



Nuts & Bolts

AMSA MEMBER BULLETIN

OCT 2026



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New Shedder Awards launch: Recognising exceptional Shedders and 20+ years of service

The Australian Men's Shed Association is pleased to announce the launch of two new Shedder Awards which will run in addition to our existing annual National Shed Awards.

The AMSA Exceptional Shedder Award

"Awarded in recognition of exceptional dedication, leadership, mateship, and contribution to the Men's Shed community and the values of the Australian Men's Shed movement."

The Exceptional Shedder Award will be our annual celebration of members who truly embody the spirit of the Men's Shed.

This award recognises individuals who consistently go above and beyond – those who give their time generously, support others, share their knowledge, and help make the shed a welcoming and positive place for everyone.

Sheds are now able to nominate a shed member they feel is doing exceptional things in the shed and in the community.

Nominations will be continuously opened, with review and evaluation undertaken in June of each year. Medals and certificates will be issued annually in Men's Shed Week during September each year.

Nominate at: <https://mensshed.org/shed-community/shed-awards/amsa-exceptional-shedder-nomination-form/>



**AUSTRALIAN
MEN'S SHED
ASSOCIATION**
Shoulder to Shoulder

The AMSA 20 Years of Service Medal

“Awarded in recognition of twenty years of dedicated service, commitment, leadership and contribution to the Men’s Shed community, honouring outstanding loyalty, fellowship and the enduring spirit of mateship.”

Twenty years of service represents a remarkable milestone.

Recipients of the 20 Years of Service Medal are acknowledged as custodians of the Men’s Shed movement – individuals whose commitment has helped shape and sustain their shed community across generations.

The medal recognises loyalty, consistency, volunteerism, leadership, and enduring contribution.

Once approved the medal and certificate will be mailed to the shed to award to the successful recipient.

Nominate at: <https://mensshed.org/shed-community/shed-awards/20-years-of-service-nomination-form/>

Your impact in numbers



Thank you to every shed and Shedder who took part in our surveys this year. We all know Men's Sheds have a huge impact, but now we have the numbers to back it up!

Released for Men's Shed Week, held from September 7 to 13, our National Impact Snapshot demonstrates this year's theme 'Built on Purpose'. It shows clearly how the activities of Men's Sheds not only benefit the men attending, but have a 'ripple effect' into their wider communities.

We tallied more than 200,000 volunteer hours and more than 3,300 community projects and activities in the past year, from the 234 Men's Sheds participating.

More than 2,000 community organisations and groups benefited from the work reported by participating sheds.

And of course this sense of purpose has an immense benefit for the Shedders involved. Our additional 2026 Shedder Survey found quality of life had improved for 84.5% of you since joining your shed, from 494 responses.

Among those answering questions about your experience since joining, 98.8% said they felt more connected to others, 95.5% said they were more likely to learn or share skills, and 96.2% felt more able to contribute to their community.

These numbers helped us promote Men's Shed Week, with significant media uptake across radio, TV news and newspapers across the country.

Read the full story at: <https://mensshed.org/the-ripple-effect-new-data-shows-impact-far-beyond-the-shed-walls/>

Chairman's update: Men's Shed Week, current priorities, and changes to the Board

I bring you a quick update in place of my usual Chairman's Report. We've been keenly focused on getting on with the great foundations laid over the last 12 to 24 months.

Last month I was privileged to join Rob Mitchell MP and Ted O'Brien MP as hosts of ShedFEST in the Courtyard at Parliament House in Canberra, part of AMSA's advocacy work during Men's Shed Week. As Co-Chairs of the Parliamentary Friendship Group of Men's Sheds, Rob and Ted graciously host AMSA each year to attract people from all over Parliament House with the smell of a sizzling BBQ and the promise of celebrating a movement they all know and support.

We were joined by shedders with displays and demonstrations, members of the AMSA team and representatives from our major partner Fair Dinkum Builds and our event sponsor, Bunnings. We were also pleased to have Special Envoy for Men's Health, Hon Dan Repacholi MP, join us – despite a very busy day in the party room. The level of attendance from politicians across the floor shows the strength of our bipartisan support and relationships.

