



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

MESSENGER NO 24 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:

BarkerHarle (Consulting Engineers), Bendigo Bank (Boorowa), Bunnings (Belconnen), Goodradigbee Bookkeeping, Home Hardware (Yass), IGA (Yass), KidsBlitz, the Lansdowne Foundation, Long Paddock IT Services, Miller's Pharmacy, NSW Coalition Government, NSW Local Member Minister Katrina Hodgkinson, Robertson Landscape Supplies, Southern Cable Services, Steve Bugden Plumbing, Tank's Bakery, Touie Smith Jnr, Yass & District Printing, Yass Fire Brigade, YassFM, Yass Freemasons, Yass Lions Club, Yass Pharmacy, Yass Rotary Club, Yass Valley Council, Yass Valley First Aid Training, Yass Valley Physiotherapy, The Yass Tribune, Woolworths (Yass).

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)

VALMAR Christmas BBQ



Our VALMAR members will finish up their visits to the Shed on Tuesday 9 December.

Quite a number of members have mentored and helped these men over the last year and as an indication of their appreciation, VALMAR and our VALMAR



members have invited the Tuesday morning VALMAR helpers to a BBQ on their last day.

So far we have 9 acceptances from those members who have assisted the boys on Tuesdays, if you are one of those helpers and have not confirmed your acceptance at this point, please do so soon as we need to let VALMAR know for catering purposes.

We have really enjoyed having our VALMAR members at the Shed every Tuesday morning during 2014 and hope they will continue to come in 2015 and for many years to come.

Shed Christmas Lunch



This year the Yass Valley Men's Shed Committee has decided to hold the Annual Men's Shed Christmas Food Frolic at **LIEN'S RESTAURANT** in Comur Street.

So far we have **43** confirmed bookings – if you want to join us, book by return email very soon – time is running out. The only cost you will have is for drinks and tea/coffee.

The booking is for **12.30 for 1pm on Thursday 11 December.**

The menu will be a standard \$9 per head Banquet which will commence to be served at 1pm.

The YVMS Exercise Group which meets on Tuesdays (and who will also attend in great numbers, we hope) has offered to meet \$250 of the cost of this lunch from its Good Deeds Fund which is the result of the \$5 per Session per person contribution. The Shed will pick up the remainder of the cost (although we will have a donation bucket in the room in case you feel the urge to give the Shed a present).

We hope to have the added benefit of the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson in attendance briefly from 1pm for about half an hour or so. We are hoping that our two Patrons Nic Carmody and Rowena Abbey will also be in attendance to grace us with their presence and to lift the profile and our spirits.





What you have to do:

1. **RSVP to me no later than 5 December (by email or phone) booking a seat for yourself and a loved one or friend (we need to book specific numbers to help with catering and also so we don't get there and find there are not enough seats because some of us thought it would be OK on the Day) – if you don't book there will not be a seat for you; and**
2. **Show up on the day ready to enjoy a good time!**



Lien's is BYO for those of you interested in such things.

News Review

Shed Christmas Raffle

We have been given a wonderful quilt by the Yass Quick Quilters in thanks for some of our members helping the Yass Quick Quilters assemble and pull down their display racks for the Classic Yass Weekend exhibition.

The quilt is on display just inside the Shed Roller Door.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Party at Lien's Restaurant on Thursday 11 December.

Even if you don't want or need another quilt – it will make a great Christmas present for someone for a very small cost. Be in it!

Shed open day and garage sale

Unfortunately, I could not attend the launch of the YVCC or the Shed Garage Sale and open day last weekend. I asked for input for this newsletter from those who were there and this is the only written response I have received. Many thanks David.

RE: Garage Sale and Open House last Saturday

Wayne,

As discussed in our phone conversation the success of the day probably varied depending on your perspective. The crowd was not particularly overwhelming but all those groups intending to use the CC where represented. Mayor Rowena did the official opening at 1100 and made special mention of YVMS and the assistance we provided with the project.

From a YVMS viewpoint we had quite a number of people come through on a guided tour and all those that I spoke to seemed genuinely impressed with the facility and the services we provide to members. To my knowledge that did not translate into new members on the day but several took application forms. We had one ex member, Geoff Frost, renew his membership. Welcome back Geoff. Financially we had a couple of donations for sites and the coffee got a bit of a workout but sales in the Shoppe were non-existent. We did kick off the raffle for the donated quilt - \$2 per ticket. Only about a dozen sold so far so members and friends are encouraged to drop in at the shed and purchase a ticket. It will be drawn at our Xmas lunch on 11 December.

