

# YASS VALLEY MEN'S SHED

NEWSLETTER NO 1 OF 2011



## THE MEN'S SHED MESSENGER

NO 14

SUNDAY 9 JANUARY 2011

PATRON: COUNCILLOR NIC CARMODY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY

Dear Men,

 <p><b>Shed Opening Times</b></p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> – 11am to 2pm <u>Thursday</u> – 2pm to when the last one leaves – sometimes includes a BBQ at dinner time. <u>Saturday</u> – Noon to when the last one leaves (usually between 3 and 4pm)</p> <p>At all other times, if you are passing and see the doors open, please feel welcome and free to call in!</p>	 <p><b>Members' Birthdays</b></p> <p><u>Last two weeks</u></p> <p>6/1 Robert McGregor, 7/1 Graham McIntosh</p> <p><u>Next two weeks</u></p> <p>12/1 Geoff Frost, 18/1 Bradley Foxlewin, 20/1 Rod Therkelsen</p>
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### Headline News

- ☑ **BIG year coming up the Yass Valley Men's Shed.** Following Council's decision to take up the Men's Shed's proposal to convert the empty BP Centre into a Community Facility, and the handing over of the keys just prior to Christmas, the big challenge for 2011 will be to make this opportunity work for both the Shed and for the Yass Valley Community. So far, apart from the Friendship Group (who have staked a claim to a presence at the Centre), we are unaware of any other community groups likely to also make a bid. We expect that there will be a good number, though, given the Centre's potential and possibility and the clear need in the community for meeting and recreation opportunities.

The first public use of the BP Centre is our plan to have it ready for the First Men's Shed Health Night of 2011 – to be held on Thursday 10 February. Beyond Blue, a local medico and a couple of Members are going to give us some information and strategies on recognition of and how to deal with Depression. Write this one in your diaries!

Concerning uses of the BP Centre for Men's Shed purposes, the First Challenge to you, the Men's Shed Members, is:

Tell me (by return Email ([wayne@stuartoz.com](mailto:wayne@stuartoz.com)) – what Men's Shed activities that we don't have now, do you want to see the BP centre used for, eg:

- cards?,
- movies?,
- cooking classes?,
- book reader's club?,
- computer lessons/familiarity?, debating?,
- a billiards/snooker competition?,
- music (self made or sharing your favourite recordings?),
- a "meal at the Shed" lunch/dinner once a week/month – where you byo (Chinese, fish'n'chips, BBQ, vegemite Saos etc) and we all sit around having a nosh-up and conversation together. If we were to do this "Supper at the Shed" one, we could make it a Yass Valley Community open-invitation event (partners, non members?), etc.

Remember the Men's Shed rule, though – if you have a good idea that you would like to see get off the ground, it is important that the effort to implement and make that idea a success should not be left to the Committee or just a very few active members. If it is worth doing – then it is worth you being involved.

We need your creative ideas and help for uses for the BP Centre – the Committee is pretty dull and boring and haven't had an original idea since Reg Moebus invented the internal combustion ice cream cone.

☑ **Working bee at the BP Centre.**- To get the above ball rolling, we need to do a fair bit of work to get the BP Centre habitable and fit for all the likely future purposes to which it might be put. Accordingly, next Tuesday (11 January) at 11am, we will have our first working bee to start cleaning the building and surrounds up so it is safe, clean, welcoming and useful. The plan for that day is:

- to remove cobwebs,
- sweep/dust the internal walls,
- sweep/vacuum the lower level (the upper level is not part of the current offer by the Council for community use), and
- start on cleaning up the forecourt and view of the place from the street.

As time goes on there will be other things we need to do as well – but we are waiting to see what the Council's own processes are first (they are undertaking some electrical, carpentry, glass safety and repair work to meet their own obligations).

Come along on Tuesday ready to do some work. We have had a couple of recent such days at the Shed and it is most enjoyable. We have a couple of incentives for you:

- Bring your own favourite cleaning tools (broom, path weeder/chipper, glass cleaning implements etc – that way you get to do something you WANT to do;
- We will keep the time to a limit – no more than an hour and a half – if we don't finish we can come back and continue another day.
- We will be having a BBQ at 12.30 for all comers.

These days are great fun – don't miss out – think of the stories you'll be able to tell your grand-kids!

- ☑ **Dolls House for Sale** - If anyone is still looking for that perfect Gift for a loved daughter or granddaughter (age 5 to 10 years + or -) – we have just the thing. A generous donor has provided a kit dolls house which some members have now constructed (it is amazing!!) has furniture several floors and lots of rooms + an attic. Talk to John Woodin (6226 4485) who will amaze you with the price and the great value.

