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 THE BIG DRY

This trip through the state of Queensland, its dry patches waiting to blow up into a firestorm, bush fires in many areas, and water scarcity, is a sad and scary reiteration of a truth we are staring at. The changing face of what used to be. Turn to pages 9 & 10.

TOP NEWS

FROM THE GOVERNOR

Our Honourable Governor invites you to an evening of relaxed, open-air cinema screening at Government House.

Or, go for Ballroom Dancing! Details on pages 4 & 5.

TOP INITIATIVE

WOMEN IN FOCUS

Vic Farmers' Federation & Twin Rivers Shed are organising a luncheon for the ladies. Also, Traralgon Shed & Woodworking Inc are training women in using power tools.

Details on pages 6, 7 & 8.



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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VMSA TRAINING COURSES

SINGERS NEEDED

HARVEY NORMAN OFFER FOR SHEDDERS



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 Community Shed

PLEASE NOTE

The VMSA has received a number of queries and requests to find an avenue where 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,

The VMSA was very fortunate to be given a 2nd year fixed contract for the VMSA Field Officer which culminated in September 2019.

Phil Keily did a great job and the report to Government based on the work will be released soon.

The VMSA has lobbied long and hard for Field Officers to support sheds state-wide, and we think it will happen soon.

The VMSA has sourced almost \$100,000 of free tools, equipment and materials for our sheds. Sheds have used the free material to build hundreds of items for their communities. The free tools and equipment have saved sheds tens of thousands of dollars in not having to raise fund. This money they saved has meant the difference between just coping and to being able to plan for the future.

Overall shed membership is expanding across sheds, the membership of sheds state-wide is fast approaching 20,000.

It is important to recognise the contribution of the Victorian Government and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Strengthening Men's Shed Grant have been instrumental in building and sustaining sheds for many years. Sheds that previously were only open 1 or 2 days are expanding their opening times to include more days, weekends and even nights.

It is increasingly difficult to satisfy the growing needs of sheds and shedders. The VMSA has been delivering a suite of training opportunities to sheds across the state. We have qualified trainers who have been delivering training in a wide variety of areas.

The programs are designed to develop skills and practices for shedders in Fundraising, Governance, Shed Safety and Welfare / Wellbeing.

The VMSA hopes to improve and add to the training

modules available and roll them out to all sheds that want these trainings.

I have always felt privileged to be involved with men's sheds.

Recently, I had a very special experience. I was at a dinner party, and I was wearing my VMSA shirt. A lady across the table put her hand on my arm and said, "I want to thank you for making the caskets for babies, I lost a baby this year and it helped us a lot."

I was quick to explain the people she really wanted to thank were the members of Croydon Men's Shed. I gave her their number and she called them the next day. See what I mean! It is a privilege to be amongst such wonderful shedders.

Ric Blackburn VMSA Executive Officer Email: vmsa@vmsa.org.au



FROM THE GOVERNOR

Outdoor Cinema Screening

Movie: Paper Planes

Venue: Government House, Melbourne

Day, Date & Time: Friday, 8 November 2019 at 7:00 pm

The Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, and Mr Anthony Howard, AM QC, invite members of the public to a movie screening at Government House, Melbourne on 8 November 2019 from 7.00 pm.

The movie, Paper Planes, is an imaginative film about a young Australian boy's passion for flight and his challenge to compete in the World Paper Plane Championships in Japan.

The Governor and Mr Howard look forward to welcoming you to the very first outdoor cinema at Government House Melbourne, as part of the Governor's Performance Series.

Please Note:

- Attendance is free; however, registration is essential.
- Adult attendees are asked to bring photo identification.
- Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- All attendees will be required to undergo security screening involving wanding and bag checks on arrival.
- Entrance is via Government House Drive, off St. Kilda Road. Parking is not available on-site for this event.
- Picnic blankets and folding chairs are permitted. Seating is not provided.
- Food and drink are permitted. Alcohol is not permitted.
- Gates open at 7.00 pm. Film commences at approximately 8:00 pm. Event concludes at around 9:45 pm.
- The film will be shown on the front lawn of Government House. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Ballroom of Government House.

