

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Men's Shed Association

16 December 2022

Alloggio Newcastle Beach Hotel, 21 Parnell place Newcastle NSW, 11am

Attendees: Paul Sladdin (Chairman) Bill Clifford (Gulgong Men's Shed, AMSA Board) Helen Barker (AMSA Board) ,Bob Foxford (Raymond Terrace Men's Shed, AMSANSW), Ian Tooke (Blayney Men's Shed, AMSANSW),Bob Lavington (Cairns Mens Shed), Allan Reid (Nepean Mens Shed), Dan Preston (Bayway Mens Shed), Graeme Bennet (Bayway Mens Shed), Greg Newell (Harrington Mens Shed), Bill Burges (Harrington Mens Shed) Rowan Edney (Harrington Mens Shed)

Zoom: Barry Cheales (Buderim Men's Shed),

Apologies: Batlow Men's Shed, Cardwell Shed Incorporated, Griffith Shed for Men Incorporated, Mooroolbark

Men's Shed, St Clair & District Men's Shed, Whittlesea Men's Shed

AMSA Staff: David Helmers (CEO), Melissa White, Mark Lilly, Emma Bredenhann, Tony Wyld

Auditor: Martin Matthews (AMSA Auditor, PKF Lawler)

Meeting commenced at 11:00am

Agenda Item		
1	Apologies	
	Castlemaine Men's Shed	
	Howlong Men's Shed	
	Cessnock mens Shed	
	Busselton Men's Shed	
2	Proxies Held by the Chair	
	Arana Hills Mens Shed	Manilla Mens Shed
	Batlow Mens Shed Inc	Margaret River mens Shed
	Bega Mens Shed Inc	Mens Shed Narellan Inc
	Berrigan Men's Shed Inc	Millmerran Mens Shed Inc
	Biggenden Men's Shed Inc	Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed
	Branxton Greta Mens Shed	Narrabri Men's Shed Inc
	Brunswick Junction Mens Shed Inc	Nowra mens Shed Inc
	Bunurong Men's Shed	Oakdale Mens Shed
	Camden Men's Shed	Owen Community Shed
	Central Coast Community Shed Central Mountains Mens Shed	Pomonal Mens Shed Inc Pottsville & District Mens Shed
	Cessnock mens Shed	Ravenshoe Mens Shed Inc
	Cudal & District Men's Shed	Springbrook Mens Shed
	Dayboro Mens Shed	St Arnaud Community Mens Shed
	Defence Shed Port Adelaide	The Beechworth Men's Shed
	Erina Community Men's Shed	Thirroul Mens Shed
	Euroa mens Shed	Ulladulla Men's Shed Inc

Geelong East Mens Shed Grafton U3A Mens Shed

Grawin-Glengarry- Sheepyards Opal Fields

Men's Shed

Gympie Mens Shed

Harden Murrumbah Mens Shed

Hastings Mens Shed Herberton Mens Shed

Injune and District Men's Shed Inc Kenthurst Community mens shed

Kilmore District mens Shed

Kuranda Mens Shed

Urunga Mens Shed

Wallumbilla Community Menshed Inc Wamuran & District Men's Shed

Warwick Men's Shed Inc. Whittlesea Mens Shed Wood Glen Workshop

Wynyard Community Mens Shed

Yankalilla & Districts Community Men's Shed Inc

Yeppoon Men's Shed Denman Mens Shed

Attendance Via Zoom

Pittsworth & District Men's Shed Inc
Lara and District Mens Shed
George Cross Falcons
Arrunga Men's Shed
Vince Hantos
QMSA
Robert Collins
Mens Shed Narellan
Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed
Mark Brannigan

Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

3 Moved by Ian Tooke (Blaney Men's Shed)

Seconded by Bill Clifford (Gulgong Men's Shed)

Chairman's Report

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Although the world has not fully returned to normal, for the first time since the beginning of the COVID pandemic we have finally had a year without significant disruption.

