

MEET BIG OWL SALE MEN'S SHED GUARDIAN OF THE COMMUNITY

*South East Metro Roadshow
Akoonah Park*

*Darebin Men's Shed:
Congratulations to Keith Coffey OAM*

*The Lorne Men's Shed
Outsmarts The Cockies*

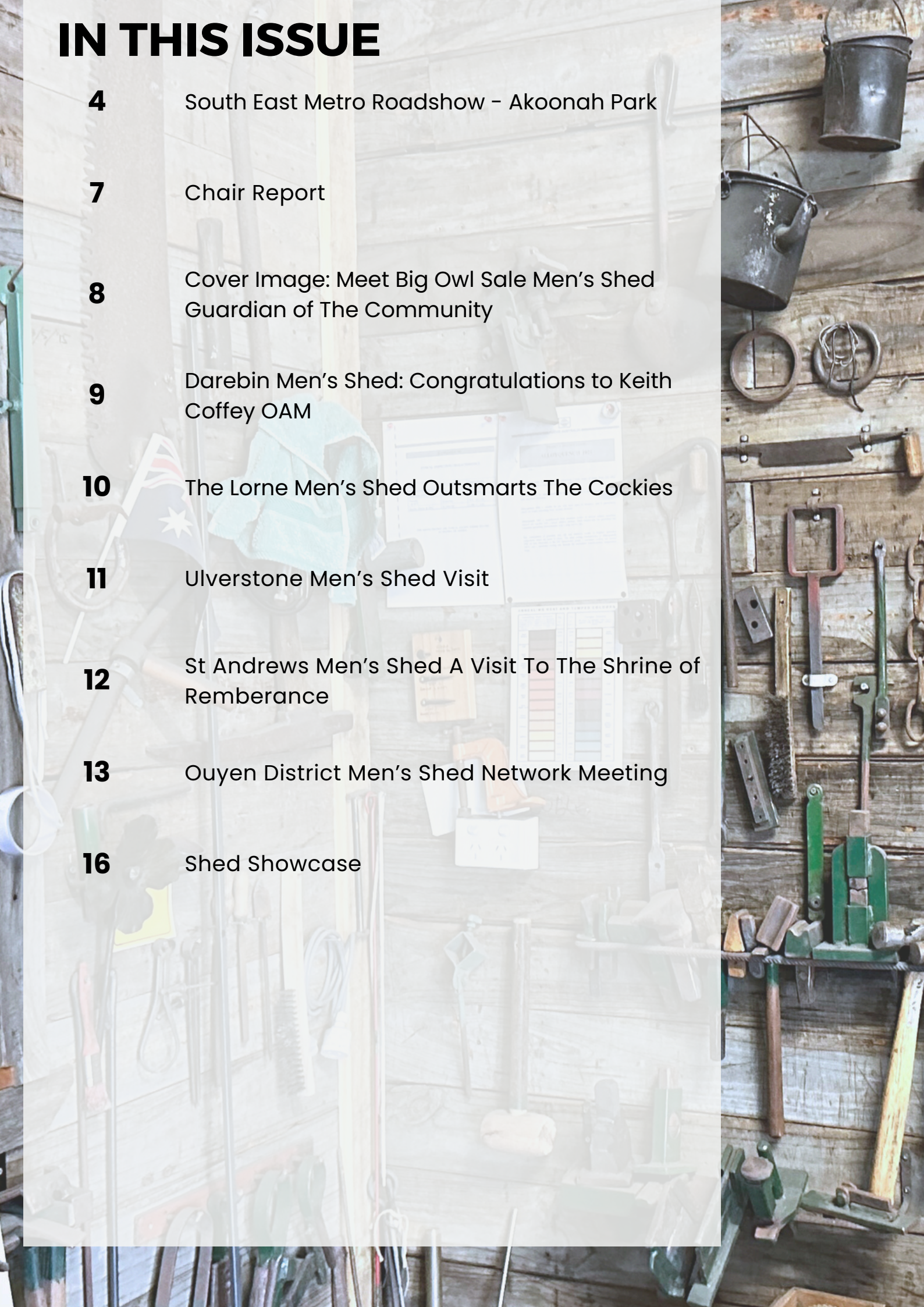
VICTORIAN
MEN'S SHED
ASSOCIATION

SHED TALK

JUNE 2026

Issue 53

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VICTORIAN MEN'S SHEDS

HELP US BUILD A FUTURE



STRONGER MEN'S SHEDS MEAN STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Victoria's men's sheds deliver enormous health benefits and a huge social contribution to members and communities across the state.

INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR MEN'S SHEDS

Men's sheds have received the same amount of funding since 2012 but our network has tripled in size. Men's sheds are underfunded and under-resourced.

WHAT'S NEEDED

Men's sheds are calling for an increase in State Government funding from \$1m to \$3m per annum from 2027/28 with ongoing indexation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your support will help men's sheds grow and secure their future. Visit our website or contact your local men's shed to share your support on our e-postcard or put your name on a form.

SCAN HERE
TO SHOW
YOUR
SUPPORT



We are collecting your name for the purposes of supporting our campaign for increased government funding. In connection with the campaign, we intend to share your name with politicians, political parties, and candidates contesting the Victorian State Election in 2026. The list of names we collect may be published by men's sheds. By providing your name, you consent to your name being used for this advocacy campaign. We will store your information in accordance with the VMSA privacy policy.

