



THE MEN'S SHED MINI MESSENGER

PATRON: COUNCILLOR NIC CARMODY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY

MESSENGER NO 7 FOR 2012

SUNDAY 26 FEB 2012

Headlines for this Week (see stories below)

- **Grant received from Yass Garden Club**
- **YVMS fails in its bid for a grant from the Australian Men's Shed Association**
- **Graham McLeod wins Yass Trib Pick of the Pics photo competition**
- **AGM reminder**
- **Seniors Week**
- **Visit by the Yass Friendship Group**

Grant Received from Yass Garden Club

The Shed received a cheque for \$450 this past week from the Yass Garden Club to help with reticulation and other works in the garden area. If you think the garden looks good now, wait until you see the changes this new investment will bring.

If you have been thinking of getting a plot but procrastinating, don't wait any longer – get down to the Shed and reserve your garden space before all the good sites go.

Many thanks to the Yass Garden Club for their valuable assistance to the Shed with this donation.

YVMS fails in its bid for a grant from the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA)

For the second year in succession, we have been unsuccessful with our application for a grant from AMSA. I can assure you the lack of success has nothing to do with the quality of our application – Dara Madden (our Grants coordinator) has up until now had almost 100% success with his efforts.

It seems that there are too many deserving Sheds and not enough money to go around.

Dara is seeking to discover if there is anything we can do to improve our approach for next year.

Graham McLeod wins Yass Trib “Pick of the Pics” photo competition



It appears that Graham was the most handsome and photogenic person in the Yass Valley during the week in which the story about Graham and his (now quite famous) nest of tables was published in the Trib.

Have a look at the photo and you will most likely agree with the Editor of the Trib that this is certainly so.

Not only that, but Graham has singlehandedly, discovered that being an active member of the Men’s Shed can take years off your life. A couple of weeks ago, he was our oldest member and well into his 80s.

The Trib is now reporting that he is 71 – and we all know that if it is in the paper it must be right!

Be like Graham, come to Shed, get involved in an interesting project and feel and look a whole lot younger – you have nothing to lose but the years!

AGM reminder

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.

Seniors Week

Seniors Week in Yass will be celebrated from Sunday 18th to Sunday 25th of March. The Council (and no doubt other organisations) are planning a number of events and activities for the week.

The Shed has been invited to have an “Open House” afternoon and we have agreed to do this from 2pm to 5pm on Thursday 22nd March (our normal opening times).

All members are warmly urged to come along to greet our visitors and to, perhaps, convince a number of them that being a member of the Yass Valley Men’s Shed is something very worthwhile for them (eg. it can easily make you a lot younger!)

Visit by the Yass Friendship Group

The Yass Friendship Group will be visiting the Shed for the first of its regular visits for 2012 on Wednesday 28 March starting between 9.30 and 10 am. These visits are always a lot of fun for them and for us and very worthwhile as well.

We will need to prepare some activities to help entertain them, so if anyone has some good ideas for something new, come along, get involved and help us out.

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.

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.

Shed clothing suggestion

Len McGuigan reported when he returned from his visit to the Dubbo Shed recently, that many of the Sheds present in Dubbo for the gathering 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.



Anyone want to be Prime Minister? (thanks to Brian Millett for this one)

Prime Minister of Australia

Applicants should have extensive experience in the public service or private enterprise, exceptional spoken and written language skills, a genuine interest in, and thorough knowledge of, current affairs, economics, history, statecraft and philosophy, be an eloquent speaker, and be an earnest and empathetic individual of outstanding moral character. However, we will settle for applicants who have a pulse.

You will report to Her Excellency the Governor General, the people of Australia, backbenchers, the Leader of the Opposition, faceless men, and Alan Jones.

You will be expected to manage a large team of experienced senior executives, each with varying responsibilities and capabilities, and proven track records. Wayne Swan will also be there.

Under your leadership, this team will be required to manage both domestic and foreign policy (preferably with occasional successes). You will move Australia forward and build our future whilst giving working families a fair go, protecting our borders and building an economy that is the envy of the world by ensuring our environment is preserved for future generations and stopping the boats, whilst upholding our humanitarian responsibilities to the traditional owners of the land.

In addition, your office will be staffed by a team of dedicated and competent casuals and volunteers. Note that these groups are separate; the dedicated individuals are not competent, and the competent individuals are not dedicated.

Your tenure will be subject to periodic review by the populace, to be held at 3-year intervals or at the Governor-General’s pleasure. Your appointment will also be subject to the ongoing support of three unpopular men from the bush, and following a 3 month probation period your performance will be assessed in the latest Newspan.

You may at times be required to work longer than the specified 38 hour work week; however, this should not be too inconvenient as the position is expected to be temporary.

Job Application

Job Details

Job Title

Prime Minister of Australia

Employer

Australian Labor Party

Essential Questions to be addressed in Your Application

1. Do you have an opposition to gay marriage on the basis of political convenience? *
Yes No

2. Do you have a physical characteristic that would make you easily identifiable in satirical cartoons? *
Yes No

3. Do you believe that most problems in Australia can be solved with mindless negativity? *
Yes No

4. Will you give working families a fair shake of the sauce bottle? *
Yes No

5. Are you Wayne Swan? *
Yes No

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.

Still 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) has been unwell and is currently in Linton having a rest. I understand he might appreciate a visit if anyone can make it.

Richard Saxby's youngest brother died during the week. I am sure we all send Richard our warmest regards and sincere condolences. Don't forget you have lots of mates here Richard! I have promised Richard on behalf of all members that we will be thinking of him this coming Thursday when his brother's funeral will be held.

Birthdays around this time

22/2 Jim Wickham and Des Hore; 28/2 Geoffrey Atkinson; 2/3: Kenneth Burden and Bill Goode; 4/3: Bob Evans; 5/3: Edward Jessop; 7/3: John D'Arx, John Edwards and Bill Findley. 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	jwoo3@bigpond.com
Ray Hill (Vice President)	6226 3344	rayhill01@dodo.com.au
Wayne Stuart (Secretary)	0419 292 022	wayne@stuartoz.com
Reg Moebus (Treasurer)	6227 3238	wargeila@ozemail.com.au
Roger Holgate	6226 1664	roger42@dodo.com.au
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Wayne Stuart

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