



YVMS MATTERS

(aka "The Messenger")

November 2015
Date: 1/11/15

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



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Quote for this week

"Life is hard: it's even harder if you're stupid"

John Wayne

Shed Committee

President: Dave Staines 0408 430 040
 Vice President: Richard Rowan 0478 589 593
 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

Don't forget that **Maisie's Choir** is coming to the Shed this coming **Tuesday (3 November)** to perform some of their singing and entertaining. For this month only, it seems that the First Wednesday Morning Tea had been cancelled and moved to Tuesday along with the First Wednesday morning tea supplies. I am not quite sure why we couldn't have both. Be assured that all noise in the workshop will cease while the concert proceeds - or perhaps it might be moved into the YVCC if numbers require it. See you there.

While on the subject of First Wednesday Morning teas, Dave Staines has talked Tank's Bakery into donating the food for those events for the foreseeable future. Well done Dave and many thanks to Tanks. Make sure you support Tanks, like they support us! **And, by the Way, First Wednesday Morning Tea is ON! (10-11.30am Wed 4 November)**

There is an important meeting coming up on 14 November at the Shed to consider changing the structure and roles of members of the Committee. See more detail in the next item. It is important, if you are committed to the Shed that you think about this change and go along and have your say. Unfortunately, I will be out of town on that weekend, so I will miss the opportunity to have my say. I don't think this is venue to mount a campaign, however, all I would like to say is it is important to change things as important as our Constitution only when they are seen to be failing. So the question for members to consider is "do you consider that the current system is broken and will this proposed change fix it?"

Pay special attention to the "Upcoming events and opportunities" item below. There are lots of activities and events coming, so have a look at which ones you might like to attend - and, where appropriate, let the organiser(s) know so proper planning can be undertaken.

The MOST important of the upcoming events is the Christmas Party which will be held (again) at Lien's Restaurant in Comur Street on Wednesday 9 December. Members and partners, family and guests are most welcome to attend. However, we have booked for 50 people, so it will be first in who gets a chair. Late deciders could end up disappointed. Don't leave it too long to RSVP!

Christmas is coming. In previous years we have had "Secret Santa" and "Kris Kringle". What will we do this year? Any ideas? Feed them back to a member of the Committee who will just love to organise something to entertain you and make you feel valued and part of the Shed.

Special General Meeting

All members will have received a message from Dave Staines inviting you all to a Special General Meeting at 2pm on Saturday 14 November.

The Agenda for that meeting is:

1. Opening and welcome
2. Discussion and decision on the proposal to change the Shed Constitution to reconfigure the structure and responsibilities of the Shed Committee
3. Close meeting

The following is a direct quote from Dave Staines' proposal which has already been circulated to all Members:

“Currently our constitution requires a committee consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three(3) committee members. These members are elected annually with the President normally elected for just 2 terms.

The proposal is to change the configuration of the committee to a President, an Immediate Past President, a President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and either (subject to discussion) 2 or 3 general committee members. The Presidential roles will be on a rotational basis with a new President Elect being elected each year.

The Case for the Proposal.

For some time I have been concerned that presidents are forced to learn their task using the ‘sink or swim technique’. My predecessor and I were fortunate to have an ongoing source of corporate advice but that was through good luck rather than good planning and cannot be always guaranteed. The proposal enables the incoming President (President Elect) to have 12 months to ‘learn his trade’ and the President to have the sage advice of the Immediate Past President. This proposal is designed to ensure a high standard of administration/development for YVMS.

The Case Against.

- Members in the presidential cycle are committing to a 3 year period of service. True, as opposed to the current 2 year commitment.
- Presidents will need to commit 2 years ahead. Only for the 1st cycle, thereafter it is just 12 months - the same as the current cycle.
- This just increases the size and complexity of the committee. Yes a possible increase of committee by one or alternatively it could be absorbed by the existing committee by reduction of general committee members by one.
- This is just an attempt to make YVMS look like Rotary. Not true - Rotary and the Men's Shed are vastly different. This change is simply an attempt to make our Shed more efficient and pro-active.

Clearly there will be more discussion/questions on the day. I would urge everyone to participate. As I have said many times before this is your Shed and it is there for you so get involved - have your say. The way your Shed is managed is in your hands.”

For the information of Members: Our Shed Constitution states that a quorum for a Special General Meeting is 5 (repeat 5 members), and the voting required to pass a change to the Constitution is “75% of the votes cast”. **So, whether you agree or disagree with the proposal, it is important to go to the meeting so that your voice will be heard. It would be unfortunate for as few as 4 members who show up on the day being able to effect a change in our constitution (whichever way it goes) that the majority of members don't want.** Ed.