Please register each person attending separately, including children.

Please contact Government House regarding mobility/accessibility requirements. You can register using this link: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/governors-performance-series-outdoor-cinema-tickets-74638069475



FROM THE GOVERNOR

Ballroom Dancing by DanceSport Victoria Venue: Government House, Melbourne

Day, Date & Time: Thursday, 31 October 2019 at 1:00 pm

The Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, and Mr Anthony Howard, AM QC, invite members of the public to attend an afternoon of dance at Government House, Melbourne on 31 October 2019.

DanceSport Victoria has been invited to perform as part of the Governor's Performance Series. The focus of the performance series will be the presentation of ballroom dancing from 'Juniors' through to 'Masters 3', showcasing the versatility and health benefits of ballroom dancing.

The performance will be choreographed by Jason Beaman and Anna Longmore with a continuous display of: *Standard, New Vogue and Latin American*.

Please Note:

- Attendance is free; however, registration is essential as seating is limited.
- Attendees are asked to bring a form of photo identification.
- Attendees will be required to undergo security screening involving wanding and bag checks on arrival at Government House.
- Entrance is via Government House Drive, off St. Kilda Road.
- Dress is smart casual or business attire.
- No parking on-site for this event.
- Gates will open at 1.00 pm; guests must be seated by 1.45 pm. This event concludes at approximately 4.00 pm.
- Light refreshments will be served following the dance performance.

You can register using this link: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/governors-performance-series-ballroom-dancing-by-dancesport-victoria-tickets-74641078475



LADIES, IT'S TIME FOR A BREAK!

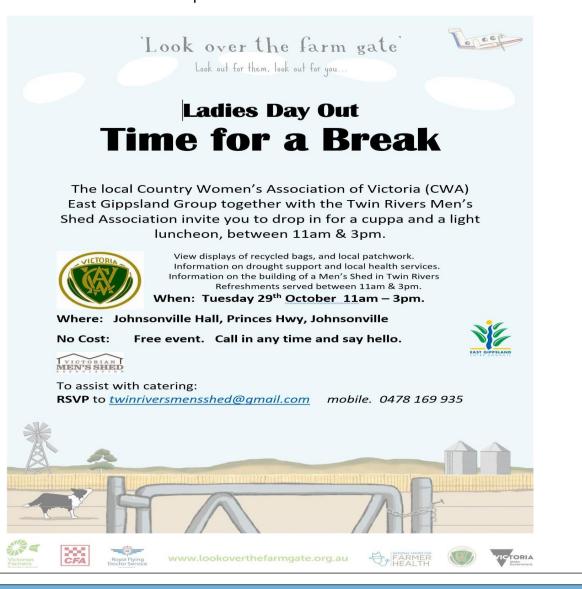
The Twin Rivers Mens Shed Association together with the East Gippsland CWA Group are holding a "Take a Break" event for ladies and friends in East Gippsland on Tuesday, 29 October at the Johnsonville Hall from 11am to 3pm.

The event is being sponsored by the Victorian Farmers Federation "Look over the Farm Gate" and organised by the Twin Rivers Men's Shed Association (TRMSA) as a way of supporting our local community and farmers in these tough times of prolonged drought.

The CWA ladies have kindly agreed to provide refreshments and a light lunch, free of charge, to the attendees. Ladies and partners may drop in for a cuppa and a chat.

A number of quilts by the Riviera Quilters and a range of beautiful bags made from re-claimed materials by the Twin Rivers Lions Club Boomerang Bag sewers will be on display on the day. The East Gippsland Shire Council Drought Assistance Officer, Blanche Evans, will be available for a chat as will representatives from La Trobe Community Health Service, ADRA and St Vincent de Paul. Information from the VFF will also be available.

This event will be followed by a free Community Family BBQ day at the Johnsonville Hall on Sunday, 10 November from 11am to 3pm.



