Acting President: *Alistair Pilley — ampilley@netspace.net.au*
Secretary: *Keith Harvey — keith@ambry.com.au*

These are troubling times and the world has changed. As has happened before, lives and livelihoods are at risk. However, Australians have been at the front line at war for extended periods during most of our lives. In the past the country has sent conscripts overseas, now we are asked to stay at home.   Our economy survived the 1970's energy crises, the 1980's recessions, the global stock market crash in 1987, the long dot-com bubble in the late 1990's and the global financial crisis of 2007-08. It might be that history will remember these current times as a period when the world's leaders united to defeat Co-vid 19 and share the cost of rebuilding our incredibly complex, international economies.

Today, Saturday, all Australians are living under the 1.5m and 4m2 social distancing rules. Last weekend I was in Adelaide doing a woodworking course, I listened to the radio on the way home on Monday but could not imagine the social and economic upheaval over the last five days. Things are moving at an unimaginable pace and we have been told that we will soon be living under stricter quarantine arrangements.

Seven days ago the Shed was open for business, yesterday I heard Scott Morrison and later Daniel Andrews tell us that it will take at least six months to rebuild society. Perhaps this means six months with limited face to face contact with families, friends and each other.

Gentlemen, I ask you to consider using Facebook, or other social media platforms to stay in touch with your family and support each other. The internet was created by those who are now in their fifties and sixties. Our peers built the internet, the infrastructure and the software that sits on top of it. It was not built by our children. However, our grandchildren can help us learn new ways to use it.

Once a Facebook account has been created it isn't much more difficult to use than an internet banking app on your smart phone. We have a tech savvy young member (21), who will help you set up Facebook on your computer, laptop, tablet and/or phone. Others can talk you through the process and answer questions.

The Shed has two Facebook sites. One was built many years ago, we built a new one this week that can be used as a **chat room**. A chat room is an online space where users communicate with one another through text-based messages. It's like a virtual cocktail party, where strangers gather to share a joke, argue about politics and sports, ask for advice, talk about shared hobbies and interests, or simply hang out. Facebook can also facilitate face to face group conference calls.

The Shed's Facebook chat room is simply called "MMS Chat Room". If you know your way around Facebook, please log on and invite others to join the group. Invite members of the Shed. Invite any friend who has similar interests to members of the Shed. Invite friends who would otherwise be socially isolated. Invite friends who need help with something.
Hint – ignore the site "MMS Chat Room Test Group"

When you see **underlined text** this newsletter hover over the link and click … this will take you out to the internet.

Here is a video that will help you understand how to sign-up to: **Facebook video**. When setting up a Facebook account you can protect your identity by giving fake personal data with outrageous personal details. You could identify yourself as male, female or "I don't identify with either sex". You can make yourself younger, say that you are an anarchist who lives in Bogatar and give yourself a doctorate from Harvard University and work for the United State Centre for Disease Control. However, you will need to give them a working email address as they will send you a code to click on to make sure that you aren't a computer "bot". I think you need to give your real first name so members of the Group know who you are, and perhaps a real photograph).

This link provides a written step by step set of instructions. These step by step instructions are more useful when creating your dodgy account: **How to use Facebook**

I will send out a survey next week to get feedback on how many people think they would like to have a go getting on-line.

WhatsApp is another very good social media platform to use on your smart phone (it doesn't work on PC's and struggles on tablets). Open this newsletter on your phone and download the App here for **iOS** or here for **Android.** WhatsApp allows you to make voice and video conference calls with friends and family. If those links aren't enough, there is more help on the Australian Government's *Be Connected* network that you can look at on your PC at: **WhatsApp**.

Once you have loaded WhatsApp onto your phone (or tablet) you can use it to stay up to date with the official Australian Government Coronavirus news. After you have loaded the App, click here to open Australia's official **WhatsApp channel**.

Here is some **advice on avoiding COVID-19 on-line scams**.

Here is the latest newsletter from the Victorian Mens Shed Association **VMSA newsletter**.

And, this video gives you a sneak preview of your future when you have **time to relax and sit around.**

Your committee is currently: Alistair Pilley (Acting President), Keith Harvey (Secretary), Greg Male (Treasurer), Gary Cornell, Geoff Gaylard, Maurie Turner and Don Murray. If you want to send an email to the committee use this *temporary mail address* and one of us will get back to you.

Keep safe,
Keith Harvey   **Australian**
28th March 2020