



THE MEN'S SHED MINI MESSENGER

PATRON: COUNCILLOR NIC CARMODY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY

MESSENGER NO 10 FOR 2012

SUNDAY 25 MARCH 2012

Important dates for your Diary

29 March (Wednesday) this week	Yass Friendship Group Visit to our Shed
15 April (Sunday) next month	Bowling Community Garage/Craft Sale (see item below)
26 April (Thursday) next month	YVMS Annual General Meeting (see item below)

Headlines for this Week (see stories below)

- **New Electrics in the Shed**
- **AGM reminder and call for nominations for the Committee**
- **YVMS Website back on track**
- **Visit by the Yass Friendship Group**
- **Men's Shed Hero of the Week**

New Electrics at the Shed

Some months ago I reported two distinct but connected pieces of news:

1. The first was that Dara Madden, our esteemed (and former Hero of the Week) Grants Coordinator had obtained a grant from one of his many successful applications so far this financial year which included some \$2,300 (or thereabouts) for an upgrade to the Shed's electrical system. Members who visit regularly will recall that we have had to use a lot of extension leads from poorly located (for our purposes) power points and, early on, ie before we had settled to a plan and layout that worked for us, it seemed not to be too necessary to do that work too soon;
2. Then, late last year, I reported in the Messenger that the Men's Shed in Orbost had burned to the ground because of a minor fault in a machine which resulted in an electrical fire – the damage exceeded \$100,000 (just in contents alone). It would be devastating if we had a similar experience and the Committee determined that it had a duty of care to the membership and to our landlord (the Yass Valley Council) to operate at the Shed as safely as possible. Accordingly we decided to fast track the electrical revamp and safety upgrade.

During this last week local Yass electrician Tim Davaris and offsider, Josh, have completely revamped our electrical systems in the Shed. We now have many more double power points in both rooms and in the exact places we need them, including two hanging points above the central work benches in the workshop. In addition to that, Tim was able to install a power kill-switch which operates to prevent power getting to all the power points (with the exception of the one for the fridge) when the lights are turned off and no-one is at the Shed. This is a great bonus from a safety perspective and a huge relief.

On behalf of the Committee and members I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Paul and Tim Davaris and Josh for the terrific, timely and very neat job they have done for us.

I also strongly suggest that any members who need electrical work done at home or in other circumstances, would be well served if you considered inviting Paul and his team to give you a quote and to do the work. We found Paul's quote Provided very promptly, it was extremely competitive compared with other quotes we sought and the work was commenced and finished entirely in a very pleasing way.

We have kicked a BIG goal this week having had this work successfully completed!

AGM reminder and call for nominations for the Committee

A reminder that 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.

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

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.

Currently we have nominations from John Woodin, Len McGuigan (nominated for President), Roger Holgate (Workshop Manager), Reg Moebus (Treasurer), Dara Madden (Grants Coordinator), Ron Doyle and Wayne Stuart (Secretary). It would be good to get more so we have some new blood to choose from, if the membership agrees. At this point we don't have a nomination for Vice President.

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.

YVMS Website back on track

I have had some serious Web training in the last couple of days (courtesy of Blake Swadling – the Shed IT guru and host of our Website) following which, the YVMS website is now back up and running with some new info, some corrected info and a slightly newer look.

The site can be found by clicking on this link: www.yassmensshed.org.au

Have a surf and tell me what you think (be critical – but positive criticism is what I need – ie if you have an issue, give me a suggestion about how you would like to see it fixed – I'm a man and, therefore, cannot guess what is in your mind!).

In the coming week (if I can solve the mysteries of web site management and manipulation), I hope to upload all of the Men's Shed Messengers that have been produced and issued so far, so there will be an accessible history of the Shed available to all members on line.

I am particularly interested in any suggestions for additional features and information that members think would be good to have on the site. However, don't tell me what you want and then run for the hills giving yourself an opportunity to criticise me later when it hasn't happened. Provide me with web links, text, photos etc – as I have already mentioned above, I am not clairvoyant. Of course, we need to keep an eye on copyright and proper ethical issues in anything that we put on the site, so the editor/website manager will retain editorial decision making and control.

Depending on the load that keeping this site under control may pose over time, if anyone out there loves to play with websites, I would be very grateful for a volunteer to take this role over from me (as I have a lot to do anyway). Sharing the jobs that are necessary or good to do is the way we should be going at the Shed. You don't have to be a member of the Committee to take on any job such as this one.

