



# THE MEN'S SHED MINI MESSENGER

PATRON: COUNCILLOR NIC CARMODY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY

MESSENGER NO 23 FOR 2012

MONDAY 25 JUNE 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

26 July (Thursday) 7pm

Next YVMS Seminar – on **Pensions, Planning and Community Banking** – will be preceded by a BBQ kicking off at about 5.30pm. Full details below. **Please give me your acceptances if you wish to come – most important!**

## Welcome to new Members

Richard Rowan has suggested that it would be a good idea to welcome new members in the Messenger. I agree that this is a great idea – so here are the blokes who have joined us in recent times (ie since the beginning of April). If you see them at the Shed, make them feel very welcome – they are all great blokes!

Daniel Anderson  
Rob Barker  
Peter Bernasconi  
Pat Carey

James DeMestre  
Norm Leaney  
Joe Morrissey  
Tim Slattery

David Staines  
Andrew Todd  
Max Wykes

## Headlines for this Week (see stories below)

- **New Machines – compulsory training**
- **Morning Tea at the Shed**
- **Heroes of the Week**

## New Machines – compulsory training!!



The Final workshop acquisition under the NSW Government's \$10,000 grant has now arrived and been installed in the front work room at the Shed.

The MetalCraft Metal Bending equipment arrived on Friday and was installed, tested and commissioned by Al Phemister (see photo at left). He reports that it is now ready to go.

If I may be allowed a personal comment on this item of equipment:

- ❖ I consider that it is a very good decision of the Committee to break away from traditional and exclusively timber-only

machines and to try to maintain a balance of acquisitions for the workshop that will attract a wider interest and range of members to come to the Shed to use these things (the rotary hoe and replacing our exercise equipment also fall into this category).

All of the new items of equipment (and many of our existing ones) are quite advanced and require a considerable level of understanding and skill for them to be used safely and effectively.

Accordingly these new machines will only be able to be used by members who have been shown in detail how to use them effectively. Until that time, the machines will be locked. Roger and Len have already conducted 4 training course sessions on the thicknesser, scroll saw and sliding compound mitre saw. It is a bit disappointing that not a lot of members took advantage of this training and accreditation opportunity. Further training will be provided to any members who request it – providing the trainers/accreditors are at the Shed when you are – you may need to check with them to ensure you are both there at the same time.

The two photos at right show what can be done by a proficient operator of the new thicknesser/planer.

The photos show how a rough finished and neither square nor straight piece of timber can be made straight and square.

This process was quite magical to watch and the result is that otherwise unusable timber can now be made useful with this machine.

The other new machines also offer a greatly increased capability to do detailed and amazing things. It is well worth while to get the training and to see how far your talents can take you.



If you consider the “accreditation” approach is a bit tough consider this:

- ✓ The Shed has a duty of care to its members (both those who want to use our equipment and others who do not). While we have insurance, it would not likely be operable if we were shown to not have exercised vigilance and diligence in ensuring that our members who are authorised to use the equipment have no actual familiarity with or basic skill on those machines. Even if you think/know you are fully proficient, we need to have you accredited, so you will need to do the familiarisation if you want access to the machines; and

- ✓ These machines are not only challenging, they are expensive! We also have a duty to all members and to those who have supplied Grant monies to ensure that all members who use the machines know how to do so effectively and in a way that does not expose the machines to inappropriate use and potential damage.

We hope you understand and agree with this approach.

## Morning Tea at the Shed



Len McGuigan and Phil O'Brien hosted the first of, hopefully, a regular "Morning Tea at the Shed" events last Wednesday.

We had a good turnout – some 14 members and one non-member arrived to test the tea (and coffee + cake!!).

The conversation went very well and some new friendships were forged.

The best thing (in my view) is that we saw a number of people we have not seen before on our normal opening days – so our suspicion that some members simply want the opportunity for a social outing appears to be correct.

Accordingly, we will do it again (hopefully it will become a regular day out at the Shed. – we would like a couple of hosts to put their hands up to manage these events. Len McGuigan and Phil O'Brien did a great job, but if another couple of blokes would like to be involved, it would spread the load a little and, perhaps, allow the event to held more frequently.

Feedback and suggestions also most welcome.

Watch this space for the date of the next Morning Tea at the Shed.

## YVMS Heroes of the Week

Three Heroes this week:

**Roger Holgate** who has, almost single-handedly, installed, commissioned, updated the Asset Register and instituted a skills and safety training regime on the new and existing machinery. This has been such an effort and involvement, that Roger has decided to rush off into the distance in his caravan just to give himself a much deserved and overdue break. Well done Roger and thanks for your very valuable and valued efforts. Bon voyage!

