PROGRAM: 11th AMSA National Men's Shed Gathering

Tuesday 24 March – Thursday 26 March 2026

Royal on the Park, Brisbane QLD

Dress code: Smart casual – wear your shed shirt!

Day 1 – Tuesday 24 March

8.30am – 9.30am **Registration** | *Southern Cross Pavilion*

9.30am – 4.00pm

Shed Tours

******Delegates will be required to pre-select their Shed Tour preference. This will be made available closer to the event date.*

Tour 1: Tackle

This tour packs plenty into one big day out. Visit local sheds, enjoy good hospitality along the way, and finish with a behind-the-scenes tour of Suncorp Stadium.

Stop 1: Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed

Start the day at Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed, a well-established shed known for its strong sense of community and wide range of activities. Enjoy morning tea, look around the shed, and hear how they do things in their patch.

Stop 2: Mount Gravatt Men's Shed

Next stop is Mount Gravatt Men's Shed, where you'll be treated to lunch and tour of a large, well-established shed with strong community connections. Refuel, have a wander and enjoy a few good yarns with the locals.

Stop 3: Suncorp Stadium

Wrap up the day with a behind-the-scenes tour of Suncorp Stadium, one of Australia's great sporting venues. Go beyond the stands and see parts of the stadium most fans never get to, as you explore the history, scale and inner workings of this icon. A fitting finale to a big day out on the Tackle tour.

Tour 2: Tools

If you like making, fixing and building things, this one's for you. The Tools tour is all about getting hands-on inspiration, visiting active sheds and Carbatec – The Home of Woodworking.

Stop 1: Carina Men's Shed

Start the day at Carina Men's Shed, a busy suburban shed with a strong focus on hands-on projects and practical skill-sharing. Enjoy morning tea, a tour of the space and see how a productive, project-driven shed operates day to day.

Stop 2: Carbatec (Brisbane Flagship Store)

Step inside Carbatec's new flagship store and enjoy what can only be described as a woodworker's wonderland. Purpose-built and packed with tools, machinery and clever workshop solutions, this impressive new space showcases the latest gear alongside expert advice and inspiration.

Stop 3: Wynnum-Manly & Districts Men's Shed

Finish the day at Wynnum–Manly Men's Shed with lunch on arrival, followed by a shed tour and time to relax and network. Set in a coastal community, this active shed is known for its strong membership, wide range of projects and community engagement. Enjoy good food and look around the shed with plenty of time to swap stories.

Tour 3: Trains & Trams

All aboard! Trains & Trams combines shed visits with a healthy dose of transport history. Expect fascinating collections, passionate volunteers, hands-on sheds and stories from the tracks.

Stop 1: Australian Model Railway Association Mens Shed

Start the day with a visit to the Australian Model Railway Association Mens Shed, where sheds and railways come together. This unique shed brings blokes together through a shared passion for model railways, combining craftsmanship, creativity and problem-solving.

Stop 2: Brisbane Tramway Museum + Ferny Grove Men's Shed and Ferny Grove Women's Shed

This action-packed stop combines transport history with great shed hospitality. Enjoy a tour of the Brisbane Tramway Museum before sitting down to a shared lunch hosted by Ferny Grove Men's Shed and Ferny Grove Women's Shed, who both operate from the museum precinct. It's a great example of sheds working alongside heritage organisations – and alongside each other – to create a welcoming, vibrant community space.

5.30pm – 8.30pm

Welcome Reception & Trade Show

Avro Bristol Room

Unwind after your first day at the Gathering at the Welcome Reception & Trade Show. Start with pre-reception drinks in the Southern Cross Pavilion before moving into the Avro Bristol room to catch up with mates, browse a range of stallholder displays, and enjoy canapés, drinks and live music from the Coolum Men's Shed band.

Welcome to Country: Refiti Tovi
Special Address: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland
Co-Host Welcome Address: Lawrie Bingham, Queensland Men's Shed Association

carbatec THE HOME OF WOODWORKING

Day 2 – Wednesday 25 March

8.00am – 9.30am

Shedder's Big Breakfast

Area 4 Entrance Lawn, Brisbane City Botanic Gardens

Join your shed mates at the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens. Grab a bacon & egg roll with a coffee by The Feel Good Foodie and enjoy entertainment by the Queensland Police Pipes & Drums Band.

