

The Men's Sheds Movement Internationally

John Evoy, Co. Wexford VEC, Ireland.

The Australian Men's Shed Association's 4th National Conference.
Men's Sheds: Building Communities, 21 – 23 August 2011

The International Growth of the Men's Sheds Movement

- ▶ Pre-Hobart
- ▶ Hobart 2009
- ▶ Post-Hobart

- ▶ The Irish Movement
- ▶ Men's Sheds in the Northern Hemisphere
- ▶ Challenges and opportunities

Pre-Hobart

- ▶ Barry Golding's overseas research dissemination
- ▶ Growing awareness of the concept
- ▶ The publication of the Irish Men's Health Policy in December 2008
- ▶ Plans for a Men's Shed in Ireland

Hobart 2009

- ▶ International attendance: Ireland & New Zealand
- ▶ Presentations by Barry Golding and Neil Bruce
- ▶ Part of something big: a movement
- ▶ First Shed in Ireland
- ▶ Victoria Shed Tour
- ▶ The inspiration

Post-Hobart

- ▶ Age UK's work in England
- ▶ Sharing of the vision
- ▶ Initial committee
- ▶ Barry's 2010 visit and Launch of Irish Men's Sheds Forum; 7 Sheds in Ireland
- ▶ Formation of IMSA in January 2011
- ▶ Funding September 2011
- ▶ AEMS

The Irish Movement

- ▶ Sheds concept was spreading
 - ▶ Denis O'Connor
 - ▶ First Board of Directors
 - ▶ The Caretakers & Shed Reps
 - ▶ Rotation of the Shed Rep Meetings
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- ▶ Supported by Co. Wexford VEC, AONTAS, Arthur Guinness Fund, The Ireland Funds & Volunteerism



IMSA Constitution

▶ VISION

The Irish Men's Shed Association (IMSA) will work towards a future where all men have the opportunity to improve and maintain their health and well-being by participating in a community Men's Shed

▶ MISSION

The Irish Men's Shed Association (IMSA) is a member-based organisation formed to share information freely between Sheds and support communities and organisations wishing to establish a Shed. The IMSA as a national organisation represents the collective issues of Men's Sheds in Ireland

IMSA Constitution

Objective 4.1

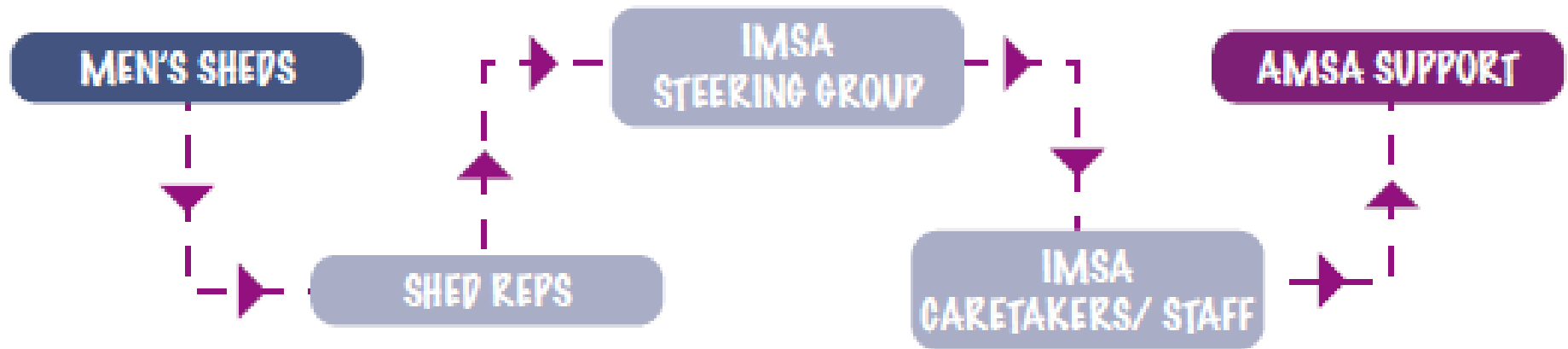
The Association is a network of independent Men's Sheds and individuals who support the aims of the IMSA, who impressed with the vision and work of the Australian Men's Sheds Association, want to learn from them and adapt their vision and methods to our Irish situation.

The IMSA was established to:

- a) Promote the development of men in a society where many men fail to reach their potential.
- b) Work towards a future where all men have the opportunity to improve and maintain their health and well-being by participating in a community Men's Shed.
- c) Advance the education of men who participate in Men's Sheds.

