

ABN: 84 144 866 277

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Men's Shed Association 14 December 2023

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

Attendees: Paul Sladdin (Chairman) Bill Clifford (Gulgong Men's Shed, AMSA Board) Ian Tooke (Blayney Men's Shed, AMSANSW), Greg Purcell (Wallangarra- Jennings Mens Shed), Dennis Chandler (Denman Mens Shed) John Young, Tony Hayward (Raymond Terrace Mens Shed), Ian Yager (Hallidays Point/ Manning Mens Shed), Luke Clifton (AMSA Board) Trevor Gorey (AMSA Board) John Paul Young (Guest, Life Member Toronto 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)

**AMSA Staff:** David Helmers (CEO), Melissa White, Mark Lilly, Emma Bredenhann, Marty Leist, Stuart Torrance.

Auditor: Martin Matthews (AMSA Auditor, PKF Lawler)

Meeting commenced at 11:00am

Agenda Item	
1	Apologies
	Burrum District Community Mens Shed Inc NSW Circular Head Men's Shed Inc NSW Griffith Shed for Men Inc NSW Killarney Community Men's Shed QLD Maddington Men's Community Shed WA Waverley Community Men's Shed Inc NSW
2	Proxies Held by the Chair
	Albury Mens Shed NSW Arana Hills Men's Shed NSW Balranald Mens Shed NSW Barham Koondrook Mens Shed VIC Beechworth Men's Shed VIC Bega Men's Shed NSW Bellbowrie Moggill Community Men's Shed QLD Berrigan Men's Shed NSW Albury Mens Shed NSW Arana Hills Men's Shed NSW Balranald Mens Shed NSW Barham Koondrook Mens Shed VIC Beechworth Men's Shed VIC Beechworth Men's Shed VIC Bega Men's Shed NSW

