



# THE MEN'S SHED MINI MESSENGER

PATRON: COUNCILLOR NIC CARMODY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY

MESSENGER NO 6 FOR 2012

SUNDAY 12 FEB 2012

**NOTE:** I will be away next week, so you will have to wait for a fortnight for the next edition of this lovely little newsletter. w

## Headline News for this Week

### Visit to Dubbo Men's Shed and Conference

Len McGuigan represented our Shed at the **ONE DAY EXPO 2012 - -MEN'S SHEDS IN THE WEST** event in Dubbo on Wednesday of last week.

He had a great time and fully intends to attend the next one and strongly recommends that others try to attend as well. We will keep you informed of outings and Shed visits in the region when they are coming up.



Len reports that there were about 200 people from a large number of Sheds in attendance. There would have been many more, but they were prevented by the flooding in the north of the State. Six members from the Ulladulla Shed called at our Shed on their way to the Dubbo event during the morning last Tuesday and Len met up with them there.



Len visited the Dubbo Shed to whom we had donated our unwanted Lapidary table (if you happen to read these Messengers - due to the "great silence" I sometimes wonder if there is anyone out there - you may recall that we had no interest expressed by our own members and after some inquiring found that the Dubbo Shed was interested). If you have trouble remembering it, the photo (above left) is what it looked like when we had it. The two pictures above right show it now cleaned up. Made operational and installed on bench tops and in much demand in the Dubbo Shed. Len reports that the Dubbo Shed is very grateful to us for our generosity.

## Shed clothing suggestion

Len also mentioned that many of the Sheds present in Dubbo were easily identified by having "uniform" tee or polo shirts, hats/caps etc. You can get a bit of an idea from this photo from the Dubbo event.

As it happens, we have been thinking of a similar upgrade and extending our range from the current YVMS baseball caps (of which we are almost out of stock).

At this stage, the idea would be that we hold stocks of a small range of items for sale at a modest price per item.

Roger Holgate has asked pertinent questions of the Melba Shed (who have items for sale to members) and has some information on accessing various forms of clothing etc (all with our logo → incorporated) and we will come back to you shortly with some suggestions to get the membership's views on what we might stock and colours, styles etc.



## General News

### Possible trips to regional Men's Sheds

Following the Dubbo success and the good times we experienced in having both the Goulburn Shed and Ulladulla Shed visits recently, we will shortly announce a couple of proposed visits of our own to Sheds in our region. Initially these will be confined to one-day visits (possible future trips to Men's Sheds at the Lodge, in Perth, Vanuatu, San Francisco and the Vatican should not be discounted after the new Shed Committee is elected!).

Depending on numbers for these one-day visits, we will either take private cars (with some contribution for fuel from the participants) or perhaps, source a small bus for the visits if numbers are good - there may be some costs associated with this option. We have a member (Ron Barton) who is a fully licensed bus driver if that option becomes necessary.

## 2012 YVMS AGM – Thursday 26 April

The Annual General Meeting of the Men's Shed will be held on Thursday 29 April at 5.30. The meeting should be quite short as we will not be having a Committee meeting on this occasion and the AGM process is pretty brief these days.

It is an important meeting though, and as many members who can attend should try to be there to help us steer the Shed into and through the next year.

The most important item on the Agenda will be the election of a new Committee (if you have been unhappy with the current Committee, now is your chance to make some changes!)

The Current Committee is:

- ❖ John Woodin – President
- ❖ Ray Hill – Vice President
- ❖ Reg Moebus – Treasurer
- ❖ Wayne Stuart – Secretary
- ❖ Roger Holgate – Member and Workshop Manager
- ❖ Dara Madden – Member and Grants Coordinator
- ❖ Ron Doyle – Member
- ❖ Duncan McGregor – Member

All Committee places will be vacated (under our Constitutional arrangements) and a new Committee needs to be elected. Under our rules, any member who has held an executive position on the Committee for two years cannot be re-elected to that position. This is to ensure we get new blood and new ideas happening to keep the Shed a vibrant and developing entity. Of course, if there are no new nominations and if outgoing members are willing to renominate, then they may be re-elected.

However, it is essential (in my view) that we have a regular changeover of Committee members so that we can get new ideas for how the Shed should operate and evolve, to spread the load and responsibility a little and perhaps, even give those who have helped the Shed get to its current position, a rest so they can enjoy the Shed until they get itchy to engage in its management again.

You will find a form attached to this Messenger for nominating Committee members and also a Proxy Form to sign and submit if you cannot attend the meeting, but have a particular issue on which you wish to have your voice heard.

Please take these issues seriously – the future of the Shed depends on your continued support and that is very important at AGM time.

A draft Agenda for the AGM will be developed and published in the Messenger in the near future.

## Garden produce

The Garden produce display and collection point just near the door that leads into the Workshop has been loaded with lots of good things for members to use, if you don't have the benefit of your own gardens at home.

You need to come early and regularly as once harvested the items don't last long before they are snaffled by regular visitors. One of the big success stories this last couple of weeks has been the corn – it is just amazing. We are also starting to have squash, cucumbers and pumpkins are almost ready too. Come along, have a browse and help us keep this produce turning over.



The Notice says:

### YVMS Garden Produce

Produce on this table is for the benefit of Members. Please do not harvest directly from the garden unless invited to do so.

Feel free to take what you would like (within reason - remember there are other members who might also like a share).

Please leave a gold coin in the box to assist with the expenses involved in getting this produce to you. Thank you.

