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Dear All,

On behalf of Melbourne Men's Shed Committee, I have attached a letter setting out further information than that provided by Council's Mr. Fennessy, Manager Placemaking and Engagement under Agenda Item 6.5. We would appreciate your consideration of matters we have raised, particularly in regard to continuity of tenure and lease arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Stefanetti**  
**Chairman**  
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melbourne men's shed inc.

Registered No. A0059614Y

29 October 2018

Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors  
City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne Vic 3001

## **Funding of Melbourne Men's Shed (MMS) and Renewal of Lease & Licence at Federation Square**

### **Background - Australian Men's Sheds:**

In Australia during the 1980s and 1990s, a number of issues were raised about men's health. In our culture, there was little encouragement for men of all ages to socialize and discuss their feelings and wellbeing. This problem was identified at a men's health conference in 1995 and plans were put in place to improve a number of aspects relating to men's health. Thus, Men's Sheds originated in Australia, to advise and improve the overall health of all men. Some have expanded their remit to anyone, regardless of age or gender, as Melbourne Men's Shed (MMS) has done. They operate on a local level in the community, promoting social interaction and aim to increase quality of life. There are over 900 located across Australia, with thousands of active members. Men's Sheds can now also be found in Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, United States, Canada, Finland, New Zealand and Greece.

The slogan for Men's Sheds is "Shoulder to Shoulder", shortened from "Men don't talk face to face, they talk shoulder to shoulder". This acknowledged the way some men prefer to learn informally in shed-like spaces mainly with other men. Sheds are a venue for mentoring other men and inter-generational mentoring is a growing outcome. Academics are using Men's Sheds as a research venue and research partner in exploring men's health and social needs

### **Background - Melbourne Men's Shed:**

MMS was incorporated on 8 July 2013. To support its establishment, the City of Melbourne (CoM) undertook a search of possible locations. It was suggested that the former Mobility Centre site at Federation Square, which CoM had leased and then established for the Commonwealth Games, might be a potential site. MMS commenced using the Centre as a meeting place and to plan a possible layout for a Shed. Council officers commenced negotiations with Federation Square to extend the lease on the premises.

Funding was required for the significant modifications, purchase of equipment and on-going lease payments. In a CoM press release dated 12 February 2014, the Council committed to a grant of \$45,000 +GST for equipment, along with 5 years of rental contributions estimated to be \$105,000, giving a total commitment of approximately \$160,000. This was made in conjunction with a grant of \$57,951 + GST approved by the Department of Human Services for renovations and detailed in an agreement dated 13 May 2014. The grant however, was conditional on obtaining commitment from Federation Square to a five-year term for the lease. Whilst reluctant, Federation Square eventually did provide assurance that the tenancy would be for a minimum of five years. Finally, the Shed was officially opened,

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Cnr Flinders and Russell Streets, Melbourne 3000.**  
[www.melbournemensshed.org](http://www.melbournemensshed.org)  
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jointly by the Minister and the Lord Mayor, on the 7 September 2015. The establishment of MMS as the first CBD Men's Shed in Australia was a significant achievement.

### **Current Status:**

At present the Shed has 66 members, most of whom reside in the City of Melbourne. We believe we have addressed and continue to address founding objectives in our broad range of activities which include:

- fully operational wood-working shop
- cooking classes fortnightly led by a qualified chef
- weekly Heart Foundation supported walks
- monthly all day special interest walks
- photography classes
- kayaking on the Yarra
- computer skill programs
- men's health programs

It should be recognized that MMS does not operate in a vacuum within the community. There is a significant latent demand for "community related services" that a Men's Shed workshop can provide. Most activities now involve providing community benefit across the City of Melbourne and elsewhere. Details of these activities have been provided to Councillors previously.

### **Funding of the Melbourne Men's Shed and Lease Renewal:**

Despite the reluctance of Federation Square to accept a Men's Shed as a tenant, it now acknowledges MMS on its website. MMS has proven itself to be a well-run organisation and a model tenant. The Shed has undertaken various fund-raising activities and has been able to ensure there are sufficient funds for consumables as well as meeting its insurance commitments through the Australian Men's Shed Association insurance policy. The Shed has been run entirely by volunteers.

### **MMS requests:**

CoM renew the lease with Federation Square for a further five years, licence MMS to occupy the premises for the corresponding period of five years and commit to continue to fund the annual rental payment for the same period. MMS for its part will undertake to raise funds beyond its current activities but is unable to guarantee results to back a lease. This can only come from CoM.

Certainty of tenure is important. Council should note that sunk costs in the renovation and remodeling of the site totalled \$71,000. This investment will be lost on closure. Council might also want to review the exit costs under the lease from Federation Square, as they may require the site to be returned to its original configuration. Should that be the case, demolition costs are likely to be in the vicinity of two to three years rental costs.

Finally, in Council's deliberations, we request you consider the fact that Men's Sheds continue to be opened across Australia with funding from Federal, State and Local Governments. If there is such benefit, it seems counter intuitive that CoM would allow the only CBD Shed in Australia to be threatened with closure.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Stefanetti  
Chairman  
Melbourne Men's Shed

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**Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: \*** Council meeting

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 30 October 2018

**Agenda item title: \*** 7.1 Proposal to travel by Councillor Philip Le Liu, Malaysia, November and China, December 2018

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.**

Dear City of Melbourne Meeting Group

This is a written submission in regards to Agenda Item 7.1 Proposal to travel by Councillor Philip Le Liu, Malaysia, November and China, December 2018. I support the recommendation from management that Councillor Philip Le Liu travels to Malaysia to participate in this important conference , the World Chinese Economic Forum. There he can discuss the great work that the City of Melbourne is doing in regards to renewable energy and climate change. Whilst in Malaysia, Councillor Philip Le Liu may have the opportunity to discuss the tremendous, positive impact that the Malaysian-born developer, entrepreneur and racing investor Dato Tin Chin Nam had with the Australian community .

<https://www.racing.com/news/2018-10-22/dato-tin-chin-nam-dies-aged-92>

Dato Tin Chin Nam won the Melbourne Cup with Think Big in 1974 and 1975 , the horse being trained by Bart Cummings. Here is a video of the 1974 Melbourne Cup.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-11-03/think-big-1974-cup-win/5063954>

Melbourne is one of the great music cities in the world and it is appropriate that Councillor Philip Le Liu attends the New Years Eve Concert in Sichuan Province. This is a great opportunity to further strengthen the relationship between Melbourne and Chengdu and the citizens of Sichuan Province and the citizens of Victoria,

Best regards

Chris Thrum

**Privacy** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**acknowledgement:**

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**Contact phone number (optional):** 0422066973

**Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: \*** Council meeting

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 30 October 2018

**Agenda item title:** 7.2 Proposal to travel by Councillor Jackie Watts, Myanmar, November 2018

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**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.**

Dear City of Melbourne meeting group

This is a written submission in regards to Agenda Item 7.2 Proposal to travel by Councillor Jackie Watts, Myanmar, November 2018. I support the recommendation from management that Councillor Jackie Watts represents City of Melbourne whilst she undertakes a private visit to Yangon, Myanmar. As indicated in the material provided Councillor Jackie Watts has travelled to Myanmar on numerous occasions and has developed strong relationships with both Government and Non-Government organisations. She also has strong relations in the corporate sphere as well as many Academics. Wishing her a tremendous time in Myanmar.

Best regards

Chris Thrum

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**Privacy**

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**acknowledgement:**

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