



Australian Men's Shed Association

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New South Wales Branch

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Newsletter

The Committee of the NSW Branch met as a group on 6th October and addressed a wide-ranging agenda. Each Zone was represented, other than Zone 4, which is yet to nominate a representative. This newsletter provides a brief summary to acquaint members of major points discussed.

Corporate Identity

It had been recognised for some time that the logo and presentation of the New South Wales Men's Shed Association was cause for confusion amongst the membership and the general public as to who we are; and to what organisation we belong. We are in fact a branch of and a shareholder of the Australian Men's Shed Association and it was decided that we should be identified as such. This is now reflected in the letterhead above and is consistent with the style adopted by AMSA. It will also be used as the banner head on the website and other documentation.

Website

The website needs to be updated and a working party will commence work on this on 9 November. This will parallel work being undertaken to revamp the AMSA website. In the meantime we ask your patience and any suggestions for improvement will be most welcome.

Financial support for New South Wales Branch

Discussions are ongoing with the State Government seeking financial support for running the State organisation and providing some support to individual sheds. It was decided that it would be inappropriate to rely solely upon support from government for financial support and approaches will be made to the private sector and philanthropic organisations for support. Advertising will also be sought from preferred suppliers and supporter organisations on the website.

The President suggested that when local events are being organised a small additional charge over and above costs should be applied to assist NSW Branch in administration.

Proposed organisation arrangements for NSW Branch

It was decided that a more appropriate arrangement to support sheds throughout NSW would be to have a single State Coordinator and each Zone Coordinator, with assistance where necessary, to provide support directly to sheds within their respective zone. This will result in redrafting the budget and financial support package proposed to government so that there is adequate financial support to assist each Zone coordinator undertake visits to sheds and provide the support required. This financial support will primarily take the form of assistance with travel and subsistence costs. A policy has been agreed upon to aid this.

Policy on support to Sheds

It was agreed that the role of NSW Branch would be to support sheds, at start –up; providing guidance on common policies eg workplace safety; encourage not more

than one shed at each location and promote the concept of satellite sheds to ensure economy of scale; it is anticipated that sheds will continue to grow at the rate of 30% per annum for the foreseeable future. The Committee is keen to ensure that sheds retain their independence and that any policy guidelines be developed assist sheds manage themselves as independent units.

Impact of Changes to OH&S Legislation

The workplace safety legislation becomes effective in 2012 and it excludes all organisations that are volunteer based and which rely upon volunteers. Nevertheless it is AMSA policy that we should be striving for 'best-practise' as identified in the legislation. The legislation is based upon a risk assessment/ management approach and requires records be maintained of risk assessments carried out; measures implemented to ameliorate any risks; maintenance records of machinery and equipment and, records of training and competency assessments of operators. AMSA and NSW Branch will provide additional guidance on these issues as guidelines are developed.

Specific Roles

Appointments have been made of committee members and others to take the lead on specific functions. These are: State Newsletter; target bi-monthly, Secretary and Zone coordinators; Website Paul Battle and John Sharples; Fundraising, Secretary; Events Coordinator, Len Keogh; Workplace Safety and Risk Management, John Sharples; Media Contact, President and Secretary. Although each Zone Representative and shed should take every opportunity to promote the Men's Shed movement and their local shed at local level.

Database Management

This will continue to be controlled and coordinated through AMSA by Melissa as database and membership coordinator. Individual sheds should ensure that when changes are required to be notified to Dept of Fair Trading that they also inform AMSA and ensure that there are two email addresses and contact persons current for each shed.

Shed Expo and AGM

The AGM will be held at Dubbo in conjunction with the Shed EXPO on 9th February 2012. All Sheds throughout NSW are encouraged to attend however you are reminded that only the nominated representative of each shed is entitled to vote on matters raised at the AGM.

Deductible Gift recipient Status

Individual sheds that may not have deductible gift recipient status are eligible to use AMSA registration to obtain tax deductible gifts, however this is limited to those 'grants' that do not have conditions attached to them. AMSA will process the gifts and apply a small administration charge to cover their costs. Any situation where it is desired to use this arrangement should be discussed in the first instance with the Secretary.

Conclusion

The meeting proved most beneficial to all those attending enabling a clearer understanding of the role of the committee and each zone representative. It is hoped that this will continue and develop as financial support for the NSW Branch becomes available to support Zone representatives and Individual sheds.

Kevin Callinan

Secretary / Treasurer

30 October 2011