

# NEW VMSA NEWSLETTER



## Calling all sheds... Have you updated your details lately?

We would all agree that communication is important. It is how we find out information that is of assistance to us for all sorts of reasons.

So, we are asking all Shed Management Committees to update their contact details on our website at this web address:

<https://www.vmsa.org.au/shed-contact-form/>

## VMSA are Hiring.....

We are recruiting two new full time field officers to better support our members, one for Metro/Suburban Melbourne and one for Regional Victoria,

[check out the add here seek.com.au](https://www.seek.com.au)



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## Acknowledgement of Country

'In the spirit of reconciliation, the Victorian Men's Shed Association Inc. acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of this nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging'.



**The Victorian Men's Shed Association is funded by the Victorian Government**

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# Chair Report



On 31 January and 1 February I attended my first AMSA board meeting and induction which was held in Melbourne at the office of AMSA's lawyers in Collins St.

I would like to thank all those member sheds who supported me in the AMSA election in November last year and I assure you all that I will do my utmost to ensure the voices of Victorian Men's Sheds are heard at a federal level at the AMSA board.

The president of the Western Australian Men's Shed Association was also elected to the AMSA board, which is a positive step towards reunification of the Men's Shed movement. AMSA holds four board meetings per year, two by Zoom and two in Melbourne and I am looking forward to the next meeting in April where we will discuss the implementation of the MOU agreed VMSA and AMSA.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending a regional meeting at the Heywood Men's Shed and I thank the president Terry Sparrow, his committee and the other participating shed committees for the warm welcome extended to me.

**Trevor Dobbyn - VMSA Chair**

# CEO's Report



The sheds are now back in full swing for 2023 and it's great to see so much activity with the men all enthused and getting stuck into new projects for the year.

I had the pleasure of visiting Endeavour Hills last week, which is a shed I have watched develop over the past few years. From humble beginnings operating out of a Kindergarten building that was shared with other groups, with the guys having to pack up all their tools at the end of everyday with only 14 members; to their current new shed that includes not only a large purpose-built workshop, but professional meeting rooms, a fully fitted kitchen, and a dedicated purpose-built office space it's an amazing success story. They now have 84 members with new members lining up to join which proves if you build it and run a good operation, they will come. The guys did a lot of lobbying over the years with both council, government departments and their local politicians, and there were many challenges along the way. Ultimately, they lobbied hard at every opportunity to anyone that would listen and got a great outcome proving hard work pays off, and now have a thriving shed and a great success story.

I also attended the Gippsland "Heads of Sheds" meeting that was held at the Leongatha Men's Shed and credit to ex VMSA Board member Barbara Look for organizing a very successful and productive event with 17 sheds and around 50 people in attendance actively networking and sharing ideas, learnings and information on what's going on in the region. I can't stress enough how important these type of meetings are for sheds, and I strongly encourage all sheds to get involved in cluster meetings, heads of sheds meetings, and other type of gatherings that get sheds together sharing their knowledge. Supporting these events will be a focus for VMSA this year and I welcome you to contact the VMSA office and staff if you need assistance in getting these off the ground.

David Mudge, Barbara's right hand man and co-driver of the Gippsland meetings was unable to attend this time as he's been unwell and we wish him a speedy recovery.

**Derek O'Leary - CEO**

# VMSA Queens Hall Event

## Calling all Sheds



The VMSA have been very fortunate to be offered an opportunity to showcase our work as an organisation and the great work produced locally around the State by Men's Sheds in a display at the very prestigious Queen's Hall in the Victorian Parliament on May 16 - 18th.

We are calling on sheds to provide any stand out pieces of work that they produce to be placed on display in Queens Hall for the week. There is limited space and time, so we do need to start working towards this as soon as possible. Items will need to be received and packed safely and stored at our Dandenong South Offices at least two weeks prior to the event, they will then be transported to Parliament in one delivery.