Membership Status

Membership is steady on 82. Don't forget our Membership Secretary has resigned. If you are interested to help the Shed maintain its good membership numbers, please contact David Staines and offer your help.

Brian Millett has returned to Yass after challenging the Doctors in Woden to improve his looks. We are hoping they will have risen to the challenge when the bandages come off. He has to lie low for a while and not venture out too

much. If you get a chance give him a call, pack a picnic and a bottle and call by (after making sure first that he is home, is receiving and not already entertaining countless hordes of other members).

Upcoming events and opportunities at the Shed – Mark your Diaries!

- **Chris Brown** will be placing a booking sheet near the sign in book advising when he will be available to conduct computer familiarisation lessons. We already have a list of names of Shed and YV community members who would like to take advantage of this offer. If you want some teaching or techniques - sign up.
- **Tomato growing challenge.** Howard Hollingsworth has delivered baby tomato plants to the Shed. Members are invited to take one home, nurture, apply your secret growing science and coddle and then, enter its fruit in a taste test competition in the New Year. Good prizes will be on offer for the best tasting tomato. One has even gone to Bateman's Bay in an attempt to use the coast growing conditions for a sneaky advantage!

- Visit by **Maisie's Choir** - here are some of them →

Tuesday 3 November. Please note: The Shed will still operate as usual, but go SILENT for the Choir. There will be cake etc kindly donated by Tanks Bakery as a result of a decision being taken that this would be the First Wednesday Morning Tea for November.



- **First Wednesday Morning Tea.** For some reason that is not clear to me, a decision seems to have been made that for November, the First Wednesday Morning Tea would be cancelled and it would be held on Tuesday instead. This decision, I suspect, seems to have been driven by Maisie's Choir only being able to come on a Tuesday and not a Wednesday - so what??

I am here to tell you that the Shed will be open on Wednesday morning 4 November for anyone who wants to come along for our traditional First Wednesday Morning Tea! 10am to 11.30. See you then. Morning tea of some description will be available.

- **Canberra Timber and Working with Wood Show 6-8 November** - Here is a note from **Roger Holgate:**

The Canberra Timber & Working with Wood Show is on next weekend 6th to 8th November. I have noted that both Carbatec and Timbercon will be returning again this year.

I am planning to go early on Friday 6th planning to be there by 10 am and willing to take 3 passengers - contact me if you'd like a seat. Have a look at the web site below for an idea of what to expect.

<http://impressiveexhibitions.com.au/index.php/timber-shows.html>

We have seen the arrival of our new P & N wood turning tools, we decided to buy these tools unhandled, not only to save money but as a worthwhile exercise making our own handles.

Also the saw guard and support for the Triton 2000 **HAS ARRIVED** from Triton in the UK. We are hoping to use this saw outside for our bigger and more awkward jobs as there has been a tendency to expect too much from our table saw inside. This saw also has a few capabilities which the saw bench inside lacks.

There has been quite a bit of workshop activity of late and a few outside jobs under way in the workshop at the moment and with time marching on it would be good to see these out of the way before Xmas. Any assistance would be welcome with the rubbing down and preparing of 3 bench seats on which action has started.

The garden is coming on with new season's plantings and losing its tired old winter look. We recently installed the new pump which we purchased late last season. By all reports Len is rapt.

Roger Holgate - 02 6226 1664 or 0428 509 242

STOP PRESS - Latest news from Hare and Forbes at 10.35am 30/10/2015. The shipment of our new metal lathe is due to dock on 11th November, all being well, we can expect delivery about 3rd week of November.

- **Sunday 15th November** at 1400 - **Special General Meeting** - amendment to YVMS constitution involving a proposed reconfiguration of the YVMS committee. See more detailed info on page 2.

- **One Hour Seminar on Centrelink Pensions and how they will change from 1 January 2017** will be given at **9am on Tuesday 1 December** in the YVCC by Paul Reilly and Emily Bowker (Financial advisers from Back to Back a financial advice and planning group from Young. It seems that the last Government Budget is about to visit more hardship on older folk from January 2017. If you want to know more and what to do now to head off some of this impact, come along at 9am and see what's what. There is no charge for this info event. There will be cake!! I realise it is early days and as far as I know publicity has not appeared around town or in the media, but so far I only have 3 takers for this event. I am not sure how many folk might have booked direct with the providers or with a Committee member - but if numbers do not improve, I suggest we should let Emily and Paul know that it might not be worth their time. If you wish to attend, please RSVP me by return email.

