

# NEWSLETTER



*The Victorian Men's Shed Association is the Oldest Shed Support Organisation in the World*

**The VMSA is proud to have as patron,  
the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC**

## TOP STORY

### NEED A BOOK BOX?

Are you a booklover? Do you care about your community? Then, are you planning to start a free library? If you answered yes to all the questions, then contact Traralgon Men's Shed for help. (Details on Page 14)

## TOP NEWS

### SKY-HIGH POWER BILL!

High bills get the better of everyone. But who has been able to solve this problem? A recent study of electricity bills from different retailers by Yackandandah Men's Shed may be your saviour. (Page 8)

## TOP INITIATIVE

### GO RUN FOR KIDS!

If you are not running, you could simply volunteer for the Herald Sun/Transurban Run for the Kids and not only make a good use of your Sunday but also contribute. Interested? Check the details on Page 11.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

What a Statewide Gathering it was on 22 March! A lovely venue, an extraordinary line-up of enthusiastic speakers with insightful speeches and great interactions with the audiences. Read the details of the events and the takeaways from it on Pages 4 and 5.

*This Newsletter is emailed to a Representative of every Men's Shed in Victoria. Please print out a copy and distribute to members of your Shed.*

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## LIST OF VMSA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

### OFFICE BEARERS

President	Lindsay Oates	pres@vmsa.org.au	Mirboo North Shed
Vice President	Geoff Witmitz	vice@vmsa.org.au	Horsham Shed
Secretary	Bruce Ward	sec@vmsa.org.au	Ocean Grove Shed
Treasurer	Barry Watson	treas@vmsa.org.au	Heywood Shed

### COMMITTEE

Julian Sellers	j.sellers@vmsa.org.au	Inverloch Shed
Lou Sigmund	l.sigmund@vmsa.org.au	Benalla Shed
Steve Andrusiak	s.andrusiak@vmsa.org.au	Ballarat East

## PLEASE NOTE

The VMSA has received a number of queries and requests to find an avenue that sheds can easily list and advertise surplus items they have, that they wish to donate to other sheds, or to promote activities that the shed are involved in - such as market days, or fundraisers.

The VMSA has recently created and trialled a Facebook page, "VMSA Public Notices". This is now available for all sheds and shedders to join, and to place your ads and info on. Please note this is not the avenue if you wish to sell your surplus goods, it is only if you want to donate goods.

The VMSA now has a Buy/ Swap and Sell Page on its website for shedders to use.

## VMSA EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Hi Folks,

It's March already! 2019 is whizzing by!

The Victorian Men's Shed Association (VMSA) is your voice and has been advocating hard for the sheds at all levels of the government.

Please note that the VMSA website ([www.vmsa.org.au](http://www.vmsa.org.au)) is under renovation and is not letting members login.

The VMSA store has a whole lot of equipment, resources and material. Give me a call if you are in need of any.

The VMSA Facebook page, VMSA Public Notices, is a great place to see what is happening in sheds around Victoria and the world. Do check out the page.

You can also register for our monthly newsletter on the website. Please note we are not intellectuals, and won't know if you are not receiving the newsletter every month. Also, let us know what is happening in your shed so we can update the same on the newsletter for everyone to read.

The VMSA Radio Show, Hangin' Out in the Men's Shed, can be heard around the world by live streaming the show. So, click on this link <http://3wbc.org.au/wp-content/plugins/mp3-jplayer/popout.php> to hear the show.

Some sheds will be getting their insurance renewed soon. We need to remind shedders that reviewing the insurance policies and their coverage, on an annual basis, is important. Sheds should have their Certificates of Currency handy during the period of their policy, and be fully aware of the coverage they are provided. Review the cost involved and the quality of the service provided by your insurer. There are many insurers in the marketplace and the VMSA currently recommends Gallagher Insurance as the best policy, service and cost of shed insurance.

Call their Advisor on 1800 316 432 or send an e-mail to [shedinsurance@ajg.com.au](mailto:shedinsurance@ajg.com.au). At the same time, check their website <http://info.ajg.com.au/mens-shed> for any details you may need.

