



# THE MEN'S SHED MINI MESSENGER

PATRON: COUNCILLOR NIC CARMODY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY

MESSENGER NO 9 FOR 2012

SUNDAY 18 MARCH 2012

## Important dates for your Diary

22 March (Thursday) <b>this week</b>	Shed Open House (2-5pm) – Seniors Week
23 March (Friday) <b>this week</b>	Visit to Goulburn Men's Shed (see item below)
29 March (Wednesday) <b>next week</b>	Yass Friendship Group Visit to our Shed
26 April (Thursday) <b>next month</b>	YVMS Annual General Meeting (see item below)

## Headlines for this Week (see stories below)

- **Yass Valley Community Centre**
- **Seniors Week**
- **Trip to Goulburn Men's Shed**
- **AGM reminder and call for nominations for the Committee**
- **Visit by the Yass Friendship Group**
- **Men's Shed Hero of the Week**

### Yass Valley Community Centre

Following the detailed front page story on the delays and, now, very low (if any) priority being accorded to this project by the Council, I have written a letter to the Editor of the Yass Tribune on behalf of members. The text of my letter follows. I hope it will appear in Wednesday's edition.

"Dear Editor,

It was with some serious concern that I read your front page story concerning the effective halt to the likely opening of the Yass Valley Community Centre located next to the Men's Shed in North Yass.

This centre is a facility and asset that has been recognised by the Council and the community as being necessary and an excellent use of a building that had been deteriorating badly during its long period of disuse. The building is a former Roadhouse and has existing rooms of various sizes and inclusions that are ideal for a wide range of community uses.

Following an invitation by the General Manager of the Yass Valley Council, the Men's Shed agreed at its August 2010 Committee meeting to make a detailed submission to Council concerning the conversion of the old BP Roadhouse to a Community Centre. The 8 page submission that was subsequently made to Council contained detailed analysis of the need for such a venue, proposed a range of activities and local not-for-profit groups that had been identified as being interested in using the centre on a regular basis. The submission also proposed a range of works to be undertaken, entirely voluntarily, by the Men's Shed membership.

Council subsequently agreed to the proposal and provided some funding for repair works, paint and electrical work to make the venue safe or repair serious deterioration.

The Men's Shed has conducted a number of intensive working bees and ongoing improvements including maintaining the grounds, cleaning the entire centre of many years of accumulated dirt, bird infestations, and cleaning, preparing and painting the major internal public areas. We also installed a concrete wheelchair access ramp and have commenced painting the front of the building to provide a more pleasing aspect to the street. There are ongoing plans for further work. In all, it is my estimation that well over 200 man hours of voluntary work have been put into this project by Men's Shed members.

It is therefore very disappointing that the Council seems to have dropped the ball on this project. It is not only concerning, but also quite intriguing that this Council, which has a reputation for needing a development application for just about any action, has taken this long to realise that one might be needed for this project (now more than 18 months later).

During the time since the project commenced, the Men's Shed has conducted three health related seminars attended by more than 200 people in total. Clearly there is a need (just for the Shed) and the Yass Valley to have an accessible, mid-sized venue in which to hold such events. We know that the other groups that have registered with the Council also have similar plans – but the delays are either preventing those events from going ahead or they are being held in less satisfactory venues.

On behalf of the 71 members of the Yass Valley Men's Shed who have a serious investment in this community asset and the wider community who need the centre, I urge Council to fast track this project for the good of the Yass Valley Community.

The Men's Shed is holding an Open House at the Shed (1428 Yass Valley Way, North Yass) for Seniors Week on this coming Thursday (22 March) from 2pm to 5pm. If any member of the community is interested to see what potential the proposed Community Centre might have for their group or need, we can show you the venue and discuss the issues with a view to facilitating the Centre's early opening.

*Wayne Stuart*

Secretary, Yass Valley Men's Shed"

## **Seniors Week**

Seniors Week in Yass will be celebrated from Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March (our normal opening times). We intend to serve refreshments during the afternoon – so this is a chance to get refreshed, yourself!

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.

## **Visit to Goulburn Men's Shed**

Members are invited to come along on a visit to the Goulburn Men's Shed planned to take place this coming Friday 23 March.

We already have 7 bookings and up to four cars have been promised (capacity 16 passengers – including drivers). Current acceptances are: John Woodin, Roger Holgate, Len McGuigan, Ron Doyle, Richard Rowan, Bill Findley and Wayne Stuart.

The plan is to meet at the Yass Valley Men's Shed at 9.30am on that day (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>) and leave for Goulburn at around 10am.

We don't have full details of what Goulburn will provide, but expect morning tea with the possibility of lunch (we did a BBQ when they visited us).

We would anticipate getting back to Yass by mid afternoon.

Contact me if you wish to join us!

## **AGM reminder and call for nominations for the Committee**

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 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.

Currently we have nominations from John Woodin, Roger Holgate, Reg Moebus, Dara Madden, Ron Doyle and Wayne Stuart. It would be good to get at least one more (to fill the quota) but more than that so we have some new blood to choose from, if the membership agrees.

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.

## 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.

## YVMS Hero of the Week

**This week's Hero is Richard Rowan.**

Richard completed a project for a lady who wanted a box sanded back so it could be painted and used as a toy box by her grand-child. Richard did a great job resulting in a donation of \$30 for the Shed

And, as if this wasn't enough, he then volunteered for two stints on the gates at the Yass Show – from 6am until noon on both days – the payment for which will also come to help the Shed.

Well done Richard – and thanks.



## General News

### 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.

## Help Desk (thanks to Ron Doyle for this one and apologies to members who may already have seen it from Ron)

	<p>Mujibar was trying to get a job in India.</p> <p>The Personnel Manager said, "Mujibar, you have passed all the tests, except one. Unless you pass it, you cannot qualify for this job."</p> <p>Mujibar said, "I am ready."</p> <p>The manager said, "Make a sentence using the words <b>Yellow</b>, <b>Pink</b>, and <b>Green</b>."</p> <p>Mujibar said, "The telephone goes <b>green, green</b>, and I <b>pink</b> it up, and say, "<b>Yellow</b>, this is Mujibar."</p> <p>Mujibar now works at a Microsoft Support call centre.</p> <p><b>(I have had a few conversations with his brother who works for Telstra!!)</b></p>
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## 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!

## 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

Graham McLeod had a health problem a few weeks ago which has prevented him from coming to the Shed for the last couple of Saturdays. For those of you who only come if Graham is going to be there, I have it on good authority that we might see him again next week.

## **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.

**We now have a volunteer to undertake this task – watch this space for progress. Alex has also promised that its first outing will be to provide a Spanish BBQ for Shed members – stay tuned for that time and date!**

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



## **Birthdays around this time**

7/3: John D'Arx, John Edwards and Bill Findley

9/3: Ray Armour;

10/3: Dale Carmody;

12/3 Peter Hurley;

13/3 William Grace and David Hingston;

16/3: Murray Goldfinch and Daryn Wright;

17/3: Ron Doyle.

22/3: John Muscatt

26/3: Rick Williams

27/3: Allan McGrath

Happy Birthday Chaps!!! (Little known fact No. #42 about the YVMS: our Constitution allows us to fine any member up to \$100 if he has a birthday and doesn't come to the Shed for a visit during the week in which his birthday falls).

## **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>
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