



The Place To Be

Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

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BRUMBY GOVERNMENT JOINS GPLACE IN BUILDING COMMUNITY

The Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and wider Ballarat community will be boosted by a \$50,000 Brumby Labor Government grant to build a new Men's Shed.

Geoff Howard MP, State Member for Ballarat East, said men's shed would be a wonderful asset to the local community.

"This grant will help GPlace - the former Golden Point Primary School site which has been redeveloped and is now occupied by, Mount Clear College, The Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council and the University of the Third Age, to construct a facility that is accessible for men of all ages," Mr Howard said.

"A Men's Shed will bring together refugee, older, disabled and underemployed males, and younger males 'at risk', in a program of co-operative learning and social activities."

"Local men will be encouraged to come along, talk over their issues with others, seek help and advice, and work on projects that will have real and practical benefits for the community in a relaxed environment," Mr Howard said.

"Using their existing talent, or learning new skills from others, the shed will assist local men to build benches and playground equipment for public parks and other rebuilding projects needed within the broader Ballarat community.

Mr Howard said that GPlace was among 26 community facilities across the state to benefit from the latest round of the \$2 million *Men's Shed* grant.

"The Brumby Labor Government is taking action to assist people to better connect with their neighbourhoods, to build stronger families and stronger communities," Mr Howard said.

Mr Howard said these new men's sheds would build on 25 funded by the Brumby Labor Government last year as part of its \$4 million program.

"Victoria led the nation by being the first government to provide specific funding for the establishment of the sheds and they have been a great success," Mr Howard said.

Men's sheds are funded as part of the Brumby Labor Government's \$1.9 billion *Fairer Victoria* initiative; a whole of Government social policy action plan to address disadvantage and promote inclusion and participation.

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