Festive wishes from the Minister for Health

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Sport

To Men’s Shed’s Across Australia,

The festive season is here and I would like to take this opportunity to wish the men’s shed movement well for the coming year.

In particular I would ask the men in sheds to look after their mates and continue to offer the friendship and support for which men’s sheds have become known.

Men’s Sheds provide a sense of community, a safe and friendly environment where men can work on meaningful projects at their own pace and in their own time. I know that many Shed’s across the nation have made Christmas gifts for families. The local support is deeply appreciated.

For many men, going to their local Men’s Shed is an opportunity to enjoy each other’s company by having a chat or a joke with other members over a game of cards or a cuppa. Men’s Sheds are integral to the community and the benefits to men’s health are widely acknowledged.

The men in the shed movement should be applauded for their efforts in assisting men particularly those in rural or disadvantaged communities.

Funding by the Turnbull Government through the Australian Men’s Shed Association allows Men’s Sheds to buy tools and equipment, support community projects and training, maintain or develop their buildings, or create local activities to improve men’s health. This all leads to men connecting with each other, particularly older men who are at greater risk of social isolation and preventable health issues.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and New Year,

Greg Hunt
Wishing you a merry Men’s Shed Christmas!

David Helmers, Executive Officer

Another 12 months have passed and it is that time of year again, when the workbenches and tools are being pushed aside in most Men’s Sheds to make way for the trestle tables covered in decorations and Christmas fare. It’s the time when our families, friends and Men’s Shed supporters gather in the shed to celebrate Christmas and when most sheds end the year and close for the festive season.

As we bring 2017 to a close, there’s a lot to reflect on. We’ve had some big challenges and a great many successes. This year, we mark ten years of AMSA supporting Mens Sheds. We are proud to share with you AMSA’s history and the people, sheds, communities and organisations that have a part of the journey; a journey that has seen Men’s Sheds grow all around Australia and the world.

For the staff here at AMSA, we are committed to supporting Men’s Sheds through building relationships and delivering initiatives that support and enhance the broader movement. We do all this to build communities and enable positive lifestyle outcomes for Australian men. It’s what has driven us for a decade, and will continue to well into the future.

In the last few weeks most of you have probably spent more time at the local shopping centre than you would have throughout the entire year, wishing that you were at the shed or the hardware store impatiently waiting for the season to be over. Most of you I’m sure are also looking forward to spend time with your families and friends. Throughout the Men’s Shed network we will look after the wellbeing of our mates throughout the season, providing company and support for those who need it.

We have some big things planned for 2018, and we’re all looking forward to an exciting year delivering programs, events and resources for the benefit of Men’s Sheds everywhere. But for now, we’re looking forward to a well-earned break. The AMSA Office will close on Friday 22 December and we’ll be back in the office to tackle 2018 on Monday 15 January 2018.

We wish you a Merry Christmas from the team here at AMSA; Matt, Mel, Liz, Gary, Bec, Emma, Lez and myself.

David
Uncle Tobys donates to Sanctuary Point Men’s Shed at long-awaited opening

Earlier this month the Sanctuary Point Men’s Shed hosted the official opening of their new site.

In a huge community effort, the 47 members raised funds and helped to build the shed along with local tradesmen who assisted with discounts on their services.

For six years the Sanctuary Point Men’s Shed had been meeting on a member’s farm until they were able to secure a grant from the NSW Government Community Building Partnerships that was then combined with the over $100,000 raised by the shed themselves.

At the shed opening, Australian Men’s Shed Association partner Uncle Tobys (Nestle) donated over $4,000 to the Sanctuary Point Men’s Shed—a sum raised by staff purchasing used office furniture from the Uncle Tobys Head Office.

The donation was inspired by Uncle Tobys’ new partnership with AMSA, and was made relevant to the Sanctuary Point Men’s Shed by a family connection: a son of a member of the Sanctuary Point Men’s Shed works at the Uncle Tobys Head Office in Sydney. And so the Uncle Tobys team were thrilled to pass on the funds for good use at the shed.

“It’s great that we can go over and above our substantial partnership in the Riverina and Indigo Shire to help a shed near and dear to our hearts in the Uncle Tobys Head Office family,” said Uncle Tobys representative James Wills.

Earlier this year Uncle Tobys and AMSA entered into a partnership to deliver activities and programs to benefit the health and wellbeing of people in regional communities through Men’s Sheds and the Spanner in the Works? male health initiative.

With a focus on the Riverina and Indigo regions, the home of Uncle Tobys, the partnership aims to increase awareness of the need for social inclusion and participation.
AMSA staff on the road

Mel White, Bec Whipper and AMSA new-comer Lez Moore embarked on a shed road trip last week, visiting eight sheds between Newcastle and Wodonga. The trip was drizzly, but the shed visits were warm and welcoming!

Thank you to Albion Park Men’s Shed, Sanctuary Point Men’s Shed, Thurgoona Men’s Shed, Yass Valley Men’s Shed, Menshed Wagga Wagga, Wondonga Men’s Shed, Thirroul Men’s Shed, Greenwell Point Men’s Shed.

This year the AMSA staff (now up to eight!) have visited over 100 Men’s Sheds and attended Men’s Shed events and gatherings around the country. Thanks to all for your hospitality, we can’t wait to see more of you in 2018!
ExxonMobil Men’s Shed Muster in Port Adelaide

On Thursday 6 December, thanks to AMSA partner ExxonMobil Australia, sheds surrounding Adelaide came together at The Port Club in Port Adelaide for the first ExxonMobil Men’s Shed Muster in South Australia.