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VMSA.ORG.AU





23 June 2026

Calling All Victorian Men's Sheds

Dear Shed President, Secretary or Representative,

We are asking your shed to support our important campaign to increase funding for men's sheds in Victoria.

It is a little known fact that State Government funding for men's sheds has been frozen since 2012. Back then we had around 50 men's sheds and there are now 300.

This is not a sustainable position for our movement as we are slowly going backwards funding-wise and sheds are increasingly missing out.

Our campaign in this election year is giving our member sheds the opportunity to do something about this.

You can help by getting as many people as possible to support our campaign and adding their names to our e-post card, included in this pack.

The e-post card has information about our campaign and our call to have men's shed and the VMSA's funding from the state government increased from \$1m at present to \$3m from 2026/27 and for this funding to be indexed annually going forward.

See our campaign "Help Us Build A Future" post card click here
<https://www.vmsa.org.au/help-us-build-a-future/>

How will the e-cards be used?

The VMSA will gather up the lists of names on the e-post cards, list them shed by shed send them to all (that we can find) political parties, politicians and candidates contesting the 2026 Victorian State Election.

We will be asking for a clear deliverable commitment to our request.

Who can we add to the e-post cards?

Well, anyone really as long as they agree to have their name attached. This includes shed members, their families and as many community members as we can reach.

In our communities, we can collect names in pubs, (try not to get stuck there) clubs, shopping centres, fundraisers or anywhere within the bounds of the law.

Our aim is to harness the power of the thousands of men's shed members and get thousands of names on these e-cards post cards.

Your Campaign Pack is on its Way!

We are currently sending your sheds campaign pack in the mail. It includes posters to display in and around your shed and Show Your Support forms to collect names from your members and community.

Once you've collected the names of our campaigns supporters your shed can also use the e-post cards to lobby local politicians and candidates.



How to Use Your Campaign Materials

[Click here](#) for a step by step guide on how to make the most of the campaign materials.

Campaign Resources Available Online

Need more materials? Everything you need to spread the word is available to download from the [VMSA website](#), including additional Show Your Support forms, A4 flyers, newsletter inserts, a social media kit and an email kit for you to use to reach your community.

Download everything you need at vmsa.org.au/help-us-build-a-future/

We know that this call to men's sheds to support a political campaign to get more money out of government is a bit out of the ordinary and takes us away from making sawdust and doing day to day projects but if we've learnt anything it's that asking nicely or complaining doesn't cut through.

If we want to get somewhere and give the men's shed movement in Victoria a better future, we are going to have to be more assertive about it. We'll do it the right way, respectfully but with conviction and a unity of purpose in accordance with the true values of the men's shed movement.

If you need help with anything please contact:

VMSA Regional Coordinator Jim Kane on 0448 015 554
Vice President Graeme Newman on 0422 248 310
Secretary Max Finlayson on 0428 171 020

Kind regards,

Trevor Dobbyn
VMSA Chair

VMSA SOUTH EAST METRO ROADSHOW

AKOONAH PARK

The VMSA's Regional Roadshow series continued in fine style at Akoonah Park Men's Shed in Berwick, with 96 shedders from 18 sheds across the South East Metro region coming together for a day that was inspiring, moving and action packed.

A warm thank you to Akoonah Park Men's Shed for hosting the day and to President Maurie Hall for welcoming attendees. The shed's members went above and beyond in setting up, packing away and ensuring the day ran smoothly, with special recognition to Ian McKenzie for coordinating the audio-visual equipment throughout the day. Catering was provided by Melissa from Fine Dining Concepts and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Guests arrived from 8:30am to a breakfast of bacon and egg muffins before VMSA Regional Coordinator Jim Kane opened proceedings. Attendees were then welcomed by Akoonah Park Men's Shed's Lindsay Harding, who provided a brief overview of the shed's establishment and growth before introducing Brad Battin MP, the local State Member and a strong supporter of both the shed and the VMSA.

Sheds in attendance (18):

Akoonah Park, Berwick Woodworkers, Bunurong, Cardinia, Chelsea, Diamond Creek, Dromana, Drouin, Endeavour Hills, Junction Village, Langwarrin, Monash, Mooroolbark, Mount Martha, Phillip Island, Pines, Rosebud and Rowville.



VMSA SOUTH EAST METRO ROADSHOW

CONT.

A Day of Powerful Conversations

Mayors Stefan Koomen from the City of Casey and Brett Owen from the Shire of Cardinia both spoke to the important role men's sheds play in their communities and the valuable support they provide to men across their municipalities.

Keynote speaker John Toomey, who has worked with seven VFL/AFL clubs and A-League clubs, delivered an engaging presentation on men's mental health and the importance of respectful communication. John emphasised that being a good listener is often the most valuable skill of all, encouraging shedders to pay attention to the situations of those around them and to offer help where possible.

Sallie Jones from Gippsland Jersey delivered one of the most memorable addresses of the day, sharing the story behind the establishment of the Gippsland Jersey brand in 2016 alongside her brother Steve and four other dairy farmers. Sallie spoke openly about the significant financial and mental health pressures experienced by farming families as a result of prolonged low milk prices and the uncertainty this created, and how Gippsland Jersey was built to ensure dairy farmers received fair returns while delivering quality products to consumers.

