



THE MEN'S SHED MESSENGER

CO-PATRONS:

COUNCILLOR ROWENA ABBEY, MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY & NIC CARMODY, INAUGURAL PATRON AND FORMER MAYOR OF YASS VALLEY



BC Canada



Brother
Sheds



NSW Australia

MESSANGER NO 10 FOR 2014
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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> - go back and dig out some YVMS history.

The Yass Valley Men's Shed is very grateful for the generous support of the following entities:

Yass Valley Council, The NSW Coalition Government, NSW Local Member Minister Katrina Hodgkinson, the Lansdowne Foundation,

Yass Rotary Club, Yass Freemasons, Yass Lions Club, Goodradigbee Bookkeeping, Southern Cable Services, Yass Valley Physiotherapy, Yass Valley First Aid Training, Yass & District Printing, The Yass Tribune, YassFM, KidsBlitz, Steve Bugden Plumbing, IGA, Woolworths, Touie Smith Jnr.

Please let me know if you think the list is missing an important sponsor/supporter.

For information on Shed Opening Times, regular events and contacts: please click on this link

<http://yassmensshed.org.au/>

Download a Membership Form if you know someone who would like to join our Shed.

Click on this link <http://yassmensshed.org.au/wp-content/uploads/YVMS-Membership-Application-Form.pdf> and print the form for them.

Calendar of upcoming events at the Shed (or elsewhere)

Every Thursday Night - YassFM Mens' Shed personalities' interviews – listen in on Thursdays 6-7pm to the Richard Maxwell Drive Show when he will interview an ever changing list of Shed members who will talk about their former working lives, their music interests and also their take on our Shed. Don't miss it!

Proposed visit by some members of the Tumut Shed

We have received a communication from one of the movers and shakers at the Tumut Shed (a bloke by the name of Ray Lipscombe with whom I spent the last ten years of my "boys own adventure" working life. Ray was the Red Adair of maritime oil spill response in Australia for quite a number of years).

The Tumut Shed is in its early stages and we have provided them with some of our policies and procedures to help them not have to reinvent any wheels unnecessarily. At the time of providing that information, we also extended to the Tumut Shed members an open invitation to come to our Shed when it suited them for a bit of socialising and exchange of ideas etc.

It seems that the Tumut members are now keen to take up that invitation – probably in the second half of June (if I have understood the latest exchange correctly).

I will keep you informed and if we can organise it, I think we might need to roll Richard Rowan out with his Chef's hat on so they go home really envious of us.

Something new for the Messenger

The President (David Staines) has advised that he is keen to provide some words on an occasional basis for inclusion in the Messenger to keep members informed of what the Shed Management is doing and what it might have in mind. Here is the first of these occasional offerings:

Presidential Ponderings



1. As many of you are already aware, one of the central planks of my time in the chair of President is the need for good communication and easy availability of information, so that members are up to date as to what is occurring in your Shed, and to enable you to participate in things of interest to you or where your specific skill set may be of benefit. Our good Secretary already does a tremendous job of producing the Messenger and reporting items of interest to the membership thus keeping us all informed.
2. Wayne has asked me to contribute to The Messenger from time to time should I wish to emphasise a particular point. I am happy to do that but rest assured that you won't be seeing stuff from me each Messenger nor will you see a "War and Peace" look alike.
3. So, let me put a few ideas out there to ruminate over. At the outset let me say that I believe that the Men's Shed concept is one of the best that I have personally come across. Our primary mandate is to provide a place where men can gather to do men's stuff, whatever that may entail, in an open and friendly way, where conversations can be had in a friendly, frank and non judgemental way and where personal enjoyment is paramount. As our past president Len was fond of saying "less bureaucracy more fun".
4. On May 10 just past, the Shed Committee and interested members were invited to attend a Planning Meeting at the Shed. Minutes of that meeting have just been circulated and a hard copy will be filed in the Meetings folder at the Shed should you wish to read them. Our Secretary Wayne was not able to attend the meeting and I must thank Ron McMullen for filling in for him. Having said that I would like to mention a couple of items that didn't quite reach the final minutes.
5. Brian Millett spoke at length saying that the Men's Shed is not a work centre and that many members attended the Shed simply for the company of others and relaxation, this was seen as a primary purpose of the Shed. This is without dispute and in response, I stated that I totally agreed with this concept. Nonetheless, items under discussion at the meeting were simply to improve communications within the Shed and improve our efficiency and the way we conduct our "business". There is no intent to change our primary mandate. The purpose of the

planning meeting was essentially to allow me to let people know how I saw the future of the Shed and to discuss activities for the next 12 months. To that end several members put up their hand to investigate options for the committee to look at. Thanks guys. Just a reminder that the committee is happy to receive suggestions from members at any time for discussion/review.