LADIES, WANT TO ACQUIRE A NEW SKILL?



Traralgon Men's Shed and Woodworking Inc have started a two 6-week programs to train women using power tools and making say, a side table, and other interesting things.

They won't just help you acquire new skills and gain confidence; you will get to use equipment such as sanders, drills, bandsaw, drop saw, thicknesser and more.

Each session will have a small batch, limited to 6 participants per session.

Time: 5.30 pm for a 6:00 pm start, till approximately 8:00 pm.

Cost: \$150 (for membership, insurance, tea/coffee, materials and incidentals)

Bring a friend... Enrol today by completing the attached form.

NEW SKILL FOR WOMEN

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Week 1 Program

Payment either EFT prior to session or cash on the night

Registration form completed and PPE given to each participant

Introductions and shown shed facilitates

Use Planner/Thicknesser to prepare wood

Measurer wood

Use drop saw and/or bandsaw to cut to size

Use router to clean up edges of legs

Week 2 Program

Prepare table top - 4 boards

Use sander, clamps, glue, biscuit machine

Sand legs and shape if required on table saw

Mark legs for mortise and tenon joints

Week 3 & 4 Program

Sand Table top

Work on Mortise and Tenon joints

Use Mortise machine, table saw, bandsaw

Glue and clamp frame when ready

Week 5 Program

Dry assemble table, adjust using set square Glue and clamp frame, and check for square Sanding, Figure 8's for attaching table top to frame

Week 6 Program

Attach table top - screw and drill

Final sanding

Stain or paint

Complete feedback/assessment form - Pizza

THE BIG DRY

Like anyone who has lived in this country for a few years, I have seen my fair share of droughts but this one is of real concern.

Lesley and I have just returned from a trip up north. We were invited to a function on the Gold Coast so we hitched up the van and made a trip of it.

After visiting our son and his family in Albury, we went via Young, Wellington, Gunnedah and over to Coffs Harbour then on to the Gold Coast.

We couldn't help but noticed that between Young and Gunnedah the land has been destroyed by the drought. Top soil has been blown away, some over Canberra, and the landscape looks like a gravel pit. It will take a generation to make this land viable for grazing stock and longer, to grow a crop. From Gunnedah to the coast is called the Waterfall Way but there are no waterfalls as they have not had rain for several years now.



The river, on Mt Coot-Tha just outside Brisbane is rarely dry. It has been dry long enough for grass to grow. They have had only a few millimeters in the last few years.

After the function at the Gold Coast and everyone had gone home, Lesley and I went for a walk in the Lamington National Park hinterland. We both remarked how dry it was and that a stray match would be blow into a firestorm.

We had moved on to Brisbane when the fires started.

Lamington is described as a 'Gondwana Rainforest of Australia World Heritage Area'. Not anymore!

THE BIG DRY

This also will take many years to return. The Glass House Mountains area was just as dry and they had fires while we were there. We moved on to Hervey Bay and then to 1770, and there was very little smoke.

As we drove into Rockhampton, we saw a large fire in the distance. It turned out to be Mt Archer National Park just behind our caravan park. We had intended walking some of this area. There are some lovely caves and walking tracks there. Needless to say, it was closed by the fire authority and the deliberately lit fire is expected to continue for at least another month.





Along with the smoke we had a lot of dust because there was little grass or ground cover. At its peak there were 85 fires burning in Queensland state. New South Wales was as bad! Normally, the Queensland fire authority does cold burns up until the start of September. Due to the drought they have not been able to carry out burns since June.

We felt guilty being in these areas where there was little water and we were showering, washing clothes and doing our dishes. Our concerns were allayed several times when the local mayor or politician said in interviews that they can always truck water in but we need the traveller's dollars.

Some towns are constructing several one million megalitre tanks to store trucked in water because the long-range forecast says no rain. Many of these areas have not had more than the odd shower for over three years. Local farmers have checked several generations of rain records and they have never seen it this bad before and the future of many small towns and farming communities seems bleak.

We decided to head home and came home on an inland route where there were no fires but just as much dust.

