



# YVMS MATTERS

(aka "The Messenger")

No: 10 of 2015  
Date: 4/10/2015

YVMS Motto:  
"Minimal bureaucracy  
maximum fun!"

### CO-PATRONS:

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



### In This Issue

- Editorial - including a Dara Madden remembrance
- Membership News
- Upcoming events and plans
  - First Wednesday Morning Tea - this coming Wednesday - 7 October 2015
  - Christmas Party, Lien's, 9 December, noon
- Recent activities, announcements, achievements and celebrations including two big donations by the YVMS Exercise Group

### Quote of the week:

Never tell your problems to anyone. 20% of people don't care and the other 80% are glad you have them.

### SHED COMMITTEE

- President: Dave Staines 0408 340 040
- Vice President: Richard Rowan 0478 598 593
- Treasurer: Ruben Larzabal
- Secretary: Jack Child
- Membership Secretary: Reg Moebus
- Shed IT Manager: Chris Brown
- Policy and Procedures Secretary: Joe Morrissey

### Editorial – from the Cave

- I have lots of news this time, so settle down with a coffee catch up on news of what's been happening since the last Newsletter.
- Firstly, I know you all want to hear about my month's Long Service Leave in September. I am currently negotiating with the Committee to put on a 5-6 hour slide evening to regale you with the many stories and adventures.



← I bet you are jealous when you see the lovely venues we visited, the sunny and warm conditions and the lack of jobs I had for a good two weeks. I think it will not be long before the open road beckons again.

Also, at the risk of annoying some, I think I might have worked out what happened to



Tony. He doesn't believe in global warming - this bloke in Tocumwal (who votes) obviously does! ↑

- Things have been happening while I have been gone - see a fulsome report from the President, Roger's report on the workshop and garden. Also Richard Rowan has booked our Christmas Party - more on that below as well. Perhaps I should go away more often?
- Also the YVMS Exercise Group has been doing good deeds - more below.
- Al Phemister lost his workshop in which he produces the sculptures that he is famous for all over the world (he has sculptures in the UK, Canada, Singapore and some other Asian nations as well as in public and private collections all over Australia. Notwithstanding that he is my son in law, he is a good bloke and he and his family who depend on his workshop don't deserve such bad fortune. I hope Shed members can help.

- I received a very warm note from a school classmate of Dara Madden during the week enclosing the item he has had included in Dara's school magazine. Here it is:

### DARA MADDEN (1984)



It is with much sadness that I wish to advise that **Dara Madden (1984)** passed away on New Year's Day 2015. Dara was immensely popular during his time at High from 1979 to 1984 and made a significant contribution to school life. At High he was a school prefect, played in the second row of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV, and rowed at No. 3 in the First VIII which were NSW CHS Champions and placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the GPS Head of the River. Dara was also the Senior Under Officer of the SHS Cadet Unit, being awarded the Colonel D.J. Duffy Sword of Honour for his outstanding leadership. In his final year, Dara also continued with commitments outside school, to scouting (as a venturer) as well as joining the State Emergency Service.

In Year 12 Dara was awarded a scholarship to the Royal Military College - Duntroon which he subsequently attended after first studying at the newly established Australian Defence Force Academy. Upon graduation from RMC in 1988, Dara received the Artillery Prize and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Artillery. A series of regimental postings followed which included: 8/12 Medium Regiment, 4 Field Regiment, A Field Battery (where he was forward observer in support of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (Para), Royal Australian Regiment), and HQ 1 Brigade where served as a liaison officer to the Brigade Commander. After the excitement of years on the gun line and leaping out of aircraft, a future of staff appointments beckoned which was not to his liking. Dara left the Regular Army in 1996, settled in Yass with his young family and continued his service to the nation through the Australian Public Service (APS). During his time with the APS Dara worked at the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, COMCARE, the Australian Safety and Compensation Council, and the Department of Resources and Energy.

Tired of the daily commute between his property in Yass and working in Canberra, in 2012 Dara took a position at the Yass District Hospital, where he was responsible for the hospital's modernising project. Dara was also involved in other ways with the Yass community, becoming a DJ on Yass FM and joining the Yass Valley Men's Shed where he managed to secure significant additional funding to enable its expansion. Dara will be honoured for this and his other work by having the shed's new annex named after him.

Dara was one of four boys from the Class of 1984 who went on to serve in the Regular Army (the others were Derek Bell, Grant Palmer and Murray Hayes). While Dara couldn't attend the Class of 1984's 30 year reunion held in November last year, his classmates did manage to catch up with him by phone on the night. News of his passing came as a terrible shock to all of us. Dara served his school, his community and his country with distinction. A devoted father, he was loved and greatly respected by many and will be missed by all. He is survived by his wife Kate and three children.

