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Welcome to IMSO - Barry Golding



I am delighted to be invited to be inaugural Chair of the Board of IMSO, and particularly to welcome John Evoy as a very appropriate first appointee as project director to set up the new organisation. It is important to acknowledge those who put in 'the hard yards' to get to this point internationally, only 18 years after the opening of first Men's Shed by that name.

My thanks on behalf of the Board for the generosity and foresight of the Australian and Irish peak bodies, AMSA and IMSA in getting IMSO established and funded. There is now a short window of opportunity to enhance cooperation and understanding between the very diverse national threads. Its longer term success is dependent on subsequent national responses, cooperation and involvement.

My letter inviting all existing national peak Men's Shed bodies to become part of the international organisation received a range of responses. Most were positive and enthusiastic. A few included the important question, '*Do we need an international peak body when Men's Sheds are grassroots, locally controlled and autonomous?*'

My response is based on the evidence and experience from a range of Shed start-ups across the world. While there is no one 'right' way to start and operate a Shed, it is incredibly sensible to learn from each other and share experiences, locally, regionally, nationally as well as internationally.

The potential for the Men's Shed approach to successfully spread within and to other nations will be greatly enhanced by such international cooperation. While some Sheds have been set up with minimal external support, most benefit from the understanding and generosity of communities, governments and non-government organisations. All successful Movements (and Men's Sheds) sensibly stand on and properly acknowledge the Shoulder of previous Giants.

Having umbrella organisations like IMSO and the national associations greatly enhances a broader understanding of what a Men's Shed is or might be across very diverse contexts. It enables the efficient sharing of scarce resources, of evidence about what works (and does not work), all of which is of potential benefit to individual Men's Sheds and shedders. It's now up to you.

Professor Barry Golding, Australia

An honour to be Involved - John Evoy



May I start by saying how excited I am to have this opportunity to be involved in this development for the Men's Sheds Movement?

Everyone receiving this first e-newsletter of the fledgling International Men's Sheds Organisation (IMSO), has been involved in the Men's Sheds Movement for some time.

Each of you, for your own reasons have dedicated your time and energy towards supporting the Men's Sheds in your own countries. Thank you for your dedication. It is obvious that your work has positively impacted the lives of countless men right across the globe.

Having spoken to almost everyone receiving this newsletter in the past couple of weeks, I know that the concept of more international collaboration is very welcome. However, what is even more obvious is how busy you all are endeavouring to keep up with the demands of the growing Men's Sheds Movement in your respective countries. We estimate that there are now just under 1,700 Men's Sheds in 8 different Countries.

From this vantage point we know that the IMSO will have two main tasks; to support the development of Men's Sheds in countries that don't yet have a National Men's Shed Association and to make the work of those of you involved in your National Associations as easy as possible.

It is part of my work to carry out a consultation over the next few months, working towards having a concrete plan to present to those of you who can make it to Belfast in October 2016. It will of course also be circulated to those who can't make it to Belfast. Already, from the initial contact, there are common needs emerging such as a desire to develop a shared evaluation tool.

I look forward to working with you all as this project develops. I hope that I can serve you well and do the Men's Sheds Movement justice in my new role. I feel that, as we have the potential to support the development of Men's Sheds globally, and that Men's Sheds are such a powerful positive force in men's lives and in communities, then we also have a responsibility to share that knowledge so that as many people around the globe as possible can benefit.

In order to highlight the global nature of the Men's Sheds movement we have paid particular attention to the Men's Sheds in North America in this first e-newsletter. To this end I would like to thank Doug Mackie from the Canadian Men's Sheds Association for his contribution of the History of the Men's Sheds in Canada and to Glenn Sears for his update of the Shed in Honolulu, the first to the best of our knowledge in the USA.

I would like to finish by expressing my sincere gratitude to Barry Golding, David Helmers and Ted Donnelly of AMSA Barry Sheridan and George Kelly of IMSA for combining forces and moving this project from concept to reality. Thank you all.

New Website for the Scottish MSA



Over the past few months the guys in the Scottish Men's Sheds Association have been working diligently to prepare a brand new website which will be going live in June 2016.