IMSA

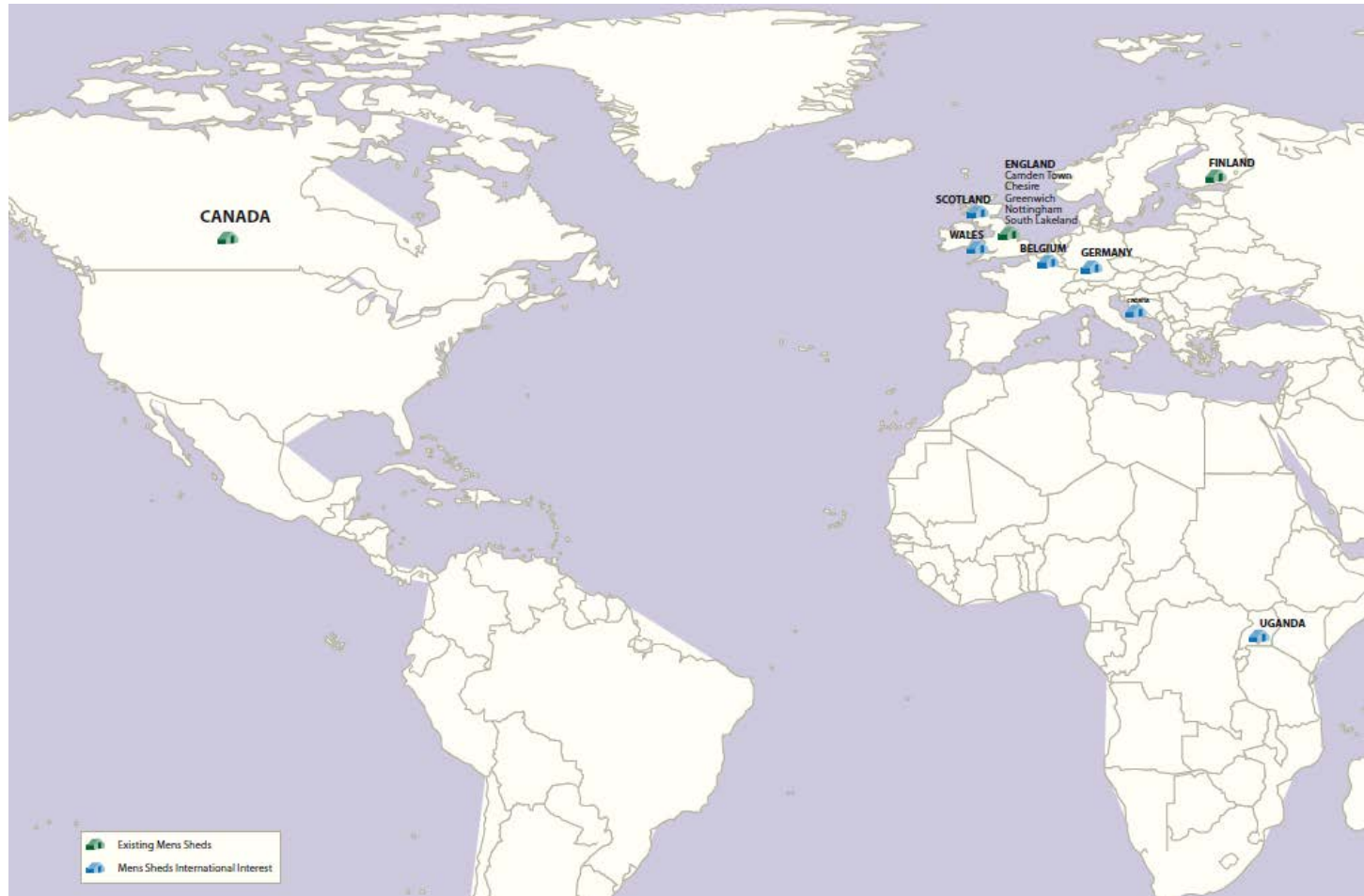
Organisational Structure



Challenges and Opportunities

- ▶ Irish Economy
- ▶ Younger unemployed men
- ▶ Revival of the lost Irish community spirit
- ▶ History of Conflict – Future of Peace
- ▶ Equal opportunity: is every man welcome?

Men's Sheds in the Northern Hemisphere (excluding Ireland)



Men's Sheds in the Northern Hemisphere

(excluding Ireland)

Country	Location
England	Camden Town
	Cheshire
	East Cheshire
	Greenwich
	Nottingham
	South Lakeland
	Somerset
Finland	Ristijärvi
Canada	Winnipeg

European Strategy

- ▶ AMSA European Representative
- ▶ AEMS: Alliance of European Men's Sheds
The **Aim** of AEMS is: to promote men's learning and well-being through Men's Sheds.

The **objectives** of AEMS are:

1. To influence decision makers, policy makers and funders by promoting Men's Sheds and their benefits.
2. To identify opportunities to extend access to learning and well-being to men.
3. To identify and source funding, where appropriate, to support the development of the Men's Sheds movement.
4. To share and celebrate best practice.
5. To build a strong and supportive Pan-European network of Men' Sheds.
6. To build an evidence base of knowledge via research and evaluations which will enhance the Men's Sheds movement.

How the Sheds can Spread!

Stage	Characteristics	Examples
4	Sheds are accepted and expected part and parcel of most communities	Australia
3	Growth in Shed Numbers; Concept becoming understood	New Zealand, UK, Ireland
2	First Sheds / Pilot Projects	Finland, Canada
1	First Contact /Expression of Interest	Belgium, Uganda, Croatia
0	Never heard of Men's Sheds	Chile, Ukraine, etc, etc

Thank you!

- ▶ Harvinder Channa & David Richardson, Age UK
- ▶ Mike Jenn, Camden Town Shed, London, UK
- ▶ Arja Mielonen-Walker, University of Helsinki, Finland
- ▶ Doug Mackie, Winnipeg, Canada
- ▶ Neil Bruce, NZMSA, New Zealand
- ▶ Barry Golding, Uni of Ballarat
- ▶ David Helmers & Melissa White, AMSA,
- ▶ Denis O'Connor, Damien Walshe & Kay O'Connor, IMSA

Thank you!

Shedders of Australia!



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