Tim Griffiths (1984)

## Membership News

I need to apologise for some entries under this heading in the last Messenger. I had a bit of a friendly swipe at Brian Millett concerning what his wife has had to put up with for 58 years and also Dave Staines, about whom I made some comments concerning a recent medical procedure. It seems these comments offended at least one member who remonstrated with me quite forcefully. I apologise to both Brian and Dave and to the offended member. My intention is always to entertain and provide information for the membership with the occasional dash of light-hearted banter. I will lift my game although I reserve the right to mercilessly tease members in light-hearted vein - but hopefully in good taste from now on.

**Shed Membership** numbers taken from the current Membership Register seems to have stabilised at 75 financial members (there were 107 on 31 June).

**Howard Hollingsworth** is or has just had a pacemaker installed. We all wish you well Howard and hope to see you back at the Shed very soon.

**Bob Frank's** recovery is going well. He is walking again and working hard at getting back to normal. He is also already driving short distances. Bob mentioned that if anyone has the time, he would enjoy seeing any member who would like to call by for a chat.

**Geoff Atkinson** has had a recent serious health event, but is also now on the mend. If you see Geoff around town or at the Shed, take the time to have a chat and give him some support.

**Alf and Vicki Atkin** are currently on a big adventure which has included a cruise around the "top end" and are now coming back the long way - currently on their way to Adelaide.

Alf sent me a photo (see opposite). Clearly some poor little kid somewhere is missing his pet goldfish. Do these fisherman only consider themselves?

By the way, Alf, I don't know much about fishing but I don't think that's a white pointer, a grey nurse, a marlin or a Barramundi! You can get carp like that one in the Yass River you know - no need for extensive and expensive travel.



**Al Phemister's** workshop/studio burnt down on Thursday last and Al has lost around \$100,000 worth of equipment, tools, valuable completed sculptures and other related items - not to mention the Shed structure which has been seriously damaged.

We have organised a "Phemister Fire Fund" into which anyone who would like to do so can contribute. There is a donation box in the front room at the Shed and also you can donate directly to our Bank Account by direct debit/EFT if that is your preference or more convenient for you. This is how you do it:

- a. Name of Bank: Bendigo Bank (Boorowa)
- b. Name of account: YVMS
- c. BSB: 633-108
- d. A/c No. 1530 73226
- e. Amount: Fill in the amount you wish to donate

Where you are requested to state the purpose of the payment (so we know what the payment is for) can you simply use the words "Phemister Fire Fund"

The Workshop Manager is also going through our equipment holdings to see what surplus items we might have that would help Al get himself established and operating again. If any members have spare metal working equipment and would like it to go to a worthy cause, then this might be the opportunity you have been looking for.

### *Note from the President*

- Straight off the press. We were not successful with our Bendigo Bank grant application. We are trying other possible sources. (This application was to fund the installation of a roof over our containers. Ed)
- Howard Hollingsworth has had a bit of a 'suspected' cardiac issue. As he says another bloody pill to take' but he is OK for now. Howard is well known for his green thumb and is currently raising tomato seedlings for a YVMS tomato growing contest. Just a bit of fun. We are sort of making up the rules as we go along. We also need judging panellists for sometime early next year. Standby for further details.
- R2 has claimed the date for our Xmas function at Liens on 9 December. A lunchtime do. Further details to follow but at this stage the idea is to keep the cost below \$10/head and supplemented by YVMS. We will invite Katrina, Rowena, Angus and Pru. R2 will be looking for numbers IDC to assist with planning.
- If you haven't been to the Shed lately drop in for a look there are a few changes. We have benefited from a couple of deceased estates and Roger has been shopping with some of the money donated by Terry and Kay Lemon.
- Keep your ear to the ground seminars for October/November. Dates are being finalized now.
- In a similar vein the committee is hoping to have a garage sale before Xmas.