Over the last few weeks I have had a few women ask me if we consider women as members and I had another on Saturday. I explained that some Sheds do have women members but that was not our policy. I explained our policy which was accepted without question but we did have a brief conversation about the

possibility of having a women's Auxiliary with a dedicated women only day say once a week. Personally I have mixed feelings about this but probably something the committee might discuss at some point.

David Staines

Editor's Note: The comment in David's final paragraph (which was circulated to a group of members much wider than just the Committee) has evoked some considerable comment and discussion. I can report that the outcome of that debate is unanimous agreement that the Shed is reserved for Men members only. Women are more than welcome to visit and attend many of our various community and social events (eg exercise class, our Christmas event coming up on 11 December, occasional cooking extravaganzas, visits to regional Sheds, Seminars etc etc.

It has been clearly expressed that there are many reasons to keep YVMS membership restricted to men, including:

- The point of having a Shed and its activity is that it is directed at addressing issues specifically impacting on men and which are best addressed in a male only environment (that is why Sheds were developed in the first place);
- Extending the membership to women – or even throwing open the workshop areas etc to women, will have serious (and perhaps unintended) consequences and effects on insurance, training, safety, additional calls on members who will need to supervise and so on;
- The membership itself is not attracted to the idea and there is a real expectation (based on a number of comments expressed) that if this were to occur, quite a number of current members would leave the Shed; and
- Women have any amount of clubs, organisations and facilities in this town that they can access already (some of which are not open to men members).

On the positive side, the offer has been made that if a group of women want to develop their own "Sheila's Shack", then we would be very interested and supportive and would offer them advice and assistance in setting up, provide them with our policies and procedures and help with equipment selection, accreditation advice and so on.

Happenings and activities at or related to the Shed

- **STOP PRESS** – News of progress with our brother Shed in British Columbia, Canada. We have had, just this morning, the following good news from Art Post, the inaugural President of the Kelowna Men's Sheds.

"Hi, Following the rather disappointing response earlier, comes a glimmer of hope. All your efforts were not in vain after all.

We had a call from the office of our provincial premier to set up a follow up meeting. It seems the Constituency Assistant who represented the premier at the previous meeting (*the coffee and cookie event*) picked up on our situation and has taken on as a personal (non government) project - the support of our Men's Shed efforts. We believe this will be a well connected, very experienced mentor role, opening new opportunities and as Wade puts it 'getting us past the gatekeeper' in meeting our needs for space and funding.

We have found a shared space woodworking shop at a senior's residence that allows us to get some projects going both for their needs and a couple of community service jobs. This seems to be opening some more doors as we can start to get recognized in the area.

We also have a new city council, when they settle in we may have better access and support. No guarantees, just being optimistic. Moving, perhaps more like a Koala than a 'roo, but not stalled out.

Thanks for all your help and support. Please pass on our thanks to Katrina Hodgkinson, I sincerely believe her work is helping to make this happen.

Cheers, Art."

- **Dave Staines** has finally pulled the plug on his working life which has lasted about 51 years.

Dave has had a much varied working life – but most of it was in or associated with the Royal Australian Navy (he was an air traffic controller on HMAS Melbourne at one point – can you imagine trying to get a jet to land – safely - on a short runway which is pitching up and down?)

Dave had a farewell at the Kingston Pub last week and invited a number of Shed members to attend. It was a great do (although the fans about to move to Manuka Oval for the one day clash between South Africa and Australia who were seriously “pre-loading” made the speeches impossible to hear). This  is a photo of what Dave used to look like when he was in harness and also of Dave’s boss presumably saying nice things about Dave. He (Dave) responded shortly afterwards (but not shortly!!) and one can only imagine that he also had nice things to say. We will never know!



Dave has now morphed into a retired gent who has much more time

to attend the Shed and get his teeth into managing the place so we can move forward and continue to evolve with our very talented and significant membership. This is what he looks like now (that IS a happy face!) 

Congratulations, Dave. We all wish you well in retirement and we all look forward to taking a step back and letting you get on with running the show.

- **Andrew Douglas at the Yass Pharmacy has some great 2015 calendars on his counter.** They are actually free, but there is also a “donation” box next to the calendars. Any money that is placed in that donation box will be shared between the Men’s Shed and another worthy cause in Yass. Get along and pick up a calendar and leave a small (gold coin) donation – it will help the Shed. Support the Yass Pharmacy – they are supporting us! Alternatively, you can leave your small donation in our donation box at the Shed if you prefer. Every little bit helps.