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 Roger Holgate.

A couple of weeks ago, we were approached to see if the Shed could solve a problem for the Gundalong* Polo Club.

They have a trophy which originally looked like this → and on which all the available space for shields recording the champion team for each year had been fully used. We were requested to see if we could make a new or extended base to allow for future championship winners to be recorded.



Roger starting from scratch on a large block of red gum to fashion the extended trophy base ↓.



The old base was quite worn and damaged in places and the finish was totally missing in significant parts of the base (see →)



After Roger had finished his work, the new extended base with room for many years of champion teams to be recorded now looks like this →



(* I understand that "Gundalong" is a combination of the words Gundagai and Galong)

The completed Trophy base with cup attached ↓ is now a work of art and was returned this week to the Gundalong Polo Club. They appear to be very pleased with the great work that Roger has done.



It is people like Roger and other YVMS Heroes of the Week about whom you will hear from me from time to time, that make the Shed a great place to be and enhance our place in the Yass Valley Community.

I would appreciate nominations from members of other Heroes so they, too, can be recognised for their great support of the Shed and the community. I need your help with this important work as I am neither omniscient nor clairvoyant (there I go, again!).

General News

Seniors Week

Seniors Week in Yass was celebrated last week and we had an open house afternoon at the Shed on Thursday afternoon.

Notwithstanding a fair bit of effort being put into advertising and communications about the event and than in the preparation for it, I have to report that, in the end, the event was a bit of a fizzer.

We only had about 4 visitors to the Shed to share the food and drink we had prepared and put on for the afternoon (which, in reality was not such a bad thing as there was more for us!)

We did have a good turnout of members, though, and my thanks to all those who did show up to help on the day. The event was good for the visitors we also got the chance to catch up with old mates of our own.

Win win.

Visit to Goulburn Men's Shed



John Woodin, Roger Holgate, Ron McMullan, Ron Doyle, Richard Rowan, Bill Findley and Wayne Stuart visited the Goulburn Men's Shed last Friday and were welcomed, fed morning tea and lunch and also shown over the complex of buildings and workshops that comprise the Goulburn Shed's domain.

The Goulburn Shed has been operating since 2005 and has some 50 members or so – more than 20 of whom were at the Shed to greet us and host our visit. It was a terrific experience and a way to cement relationships and make new friends of very similar blokes in a neighbouring town.

The Goulburn Shed has many more facilities in their collection of buildings and more active areas of interest than we do here in Yass. Some of their activities include:

- A carpentry for the disabled program;
- Production of a number of timber items (gum boot storage and magazine, drink and remote control chair-side racks, are just two examples) that are made as money spinners and sold at Goulburn Markets and similar events;
- An active cake cooking program (in a fully equipped kitchen) the cakes are also sold at markets (but also have won prizes in local Shows etc);
- They run a computer training for seniors program on computers that were obtained under a federal government grant program specifically for this purpose (I think John Woodin will be investigating the possibility of us doing something similar in Yass);
- They also have a massive bike refurbishment and repair operation and when enough bikes are restored, they are loaded into a container and shipped to third world countries (mostly in Africa) to provide transport – but also a possibility of a workshop (and jobs looking after those bikes – using the container, after modest conversion, as a workshop) for the local community.
- They also have a very well equipped metal working shop (much of the equipment is part of the Railway workshop fitout in which the Goulburn Shed is accommodated);
- A room dedicated to at least two very extensive and highly intriguing model railway layouts;
- And no doubt a few other activities I was not fast enough to observe during the tour of the facilities.

These visits are the source of much food for thought for us, and we intend to make more visits to other Sheds in the region so we can be further inspired to improve our own Shed within the constraints of our own physical Shed dimensions and configuration – not to mention having the need for interest and engagement of our own members.

I will let you know when the next outing is planned so (hopefully) more of our members can come along.

It was a great day – and as I remember writing in a “composition” when I was about 8 years old (as did most other 8 year olds at the time): “at the end of the day, we all returned home, tired but happy!”

Richard Rowan has provided me with his take on the day for inclusion in this newsletter:

From: Richard Rowan [<mailto:richard.rowan@ozemail.com.au>]
Sent: Friday, 23 March 2012 6:03 PM
To: Wayne Stuart
Subject: visit Goulburn

An open note to members of the Yass Men's Shed

Today seven of us visited the Goulburn Men's Shed it was truly a delightful few hours of observation and learning of what others are doing. That we can only raise seven members for a visit when transport was laid on is somewhat discouraging on our part when others are keen to extend friendship and knowledge and experience of their Shed's activities.