The overall feedback from Sheds has been mixed. Where some are experiencing difficulties both financially and with low attendance numbers, others are reporting far more prosperous times and significant increases in attendance. There appears to be no rhyme or reason to these variations, but we believe that Sheds will continue to prosper, and as always the team here at AMSA are always here to help you.

With the launch of the National Male Health Policy in 2010 the AMSA was funded through the department of Health as a unity model organisation, a structure that has a centralised core service provision that eliminates the expenses of duplication over multiple levels of administration. The initial funding agreement was for \$750,000 for Shed Support Services and \$250,000 National Shed Development Program (NSDP). Comparatively today AMSA now receives \$850,000 a year for Shed support and \$1,000,000 for the NSDP, despite or significant growth the funding to service this growth has only increase minimally.

AMSA have come a long way in 15 years, providing support and assistance to all Sheds regardless of membership as AMSA is funded to support all Sheds. In this lies the core of some issues, when AMSA was established no one had any idea that AMSA and Sheds would grow to where we are today, and to receive government funding was nothing but a extravagant dream tht seamed unreachable. So in establishing ASMA an Association format seemed logical to band the existing Sheds together.

However there are underlying issues, as per definition Associations are funded by the members for the services received, where AMSA support operations is solely funded by the federal government, not the members. The Federal government is who sets the terms, conditions and outcomes of the funding agreement and who AMSA reports to in accordance with the funding agreements. But AMSA members vote for Board members who may or may not bring the skills necessary to manage the affairs of such a large organisation. The members also vote on the audit report although it is not the members who fund these operations. Commissioned reviews have identified this problem, AMSA is



unlike any other organisation in this structure. If there is any governance weakness and obstacle that lies in front of AMSA in securing adequate government funding is the basis of Board appointment and accountability to members who are not financial contributors to the Association.

This year we have been back on the road and returned to a full calendar of events. Across the year AMSA staff have visited more than 250 Men's Sheds and we've hosted more than 30 events around the country.

It has been pleasing to see not only a sharp increase in the number of events but also an overall increase in the number of attendees. It seems everyone is enjoying getting out and meeting new Shedders and catching up with old friends. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the host Sheds and Regional Coordinators who helped us make 2022 our best year yet in events.

The 2022 Australian Men's Shed Association Annual General Meeting was held on 16 December. Part of the AGM process was the announcement of director election results, by our auditors (PKF) who were appointed as the returning office for votes:

Michael Reddan was successful in Queensland;

Trevor Dobbyn was successful in Victoria; and

The position for Western Australia was unopposed with Trevor Gorey appointed to the Board.

We thank John Greatrex (Queensland) for his interest in joining the AMSA Board and acknowledge the contributions of Stuart Marshall (Victoria) during his tenure on the Board. We look forward to welcoming Michael, Trevor D and Trevor G whom will take office at the first Board meeting of 2023.

2022 Highlights

The 9th National Men's Shed Gathering was held in Albury (NSW) – an exceptional few days with a large number of Men's Sheds represented. Thanks go to our supporters Fair Dinkum Builds, Uncle Tobys, Black Dog Ride, CRC Industries and Healthy Male for helping us make this a valuable and affordable few days for Shedders to come together.

We tried and tested a variety of event formats throughout this year with some great learnings on how we can continue to add value to the momentum and sustainability of the Shed movement.

The 2022 National Men's Shed Awards recognised outstanding Men's Sheds and Shedders. Congratulations again to Wodonga Men's Shed (Shed of the Year) and other recipients.

With the support of Black Dog Ride, we launched our 'Shed Mates' Shedder wellbeing initiative. To acknowledge the support of the Black Dog Riders, with the help of Alice Springs Men's Shed we held a big BBQ as part of the Black Dog Ride 'Ride to the Red Centre'. What was even more special, we captured an amazing drone shot of over 450 motorcycle riders standing in the shape of our Shed Mates logo. This photo (right) is showcased on your 2023 AMSA Membership Certificate.