At this event we took the opportunity to launch our 2026 National Impact Snapshot – in which, thanks to many of you sharing your individual sheds' story, we showcased the national significance of what you're doing every day. The Snapshot confirms everything we've known for a long time.

It's been a strategic priority for the AMSA team to grow our focus on collecting and publishing data like this to provide an even stronger case for role Men's Sheds play in keeping us blokes happier and healthier, for longer – and highlighting where communities benefit. I lost count on how many radio interviews David and I shared off the back of the release of the Snapshot. This just goes to show the level of interest in the contributions of Men's Sheds remains even after all these years.

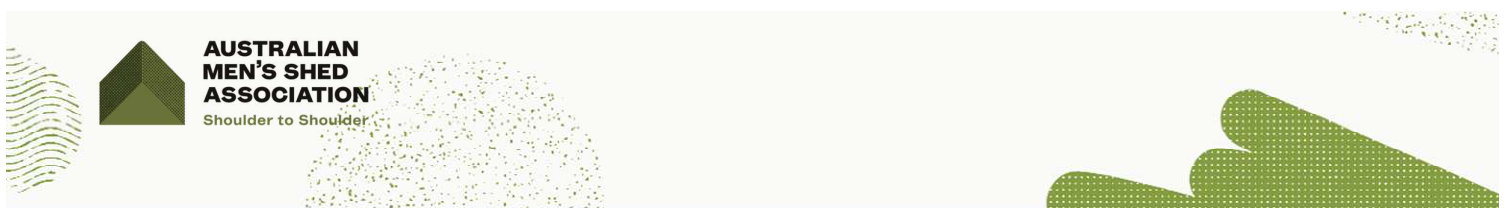
These events, relationships and evidence help you in gaining political support locally – and AMSA in continuing to strengthen the national movement.

Over the months ahead we are focused on four things:

- Raising awareness of sheds, and what they do for men's health and for connection.
- Supporting the sustainability of individual sheds, including the practical things that keep a shed running.
- Building strong, direct relationships with stakeholders across the Men's Shed movement, including State Associations.
- Careful stewardship of the funds entrusted to us and delivering exceptional service.

AMSA continues to grow and punch well above our weight. Our organisation is respected both nationally and internationally as the leading authority on Men's Sheds. If your shed has something you would like raised with the Board, the AMSA office can pass it through, and it will be read.

With the year end nearing we are now entering into the annual election process for Member-Elected Director positions, and I look forward to welcoming the successful candidates to the Board in 2027. I also wish to acknowledge Trevor Dobbyn, who stepped down from the AMSA Board in June. Trevor has contributed a great deal to the movement over a long period, and he leaves with our thanks and our good wishes.



Warm regards,

Luke Clifton
Chairman
Australian Men's Shed Association

Your invitation to the AMSA AGM 2026

The Australian Men's Shed Association 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday 17th December, and we extend an invitation for all member sheds to attend.

11.00 am Thursday 17th December 2026
Level 2, 437 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW
Arrival and registration from 10.30am

All attendees will need to carry with them a proxy form from their Men's Shed nominating them as the representative of their Men's Shed able to vote on resolutions. Alternatively sheds can nominate the AMSA Chairman as their proxy.

Find out more and download the proxy form at: <https://mensshed.org/notice-of-amsa-agm-2026/>

Clear out your shed with Garage Sale Trail



AMSA is once again teaming up with Garage Sale Trail for two big weekends of second-hand sales this November 7-8 and 14-15.

Hosting a sale is a win-win for your shed to:

- **Raise cash:** Keep 100% of your sale earnings – groups make \$1,325 on average.
- **Declutter:** Sell surplus tools, refurbished gear and completed projects.
- **Recruit:** Connect with locals and prospective new members.

Garage Sale Trail makes it easy by providing a free map listing, promotional materials and support from their team.

Sign up or find out more at garagesaletrail.com.au or email contactus@garagesaletrail.com.au