Health Partners and Guest Organisations

The day also welcomed a range of health partners and community organisations including the Royal Flying Doctors Service, CareAbout, Total Dust Extraction, Aunty Grace, Hearing Australia and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. A highlight for many shedders was the Royal Flying Doctors Service plane simulator, which proved a big hit on the day. A Pass the Bucket collection raised \$275 and along with a \$50 Bunnings voucher was gratefully presented to the Royal Flying Doctors Service.

The Campaign - Help Us Build A Future

The afternoon session focused on the VMSA's Help Us Build a Future campaign, with Jim Kane opening with a compelling case for why increased government funding for men's sheds matters. The Curtin University report and survey findings were presented to give shedders the evidence behind the campaign's call for increased funding. VMSA Vice President Graeme Newman spoke about the importance of gathering as many names as possible from shed members and community supporters ahead of the 2026 Victorian State Election.

It was another fantastic day in what has been a landmark year for the VMSA Roadshow series. The next Roadshow date will be announced shortly so keep an eye on the VMSA website and social media for details.

With thanks to Lindsay Harding and the Akoonah Park Men's Shed committee for their report on the day.





REPORT FROM THE **CHAIR**

I am happy to report that the VMSA campaign aimed at increasing men's shed funding has commenced and campaign materials have been emailed to sheds. Instructions are included and, fingers crossed, sheds including mine in Ouyen will now put their shoulder to the wheel and start collecting names in support of our e-postcard campaign to be sent to politicians, political parties and candidates in the Victorian State election.

If this campaign to try to get a real increase in men's shed state government funding is to be successful, we need names in support and thousands of them starting with shed members, their partners and families and our supporters in our communities.

If we do this work, we have some hope of winning support from the politicians who, when in government, can decide to help us and give our men's sheds a better future.

We are also doing a campaign hard copy mail-out to sheds so if you don't want to do the job electronically you can do it the old school way on paper.

In other news, our General Manager Jim Kane has decided to go back to his previous role as VMSA Regional Coordinator. Many thanks to Jim for his contribution as General Manager as he continues his work for our men's sheds across the state.

We have advertised the position of VMSA Executive Officer and will start interviews this week.

The VMSA's return to AMSA, the federal men's shed body, has not worked out as hoped and the board has decided to cease our membership of this organisation. This has now taken place.

I have also resigned my membership of the AMSA Board.

We will now redouble our efforts to build up the men's shed movement in Victoria and work with the wider men's shed community nationally wherever possible.

TREVOR DOBBYN
VMSA Chair



MEET BIG OWL

SALE MEN'S SHED'S GUARDIAN OF THE COMMUNITY

Standing an imposing 2.7 metres tall at the Sale Community Gardens, Big Owl is hard to miss. Constructed from recycled timber by Sale Men's Shed member David Wakefield, the giant sculpture has already captured the imagination of the local community and generated significant interest through a feature article in the Gippsland Times.

But Big Owl is much more than a striking piece of public art. It is the centrepiece of a pilot program called the Guardian Owl Project, a community initiative conceived and driven by David with the aim of bringing together men's sheds, disability support services and NDIS participants across Gippsland to create meaningful opportunities for people to connect, build confidence and develop new skills.

David approached the Sale Men's Shed in early May with the concept, recognising it as the ideal environment to create connections and share skills with people of all abilities. The program ran over several weeks with a maximum of three participants at any given time, giving each person genuine hands on involvement in the building process at whatever level suited them best.

For David, the owl was a deliberate and considered choice of subject. He sees the owl as a symbol of wisdom, awareness and quiet strength, and as the sculpture took shape it became a powerful representation of what participants can learn, create and contribute. The outcomes he sought were practical and deeply human: visible achievement, social connection, skill development and community pride.

The Sale Men's Shed embraced the project wholeheartedly and the results speak for themselves. Big Owl now stands proudly in the Sale Community Gardens, a permanent reminder of what can be achieved when a men's shed opens its doors to the broader community.

David hopes the Guardian Owl Project will become a blueprint for a much larger initiative across Gippsland. Watch this space.

With thanks to the Sale Men's Shed for sharing this story. The project was also featured in the Gippsland Times.



DAREBIN MEN'S SHED

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEITH COFFEY OAM



The VMSA is delighted to congratulate Darebin Men's Shed member Keith Coffey on being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for his outstanding service to the community of Darebin.

The Order of Australia Medal recognises Australians who have demonstrated exceptional service to their community, and it would be hard to find a more deserving recipient than Keith.

Keith has been a member and volunteer at the Darebin Men's Shed since 2007 and his contribution to the broader Darebin community spans decades. He has volunteered with Your Community Health Darebin since 2006, served the Darebin Community Centre and East Preston Community Centre, and has been a volunteer with the Bike Linx Program since 2010.

Perhaps most remarkably, Keith served the Keon Park Youth Club for 47 years as President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Member, and has led a Support Group for Carers of those with Schizophrenia since around 2020. He has also been a member of the Together Project since 2020, served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Keon Park Community Hall Committee and volunteered with the Red Cross Appeal in the City of Preston.

Keith's commitment to his community is nothing short of extraordinary and his OAM is a thoroughly well deserved recognition of a lifetime of quiet, dedicated service.

On behalf of the VMSA and the entire men's shed community in Victoria, congratulations Keith. You are an inspiration to shedders everywhere.