- After a bit of a session in the doldrums our computer project is back on the move. Hopefully we will have an announcement soon on when familiarisation classes will start. We have 2 upgraded computers being donated to supplement the existing two and a further number to be gifted to members in need who do not have a computer. Reg is looking at the list for me.
- A committee meeting was held on Wednesday 30/9. Minutes have yet to be finalised but I can reveal that minor changes to update our constitution and a proposed change to the configuration of the committee were discussed. These will need to be put to the membership for introduction in the new shed year. More on this later but keep your ears and eyes open for meeting dates. Remember this is your shed and everyone has a say on how it is run.
- Our new metal lathe from Hare and Forbes is still on back order but we are getting close.
- R2 has agreed to conduct cooking classes on Sunday mornings. Cost is \$5 the 1<sup>st</sup> week and a gold coin each week thereafter. If you are interested please let either me or R2 know. Richard has suggested that 5 to 7 students would be ideal.
- A couple of requests:
  - If you use the workshop try to drop a few coins in the donations tin at the entrance door to assist with running costs;
  - Please sign in when entering the shed. This is required for insurance.
  - We have had a number of incidents with equipment being borrowed without signing it out in the book for this purpose situated near the sign-in book. Distressingly, we have also had instances of items and materials being taken from the storage container. I acknowledge that materials at the shed are for the use of members but please check with the workshop manager or a committee member before taking stuff or place a note on it to reserve it.
- The disabled gardens project has stalled a bit waiting for the Wagga shed to come back with numbers and a proposed pickup date. We are ready to rock and roll here having met with Council and decided a spot behind YVCC. I check with Wagga on a weekly basis.
- Finally, if you are closing the shed please make sure that all equipment is switched off at the power point. Yes I know the kill switch at the back door does this but this request is an additional safety measure to prevent the inadvertent activation of equipment.

There is probably more but that is the main stuff on the boil of interest to members

Thanks,

**Dave Staines, President**

## *Upcoming events and plans*

### Social events

**Wednesday 4 October - First Wednesday Morning Tea - 10 to 11.30am.** Come along and enjoy a chat, something to nibble and enjoy the blessed quiet (no workshop noise). Bring a mate you reckon might benefit from membership or who might just like another option on his Wednesday morning.

**Shed Christmas Party - Lien's Restaurant** Here is a note from your Vice President:

Christmas is coming the geese are getting fat..... And you need to mark your diaries or calendar the following date:

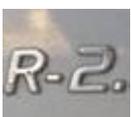
**Wednesday, 9 December, time 1200**

Why???..... Because it's the shed Christmas function at LIEN's

The Yass Valley Men's Shed has booked our Christmas function for both members and partners.

So put it in your diary, write it on your calendar and advise Richard Rowan that you will be attending. The function will be subsidised by the shed. We are looking at a \$5 per person donation for the function at this stage.

This is a good way to end the year with mates and partners. Tell me that you are coming and all will be sweet.



Richard Rowan 6226 6809, 0478 598 593 - Executive food organiser

**Editor's Note:** Last year we invited members and partners of the YVMS Exercise Group and we enjoyed their company. The Exercise Group also made a donation to help cover costs. May I suggest we at least extend the invitation to them again this year? We will also extend personal invitations to our two Patrons (Nic Carmody and Rowena Abbey and our Honorary Bloke, Katrina Hodgkinson). ws

## **Shed Training and demonstration opportunities**

There is a long list of expertise and training/demonstration opportunities for Shed Members including:

- Lead light glass, wine making, beer making, woodworking, wood turning, sign making, metal work (welding, sculpture), bee keeping, IT training, cooking classes (basic to gourmet), photography, guitar lessons (basic). There is a poster at the Shed giving more info and contact details on all these things.

## *Workshop and Garden Corner Report*

Lots of activity to report for the workshop during the past month.

Firstly we received a very generous donation of tools from Mrs Helen Murphy, being some of the tools of trade of her late husband. As I understand it a suitable donation has made to a relevant charity in appreciation of such.

Secondly we were invited to the old Soil Conservation Shed to take our pick of anything that we may be interested in, as a result we ended up with some pieces of steel, a steel cupboard suitable for tools, a large work bench and several sundry things for the shed and members in general.

Thirdly we have made a purchase of the items listed below as the result of a survey of interested "hands on" members in relation to our current "want list". This purchase made available be the generous donation from Southern Cable Services (Terry and Kaye Lemon).

- 1 x 120kg Gorilla Mighty 15 Multi-Purpose Ladder.
- 2 x 300mm Irwin F Clamps.
- 2 x 400mm Irwin F Clamps.
- 2 x 600mm Irwin F Clamps.
- 1 x Ryobi One+ 18 volt Reciprocating Saw.
- 1 x Ryobi One+ 18 volt Corner Sander.
- 1x Drill bit sharpener
- 1xSmall HP dust extractor

As a result of all this it has been necessary to somewhat re-organise the workshop, some of which still has to be completed.

Such has been the re-organisation that it was felt necessary to hold our annual workshop orientation sessions and discussions on 1st and 3rd October with further session available if felt necessary.

