



THE MEN'S SHED MINI MESSENGER

PATRON: COUNCILLOR NIC CARMODY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY

MESSENGER NO 17 FOR 2012

SUNDAY 13 MAY 2012

If you want to see previous editions of the Messenger, you can find them all on the YVMS Website at this address (just click on it): <http://yassmensshed.org.au/newsletter-archive>

Important dates for your Diary

18 to 20 May (inclusive)	Canberra Lifestyle and Retirement Expo – to be held at EPIC - will have Canberra-based Men's Shed displays/table – see item below.
24 May (Thursday) 5.30pm	Committee Meeting (all welcome) + Gourmet BBQ afterwards (all welcome) – see item below.
26 July (Thursday) 7pm	Next YVMS Seminar – on Financial Planning and info on Centrelink Benefits – will be preceded by a BBQ kicking off at about 5.30pm. More Seminar info coming soon

Headlines for this Week (see stories below)

- **Update on NSW \$10,000 Grant work by the YVMS Committee**
- **Men's Shed Heroes of the Week**
- **Visit to the National Museum**

Update on NSW \$10,000 Grant work by the YVMS Committee

The Shed Committee has agreed that a smaller working group comprising Len McGuigan (President), Reg Moebus (Treasurer), Dara Madden (Grants Coordinator) and Wayne Stuart (Secretary) do the necessary paper work and liaison with the Department of Health in NSW (who will actually provide the \$10,000 we have been granted).

This group has already started its work and as we speak, an Invoice has already been sent to the Dept of Health and the remaining paperwork to support the Grant application is being finalised by the working group.

We hope to lodge the paperwork early in the coming week and if we can manage this, we are advised that the funds could well be in our Bank Account within a fortnight or so.

In the meantime, Roger Holgate (Workshop Manager) is searching out the best deals on optimal equipment for which we asked for funding so that we can best use the funds for the purposes it has been provided.

The Working Group will report to the Committee at the meeting next week on progress and the latest information we have.

Updates will also be provided in the Messenger when the money comes through and as we spend it on the approved items.

YVMS Heroes of the Week

This week's HEROES are Brian Millett, Roger Lawrence and Richard Rowan.

Each of these Members volunteered to work on the gates at the Yass Show in February to help the Lions Club perform that important task.

Their labours have resulted in the Shed receiving a cheque from the Lions Club this week in the sum of \$218.70 for their efforts.

It needs to be recorded that Richard Rowan performed the Herculean task of doing 6 hours on each of the Saturday and Sunday mornings (a total of 12 hours on the gates), a great effort and one very much appreciated by the Shed and its members as we have some good use to which the income earned by these energetic and dedicated members can be applied. Brian and Roger each worked for 3 hours.

You might think that we are doing very well with our Grants applications and successes – and we are. Those funds are sought for and applied to specific needs that we have identified and proved to the grantors.

Income received from volunteering of the kind Richard, Brian and Roger have performed provide us with the ability to do other things that the income from our membership fees doesn't cover. Such things as electricity bills, fees we need to pay for holding car boot sales, insurances and purchasing consumables for day to day operations at the Shed – it all adds up and these bonuses provided by volunteers, helps us keep the doors open.

So, these three members have effectively personally donated \$218.70 to the Shed.

Congratulations, thanks and we salute you Brian, Roger and Richard!

Visit to the National Museum of Australia's back rooms to look at old cars, etc!!

As mentioned in the Messenger last week, the visit to the National Museum is now looking like a goer.

I have advised the organisers (the Murrumbateman Shed) that we have at least 10 members who have expressed a desire to go. However, we don't seem to have consensus on a preferred day (we would have to fit with the day that the Murrumbateman members wanted as well). So in the end I suggested that they contact the Museum, settle on a day and I will communicate that date to members and see how many can come on that day.

I have followed up with the organisers of this event this week, and at the moment there is no news about the timing.

I will circulate full details when we have them to hand.

General News

Committee Meeting – Thursday 24 May

The meeting will commence at 5.30pm. We will be trying a new approach to the meeting arrangements which, we hope, will streamline the event and have it over in half an hour or so – at least that is the challenge.

All members are warmly invited to the meeting and if that is not enough excitement for one day, we will be holding the first of many (we hope) Gourmet BBQ challenges after the meeting. On this occasion Richard Rowan (Chef) and Wayne Stuart (Cook) will be throwing down the Gauntlet to all Members by preparing and serving a number of exquisite and mouth-watering offerings that you will just have to be there to believe! We are confident that other members will then take up the challenge to win the coveted YVMS Gourmet BBQ Champions' Trophy for 2012. Being a Chef is not a sissy thing to do! So find a Cooking Colleague and start planning your assault on our taste buds.