Trilogy Country Care

10.00am – 11.15am

Plenary 1: Welcome

Catalina Dehavilland Room

Join us to officially open the 11th AMSA National Men's Shed Gathering and welcome shedders from across Australia to Brisbane. This opening plenary will set the scene for the days ahead, with formal welcomes, reflections on the shed movement, and an update from the AMSA Chair. It's a chance to come together, recognise the strength of the shed community, and kick off the Gathering.

Chairman's Address: *Luke Clifton, Australian Men's Shed Association* | **Sponsor Address:** *Richard Gray, Fair Dinkum Builds*

11.15am – 11.45am

Morning Tea | *Southern Cross Pavilion*

11.45am – 12.45pm

Session 1

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
1.1 SNAPSHOTS: Building Community

Catalina Dehavilland Room

Men's Sheds are powerful community builders. This fast-paced session shares practical examples of shed initiatives that are strengthening connections, creating purpose and making a real local impact. From innovative programs to grassroots partnerships, discover ideas that extend beyond the workshop walls – and take inspiration back to your own shed.

ShedMusic Festival
Bruce Uhlhorn, Convenor - ShedMusic 2026
Bob Barford, Music Coordinator - Coolum Men's Shed

Shout a Mate a Meal
Steve Wiseby, IC Care

WELLBEING & HEALTH
1.2 Wills & Leaving a Legacy

Avro Room

Getting your affairs in order is a big part of looking after yourself and the people around you. This straight-talking session covers why having a will matters, what can happen if you don't have one, and how leaving a legacy can support your family, your shed and your community. Practical, respectful and easy to understand – it's about peace of mind and doing right by those who matter.

Michelle Gomes, Evaheld

SHED DEVELOPMENT
1.3 WORKSHOP: Sorting Stuff Out – Practical Conflict Skills for Sheds

Bristol Room ** Limited numbers*

Let's be honest – disagreements happen in sheds. This hands-on workshop is about sorting issues before they blow up and knowing what to do when things get tense. You'll pick up practical skills like listening properly, keeping tempers in check, choosing the right words and calming situations down.

Dr John Barletta, QMSA/Maleny Men's Shed

12.45pm – 1.30pm Lunch | *Southern Cross Pavilion*

1.30pm – 3.00pm

Session 2

SHED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Leadership & Culture: The Good, Bad & Reality

Catalina Dehavilland Room

Being a shed leader can be rewarding... and frustrating. This straight-up discussion dives into real day-to-day challenges of keeping a shed running well. From building a positive culture and sorting out governance, to planning who steps up next, we won't shy away from the tricky stuff. Expect honest talk about getting members onto committees, looking after tools and shared spaces, and dealing with the issues that quietly cause tension in many sheds.

Building a Positive Culture
Prof Alex Haslam, School of Psychology UQ

Governance 101
Paul Sladdin

Panel:
Prof Alex Haslam, School of Psychology UQ
Paul Sladdin
David Helmers, Australian Men's Shed Association

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2.2 SHED SHOWCASE: Working with Young People

Avro Room

There's a growing number of sheds are finding positive ways to connect with young people in their communities. This Shed Showcase highlights real examples of how sheds are working with young blokes through mentoring, skill-sharing and intergenerational activities. Hear what's working on the ground, the benefits for young people and shedders alike, and what sheds have learned along the way about creating safe, meaningful and rewarding connections across generations.

Mentoring at Newcastle Men's Shed
Wayne Grant, Newcastle Men's Shed

Young Shedmen
Ken Reither, Gisborne Men's Shed

The intergenerational Evidence
Professor James A Smith, Flinders University

SHED DEVELOPMENT

2.3 WORKSHOP: Building Community Connections & Visibility

Bristol Room * *Limited numbers*

Every shed has people out there who would love to connect – the challenge is finding them. This practical workshop focuses on identifying the people, groups and organisations in your community that can support and grow your shed. You'll explore simple ways to raise your shed's profile, get involved in community activities and show the value sheds bring to local life. The session includes a case study from Garage Sale Trail, showing how shared community activities can build connections and help sheds be seen and valued.