We still await the equipment for the Metal Shop for which the order was placed on 20th June, the latest verbal report from Hare and Forbes was that we should have it by early October, we wait with baited breath!!

On the **Garden front** you will notice that new seasons plantings have started. There is space for at least another 3 plot holders this year so why not think about supplementing your space at home and utilising your facility. **Interested?** then contact me on the details below or talk to Len or myself at the Shed.

Roger Holgate. Workshop Manager [roger42@dodo.com.au](mailto:roger42@dodo.com.au) Ph. 0428 509 242

## *The Shed even impresses a young student looking for "heroes"*

Ashleigh Lawler is a local primary school student whose class was set the task of writing about their hero(es). Ashleigh had heard of our Men's Shed and asked her mother (Karen) to bring her to the Shed to interview some members and tour the facility. Here is the outcome. I am reliably advised that this effort was rewarded with very high praise and might have influenced her teacher to investigate his own possible membership options.

# The Hero Group

By Ashleigh

## Men's shed biography

There are a lot of individual people who deserve "Hero Awards" for example policeman, SES and doctors but I decided to choose a Hero 'Group'. There are individual people who run this group who I interviewed and no one individual deserves it over another.

This special group are not all about helping the outside community but more importantly here to help also those with needs within. Many men feel help is thru the bottle or closing off from society, this group allows men to be themselves, talk if they want, create if they want and by this, feeling better about life. These are the 'not forgotten group' but 'out of mind group'.

It started from a vision, a vision of one man with the time to hear another. This is the importance of this Men's Shed, not one man as a hero but many, not wearing a uniform or badge the Unsung Hero. A community of men helping each other by not judging, by not poking for information just a shoulder to stand with and feel like you are worthy.

When the large fires went through this area a couple of years ago they worked with blaze aid and helped the community get to their feet. If a member of the community comes to them with a small problem to be fixed they will help but their aim is not to take work from the local tradesman.

The Yass Valley Men's Shed came around in 2008 and has been operating for just over 7 years. The Men's Shed have got over 100 members. The people that are involved in the Men's Shed vary from the age of 14 through to the age of mid 90s, these men all share one thing in common, friendship, guidance and support. There are 1000 Men's Sheds in Australia.

The Men's Shed help those within but they are not a charity group, the members can come and go as they please and it's a place to feel safe and unjudged.

At the Men's Shed there is no pressure, if you don't want to talk don't talk, if you want to create, create. There is reassurance of their own values. They have provided working stations where you can weld and wood craft anything you want.

They also donated a golf stick holder to Horton house because when the elderly finished playing golf they just left the sticks on the ground, the sticks were broken and people tripping over the balls and sticks.

The Men's Shed were awarded \$20,000 from the local government because of what they represent. What they did with the first \$10,000 was they brought 2 shipping containers, one is a metal room where they do all of their welding and is a safe environment, with the other container they stacked all of their wood. They have spent some of it getting electricity into the containers. They have also built a garden for the disabled, a place where they can come and do things they would normally not be able to do. This is what the group is all about giving people opportunities and chances.

There are all sorts of men that go to the men's Shed some include priests, pharmacists, doctors, electricians and many more. They are all very welcoming to each other and anyone else that comes in.

The Bendigo Bank gave them a grant to put in computers so that the elderly can have private lessons on how to look up websites, do online banking and all the other stuff that they need to learn.

The Men's Shed got an Australian Day award for helping out so much with the community and giving men a place to go when feeling down.

The Men's Shed started in Australia but one of the members comes from overseas, he invited a member of the Paraguay Embassy over to the Men's Shed. He did this because over in his country retired men, men that have no family feel they have nothing left to give. They sit at home and watch the sun come up and go down then the next morning do the same, so this member showed the president what he can do and the president has done exactly that, he has built a Men's Shed so this Hero Group has now reached other countries.

The Men's Shed has this disabled boy that comes in with the Valmar group in Yass, he is high care with minimal motor skills but they put a large piece of wood on the wood cutter and he sits there cutting up this long piece of wood, They told me that he is the happiest boy ever because this is not an everyday thing for him.

The person I interviewed at the men's shed was Mr Wayne Stuart, he helped me understand that it's not about him that he isn't the only hero they are all heroes.

The men's Shed aren't like any other sheds they are different because there is no judging people by their appearance, they don't discriminate, they don't talk about religions, they don't talk about something bad that has happened, they don't backstab, you can be yourself make new friends but also help people that really need it, they try not to take bread off of the table but to put it on the table, make things build things, but not just anyone can go only males can.

