



THE MEN'S SHED MESSENGER

CO-PATRONS:

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



These are all actual images of Yass or the Yass Valley – we will try to excite you with different images in each edition this year – maybe some of you might provide an image for me to use?



MESSANGER NO 1 FOR 2015
THURSDAY 1 JANUARY 2015



Happy 2015 to all Members and readers!!



This is the first Messenger for 2015. You might have noticed already that there are changes afoot (more later in this edition). It is the Committee's firm hope that 2015 will bring many more innovations and interesting diversions for members of the Shed and the extended Yass Valley Community.

Hop into this newsletter and find out what might be in store for you in 2015.

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Changes to the Messenger

The Men's Shed Messenger editorial staff have decided to make some changes to the Messenger for 2015.

The major change is that there is a need to refresh the layout and look of the newsletter. So we at Messenger HQ will be playing with some ideas for the first couple of issues in an attempt to improve the news, make it a bit more pleasant to read and, perhaps, to make some, if not more, readers actually look forward to it dropping into their inboxes. One such idea is to provide alternative views of Yass and to the Yass Valley each time (at least until I run out of such options). One picture I will **NOT** be showing on the banner of the Messenger is this one → which is famous all over the world (referring, as it does, to "MY ass").



The second major change is that the Messenger will now be published on a monthly basis – (a change from the former fortnightly practice). There is one main reason for this. We currently only have one reporter and putting out a newsletter is not the work of 5 minutes. That reporter, by necessity, needs to have his ear to the ground and attend at the Shed pretty much every time it is open to collect the news for you. Without more help in the news gathering and article writing department, this is a bit onerous and means life for our writer/photographer/newshound/editor and publisher is a bit fraught both during and at the end of each cycle.

Accordingly, reducing the frequency will improve the newsletter and improve his life.

So let me make a plaintive call for all of you to be reporters for the Messenger. If you have a good story, some photos and words to tie it all together, send it to me and I will run it (with your byline) in the next issue (this includes news from Canada – take note!! We would dearly love to publish some news of our Canadian brothers and their fight for recognition and success on the tundra). Ed.

Shed plans for 2015

Since the YVMS' inception in 2008, I think we have been both very wise and successful in keeping the formal planning and bureaucracy to an absolute minimum.

This means that we do not follow the strictures of normal groups of this kind by needing to have interminable and frequent meetings, development plans, formal budgets, formal planning committees, detailed reporting and management groups all beaver away in the background. One of the biggest advantages of this (to my way of thinking) is that we have avoided one of the BIG traps in running a social or "club" type organisation and this point has been clearly outlined in a "Christmas message" I received from AMSA recently (but which I didn't send on to you all thinking that (a) it was generally of little interest and (b) it was pretty self-serving and all about them!)

That extract reads as follows:

"As we expand and the prominence of Men's Sheds grow, we are being exposed to the darker side of human nature where the bullies and dictators are having some influence within sections of the shed movement. The amount of AMSA time and resources spent dealing with these situations is continuing to increase. I wish I could state that everyone involved with Men's Sheds were doing so for the right reasons and for the benefit of the Sheds but unfortunately there is an ever increasing amount of individuals who are dictating a shed's operation or trying to build empires.

No doubt this will continue to occur as people will always seek their own slice of power but we all need to be aware of it as it has placed many good men under unnecessary strain and some have left the Men's Shed movement due to this which may, in time, tarnish our collective good will."

I must say I am happy to report that I have only witnessed this kind of activity once and very early on at our Shed and that perpetrator realised he did not fit and chose to walk away. However we must actively pursue our mission of being a good place for blokes to visit for whatever their need (or pleasure) might be.

At this point in the year we only have vague outlines of what might be coming for the Shed – and I hope we will continue to operate on the tried and true "organic" approach we have adopted successfully up until now. This, in

my view, allows us to do things as the inspiration hits and we are flexible and responsive to emerging issues without the difficulty of needing to change plans for major events to fit in even more important things.

Of course we will do lots of things at the Shed during the coming year – but we will let them come to us rather than try to second guess and do nth degree planning in advance.