Attending shedders were updated by David Helmers (AMSA Executive Officer) and Bryce Routley (South Australian Men’s Shed Association) and their friends from Willo’s Men’s Shed, Tea Tree Gully Community Men’s Shed, Artistic Blacksmiths and Barossa Tinkers.

Thanks to all the sheds for their time in putting together great presentations to share with the group.

Following a browse of the Barossa Tinkers’ display of superb workmanship over morning tea, we participated in a Stress Less, Laugh More workshop by comedian Anthony Ackroyd.

Anthony’s workshop managed to get the crowd laughing and chatting about bringing more laughter into their sheds and lives at home.

Over lunch, Tony from our friends at Carbatec Adelaide brought out the SawStop for an impressive demonstration.

After lunch shedders were treated to an interesting tour of the ExxonMobil Birkenhead Terminal by Terminal Manager, Wayne Farrow.

The day was a great chance to connect with old and new friends.

“We’ve enjoyed a few trips to South Australia this year, with a few more to come in 2018 as we prepare for our 8th National Men’s Shed Conference in 2019,” said David Helmers.
Mount Isa Men’s Shed and Police bring Christmas cheer

A collaboration between the Mount Isa Police Station and the Mount Isa Men’s Shed has seen the station get into the Christmas spirit, with seven new Christmas trees on display.

Aptly themed in blue, white and silver, the timber trees were made by Richard Lane and David English of the Mount Isa Men’s Shed.

“We were thrilled to be approached by the police to make trees for the station,” Richard said.

“We are always pleased to have the opportunity to take on community projects.”

Acting Inspector Renee Hanrahan wanted the station to join the festive spirit with some decorations, whilst helping a great cause.

“The Men’s Shed provides a fantastic opportunity for social inclusion and community engagement,” Acting Inspector Hanrahan said.
Irish Men's Shed Association takes out a top honour at GSK Ireland Impact Awards

The Irish Men's Sheds Association has been honoured with a GSK Ireland Impact Award.

The awards, distributed by the Irish arm of the global healthcare giant, recognise Ireland's unsung healthcare heroes, who make a real difference to health and wellbeing in their communities.

The awards ceremony took place at Dublin's Royal College of Physicians, and saw five charities conferred with GSK Ireland Impact Awards, while a further five charities were named as runners-up.

The judging panel was chaired by Roger Connor, President Global Manufacturing & Supply, GSK, and included a wealth of experience and expertise from the worlds of business, healthcare, politics and the charity sector.

Speaking on the night, Connor commented on the exceptionally high standard of the nominated charities. Catherine Byrne TD, Ireland's Minister of State with responsibility for health promotion, paid tribute to the impact of men's sheds on families and communities throughout Ireland:

“[Men's sheds have] taken men from communities who never were involved with groups, they've got together with other groups of men, and through their interactions – just by talking, just by using their abilities, whether they were carpenters or plumbers – has changed their lives, and has changed the communities they live in.”

Accepting the award, Edel Byrne of the Irish Men's Sheds Association thanked GSK Ireland on behalf of the men's sheds movement, and paid tribute to men's sheds members throughout the country.

“When men engage with sheds, it's not just they who benefit,” said the association's Health & Wellbeing Coordinator.

“The impact ripples throughout families and communities. We're incredibly grateful and privileged to receive this award, and we look forward to working with all tonight's winners and nominees to make Ireland better.”

The award caps off a successful year for the Irish Men's Sheds Association, which saw the number of sheds in Ireland rise to over 400, as well as the launch of a several new initiatives, such as Sheds for Life, the Malehealth.ie website (supported by the Australian Men's Shed Association) and its new national Shed Support Volunteer programme.
Dementia Australia offering community engagement grants

Dementia Australia is currently offering 20 grants of $15,000 each to support Australian community and not-for-profit organisations to assist in the development of local dementia-friendly community activities.

Grants will be administered via an expression of interest process. Guidelines providing information about the requirements for the funding and the EOI are available on the Dementia Friendly Communities Hub at www.dementiafriendly.org.au/community-grants.

**TIMEFRAMES AND DELIVERABLES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expressions of interest open</td>
<td>November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressions of interest close</td>
<td>24 January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressions of interest reviewed (including work plan), assessed and</td>
<td>31 January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>successful recipients informed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts provided for signature and projects commence</td>
<td>From February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project update/story for inclusion on DFC Resource Hub due</td>
<td>June – August 2018 (agreed and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>confirmed via contract)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft status report including updated work plan due</td>
<td>31 May 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project funding finishes</td>
<td>30 June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final status report including updated work plan due</td>
<td>31 July 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expressions of interest close on 24 January 2018. Visit www.dementiafriendly.org.au to find out more.
In 2018, we want to hear from you!

The Shedder newsletter will move to a quarterly publication in 2018, but we’ll have more ways and more room to share the stories and information you want to hear!

Send us your stories, activities and events that you'd like share with the Men's Shed community.

Email us at amsa@mensshed.net with the details (and photos too!) so we can get in touch to plan where and when we can share your story.

You can also find us on Facebook to stay up to date with daily information and shed news. Search ‘Australian Men’s Shed Association’ and like or follow our page.

Protecting members’ information

We have become aware of Men’s Sheds being approached by third parties to update contact details provided to them by the Australian Men’s Shed Association.

In line with our Membership Policy and the Privacy Act, AMSA does not pass on shed contact details that are not publicly available on our website (which includes shed address, contact name and contact phone number only).

We will always communicate on behalf of preferred suppliers and partner organisations using the contact details that you provide directly to us.

If you are in doubt of anyone requesting information on our behalf, please don't hesitate to contact us for verification.