The VMSA has a number of training sessions coming up through this year. We will be conducting them both at our office at 173-175 Ordish Road Dandenong South and regionally around Victoria. The topics will include OH&S, fund raising and good shed governance.

Please let us know if there are any topics you would like us to cover in our trainings.

During the year our Field Officer, Phil Keily, will be out and about providing direct assistance and support to sheds. He is available on his mobile (0484 867 000) to assist with your needs. Get in touch with him if/when you need.

The VMSA has a very busy office and we are looking for some administrative support. If you can assist or have someone who would benefit from work experience at a large Community Organisation, please contact me on 0408 465 228.

We are now accepting Expressions of Interest in the 2019 roll out of defibrillators. Get in touch at [vmsa@vmsa.org.au](mailto:vmsa@vmsa.org.au).

The VMSA has secured a Preferred Partnership with Jeep Australia and we have been inundated with applications for the extraordinary discounts available on their vehicles. Combining the National Fleet Discount with the Preferred Partnership discount saves thousands of dollars. Check it out on our website.

**Ric Blackburn**  
**VMSA Executive Officer**  
**Email: [vmsa@vmsa.org.au](mailto:vmsa@vmsa.org.au)**



## VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When I started writing this piece, I wanted to write about what the future for our sheds holds and also the sheds' ongoing viability and sustainability, due to our growing numbers, both in terms of sheds - need for larger sheds and refurbishment - as well as changes that now appear in our programmes and requirements.

But I changed my mind after the Statewide Gathering that was held on 22 March, at the Meadows, Greyhound Victoria's facility at Broadmeadows. Also, an article that I read, titled "Tax Law Changes to Aid Sheds", aided in changing my mind. Further information on this subject will be included in the next newsletter.

Coming back to the gathering, I must say it was a success. A big thank you to Greyhound Victoria for providing the facility and enabling the VMSA to facilitate such an event with over 100 shedders and 40 sheds attending from around the state of Victoria. The gathering was hosted by the Hume Men's Shed and their President, Mike Newman, who extended a warm welcome to all those in attendance.

The speakers were excellent, inspiring and enthusiastic; many questions were asked of them.

Karen Hayes, CEO of Guide Dogs Victoria (GDV), spoke of her career history, her work and GDV's work and her involvement with the Melbourne Football Club. GDV is one of the most trusted charities in Australia. She also spoke about GDV Board's vision for the future due to advancements in technology and care for the blind.

Karen said, "We, as individuals, can make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others through our interest and involvement in our community, and sheds, if we wish to. Otherwise, we will be complacent and changes will not happen." She was an inspiring, enthusiastic speaker.

John Ernst, Project Manager - Safety Freight and South Gippsland Shire Council Safety Awareness Officer, spoke about older people driving and coping with technology, trucks, towing caravans and trailers. He showed a video of what happens when overweight caravans, with weight in the wrong place, are towing, overloaded vehicles and/or vehicles having the wrong tow ball and hitch. He talked about being aware of such matters and resources that can assist in knowing where to go for more such information, the impact of increasing accidents with caravans and

trailers due to weight, incorrect hitches, and speed. He commented on the lack of experience of some drivers in dealing with road conditions, large trucks and trailers on the roads.

John had an excellent display, both power point and videos, a display caravan and truck for demonstration of technology and tow ball weight, hitches and so on. His contact details will be updated on the VMSA website soon.

Phil Keily, VMSA's Field Officer, also spoke about his role, assisting VMSA's Executive Officer, Ric Blackburn, and sheds with information, addressing their issues or concerns and data collection from sheds.

Both Ric and Phil collect data from sheds so that it can be reported to the VMSA Committee and to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Social Scientist, David Pearce, chose to speak on the topic 'On the low down'. He addressed the issue of mental health. And also talked about the extensive work he is undertaking as a result of a grant from the Heywood Men's Shed to assist sheds and shedders.

