

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

BUSHFIRE SUPPORT

Victorian Counsel of Social Services has listed out all the necessary contact details that the affected people may need in times of a bushfire. The list also includes details of the kind of assistance people can get. Check out the list on pages 6, 7, and 8.

TOP NEWS

GRANTS-IN-AID IS OPEN

A new grant round of the Grants-in-Aid program opened for applications. Funding is available for eligible organisations to apply through a targeted competitive process. To know more turn to on page 9.

TOP INITIATIVE

GREYHOUND ADOPTION

They are man's best friend and need a "fur-ever" home. Give the Greyhounds retired from the racetrack a loving home, that they can call their own. More about the Greyhound Adoption Program on pages 13 of this edition.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The new year begun on a sad note because of the bushfires ravaging through NSW and VIC, gobbling up life, livestock and property. It has reminded everyone of the devastating Black Saturday. While every Australian is with each person impacted and is doing everything in his capacity to help, remember the VMSA and its members are committed to community service and has your back. (Pages 4 & 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

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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,

I hope you all had a safe and happy Christmas and also that you all are safe and healthy in 2020.

We have had a troubled start to the new year. Drought, fire and floods have tested the Aussie spirit. It has been of no surprise to me to see the Australian community step up to support their neighbours in need.

The VMSA is being advised and guided by the affected communities, Emergency Services and other organisations responding to the needs of the community.

The VMSA has been here before when the Black Saturday fires swept through Victoria. We took a long-term approach then and will do so now.

Please check in on our Facebook page and the website for up to date reports and advice on how we are responding to need everywhere.

Shedders in the various affected communities are our voices on the ground and we will share their needs and requests to the wider shed community. Whether it is making letter boxes for the fire affected, donating to BlazeAid for fencing or putting watering units out for native wildlife the ideas will be fully circulated. Sometimes it's just sheds offering a get together BBQ for locals to come together.

I would like to let you all know that we have access to tickets, at a huge discount, for the next Lost Trades Fair on Saturday, 7 March 2020 and Sunday, 8 March 2020, at the Bendigo Racecourse, Bendigo.

The VMSA has a number of training and information resources available for sheds. In particular our Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Shed Safety Training is extremely popular as it helps have a safer shed that is more risk management compliant. Feel free to contact the VMSA office to explore your training needs.

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

Do visit the page and follow it to receive all updates as soon as one is put out.

You can register for our monthly newsletter through the website. Click on the link below for the same.

<https://vmsa.org.au/index.php/component/users/?view=registration&Itemid=101>.

The VMSA Radio Show, Hangin' Out in a Men's Shed, is being heard around the world by live streaming the show. You can do the same by clicking on the given link: <http://3wbc.org.au/wp-content/plugins/mp3-jplayer/popout.php>. The show plays out on the first Saturday of every month from 9 am to 10 am on 3WBC 94.1 FM.

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



VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No matter where we live people have been talking about the catastrophic fires and the unfortunate loss of life, property, livelihood and the destruction of forests and habitat.

The devastation is enormous and something that we have not encountered to this extent before in Australia. Many of the fires have been burning for months. This is not only taking a toll on the firefighters and emergency service personnel, but also on those impacted by the fires. Such events have, for some, brought back memories to those involved in other major events over the last 37 years with Black Saturday or Ash Wednesday. We have seen the very raw and vivid photos and films of this tragedy.

We all want to help in some way and many have donated towards it and others are collecting tools and equipment ready for when it is safe to enter these devastated areas to help the people not only with donating these goods but physically as well. As we know, clothing, food and so on, is not needed at this time.

The VMSA members wish to assist all those impacted by the fires - the sheds, shedders and their communities.

The VMSA is committing itself to this long-term recovery project and has issued a bulletin for all of its members and stakeholders. The VMSA will keep everyone informed and will be seeking assistance from sheds, shedders and stakeholders.