Bellbowrie Moggill Community Men's Shed QLD

Berrigan Men's Shed NSW

Canowindra Men's Shed NSW

Central Coast Community Shed TAS

Central Highlands Community Men's Shed TAS

Cessnock Men's Shed And Garden Inc NSW

Circular Head Men's Shed TAS

Coffs Coast Railway Modellers NSW

Colac Men's Shed VIC

Coolamon Men's Shed NSW

Corryong Men's Shed VIC

Cumnock Men's Shed NSW

Derwent Valley Men's Shed TAS

Donald Men's Shed VIC

Eden Men's Shed NSW

Edgewater Village Mens Shed QLD

Erina Community Men's Shed NSW

Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild Incorporated NSW

Forbes Community Menshed NSW

Forest Lake Men's Shed QLD

Forster Tuncurry Men's Shed Inc NSW

Furneaux Islands Community Shed TAS

Gilgandra Men's Shed NSW

Gosford Community Men's Shed NSW

Hawkesbury Valley Mens Shed Inc NSW

Horizons Village Mens Shed NSW

Howlong Men's Shed NSW

Kempsey Mcleay Men's Shed NSW

Kenthurst Community Mens Shed Inc NSW

Kilkivan Veteran's and Community Men's Shed Inc

Kyneton Men's Shed VIC

Latrobe Community Shed Inc TAS

Loxton Community Men's Shed SA

Macclesfield Mens Shed SA

Maleny and District Men's Shed QLD

Mandurah Men's Shed WA

Manildra Mens Shed NSW

Manilla Men's Shed NSW

Marlin Coast Men's Shed QLD

Merriwa Men's Shed NSW

Mt Black Men Shed Incorporated TAS

Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed VIC

Narooma Men's Shed Inc NSW

Narrandera Shed For Men NSW

Nepean Men's Shed NSW

Newcastle Mens Shed NSW

Nowra Men's Shed NSW

Peak Hill Men's Shed NSW

Penguin Men's Shed TAS

Pinjarra Community Men's Shed WA

Cygnet Mens Shed TAS

Rosefield Community Shed SA

Sorell Men's Shed TAS

St Clair & District Men's Shed NSW

Stanthorpe & District Men's Shed QLD

Streaky Bay Men's Shed SA

Tamworth Community Men's Shed NSW



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Terrigal Men's Shed Inc NSW

The Cove Men's Shed NSW

The Dover Community Workshop TAS

The Entrance Men's Shed NSW

Ross & Districts Community Men's Shed Inc TAS

Toronto Men's Shed NSW

Trundle Men's Shed NSW

Tweed Heads Community Men's Shed NSW

Upper Hunter Mens Shed NSW

Upwey Men's Shed VIC

Urunga Men's Shed NSW

Valhalla Men's Shed NSW

Westbury Men's Shed TAS

Wonthaggi Mens Shed VIC

Wynyard Community Men's Shed TAS

Young Men's Shed QLD

Zeehan Men's Shed TAS

## Proxies held by lan Tooke

Blayney Shire Community Men's Shed NSW

Cootamundra Men's Shed NSW

Cudal & District Men's Shed NSW

Oberon Men's Shed NSW

NSW Men's Shed Association

#### **Proxies held by Trevor Gorey**

The Menshed Geraldton WA

Showgrounds Community Men's Shed Inc WA

Mundaring Community Men's Shed WA

Wundowie & Districts Men's Shed WA

#### Proxies held by Ian Yager

Manning Great Lakes Woodworkers Inc NSW

Hallidays Point Men's Shed Inc NSW

#### **Proxies held by Bill Clifford**

Jervis Bay Community & Men's Shed NSW

#### Attendance Via Zoom

Robert Collins Men's Shed Spring Hill Maurice Jones Penguin Mens Shed

Neil Sperring South Canberra Veterans Shed

Robert Matysiak South West Sydney (Bonnyrigg), NSW

Sean Hames Laratinga Community Shed

Chris Blignaut Noosa

Brian Durrant 2322 Men's Shed

Robert Thomas Longford Men's Shed & Associates (inc)

Louis Vorstermans Cooma

Phil King Laurieton Mens Shed

Ken Reither Gisborne

Keith O'Brien Midland Mens Shed

Kelvin Fahey Nimmitabel Men's Shed Inc

Des Askin Steve Jones Community Men's Shed

Mick Kidd Boyne Tannum Men's Shed

Barry Laubsch Murray Bridge

Jim Weymouth Lara and District Men's Shed

Tim Cross Tom Price

Phil Neville Wynnum Manly Mens Shed Rowan EDNEY Harrington Mens Shed Inc

Kevin Weik Northmead Community Mens Shed

Biljana Apostolova Gadens Lawyers James Birnie Gadens Lawyers

#### Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

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

Seconded by John Young (Raymond Terrace Men's Shed)

## Chairman's Report

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It is with some sadness and glee that my time has Chair of the AMSA has come to an end after 6 years. All of our efforts have been consolidated within the most recent review on the governance of the AMSA. This review was instigated by the Minister of Health and funded by the Federal Department of Health as a response to a number of complaints received by the Minister from a disenfranchised few.

The review found that besides of all AMSA operations being aligned with the terms of the funding agreement that the AMSA's governance was "largely aligned with best practice standards and fit for purpose", nowhere in the review dose it state that AMSA needs to consider changing our constitution to present a unified mens shed movement. However the report dose recommend that the AMSA establish Memorandums of Understanding with all State based mens shed associations to maintain a unified movement. As a result of this recommendation the AMSA has now completed this process and a MoU exists between AMSA and each State Association. The MoU's signed with the Tasmanian Mens Shed Association, the Victorian Mens Shed Association, the Queensland Mens Shed Association and Mens Sheds of WA, have all expressed a review of the constitution that removes the ability of Mens Sheds to directly nominate and vote for elected directors and replace it with a system where State Associations will directly appoint a Director to the Board of the AMSA. As a result of this the Board of AMSA has agreed to review the current constitution in the new year, however I do stress that all Members will have a voice in this process before any recommendations are to proceed to a resolution at a Special General Meeting that will be required to make any such changes. I originally become involved with mens sheds all those years ago through my commitment and belief in community support, in this time I have seen Mens Sheds as well as AMSA grow from nothing to where we are today. Unfortunately over the past six years as my time as chair out of the 100,000 plus men that are involved in Sheds, no more than 20 individuals have taken up a considerable amount of my time and AMSA resources. Behind me I have asked to have this photo put up of Tintinara Mens Shed that I recently visited, this photo captures the true spirit of Mens Sheds. Tintinara has a population of only 277 people and in a town where even the Pub is only open a few days a week, the Shed is a central hub of the community. They sell their wares to the locals and passes through to remain viable, it is a Shed that I loved and this is what I will miss about Mens Sheds, not the 20 individuals that have made it difficult.