THE LORNE MEN'S SHED

OUTSMARTS THE COCKIES

Anyone who has spent time on the Victorian coast will know that sulphur-crested cockatoos are not just noisy, they are remarkably clever. In Lorne, that intelligence had become a genuine community problem. The town's cockatoo population had worked out how to flip open wheelie bin lids and scatter rubbish across streets and gardens, defeating every solution thrown at them and leaving residents and the local council at their wits end.

For years the birds had the upper hand. Bungee cords, weights and various locking mechanisms were all tried and all eventually defeated. The cockatoos simply adapted, working out how to get around each new obstacle with a persistence that would be admirable if it were not quite so frustrating.

It took a group of shedders to finally crack the problem.



Lorne Men's Shed founder Allan Walls and his team took on the challenge as only a men's shed can, with patience, practical thinking and a willingness to keep trying until something worked. After years of experimentation and plenty of failed prototypes, the team landed on a solution that was elegant in its simplicity. A bin apron, fitted snugly over the wheelie bin lid, that denies the cockatoos enough grip to pry it open.

The design works because it removes the leverage point the birds rely on. Without something to grab onto at the edge of the lid, even the most determined cockatoo cannot get the bin open. It sounds straightforward but getting the fit, the material and the design right took considerable time and effort.

With 500 bin aprons now being rolled out across Lorne the early results have been very encouraging, with residents reporting a significant reduction in cockatoo related rubbish incidents across the town. The invention has attracted attention well beyond Lorne, generating considerable interest from other communities dealing with the same problem up and down the coast.

It is a perfect example of what happens when practical thinkers put their minds to a real community problem. The cockatoos may be clever, but the shedders at Lorne are cleverer.

This story was originally reported by the ABC. Read the full article at abc.net.au

ULVERSTONE

MEN'S SHED VISIT

During a recent visit to Tasmania, I accepted a kind offer from the president of the Tasmanian men's Shed Association Rob McKenzie to visit his shed in Ulverstone which is on the central north coast.

Rob is a former President and current committee member of the shed which was formed in 2011 and is located in the former sheep and pig pen area of the show grounds and has been converted into a very smart well set up men's shed.

The shed is situated on land owned by the Central Coast Council and Rob says that the council's support continues to this day.

Shed projects include recycling timber pallets, building cubby houses, garden beds and cupboards, repairing and restoring furniture, welding tractor carryalls and repairing trailers.

Being in Tasmania they aren't short of wood and work with a variety of local timbers including recycled Celery Topped Pine, Huon Pine and Tasmanian Oak, a hardwood which presents in different hues.

I must say, the blokes in the shed were very well informed on this subject, had no need of a wood library and have forgotten more than I know about timber.

The shed has a vegetable garden which helps the two cooks source ingredients and a fully blown kitchen which turned out a great Thai pumpkin soup on the day of my visit.

I want to thank Rob and the Committee for the opportunity to visit this great men's shed.

Trevor Dobbyn

Chair, VMSA
Secretary, Ouyen District Men's Shed

ST ANDREWS

A VISIT TO THE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

Somewhat to my surprise, when Neil offered to arrange a visit to the Shrine of Remembrance on St Kilda Road, I said I would go. It is not something I do on a regular basis. In fact, I have only been to one Anzac Day service in the 37 years I have been in Victoria.

As a former National Serviceman who arrived at Puckapunyal on April 23, 1969, I discovered two days later that the regular army did not regard Anzac Day as anything particularly special. That puzzled me, given that my Dad and I had gone to every Anzac Day parade in Woomera where I grew up. My father was born in Burma and joined the British Army at the outbreak of World War II, so Anzac Day meant something in our household.

Our visit to the Shrine fell on a cold and miserable autumn morning. After a surprisingly quick and quiet train trip into the city we made our way underground and emerged at a station I did not even know existed. A short uphill stroll along the eastern side of St Kilda Road and we found ourselves at the locked visitors entrance at 09:45, waiting in good military fashion until exactly 10:00.

Once inside, friendly staff and warm beverages awaited us before our tour guide arrived. Mr Daryl Bolton is a volunteer at the Shrine of many years standing and an absolute font of knowledge. If you visit on a Monday, Thursday or especially Anzac Day, you are likely to encounter Daryl, and I can strongly recommend the experience.

The displays are very well done and the building itself is fascinating and well worth the stairs that must be traversed. Among the highlights was seeing an actual Victoria Cross for the first time, and the boats used at the Gallipoli landings, which serve as a sobering reminder of what those men faced as they were rowed toward the shore under heavy fire, with more than 50 pounds of kit on their backs.

I could have easily stayed for the whole day. I strongly recommend a visit to anyone who has not been, or who has not been for some time. You will not regret it.

I leave you with the last verse of Laurence Binyon's poem *For The Fallen*, published in 1914:

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Submitted by Steve Jenkinson



OUYEN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

NETWORK MEETING



It was almost standing room only in the men's shed recently.

The Ouyen District Men's Shed played host to a meeting of the North Western Men's Sheds Network, which saw sixty-five representatives from men's sheds across the Mallee and Wimmera join the local shed members at their Rowe Street Shed last Tuesday. There were several topics of discussion on the agenda along with time for lunch and the important social aspect of the day.