File Picture of bushfire in Victoria

The VMSA is working with and consulting, and wishes to work collaboratively with all agencies and levels of government to ensure that those affected by the fires are assisted to the best of everyone's abilities.

To date, from information received from sheds in the fire areas, only Corryong Shed has lost a kindling shed. All other sheds are standing and most of the shedders have been involved in assisting in many ways in their community.

VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

There are many examples of the great work that shedders are undertaking in very trying conditions in the fire affected areas in assisting members of the community, in firefighting and in other essential tasks.

Unfortunately, some shedders from the Bruthen Shed in East Gippsland have lost their home, as have many others in the communities around that area.

The VMSA is aware from its learnings and involvement in the Black Saturday fires that, beside structural rebuilding and rebuilding community resilience, mental and physical well-being of those affected by the fires are also very important. The VMSA will be participating in assisting communities and sheds in these activities around mental health. Working alongside a mate and "Talking to a Mate", does make a real difference to people and save lives. Shedders are great at undertaking such activities and suggesting professional help to those people affected by the trauma and those who are suffering loss, grief and depression. Shedders have helped in such situations in the past.

There are many shedders who feel that they are fit and wish to physically contribute in assisting and this is also a priority, but until, as mentioned above, it is all safe to enter the fire affected areas, all shedders and others can do is to ensure that the cash they are raising is donated to an approved body. Tools and equipment being donated are appropriate and suitable for the bush fire affected areas and that such equipment is safe to operate and will work in the way it is meant to.

As sheds start reopening after holidays, I would encourage all shedders to think about how their shed and shedders may be able to assist when appropriate.

We must listen to what the sheds, shedders and those impacted by the fires across Victoria want. We must also listen to professionals assisting these communities, and not work as per what we think they need.



Lindsay Oates
VMSA President

SUPPORT DURING BUSHFIRES



VCOSS
Victorian Council
of Social Service

As the bushfire crisis continues to envelop Victoria and the country, we are in awe of the many Victorians - firefighters, community organisations and everyday citizens - doing so much to get through this awful time and help their neighbours do the same.

Below is a list of financial, legal, accommodation and other resources for those in fire affected areas, which we hope might be useful to have in one place.

If you're looking for a way to help, monetary donations can be made to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal [online](#) or at any Bendigo Bank branch.

We'll continue to be here in the coming days, weeks and months to hear any of your concerns about how the emergency response is unfolding and to advocate for the sector. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at vcoss@vcoss.org.au.

Stay Up-to-date

The latest information about **CURRENT EMERGENCIES** can be found at [Vic Emergency](#) and [ABC](#). Information about relief and recovery centres is also available at [Vic Emergency](#).

Air Quality

Check out the [Environment Protection Authority Victoria guide](#) to protect your health when it is smoky outside. You can also check current air quality around Victoria at [EPA Airwatch](#).

Government Response

The Andrews Government has announced a new permanent dedicated agency to guide bushfire recovery - Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV). Further updates regarding the work of Bushfire Recovery Victoria will be available at vic.gov.au/brv.

Financial Advice

For anyone in need, financial counsellors provide a professional service. They are regulated by Federal legislation and employed by not-for-profit community organisations to provide information, advice and advocacy support free of charge, assisting people in dealing with life situations involving debt and hardship, dealing with creditors and stabilising finances. The [National Debt Helpline](#) is staffed by financial counsellors and can be contacted on [1800 007 007](tel:1800007007).

Further, rural financial counsellors work with farmers, offering free and independent financial support to primary producers and non-agriculture related small businesses.

BUSHFIRE SUPPORT SERVICES

The [Rural Financial Counselling Service](#) can be contacted on [1300 735 578](#).

People can also access information about [financial assistance](#) from the Victorian and Australian Government, and Australian Red Cross [emergency grants](#).

Australians who have been impacted by bushfires in declared regions can **CLAIM DISASTER PAYMENTS** through [Services Australia \(Centrelink\)](#).