Next time you look out the window and see that you need to mow the lawn and it has just started raining, don't complain.

Source: Akoonah Park Men's Shed Newsletter (Oct 2019)

WELCOME TO THE FUND RAISER

Restoring Hope

Restoring Hope's 2nd Annual Golf Day

Sunday 10th November 2019

Bring your golfing buddies & be part of something special!

Calling golfers of all levels! Come and support your favourite self-funded charity on its 2nd annual golf day.

To be held again at the magnificent RACV Golf Club Healesville. You will love the beautifully manicured gardens and sweeping fairways situated in the middle of the stunning Yarra Valley.

I had a wonderful day playing golf at a
world class course, laughing along the way with
newly made friends. Enjoyed great food and wine, fun
and auctions where my small donation made me feel good,
knowing that it was going to a very worthy cause.
I'm looking forward to attending the next one.

~ Nick H.

WHAT'S INCLUDED;

- Light refreshments on arrival 8.00am
- Shotgun Tee Off at 8.30am
- 18 Holes of amazing golf
- Ambrose, 4 Ball Best Ball
- a Pull buggy
- Cooked Lunch & Complimentary pre-lunch drink (soft drinks provided during lunch)
- Guest speakers
- Gift bag
- Prizes and Raffle items
- Cost: \$97.00 per person
- Motorised carts available for \$48 per couple (only 18 available)

...and more importantly, you will be supporting Restoring Hope, so that we can continue to support children and young people that have been affected by sexual abuse.

Visit www.restoringhope.org.au to book your individual place and we will match you with other golfers on the day or book your group of four (4). It's going to be a great day so secure your place NOW!



INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY 2019



INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY LARRY'S LUNCH

On the 2019 International Men's Day (yes - there is such a Day) Brighton North Rotary will host an inaugural luncheon to celebrate the occasion.



INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY 2019

when

Tuesday 19 November 2019 - 12 till 2.30pm

where

Citipower Centre - Lakeside Drive St Kilda (formerly Junction Oval)

why

To promote, inform & educate attendees on Men's health & happiness
Men & women all welcome. MC: Matt Nichols
speakers: Jeremy Forbes, founder of HALT
& Don Elgin, Paralympian

\$95.00 p.p. - (\$90.00 p.p. table of 10)
BOOK ON TRYBOOKING
Meg Ryan BNR 0417 118 449 or mmryan109@gmail.com

proceeds to: Hepatitis B virus Research, Brighton Bayside Men's Shed, Youth Suicide Awareness and Brighton North Rotary Community Projects.



PROJECTS AT DROUIN MEN'S SHED

New Star in the Shed...



It's Werner Lochki's 'Thunder Down Under' boxes, or toilet roll holders. Found by accident (Werner had one at home), Werner thought he'd make one or two for the shed to sell. They were sold out even before they were finished. We now have bulk orders for retail outlets in Walhalla and Drouin and of course, from other members.

If you'd like one for a gift for Christmas, perhaps it would be a good idea to order yours now, or you'll miss out! A very good job there, Werner! Keep it up, brother!

Herb Gardens

It's Spring! The birds are tweeting and bees are buzzing, flowers and vegies are starting to bloom. Why not grow some beautiful herbs to add to your dinner delights in your own mini herb garden?



PROJECTS AT DROUIN MEN'S SHED

Keith Walker has been knocking these up for the shed for a few years now and are selling for a mere \$60 each. The foodies in your family will love them.



File Picture

Keith got the idea when he saw a flimsy metal one at a market and his wife, Joyce, liked them so he built her a couple. Who said he's a grumpy grandpa? He's really soft and cuddly, just don't tell anyone. If you want one go and see the guys in the Drouin Men's Shed office, they'll look after you.

Christmas Tree

With Christmas around the corner, it's nearly time to start thinking about your decorations. Here's just a friendly reminder about our wooden Christmas trees. There're now complete with solar LED lights.