There were a lot of giveaway tools and a raffle prize, kindly donated by Ozito Industries. The total value of the giveaways was estimated to be \$12,500. The VMSA is thankful to Ozito Industries.

Thanks to sia Abrasives for giving away sandpapers in all shapes and sizes for tools and for hand sanding. Its total value would be approximately \$10,000.

## VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED...

APL Healthcare displayed the easy portable satchel first aid kits; Chevingtools had a practical working workshop of metalcraft. The VMSA would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to both for their participation.

The VMSA is most grateful for the ongoing support of all of our sponsors and participants.

The question and answer session at the gathering, and the sharing of information and resources, with those attending the event, was very popular and well received by the attendees and participants.

The Shire of Hume and DHHS were well represented. The Minister, Luke Donnellan, apologised for not being able to attend the gathering. Instead, he will be visiting the Eltham Shed on Wednesday, 27 March.

A special thanks to the team who assisted in setting and cleaning up after the event, and Phil and Ric for their work towards organising the event.

Speaking of teams, Allan Davies from Ballarat East Community Men's Shed (BECS) has resigned from the VMSA Committee for personal reasons. To fill the vacancy, the VMSA went through an extensive process and appointed another BECS Committee member, Steve Andrusiak. Steve recently retired as an industrial and robotics engineer. He will complete Allan's term of office. Welcome aboard, Steve!

**Insurance:** Gallagher have advised that Dan James has resigned. The VMSA sincerely thanks Dan for his contribution and assistance to sheds and wishes him well. Chris Lethborg and Emma Keegan are taking on Dan's role. For your information, the Gallagher office phone numbers remain the same.

**Clusters:** Some new sheds have expressed interest in attending/having a get-together of sheds in their area. Information about setting up a cluster can be found on the VMSA website ([www.vmsa.org.au](http://www.vmsa.org.au)) under 'Complete Binder'. Furthermore, if you are organising a cluster meeting/event, we request you to share the details with the VMSA so that we put such information on our website for everyone to know (and attend).

The VMSA has discussed time and again that sheds appoint a person responsible for welfare or social contact.

This person will keep in touch with those who are ill, in hospital or need support in any way. This is also what sheds are about - "caring for a mate", and "talking to a mate". This also helps sheds make a real difference.

We welcome the new sheds who have joined the VMSA recently. The VMSA is continuing to grow with new sheds, participating members, new members and the ongoing diversity of programmes and interests of sheds.

There is also a growing cohort of men and women, across the state, in small communities and in the suburbs, who are starting to prepare for establishing a new shed. The VMSA is assisting such groups with information.

Finally, sheds continue to make a difference in men's lives in so many ways. Last week I received a thank you from the wife of a new shedder. A shedder from further away happened to meet this gentleman on the street, when visiting a friend in the hospital, and introduced him to a local shed. This helped the gentleman and his family. He is now grateful that he has developed a real interest and has friends at his shed.

Thank you again for your involvement in your shed and local communities. You are making a difference.



**Lindsay Oates**

**VMSA President 2018-19**

# VICTORIA LIVE FORUM

DELIVERED BY THE VICTORIA ALIVE PROJECT  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EASTERN VOLUNTEERS



## Disability Inclusion in Volunteering EASTERN METRO COMMUNITY FORUM

CREATING MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR ORGANISATIONS  
FOR VOLUNTEERS WITH A DISABILITY

THURSDAY 28 MARCH AT 9:30am - 12:45pm  
BOX HILL TOWN HALL - 1022 WHITEHORSE RD

- FREE OF COST -

VICTORIAALIVE.ORG.AU - EASTERNVOLUNTEERS.ORG.AU

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE AT: <http://www.ivvy.com.au/event/L4GSX2>

LIGHT LUNCH AND NETWORKING FROM 12:45pm

REGISTRATIONS OPEN AT 9am FOR A 9:30am START

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE AT: <http://www.ivvy.com.au/event/L4GSX2>