6. At the Planning Meeting there was some discussion regarding the need for additional “face to face” meetings. The constitution currently provides for a minimum of 3 p.a. The committee has a system of “virtual meetings” to deal with routine matters but I would support the greater use of face to face meetings where the matters for discussion were sufficiently complicated or of importance to the wider membership (eg the recent increase in annual fees) to warrant it. Any large increase in face to face meetings is not envisaged
7. As you would know we have just accepted our 102nd member. This is an outstanding outcome that we can be very proud of. I suspect that our Shed is one of the larger ones around. Perhaps part of our success can be attributed to the broad scope of activities we engage in and as I see it we are not limited to current activities either. On that point if any member has a good idea for the Shed whether it be additional equipment or a special activity let us know. One thing I do request is that if you do have a new idea be prepared to do the research to put it to the committee for consideration and be prepared to implement it if necessary.
8. The final item that I would like to mention is YVMS finances. As you would have seen in the Treasurer’s Report to the AGM, generally we are travelling OK but what does concern me is our heavy dependency on donations and grants. At the Planning Meeting I suggested that members should be further encouraged to contribute financially when equipment has been used – especially on personal projects. This is not seen as a mandatory requirement but simply a suggestion that any loose change that can be spared in the pocket might be placed in the donation tins in the kitchen and workshop areas. Any other ideas I would be happy to hear from you.
9. That will do from me for the moment. Let me just stress that we have an outstanding facility and a great group of guys. It’s your Shed so get in and enjoy, use and support it

See ya at the Shed.

Dave

News Review

Membership fees due on 1 July

Following the decision by the members and Committee who discussed the issue following the AGM, the annual membership fee is \$25 effective immediately.

The multi-year concessional rates have been discontinued – BUT any members who have those multi-year memberships do not need to do anything until those membership years have been completed.

This is an early reminder that membership fees come due on 1 July and there is a period of grace until 31 July, after which your membership becomes non-financial.

Get in early and bet the rush!!

As of right now, of our 102 currently financial members, some 36 have already updated their memberships and will be financial in the next year. Thanks very much to those members for your ongoing support.

Car Boot Sale at the Shed

Was a great success as reported last week. Two final pieces of information to update you all:

1. The final income made by the Shed (after all expenses were paid) over the two Saturdays (remember the first one was washed out, but people still came) is \$678.35 this includes \$136.95, take for the raffle; and
2. The raffle winners were 1st - Leigh Brown; 2nd - Kevin Wilson; 3rd - Larry Ruffell; 4th - Marie O’Shea.

Pulling our weight in the Community

Conference on Suicide Prevention: We (the Shed) have been invited to present two workshops (one morning and one afternoon) at an upcoming conference in Canberra on Men's Suicide Prevention to be held at the Southern Cross Club on Wednesday 11 June. We actually had a visit last Tuesday morning at the Shed from Rob Regent, a representative of MensLink one of the organisers of the event and the person who actually asked us to be involved.

MensLink – www.menslink.org.au - have invited a number of organisations to make presentations to groups of health professionals to help them to understand what services and opportunities there are in the community to assist men at risk of suicide and what experiences there might be that these professionals could use to help in their work with such at-risk individuals. The invitation has come to us because the organisers have heard of "the great reputation of Yass Men's Shed" (their words).

Three members have volunteered to develop and present two 75 minute workshops for this conference with the following three basic features:

- What are Men's Sheds, what do they do and, in specific terms, what does our Shed do (David Staines);
- Professional analysis related to the fact that Sheds do not aim to be counselling services or similar, but they do provide environments and coincidental psychological help to at-risk individuals (Richard Rowan); and
- Some specific anecdotes and case studies/examples based on our own experience of 6 years (Wayne Stuart).

We will keep you informed on this project.

Thanks from our Honorary Auditor

The AGM decided that the Secretary should write to Anna Shannon, our honourable and Honorary Auditor to thank her for her efforts during the last year and also, to thank her for her very generous donation of \$150 to the Shed.

The AGM also decided that we should, this time, send her a practical and concrete example of our gratitude and one of Roger's pretty special collections of Tulips was voted the gift most likely to impress and impart that message; ie →.

We have since received the following note from Anna:

"Dear Men's Shed Members,

What a delight to receive the absolutely stunning floral arrangement turned from such beautiful timber at the hands of Roger Holgate.

Your gift is most appreciatively received.

I look forward to working with you all again in the future. It is always a pleasure to provide assistance to worthy organisations such as yours.

