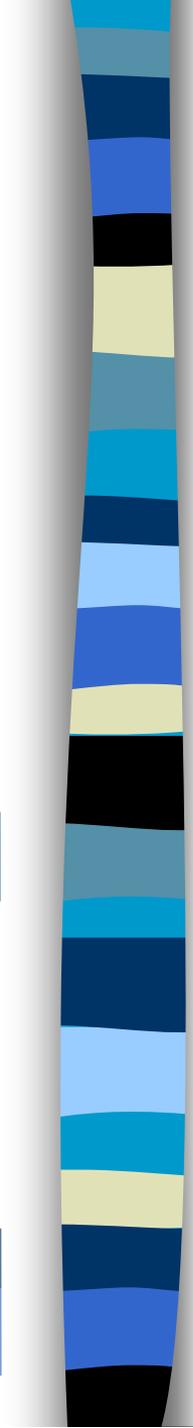
- Attracting & actively engaging **younger & new members** (21%)
- More **funding** to make sure the Shed is viable (18%)
- **Creating**: locating, building, fitting out permanent Shed (14%)
- **Many** challenges (2+ specific major challenges) (11%)
- Need for more **space** (10%)
- **Other** (not categorised) major challenges (9%)
- **None** (7%)
- **Governance**: Shed management, supervision & administration (6%)
- **Renewal**, including leadership succession (5%).
- *Summary: Once built with sufficient Shed space, renewal and engaging new members are the major challenges.*



## ‘The Open Question’:

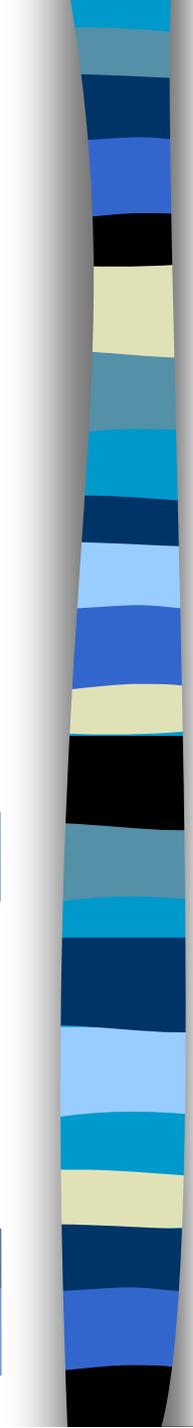
Suggestions, feedback & comments regarding AMSA: 92 responses, categorised into seven **‘themes’** (in bold) including one ‘Other’ category

- **Happy:** AMSA is doing a very good job, satisfied with the service (40%)
- **Tension needs resolving:** between AMSA & the State Associations (21%)
- **Other** (20%)
- **More support** requested (for information, support, Shed visits (11%)
- **Grant** issues (4%)
- **Website** issues (2%)
- **Conference** issues (2%).



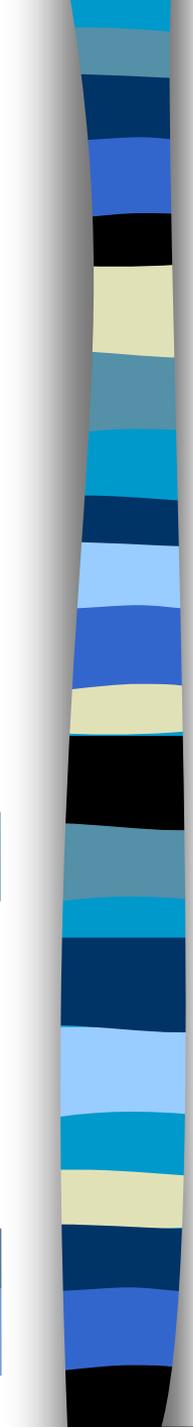
## Specific comments: About shedder age

- *Old age.' x2*
- *'Age of members.'*
- *'Age of members, no younger persons joining.'*
- *'Age and health of many members.'*
- *'Ageing members.'*
- *'Membership and age of members.'*
- *'The ageing and continuing health of members.'*
- *'Membership is ageing and ensuring ongoing viability.'*
- *'For all members? The end keeps getting closer.'*
- *'Dementia - given the age profile of our members and potential members.'*
- *'At one of the Shed we have a lot of men who are unwell, it's a big dig to keep the energy up in that Shed.'*
- *'Accessibility for ageing membership, particularly parking and medical issues.'*
- *'Ageing members – new blood.'*
- *'Age of members and number of members.'*
- *'Funds, ageing equipment, ageing members.'*