MC: Nicola Farray - Assistant Director Diversity and Community Capacity,  
Department of Health and Human Services

### Facilitators:



Pam Kennedy  
Director at Advise La Fin Consulting  
& Rainbow Tick Program at Rainbow  
Health Victoria



Vivienne Cunningham Smith  
CEO Eastern Volunteers

Attendees from organisations will have the opportunity to:

- Discuss the challenges and benefits the sector experiences around including volunteers with a disability
- Hear from people with lived experience of disability about their experience volunteering
- Learn how organisations can be more accessible and inclusive for volunteers with disability.
- Take action to improve the involvement of volunteers with disabilities

Who should attend:

- Volunteer managers, organisational managers, program co-ordinators and board members from:
- Volunteer-involving organisations
- Neighbourhood houses
- Men's Shed's
- Councils and community health organisations
- Other organisations with an interest in accessible and inclusive volunteering for people with a disability

Organisations from the following areas are encouraged to attend:

- Manningham
- Whitehorse
- Maroondah
- Yarra Ranges
- Murrindindi
- Mitchell
- Nillumbik
- Boroondara
- Dandenong
- Casey

FOR ALL EVENT ENQUIRIES, PLEASE EMAIL:

[alive@volunteeringvictoria.org.au](mailto:alive@volunteeringvictoria.org.au)

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE AT: <http://www.ivvy.com.au/event/L4GSX2>



## COME, JOIN 'ACTIVE APRIL'

Dear friends,

I write to invite you to join me for the 'Active April' initiative this year.

As you would know, one of the important things we can do as we age is be as healthy as possible. Anything we can do to make this fun and easy is great in my book.

The Premier's Active April encourages all Victorians to do 30 minutes of physical activity a day in April. It's free, fun and part of the Victorian Government's commitment to get more people moving. If you decide to sign-up, you can get access to free fitness support online, discounts, and special offers. There are some great prizes, too.

Many of you already work towards keeping yourself active and healthy. And the types of things you can log once you have registered are many and varied - gardening, walking, lawn bowls and more.

Here are four ways you can get involved:

1. **Join me by creating a team for your individual Men's Shed.**

Let's have a bit of healthy competition! If you create a team, I suggest you add "MS" to your team name so we can let you know how your team went throughout April. Visit [www.activeapril.vic.gov.au](http://www.activeapril.vic.gov.au) and click 'Register Today'.

2. **Promote Active April among your peers, friends and families.**

Take your pick of the resources you can download and print out here. (Link: <https://www.activeapril.vic.gov.au/about/promoting-active-april/>)

3. **Add your activities or events** that are open for others to join the Active April website. Just click 'Add Event' on the 'My Local' tab.

4. **Share your Active April videos, photos and comments with me on Facebook** at [@SeniorVicCommissioner](https://www.facebook.com/SeniorVicCommissioner/) (Link: <https://www.facebook.com/SeniorVicCommissioner/>) Use the hashtags #ActiveApril and #GetActivewiththeCommish.

I'll be posting on my social media pages about my Active April experiences, and I look forward to hearing from you and working with you to support Active April this year.

Yours sincerely,

Gerard Mansour

### COMMISSIONER FOR SENIOR VICTORIANS



Gerard Mansour is a passionate advocate for the rights and needs of older Victorians, with more than 25 years' experience working in the aged and wider community service sectors. He has contributed significantly to policy development and implementation for myriad services assisting senior Victorians.

## ELECTRICITY COST: SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why do all discussions about electricity cost talk about savings but never about the cost of a Kilowatt-hour (KWh) a unit? KWh is the real measure of use and daily connection charge.

Here is an illuminating exercise that demonstrated how users with the same retailers in the same town had variations of up to 20% in their costs.

Yackandandah Men's Shed's members - 15 of them - presented their most recent electricity bill for analysis.

The retailers included Red, Lumo, AGL, Momentum, Alinta and Tango, and Energy.