My heartfelt thanks for the beautiful gift.

Best Regards,

Anna"



Tuesday Exercise Classes

Last Tuesday we held two Exercise Classes on Tuesday and had enough people show up to both to convince us that this might be a very good improvement and give Members and Community members the opportunity to undertake our very good exercise regime.



**So we now have 2 classes on Tuesdays
(until further notice):**

- **11am to noon; and**
- **2-3pm**



The classes are not onerous or difficult. They are designed to improve core strength and balance and if you ask any of the current people who attend, I think you will find that they all report they feel much better for going to the class.

It is good (for friendship, interaction and to make the effort worthwhile), for a minimum 5 or 6 people to come to these classes – so you are all invited to come to whichever one you prefer (if you are really keen you could come to both of them!). We can accommodate up to 14 people at each session.

The cost is \$5 per session.

It is also important to know that **these classes are not just for Shed members or just for men.** At present we probably have a 50/50 representation of both men and women come to the classes.

Tell and invite your friends – they will all be made welcome!

We hope to see lots of you at one or other of the morning or afternoon events.

The contributions made by members of the Exercise group each week (\$5 per person per session) are being saved in the YVMS Good Deeds Fund for use when we would like to help out either in the Shed or in the Community, but our normal resources don't cover the extra cost.

Yass Valley Community Centre (YVCC)

There was an interesting item in the Council's advert in the Trib this week inviting any Community Groups interested in using the Centre to lodge an expression of that need with the Council. The actual text is:

"The Yass Valley Community Centre is nearing completion of its renovations and will soon be available for hire. Any community groups looking to book or visit the centre can contact Council's Business Service Manager on 6226 1477 for more information"

We will try to find out what that actually means and more information on the timing of the opening and the conditions of use of the Centre.

If you are associated with any organisations that might be using the Centre currently under the umbrella of the Men's Shed access arrangements approved by Council, I suggest you might consider letting those organisations know that it is now time to register interest so the best planning and organisation of the use of the Centre can be organised.

The Shed's interest will be carefully planned and articulated by the Committee and a formal Shed letter sent to the Council to let them know and hopefully reserve our access when we need it.

Membership News

- Membership has hit 102 financial members – our latest member being Michael Poulton (sequential no 168). Welcome and congratulations Michael.

Congratulations, Commiserations & Informations

Important Notice for all Members. It is **essential** for ALL members to sign the attendance book every time they attend at the SHED – this is especially important when members go to the Shed out of hours. We have had a recent spate of:

- Lights/power left on (this often results in the urn boiling dry and the safety switch engaging – still dangerous, we don't want or need a fire!);
- Tool cupboards doors wide open and tools left lying around – the most recent being a grinder – please tidy up when you finish!; and
- People who attend out of hours leaving the place in a mess – sawdust, metal bits everywhere etc etc. please tidy up when you finish!

It is also important for insurance reasons for us to know who has been in the place.

Please try very hard to accommodate this need – when you signed up, you undertook to abide by the Rules of the Shed – this is one of the more important Rules!

Games/Recreation at the Shed or in the YVCC

Over the years we have gathered together a number of recreational assets that are not being used – possibly because not too many of you know about these things. They include:

- A ¾ size Billiards/pool table, balls, cues etc;
- A full size table tennis table and balls (bring your own bats);
- A 7-sided Card Table that is about to be finished and if needed we will keep it, otherwise it might attract a very good price on EBay;
- Dart Board and darts; and probably a few things I have forgotten.

The Shed is NOT a job centre – it is a place to go to enjoy yourselves and if games are your thing, why not organise a competition, or just a social get together for those purposes? I have recently been asked by one of our new members if anyone at the Shed would like to play Chess on a semi regular basis. A few years ago we had a regular Friday afternoon cards event but it failed when one of the members moved on and there were no longer enough people to fill the necessary seats.

I am about to organise a white board on the wall in the front room to the right hand side of the door that opens into the workshop and will set it up so you can put your name down if you are interested in hooking up with any members who might also be interested in your particular game of choice.

Also, don't be shy, if you would like to introduce a game that we can play in the buildings or in the grounds, why don't we organise it? Some suggestions/ideas might include: Bocce (followed by pizza)? Horseshoes (followed by sausage rolls)? Croquet (followed by cucumber sandwiches)? Badminton (Shuttlecock) (followed by pies and mushy peas)? – the list is endless and we have lots of space. Maybe there is a game you might like to suggest/help organise that would be ideal?