Finding Your People
Kate Baartz, Baartz & Co

Garage Sale Trail: A Community Connector & Profile Booster
Barbara Gill, Garage Sale Trail

3.00pm – 3.30pm Afternoon Tea | *Southern Cross Pavilion*

3.30pm – 4.30pm

Session 3

WELLBEING & HEALTH

3.1 Digital World Safety: Staying Safe Online

Catalina Dehavilland Room

Scams and online risks are part of everyday life now, and sheds aren't immune. This session focuses on practical ways to stay safe online, spot common scams and know what to do if something doesn't feel right. It also includes a shed-based case study showing how one shed has helped its members – and the wider community – protect themselves online through simple, shared learning.

Dr David Cooke, Edith Cowan University

Act Now, Stay Secure
Kate Bufton, Brunswick Junction Community Men's Shed

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

3.2 SNAPSHOTS: Sheds Abroad

Avro Room

Men's Sheds are popping up in all corners of the globe, each shaped by its local community. This snapshot session shares quick insights from the UK, Japan and New Zealand, highlighting what's working, what's different, and what lessons Australian sheds might pinch and adapt at home. A practical look at how the shed idea travels.

Research Perspectives: Men's Sheds in UK & Japan
Daniel Martin, Nottingham Trent University

Men's Sheds in NZ
David Broadhead, Menzshed NZ

SHED DEVELOPMENT

3.3 WORKSHOP: Storytelling 101

Bristol Room * *Limited numbers*

Every shed has a good story – the trick is knowing how to tell it. This hands-on workshop will help you shape a clear, simple story about what your shed does and why it matters. Using real shed case studies, you'll learn how to create a strong "elevator pitch" and make a practical plan for sharing your story with your community, partners and supporters. You'll leave with tools you can start using straight away.

Kate Baartz, Baartz & Co
Marty Leist, Australian Men's Shed Association

Day 3 – Thursday 26 March

6.30am – 7.30am

The Man Walk

Kick-start your day with The Man Walk – a relaxed 45-minute walk departing from the front of the venue in collaboration with The Man Walk - Brisbane. Pop on your joggers, get the blood pumping and enjoy a no-pressure chance to walk, talk and connect with other blokes in a positive, supportive space where it's okay to have a yarn, listen, or ask for help if you need it.

8.30am – 10.00am

Plenary 2: The Role of The Everyday Bloke in Men's Health

Catalina Dehavilland Room

Men's health won't improve unless men themselves are part of the solution. This plenary brings together leading men's health voices to explore what really matters at a grassroots level for the health of Australia's men and boys. The discussion will focus on current priorities, what's making a real difference, and the role everyday blokes – especially older men – can play as mentors, role models and quiet leaders in their communities. It's a challenge to recognise the influence we already have, and to use it to help the next generation do better.

Panel Discussion: *Simon von Saldern, Healthy Male | Mary O'Brien, Are You Bogged Mate? | Cal Edwards, Talk2mebro*
Ride for Men's Sheds: *Alex Turner*

10.00am – 10.30am

Morning Tea | *Southern Cross Pavilion*

10.30am – 12noon

Session 4

SHED DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Who's Next? Attracting & Keeping Members

Catalina Dehavilland Room

Sheds don't stand still, and neither do the communities around them. Take a practical look at how sheds can attract new members and keep current ones engaged as times change. Explore different membership approaches, a wider mix of activities and simple initiatives that help sheds appeal to a broader range of people. The discussion will also consider future membership trends, competition for people's time, and how sheds can stay relevant without losing what makes them special.

Reimagining Men's Sheds
Liz Webster, SGS Economics & Planning

Shed Nights
Tim Kroehn, Australian Men's Shed Association

Panel:
Liz Webster, SGS Economics & Planning
Tim Kroehn, Australian Men's Shed Association
Noel Frappell, NSW Men's Shed Association

WELLBEING & HEALTH

4.2 SNAPSHOTS: Wellbeing That Works

Avro Room

Men's Sheds play an important role in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of the blokes who walk through the door. This snapshot session will showcase practical initiatives and programs being delivered in and through sheds that are making a real difference to shedders' wellbeing – both inside the shed and beyond.

