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YVMS MATTERS

(aka "The Messenger")
Issue No 191; No 1 of 2020

*YVMS acknowledges the Ngunnawal people
on whose land we meet and we pay our
respects to their Elders past and present*

Feb to Apr 20
Issued: 1/2/20

YVMS Motto:
**"Minimal bureaucracy
Maximum fun!"**

**The Yass Valley Men's
Shed opened its doors
in April 2008**

CO-PATRONS:

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



Brother
Sheds



NSW Australia

Shed Committee

President: Allan McGrath 0431 060 846
Vice President: Roger Holgate 0428 509 242
Secretary: Wayne Stuart 0419 292 022
Treasurer: Ian (Mac) McLean
Member: David Campbell
Member: Jack Child
Member: Len McGuigan

Public Officer: Brian Millett
IT Manager: Nicholas Londey
IT Moderator: Ross Stirton

Shed Opening Times

- **Tuesdays:** 9am to Noon
- **Thursdays:** 1.30pm to 4.30pm
- **Saturdays:** 1.30pm to 4.30pm
- **Tuesdays:** 2-3pm YVMS Exercise Class in the Community Centre
- **First Wednesday of each month:** 10am to 11.30am, "First Wednesday Morning Tea"
- **Last Saturday of the Month:** 12.30 to 1.30pm, Shed BBQ - \$2



Irrefutable Irish Logic:

When we drink we get drunk: When we get drunk, we fall asleep: When we fall asleep we commit no sin: When we commit no sin, we go to Heaven: So let's all get drunk and go to Heaven.

Editorial - from the Cave - Wayne Stuart

Welcome to the first Messenger of 2020. I was a bit surprised to realise recently that this is our 12th year just about to come to an end (the Shed was "established" after town meetings and organisational things starting in February 2008 and the anniversary of opening our doors will occur in April) – should we organise some kind of Birthday Party?

Already we are kicking goals in 2020 – the most significant one is our (so far) very successful Bushfire Relief Collection. Our original ambition was to raise \$3,000 to purchase a fully functioning water tank for some family somewhere who has lost all in the fires. We reached that target in just 5 days and we are now trying for a significant amount that we can donate to BlazeAid. At the time of writing, that collection is now in the region of \$3,500 – and we are hoping for more before closing the Appeal. My sincere thanks to all who have dug deep to help those who have lost so much.

We have good plans for 2020 – but don't just leave it to us! Tell us what you would like us to do and if it is possible (and legal) we will do our best to make it happen.



My personal hope for 2020 is that more members will become actively engaged in Shed activity – especially in a "doing" role. If you have skills, talents, ambitions, good jokes or tall tales to tell or plans of your own, join us in making the Shed a fantastic place for all members – you will be a hero!

ws Editor

Message from the President – Allan McGrath

It has been a challenging three months since the last Messenger with Christmas and the New Year accompanied by what seems to be never ending drought, westerly winds fires and smoke.

Congratulations to Wayne on his successful negotiations with Woolworths who will now be providing some tasty morsels for our first Wednesday morning teas. I have been looking forward to the presentation from Al Phemister (now postponed). We can all learn if we are prepared to listen and with that in mind I am proposing that members who are willing to do so, be invited to give a short presentation of say five minutes at future morning teas...entirely up to them what they might speak about...their first job, how they met their wife, a big adventure etc whatever. I think it could be entertaining and help to get to know each other a little better.

I am pleased that we spoke up and took a petition to Council in respect of the decision by Council to discontinue involvement in community services, irrespective of the outcome it was an important exercise in active citizenship and helped give the community a voice.

Some concern has been expressed about the shed becoming involved in “politics”. Active citizenship should not be confused with political activism. Active citizens do many things to improve the lives of others and there have been many examples of this in our shed. They contribute to social justice in their community by taking action on issues in order to make a difference, they question the way things are done, promote discussion, search for solutions and seek information - surely that cannot be a bad thing to engage in. Another good example is our bushfire appeal, I am proud to be associated with a group that has provided such a generous response. Thank you sincerely.

Finally, A kindergarten boy comes home and tells his parents proudly “ Teacher asked the class a question today and I was the only one in class who knew the answer . Parents are thrilled, mother asks what was the question?



Boy puffs up his chest and replies “Who farted?”!

See you at the Shed

Allan McG

Message from the Workshop Manager – Roger Holgate

With one month of 2020 now behind us we see the Shed back into full swing, lots of activities in the workshop, Shed surrounds and socially.

Mention was made in our first Monday Missive about a donation of tools and hardware from the estate of one of our late members, by now any of our regulars would have seen all of this and in fact some members have purchased a few bits and pieces.

