

# What’s Happening in WA

The big story for the Men’s Shed Movement in WA is growth!

WAMSA had 35 members in 2011. This time last year I told you we had a total of around 155 Sheds in our database with 83 financial members of WAMSA. One year on, we have 175 Sheds on the database and 110 Financial Members. That represents a 13% increase for the last year in the number of Sheds in the State and – more importantly – a 32% increase in WAMSA members. We now have Sheds in Karnet Prison and at BHP’s Mining Area C camp. I expect we will see a growth in these areas too.

As much as anything else, Men’s Sheds are about social networking and developing social capital. Sheds in prisons and mining camps will be an important part of developing both of these for men who are isolated from normal Sheds.

We have completed the development of our Strategic Plan and we’re implementing it. At the last AGM we changed to structure of the WAMSA Board and at this AGM we will be completing that change by electing a new, slimmed down Board of 6 directors and then we’ll begin our search for a number of independent Directors.

These changes are necessary for us to keep pace with the increasing complexity and importance leadership and good governance in our rapidly growing Movement.

We’ve submitted a funding application to the State Government for a 3 year support program. These funds will allow WAMSA to get the professional infrastructure we need to provide the support that Sheds in this state expect from us.

We need to develop a profile within the industry, business and financial sectors in WA and to do that we need to develop a brand and a message that will attract support from these sectors. As you can appreciate from the growth we’re experiencing, we have to develop this support if we are to continue to give back to our communities in the way we now do.

The development of Zones across the State is well under way. This will lead to better communications between Sheds and make it easier for your board members to come and talk to groups of Sheds at Zone get togethers.

We have MOUs in place with Scouts WA and Freemasons that will allow us to expand our mutual interests – they have unused facilities and we have proto-Sheds looking for a Shed!

Freemasons have also very generously provided WAMSA with funding for first aid courses and first aid boxes for Sheds across the State.

In closing, let me repeat, it’s all about growth in 2015.

* More Sheds and more members in the Sheds;
* Developing Sheds in non-traditional locations;
* Developing Zones across the State;
* A higher profile for Sheds in the community;
* Increasing our professionalism and our presence in the not-for-profit sector.

Mike Wiggin

Chairman

21 September 2015