



THE MEN'S SHED MINI MESSENGER

PATRON: COUNCILLOR NIC CARMODY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY

MESSSENGER NO 18 FOR 2012

SATURDAY 19 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 .
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 Hero of the Week**

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

During this past week, the small sub-committee working on the submission completed its work and submitted the documents required by the NSW Government.

We have received a personal letter from Minister Kevin Humphries formally confirming the Grant and also a communication form his Department to say that documents for signature are in the mail to us and the funds should hit our Bank Account in the next week or so.

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.

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

YVMS Hero of the Week

This week's HERO is Rick Williams.

Rick is my hero this week for the following three reasons:

- First and most important is that he has proven to me that there is someone out there - and that someone is actually reading, understanding and responding to my Messenger messages (and calls for help);
- Secondly, he has responded to my request for you to scavenge in your sheds etc to see what you might have that we need – Rick has delivered a BBQ plate so we can now provide our proposed Gourmet BBQ next Thursday evening fully tooled up to do it; and
- Thirdly, he has put his hand up to look at our YVMS History project.

Now, that is REAL heroism – not to mention very good progress!

Thanks Rick.

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

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.

Still no news on timing – but it is worth waiting for this good and exciting opportunity.

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.

You will all receive (probably on Monday) a Committee Meeting Briefing in which you will find an outline of the issues and possible outcomes for each Agenda item. There are three benefits from this approach:

1. All members will know in detail what is likely to happen at the meeting (which might get you away from the Telly and to the Shed for that meeting) if only to support the proposal or to object to it;
2. Because everyone will know what is coming in some detail, there will be no need to introduce each item at length – and the focus will therefore be on any discussion or if none, then a prompt moving on through the agenda (which will get us out of there promptly; and most importantly of all
3. It will ensure that we remain fully open to the membership on all of the issues we are considering and this is the most democratic way we can think of to achieve that approach.

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.

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

Now that we have had some responses to this aspect of the Messenger, I have updated it by removing the things we no longer need, but I am also reassured that there is someone out there and they may have some of the things in the listings below:

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!
- 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.

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.

Today and tomorrow are the final days – so you will need to be quick!

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!

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

The one that didn’t get away

A guy is 71 years old and loves to fish.

He is sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, "Pick me up."

He looked around and couldn't see any one. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again, "Pick me up."

He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog.

The man said, "Are you talking to me?"

The frog said, "Yes, I'm talking to you. Pick me up. Then, kiss me and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous because you will have me as your bride."

The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully, and placed it in his front breast pocket.

Then the frog said, "What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride."

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, "Nah, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog."

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):

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