



# THE MEN'S SHED MINI MESSENGER

PATRON: COUNCILLOR NIC CARMODY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY

MESSENGER NO 30 FOR 2012

SUNDAY 12 AUGUST 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

Thursday 30 August, Noon

BBQ lunch at the Shed (see more info in "Other Shed News" below).

Every Tuesday, 2 to 3pm

YVMS Exercise class – concentrating on flexibility, balance and feeling good.

Every First Wednesday of the Month – next one is Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Morning Tea at the Shed – No work or workshop noise to distract from good conversation, coffee, tea and cake.

## Welcome to new Members

No new members to welcome this week.

So let me, instead, welcome back all 74 members who have joined recently or who have renewed their memberships for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. I also welcome the imaginative members who have taken the inspired decision to pay some years in advance (thus getting me off their backs – at least for a while).

## Headlines for this Week (see stories below)

- **Shed opening and closing duties**
- **Community Centre Update**
- **Other Shed News for this Week**
- **Hero of the Week**
- **YVMS Bargain Basement (stuff for sale)**

## **Shed opening and closing duties – this is very important!**

The time has come for a changing of the Guard and for me to call for volunteers to commit to opening and closing the Shed on our normal operational days (ie Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday).

If you look at the “Opening Times” poster on the notice board at the front of the Shed you will find that the “contact” person (ie the person who would “normally” perform opening and closing duties) for each of those days are, respectively: John Woodin (Tuesdays), Wayne Stuart (Thursdays) and David Hale (Saturdays).

These blokes have been doing that duty now for close on 4 years and it is time to hand the baton on to other members (if we can find some to help).

This is particularly important now that:

- ✓ David Hale has indicated that he cannot commit to opening and closing on Saturdays any longer;
- ✓ John Woodin has plans that make his continued commitment likely to be impossible on Tuesdays; and
- ✓ I too, would like to hand over some of my responsibilities now that the Shed is operating self-sustainably.

The Shed needs to honour its commitment to opening promptly on days that it promises to be open for its 74 current members (and visitors) – so it is important for all members to know that there will be someone committed to opening and closing on those days.

This is particularly important for those members who come regularly and need for the Shed to be open for their engagement and enjoyment of this great facility. Specifically: the VALMAR members have a regular visit every Tuesday and it would be terrible if they arrived to find the place in darkness. Similarly, on Saturdays, Graham McLeod gets great pleasure from his visits and he has been stranded on occasion when the Shed was opened late due to conflicting appointments for the official opener on the day – or it was impossible to get another member to open up on time.

It is perfectly OK to have a number of blokes who will take responsibility for all or any of those days – including a commitment to open only or to only be there to close up. If we have a number nominating for each day, then it will spread the load and responsibility for those blokes as well and give them the ability to meet family commitments, go to the coast for a holiday occasionally or just have a day off and not leave the Shed in the lurch.

The thing that will kill our Shed more quickly than anything else is if the membership comes to think that:

- ◆ Either: the Shed relies too much on a couple of regulars and it will all fall over when they go or get sick of it;
- ◆ Or: it is OK to let everyone else do the little things that make the Shed work, but that cause consternation if that little thing is missed – even for one day.

It is up to you to take a turn and help all of the members by putting your hand up for this **very modest, but most important duty**.

Swamp and overpower me with your responses and offers to help – please!

## **Community Centre Update**

Following the Council’s approval of the DA for the Community Centre, David Rowe invited Len McGuigan (President) and Wayne Stuart (Secretary) to a meeting on Tuesday afternoon to discuss “next steps”.

The Council provided two copies of the approval notice and plans of the entire site buildings with relevant notations etc. A copy will be placed in a prominent place in the Shed for general info and access.

Main issues discussed were:

1. All areas in the BP building are available for various purposes:

- The front hallway and office, main meeting room and kitchen area are all “Community Centre use” and will continue to be approved for Men’s Shed activity until all processes are complete and the Centre is formally open for community access);
- All other areas on the ground floor are designated “Storage” including the room the photography Club pained for their use; and
- The “flat” upstairs has been approved for use as office space.

2. There are a number of conditions on the approval that will a) take time and b) take money:

- All exit doors need to open outwards, have approved Exit signage and have locking mechanisms that allow for exit from inside without the need for keys etc;
- There is no need for fire rated installations either between the Shed and the YVCC NOR in the floor between downstairs and upstairs (hence the approval of the upstairs for office space);
- Significant work in design and fitout needs to be done to install fire sprinkler and hose reels in the YVCC;
- Emergency lighting is needed in hallways etc;
- The ladies toilets at the front of the building will be converted to unisex disabled toilet(s)
- The toilets at the back of the building will be converted to ladies and the opening from those toilets onto the back yard area will need to be closed/secured.

All of this will take time and money (it seems there is some community money available in Council’s budget).

