



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018-19  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
11 NOVEMBER 2019**

Once again, we have had another very successful year as we continue to grow. Our continued growth has only been possible due to the ongoing support from our sponsor organisations together with the efforts of our members with fund raising activities. In addition, we have been successful in obtaining various grants during the year:

- South Melbourne Community Chest – \$2,000 Mitre saw
- Bendigo Bank – \$2,619 Dust extraction unit
- Commonwealth Department of Social Services - \$20,000
  - Pergola replacement \$10,823
  - Table Saw - \$2,999
  - Plunge Cut Saw - \$3,728
  - Uniting Kindergarten Refurbishment - \$800
  - Port Phillip Special School Marimba - \$1,200
  - Exercise Classes - \$450

We also acknowledge the excellent accommodation provided by our key sponsors at no cost. We extend our thanks to these organisations for their continued support year on year:

- Southport Uniting Church – Dorcas Street Woodworking Shed
- National Storage – Williamstown Road Metalworking Shed

Our membership has increased during the year to 116 which includes 13 women members. This is a very strong indicator of the community demand for the types of activities and environment we provide for our members.

We have continued to expand our activities across a broad range of community service and ancillary organisations. In fact, our standing within community services is such that we now have a backlog of project requests. Our capacity to fulfil these requests has only been limited by the restricted workspace we have available and the limited number of qualified supervisors.

Many of our requests for community projects seem to be emanating from Port Phillip Council that recognises our members' efforts and contribution to the local community. All those members who participated or assisted on these projects are commended for their contribution to the local community.

Our shed has also been available for use by other organisations:

- Voices of the South Side (VOSS) – a short course for VOSS members supervised and assisted by shed members
- IMVC bicycle technology course conducted on Thursdays

**Financially** we continue to be in a sound position (please refer to the finance report) and the Committee decided to move our accounts to the Bendigo Bank in recognition of their ongoing financial support.

Our lease at Southport Uniting Church (SPUC) is due to expire and we have two five-year options that can be exercised by agreement of both parties. We are holding discussions with SPUC in early December to finalise a new Memorandum of Understanding. We are confident our excellent relationship with the Church will continue.

Once again, **Safety** is paramount in an environment such as the Shed and members are reminded that the occupational health and safety rules in place are for their own protection and must be adhered to. It is easy for people to become overly familiar with their environment and quickly forget the essential safety practices they should be following. While we have been free of any serious injuries over the past year, we are starting to see an increase in the number of members not following safety rules or exercising safe work practices. There has been several "near hits" and in some cases slightly different circumstances could have resulted in an unfortunate outcome.

Members must ensure they do not behave in a way that could cause risk or injury to themselves or others in the Shed.

***"EVERY BLOKE NEEDS A SHED"***

Members are reminded that our Shed and its surrounding grounds are **drug, alcohol and smoke free**. Members wishing to smoke must do so outside the Church grounds.

Once again, the excellent progress that has been achieved over the past year is testament of the hard work that has been put in by the members of The Committee, without which none of this would have been possible. Some long serving Committee members have resigned over the past two years, primarily due to personal health issues. We encourage other members to consider joining the Committee to contribute to the ongoing success of the Shed.

Regards

Bob

President

On behalf of the Port Phillip Men's Shed Committee