**Reg Moebus** who has managed to talk our insurers into updating our insurances from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for contents, single theft event from \$5,000 to \$15,000, and extended our cover to include our activity in the Shed Annexe (the former BP Roadhouse) all for an increased premium of only \$80!! How heroic is that???

**Al Phemister** who has managed to interpret and make sense of the very strange contents of six boxes that were delivered to the Shed on Friday and made up an effective (and therefore, safe) bench and then installed the rather impressive Metalcraft machines that are the latest and different opportunity for members to use to express themselves and show their talents (see photograph above). Al has also been selected as a hero this week because, notwithstanding his very busy life (he has a full time job – unlike many of us), he has agreed to demonstrate this new

set of metal bending and shaping machines – and has also agreed to provide back-up for Roger Holgate and Len McGuigan in accrediting members of the Shed in the safe and proper use of our many, potentially dangerous and valuable machines.

## General News

### Visit to our Shed last Thursday

The visit by 5 members of the Kangara Waters Retirement Village (Lake Ginninderra) Shed last Thursday morning was a great success.

A good number of our members were there to meet and greet these blokes and we had a good time exchanging info on what we do in our respective Sheds as well as more general conversations and connections based on mutual acquaintances and experiences. If you put 10 blokes together whose average ages are about 60, then you have some 600 years of news to tell in quite a short morning.

They also brought us some small tables and a large white board and we donated a surplus (small) wood turning lathe to them.

We intend to organise more visits by other Sheds and also to make visits of our own to other Sheds.

Watch this space for news of more of these good times – you may want to come next time.

### Don't forget!

#### Reward Points at Home Hardware

Don't forget that you can help us a lot by giving the Shed your points when you make a purchase at Home Hardware. Just ask the cashier to allocate the loyalty points to the Yass Valley Men's Shed.

Think about it and help us out – please.

### Visit to the National Museum of Australia's back rooms!!

I have had the following update from the President of the Murrumbateman Shed (Terry Hunt) who is organising this event:

Wayne

Just a catch up

The visit has been approved, all we are waiting on now is the date. Maybe, because of the interest, we may get a second visit, but that is just speculation on my part.

Terry Hunt

Mob 0414 55 34 83

I will keep you all informed – especially the 15 or so of our own members who have indicated their interest.

It may not happen overnight, but it will happen!

## YVMS Seminar Program – 2012 – item for your diary!!

**Don't forget to let me know if you wish to reserve a seat at this free and most important Forum.**

The First Seminar for 2012 is on "Pensions, Planning & Community Banking" with the following components:-

- § Real Community Banking – Chris Evans, Branch Manager, Bendigo Bank Jamison, ACT (about 15 minutes on Planning and Pensions)
- § Financial Planning for the Future – Deborah Waddell, Financial Planner Bendigo Bank, ACT/NSW (about 30mins)
- § Pensions & Entitlements – Glenn Klein, Financial information Services, Centrelink, ACT (about 30mins)

The Seminar will be held in the Men's Shed Annexe (the old BP Roadhouse) starting at 7pm on Thursday 26 July and will be preceded by a BBQ starting at 5.30pm.

As usual, this Seminar is for all members of the Yass Valley Community and we will be publicising widely in the next several weeks.

We expect that the talking part of the Seminar will last about 1 hour and 15 minutes and there will be time for questions and discussions.

This is an important part of everyone's retirement planning – so it should be most interesting and very worthwhile (tell your friends).

This Seminar was given at the Murrumbateman Men's Shed last year and it was, from all accounts, a very good one to attend.

We will need to do planning for this Seminar, so, if you intend to come, **could you let me know by return email please** and we will make sure that you're accommodated on the night.

## YVMS Website

Have a surf – enjoy yourselves! [www.yassmensshed.org.au](http://www.yassmensshed.org.au)

## On staying healthy and active (thanks to Ron Doyle for this one)

When my Doctor asked me If I led an active life I told him about my day:

"Well, yesterday afternoon, I waded across the edge of a deep lake, barely escaped from a wild pig in the heavy bush, marched along a treacherous trail up and down a mountain, fell into and had to fight my way out of a large blackberry bush, crawled out of quicksand, and barely escaped a near death experience by jumping away from an aggressive brown snake."

Inspired by my story, the Doctor said, "You must be in excellent condition and are an awesome outdoorsman!"

"No," I replied, "I'm just a shit golfer."

## 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

15/6: Doug Holston

16/6: Ron McMullen

22/6: Wayne Mann

1/7: Jason Söderblom

5/7: Richard Saxby, David Villanti, Richard Rowan

7/7: Charlie Linabury, Colin Statham

11/7: John McClung

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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Ray Hill	6226 3344	<a href="mailto:rayhill01@dodo.com.au">rayhill01@dodo.com.au</a>
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*Wayne Stuart*

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