- **Yass RSL Sub-Branch call for assistance for ANZAC remembrance events in 2015.**



The Shed has been invited to help construct some secure bases for a series of (3 or 4) “Perspex” display cases (2ft x 4ft) in which First World War memorabilia will be displayed in the Memorial Hall for the week before and the week following ANZAC Day in 2015.

The project is a relatively straight forward one and may be particularly of interest to any members who have Service history and would like to have a practical role in the remembrance events. It looks like we already have some “takers” for this challenge – but if you would like to help, please contact Wayne Stuart for more info.

- **Call for help:** “Members...as some of you know I am a 'trick cyclist' (psychologist). I often come across clients in my 16,000 sq km patch that need assistance but cannot afford extras on their budget.....have a current case...I need a 'Totem Tennis' set one bat is fine.....or parts thereof...can anyone help me please. **Richard Rowan** (0478 598 593 or richard.rowan@ozemail.com.au)”
- **Message from Joe Morrissey:** “I have about 10 globe artichoke plants to give away. They have self-seeded from our plants. We already have enough plants, so if nobody wants them I'll be digging them out and putting them in the compost bin. If you want them, contact me on 0412 258 300 or email Joe.Morrissey49@gmail.com”
- **The Billiards/Snooker table** is now fully functional in the front room at the Shed. Anyone who wants a game is urged (and welcome) to help themselves. Grab a mate and revisit that lost youth!!

- **The metal shop container** is fast approaching the point where the equipment can be moved in. Electrics are almost finalised – many thanks to Bob Nash and John Backhouse. We will need some “heavy lifters” to help with the relocation and set-up of equipment quite soon. Don’t leave for the coast just yet!

Early Christmas Presents at the Men’s Shed

In an attempt to do something a bit different for Christmas this year, the Committee (with the involvement and concurrence of the Tuesday Exercise Group) has decided on two small projects:

1. To provide a small gift to each member of the Shed and the Exercise Group. The gift is a cup with the Men’s Shed logo on it. →

Each Shed and Exercise Group member is entitled to a cup of their own, and we ask you to **make sure to collect your cup next time you come to the Shed or to the Exercise Class.**



2. To jointly host a Christmas Party Lunch at Lien’s Restaurant which will be held early in December (ie before everyone leaves for other places).

The Exercise Group collects \$5 from each exerciser when they attend a class. This collection is paid into a separate account run by the Shed called the Good Deeds Fund. Principally, the fund’s uses are determined by consensus by the members of the Exercise Group.

On behalf of the Shed Committee and the Shed Members, I would like to personally thank the members of the Exercise Group for this generous gesture and I hope many, if not all, of the Exercise Group will join with the Shed members for that Christmas Party meal at Lien’s when we organise it. More, soon....

Miller’s Pharmacy

Peter Miller from Miller’s Pharmacy has approached the Shed to see if his business might be able to assist the Shed in its activities and aims. Peter visited the Shed last week and we discussed a number of things including how his team might be able to assist with our Seminar program or even provide more focussed smaller group health information events for members and the wider community. Peter has promised to consider a number of ideas and will let us know in due course. I was speaking with Peter during the week just passed, and he mentioned that he will be contacting me soon with news of what his business will be doing for us. I will keep you informed.

Workshop Refresher and tool accreditation sessions

Roger Holgate’s refresher courses were both well attended and were well received.

HOWEVER, we continue to have damage done to our machines and valuable assets – presumably by members who consider themselves to know that they are doing, but clearly do not!

In the last short while, the guides for the blade of the table saw have been quite markedly damaged by someone imposing considerable lateral force on the moving blade. Apart from this doing damage to an expensive piece of equipment, it is potentially dangerous to the user who could be seriously hurt if the saw decides to object to such treatment.

Also the winding mechanism that controls the work support surface of the large pedestal drill was seriously bent out of alignment recently by the operator not releasing the locking mechanism that locks the work surface in place.

Members are reminded that we now have CCTV capability in the Shed and misuse of machinery might very well be recorded on our system. We do not want to be Big Brother – but we have a duty of care to members who might be

putting themselves at risk, damaging property that belongs to us all and members will expect the Committee to keep expenditures down by taking any steps necessary to look after our assets.