To find out more about how to apply for an **EMERGENCY PAYMENT** in Victoria visit the Australian Governments [Victorian Bushfires webpage](#). You can also call [180 22 66](#).



File Picture of bushfire in Victoria

Insurance

Information is available through:

1. [Bushfire insurance guide](#)
2. [Understand insurance - bushfires](#)
3. [Australian Financial Complaints Authority](#)

Legal Advice

Please contact [Disaster Legal Help Victoria](#). Call [1800 113 432](#) or head to: <http://disasterlegalhelp.org.au>. Disaster Legal Help provides free legal advice, assistance and referrals to Victorians affected by a disaster.

The Australian Government's [Disaster Assist website](#) also provides information on payment recovery.

SUPPORT FOR THOSE AFFECTED

Accommodation

The Helping Homes website shows people across the country who are opening up their homes to those who need somewhere to stay <http://helpinghomes.com.au>

Hosts offering accessible accommodation for people who have had to relocate due to bushfires can be found at:

- [Accessible Accommodation https://bit.ly/2ZO1guE](https://bit.ly/2ZO1guE)
- [Find A Bed Australia https://facebook.com/Findabedau/](https://facebook.com/Findabedau/)

Children and Young People

Support is available through:

- [Community Trauma Toolkit](#) for workers, parents and carers
- [Trauma and Grief Network](#) for children and families
- [Birdie's Tree: Growing together through natural disasters](#) for infants, young children and families

NDIS Participants

EVERY AUSTRALIAN COUNTS bringing together all of the information they have as it comes out for people with disability and families affected by the bushfires. You can access this information here <https://bit.ly/2ZVEK37>.

Accessible Information (From YAC Vic)

- The [Council for Intellectual Disability](#) has created a bushfire information [guide](#) in easy English for people with intellectual disability in NSW (most is relevant for Victorians)
- The [CFA \(Country Fire Authority\)](#) has also created a [guide](#) in easy English on how to stay safe in a bushfire
- [Expression Australia](#) has a safety video guide ([Watch](#)) in Auslan for the Deaf community
- [Expression Australia](#) also shares Auslan bushfire updates via their [Facebook page](#).
- [Early Connections Alliance](#) has developed a Bush Fire Social [Story](#) for children that explains bushfires
- [IDEAS Disability Information](#) has an easy-to-follow [guide](#) to packing for an emergency

Health and Wellbeing

There is information about health and wellbeing in [Community factsheets - Bushfires](#) and the [Recovery Hour, Life after Disasters and Emergencies](#) podcast.

Making Donations

Donations can be made through the Australian Red Cross [Bushfire Disaster Relief and Recovery](#), Community Enterprise Foundation [Bushfire Disaster Appeal](#). Many relief agencies ask people not to donate material goods.

Community Organisations

For community organisations on the front line the attached resource, [on the frontline in emergencies](#), is a practical emergency response, relief and recovery guide.

GRANTS-IN-AID 2020-21: NOW OPEN



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



A new grant round of the Grants-in-Aid program (the program) opened for applications on **Wednesday, 15 January 2020** and closes at 11:00PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT) on **Thursday, 27 February 2020**.

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$145,000 (GST exclusive) for the 2020-21 financial year for the program. Funding is available for eligible organisations to apply through a targeted competitive process. The maximum grant amount is \$10,000. Grants are limited to one per organisation.

We recognise that the recent bushfires have had a devastating impact on our local communities. If your organisation has been impacted by these bushfires, and you think it may affect you in lodging your application for a Grants-in-Aid grant, please contact the Community Grants Hub as soon as possible on 1800 020 283 or write to support@communitygrants.gov.au.

If you or members of your organisation need further support from DVA during this difficult time, please visit the DVA [website](#) for information on the disaster assistance services we offer. At this time, we also wanted to remind you that DVA's Open Arms - Veterans and Families Counselling service, is also available to provide support 24/7 on 1800 011 046.

The Grants-in-Aid program aims to fund discrete projects or activities by national ex-service organisations (ESOs) that address a specific problem or issue and will achieve a clear benefit to the ex-service and Defence community.