John Paul Young returned for a second year hosting The Shed Wireless podcast (Series 4). With JPY at the helm, the podcast episodes bring together a great collection of special guests, interesting Shed stories and a fair bit of banter. If you haven't already, we encourage you to listen back to the episodes over summer. You can find all the details at www.mensshed.org/theshedwireless

This year witnessed a rebranding of AMSA, with a cornerstone of this being the delivery of our refurbished website. This has improved the functionality and made way for new features including the Member Portal and The Shed Shop. Our website continues to be the world's most visited website for Shed-related information.

The Regional Coordinator Initiative (funded by the Australian Government Department of Health & Aged Care) has provided support to Men's Sheds in each state and territory. We have had very positive feedback from Sheds across NSW/ACT and SA/NT in regards to our implementation of this initiative.

As a flagship activity with our long-standing partner Uncle Tobys, this year a record 433 *Spanner in the Works?* health checks were held over three days at Henty Machinery Field Days. This is delivered in partnership with Charles Sturt University Three Rivers Department of Rural Health and we look forward to expanding this program of health checks to other events and field days in 2023.

Celebrating 30 Years of Sheds in 2023

Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the beginnings of the Men's Shed movement. We'll be celebrating with a special series of events beginning in early 2023. We hope to see many Sheds involved in celebrations across this year – acknowledging this very special milestone and the impacts of Sheds since humble beginnings in regional South Australia (Goolwa) in 1993.

As always, we'll be out on the ground visiting Sheds throughout 2023. Please let us know when you're holding events (you can also add them to our new website Calendar), as we do our best to get involved.

With the AMSA Board ratifying our 2022-2024 Strategic Plan and organisation values we will continue to embed the strategic priorities into our everyday business strengthening the Shed movement and connecting Men's Shed communities for better male wellbeing and health.

Early next year we will again be asking for your formal feedback through the AMSA Member Survey. The survey is a great opportunity for us to collect a national snapshot of the composition of the Australian Men's Shed movement, as well as gain a deeper understanding of your needs and challenges.

Finally we thank you – our members – for your continued support in 2022. Next year is already shaping up to be a great one for Sheds.

We acknowledge and thank the AMSA staff for their efforts throughout the year. As you may not be aware, AMSA employs just ten people who continue to provide excellent support to 1,257 Men's Sheds around Australia.

On behalf of the AMSA team, we wish you a safe and happy Christmas. Look out for your mates who might not have many people around them at this time.

5 Auditors report and questions for the Auditor Mr Martin Mathews

No Questions for the Auditor

6 Acceptance of Financial Statements

Moved Harrington Mens Shed

Seconded: Bayway Mens Shed

Resolution accepted

6 Questions for the Directors as advised by 30 November 2021

Question No 1

Received from the President of the Kuranda Mens Shed (North QLD) Richard Clews

AMSA was established on 22 January 2007 and to date has enjoyed national support my question is "where to from here". What do members of the board see as the future for AMSA given the challenges of current lifestyles, range of interests, time and cost of living constraints.

Through our affiliation with the Queensland Mens Shed Association we are keenly aware of the general lack of publicity aimed at generating interest in the community for the men's shed movement.



Response Notes

The future of AMSA is to continue to provide excellent service to Mens Sheds/ we have no control over personal interests and lifestyles and certainly cannot control the cost of living, all we can do there is to encourage Mens Sheds to keep their membership fees as low as possible and for us to provide the cheap insurance to help them.

The second part "Through our affiliation with the Queensland Mens Shed Association we are keenly aware of the general lack of publicity aimed at generating interest in the community for the men's shed movement".