We offered for the Shed to build a security gate for the opening in the access to the toilets at the back of the building. We made this offer after Al Phemister had already offered to build a metal gate using the new metal bending machines. Council will supply funding for the materials and the Shed (Al) will design, fabricate and fit. Al has (since the meeting) agreed to do some measurements, design, develop a materials list and cost the materials needed (so we can give the Council the quote and obtain the materials) and do the work. Len has signed up to help/assist/learn on the job.

Len has also offered to close up the narrow opening above the windows across the front of the Annexe where birds land and then relieve themselves. Not only is this unhealthy – but very unsightly and makes for cleaning jobs we don’t really need. Council will provide funding for materials for this task as well.

Council seems keen to move this work along now that the approval is on the books.

More later when we know more.

## Other Shed News for this Week

### **30 August – Noon – BBQ lunch at the Shed**

Chris Evans and Anne O’Leary (Bendigo Bank) and some members of the Murrumbateman Shed are coming to meet any of our members who wish to attend with a view to learning a bit more about our Shed and, perhaps, to provide any follow up info after our Retirement planning Forum a couple of weeks ago.

Following a couple of hours at our Shed, they will then go back to the Murrumbateman Shed to have a similar catch up (but no BBQ!) with members who attended the seminar that they provided in Murrumbateman last year.

This will be a good opportunity to:

- Get any further info you may need or have missed at our recent event;
- Meet some members of the Murrumbateman Shed and show them our Shed is better; and
- Have a BBQ lunch (Chef Rowan and I are in the throes of planning something special – unless we are challenged by another pair of blokes who would like to show us how it is actually done!)

Write this appointment in your diaries – NOW!

## YVMS Hero of the Week

I have had help in the nomination of our Hero for this week.

Richard Rowan supplied this observation after last Tuesday's activity at the Shed.

“My nomination for HERO of the week is Allan Carey. Today he ably assisted Richard Saxby and secondly provided advice and support to Valmar group members whilst doing a renovation job of his own. Great person to have in the workshop and always ready to help others.”

I am more than happy to have help in this or any other contributions to the Messenger.

If you have something to add or contribute – let me know – Even Letters to the Editor! (try to keep them clan, though!)

## YVMS Bargain Basement (stuff for sale)

### Cabots' stains

We have about \$1,000 worth of Cabots' stains just waiting for a good home.

If we wait until the jobs at the Shed use all of this stock, our grandkids will still be working at it in another 30 years or so.

If you (or a friend) needs some stain, come along and have a look at our holdings. We are offering the stain at very competitive prices.



### Furniture for sale

A couple of members recently liberated some fine old furniture from a county house and it is waiting for a new home in the Shed Annexe. Two items – a chest of drawers and a finely carved narrow chair) have already found new homes. If you need:

- A 1020mm diameter round dining table standing some 710mm high (the table top can be swung to the vertical for storage); and
- A carved and inlaid (slightly damaged – but perfectly usable) “what-not”;

– we have just the items for you

Come along and have a look. Pricing will be competitive

### Projects on CD

Ray Hill has very kindly put together a CD containing:

- ❖ Over 350 projects for your workshop
- ❖ Jig making made easy
- ❖ Making storage units for your shed
- ❖ Making work benches
- ❖ Pen making

In addition the CD contains:

- ◆ A list of timbers available in the local area
- ◆ 60 timbers with pictures and their uses

All pages are viewable on a computer and each page can be printed.

If you want a copy of this CD, it is yours for the modest cost of \$5 (which is a donation to the Shed).

Stocks of the CD can be seen on the “For Sale” shelves near the Shed kitchen entryway.

## **Shed-made items for sale**

We still have a number of items made by some of our members for sale. Come along and have a look – especially if you have a birthday or other celebration coming up that you would like something that little bit different to give.

We expect, soon, to start having some new metal work pieces on the shelves for sale too – if you would like to commission a piece we will certainly try to meet your need – but you will need to find the right bloke on the right day and be able to give clear instructions about what it is you want.



## **Other Stuff**

### **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.

## **YVMS Website**

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

## **Men's Shed Uni – Lessons from Classes 101**

I ran these couple of truisms early in the life of the Shed and the Messenger.

Relying on the fact that you all have some memory difficulties, I thought none of you would notice if I was lazy and ran them again. Many of the newer members won't have seen them the first time, anyway.

**Men's Shed Philosophy 101 – Adapting to life's balance is accepting that my wild oats have turned into prunes and muesli.**

**Men's Shed Health Studies 101 - Forget health food. I'm at an age where I need all the preservatives I can get!**

(I now look forward to the avalanche of emails from members who will tell me I am repeating myself).

## 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

4/8: Reg Moebus

6/8: Peter Bernasconi

9/8: Col McMillan

10/8: Alex Tewes

11/8: John Wolstencroft

**\*\*12/8: Warren Hall and Max Wykes – Today!!\*\***

14/8: Garry Reynolds

18/8: Tim Holmes

20/8: Arnold Rigby

Happy Birthdays Chaps!!!

(no further birthdays until mid September)

## 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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