Following were the findings before Pay-on-Time discounts were applied -

- The peak KWh cost varied between 26.8c and 47.64c. **Difference = 77%**
- The off-peak KWh cost varied between 12.57c and 23c. **Difference = 50%**
- The daily connection charge stood at a low of 99c and a high of \$1.33 per day. **Difference = 34%**

The surprising thing was that members with the same retailer had cost variations of more than 20% for the same units, same discounts, in the same town!

The minimum discount for Pay-on-Time was 0% and the maximum was 44%. We then applied GST and discounts to each of the charges the final figures were -

- Peak-time KWh charge varied between 23.06c and 44.9c. **Average = 31.2c**
- Off-peak KWh charge varied between 11.24c and 21.77c. **Average = 15.6c**
- Daily KWh charge varied between 77c and \$1.47. **Average = \$1.03**

As most members were receiving the government concession, this was not applied.

### WHAT DOES THAT TELL US?

Knowing that all retailers have the same wholesale generation at a maximum cost of about 10c/KWh and all have the same poles and wires supplier costs (all Ausnet in our region about 12c/KWh), the variations can only be

*“Talk to retailers who offer a high Pay-on-Time discount, low cost per KWh. If you are a low KWh user - as you may use solar - then ask for a lower daily rate.”*

attributed to retailers' margins. As retailers offer different rates, they obviously have discretion at the time of offering a package.

Therefore, you need to talk to your / a retailer who offers a high Pay-on-Time discount and low cost per KWh. Also, if you are a low KWh user (because you may be using solar power) then ask for a lower daily rate. High users should check whether they are using more peak KWh than off-peak or vice-versa and ask for rates accordingly.

Simply put, look at your rates and do the math on what you are paying for.

### CONCLUSION

This analysis enabled many members to call their suppliers and ask for better deals based on their use/need. Others just changed to a retailer that offered better rates based on our detailed spreadsheet.

It is difficult to see how any Government can reduce power prices by more than a few cents off generation or poles and wires, as it is the retailers who are responsible for the differences in final cost. So, shedders, do the exercise in your town and give your members a choice of reduced power bills.



## JEEP OFFERS FLEET DISCOUNT TO VMSA

Jeep Australia are offering discounts on their cars through their Preferred Partner Program to all VMSA member sheds and individual shedders in each of these sheds.

To obtain your letter of introduction to participate in this program please complete the 'Jeep National Fleet Discount Request Form' available on the VMSA website.



### HOPPER MOTOR GROUP

Hyundai Kia Renault Isuzu Ute Jeep

FLEET DISCOUNTS FOR VMSA MEMBERS!  
(We deliver the car to you anywhere in Victoria)

For details contact:

**Stewart Macdonald**

**0419 587 817**

**[stewart@hoppermotorgroup.com.au](mailto:stewart@hoppermotorgroup.com.au)**

# PLANNING A VACATION?

To read all of our customer reviews by tour, visit [gocollette.com.au](http://gocollette.com.au)



**collette**  
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**BOOK BEFORE 4TH APRIL TO SAVE \$350!**

## Shades of IRELAND

Featuring Northern Ireland

Departing 22nd October 2019  
From \$6,399\*pp | 12 Days | 17 Meals

Gradations of green, rolling hills and dramatic, rugged coastline are ripe for exploring in resplendent Ireland.

Dublin • Irish Evening • Kilkenny • Blarney Castle • Killarney • Ring of Kerry • Farm Visit • Horse Car Ride • Limerick • Cliffs of Moher • Galway • Castle Stay

Non-refundable deposit of \$250pp is due upon reservation. International flight costing is included. Itinerary and flight schedule to be determined upon reservation.