However, it is noted within the question that AMSA was formed in 2007, this involved incorporating AMSA with the 30-50 Mens Sheds that existed then as Members. One of AMSA's biggest successes throughout the years has been the promotion of Mens Sheds themselves. From Mens Sheds being largely unknown to public, communities, corporate and especially governments, AMSA has worked with huge success in turning this into an organisation boasting 1200 plus Mens Sheds and the terminology "Mens Shed" itself being widely known and understood in the roles they play in community and Mens Health.

As an example previous to AMSA commencing, it was very difficult to obtain government funds to develop a Mens Shed, and very few politicians had any idea of the concept. Those Mens Sheds who had received government funds were always through alternative funding streams that were not specific to Mens Sheds. Today through AMSA's work we even have our own bipartisan friends of Mens Sheds group within the federal parliament.

AMSA successfully invests time and effort into publicity aimed at generating interest and positive community regard for the Men's Shed movement: This year alone

- 1. We have a CSA that runs on commercial and paid TV, which is played across the country and at prime time.
- 2. We always have a great deal of interest from media about Men's Shed activities
- 3. AMSA's social media channels and website receive heavy traffic (and positive feedback)
- 4. Some of our existing partnerships very successfully positively promote the Men's Shed community just two current examples Garage Sale Trail is an effort for grassroots promotion (even an opportunity for community members to visit the shed!), RM Williams Father's Day campaign was a huge success

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However we unclear on how "Through our affiliation with the Queensland Mens Shed Association we are keenly aware of the general lack of publicity aimed at generating interest in the community for the men's shed movement" relates to the question and we have requested clarification from the Kuranda Mens Shed with no response received.

Question No 2

Received from Cairns Mens Shed (North QLD) Jim Melvin Secretary

"Considering how society is changing and becoming more inclusive does the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) as the lead organisation for Men's Sheds nationally, have a policy regarding the admission to Men's Sheds of women or those women identifying as men?

If there is no current policy, as the national body, will AMSA provide to members the legal position regarding such membership applications? "

Response

Again this is more an operational question. Short answer is no, AMSA does not have a policy on this and I also refer to that all Sheds are independent and AMSA has no control of Shed operations or membership.

Also this question is quite complex to answer from a legal perspective without a given scenario. Some Sheds have exemptions under the anti-discrimination ACT that may have impact on this, some Sheds have DGR status that also impacts their membership processes and all States and Territories have differing antidiscrimination ACT's, so to give a broad legal advice without knowing the unknown within the scenario is impossible. Maybe we can give a more detailed answer if more information is provided to our operations team.

Bill Lavington from Cairns Mens Shed was present and informed the meeting that the Shed owns their property and has now received an exemption to have Male only members.

Questions from the floor

Harrington Mens Shed: due to the increasing effects of recent natural disasters such as bushfires and floods, can AMSA establish a centralised distribution point for tools and equipment to provide support to effected Sheds.

Response: the Chair stated that this is an operational mater and referred to the EO: each time a natural disaster occurs we are inundated with similar requests to provide assistance which is a great sign of the support that Mens Sheds have for each other and their communities. However in providing this king of support the logistical costs of storage and freight far exceed the cost of the donations. Often in these situations AMSA works with local area Sheds in providing assistance through donated equipment. This is something that can only be done at a local level, AMSA has previously had a web based system that allowed Sheds to post surplus equipment to buy sell or trade but this was not utilised. AMSA will continue to work at a local level in these situations.

8 Appoint PKF Auditors for 2022-2023 audit

Moved: Harrington Mens Shed

Seconded: Nepean Mens Shed

Resolution accepted

Announcement of Director election results for Queensland and Victoria announced by the auditors PKF who were appointed as the returning office for votes.

Michael Reddan was successful in Queensland over John Greatrex

Trevor Dobbin was successful in Victoria over Stuart Marshal

The position for Western Australia was unopposed with Trevor Gorey being appointed to the Board.

The Chair acknowledge the support of Stuart Marshall during his tenure on the Board

10 Meeting Close at 11.49am