I chose the Men's Shed because they work hard for the community, support people that need help and they don't think of themselves better or above anyone else.

Their saying is "women talk face to face, but men talk shoulder to shoulder"

My local hero by Ashleigh Lawler

### *Recent activities, announcements, achievements and celebrations*

**The Shed should be very proud of its Tuesday Exercise Class.** Members of that class pay \$5 for each session and those contributions are paid into a "Good Deeds Fund".

The Exercise Group recently paid from that Good Deeds Fund \$500 each to CanAssist and Rely for Life. On behalf of all Shed Members, many congratulations and appreciation to the YVMS Exercise Group!



Here is Len McGuigan the convenor of the Exercise Group passing over a \$500 cheque for Relay for Life to Mandy Reid and Craig Norris and \$500 cheque for CanAssist to Jean and Geoff Frost - CanAssist has reciprocated by presenting Len and the Shed with a Certificate of Appreciation. In case you are confused, Len is the bloke hogging the camera in both photos.

### **Donation from Yass Interact**

Michael Bourke representing Yass Interact and a mentor (Lisa Bourke) visited the Shed on Saturday 3 October, to deliver two Dell computers which the Interact Group has donated to the Shed for the use of members. If you want to know more about Interact, have a look at this interesting and informative website: <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/learn-topic/interact>

The Yass Interact group is currently concentrating on raising funds which purchase "Shelter Boxes" which are specifically designed to provide targeted assistance to people in need after natural disasters. Each of these boxes costs \$1,000. So far the Yass group has funded one box and is about half way to funding a second.

If you see this group operating in town, give them your support, they are doing very good things.



Michael Bourke presenting the two computers to Joe Morrissey

**A Note from Joe Morrissey (Committee Member)**

**1. Public Notice on Bee-keeping**

Interested in keeping bees?

**Public meeting.**

Want to know more about bees and how they are great for your garden? A group of beekeepers in Yass is looking to form a beekeeping club.

There will be an information session on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30 pm at Yass Community Centre (beside the Council depot). Come along and find out more.



**Contact**

Joe Morrissey  
0412258300  
Joe.Morrissey49@bigpond.com

Also, if any member finds or knows of a swarm please contact either Joe Morrissey on 0412 258 300 or Graeme Fountain on 0432 325 758.

- 2. Preliminary Notice:** A seminar on cybercrime and scams will be presented by the NSW Police. A tentative date is Thursday 29th. The exact date, time and place will be confirmed this coming week.

*Life lessons for this month – accept it that marriage is unfair ↙*

*And one for Chef Rowan and you other cooks out there ➡*



## Adverts, Updates and Reminders:

### Shed taxi service - waiting for your call!

**Taxi drivers:** Chris Brown on Saturdays. Wayne Stuart pretty much anytime.

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

### Tuesday Exercise Classes 2-3pm - Len McGuigan (coordinator)

Len tells me that the class size is very healthy and that new members are providing an opportunity for new friendships and interest. Come along and try it for yourself.



YVCC (next door  
to the Shed)



**Class time:** 2-3pm. The classes 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?

**Everyone in the Yass Valley is welcome** Tell and invite your friends - it is good for you and for them too!

See you in *The David Hale Room* at the Yass Valley Community Centre.

### 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.

### Reward Points at Home Hardware - Redouble your efforts please

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.

It seems that members might be forgetting this good way to help the Shed. Over the last couple of months we have only had small amounts credited to our account - less than \$5.00 - get spending and give us your points!

## Birthdays around this time

### September

5/9: Kevin Mitchell  
14/9: Rob Barker  
17/9: Duncan Waugh  
22/9: Rick Jackson  
24/9: Peter Miller  
26/9: Garry Flaherty  
29/9: Chris Brown

### October

4/10: Ian Lumsden  
12/10: Norm Leaney  
18/10: Daniel Anderson  
21/10: Mark Bosma  
22/10: Dennis Wicklander, Luke Laundess  
23/10: Al Phemister  
24/10: Wayne Stuart  
29/10: Warren Dickson, Zac Croker, Ken McNally

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)
Home Hardware (Yass)	IGA (Yass)	KidsBlitz
The Lansdowne Foundation	Long Paddock IT Services	Miller's Pharmacy
NSW Coalition Government	The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP	Robertson Landscape Supplies
Southern Cable Services	Steve Bugden Plumbing	Tank's Bakery
The Yass Tribune	Touie Smith Jnr	Yass & District Printing
Yass Country Kitchen	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	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.

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