Queens Hall is a historic centerpiece in the State Parliament in Spring Street Melbourne, with Members of Parliament, Ministers, and other State Government staff passing through the hall whilst in Spring St.

Aside from having items produced by Sheds on Display, we will also be running a Video Display on the in house systems, and are calling all sheds to provide a photo of both the outside and inside of your shed.

VMSA Chair Trevor Dobbyn has been hard at work behind the scenes with Bronwyn Halfpenny Member for Thomastown pulling this together and I'd like to thank both of them for creating this fantastic opportunity for Victorian Sheds.

Please contact me if you are interested in providing display items for this great event

**Derek O'Leary - CEO**

# VMSA Board Visits

## Out and About!

This month VMSA Board Secretary, Geoff Gedge came across the men from Chelsea with their stand at the Bonbeach Farmers market. Great selection of items made in the Shed for sale. Excellent to be able to catch up and talk about Mens Shed stuff outside of the Shed. Geoff's favourite items were the hand turned Gonks and dice. Well done guys, looking forward to seeing your new shed when its ready.



VMSA Chairman and AMSA Victorian elected Board Member, Trevor Dobbyn presented at Heywood Mens Shed as part of the Men's Shed Regional Conference/Cluster, hosted by Heywood.

Many thanks to the Sheds that supported the day Portland, Casterton, Nelson, MacArthur, Mt Gambier and Heywood and the Mayor and councilors, and Heywood Health Service CEO.

And many thanks for hosting Heywood, an excellent event, looking forward to the next one.



# Endeavour Hills

## Birthday Celebration and Healthy Food Event



The Endeavour Hills Mens Shed, located on the Sydney Pargeter Reserve has recently held it's birthday celebrations, and a healthy food event for its 80+ members.

The day consisted of commemorating birthdays, some delicious healthy food, and festivities all-round for the occupants of the Endeavour Hills Mens Shed.

Best wishes to all shedders at Endeavour Hills, and we look forward to seeing what exciting things happen at your shed in the future!

# Korumburra-On the Move

## Korumburra's New Shed

Korumburra Men's Shed has operated for 14 years, initially in a small building ("The Joinery") at the Coal Creek Community Park and Museum on the outskirts of Korumburra. We started by renovating an almost derelict building within the park and it became our home for about five years. We quickly outgrew The Joinery and several years later, an enquiry from the South Gippsland Tourist Railway regarding help with the restoration of some railway carriages led to an offer to move into "The Goods Shed" on the Korumburra Station which we happily accepted as it was over double the size of The Joinery.

We then set about turning the bare tin shed into our new home. Unfortunately, within six months of us taking over the building, the South Gippsland Tourist Railway closed down and we had to apply for a lease on the shed direct from VicTrack who owned the station site. However, before that lease could be finalised, our Shire Council started negotiating with VicTrack for a lease over the station site for use as a community hub and they indicated that we would probably have to move.

So we approached VicTrack and asked about a large tin shed on the corner of Bridge and Station Streets in Korumburra which the Shire were not interested in. VicTrack told us to apply for the lease which was subsequently approved and serious negotiations started. The shed was the old locomotive shed and the floor was gravel and railway tracks with inspection pits between some of the tracks but VicTrack were only prepared to fill the pits and level the gravel and lease the shed "as is". We had applied for and received the DFFH 2022 Men's Shed Grant but this would not allow us completely fit out the shed so we were faced with the prospect of a meeting room/kitchen and toilet with a concrete floor but a workshop with a gravel floor.

So we approached our local member – Danny O'Brien – who then approached the Minister for Transport who agreed that leasing a shed with a gravel floor for the purposes of a Men's Shed was not on and agreed to fund the concrete floor.

The concrete floor was poured in two sections during February and the shed is now ready to be fitted out. We have started moving things into the shed and fitting out will start in the next few weeks.