Those from visiting men's sheds travelled from Sunraysia, Robinvale, Red Cliffs, Sea Lake, Wycheproof, Birchip, Hopetoun, Woomelang, Rainbow, and Donald, making the most of a day out, enjoying the opportunity to catch up with like-minded blokes. For quite a few attending this was their first opportunity to visit the Ouyen Men's Shed and to meet some neighbouring like-minded men.

A series of similar men's shed network meetings are being held across the state, in an effort to bring the sheds together and enable members to discuss ways of maintaining a strong membership, encouraging new men to take up membership and to strengthen local community connections through open days and creating partnerships with local community organisations.

It was also a great opportunity to hear a report on the current campaign to try to increase men's shed funding first-hand from Chair of the VMSA Trevor, who noted in the report that state government funding for men's sheds has not increased since 2012 but the number of sheds had actually tripled in number.

As a result, a resolution to support the Victorian Men's Shed Association lobbying to increase state government support for men's sheds through an e-postcard campaign was carried unanimously.

Published with permission from the Ouyen North West Express.

MEMBER DUES – JULY 2026

Important Membership Update

Member dues will be processed in July.
Confirm your shed details to avoid any delays
in receiving your invoice, ensuring a smooth
membership experience and continued
participation in our community activities.



\$55

Annual Member Fee

Update your shed details today at
www.vmsa.org.au or email vmsa@vmsa.org.au

Ensure your details are current
to receive your invoice in July.

TOGETHER STRONGER SHEDS STRONGER COMMUNITIES



VMSA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



PRACTICAL SUPPORT

We provide practical advice, assistance, support and guidance for Victorian Men's Sheds.



REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

We represent and advocate for the interests of your shed to government, business and community organisations.



PROMOTION

We assist with promoting your shed to the wider Victorian community.



FIELD VISITS

We provide face to face support for Victorian sheds including field visits.



ANNUAL FORUM AND AGM

You are invited to our annual VMSA Forum and AGM on **21st October**, which is fully catered and free of charge, including a \$100 travel voucher for all sheds located more than 100km from the venue at The Meadows Racetrack, Broadmeadows.



LOCAL AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

We provide help with local and regional shed networks, including network visits and network establishment.



REGIONAL COORDINATOR

A Victorian based Regional Coordinator supports Victorian Men's Sheds with local health related resources and timely information on the National Shed Development Program Grants.



VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS

We provide information and guidance regarding the annual Victorian State Government men's shed grants, with up to \$840,000 available for Victorian sheds.



NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Your shed receives a subscription to the VMSA newsletter and access to our social media page, keeping sheds up to date with information and news about shed activities across Victoria.



REGIONAL ROADSHOWS

We host Regional Roadshow Events for sheds across the state.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We provide information on other available local grants, governance, shed promotion and community engagement.



PARTNERSHIPS AND EQUIPMENT

Enjoy the benefits of VMSA's partnerships with corporations and other organisations for the distribution of equipment and materials to sheds.



STRONGER TOGETHER.
SUPPORTING SHEDS ACROSS VICTORIA.



**BE PART OF A STRONG
NETWORK'S THAT SUPPORTS,
ADVOCATES AND GROWS
MEN'S SHEDS ACROSS
VICTORIA.**

SHED SHOWCASE

ELTHAM & DISTRICT WOODWORKERS

One of the joys of woodworking is that scrap timber destined for the bin can often be perfect for something beautiful. The Eltham & District Woodworkers have proven exactly that with this elegant end grain cutting board, turning what would have been waste into a stunning piece that any kitchen would be proud of.



PINES MEN'S SHED FRANKSTON

From run down to ready for action! The shedders at The Pines Men's Shed Frankston have taken an old, worn out bench seat and restored it to brand new condition. A great example of the skill and care that goes into giving old furniture a new lease on life

Do you have a great shed story or funny moment to share? Let us know for the next edition of Shed Talk! Email vmsa@vmsa.org.au



BEN'S SHED IMC - YARRA JUNCTION COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED

The shedders at Ben's Shed have been putting their creativity to good use, crafting a unique range of insects from reclaimed railway spikes and other salvaged materials. A great example of what can be achieved when ingenuity meets recycling.

GV WOODWORKERS

The GV Woodworkers have generously donated \$1,000 to the GV Health Foundation's I Care for Cancer Care appeal, supporting cancer care at Goulburn Valley Health. For many of the club's members and their families, cancer has touched them personally, making this cause especially meaningful. A wonderful gesture of generosity and community spirit.



ROSEBUD & DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

Another successful Seawinds Cup Golf Day for the Rosebud and Districts Men's Shed at Eagle Ridge Golf Course. Despite the inclement weather everyone had a great day, with a big thank you going out to all the sponsors, supporters and shed members who pitched in to make it such a success.

Do you have a great shed story or funny moment to share? Let us know for the next edition of Shed Talk! Email vmsa@vmsa.org.au



Join us to celebrate
**BERWICK DISTRICT
WOODWORKERS CLUB's
40th BIRTHDAY**

Woodworking Display & Expo

also hosting
**The Australian
Scroll Saw Network
Biennial Exhibition**

**FREE
ENTRY**

JOIN US FOR OUR
40th Birthday
CELEBRATION!