If the website www.scottishmsa.org.uk is not up and running by the time you get this news letter then please try again after a few days.

There will have lots of new resources for shedders and other interested parties.

In the mean time you can check them out on Facebook and Twitter.

**SCOTTISH
MEN'S SHEDS
ASSOCIATION**

Men's Sheds in Canada - Doug Mackie



In June of 2008, Lisa Koshinsky, living in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, learned about Men Sheds in Australia from an Australian woman attending a conference in Saskatoon. Lisa called up her father, Doug Mackie, aged 67 at the time, in Winnipeg, Manitoba and told him to start a Men Shed!

The first Men Shed in North America began in September, 2009, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, under the auspices of a local senior centre. Due to differences in procedures and policies, Mensheds Manitoba Inc. was incorporated as an independent non profit organization in December 2010.

In January, 2011, the Woodhaven Men Shed opened its doors in urban Winnipeg, Canada. Currently, meeting at least twice a week for various "table top" activities such as card playing, bark carving, stained glass, and making walking sticks or canes from local Diamond Willow. Facebook, Menssheds Manitoba.

A short time later the Okanagan Men Shed was started in Kelowna, British Columbia.

A couple of years later, the Nekko Valley Men Shed opened its doors in Vanderhoof, British Columbia. Pemberton, BC, opened shortly afterwards, followed by Riviere du Loup, Quebec.

There are now Men Sheds in Carleton Place, Ontario, the Hackberry Men Shed, Camrose, Alberta, Coquitlam, BC, Elie, Manitoba, Hope, BC. As well there are other embryo sheds in the start up stage.

The recognition and need for Men Sheds is gaining all across Canada. There is interest in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario.

The Canadian Men Shed Association is being formed. www.mensheds.ca and Facebook, Mensheds Canada.

The goal is to have 20 Men Sheds open by the end of 2016.

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Courtesy, Doug Mackie, Winnipeg, dmackies@mymts.net

Hawaii's First Men's Shed - Glenn Sears



The Hawaii Men's Shed Association (HMSA), sponsored by the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunset, is the first Men's Shed in the United States supported by the International Men's Shed Organization (IMSO).

The first club under the umbrella of the HMSA is the Makua Alii Men's Shed.

It's a workshop with woodworking tools. Members who have an idea for something to build or repair can get to work; members are also welcome to just sit at a picnic table under the shade of a monkey pod tree and

relax, talk story and have a coffee or tea.

It's just the beginning for us. As our membership expands we'll add tools and equipment. And by the way, the Hawaii Men's Shed Association is a charitable, non-profit corporation. We are eager for corporate sponsorship and we will gladly accept donations of new or used tools.

The Men's Shed is in the Makua Alii Senior Center at 1541 Kalakaua Avenue just south of King

Street. While we're getting organized, our abbreviated hours are from 10am to 4pm on Thursdays. Stop by for a chat.

Questions? Contact Glenn Sears at gsears@stanfordalumni.org

Aloha world!

Irish Men's Sheds Association Celebration 2016

IMSA will hold its bi-annual celebration of the Men's Sheds movement in Belfast in October 2016. The main event is a conference on October the 22nd with complementary events planned for the entire weekend.

IRISH MEN'S SHEDS ASSOCIATION menssheds.ie

The Irish Men's Shed Association

Celebration 2016

'Sheds Without Borders'

Belfast City Hall

Saturday 22nd October 2016

Information pack & tickets on sale early June

€25 daytime event | €25 evening event
max 5 tickets per shed (daytime)

celebration2016@menssheds.ie | 00353 (01) 891 6150

'We thank Belfast City Council for their kind generosity for the use of City Hall!'

These events will include a round table event for the representatives of the national bodies which will be held on Friday the 21st of October.

A tour to visit a number of Men's Sheds in the area will take place on Sunday the 23rd of October. The full program of events will be published in the coming weeks.

About IMSO

The International Men's Sheds Organisation is a project funded by the Australian and Irish Men's Sheds Associations with an aim of supporting the development of Men's Sheds globally.

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