The floor area of the new shed is nearly eight times larger than the existing shed so we believe that this will be our forever home. It will have a dedicated parking area compared with the public carpark we currently next to and security fencing around it. Internally, the workshop will be much larger and the natural lighting will be better with many clear roof panels. The meeting room and kitchen will be much larger and we will have our own toilet facilities on site rather than having to use public toilets a short distance from the shed.

We have been restricted in what we can do in our existing shed because of the space limitations so we are anticipating being able to do much more in the workshop, we will be building a computer room and be able to have functions in our meeting room. We have never actively recruited members for our shed as our buildings have always been at capacity very shortly after moving into them but we plan to start recruiting soon.

**John Davies**

Korumburra Men's Shed



# Heywood Mens Shed

## Regional Meeting of Mens Sheds



Heywood Men's Shed held a Cluster Meeting on Wednesday 15th February 2023.

Five Sheds attended the Heywood Men's Shed, Portland, Casterton, Nelson, Mount Gambier (SA), Macarthur and Heywood.

We had Cr Karen Stephens open the Cluster Gathering. We also had the CEO of the Heywood Rural Health come along and said a few words.

Scott Martin the Mayor of Portland Victoria also attended and said a few words thanking all the sheds that attended.

Terry Sparrow then handed the microphone over to Trevor Dobbyn, Chair of V.M.S.A to say a few words.

Terry opened the gathering up to all members from each shed to report on what was happening in their sheds.

Following the formal part of the day there was a great B.B.Q lunch put on for everyone that attended. During the meal the members from all the sheds mixed, sharing some great conversations.

We would like to thank everyone that worked behind the scenes to put this event together.

Terry Sparrow President  
Sandra Crone Secretary

# Cardinia Mens Shed

## Winners of the Cardinia Shire Event of the year!



Congratulations to everybody over at the Cardinia Mens Shed, for their efforts in recently winning the Cardinia Shire Council's "Event of the Year" award! The shed put on a "Seniortivity" event in October last year, garnering widespread attention and lots of attendees. We can't wait to see what events the Cardinia has in store for everybody at their shed, in the future.

# NSDP Grants

## National Shed Development Programme (NSDP)

The NSDP makes sure that all men's sheds in Australia have access to a wide range of resources and support for their particular shed.

The NSDP is a competitive men's shed grants program that started in 2010. It allows men's sheds and the organisations that support them to apply for funds. They then use these funds to better respond to their community's needs.

A men's shed is a community-based organisation that is open to all men. Men can gather and work on meaningful projects at their own pace and in their own time. The aim of men's sheds is to improve the health and wellbeing of its members.

### Why it is important

The NSDP allows men's sheds to apply for grant funds to:

- help with health promotion activities
- purchase equipment
- maintain their buildings.

A men's shed is a community-based organisation that is open to all men. Men can The NSDP conducts 2 rounds each year (\$500,000 for each round). Funding is not automatically guaranteed. Sheds must apply for funding and all requests are evaluated all requests based on appropriateness and need.

*The VMSA has put together an excellent resource for more information on this Programme.*

You can access this [HERE](#)



# Flood Assistance Grant

**Premier of Victoria**  
The Hon Daniel Andrews

## Helping Flood-Affected Communities Reconnect

The Andrews Labor Government is helping Neighbourhood Houses and Men's Sheds in flood-affected communities repair damage caused by the devastating events of last October and November.

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Lizzie Blandthorn today announced applications for the next round of the \$500,000 Rebuild and Reconnect grant program are now open.

The grants will help the Neighbourhood Houses and Men's Sheds – central players in their communities – continue to bring local people together to participate in recreational activities and deliver essential services.

During emergencies, Neighbourhood Houses provide critical support to communities through services including food relief. Men's Sheds support a range of community projects and local services, including the State Emergency Service and Country Fire Authority.

Five much-loved organisations received grants totaling \$142,000 from the first round of the program. They include:

- Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre – for repairs and replacement of furniture and equipment.
- Rochester Community House – for internal refurbishment to the building and equipment replacement for the house and Men's Shed.
- Echuca Neighbourhood House – for replacement of furniture and equipment.
- Charlton Neighbourhood House – for rectification of damage to doors, floors and walls and furniture replacement.
- Benalla Woodworkers Association and Men's Shed – for repair of electric motors for dust extractors.