If you would like to add an item to the Committee Meeting Agenda, please let me know.



Patron: Councillor Nic Carmody, Mayor of Yass Valley

Yass Valley Men's Shed Inc.

DRAFT Agenda for Committee Meeting to be held at 5.30pm on
Thursday 24 May 2012

Opening/welcome

Present

Acceptance of the Agenda

Apologies

Previous Minutes - including a consolidated Report on "Virtual Committee Meeting" decisions (Secretary)

Membership Status and Correspondence (Secretary)

President's Report (not needed this time as the AGM got the latest one)

Treasurer's Report (not needed this time as the AGM got the latest one)

Reports by YVMS Groups (if any)

General Business:-

- Update on the YVCC building and project – including report on work to be completed by Council (electrics in the YVCC, trench digging for the water reticulation project, maintenance of mower etc)
- YVMS Seminar program for 2012/13
- Possible Men's Shed wreath for Anzac Day next year.
- Acquisition of computers to help members and anyone in the Community who would like one-on-one lessons in the functions YOU are interested in.
- Status of Grants applications for the Shed
 - ✓ Update on progress with the \$10,000 Grant from the NSW Government
 - ✓ Status of Grant from the Lansdowne Foundation (Reg Moebus)
 - ✓ Others?
- General Discussion on Len McGuigan's call for members' input on the future of the Shed, how it can be improved etc.

Any Other Business

Next Meeting.

Things you can do for the Shed – and they won't hurt!

Apologies for running this item again – but we think it is important and you may have missed it last time:

We have been thinking about some of the untapped resources that probably exist within our own membership base and, if we're right, there may be ways you can help the Shed with very little inconvenience to yourself – it might even provide some extra space for your life at home to improve:

Things we need that you may no longer want (thanks to Richard Rowan for this idea)

Perhaps you have a shed full of stuff (especially tools) that you once prized but is now just taking up space. It could be useful for members to use at the Shed. At the moment we are in need of specific items the most pressing of which are:

- A Triton table stand (with safety shut off switch) to which we could attach our Triton router table top – we have very recently acquired a router to complete the set!
- A steel or cast iron BBQ plate to match the one we already have – the BBQ currently has a grate on one side and would be more efficient if we could replace the grate with another plate – anyone out there saving up a BBQ plate for a rainy day? It's raining at the Shed!
- If you have other items that you think we might use (within reason) we will be pleased to talk with you about a donation. For example, we need
 - a set of good quality wood chisels (doesn't matter how old as long as they are in good condition);
 - a set of heavy duty (good quality) wood turning chisels (doesn't matter how old as long as they are in good condition);
 - a trolley (or two) for moving heavy things around (a three wheel step version would be ideal),
 - another wheelbarrow or a garden 4 wheel cart would also be most useful
 - a drill set (1/16 to 1/2 in 1/64th increments);
 - a dowelling jig;
 - 5/8" pedestal drill;
 - 10" table saw;
 - Sliding compound mitre saw;
 - 355mm metal cut off saw.

This is not an exclusive list, but the list contains those things that are still obvious gaps in our holdings of effective equipment. If you can provide any of these items, not only will the membership be most grateful to you, but you can be assured that anything we accept will go to a very good home and be lovingly looked after.

Reward Points at Home Hardware

We regularly find our collection of consumables (screws, sandpapers, glues, fillers, silicones etc etc) need to be topped up or we need to purchase a small item such as a hinge, a bracket, a drawer knob or similar. We are finding that while our gold coin donation box in the workshop is a good source of minor funding, it is not sufficient to cover the cost of consumables.

There is a solution!

If our members were prepared to ask the cashier at **Home Hardware** to add the loyalty points for any purchase you make from time to time to the Yass Valley Men's Shed Loyalty Points membership account (you don't need to show a card – just ask and they'll do it), then we will have the opportunity to use those points to replenish and have ready for your use next time you come, those things you will need.

Think about it and help us out – please.

YVMS history project

We have just had our 4th anniversary and if we don't soon start organising our current collection of information and records and then collating and storing it in an organised and appropriate way, the challenge might well become too daunting. At the moment we have an amount of newspaper cuttings relating to reports in the Trib about our various activities. We also have photos of visits and events at the Shed (eg the Official Opening with politicians and the Ngunnawal Smoking Ceremony and visits by the Yass Friendship Group). As time goes on these things will deteriorate if not looked after, could be lost, or the task will just become too much.