Calendar of upcoming events and plans at the Shed (or elsewhere)

• Upcoming events

- **Tuesday 6 January – Shed opens for business for 2015!!**
- **Wednesday 7 January 2015 – First Wednesday Morning Tea (10am to 11.30).**
- **Saturday 17 January – Committee Meeting at the Shed (all welcome - more below).**
- Wednesday 4 February 2015 – First Wednesday Morning Tea – visit by the Hon Pru Goward – 9.30 to 11am.

• Upcoming Plans for early 2015

- Proposed Committee meeting early in the New Year – the President (Dave Staines) wants to have an early meeting to kick off the year positively and to set the scene for activity, fun and achievement. These are the details

Saturday 17 Jan at 1300 – all members welcome to attend

Agenda items in no particular order of priority:

- Social Calendar for 2015;
- Dream list for new tools/equipment;
- Additional programs/facilities – re-arrange front room at the Shed;
- IT LAN – the way ahead;
- VALMAR projects;
- Committee/Membership engagement;
- Brief report from the Treasurer;
- Any other business.

Open to other suggestions.

- Social events planning and management group is up and running – although I have received no information about plans suggestions dates or good things we can all look forward to, I have it on good authority that there are some serious ideas and plans being hatched. It seems that this is a prominent item in the Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 13 January. If you are keen to get in on the ground floor and have your say, come along to that meeting.
- Art at the Shed and an exhibition? This is a great idea and will, if it gets legs, be an exciting and far reaching initiative. The idea, as I understand it is to mine the vast array of talent we have among our 100+ members (both those currently pursuing artistic endeavours and those who would like to) in order to:
 - ✓ Start as wide a range of art activity in the Shed itself as possible using our equipment or accessing suitable equipment for that purpose (sculpture, wood turning, lead light, photography, cooking, music, tell us your ideas). We

Examples of art by some current members:



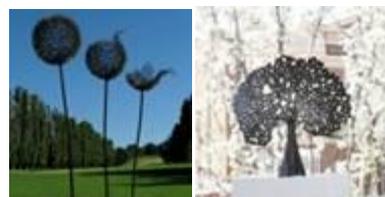
Photography (Alex Tewes)

need people with talent to take the lead with this and offer their skills to help/mentor in their own areas of expertise.

- ✓ We hope that members who have long harboured hopes and dreams of doing artistic things might come to the Shed to see what they might get involved in. If any member would like to follow a particular artistic pursuit, let me know and I will see if we have someone willing to show you how it is done or help you make a start, find a space to do your thing and help you to reach your potential.
- ✓ Once we get some artistic work happening and output from the various artistic activities, the next step will be to organise a formal art show in the YVCC later in 2015 (we have a volunteer organiser already signed up to organise and manage this event). We might even be able to supply our own musical and food production artists for that (those?) event(s)?
- ✓ For this to be successful, we need a coordinator to keep an eye on the various activities, to provide help and assistance to members who might be too shy to ask and to make sure the Committee is kept informed so we can provide management support. Someone out there must want to have a go at this challenge??!!
- ✓ Any members who would like to learn to do any kind of artistic endeavour, or who has good ideas for how to implement this program, including acting as organiser, instructor, mentor or support, please let us know – this is a Men’s Shed and none of us are clairvoyant (unlike the members of girls’ groups). Unless you tell us we will not know!



Wood turning (Roger Holgate)



Metal sculpture (Al Phemister)



Cooking (Richard Rowan)

If anyone has a good idea for things to do in 2015 that will expand our horizons or just make the Shed a better place for you or any/all Members, PLEASE let us know – the more diversity of opinion and ideas we get from the members, the better the Shed will be!

Recent activities, announcements and celebrations etc

NSW Coalition Government \$10,000 grant

I reported just before Christmas that we had received a letter from Mike Baird (Premier of NSW) that our Shed has secured another \$10,000 grant – thanks again to the silky writing and irresistible case-making skills of Dara Madden who continues helping us to achieve great things for the Shed and the wider Yass Valley Community.