In Practice
Dr John Barletta, QMSA/Maleny Men's Shed

What does the WHO do?
Rebecca Talbot, Men's Sheds of WA

Finishing Strong
Wendy Kennedy, Tasmanian Men's Shed Association

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4.3 ROUNDTABLE: Supporting a Culture of Access & Inclusion For People of All Abilities

Bristol Room * Limited numbers

More sheds are being asked to support people with different needs – and it doesn't always come with clear answers. This open, honest roundtable is a chance to talk through what welcoming and supporting members looks like in real life, including where the limits are. A case study from Willo's Men's Shed will share how they've worked with support services to achieve positive outcomes for young blokes, existing members and the shed. The conversation will also tackle the tricky bits: managing enquiries and referrals, knowing when a shed isn't the right fit and how to say no respectfully. Bring your questions, your experience and your reality – this is about learning from each other.

Beth Gow, Australian Men's Shed Association
Frank Pearce, Queensland Men's Shed Association
Paul Flaherty, Willo's Men's Shed

12noon – 1.00pm	Lunch | *Southern Cross Pavilion*
1.00pm – 2.30pm	**Session 5**

SHED DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Keeping The Doors Open, The Lights On & Members Safe

Catalina Dehavilland Room

Running a shed takes more than goodwill – it takes solid systems and smart decisions. This practical panel session focuses on the day-to-day realities of keeping sheds financially sound, well-managed and safe. Topics include building reliable income through fundraising, partnerships and grants, managing cash flow and reporting, understanding safety and risk, and using membership and accounting systems that suit your shed's size and capacity. Drawing on expertise from AMSA, insurance, accounting and finance, alongside on-the-ground shed experience, this session offers real-world insights to help keep your shed running strong.

David Helmers, Australian Men's Shed Association
Frank Pearce, Queensland Men's Shed Association
Sean McDermott, Everest Risk Group

WELLBEING & HEALTH

5.2 SHED SHOWCASE: Men's Health Initiatives in Action

Avro Room

Men's Sheds play a powerful role in supporting both physical and mental health. This Shed Showcase features three sheds sharing what they're doing on the ground to improve men's health, with real results for shedders and the wider community. From simple, practical initiatives to more structured programs, these case studies show how sheds are helping blokes stay connected, active and well – in ways that work.

Being Well
A/Prof (Adjunct) Craig Allingham, Buderim Men's Shed QLD
M.A.P. (Mobility Action Plan)
Dr Rod Edwards, Dayboro Men's Shed QLD
Focused Blokes
Gordon Cooper, Belconnen Community Men's Shed ACT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

5.3 WORKSHOP: Building Resilient Sheds

Bristol Room ** Limited numbers*

Disasters don't just affect homes – they affect sheds and the communities around them. This hands-on workshop helps sheds get better prepared for events like bushfires, floods, storms and other natural hazards. You'll be introduced to practical tools, guides and resources to strengthen shed buildings, improve safety and support community resilience. The session also includes a walkthrough of the Resilience Ratings App, a simple digital tool to help assess risks and identify practical steps to make your shed more resilient.

Colin Wood, Resilient Building Council

2.30pm – 3.00pm	Afternoon Tea | *Southern Cross Pavilion*
3.00pm – 4.30pm	**Plenary 3: Conference close – The Future of Community & Sheds**

Catalina Dehavilland Room

Conference Close: *David Helmers, Australian Men's Shed Association*
Keynote Speaker: *Mark Squirrell OAM* Brought to you by Everest Risk Group
Mark 'Squiz' Squirrell OAM has lived and worked in some of the world's most challenging environments, from conflict zones and humanitarian crises to the summit of Mount Everest. A former Australian Commando and international aid worker with the United Nations World Food Programme, Squiz brings powerful real-life stories of leadership, resilience and decision-making under pressure.

EVEREST RISK GROUP

6.30pm – 10.30pm

Shedder's Dinner & National Shed Awards **Additional ticket required*

Pre-Dinner Drinks in the Southern Cross Pavilion from 6.30pm with dinner from 7.00pm in Sir Charles Kingsford Smith Ballroom

We're ready to celebrate and recognise Sheds and all they do for you and your communities. Over a three-course dinner and drinks we'll present the 2026 National Men's Shed Awards and the Ted Donnelly Lifetime Contribution Award. Following formalities, enjoy a walk down memory lane with entertainment by John Paul Young in Stories & Song. *Dress code: Smart, tie optional.*