(Children under 16 to be accompanied by an adult please)



**Friday 10 July 2026
Saturday 11 July 2026
and Farmers' Market
Sunday 12 July 2026**



**5.00pm—8.00pm
9.00am—5.00pm
8.00am—1.00pm
9.00am—5.00pm**



The Clubrooms
The Old Cheese Factory
34 Homestead Road
Berwick



Got questions? Reach out!

John McMahon: 0437 096 840 or Jayne Worthington: 0409 991 356
email: bdwwcsec@outlook.com www.bdwwc.club

Scan QR Code for further details

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**Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2026**



**CONNECT
CREATE
CELEBRATE**

1–31 October



2026 SENIORS FESTIVAL

GET YOUR SHED INVOLVED!

The 2026 Victorian Seniors Festival is coming and it is a great opportunity for men's sheds across Victoria to get involved, showcase their work and connect with their local communities.

This year's theme is Connect, Create, Celebrate, which could not be more fitting for the men's shed movement!

List your shed event for free

Submissions for the online event calendar are now open. If your shed is planning an open day, demonstration, exhibition or any other activity during the festival period, you can list it for free at seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/victorian-seniors-festival-event-submission. The calendar closes for submissions on Sunday 16 August at midnight, so get in early.

To help you get started, download the [stakeholder promotional toolkit](#) and the [guide to listing your event](#) to get started.

Expressions of interest for the Victorian Seniors Festival print guide are closing even sooner, on Sunday 7 June. Complete the EOI form here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/jabAqShdRA>

Free travel for Seniors Card holders

Seniors Card holders can enjoy nine days of free public transport across Victoria from 3 to 11 October 2026, including all metropolitan services, V/Line train and coach services and selected regional bus services. This is a great opportunity to encourage members and visitors to travel to your shed events during the festival period.

Key dates:

Monday 25 May: [Stakeholder promotional toolkit](#) available

Monday 25 May: Online event calendar opens for submissions

Sunday 7 June: Expressions of interest for print guide listings close. Complete the EOI form here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/jabAqShdRA>

Sunday 16 August, midnight: Online event calendar closes for submissions

Monday 17 August, 5:00pm: Deadline to request changes to submitted online event calendar events

Tuesday 1 September: Online event calendar and Victorian Seniors Festival launched for 2026

3 to 11 October 2026: Free travel period for Seniors Card holders



OH&S HUB

WE'RE LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SHED TALK'S NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY SHARING PAGE

Last edition we launched this page to encourage sheds across Victoria to share their health and safety experiences, tips and policies with the broader network. The idea is simple. Rather than every shed working through the same challenges in isolation, we can draw on each other's knowledge and experiences to improve health and safety standards across the whole Men's Shed movement. So far we have had no submissions and we would love to change that!

We want to hear from sheds about anything health and safety related that you think would be useful to share with the network. This could be test and tag tips, shedder induction policies, near miss experiences and the lessons learned, how your shed manages hazardous materials, first aid procedures, or any other approach or initiative that has made your shed a safer place. Submissions can be made anonymously if preferred.

No contribution is too small. If it has made a difference in your shed it could make a difference in another. Send your emails to Jim at vmsa@vmsa.org.au and let us build something useful together.

SHED TO SHED

VMSEA LAUNCHES TOOL AND EQUIPMENT REPURPOSING PROGRAM

The VMSEA is excited to launch a new shed to shed repurposing program, giving men's sheds across Victoria the opportunity to pass on surplus tools, equipment and materials to sheds that need them most. The program is open to all Victorian men's sheds and is intended to particularly benefit sheds that are doing it tough.