They're made to order, and you have until the 1 December to order yours. After that, the book shuts and you'll miss out. They cost only \$60 each, they're an absolute steal.

These trees are made from treated pine and so will last for years.



LATEST FROM NEWSTEAD SHED



Newstead Men's Shed

Published by Graeme Lees [?] · 10 mins · 🚱

Finished - the new Tier and Box Seating in the undercover area of the Newstead Primary School. The Newstead Men's Shed was delighted to be able to once again support the school as part of our community projects. President James and Secretary Graeme along with other key Shed members were part of the project.



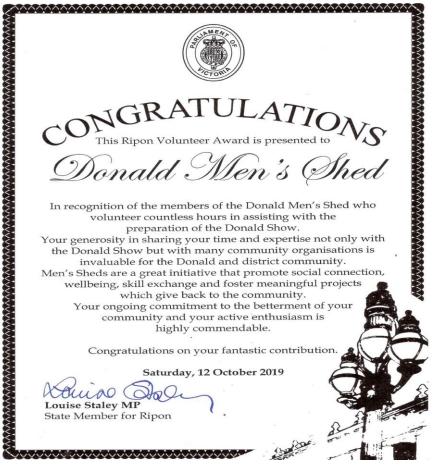
RIPON VOLUNTEER AWARD

Donald Pastoral and Agricultural (P&A) Society nominated the Donald Men's Shed for an award sponsored by the Honourable Louise Staley, MP for Victoria, Parliamentary member for Rippon. The award was for the outstanding Community Group within the Rippon Electoral District. Donald Men's Shed's President, Keith Smith, (91) was the recipient of the Rippon Volunteer Award presented by the Member for Rippon. Mr Smith was awarded for his 63 years of service to the P&A Society. Already a life member of the society, Keith was nominated as the individual to receive the award by the P&A society at their annual show on 12 October 2019.



Keith Smith with the award, and the certificate awarded to him

RIPON VOLUNTEER AWARD



Certificate awarded to Donald Men's Shed



Shed members in attendance at the award presentation

SHED IN NEWS

Western District Cluster Meeting covered in news

Gather around at the Heywood Men's Shed

from as far afield as Mount Gambier saying "I need help and Camperdown gathered at the Heywood Men's Shed last week to (Sparrow) and myself started the share what they were doing.

Those represented at the Thursday, some things I probably wouldn't have September 19, event were from nine survived if I wasn't involved here. different sheds - Heywood, Portland, "I'm not saying we're saving lives Macarthur, Hamilton, Mount but we're certainly making lives a lot Gambier, Port MacDonnell, Koroit, better for the ones that do come here." Warrnambool and Camperdown.

Corey Spruit said the aim of the community - which it does in many gathering was twofold.

"We want to learn from each other want to sit and have a chat. how things are going," he said.

"Every year we try to get all the Spruit said. sheds together, as many as we can (Coleraine and Colac were apologies) talk to each other and that's as far as it and talk about what we're getting out goes. It stays in the shed and you walk of it and what we need.

"Every shed is different and they're Those who attended also went there for different reasons."

mental health benefits sheds bring sponsors of the Victorian Men's Shed members.

people retire," Mr Spruit said.

with themselves. We've always

encouraged people to have a cuppa with us and in the past 12 months NEARLY 40 Men's Shed members we've had three people come in here

> "Personally that's why Terry Men's Shed here. I've been through

The Heywood Men's Shed spans Heywood Men's Shed president everything from volunteering in the different ways - to those who just

"It's all about feeling good," Mr

"The good thing in these sheds is you away feeling a hell of a lot better."

away with some items for their One reason common to most is the sheds donated by various corporate Association, while another point of "Mental illness happens a lot when discussion was how the sheds could apply for their share of \$8 million in "They don't know what to do state and federal government grants that would soon become available.



MEMBERS of Men's Shed groups from throughout the wider region gathered at Heywood last week.

THE FUNDING CENTRE

The Funding Centre is Australia's best grants and fundraising hub.

To know more about the Centre, check out its comprehensive newsletter, EasyGrants.