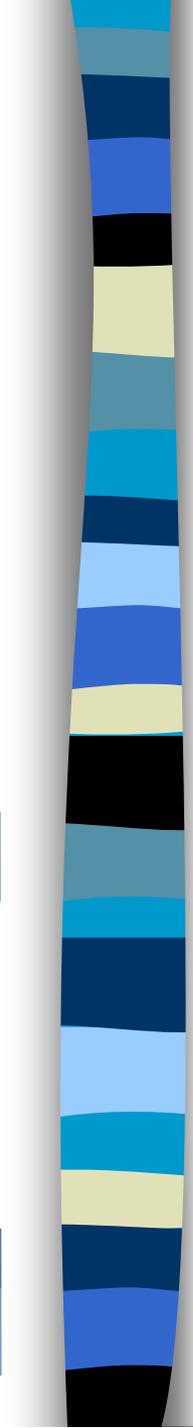
# Specific comments: Attracting new & younger members

- *More members.' x2 ; 'Membership.' x2; Increasing membership. x2*
- *'Recruiting new members.:'; 'Getting non-members to come and have a look.'*
- *'Getting members to attend: usually the same 8 attend*
- *'Membership [in a] very small town.'*
- *'Increasing our membership and holding on to them. Some come for the first time, pay membership and we don't see them again.'*
- *'Lack of members.:'; 'Building up numbers.' 'Build membership.'*
- *'Retention and growing membership numbers'*
- *'Active membership funding for day to day running costs.'*
- *'Our membership numbers are declining, yet we have outgrown our Shed area.'*
- *'Maintaining members interest in the future. Most members are from rural properties and have commitments. Some other town members also have work commitments.'*
- *'Attracting more members.' 'Attracting new members.'*
- *'Obtaining new members to ensure continuity.'*
- *'Rural isolation and lack of new members.'*
- *'Keeping our membership at current levels.' Increased membership.'*
- *Increasing active membership; 'To encourage younger members.'*
- *'Increasing the membership to include a lower age cohort.'*
- *'Survival, keeping the income at a required level to keep the shed opened and still maintain the ideals and principals of a men's shed. The future: do future generations have the skills and the need for a men's shed environment? They are becoming disconnected and isolated in some different ways that we were or are used to.'*
- *We are keen to work with the younger generation, say 25 to 45 year olds to pass on the extensive knowledge of our members*
- *'Maintaining active membership capable of working in the Shed.'*



## Specific Comments: Supervision & management succession

- *'Succession planning - we have done, but if two or three of our key people left together suddenly, there would be problems.'*
- *'Committee burnout.'; 'Coordination and supervision.'*
- *'Survival, keeping the income at a required level to keep the shed opened and still maintain the ideals and principals of a men's shed. The future, do future generations have the skills and the need for a men's shed environment. They are becoming disconnected and isolated in some different ways that we are used to.'*
- *'Need to renewal of steering committee members so the load can be better shared across the membership.'*
- *'Finding enough men willing to serve on a committee.'*
- *'Maintaining members and a committee of management.'*
- *'More member involvement in committee and daily management of the shed.'*
- *'Having someone to step up to manage it in absence of the Manager. Some older members don't want to get too involved in Grants or shed logistics - just want to do their thing!'*
- *'Finding more volunteers to support participants.'*
- *'Volunteers to work on committees and fundraisers are scarce.'*
- *'To have a Coordinator to manage the shed, to increase the membership and to have a variety of activities available to the members.'*
- *'Supervision in our woodwork shed.; 'Ongoing committee.'*
- *'Finding people willing to be involved in the Management Team.'*
- *'Finding people willing to be involved as Shed supervisors when we are open.'*



# Specific Comments: Community Events

Shed Open days; Local markets (Monthly, Sunday, Farmer's, Night, Artisan's, Rotary, School) Stalls; Bunnings (sausage sizzle, markets); Woodcraft stalls; Shopping Centre stalls; Local Retirement Village Market Day; Lions Club Market Days; Library Information Days; Garage Sales; Sausage Sizzles; Senior Citizens (lunch); Wood Raffles; Lamington Drives; Community Gardens. Food and Wine Festival, Music Festivals, Folk Festivals, Fringe Festivals, Community Fetes, Church Fetes, School Fetes, Book Festivals, Choir performances, Regattas, Wooden Boat Festivals, Garden Expos, Wellness Festivals & Expos, Health Expos, Senior's Expos, Caravan Expos, Spring Fairs, Steam Rallies, Billy Cart Races, Swap Meets, Community Walks, Heritage Gardens Spring Fairs, Old Trades Fair, School Fairs, Multicultural Events, Biggest Morning Tea, Sporting Events, Equestrian Events, Motoring Enthusiasts Events, Car parking management, Bike Race (marshals), Family Fun Days, Quilter's Displays, Local Shows, Historical Societies, Field Days, Street Parties and Parades, Race Meetings, Family Picnics, Neighbourhood Open Days, Rodeos, Motorcycle Clubs, Triathlon (marshalling), Golf Challenges, Bowling Clubs, Swimming Carnivals, Horse Rides, Hill Climbs, Air Shows, Botanical Gardens (fairs, stalls), Football & Soccer Clubs (gatekeepers), Film Nights (at the Shed), Election Days, Breakfast in the Park, ANZAC Day (Breakfast, BBQ, Wreath laying, Primary School service), Australia Day events (breakfast), Christmas (Parades, Pageants, Carols by Candlelight), Reconciliation Runs, Easter (Carnivals, Blessing of the Fleet), Mothers Day Classic (for Breast Cancer), Prostate Cancer Awareness Day, Seniors Week, Health Week, Remembrance Day, Veteran's Health Week, Mental Health Week, White Ribbon Day, Volunteer's Week, Carer's Week, Father's Day.