- **VALMAR Christmas Party.** The VALMAR boys have invited Shed members along to their traditional party to thank Shed Members for their welcome, assistance with projects and mentoring during 2015. At this stage I understand the party will be at **noon on Tuesday 8 December at the BBQ location in Riverbank Park** (same place as last year).

To demonstrate some of the good things that can happen when our VALMAR members come along to the Shed, here is a photo of James Demestre → with his finished tool box which he happily and proudly carried off last Tuesday. James was assisted in this project by a couple of Shed members including Roger Holgate, Graham Fountain, Tony Warren and others.



Having the VALMAR members come to the Shed every Tuesday morning is a wonderful experience for all members. It is terrific to see how members respond to the challenges (the VALMAR boys - interested and keen to learn and do things and the mentoring members - keen to show and share their skills and ideas.

- **YVMS Chrissy Bash:** Liens Restaurant - **Wednesday 9 December at noon.** Members, guests, special personages and members of the YVMS Exercise Group all welcome. Here is a personal note from organiser, Richard Rowan:

“MEMBERS.....so far 8 people to attend Xmas function....which is really 4 MEMBERS + partners.....It ain't that difficult...send me an email richard.rowan@ozemail.com.au or leave a message on my phone 6226 6839 R2”

Recent happenings

After many years, **Reg Moebus** has decided to step down from Shed Committee duties and also from the role of Membership Secretary. Dave Staines is looking for a volunteer to take on that role for at least the next 6 months or so at which point perhaps someone might put their hand up at the next AGM. If you can help the Shed, please contact Dave on 0408 340 040 or by email president@yassmensshed.org.au

Emma Ritchard from Yass Valley First Aid Training attended at the YVCC last Tuesday to provide updated refresher First Aid Training. Unfortunately, attendance was very poor (only 3 members).

Our sincere thanks to Emma for her continuing commitment and effort and our apologies for not turning out in better numbers. We will have to lift our game in getting the message out to the membership and community in good time, and with regular reminders.

I requested items for the Messenger recently and received this one from Al Phemister:

From: Al Phemister [mailto:al@alphemister.com]
Sent: Friday, 30 October 2015 6:40 AM
Subject: Re: This weekend's Messenger

I would like to thank the members of the men's shed who have so generously donated to me and my family during this time since the fire in my shed. The generosity and compassion and assistance has been truly appreciated. This help has enabled us to take the first steps towards rebuilding.

Thank You! Al



The Shed was recently approached to see if we could build four lightweight racing land yacht frames for the Yass Scouts.

Apparently the local Scouts are having a camp soon and these frames will be used by them to conduct their races (the plan being several scouts each “sail” their yacht (by running flat out while carrying the frames over a specified course). The quickest wins. I have a mental picture of the famous Todd River Regatta in the Northern Territory - ie no water is involved.

Lisa Bourke is involved with the Scouts and she asked us for help. Allan Carey and Roger Holgate rose to the occasion and the four yachts, complete with masts, were collected by Lisa last Thursday.

The Scouts paid for the materials and I understand they will also make a donation as a way of saying “thanks” for the Shed making this happen for them.

←The picture shows Allan, Lisa and Roger at the handing over ceremony. Someone forgot to bring the bottle of champagne!

Is this Maisie's Choir in full flight?



Out of the mouths of babes....

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her six-year-old students.

After explaining the commandment to ‘Honour thy father and thy mother’, she asked, “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?”

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, “Thou shall not kill.”

Adverts, Updates and Reminders:

Shed taxi service - waiting for your call! Chris Brown in the Rossi Street (West) area and en route to and from the Shed from there on Saturdays. Also Wayne Stuart pretty much anytime.

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

Tuesday Exercise Classes - Len McGuigan (coordinator)



YVCC (next door to the Shed)

- Class time: **11am-noon** - note new summer time! (\$5 per person per session)



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.

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

If you know of something you would like to have publicised in the Messenger, just let me know - preferably give me text and photo(s) if possible and I will make it happen. There are lots of good things going on at the Shed and in member’s lives, that we would all benefit from knowing about. Perhaps we can help with an issue or challenge - we won’t be able to help if we don’t know!

Birthdays around this time

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
26/10: David Coonan
29/10: Warren Dickson, Zac Croker, Ken McNally

November:

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

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,
Scoop Yass Valley (online newsletter)
Southern Cable Services,
Steve Bugden Plumbing,
Tank’s Bakery,
Touie Smith Jnr,
Yass Country Kitchen,
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 and print 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>

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.



Wayne Stuart - Editor . 0419 292 022 wayne@stuartoz.com