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Dear Principals of primary and secondary schools, community groups and interested community members,

Topic

Stories from the Shed – Sharing a project connecting *Men's Shed* members' histories, legacies and communities with families, inter-generations, and the wider community.

We introduce to the wider community the results of a project commenced at the beginning of 2020 by the *Writers Group* of the *Mount Gravatt Men's Shed*.

Background

The *Writers Group* was inaugurated in 2019 with the goal of helping interested members write their personal family histories as part of connecting with families and community members. Led by Dr Breck McKay, the group spent some months developing a variety of approaches to help participants achieve their goals. This was expanded to include the recording of members' tales, the type often told over tea breaks.

A State government *Age-Friendly* grant was successfully applied for by Jim Pollock and Breck McKay to facilitate the group with developing the skills and services needed to collect such stories. The '*Stories from the Shed*' project was born. When Breck McKay passed away unexpectedly, it was facilitated operationally by Kim Tvede and financially by Jim Pollock. Various group members, Andrew Wilson, Paul O'Neill, John Westwood and Kevin Schneidewin also volunteered to share their collective experiences to help others develop their stories.

Stories from the Shed: Connecting Communities, Histories and Legacies

As part of the group's objectives, it was determined that the experiences of the *MGMS Writers Group* in developing the project should be made available to other individuals and groups with similar interests. The ***A Guide for Storytellers*** as part of the '*Stories from the Shed*' project is included in that development. It was compiled to share the group's experiences and outcomes of how the project operates, as well as **sharing the writings made public** by some storytellers. **The publications are available on the MGMS website**, and in print form at MGMS, plus with storytellers themselves.

It was also an object that local schools have publications available as resources that can be used within school programs. To this end, the project had two teachers prepare curriculum notes for consideration by schools and teachers for possible inclusion in school programs. The publication of ***A Curriculum Guide for Upper Primary / Junior Secondary Programs*** is a result of this work to date. Focussing on *English*, the various publicly available publications may also be useful in *History*, *Geography* and *Career* programs.

We commend this project and invite you to consider its potential within your community.

Kind regards,

Lloyd Akeroyd (President, MGMS)