For information and to lodge an application for funding from the final Rebuild and Reconnect grant round, visit:

**[providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-house-coordination-program](https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-house-coordination-program)**.

Applications close Friday, 3 March.

# Sheds in the Media



## Hills Men's Shed gives dog a new set of wheels.

The poor pooch was born with congenital defect, and has now been given a new lease on life, thanks to a generous donation from the Emerald Mens Shed. The poodle, lovingly named Rhapsody, was struggling to stand, nor even take one or two steps, without falling over.



*Jane Gamble, and her prized poodle Rhapsody. Reproduced from Star Mail  
Found here:*

<https://ferntreegully.mailcommunity.com.au/news/2023-02-12/hills-mens-sed-gives-dog-new-set-of-wheels/>

Owner Jane Gamble decided to contact the Emerald Mens Shed for assistance once Rhapsody was fully grown.

"They pulled all their resources together and talked to each other and made a few prototypes, fitted Rhapsody out a few times and changed it until they got something that would work for her," Jane said. It took a few tries, but with some spare parts from a child's bike, a wheelchair, and some patience, the Emerald Mens Shed pulled through for young Rhapsody, and she's been enjoying her newfound freedom ever since.

# Sheds in the Media



## South Gippsland Citizen of the Year

**If you're looking for a helping hand,**

### **Max is your man!**



Originally a dairy farmer in Welshpool, Max Wood can remember making cement bricks for the hall, pouring wheelbarrow loads of concrete for the Welshpool tennis courts, and putting hundreds of nails into the floor of the basketball stadium in Welshpool.

Raising five daughters with his late wife Rosemary didn't stop Max from being involved in various committees including the Welshpool Hall, Welshpool Tennis Club, Port Welshpool Museum, and Welshpool Golf Club. His life in Welshpool was heavily rooted in volunteerism, like with the Welshpool CFA where he spent 39 years and as a boundary umpire, and later goal umpire for the Welshpool Football Club.

In 1989, Max and Rosemary retired from dairy farming and moved into Leongatha where Max quickly became involved in the community by joining the Woorayl Golf Club Committee, South Gippsland Golf Classic Committee and the Leongatha Men's Shed where he is currently the President. Max helped establish the Leongatha Men's Shed in 2012. Men's sheds have been and continue to be a great place for men to come together to have meaningful conversations, all while they share skills, enjoy activities, and a sneaky cuppa or two. Connection is important in organisations like this and the work they do for the community through their woodworking and other skills is phenomenal. Many of us have been the recipient of something created in a Men's Shed.

Max was front-and-centre helping to raise funds for the new Leongatha Men's Shed that was opened earlier this year. The members worked hard to raise \$400,000 by selling their own products, having sausage sizzles, obtaining grants from Council and the State Government, as well as seeking donations from local businesses. 72 per cent of the cost of the new facilities was raised by the Men's Shed themselves.

Max's most recent achievements are made more spectacular by his limited mobility and loss of an eye during a car accident seven years ago that sadly took his wife of 52 years. After two months in hospital and rehabilitation, Max returned to his community – his men's Shed and the Woorayl Golf Club. He is well loved and described as an inspiration.

# Project Place

We are working towards launching [Project Place](#) on the VMSA Website.