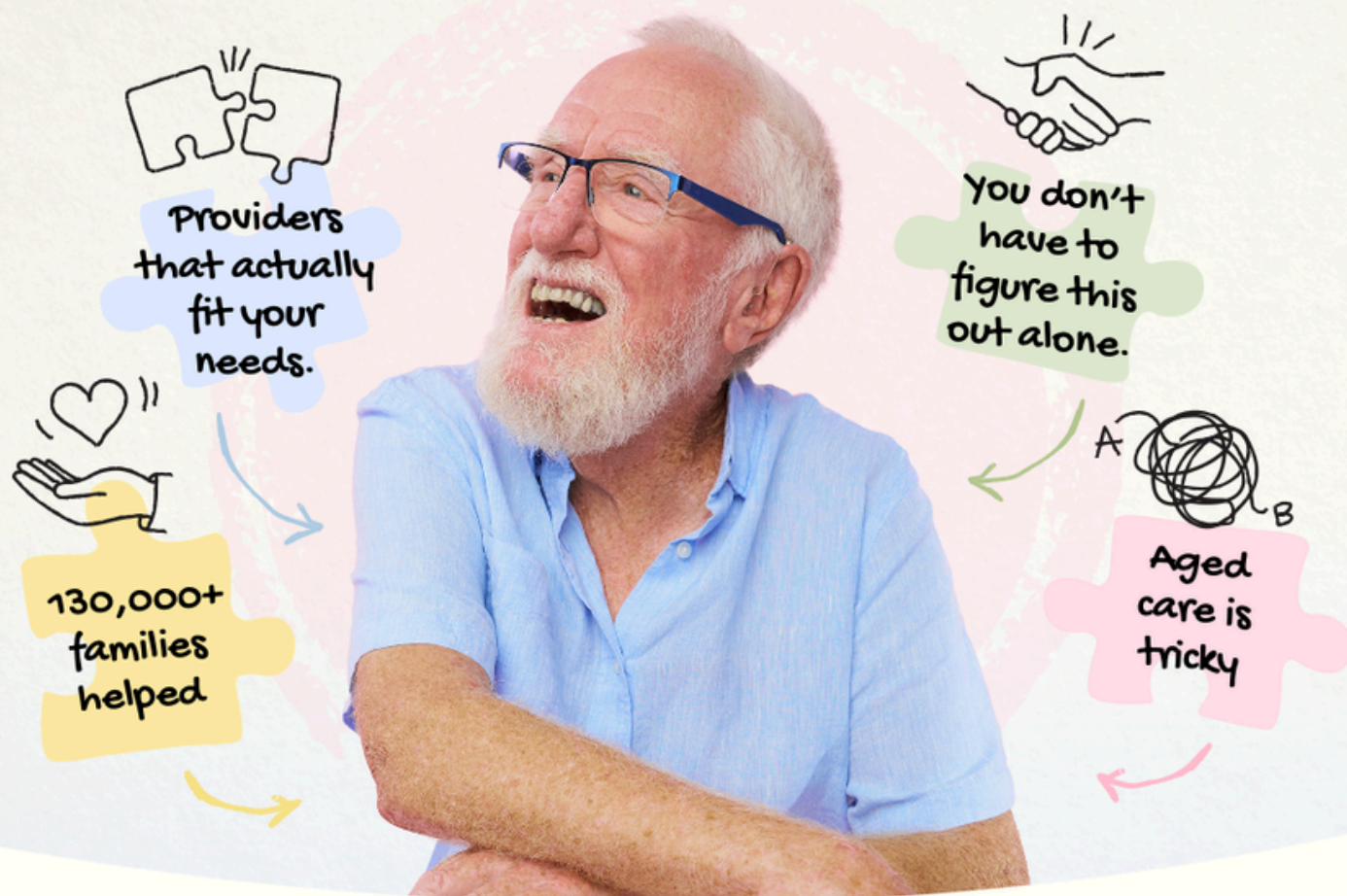
The program will run through the [VMSEA Public Notices Facebook group](#), which already has 860 members and is free to use. Each month the VMSEA will put up a post in the group to get the ball rolling. Shed representatives can then add a comment under the post with a description of what they have available, their contact details and an image where possible to show the condition of the items.

If you would like your listing featured in Shed Talk, simply send the details through to us at vmsa@vmsa.org.au and we will include it in the next edition.

To keep things above board the program operates on a shed to shed basis only, through shed executives, ensuring it remains a genuine community initiative.



Share Your Surplus Items!



CareAbout: Because *no one* should feel alone when seeking quality care.

For wherever you're at in your care journey, CareAbout is here to help you, **free of charge**, when it's time to:



Find a Home
Care Provider



Change Home
Care Providers



Explore Aged
Care Homes



Excellent

4.7



based on 6k+ reviews | **Trustpilot**

We're always here to CareAbout You

CareAbout is proud to sponsor **The Men's Shed**. Our partnership only deepens our commitment to making sure older Australians feel empowered to make aged care a choice (**not** a compromise). If you need support with your care, please freecall us: **1800 002 292**.

KEEP DOING WHAT YOU LOVE AT YOUR LOCAL MEN'S SHED

With Aunty Grace's Support at Home services, you can keep enjoying the activities and mateship of your local Men's Shed for years to come.

Got a Home Care or Support at Home government package?

Aunty Grace is here to help with:

Stay Connected

More time at your Shed, building, creating and catching up with mates.

Stay Active, Stay Strong

Access to physiotherapy and other clinical services with no out-of-pocket contributions under Support at Home.

Support at Home

Assistance with everyday tasks so you can stay safe and independent in your own home.

Transport to the Shed

We'll help you get to and from your Shed so you don't miss a thing.



Support at Home that keeps you moving, connected and independent

At Aunty Grace, we deliver better care and **Support at Home** that's consistent, compassionate, and clinically backed.

With local knowledge and genuine personal care, your Aunty Grace Care Partner supports your independence every step of the way.



Aunty Grace ensures you get more from your home care with:

- Regular, reliable services
- Smarter Care Management
- Every incident reviewed by a clinical team
- We stay in touch – regular updates, clear communication, and community events!
- Need help? Our friendly support team is always there and ready to assist

Call us today **1300 010 801**
or visit us at **www.auntygrace.com.au**

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
WHETHER IT'S A PROJECT SUCCESS,
A MEMBER'S ACHIEVEMENT, OR A
COMMUNITY INITIATIVE, WE'D LOVE
TO FEATURE IT IN SHED TALK.**

Send us your photos and stories to
vmsa@vmsa.org.au and let us showcase
the amazing work happening in your shed.

Don't miss this opportunity to share your
journey with the wider men's shed
community!



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**Mobility Scooters
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To book an appointment call us
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Visit our showroom
851 Nepean Hwy, Mornington
www.motobility.com.au

HOST YOUR NEXT MEN'S SHED EVENT IN OURS



WE CONFESS, OUR 'MEADOWS SHED' PROBABLY LOOKS A LOT DIFFERENT TO YOURS. HOWEVER, IT SHARES THE SAME VISION, MISSION & ROLE.