## Other News

- ☑ Following the amazing rain event we had a few weeks ago, some of the recently prepared garden area was washed away (luckily, it had not been occupied or developed – just rotary hoed by Warren Hall. Warren has returned and hoed that area again for us (thanks Warren, you're our hero!!) – so there is a large area now available for any members who have seen how good the garden looks and would like an area of your own. Lots of blokes (who know about such things and some who don't!) are willing to advise and help you if you need advice. Take up the opportunity it is a great way to supplement the table (and remember fruit and veg is going to get expensive following the disruption to QLD agriculture following the folds there.
- ☑ Also, I understand that the Council is making garden mulch available to anyone interested to turn up with a trailer at the Tip to collect some. If any members can collect a trailer load for the Shed garden, that would be terrific. We can use that material in a number of ways (principally for paths and weed suppression between the garden beds). Just drop the trailer load in a pile on an unused space near to the garden beds and the gardeners will take it from there – thanks.
- ☑ The recent Committee meeting agreed that it would be helpful in getting more member involvement in Shed activities if individual members would accept responsibility for regular duties at the Shed – for example:
  1. Asset register maintenance person.
  2. Events & social convenor as an example. eg. Friendship group, BBQ's, Inter shed visits, Seminars, Demonstrations etc.)
  3. Garden machinery maintenance.
  4. Meeting room/kitchen maintenance.
  5. Workshop equipment maintenance.
  6. Garbage & recycle bins. ( Place out by the road when due)If any members are interested in any or all of the above jobs, it would help spread the load a little. Talk to Wayne Stuart (0419 292 022 or [wayne@stuartoz.com](mailto:wayne@stuartoz.com)).

## Standing items and reminders

- ☑ Detailed planning for the **next Men's Health night** to be held on **Thursday 10 February 2011** continues. The subject is "Depression" and we hope that this next event might be even more successful than the first one (Prostate) at which some 35 people attended. Beyond Blue has now advised that they can send a speaker to address the meeting. There will also be a local medico and some other speakers with personal stories to tell or information to impart. Refreshments will be provided on the night.
- ☑ Anyone who wants the Shed to be open at a time that suits them is more than welcome to have a key and go to the Shed when they wish – talk to Wayne Stuart (0419 292 022) if this is an attractive option for you. Alternatively, if it is a "one off" visit, borrow the key from Allan McGrath at Kidz Blitz (be sure you buy something while you are there!)

## Workshop and Project Corner – provided by Roger Holgate, Workshop Manager

### General Notices:

- If you would like to use any tool whatsoever with which you are not familiar, please do hesitate to ask for assistance and instructions. Most times someone will be available to assist.
- Please do not try to use a tool other than for the purpose for which it was designed. Our tools at this stage are primarily light to medium duty therefore must be respected.
- Any member with a special project that they would like to tackle but lack confidence, please talk to a committee member and we will endeavour to get the right person to assist you. We are all there to help each other with our own respective talents.
- There is now a jobs register and appropriate forms in a red clip board/folder on the front desk at the shed for any projects that we have agreed to do (if you accept a job, please register in that book so we know what is “on the books” and can monitor progress of jobs (and advise the requestor if there are likely to be delays etc).
- **To keep track of requested workshop projects** both cost-wise & progress-wise, it has been decided that we start using previously designed job sheets along with a register book. This book is clearly on display on the sign in desk. If you accept a job on behalf of the Shed , please write it up in the book – this will help us keep track of projects and be a good history of effort and achievement over time. If you have done a job in the past, please check the book to see if it is there and if not, please enter it too.

**Special Jack’s Workshop Notice:** (this is a repeat – but it is important info – so no apologies)

In an endeavour to prevent accidents and eliminate some failures and damages that we have experienced in the past the information below will be converted into safety and information signs and will be placed at the relevant machinery. Members are requested to read these signs and to follow the guidance contained in them.

#### **Metal Lathe -**

- Please ensure that you are familiar with the operation of the lathe before using.
- If not completely confident please ask for assistance.
- Always lubricate before using.
- Constantly check temperature of motor.
- Clean lathe when finished

#### **Bandsaw -**

- Be sure that you are familiar with the saw before using.
- Connect dust extractor.
- Check that adjustments are OK.
- Do not force material into saw.
- Always stop saw before backing out of cut to prevent the blade coming off the wheels.
- Constantly check temperature of motor.

#### **Wood Lathe -**

- Please be sure that you are familiar with all aspects of operation before using.
- If not completely confident please ask for assistance.
- Please use dust extractor to eliminate fine dust.
- Constantly check temperature of motor.
- Clean down lathe when finished.

## **Bench Grinder -**

- Left hand wheel (grey colour) for general usage.
- Right hand wheel (green colour) **for sharpening tungsten carbide etc. tools only.** eg metal lathe tools etc.
- Please spread your work across wheel to prevent grooving.

## **Belt/disc sander and band saw -**

Please use dust extractor when using the sander or band saw.  
Please ask if unsure of operation.

Please note that the dust extractor set up is a temporary measure until funds permit better. It has proven that its usage in the Shed prevents a lot of fine dust in the air which settles on and in everything, including us.

## **And now – the Joke of the week.**

Next time someone criticises you for not putting the toilet seat down – you have my full permission to respond as follows:

“I’ll start putting it down when the previous user leaves it up after they’re finished as a consideration for my comfort and preferences!”

## **Current keyholders are:**

<b>John Woodin (President)</b>	<b>6226 4485</b>
<b>Ray Hill (Vice President)</b>	<b>6226 3344</b>
<b>Wayne Stuart (Secretary)</b>	<b>0419 292 022</b>
<b>Reg Moebus (Treasurer)</b>	<b>6227 3247</b>
<b>Roger Holgate (Workshop)</b>	<b>6226 1664</b>
<b>David Hale</b>	<b>6226 4227</b>

**Allan McGrath. Collect a key from Allan (and sign the Register) at Kidz Blitz in Comur Street (return it afterwards)**

If anyone has items they would like to see included in the “Messenger”, or ideas to improve the newsletter please let me know.

Wayne Stuart  
Secretary  
0419 292 022