We have had a good look through all of this and begun putting some of the tools into our own assortment. It is also pleasing to see one member starting to sort out the great assortment of hardware, keep up the good work Chris (Smith), this is much appreciated and takes a big load off others.

The valuable and specialised “Vitaris” and “Colen Clenton” tools have been photographed and put aside for consideration and possible sale. They are 8 brand new hand tools with a current value of about \$1,600.00 .

Thanks also to Jack who has volunteered and begun tidying up one of the tool cupboards which has gotten into an unruly mess. This brings me to again reminding members to please put tools and accessories back in their correct places.



We are considering another small training and safety session shortly, if there is any area that any of you would like to know more about, would like a demonstration or whatever, please speak up with your suggestions. In the meantime, have fun.

Roger Holgate.

Message from Committee Member and YVMS Safety Officer – Jack Child

January 2020 – Time for my reflections about Safety In The Shed (SITS).

2019 was a great year for the Shed – many exciting projects, new equipment, new members and new creations for sale. We made it through the year without any serious trauma, although our indefatigable secretary nearly imploded from all the crises tossed at him in December!

I feel we have been successful in raising safety awareness in the shed (more from Wayne's efforts than my own). This is great progress, and we shall continue as the year unfolds.



Remember your personal commitment to safety when using the shed tools, and we can then claim that Safety Happens In The Shed (note the Acronym! Ed).

Cheers.

Jack

Regular social and important events

First Wednesday Morning Teas are being catered by Woolworths from February 2020 until further notice. These are always good events and the conversation and enjoyment of members attending is a great reason for these events to continue – so they will!

Many thanks to Greg Boyle and staff at Woolworths who have stepped into the void left when the Yass Valley Bakery advised that they would no longer be providing cakes etc for our monthly morning teas.

Here ➡ is a picture of Allan McGrath presenting a YVMS letter and Certificate of Appreciation to Greg Boyle (Manager of Woolworths, Yass).

We have removed the Yass Valley Bakery sign and replaced it with a Woolworths (Yass) one on our "Thank You" Board

I will continue to remind you of the monthly morning teas in the regular Monday Morning Missives.



Last Saturday BBQs are a permanent feature of our "social" efforts going forward taking advantage of Tim Gee's generous and expert cooking skills. Our last event has also demonstrated that we have a Team of Reserve Chefs for the cooking duties, should this become necessary from time to time. Pencil this event into your long-term diaries so you won't miss out – but also to help us keep it going.

“The Exercise Group is going along very well new people (men and women) coming each week. Some members and family/friends should come along to see what is happening.



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. “ Len McGuigan

Last Tuesday each month Yass Landcare Community Garden visit to the site. Yass Landcare is planning to be on site on the last Tuesday of each month during the morning. This provides an opportunity for our two groups to collaborate on gardening, projects and social basis. I urge members to come along and see how this liaison might offer benefits and the opportunity to further improve the amenity and opportunities for activity.

Mouthwatering Messenger Munchies

Spicy beans on baked sweet potato - serves 6

This recipe is well worth the effort. It's easy to make (even I could do it), but it does take a little bit of time in preparation. We love it and zucchini and capsicum are in season at the moment.

3 evenly shaped orange sweet potatoes	1 tablespoon olive oil
1 large onion, chopped	3 cloves garlic, crushed
2 teaspoons ground cumin	1 teaspoon ground coriander
½ teaspoon chilli powder	400 g can chopped tomatoes
1 cup (250 ml) vegetable stock	1 large zucchini, cut into 1.5 cm cubes
1 green capsicum, cut into 1.5 cm cubes	310 g can corn kernels, drained
2 x 400 g red kidney beans, rinsed and drained	3 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander leaves
Sour cream, to serve	grated Cheddar, to serve.

1. Preheat the oven to 210°C (200 if fan forced). Rinse the sweet potatoes, then pierce with a small, sharp knife. Place them on a baking tray and bake for 1 – 1 ½ hours, or until soft when tested with a skewer or sharp knife.
2. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large saucepan and cook the onion over medium heat for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until very soft and golden. Add the garlic and spices and cook, stirring, for 1 minute.
3. Add the tomatoes and stock, stir well, then add the vegetables and beans. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer, partially covered, for 20 minutes. Uncover, increase the heat, and cook for a further 10-15 minutes, or until the liquid has reduced and thickened. Stir in the coriander leaves just before serving,
4. To serve, cut the sweet potatoes in half lengthways. Spoon the vegetable mixture over the top, add a dollop of sour cream and sprinkle with cheese. Serve immediately with fresh coriander.



Joe

Parmesan minute steaks with garlic spinach. Serves Four. (If you are cooking for two halve all measurements.)