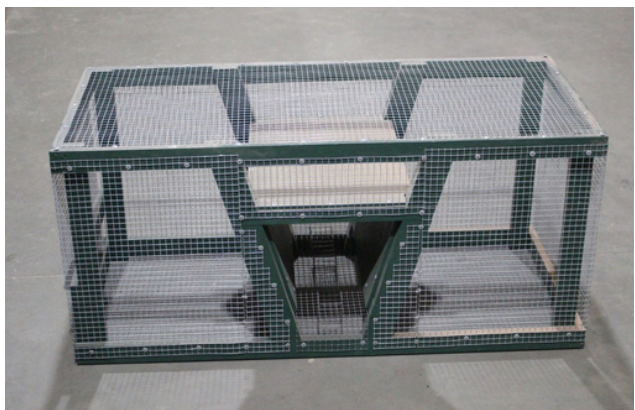
This will be a collaborative page and a way to enable all shed's to share their ideas and current or past projects. This will also offer a way to give advice to other sheds, share, and unite.

For any projects, big or small, or out of the box ideas that you would like to share on our newest webpage, please send through some photos/descriptions of items that your Shed has made to:

[newsletter@vmsa.org.au](mailto:newsletter@vmsa.org.au)

Don't forget to send through your project plans and workshop drawings to us!

Below is an example from Rupanup Men's Shed of the things we would love to see!



# VMSA Board Members



**Trevor Dobbyn**  
Chair  
0408 121 934



**Geoff Brooks**  
Treasurer  
0407 486 953



**Colin Prowd**  
Vice Chair  
0437 311 218



**Peter Broomhead**  
Board Member  
0405 058 319



**Max Finlayson**  
Board Member  
0428 171 020



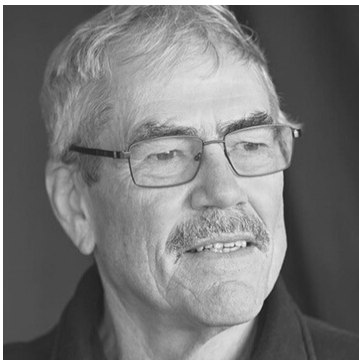
**Tom Rolls**  
Board Member  
0490 290 597



**Graeme Newman**  
Board Member  
0422 248 310



**Marcelle Davis**  
Board Member  
0408 592 016



**James Gundrum**  
Board Member  
0438 737 401



**Geoff Gedge**  
Board Secretary  
0405 983 635  
[secretary@vmsa.org.au](mailto:secretary@vmsa.org.au)

Important organisations that are there to help in difficult times  
**REMEMBER TO CALL A MATE**  
Beyond Blue 1300 224 636  
Lifeline 131 114  
**MensLine 1300 789 978**  
Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467  
Veterans Line 1800 011 046  
Black Dog Institute (02) 9382 4530  
Head to Health:  
<https://www.headtohealth.gov.au>  
Grief Line - 12-3pm 7 days: 03 9935 7400



# VMSA Staff Members



**Derek O'Leary**  
CEO  
0408 465 228



**Cameron Thomson**  
Latrobe Field Officer  
0487 427 404

**New Metro &  
Regional  
Field Officers**

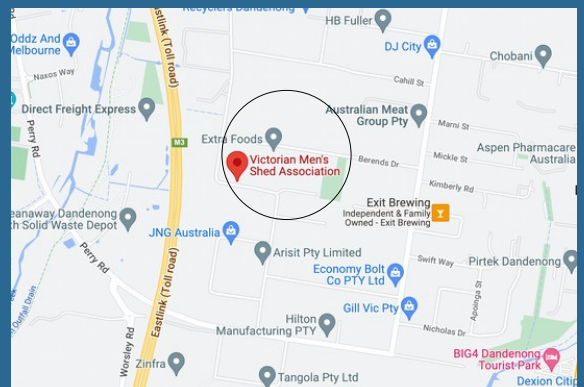
**Coming Soon**

**Check our Add on Seek**



**Zac Adam-Gedge**  
Membership Database  
zac@vmsa.org.au

We are here to support you.  
The VMSA Office is open Tuesday,  
Wednesday, & Thursdays 9-5



**173-175 Ordish Rd, Dandenong VIC 3175**

*Our CEO, Board Members and Staff are always willing to help our shed members. Please do not hesitate to contact us.*

**Thanks to our sponsors for their ongoing support:**

