



Nuts & Bolts

AMSA MEMBER BULLETIN

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CHAIR'S REPORT

A transformative year for AMSA

Dear Shedders,

Welcome to 2026, a year that's shaping up to be exciting and genuinely transformative for AMSA, and for the Men's Shed movement right across Australia.

We're kicking the year off with real momentum as we head towards the 11th AMSA National Men's Shed Gathering in Brisbane, March 24 to 26. This is the flagship on our calendar, and this year will be a cracker. We've got an outstanding line-up of presenters, practical workshops, and Shed Tours that show off the diversity, ingenuity and heart of Sheds across the country.

Just as importantly, the Gathering is about connection. It's where you meet new people, reconnect with old mates, swap ideas, and leave feeling recharged. That shared energy is a big part of why this movement keeps getting stronger every year. I'd love to see as many Shedders there as possible.

As we move into 2026, AMSA is standing on a strong platform. Our new governance measures are now properly bedded in. That puts the organisation in a much better place for transparency, accountability and long-term sustainability. It also means we're better equipped to support the continued growth of Men's Sheds, and to represent Shedders nationally with clarity and confidence.

We're also coming into the year with a new Commonwealth funding agreement, which gives us the capacity to meaningfully expand what we do for Sheds across Australia. This agreement will help us to:

1. Lift our direct support to Sheds, including guidance, operational advice and practical resources.
2. Strengthen how we advocate nationally on behalf of Men's Sheds.
3. Develop and deliver new initiatives that support men's health and wellbeing.
4. Expand programs that build Shed capability, resilience and sustainability.

In 2026, you'll see a strong focus on practical support, making sure Sheds have the tools, information and help they need to thrive. We'll keep leaning into health partnerships that deliver real outcomes for Shedders, particularly around mental health, preventative health and social connection. And we'll deepen collaboration

with government, community organisations and corporate partners to open up more opportunities for Sheds nationwide.

Most importantly, we'll stay focused on what matters most: supporting the wellbeing of men in our communities. Men's Sheds play a vital role in reducing isolation, building purpose and strengthening mateship. AMSA's job is to back that in, and help every Shed have what it needs to make a difference locally.



The year ahead is full of opportunity and renewed momentum. With stronger foundations, improved funding, and the commitment of Sheddors across Australia, we're in a great position to keep building a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive Men's Shed movement.

Thank you for everything you do. I look forward to seeing many of you in Brisbane, and to working together to make 2026 a standout year for AMSA and for Men's Sheds everywhere.

Warm regards,

Luke Clifton
Chairman

AMSA 2026/27 Insurance Program

The Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) is pleased to advise that applications are now open for the AMSA Insurance Program for the 2026 policy period, covering 28 February 2026 to 28 February 2027.

Following negotiations undertaken on behalf of the program, AMSA is able to continue offering access to a structured and sustainable insurance program with reputable insurers at a cost of \$28.50 per member. In the current insurance market, maintaining consistent pricing represents a positive outcome, and AMSA sincerely thanks Everest Risk Group for their continued support and work in negotiating and administering the AMSA Insurance Program.

There is important information contained within the Frequently Asked Questions Guide, which we suggest you read prior to completing the application form. The Guide is available at www.mensshed.org/for-mens-sheds/insurance

How to Apply

Apply for the 2026 AMSA Insurance Program by completing the online application form:

<https://form.jotform.com/EverestRG/AMSA2026>

If you need help filling out the form or have any questions, please call us on 1300 550 009 or email amsa@mensshed.net



Bendigo Bank phasing out cheques

Australia's payment landscape is changing. More Australians are leaving behind their chequebooks and choosing simpler, more reliable and immediate electronic payments. This decline has led to Bendigo Bank (and other financial institutions) introducing some changes to the way cheque payments are supported.

Chequebooks will no longer be reissued or available to reorder on all new or existing accounts. Customers with existing chequebooks will be able to retain these.

Online banking is an easy alternative to make payments via EFT and OSKO Payments, using BSB/Account number or PayID.

NSDP Round 31

The National Shed Development Programme is administered by AMSA on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Open Monday 12 January 2026

Closing dates: Cat 1-4 - Friday 20 February 2026 / Cat 5 - Friday 6 March 2026

Changes to Category Three Tools and Equipment eligibility:

Previously, Category 3 excluded any applicant that had received NSDP funding in the past 6 rounds in any category. From Round 31, Men's Sheds that have not received Category 3 funding in the past six rounds (rounds 25-30) will be eligible.

Priority for funding under Category 3 will also be given to new Men's Sheds (less than two years old) and Men's Sheds that have not previously received NSDP funding.

Need help?

Please email amsa@mensshed.net if you have enquiries about the NSDP programme, preparing your application, the Application Form and application process, items and services that are eligible for funding.