The heartbeat of the AMSA is the staff, these people give a hundred percent and more, they don't clock off 24/7. As an example, Mel will answer the phone anytime, the staff have made what AMSA is today and must be valued and our staff certainly deserve to be subject to the pursuance of these agitators. The newly applied Regional coordinator program has made a significant difference in our ability to support Sheds on the ground and I hope that the funding continues for this worthwhile program.

Since AMSA was first funded by the government in 2010 there has been next to no increase in this funding despite our significant growth and achievements. This in turn mean that there has been no increase in our ability to pay our staff more. Therefore the AMSA Board has approved that there will be an additional five percent allocated from self-generated funds to support staff costs.

I have made many good friendships during my time with the AMSA, friendships that I will maintain, finally would like to thank the efforts of everybody involved in keeping AMSA going over the years, you the members or board and especially our staff. Thank you.



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# 5 Auditors report and questions for the Auditor Mr Martin Mathews

Question in writing received from Mr Ian Yager

### QUESTION FOR THE TREASURER - AGM 2023 ACCOUNT ITEM 15 (2023)

**Introduction**: AMSA's Financial Statement for the year ending 2022 noted at item 14 (page 22) under "Other Liabilities" totaling \$2,189,399, a sum of \$107,898 as "Payable to NSW Association". The figure for the year ending 2021 by comparison was \$35,267 AMSA's Financial Statement for the year ending 2023 noted at item 15 (page 19) "Other Liabilities" totaling \$1,676,229, with a sum of \$61,401 described as "Other deferred income". There is no reference to the previous liability "Payable to NSW Association".

**Question:** Can the treasurer please explain:

- 1. what item 15 in the 2023 financials (page 19) means;
- 2. what is the explanation for the change in terminology;
- 3. why AMSA may hold a liability in respect of the NSW Association; and
- 4. Why AMSA does not hold a liability with respect to any other state association.

#### Response

The Deferred Income amount in the 2023 accounts is the same liability but has been described differently in the 2023 accounts to 2022. The liability represents monies held on trust by AMSA on behalf of the NSW Association. Because the monies are not AMSA's and are held on behalf of NSW, a liability to NSW is recognised. A corresponding asset (bank account) is also recognised so there is no net impact on AMSA's balance sheet as result. No other State Association has requested this service.

No other Questions for the Auditor

#### 6 Acceptance of Financial Statements

**Moved** Trevor Gorey (The Menshed Geraldton)

**Seconded:** John Young (Raymond Terrace Mens Shed)

Resolution accepted

#### 7 Questions for the Directors as advised by 30 November 2023

**Question No 1** Received from the president of Jarvis Bay Mens Shed in relation to a previous complaint lodged with the AMSA.

A written response as sent outlying that the nature of the complaint was a domestic issue and not within the AMSA's scope of authority or complaints procedures.

8	Appoint PKF Auditors for 2023-2024 audit
	Moved: Dennis Chandler (Denman Mens Shed
	Seconded: John Young (Raymond Terrace Mens Shed)
	Resolution accepted
9	Announcement of Director election results for New South Wales/ Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, South Australia/Norther Territory
	announced by the auditors PKF who were appointed as the returning office for votes.
	lan Tooke was successful over Bill Clifford and Ian Yager in NSW/ACT
	David Sean was successful over Jimmy Bell in TAS
	The position for SA/NT was unopposed with Barry Laubsch being reappointed to the Board.
10	Questions from the Floor
	There were no questions from the floor.
11	Meeting Closed at 11.32am