This grant will actually do good things, in part, specifically for the wider community. The funds have been granted on the basis of the following list of projects:

Expenditure	\$ Amount
Storage materials for YFG	\$1,000.00
Materials for YFG gardens	\$2,000.00
Install kitchen connections	\$2,000.00
Purchase and install metal lathe	<u>\$7,000.00</u>
	\$12,000.00

Note: The item “Install kitchen connections: \$2,000” will not now form part of the project. It should be remembered that when the grant application was formulated and submitted, the new kitchen arrangements had not been undertaken – nor could it be relied upon that we would be successful with this application (having received \$20,000 in total from the NSW Government in the previous couple of years). Accordingly, when the opportunity presented to upgrade the kitchen it was taken.

This leaves the full \$10,000 to apply to the remaining projects – the first two of which will be applied to garden projects for the Yass Friendship Group. The plan is to consult with them to design and install above ground gardens and, if possible, a small greenhouse on the back wall of the Shed (where the timber storage racks are currently located).

The Premier’s letter indicated that the Funds should become available in April.

Projects on the boil or possibilities in 2015

- ANZAC Day project. Dave Staines is taking the lead in building secure bases for 4 Perspex display cabinets which will be used in a display of Gallipoli memorabilia to be held in the Memorial Hall in the week before and the week following ANZAC Day.
- There is a hand cart being built for the Scouts Australia (NSW) for the following purpose:

“Our intention is to undertake a trek across the Riverina Scout region in order to raise money for the charities, generally promote Scouting, and most importantly to commemorate and honour the memory of all those who served in the Great War. Traditionally, Scouts utilised Trek Carts to move their equipment to and from camping sites and activities – so in keeping with the historical aspect of the project, we will pull a Trek Cart on our journey across the region. The trek will be undertaken in April 2015.

The charities that will be are the Cancer Council, and Soldier On, and we intend to raise a substantial amount to support these organisations. Whilst the route is still being planned, it will include the areas of Wagga, Cootamundra, Harden, Yass , Murrumbateman (part of the Riverina Scouting area) and conclude in Canberra - a trek that will take around about two weeks, with distance of around 320 odd kms.”

- Computer project for the Shed and the Yass Community (using the grant we received from Bendigo Bank in the latter part of last year).
- Finalising the fitout and occupation/use of the new containers.
- A possible new project in which we will try to engage the VALMAR Members on Tuesdays, is to start making some Technical Aid for the Disabled items that might be used in local nursing homes, hospitals and similar circumstances. We will need a member to take some ownership of this project by seeking out info from hospitals, nursing homes etc to see what they actually need.

Member profile

This is an initiative we are hoping might appeal to **ALL** members this year. We are hoping that lots of members will give us a paragraph or two concerning your history, interests etc etc. With over 100 members (which for the statistically minded translates to more than 3,500 years of work experience and more than 5,500 years of life experience, there must be some really good and interesting stories out there. Share them with us..... I was hoping for someone a bit more interesting to kick this idea off – but unfortunately the two members who had promised me input have been strangely silent.

Here is the first one:



Wayne Stuart

Wayne grew up in a number of NSW country towns and spent a couple of years training for the priesthood (but pretty quickly worked out that that wouldn't work)! First job in the Department of Health and on to the Transport Portfolio in 1975 where he spent the remaining 28 years of his career. He was for a time in charge of managing the collection, interpretation and dissemination of Australian Port Statistics (how many ships, how much cargo, cost per tonne moved etc), then became Registrar of Australian Ships, got qualifications as a Lead Quality Auditor and was involved in auditing major road building projects all around Australia and finally was Manager Marine Environment Protection (illegal discharges from ships etc). During this last appointment he represented Australia at the UN's International Maritime Organisation in London. After his retirement in 2001, he served for 6 years on an international Audit Committee in London – the last three as its Chairman. He is very happy all that is now over! Wayne has been a member since the Shed kicked off in April 2008 and is currently the Secretary.

I hope lots of you will now bombard me with your stories so we can run a couple every issue – get to it!

Rubbish English the likes of which you will never see in the Messenger

The Plain English Foundation has released its annual list of the year's worst words and phrases, with 2014 particularly rich in euphemism and spin.