COLLETTE EXPERIENCES	MUST-SEE INCLUSIONS	IT'S YOUR CHOICE	CULINARY INCLUSIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overnight on the grounds of a regal castle.</li> <li>Experience the Ring of Kerry, one of the world's great coastal roads.</li> <li>See sheepdogs in action when you visit a working farm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jump into Ireland's vibrant capital city – Dublin.</li> <li>Stand in awe of the stunning 700-foot-high Cliffs of Moher.</li> <li>Kiss the famed Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Dublin's highlights by coach with a local guide or take a walking tour of the city's historic centre.</li> <li>Tour the Waterford Crystal factory or take a guided tour at the Medieval Museum and enjoy a glass of wine in the 15th-century Mayor's Wine Vault.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enjoy a hearty dinner and night of traditional Irish entertainment.</li> <li>Taste the 'water of life' during an Irish whiskey tasting.</li> <li>Be treated to a farewell dinner at a castle!</li> </ul>

For enquiries please contact Collette on 1300 792 195 and mention Victorian Men's Shed to save \$350

## TESTIMONIALS

“ The selection of all the places we visited, the quality of the hotels we stayed in, all the restaurants included in the tour, and the expertise, friendliness, sense of humor, and endless patience of the tour manager made this one of **the very best tours** I have ever been on! ”

– COLLETTE TRAVELER ON THE BEST OF EASTERN CANADA

“ We have used Collette several times before, and have become accustomed to their great service. **We did not have to worry about anything from start to finish**, which is what we like. From booking to travelling – all A+ ”

– COLLETTE TRAVELER ON EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA, VICTORIA FALLS & BOTSWANA

“ **I definitely will recommend Collette**, in fact already have...The tour was perfectly paced, the tour guide and driver were compatible and enjoyed each other which made the travellers enjoy our trip even more. We are already talking about "where to next"! ”

– COLLETTE TRAVELER ON ELEGANT IRELAND

“ We took our first trip in October to the National Parks. **This was an amazing trip.** They made all the arrangements...Our tour guide was professional, extremely knowledgeable about the areas we travelled, and personable to all the members of our tour group. ”

– COLLETTE TRAVELER ON NATIONAL PARKS OF AMERICA

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE KIDS



The Herald Sun/Transurban Run for the Kids (R4K) will be held for the fourteenth time on Sunday, 7 April 2019.

The new course for 2019 takes in many of Melbourne's iconic landmarks, buildings and locations, including passing the Royal Children's Hospital.

The new course highlights the diversity of our city whilst directly acknowledging its strong connection to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

Importantly, for the first time both the long and short courses will travel across the Bolte Bridge.

R4K has become the most iconic fun run in Melbourne and is expected to attract up to 35,000 entrants once again this time.

### BACK STORY

The Herald & Weekly Times Pty Ltd (HWT) first organised the event in April 2006, in association with CityLink. Since its inception the event has hosted more than 250,000 participants and raised more than \$17.1 million for the Good Friday Appeal.

### THIS YEAR

R4K will include two new individual run courses within the event:

- Long Run (12.8km)
- 'Woodlea' Short Run s(5.2km)

### JOIN THE ARMY

It goes without saying that this wonderful event could not be staged without the dedication and hard work of the team of volunteers. Behind the scenes, the event relies on more than 800 volunteers to assist at drink stations, get runners underway from the start, greet them at the finish line and cheer the runners all along their way.

Volunteering is a terrific way to get involved, be part of the team and make your contribution, helping to raise vital funds for the 2019 Good Friday Appeal.

Lunch is provided, and all volunteers receive a free t-shirt and a cap.

Volunteering positions are open. Join us as -

- Course Marshal
- Drink Station Assistant
- Start / Finish Line Assistant
- Information Assistant
- Baggage Services Assistant
- Volunteer Services Assistant

To know more about these roles, go to <http://www.runforthekids.com.au/course-details/volunteer-registration/>.

To register as a volunteer for the event, go to <https://runforthekids2019.typeform.com/to/A8hHbV>.

If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact the project coordinator, Tayla Pallas, or write to [info@sportprojects.com.au](mailto:info@sportprojects.com.au).

# BALMORAL MEN'S SHED: DEFIB DONATION



20 February 2019

Victoria Mens Shed Association

Att: Mr Ric Blackburn

We would like to thank both the VMSA and the Joe White Bequest for their generous donation of a defibrillator to our Mens Shed, due to the fact that we only have a small number of members, we rely on donations.