Round 31 documentation can be accessed at www.mensshed.org/nsdp/supporting-docs-faqs



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

WD-40 Repair Challenge: A chance to WIN your shed \$5k!

There are not many sheds that don't have a can of WD-40 on the shelf somewhere and we all have our own specific uses from loosening our nuts to spraying it on a dodgy knee! Now, WD-40 are giving Men's Sheds the opportunity to WIN \$5k just by sharing your repair videos!

To WIN you can share a repair tip on video. Simply capture it on your phone (and a photo of the finished repair) and upload it via the QR code.

OR better still, hold a REPAIR OPEN DAY at the shed, invite members of the public to bring their 'broken stuff' down to get it fixed, get THEM to upload a video and nominate your shed! This will:

- Open up your shed to the community to attract more support
- Give your shed a chance at winning \$5k
- And, at the very least you will receive a bunch of WD-40 product for your shed!

Register your interest in participating here: [WD-40 Repair Challenge Registration](#)

For any questions, contact Marty Leist at marty@mensshed.net



AUSTRALIAN
MEN'S SHED
ASSOCIATION
Shoulder to Shoulder

11th AMSA National Men's Shed Gathering

From shed tours and practical workshops to honest conversations about leadership, wellbeing and the future of sheds, this year's Gathering in Brisbane is shaping up to be one of our best yet.

Take a look at what's on offer, start planning your sessions, and get ready for a few days of good yarns, shared learning and proper shed camaraderie. Check out the details below or visit our website at www.mensshed.org/menssheds2026

If you have any questions, get in touch at events@mensshed.net or call 1300 550 009 – we're happy to help.

Program

The 11th National Men's Shed Gathering brings together shedders from across Australia for three days of connection, learning and shared experience. The program blends practical workshops, honest conversations, inspiring showcases and time to simply catch up with mates, all grounded in what matters most to sheds and the men who walk through their doors. From health and wellbeing to leadership, community connection and sustainability, the Gathering focuses on real issues and real solutions that work on the ground.

Just as importantly, the program makes space for what makes sheds special – shared meals, shed tours, laughter, music and the chance to learn from one another. Whether you're looking for new ideas, reassurance that others face the same challenges, or simply a good yarn with people who get it, the Gathering offers something for every shedder and leaves you better equipped, better connected and ready to take ideas back home.

Download the program from www.mensshed.org/menssheds2026

Registration

AMSA/QMSA Member Delegate – \$260.00 (*note: Shedder's Dinner not included in this registration*)

AMSA Non-Member Delegate – \$300.00 (*note: Shedder's Dinner not included in this registration*)

Social Registration – \$150.00

Shedder's Dinner Ticket – \$80.00

Group rates are available for more than three registrations from the same shed. Please contact us at events@mensshed.net or 1300 550 009.

Register at <http://tix.yt/menssheds2026>

Accommodation

Accommodation must be booked directly through a venue, in addition to registration. Discounted accommodation is available at Royal on the Park Hotel & Suites, Oaks Brisbane Suites and Mantra on Mary. Visit our website and scroll down to accommodation for more details: www.mensshed.org/menssheds2026

Hook up the caravan and head north! Dayboro Men's Shed have put together a special offer for shedders travelling by caravan:

Caravan sites are available during the Shed Gathering at the Dayboro Showgrounds, in conjunction with the Dayboro Men's Shed.

Bookings & Enquiries: Contact Bob (Site Caretaker) on 0407 869 123. Please advise that you are with the Men's Shed to access the special rate and preferred sites.

Cost: \$25.00 per site, per day (Bookings can be extended before and after the Gathering, for up to three weeks in total)



Shed Diary

Visit mensshed.org/events for AMSA's full calendar of events and workshops.

20 February	NSDP Round 31 Category 1 – 4 Applications close
28 February	AMSA Insurance Due
3 March	Building Resilient Sheds on the Fleurieu Peninsula – Workshop Hosted by Yankalilla & Districts Men's Shed
5 March	Building Resilient Sheds in the Macedon Ranges – Workshop Hosted by Romsey Men's Shed at Romsey Neighbourhood House
6 March	NSDP Round 31 Category 5 Applications close
10 March	Building Resilient Sheds Workshop on the Mid North Coast NSW – Workshop Hosted by Harrington Men's Shed
15 March	Black Dog Ride – National One Dayer
24 – 26 March	11th AMSA National Men's Shed Gathering Hosted by AMSA with QMSA and supported by Fair Dinkum Builds www.menssheds.org/menssheds2026
8 May	Shed M8s Day "Celebrating Mateship"
19 – 25 May	National Volunteer Week
9 – 16 June	Men's Health Week
7 – 13 September	Men's Shed Week
10 October	World Mental Health Day
19 November	International Men's Day

