A LIST OF RESEARCH THAT INFORMS MEN'S SHED-BASED PRACTICE
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Compiled by Professor Barry Golding b.golding@ballarat.edu.au
School of Education, University of Ballarat, Australia
Patron Australian Men's Shed Association & Adult Learning Australia Research Fellow
with assistance from Anthony Brown, University of Western Sydney

The purposes of this listing of research

This document lists research, mostly from Australia, which provides the most recent evidence and insights as to why and how ‘men's shed’ or workshop-based practice can enhance men’s lives and wellbeing in some community settings. It is important to acknowledge the generous cooperation of shed participants as informants in this research, as well as the pioneering and exploratory work in this field by many individuals and organizations in community shed settings long before this research was undertaken.

The ‘men’s shed movement’ in Australia has generously cooperated with a range of research projects in the past decade, including those related to learning, health and wellbeing outcomes. Shed-based organisations that have cooperated with the research have assumed that the evidence and insights the research generates will be widely disseminated in order to help a range of organisations, including governments, to determine how their policies, funding and practices might be shaped to support men and the shed sector. With sheds recently spreading and rapidly proliferating in New Zealand, Ireland and England, and with interest in men’s sheds or culturally similar workshops being expressed from other parts of North America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific, it is important to make the available research as widely accessible as possible, including on the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) web site www.mensshed.org.

If you know of other, relevant research you think should be added to update this Draft list, please give Barry Golding the details via b.golding@ballarat.edu.au

About AMSA and related organisations

The Australian Men’s Shed Association website lists all registered community men’s sheds in Australia and other useful shed-related information including forthcoming events and conferences, back copies of AMSA newsletters, and a freecall number 1300 550 009. The site also provides international, state and
regional shed organisation contacts. David Helmers amsa@mensshed.net is the AMSA Executive Officer. Community shed-based organisations can register, check, and update their organisation details on the free, community-based shed web site www.mensshed.org. AMSA membership is open to all shed organisations, and member organisations have access though AMSA to insurance. Based on experiences of many shed start-ups, an AMSA-supported manual (by Ted Donnelly and Ruth Van Herk) is available on Setting up a Men’s Shed. The price is A$25 (+$10 p&p) available from AMSA.

National and state conferences as well as shed visits have been a very important way of people learning about ‘what works’ and are an important part of the research base. The first National Men’s Shed Conference was in 2005 in Lakes Entrance, Victoria. Papers and presentations are available from the second national Conference in Manly in 2007 from: http://www.mensshed.org/page8391/News_Conference--2007-Manly.aspx and the third conference in Tasmania in August 2009 from: http://www.mensshed.org/page10062/News_Conference--2009-Hobart.aspx . The 2011 AMSA Conference will be held in Brisbane 21-23 August 2011: more information is available from AMSA or www.dcconferences.com.au/menshed .

By late 2010 there were around 480 men’s shed organisations across Australia, with around 30 in New Zealand http://menssheds.org.nz and up to 20 in Ireland http://www.menssheds.ie . John Evoy in County Wexford, Ireland is a key contact for shed development in Ireland john.evoy@CoWexfordVEC.ie. John is also acting as the Australian Men’s Sheds Association shed development contact person in Europe in 2011. Three pilot ‘Men in Sheds’ projects have been funded for two years from 2010 through Age UK in England. Up to date information is available via Harvinder Channa Harvinder.Channa@ageuk.org.uk . In 2008/9 the Victorian State government in Australia announced government grants, through the Department of Planning and Community Development, for many new sheds in Victoria: the first government in the world to provide specific support (A$4 million over four years) directly to community-based men’s sheds: see http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/communitydevelopment/develop-skills-and-get-involved/mens-sheds . The Victorian Governor, Professor David de Kretzer is the Victorian Men’s Sheds Association Patron.

The Australian Men’s Health Policy Strategy has recently identified men’s sheds as an important community health innovation, and Adult Learning Australia regards them as an important national innovation in informal learning for men. During 2010 the Australian Government provided four years of funding (A$3.3 million) through the Department of Health and Ageing for the national coordination of sheds through the Australian Men’s Sheds Association. AMSA has three Patrons http://www.mensshed.org/page8386/About_Patrons.aspx . They are Professor Barry Golding from University of Ballarat, Professor John Macdonald, also a founding Chair in Primary Health Care University of Western Sydney, Director Men’s Health Information and Resources Centre ,and President of the Australasian Men’s Health Forum. John is also a National Men’s Health Ambassador along with the third AMSA Patron, Tim Mathieson.
Policy documents that acknowledge men's sheds as part of health practice

Despite their origin in Australia during the 1990s, Australian men’s sheds were only recently formally acknowledged in government policy documents, ironically in Ireland in the National Men's Health Policy, 2008-2013 http://www.dohc.ie/publications/national_mens_health_policy.html

Men's sheds have subsequently been recognized in the:


Single articles in refereed health-related Journals


Other single research and evaluation articles about sheds


Fremanshed (2009) *The men’s shed health and wellbeing project*, Booklet and DVD, Fremantle, Western Australia.


**Articles about sheds and dementia**


**Media Interviews**


**Men’s learning, sheds and wellbeing** *(Barry Golding and others, University of Ballarat, by year, since 2003)*


community’, Paper No. 36 to AVETRA Conference, 8-9 April 2010, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

International research on men’s learning

UK

McGivney, V. (1999a) Excluded men: Men who are missing from education and training, NIACE, Leicester.

Ireland

Evoy, J. (2007) "This is burrie our geel, we misle in ausha" (This is good, we'll go along): Developing strategies to engage Traveller men in County Wexford, Wexford County Council Community & Enterprise Department, Wexford Ireland. http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/CommunityEnterprise/Downloads/Thefile,9407,en.pdf
Mark, R., Montgomery, V., & Graham, H. (2009) Beyond the workplace: An investigation into older men’s learning and wellbeing in Northern Ireland,
Creating friendly spaces with Indigenous men (Jack Bulman & Rick Hayes)


Men's sheds and men's health: Rick Hayes, La Trobe University, with others


**Men’s learning & ageing**


**Popular men’s shed-based books**

**UK**


**New Zealand**


**Australia**