# Specific Comments: Community Projects

- **Maintenance of/for:** Memorial Gardens, Hospitals, Kindergartens, Primary Schools, Councils, Community Reserves.
- **Repairing / Refurbishing:** Toys, Furniture, Council assets, School equipment, Notice Boards, Rocking Horses, Church bells (rehangng), Bicycles, Lockers, Jigsaws, Maritime relics, Jetty trolleys, Dinghy
- **Making:** Toys, Furniture, Foot stools, Plinths, Boxes, Musical instruments, Boomerangs, Clap sticks, Poppy flowers (for ANZAC Day), Food bowls, Doll's Houses, Visual Art stands, Signs (tourism), Models (racing cars, aeroplanes, helicopters, boats), Go karts, Swish bats (for low vision people), Bird and possum boxes, Buddy Benches for Primary Schools, Community seating, Planter boxes, Building blocks (for Early Learning Schools), Small equipment for Special School, Insect & Bug Hotels, Items for special events, 'Mud Kitchens' (for Pre-Schools), Trolleys (for disabled children), Art and tapestry frames, Busy Boards, Rocking chairs, Toy kits (for assembly and painting at schools), Balance equipment (for disability agency), Dart Board frames, Craft equipment, Billy Carts, Honour Boards, Appliances (for disabled).
- **Constructing:** Picnic tables (swimming pools, lakes, parks), Garden settings, Footrests, Carpentry tables (for kindergartens), Tables (for family events for wheelchair users at local hospital), Pergolas, Screens, Compost bins (community nursery), Removable flooring (for Gymnastics Club trampoline), Floats, Bridges, Easels, Play Houses, Suggestion boxes, Bug boxes, Myna bird traps, Bird sanctuaries, Rocking horses & kangaroos, Paving & pathways, Fences (post & rail, picket) & stiles, Dry Stone Walls, Stage props, Replicas, Street decorations, Timber crosses, Seating (community library, aged care, parks, cemetery), Bookcases, Shelving, Cupboards and cabinets, Panel Display areas, Bench seats (showgrounds, schools, aged care facilities, Historical Parks), Mobile libraries, Dais for swimming pool, Christening Font & Communion Table, Lecterns, Stages, Fence posts, Decks, Flag poles, Tent poles, Education trailers, Grader Shelter (for local Shire), Toilet blocks, Chook Houses, Garden beds (Stephanie Alexander), Children's experiential areas, Garden swings, Habitat gardens, Koori Heritage Trails, Potting benches, Kitchens, Gates, Donation boxes, Play equipment, Golf putting kits, Bush Kitchens.
- **Assisting:** Elderly single females, Pensioners, Frail aged persons (home maintenance & modifications), with Deceased Estates, Police (with tamper proof number plates), with Lawn mowing, with Fire break clean ups, Australian Hearing Bus visits.
- **Installing:** Wheel chair access (ramps), Handrails, Puppy Doors, Flyscreens, Storage racks, School paintings in the town, Rainwater tanks, Christmas tree, Music and lighting systems
- **Providing:** School mentoring programs, Lost Skills Classes to schools, Tinkering Program (for 4 year olds at early Childhood Centre), Classes to children on tool use, Welding courses (for local ladies group, Equipment (for local school fetes)'Street Libraries', Firewood, Father Christmas, Assisted ablutions chairs (for local aged care centre), Displays at Agricultural Shows, Recycle Shed at Council Tip,
- **Undertaking:** Working Bees, Handyman Work, Tree planting, Recycling, Site security, Food service, Gardening & pruning, Painting, Raffles, Identification, care and maintenance of heritage listed Aboriginal sites, Fundraising
- Auctions, Maintenance (Equestrian Park, Town Farm, widows on their own)
- **Supporting community causes:** Huge list of organisations (98 in all ...)