The phrase "conscious uncoupling", used by Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin when the couple announced their separation, topped the list.

Other examples included:

- Microsoft emailed its employees to explain that the company's "device strategy must reflect Microsoft's strategy and must be accomplished within an appropriate financial envelope. Therefore, we plan to make some changes". Finally, in the eleventh paragraph, the email got to the point: 12,500 Microsoft employees were going to lose their jobs.
- 14 million vehicles were recalled this year because their Takata airbags had an unfortunate tendency towards "rapid disassembly". In plain English, that means some of them exploded.
- A month-long coal mine fire in Morwell, Victoria, was described as an "open cut event".
- When a recent Qantas flight was delayed by an hour, the explanation was as baffling as it was frustrating for passengers. There had been a "pavement failure", which meant that a pothole on a runway had to be filled-in before the plane could take off.
- "High value targeting" is a more pleasant way to describe killing an enemy of importance. This term hit the news in December when WikiLeaks released a CIA report on the practice. This came in the same month a US Senate Intelligence Committee report highlighted the use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" aka torture.
- Senator Mathias Cormann told Australians that the cut in ABC funding was an "efficiency dividend". "We are not making cuts," Senator Cormann explained. "The ABC has been exempted from efficiency dividends for the last 20 years, efficiency dividends which apply to every other department in government." The government later admitted that funding was, in fact, cut.

- When asked what was the best thing the Government had done for women in 2014, Tony Abbott (the Minister for Women) said it was the repeal of the Carbon Tax because women are pleased electricity will be so much cheaper now. This is code for – “there will be much more opportunity to use that cheap electricity for cooking, cleaning, ironing, washing etc – all things women love to do and have been missing out on while electricity costs were high under Labor”.
- Uruguayan footballer Luis Suarez issued a non-apology for biting his Italian rival in a World Cup soccer game: "The truth is that my colleague Giorgio Chiellini suffered the physical result of a bite in the collision he suffered with me."
- Gold Coast City Council erected some helpful warning signs about the "potential for dangerous aquatic organisms". Apparently this was meant to warn of the likelihood of bull sharks in the waterways.
- "Let's fix our roof while the sun is shining because we're on a course to hit the rocks and we have to fix it." The Australian National Commission of Audit member Amanda Vanstone clarifying Australia's "budget emergency".
- An East London Tesco store made the news last July when its management posted an unusual apology for its broken freezers: "We are trying to get this problem fix as soon as possible and are really sorry for any incontinence caused, Management."

Adverts, Updates and Reminders:

Membership News

Membership remains steady at 101 financial members.

Ron Doyle is booked in for a hip transplant on 12 or 13 January – I am sure all members wish you the best of luck for that operation, Ron, and that you are back at the Shed doing your inimitable soft shoe shuffle really soon. I am also sure a number of mates will send you supportive emails and their best wishes for a quick, total and painless recovery.

Shed taxi service – waiting for your call!



Our Shed Taxi coordinator is Richard Maxwell. If you would like a lift to or from the Shed, either permanently or only occasionally, 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.

If anyone needs a ride to and/or from the Shed all you can also contact one of these drivers direct.

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.**

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* at the Yass Valley Community Centre.

Shed Signage Service

If you want a sign made, eg: *The David Hale Room, Property* or *House* naming, *DOG*

Kennel name, “*Keep out of my room*” etc), let me know and I will put you in touch with the sign maker.

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!).
- **All proceeds go to the Shed.**

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

December:

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

27/12: Russell Hill, David Baxter

29/12: Harold O'Brien, Mark Garland

January:

6/1: Robert McGregor

11/1: John Backhouse

12/1: Geoff Frost

16/1: Noel Lymbery

18/1: Bradley Foxlewin

24/1: Bob Small

25/1: Frank Grace

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!)

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.

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.

Finally, a note from the Management and Staff here at Messenger HQ to all of you – both jointly and severally:

Have a very Happy New Yeeehaaarrrr!!

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Wayne Stuart

Secretary, Yass Valley Men's Shed

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