This program is open to bona fide national ESOs and provides funding to encourage cooperation and communication between the ex-service community, ESOs and the Australian Government. Funding for national ESOs aims to encourage the advancement of the objectives of ESOs.

This grant opportunity will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

If you require additional information about the Grants-in-Aid grant, please refer to the grant opportunity on the [Community Grants Hub](#) or [GrantConnect](#) websites, or contact the Community Grants Hub on 1800 020 283 or email support@communitygrants.gov.au.

DSS VOLUNTEER GRANTS PROGRAM



Department of Social Services (DSS) Volunteer Grants have undergone a significant change to the application process.

Previous rounds allowed eligible applicants to apply directly to the Department, however the 2019-20 round now requires applicants to be invited by their Federal Member of Parliament to apply.

Up to \$10 million is available in 2019-20. Funding of up to \$66,000 is available in each of the 151 Federal electorates, to be disbursed by the relevant MP.

Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to eligible not-for-profit community organisations.

This funding is to be used to:

- purchase eligible small equipment items for use by volunteers
- contribute to volunteers' fuel costs
- contribute to transport costs for volunteers with disability who are unable to drive in association with their volunteering activity.
- assist with the costs of training courses for volunteers
- undertake background screening checks for volunteers.

For more information about the grants, view the listing on the [Funding Centre here](#).

[Contact your Federal MP](#) to find out if you are eligible to apply and register your interest.

NEW DEDUCTIBLE GIFT RECIPIENT



The Victorian Men's Shed Association (VMSA) has been at the forefront of the push to allow all Men's Sheds to hold Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status.

This is critical for the independence and sustainability of sheds everywhere.

The VMSA has provided direct lobbying to Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Minister Greg Hunt who have championed this push.

Our advice and submissions have been instrumental in the forming of the Draft Documents by Treasury.

Treasury is seeking submissions on the draft bill and explanatory memorandum for the new deductible gift recipient (DGR) general category for sheds.

In the 2019-20 Budget, the Government announced it will establish a DGR general category to enable Men's Sheds and Women's Sheds (Sheds) to access DGR status from 1 July 2020.