Roger is always available to demonstrate and explain the workings of all or our valuable equipment and will be pleased to assist you to refine your skills on any piece of machinery that you might wish to use. You can contact him as follows:

Email: roger42@dodo.com.au; or
Phone: 0428 509 242

Shed taxi service – waiting for your call!



We have a basic service ready to start operations as follows:

Our Shed Taxi coordinator is Richard Maxwell (well done, Richard!) you can contact Richard on his mobile: 0416 022 416 or by Email: cherex@bigpond.net.au to book your taxi for a time and place that suits you (remember this only works when the Shed is open for normal activity (Tuesdays 9am to noon, Thursdays 2-4.30pm and Saturdays noon to 4pm – AND the First Wednesday of each month (10am to 11.30 when we have a morning tea and not workshop noise!))

Taxi drivers: Chris Brown in the Rossi Street (West) area and en route to and from the Shed from there on Saturdays. Also Richard Rowan (Tuesdays) and Wayne Stuart.

This is a great idea – don't leave it to others – be an active part of helping mates enjoy the Shed! Let me know if you can volunteer.

If anyone needs a ride to and/or from the Shed all you have to do is contact one of these drivers.

YVCC NEWS

Shed Signage Service

The "artiste" who crafted *The David Hale Room* sign now hanging proudly in the YVCC has offered to do it for anyone else who wants a personalised sign made for any purpose (*Property* or *House* naming, *DOG Kennel* name, "Keep out of my room" etc)

All proceeds will go to the Shed.

Arrangements are:

- You find/supply the piece of timber you want to use – minimum sizes will need to apply as the router bit will not do very small work;
- You finish it (paint, stain, polish etc);
- Price: \$50 for signs having less than 10 letters and \$5 per letter for signs having more than 10 letters (you will pay heaps more than this if you can actually find anyone to do it for you!).

Contact me and I will put you in touch.

Tuesday Exercise Classes



YVCC (next door to the Shed)

➤ **Class time: 2-3pm**



The classes are not onerous or difficult. They are designed to improve core strength and balance and the cost is \$5 per session. **Please note, if you have a health problem, you should mention it before you start the program – perhaps consult your doctor or physio?**

These classes are not just for Shed members or just for men. At present we have more women than men come to the classes. Tell and invite your friends – they will all be made welcome!

See you in *The David Hale Room*

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.

Membership News

Membership has now climbed to 101 financial members. Our newest member is Peter Miller and Geoff Frost has come back in from the cold as well. Congratulations and welcome Peter and Geoff!

Men's Shed life lesson...#3 – consider your investments carefully!

Financial Adviser – traps for young players.

JUST IMAGINE..

If you had bought \$1,000.00 worth of Qantas shares one year ago, you would have **\$49.00** today!

If you bought \$1,000.00 AIG shares one year ago, you would have **\$33.00** today!

If you bought \$1,000.00 worth of Lehman Brothers shares one year ago, you would have **\$0.00** today!

BUT.... If you purchased \$1,000.00 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then returned the Aluminium cans for recycling.... **YOU WOULD HAVE RECEIVED \$214.00!!!**

BASED ON THE ABOVE, THE BEST CURRENT INVESTMENT PLAN IS TO DRINK HEAVILY AND RECYCLE!

AND, DID YOU KNOW...

A recent study found that the average Aussie walks **900 MILES** A YEAR!!!

Another study found that Aussies drink, on average, **22 GALLONS** OF ALCOHOL A YEAR!!!

THAT MEANS THAT, ON AVERAGE, AUSSIES GET **41 MILES** TO THE GALLON.

MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE AN AUSSIE," DOESN'T IT?

Men's Shed Life Lesson # 832 – don't go away for too long

Attendance at the Shed was slow yesterday (although we had a good overall turnout when all attendees for the day were counted).

The day got more exciting after Dave Staines arrived and we had number of excited other members arrive all thinking Roger was back – they thought they recognised his ute!!

Perhaps you need to see if your car needs a wash and polish Roger??

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 – help me out

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

13/11: Len McGuigan

14/11: Bill Dalton, Howard Hollingsworth

15/11: Con Novitski, Chris McHarg

20/11: James Mather

21/11: Leslie Yeaman

24/11: Peter Hercelinskyj, Al Coney

25/11: Geoff Kell

28/11: Roger Lawrence

3/12: Blake Reid

4/12: Anthony Lee

10/12: Curtis Cox

15/12: Andrew Todd

17/12: Duncan McGregor

18/12: Bob Frank, Don McCann

19/12: Ray Hill

20/12: Dara Madden

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!)

w

Wayne Stuart

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