The Defibrillator will provide our members with comfort in the knowledge that they can and will be able to access help immediately in case of an emergency.

Due to the location of the Mens Shed in Balmoral it has been decided to place the defibrillator where the greater community can access it too, so not only has your generous donation given our members peace of mind but that of the greater community too.

Kind Regards

Lisa Hutchins  
Centre Manager

Community Services

26 Bell Street  
Balmoral  
Victoria, 3407

phone: 5570 1304  
facsimile: 5570 1482  
email: [bbnc.admin@swarth.vic.gov.au](mailto:bbnc.admin@swarth.vic.gov.au)



## 2019 @ LANGWARRIN SHED



Into the second week of February, and we are a quarter of the way through the Langwarrin Men's Shed Year.

So far, membership fees are coming in slowly and as usual, they were due on the 1 January for this year. New memberships are also continuing to roll in slowly.

We missed a January newsletter due to the impact of Christmas and the New Year (the silly season). Secretary of our shed, Gary, has secured five dates for Bunnings Sausage Sizzles with the first on Australia Day, Saturday 26 January, 2019. This outing was very successful thanks to the hard work of all those who attended.

The project team continues their hard work responding to requests from both old and new customers from within our community. Our recent report provided by Alan and Brian contained comments associated with 20 customers who have or will benefit from our team's efforts. This represents significant connectivity into our local community along with providing hours of enjoyment (and a little stress) for the members involved. Thanks to all for your hard work as these activities continue to provide a steady flow of dollars, allowing the shed to survive.

The other major activity providing a significant service to

us and connection with older members of the community is the 'Be Connected Project'. By 31 January, 2019, Langwarrin Men's Shed had, through this project, connected with 311 members of our community who are over 50 years of age. Also involved with this project are 20 sheds (excluding Langwarrin Shed) and 18 community groups.

Of these organizations, 11 have also joined the project as Network Partners. In January, the second instalment of \$25,000 of funds were received from Good Things Foundation Australia so that the project continues until its scheduled completion at the end of June this year.

A big thank you and congratulation for a top-end effort must go out to Lawrie, Paul and Craig along with all their helpers.

The committee is continuing its search for help from a qualified architect/engineer/draftsman to develop a proposal to expand our building to (hopefully) include some greatly improved facilities.

The intention is to create/prepare a Building and Facilities Development Masterplan and Strategy which can guide Langwarrin Men's Shed's future in this area. Thus, providing current and future members some guidance on the 'what and how' the future may look for Langwarrin Men's Shed. Ultimately, once adopted, this document will form part of the organisation's strategic plan.

That's all for now!

Cheers,

George Ballard

## BOOKLOVERS, HERE YOU GO!

If you are interested in establishing a free library in your community, Traralgon Men's Shed now has book boxes available for this noble cause.

These boxes, built by Taralgon Men's Shed's members, come at a small price.

Below are the pictures of the book boxes for your reference.

If you are interested in these boxes, do not hesitate to write to the Taralgon shedders at [traralgonmensshed@bigpond.com](mailto:traralgonmensshed@bigpond.com).

They will be happy to help.



## MORNINGTON SHED'S DUST EXTRACTION SYSTEM



Mornington Men's Shed

*"Working Shoulder to Shoulder"*

**Dear Mornington Men's Shed Supporter,**

To celebrate the commissioning of our newly installed Dust Extraction System at our MMS Work Shed at 43 Mitchell St Mornington and to formally thank you for your most generous support of this project, we wish to cordially invite you to the short opening ceremony which will commence at 11:30am on Fri, Mar 8th 2019. This will then be followed by a brief tour of our Work Shed facilities and then a relaxing BBQ lunch where you can informally chat to our members about our various community projects and our club activities.