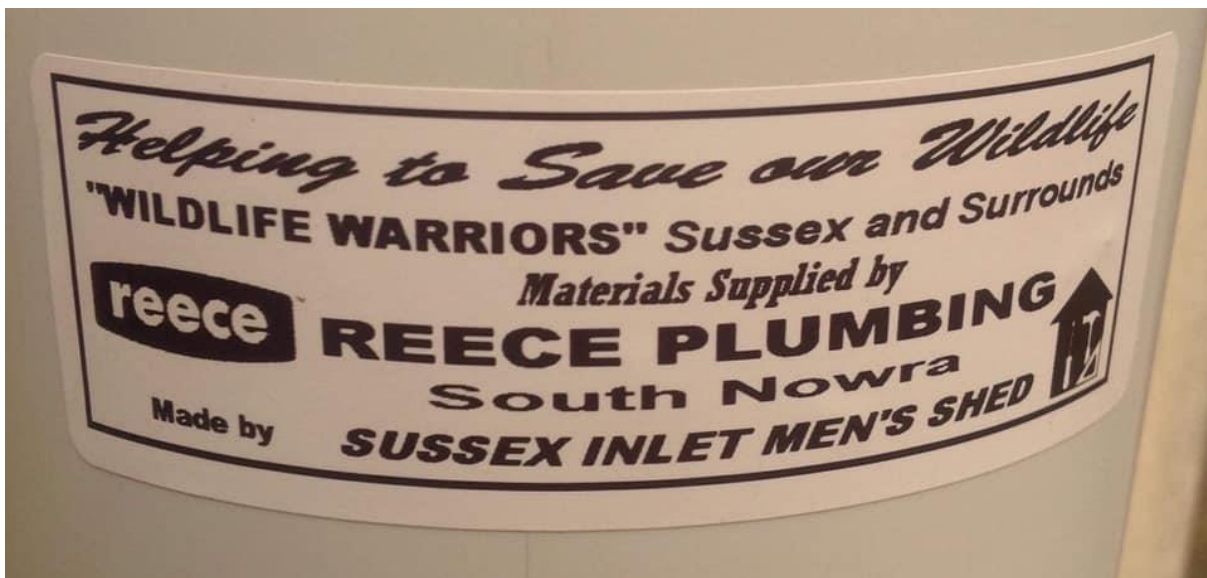
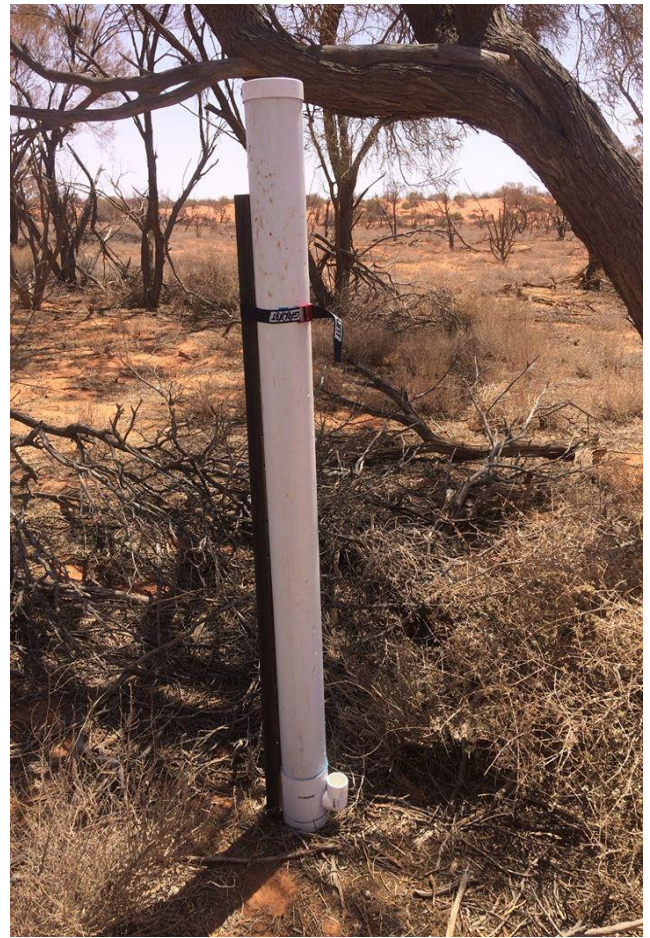
The Government's decision will be implemented through an amendment to the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

DGR status allows an organisation to receive gifts for which donors are able to claim an income tax deduction for gifts of \$2 or more from the date specified in the legislation. The DGR tax arrangements are intended to encourage philanthropy and provide support for the not-for-profit sector.

Please have your say on this important issue by going to Treasury website via the link below.

<https://treasury.gov.au/consultation/c2020-48269>

BUSHFIRE: WATERING DEVICE FOR WILDLIFE



GREYHOUND ADOPTION PROGRAM

When: Friday, 17 January 2020 – Sunday, 19 January 2020

Time: 10 am – 3 pm

Venue: GAP Seymour, 298 Goulburn Valley HWY, Seymour VIC 3661



To help connect our lovely greyhounds with special homes, we have waived our adoption fees at our upcoming 3-day adoption weekend on 17th, 18th and 19th January at our Seymour kennels.

All our usual adoption procedures will remain in place and potential adoptees must have an approved adoption application prior to the event, undergo our matching process at the event itself to achieve our aim of the right dog in the right home, and also understand that they will be subjected to at least three phone calls.

If you are not ready to adopt but would like to find out more information, this is a great opportunity as our staff from the Greyhound Adoption Program will be on hand to answer any of your questions while you meet and interact with some of our placid, friendly greyhounds.