Here at **The Meadows Conference and Events Centre** we too believe in empowering communities. Our mission, like just every Men's Shed, is to offer a place for people to connect. We are dedicated to providing our venue to groups who require a unique and great space to host a function at a very reasonable cost. It goes in hand in hand with being a not-for-profit organisation, just like the VMSA.

As a proud sponsor of the VMSA, our shed door is always open should your shed members need a space to gather. This October we will again be hosting the **VMSA Annual Conference**. If you plan to head along, our hospitality team will be available to show you around our venue. We've seven sensational indoor and outdoor spaces to entertain you. If you'd like more immediate information about our venue and hospitality packages you can jump on our website or call on (03) 9355 5222.

And don't forget, our venue doubles as a Australia's premier greyhounds race track. We can also host you on a Wednesday or Saturday race night. Visit melbournegreyhounds.org.au to learn more.



*The
Meadows*

CONFERENCE + EVENTS CENTRE

80 Northcorp Boulevard, Broadmeadows, Victoria
themeadowsevents.com.au | (03) 9355 5222



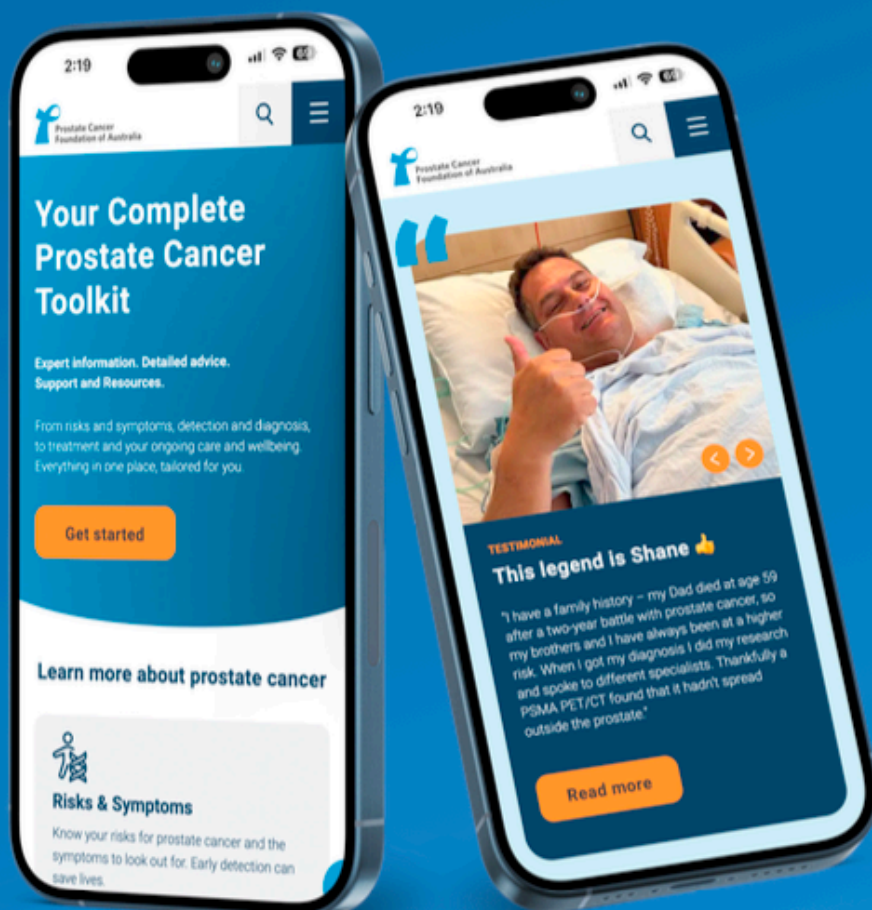
Prostate Cancer
Foundation of Australia

Your Complete Prostate Cancer Toolkit

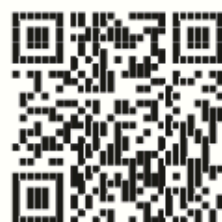
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tailored for you.

🔍 prostate.org.au

☎ 1800 22 00 99



Scan the QR code
to get the Toolkit



WORKING TOGETHER FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES



Australian Business Volunteers are ready to help you strengthen your community organisation or small business.

Our local team and business volunteers provide practical and tailored support for community organisations and small businesses in the East and Central Gippsland areas, at no cost to you.

We can help with mentoring, training and technical advice.
Why not ask us about:

- Community-level hazard mapping
- Community emergency management planning
- Strategic planning
- Financial literacy and business acumen guidance
- Grant writing and funding support
- One-on-one business mentoring and more

Let's work together for stronger and more resilient Gippsland communities



Scan QR code
or contact Michelle
on 0429 008 475
to register
your interest

Follow Us on Social Media



Don't miss out on the latest updates, events, and community initiatives from the men's shed!

Follow our Facebook page **Victorian Men's Shed Association** for all the news, photos, and stories straight from Sheds.

Plus, join our Facebook group **VMSA - Public Notices** to connect with fellow members, share ideas, and stay in the loop with discussions on topics that matter to you.

Stay connected, stay engaged, and be a part of our vibrant online community!

Follow us today!

VMsa TEAM



JIM KANE

Regional Coordinator

☎ 0448 015 554

✉ jim@vmsa.org.au



COURTNEY RODDA

Social Media

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VISIT OUR ONLINE EDITION

<https://www.vmsa.org.au/newsletters>

- Catch the latest shedders news
- See projects in the community
- Updates from VMSA



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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