### Dust Extraction System Commission



**When:**  
11:30am Fri Mar 8th 2019

**Location:**  
MMS Work Shed  
43 Mitchell St Mornington

**Program:**  
11:30am : Ceremony  
11:45am : Work Shed Tour  
12.00pm : BBQ Lunch

If you are willing and able to attend, please contact **MMS President Aric deWit** by email or phone ASAP to confirm details of who will be attending to represent your group.

**Ari de Wit (President)**

**Phone: 0437 952 576**

**Mail: 2/91 Wilsons Rd, Mornington, 3931**

**Email: [mensshedmornington@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedmornington@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.morningtonmensshed.com.au](http://www.morningtonmensshed.com.au)**

## ON A LIGHTER NOTE

### PHONEY PROBLEMS!

I'll call it a smartphone  
the day I yell  
"Where's my phone?!"  
and it yells  
"Down here! In the  
couch cushions!"

I STILL HAVE A LANDLINE.  
OR AS I LIKE TO CALL IT,  
"A CELL PHONE FINDER."

# GALLAGHER: STANDING BY MEN'S SHEDS



**Supporting local Men's Sheds**  
Shedding some light on your insurance and risk management

Partnering with Men's Sheds is an integral part of supporting local communities, a place to connect, communicate and support the health and well-being of others.

We've leveraged our local and international resources to develop an extremely competitive and comprehensive insurance package that is an excellent fit for Men's Sheds. The programme includes:

- **Property Cover** - \$500,000 limit which includes cover for your buildings, contents, equipment and fittings
- **Accidental Damage Cover** - \$100,000 automatic inclusion
- **Personal Accident Cover** - Providing protection for volunteers whilst on shed business
- **Public and Products Liability Cover** - \$40,000,000
- **Theft Cover** - \$50,000 cover has been included
- **Flood Cover** - Included to a limit of \$100,000
- **Management Liability**



**Gallagher**

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

[info.ajg.com.au/mens-shed](http://info.ajg.com.au/mens-shed)

Get in touch with our dedicated Men's Shed Team on **1800 316 432** or send an email to [shedinsurance@ajg.com.au](mailto:shedinsurance@ajg.com.au)

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# CASTLEMAINE SHED HAS FANS!

The street library constructed for Chewton Primary School, received a note from their little fans.

The note, from Alex and Connor, informs and thanks Castlemaine Men's Shed for the street library they have built. It also adds that the library is very popular and loved.

So good to know that.

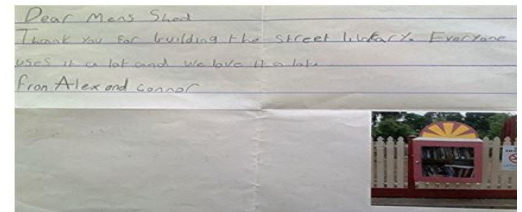
The note reads -

*Dear Men's Shed,*

*Thank you for building the street library. Everyone uses it a lot and we love it a lot.*

-

*Alex and Connor*





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Regional Cluster Meeting

**Venue:** Inverloch Men's Shed

**Day & Date:** Wednesday, 27 March 2019

**Time:** 10:30 am

### Murray/Hume Men's Sheds Cluster Group Meeting

**Venue:** Wodonga Men's Shed

**Day & Date:** Thursday, 28 March 2019

**Time:** 10:00 am

**RSVP:** Mick McInerney (0488440108)

## FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

This Newsletter is being emailed to the Contact Person at each of the sheds on the VMSA database. We have a large list of many subscribers who also receive the Newsletter and consequently we are limited in our ability to send the Newsletter to every shedder and so we ask that as the CONTACT PERSON your shed please print and display the Newsletter in your shed.

If you have something to share with other sheds, write a short article (photos are handy) and send to the Executive Officer  
[vmsa@vmsa.org.au](mailto:vmsa@vmsa.org.au)

Victorian Men's Shed Association acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



#### ***Disclaimer***

*This newsletter is for general information only. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of VMSA Committee. Reasonable measures have been taken to ensure that the material contained in this Newsletter is correct. However, there is no responsibility for the accuracy or the completeness of the material.*