

CONCEPT TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE QMSA AND THE INDIVIDUAL QUEENSLAND MEN'S SHEDS

There is a recognisable need for the QMSA to be in regular contact with all the sheds that make up the Queensland Men's Shed movement. Men's Sheds have been establishing throughout Queensland at a rapid rate. In early April of this year there were 135 Sheds registered with AMSA/QMSA. Many of these Sheds are very much in the development stage and would possibly welcome some guidance and assistance in consolidating their existence. Clearly one medium that can service this purpose is the use of Face Book and other computer software. However while this is undoubtedly the growth area, there are still many shedders who are not skilled in this area or for other reasons are not able to utilise this technology.

Many Sheds are not even aware of the existence of a centralised Queensland Men's Shed Association, let alone appreciate what the aims and objectives of the Association are. I propose we undertake the production of a Bi monthly, good quality folded pamphlet or brochure that can be distributed to all sheds within Queensland. This publication would serve the purpose of linking all sheds across the state and would permit all shedders to gain information and remain aware of all news and happenings within the Australian movement with particular emphasis on Queensland.

The Pamphlet could include regular features such as:

- Presidents Message
- News updates from both QMSA and AMSA
- A featured Personality or Shed
- Men's Health articles
- Buy – Sell or Swap section
- Innovated ideas emanating from Sheds

I would estimate the cost of a run of 10,000 copies to print and distribute a good quality document would be in the order of \$1500 per Issue. A possible approach to offsetting this cost would be to seek sponsorship through the major Hardware Chains and by selling advertising space to Machine and Tool Suppliers. Distribution could be handled by bulk delivery to each shed and requesting the Hardware groups to have the Pamphlets available through their retail outlets. This would provide an excellent opportunity to promote the Men's Shed movement and attract additional membership.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this concept at our June meeting.

Kind Regards to all