Information in EasyGrants is based on the most comprehensive and current database of grants available in Australia. EasyGrants is unique in the Australian fundraising and grants landscape and provides:

- Monthly email PDF newsletters (excluding January when the Australian grants landscape largely goes into hibernation)
- A customised grant listing, including all new and recurring federal, state and local government, philanthropic and corporate grants
- The latest grants and fundraising news from around Australia and the world
- Ideas, tools and intelligence from the experts



VMSA TRAINING COURSES

Over the next couple of months, the VMSA will be holding several training courses for shed members, these will include:

OH&S WORKSHOP SAFETY





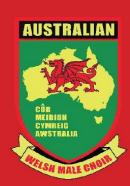
GOVERNANCE

At this point no dates have been set for the OH&S Workshop Safety and the Governance Training, but we are seeking Expressions of Interest from those sheds that are interested in these courses.

Please call Ric Blackburn on 0408 465 228 or email him at vmsa@vmsa.org.au to register for the Fundraising Training, or to place your Expression of Interest for the OH&S Workshop Safety or Governance Training.

SINGERS NEEDED!





Do you like to sing?

We're looking for new members.

Come and join us on a Wednesday night for rehearsals with the Australian Welsh Male Choir - City Chapter. Welsh Church - 320 La Trobe St. Melbourne.

> Wednesday evenings 7:00pm - 9:00pm

(except for the last Wednesday of each month due to our singing in the pub committment)

For more information please call

Tim Gibson on 0412 191 971

or visit us at

awmc.org.au





HARVEY NORMAN OFFER FOR SHEDDERS

ENJOY VIP PRICING EVERY DAY!!!

Present your VMSA Shed Membership Number

Harvey Norman

On which products?

On a range of home appliances, computers, bedding, furniture & flooring

How to access this benefit?

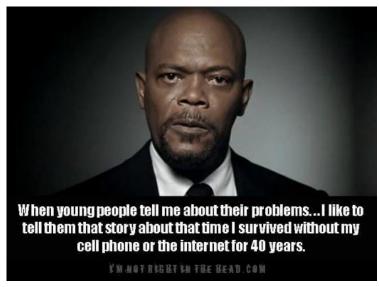
- > View products in store
- Present your VMSA membership at time of store purchase
- ➤ For any assistance with your shopping feel free to visit, call your local store

Terms & Conditions

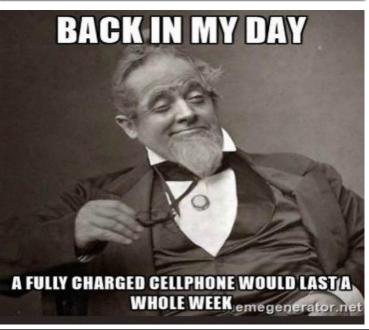
Available only to VMSA members and their immediate family



ON A LIGHTER NOTE







MOMENT OF TRUTH

A man died and went to Heaven. As he stood in front of the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him.

He asked, "What are all those clocks for?"

St. Peter answered, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone who has ever been on earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie, the hands on your clock move."

Man: "Oh! Whose clock is that?"
St Peter: "That's Mother Teresa. The hands have never moved, indicating that she never told a lie."

Man: "Incredible! And whose clock is that one?"

St. Peter: "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abraham told only two lies in his entire life."

Man: "Where's Donald Trump's clock?"

St. Peter: "We're using it as a ceiling fan."

A man asks a psychiatrist, "How do you select who should be admitted to your facility?"

Psychiatrist: "We fill a bathtub with water and give the person a spoon, a cup and a bucket. Then we ask that person to empty the bathtub."

Man: "Ah, I understand, if you are sane you would take the bucket."

Psychiatrist: "No, a sane guy pulls the plug. Do you want a room with or without a window?"

UPCOMING EVENTS

VMSA Gathering & AGM

Venue: The Bendigo Greyhound

Racing Association

Date: 7 November, 2019

International Men's Day

Date: 19 November, 2019

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

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.