



**MEDIA RELEASE: TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST, 2018**

**First sod turned for the Violet Town Men's Shed**

Strathbogie Shire Council has welcomed funding for the construction of the new Violet Town Men's Shed which will be located at the Shadforth Reserve.

The \$78,150 project will be funded through a \$52,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as a variety of in-kind support and voluntary labour from Strathbogie Shire Council, Violet Town Men's Shed and a number of generous local businesses and individuals.

Member for Northern Victoria, Ms Jaclyn Symes joined the Violet Town shedders to turn the first sod at the new site.

"The Violet Town Men's Shed will be a fantastic new facility, built by the local community and for the local community," Ms Symes said.

The group has been established for some time and is operating out of an old Scout Hall which is no longer suitable due to the age of the building, termites affecting the structure and the need for more space.

Violet Town Men's Shed President Ian Brown said the group was very pleased to hear they had been successful on their first application for funding.

"The new shed will be about twice the size of our current shed, which will give us the space to do some bigger projects," Mr Brown said.

"We are really hoping this new space will help the Men's Shed to flourish."

Mayor Amanda McClaren said Council is pleased to be able to provide support for the project.

"Men's Sheds, particularly in small rural towns like Violet Town, are a fantastic place for men to socialise and enjoy each other's company in a productive way," Cr McClaren said.

"We are also very pleased that we will have a group occupying and making use of the Shadforth Reserve which is a great community asset."

Men's Sheds provide a great place for those who want somewhere to go and meet with like-minded people and do something useful at the same time.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, they can contact Ian Brown on 0412 772 967.

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