It was interesting and stimulating to discover that the Goulburn Men's Shed had over the last 12 months exported via donations over 400 working pushbikes to Africa. They also run a woodworking class for the disabled mostly wheelchair bound people They also run a senior citizens introduction to computer course. Additionally they make and sell various items at the Goulburn markets to support their activities. They are fundamentally able to do this via their membership support leading to good comradeship and cooperation for projects. It is somewhat disappointing that we do not have the same commitment or at least interest from most of our members when you see the support and commitment of other 'Shed's'.

Next year is the 150th anniversary of the City of Goulburn. The Goulburn Men's Shed has commenced planning for a 'Men's Shed' weekend. This would be as they visited a collection of Men's Shed's from around the Goulburn area participating at their shed in a weekend of demonstrations and functions. Given today's performance from our members and usual attendance during the week is unlikely that we will be able to offer any substantial support to our Goulburn brothers unless there is a dramatic and substantial participation from members.

If you are a member and have not dropped in for coffee for a while: why? If you are a member and have not thought about participating in any of our projects: why? And, I suppose finally, if you are a member and have not been near the place for a month or so why are you a theoretical member?

Regards, with concerns for membership participation,

Richard Rowan

Richard.rowan@ozemail.com.au

Clean up Australia Day - Yass

I have it on good authority that next Saturday the 31st of March from 2pm till 5pm at Riverbank Park [near the barbeque] will be Clean up Australia Day (Yass chapter). Members (and friends, family etc) are invited along to help out and enjoy the good feeling that making your town a bit more beautiful can bring.

If you are interested, could you please contact:

Jeff Cartwright | Senior Environmental Health Officer | **Yass Valley Council**
PH: +61 (0)2 6226 9234
E: Jeff.Cartwright@yass.nsw.gov.au

Community Garage/Craft Day Sale – Bowning

I have been asked to invite any members and their families and friends who might be interested in having a site at the upcoming event in Bowning to **[contact Cecile Felderhoff of Bowning Lions Club on 6227 6456](#)** to book a site.

The arrangements are:

- The event will take place from 10am until 2pm on Sunday 15 April, 2012;
- All sites are free (it would be good if you could make a small donation to Bowning Lions Club if you have a successful day);
- The event will take place on the verandahs of the Bowning Pub (close to refreshments?);
- Bring your own tables, chairs (and stuff to sell) etc

It would be good if one or more of our members might volunteer to take our current woodwork items that we currently have for sale and see if we can make a killing. If any member is interested in this challenge, please let me know.

The ideal husband

A store that sells new husbands has opened in New York City , where a woman may go to choose a husband. Among the instructions at the entrance is a description of how the store operates:

"You may visit this store ONLY ONCE! There are six floors and the value of the products increase as the shopper ascends the flights. The shopper may choose any item from a particular floor, or may choose to go up to the next floor, but you cannot go back down except to exit the building!"

So, a woman goes to the Husband Store to find a husband. On the first floor the sign on the door reads:

Floor 1 - These men Have Jobs

She is intrigued, but continues to the second floor, where the sign reads:

Floor 2 - These men Have Jobs and Love Kids.

'That's nice,' she thinks, 'but I want more.'

So she continues upward. The third floor sign reads:

Floor 3 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, and are Extremely Good Looking.

'Wow,' she thinks, but feels compelled to keep going.

She goes to the fourth floor and the sign reads:

Floor 4 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Good Looking and Help with Housework.

'Oh, mercy me!' she exclaims, 'I can hardly stand it!'

Still, she goes to the fifth floor and the sign reads:

Floor 5 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Gorgeous, Help with Housework, and Have a Strong Romantic Streak.

She is so tempted to stay, but she goes to the sixth floor, where the sign reads:

Floor 6 - You are visitor 31,456,012 to this floor. There are no men on this floor. This floor exists solely as proof that women are impossible to please. Thank you for shopping at the Husband Store.

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, Graham is back and attended the Shed yesterday. He is in good form and keen to get back to doing some woodworking jobs.

Birthdays around this time

17/3: Ron Doyle.
22/3: John Muscatt
26/3: Rick Williams
27/3: Allan McGrath
1/4: Bill Dowling
9/4: Alistair McGregor
10/4: Ken Reidy
11/4: Roger Holgate
13/4: Brian Millett

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
David Hale	6226 4227	haled3@optunsn.net.com.au

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