There are currently 11 half days in every week when the Shed is silent and unused (+ the 3 half days that we are already there) – surely that is enough flexibility for some more social activity to be introduced – but we need some new blood and organisers to get it going.

Start writing on that white board!

**So far there has been absolutely NO response to this call.
Are there any members who would like to take up this challenge?
This message will be removed from the Messenger next time – now is your
last chance!**

Choices

A man applying for a job at a Mildura lemon orchard seemed to be far too qualified for the job (PhD in Fine Arts and Philosophy, MBA, MSc etc).

The foreman frowned and said, "I have to ask you this: Have you had any actual experience in picking lemons?"

The applicant for the job replied: "I've been divorced twice, bought a Leyland P76, a Beta video player and took up both Telstra floats then I voted for Kevin Rudd, ended up with Julia Gillard. Recently I thought I had changed my ways and elected Abbott, Hockey, Cormann and 2 Bishops - How am I doing so far??"

GST (goods and services trading) OR *Lost and Found** - [contact Richard Rowan](#)

*(I was *LOST* in my mess but I *FOUND* a solution at the Shed) – NB new items this week in red type.

If you would like to advertise anything: eg, ask for help, seek advice, offer a skill or anything else you can think of that might benefit you or other members, contact Richard on **6226 6839, 0429 980 337** or richard.rowan@ozemail.com.au.

Wanted

A set of drums to suit teenage boy. Preferably in "good" to "as new" condition. If you have a set sitting in your garage, let me know and money could change hands.

For sale etc

Leon Garry (Binalong) has a King size water bed complete with bladder and having fitted drawers under. It is in very good condition and he would like to hear from anyone who might have a use for it (either as beds or as raw materials for some other purpose – apparently the timbers are generous and of very good quality). If this appeals to you (either for Shed or private purposes), please call Leon 6227 4355 and talk to him. I get the feeling that he wants them gone. (this entry has been updated on 17/5/14)

We have lot of "good stuff" at the Shed. Come along, have a look and haggle/negotiate with us - we do great deals! For the right price we will even part with stuff we think we might need!

Business(es) run by members that you might like to know about and support

Llewyn Dowling has set up a yard-tidying and rubbish removal business. Llewyn is reliable, courteous, efficient and does what he says he will do when he says he will do it. His quotes, too, are realistic and good value. Llewyn holds Police Check clearances. **Give Llewyn a call on 0498 120 985** – tell your friends too. I have had some very good feedback from two Yass residents who saw the advert in the Messenger and engaged Llewyn. Both clients are very satisfied and pleased with Llewyn's work.

Llewyn is also a collector and is **prepared to pay** for any things you might have that are taking up space or that you no longer need. He collects Old and Antique items including: Enamel signs, motor oil bottles, cow bells, camp ovens, petrol bowsers, old tins, traps and old cordial bottles. If you have any old stuff that fits any of these categories or something you think might interest Llewyn, give him a call – he is happy to come, have a look and make you an offer. Llewyn's phone number is **0498 120 985**.

David Todd provides a full garden service (mowing, weeding, weed spraying, edging, pressure washing, clean up jobs, rubbish removal). To do these jobs he has a Bobcat 42' zero turn mower, Honda push mower, Stihl brushcutter, Stihl chainsaws, Honda blower, pole saw, rotary hoe, Honda Spitwater high pressure water blaster/cleaner. **(David will donate to the Shed \$5 per hour when his service is used by Shed members!)** Call David on **0499 055 219** and don't forget to tell him you are a Shed Members so the Shed will get his generous donation!

If any Shed members would like to advertise their business in the Messenger and have their expertise made known to members, let me know. Try to keep the entry to Name, brief description and contact details please.

Don't forget!

Reward Points at Home Hardware

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". A number of members have made this a regular practice and we have benefited to the extent that we can use the funds to replenish consumables (glues, screws, sand papers etc etc from time to time). Think about it and help us out – please. **It IS worth it.**

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

7/5: Tony Gough

8/5: John Corson

11/5: David Rowe, John Jones

13/5: Phil O'Brien, Philip Walsh

15/5: Alf Atkin;

16/5: Nate Harvey-Cox

17/5: Sandy Butt

22/5: Llewyn Dowling

23/5: Allan Carey

29/5: Clarrie Schlunke

30/5: Joe Morrissey

1/6: David Staines

6/6: Charles Turner

9/6: Bob Nash

15/6: Doug Holston

16/6: Ron McMullen

Happy Birthdays, Chaps!!! (don't forget, significant others are real people too – we are happy to wish them "happy birthday" if you give me the details – this includes Canadians!)

Wayne Stuart

Secretary, Yass Valley Men's Shed - 0419 292 022