If you are interested in adopting on the day, please click [here](#) and fill out the adoption application. The form needs to be filled out in addition to registering to attend the event.

Registration for this event is essential. Register today at <http://gap.gov.org.au/adoptionday> and we will see you and your family at the event.

Please note that the adoption fees will only be waived for the 3-day event. Our usual adoption fees will apply before and resume after.

Unfortunately, due to high-demand, there will be no cat-tolerant greyhounds on the day.



WHAT'S GOING ON AT BENTMOOR?

And They're Back For 2020!

Day	Date	Time	Activities
Monday	6 th Jan	9.00am – 12.30pm 10am	Shed Open <i>Bacon & Egg Sandwiches</i>
Tuesday	7 th Jan	9.00am – 1.30pm 10.30am	Shed Open <i>Boston Buns</i>
Wednesday	8 th Jan	9.00am – 1.30pm 11.00am	Shed Open <i>Sausage Rolls & Party Pies</i>
Thursday	9 th Jan	9.00am – 1.30pm 12 noon	Shed open <i>BBQ Lunch</i>

They Almost Take Plastic

Now, you will be able to make any payment to the shed by Eftpos, Mastercard or Visa.

Project Corner - Glen Eira Street Libraries



One of our members (we'll call him Mr Anonymous) has decorated the first of the nine. Is this in the Post-Modernist style? Why don't you have go? Volunteers are welcome.

WHAT HAPPENING AT BENTMOOR?

They've Been Given A Boat

Sisters Jacki Barnes, Vannessa Blake and Amanda Barnes have very generously donated to us a Mirror Dinghy, an 11-foot centerboard yacht. It has come very well-equipped and is mostly in good condition but, as the photos show, the hull does need work - quite a lot of work.



The boat was bought by their parents when the ladies were just girls, and it was the family dinghy for up to a couple of decades; but as far as they could work out it hasn't been in the water now for up to about 30 years.

Our plan is to do the necessary restoration work on the hull - replace some fibreglass inside the cockpit, strip back the remaining paint and varnish, seal and fill as needed, check and if needed repair everything else, and do a completely new paint job. Then find a buyer with proceeds going to Shed funds.

Cubby for Southern Autistic School in East Bentleigh

We expect to be starting this one towards the end of January, and when installed it will look a lot like this: We will deliver it to the school flat-packed on a trailer, because access on site is very difficult, and then a small crew of Shed volunteers will erect it - but that is still perhaps 3 months or so away yet.



Full material costs will be reimbursed to us, plus a donation to Shed funds, with all finance provided by the Hightt Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank.

STREET LIBRARY AT BALLARAT EAST

Ballarat East Community Men's Shed built a Street Library outside their shed. Men's sheds are building street libraries all over the world



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.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Oops!



JUST LIKE THAT...

If **children** were still allowed to dig for coal, would they be minor miners?

George knocked on the door of his friend's house. When his friend's mother answered, he asked, "Can Albert come out to play?"

Mother: "No, it's too cold."

George: "Well, then, can his football come out to play?"

You know what they say about unruly youths: vandalism is just a stone's throw away.

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming at the top of his voice.

Johnny to Mum: "Where did we get him?"

Mother: "He came from heaven."

Johnny: "Wow! I can see why they threw him out!"

Pauly walks into a bar and says, "Bartender, 1 round for everyone, on me!"

Bartender: "Well, Pauly, seems you're in a really good mood tonight, eh?"

Pauly: "Oh, you bet! I just got hired by the city to go around and remove all the money from parking meters. I start on Monday!"

The bartender congratulates the man and proceeds to pour the round. On Monday, Pauly comes back into the bar and says "Bartender, 2 rounds for everyone, on me!"

Bartender: "If you're so happy just over having a new job, I can just imagine how happy you'll be when you get your pay check!"

Pauly looks at the bartender with a confused look, pulls out quite a handful of quarters from his pocket, and says "You mean they'll pay me on top of it?"

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.