At the moment, the task is likely not to be too onerous - and once the initial work is completed, ongoing upkeep will be very easy – there is not that much history happening on a weekly basis at the Shed!.

Is there anyone in our number who loves to organise material and create and maintain a series of scrap books or other historical collection approach to such a challenge? Can be done at your place or at the Shed. If you are into family trees – then this might be a mild sideline for YOU.

If you also happen to be electronically brilliant (or even proficient), we might (over time) see if we can't digitise the history and have it as a dedicated page on our website.

If you are so inclined and wish to win a Hero Award for your generosity and ability, contact me (Wayne Stuart 0419 292 022) and we will get this show on the road.

Canberra Lifestyle and Retirement Expo – 18 to 20 May inclusive

This Expo will be held at “Exhibition Park in Canberra” (EPIC) also known to most of us as the Canberra Show Grounds.

The Retirement & Lifestyle Expo is a one-stop shop for not only people seeking advice on issues relating to a happy, active and hassle-free retirement but is equally important to the families of retirees. ‘Retirement’ is no longer a dirty word, instead it is now perceived as important and positive. With so many people now needing to plan for their retirement as well as the huge market of those who have already retired, this expo has significant importance to the wider community.

Financial and investment planners, a vast variety of lifestyle villages and resorts, a host of domestic and overseas holiday and travel operators, tourism destinations, taxation and legal advisors, government information services, property investments, superannuation and insurance advisors, health and hearing specialists, caravan, campervan and motorhome suppliers will all be on hand to provide advice and service the needs of the growing market.

I understand that Canberra-based Men's Sheds will have a stand at the Show – so, put on your Yass Valley Men's Shed cap, go along, identify yourself and tell 'em our Shed is better than theirs! They may even invite you to sit on the stand for a short while to help talk to interested people – take advantage sell the message of our Shed to those poor benighted Canberrans!

If you would like more info – click on this link: <http://www.emsaust.com.au/retire.html>

A notice to members we don't see so often

To those of you who pay your dues (for which we are most grateful) but who we see only occasionally, here is a reminder of the good things the Shed has to offer, our philosophy and our current *modus operandi*:

- ❖ The Shed is NOT a job centre! If you would like a place to go for friendship or just to meet a few blokes who might share your interests, then this is the place for you. You will NOT ever be asked to do jobs for anyone, we do call for interested volunteers to engage in particular tasks or opportunities that come along from time

to time (such as the clean up of the BP Centre and also the design and making of a few interesting projects for other members or members of the local community) – but there is never any pressure or expectation – and more importantly, we like to see you at the Shed in whatever mode you would like to be there.

- ❖ The Shed is not a refuge for old men constantly talking about their ailments. Our membership profile contains members from 11 to 88. Quite a number of our members are under 50. In my four years attending at the Shed, I have yet to hear anyone talking about their problems, issues or concerns otherwise than in a light hearted fashion. I think the way it works is that all members seem to enjoy the camaraderie and conversation and it is that interaction which seems to address and help those men who might have some problems in their lives – the simple joys of communication and contact seems to do the job. While we do have a couple of counsellors in our midst, to my knowledge neither one has been needed in that capacity at the Shed!
- ❖ Assess and access our assets! We now have thousands of dollars worth of equipment (soon to be further amplified!). If you have a job of your own to do – it is more than likely that we now have the equipment to make it a quick and easy task for you – or if you lack the skill, experience or confidence, we have members who are keen to help you – for \$20 a year this is not only excellent value – but also a great waste if you don't take advantage!
- ❖ Interesting people. We calculate that within our current 75 members, there are over 2,100 man years of experience across a very wide range of life and work experience, skills and capability. Why not come and talk to some of our members who have amazing life stories to tell and would also like to hear about yours?

YVMS Website

Have a surf – enjoy yourselves! www.yassmensshed.org.au

Same Sex Marriages (Thanks to Len McGuigan for this one)



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

Birthdays around this time

1/5: Dr Raja Ahluwalia
2/5: Ron Coleman
4/5: Ron Rouston
6/5: Eric Sunnocks
13/5: Philip O'Brien and Philip Walsh
16/5: Nate Harvey-Cox
17/5: Sandy Butt
22/5: Llewyn Dowling
27/5: Allan Carey
29/5: Clarrie Schlunke
30/5: Joe Morrissey

Happy Birthdays 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	6226 4485	jwoo3@bigpond.com
Ray Hill	6226 3344	rayhill01@dodo.com.au
Wayne Stuart	0419 292 022	wayne@stuartoz.com
Reg Moebus	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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Wayne Stuart

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