Yours compostfully

**The YVMS Gardeners**

## Workshop and Safety News

At the recent Committee meeting it was decided that we need to institute some more formal arrangements concerning familiarisation training for our machinery and accreditation of members – particularly those who wish to use the more dangerous and expensive equipment. Following the two familiarisation presentations delivered by Len McGuigan and Roger Holgate, there has been a marked improvement in the way machines are being used and cared for – however, some damage and unusual wear and tear is still happening.

The Committee is most concerned and aware that we have two duties of care to the membership:

- A duty to ensure that safety of our members is paramount (there are also OH&S laws that we must abide by or we are breaking the laws of the land); and
- A duty to protect the assets of the Shed for the use of all members and to keep unnecessary expense in repairs and maintenance to an absolute minimum.

Roger Holgate, Len McGuigan and Ray Hill are currently reviewing our current arrangements and working on a training/familiarisation and accreditation program for all members who wish to use our machines and this will be promulgated as soon as it is decided, tested and ready for use. In the meantime, if you wish to use any machines, this is OK, but if you have a concern that you might not be fully trained or a bit tentative, just ask and one of our members who is proficient will be more than willing to provide instruction and advice.

## Items for Sale



Alan Carey has been very busy making a number of items which are for sale at the Shed.

If you are trying to impress your Valentine (remember, Valentine's Day is on Tuesday of this week), we have a number of large cutting boards (solid and beautiful) for \$40 and \$50.

We also have sets of 6 drinks coasters for \$20. And a selection of turned wooden bowls etc.

We will soon be placing some of these items at the Information Centre for sale there – and to promote and further announce the presence and activity of the Yass Valley Men's Shed.

## Why Governments and Public Servants are important .....

At the recent Shed Committee meeting, Public Servants came in for a bit of stick from vocal critics in the meeting. Dara Madden and I were a bit miffed at this most unexpected and unwarranted criticism – so it is with great excitement and relief we have discovered this little bit of research by world renowned scientists at Oxford University that shows just how important we (Dara and I) are:

### SCIENTISTS DISCOVER NEW ELEMENT

Oxford University researchers have discovered the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element, *Governmentium* (symbol= $Gv$ ), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called pillocks. Since *Governmentium* has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact.

A tiny amount of *Governmentium* can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second, to take from 4 days to 4 years to complete. *Governmentium* has a normal half-life of 2 to 6 years. It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, *Governmentium*'s mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganisation will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes. This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that *Governmentium* is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as a critical morass. When catalysed with money, *Governmentium* becomes *Administratium* (symbol= $Ad$ ), an element that radiates just as much energy as *Governmentium*, since it has half as many pillocks but twice as many morons.

## Members' requests for help

The idea behind this section of the Messenger is that if you have a request that you think other members might be able to help with, we can advertise it for you here. Give it a go – it's cheaper than advertising in the Trib and we

have lots of blokes with interesting skills out there. This is NOT, however, an opportunity for you to get your car serviced, roof replaced, a personality transplant or hip replacement on the cheap!

### **Challenge No. 2 of 2012:**

Alex Tewes has posed a challenge for members. He would like us to help him build an “Argentine Grill” – see photo.

The dimensions of the grill itself are 1500mm x 900mm and the grill has a device which allows it to be raised and lowered above the fire box.

If anyone who has metal working skills (principally welding, I suspect) can help Alex with this project, he has promised a generous donation to the Shed (he will also purchase and provide all necessary materials).

Let me know if you wish to accept this challenge and we will get it going.

**So far no takers for this challenge have contacted me – come on, live a little!**



Any other requests to insert in this space??? Let me know.

### **General Invitation**

If you would like to see any additional information in the Messenger or have any suggestions or contributions to make, please feel free to contact me

### **News of Members**

Ron Doyle (an active member and also a member of the Shed Committee) is unwell and in Canberra Hospital having tests. I'll update this info when we have more news.

### **Birthdays around this time**

9/2: Ron McGrath and Ron Barton; 22/2 Jim Wickham and Des Hore; 28/2 Geoffrey Atkinson; 2 March: Kenneth Burden and Bill Goode. Happy Birthday Chaps!!!

### **Shed Opening Times**

Tuesday – 9am to Noon

Thursday – 2pm to when the last one leaves – sometimes (if there is interest) includes a BBQ at dinner time.

Saturday – Noon to when the last one leaves (usually between 3 and 4pm)

At all other times, if you are passing and see the doors open, please feel welcome and free to call in!

### **Current YVMS contacts and “Code Holders” (should you wish to access the Shed out of normal hours):**

|                           |              |  |
|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| John Woodin (President)   | 6226 4485    | <a href="mailto:jwoo3@bigpond.com">jwoo3@bigpond.com</a>             |
| Ray Hill (Vice President) | 6226 3344    | <a href="mailto:rayhill01@dodo.com.au">rayhill01@dodo.com.au</a>     |
| Wayne Stuart (Secretary)  | 0419 292 022 | <a href="mailto:wayne@stuartoz.com">wayne@stuartoz.com</a>           |
| Reg Moebus (Treasurer)    | 6227 3238    | <a href="mailto:wargeila@ozemail.com.au">wargeila@ozemail.com.au</a> |
| Roger Holgate             | 6226 1664    | <a href="mailto:roger42@dodo.com.au">roger42@dodo.com.au</a>         |
| David Hale                | 6226 4227    | <a href="mailto:haled3@optunsn.net">haled3@optunsn.net</a>           |

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