3 cups (240g) finely grated parmesan
cracked black pepper
8 x 100g thin beef minute steaks (I use scotch fillet from Woolies)
olive oil
45g butter
6 cloves garlic, sliced
1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
200g baby spinach leaves
sea salt & cracked pepper

- Combine parmesan and pepper in flat dish - press both sides of steak in the mixture
- Heat oil in pan and cook steak for 30 seconds each side or until browned - place on warmed plates
- Add butter garlic and lemon rind cook until garlic is golden. Add spinach salt & pepper toss until wilted (the spinach, not you).
- Serve the steaks with garlic spinach and potato chips, mashed potato or whatever takes your fancy at the time.



Kitchen hint: The perfect soft-boiled egg every time, put room temperature egg in cold water, bring to the boil for six minutes (elapsed time from when you turn on the heat until finish), works every time.

Len

Items of interest taken from Monday Missives since the last Messenger

I have chosen items from the last 3 months that I think are milestones in our journey since the last Messenger. They are taken in monthly sequence – not in any order of priority or importance.

4 November 2019

Classic Yass Shed Shop

Once again, Roger and Allan Carey manned the Shed Shop at Classic Yass. They were assisted throughout the day by Peter Davidson, Len McGuigan and yours truly. We also received offers of help from Alan Tindale, Mike Poulton, Terry Rudd and Brian Drew. Sincere thanks to all!

It was a very good day the overall takings being \$782 and when the \$30 payment for the site is deducted, a net \$752 – pretty good, really.



There were heaps of good things for sale and if Christmas is a bit of a challenge, I suggest you look at our in house Shed Shop – you might find some good things for the family. The one item that really “floated my boat” is Roger’s timber boom box which amplifies the sound from a mobile phone (no batteries, electronics etc) – just magical. If you are interested, ask Roger for a demo and get your orders in!

Another Footnote on R2

I received this note out of the blue from a Bob Southam:

“Mr Stuart,

I have come across your obituary for Richard Rowan from 2018. Richard was an old school friend who lived at Hornsby Heights, and we go back to primary school at Our Lady of the Rosary, Waitara then St Leos College, Wairoa. Legacy played a big role in his life along with his brother.

He was a flying winger in our school rugby teams, on the athletics team and also a quickish right arm bowler. He had attended some of our class reunions in recent years held at the Blue Gum Hotel, Waitara and had numerous and quite stunning stories to tell.

I am glad he came across your group in the later years of his life.”

I replied, gave him a little of R2's history with us and offered him a copy of Richard's recipe book which he was very quick to accept. I posted it and received the following note a couple of days later:

"Wayne, book received thanks, it looks good and I will do my best to do justice to Richard's work and will pass it around at our reunion coming up on 16/11. Please send me the men's shed bank details so that I can make a donation. Thanks again, Bob Southam."

Naturally, I have very quickly sent our Bank Account details! No action so far – but stand by. (still nothing: ws 31/1/20)

11 November 2019

Visit by the Mayor and YVC General Manager

On Thursday afternoon (7/11) we had the benefit of a visit from Mayor Rowena Abbey and YVC General Manager Chris Berry. We also had some very welcome and supportive representatives of Yass Landcare in attendance →.

We had invited them to come to the Shed for a regular catch up with what we are doing and our plans for the future – ALSO to reassure them that we are looking after the place and improving it.

The main purpose of the visit was for us (Graeme Fountain and Peter Davidson) to give them a fulsome briefing on the Bush Tucker Garden project.



They were both very receptive and interested and seemed to think it would do the good things for Yass that we also think are likely benefits and spin offs (another visitor attraction, educational possibility, visual amenity, measurable improvements in fauna and flora at that end of town etc).

The main take away, I think, was Council's openness for us to proceed and a willingness to trust our judgment and any decisions we might take along the way.

On behalf of all Shed members, many thanks to Rowena and Chris for taking the time to visit and engage with us.

18 November 2019

Cancelling of Yass Home Living Support Service on 31/3/2020

Considerable discussion and expressions of strongly held concern and disappointment with the way this decision had been made by Council, especially the lack of consultation with affected groups and volunteers in the Community (and Shed) has occurred in the last week. A number of members have family and friends likely to be, in some cases, seriously adversely affected by this decision.

It seems that the only communication with affected people and groups and volunteer drivers was that these services would no longer be available or drivers would not be needed from the end of March. Shed members have urged the Committee to consider intervening as a community group in an attempt to have the decision reversed, or, at minimum

to have it properly explained and the proposals to replace very much needed community services in Yass put in place effectively before the deadline.

Following these discussions and urgings, the Shed Committee decided to prepare a formal Petition to Council and the Council Administration seeking the rescinding of that decision on the basis that it appears to run counter to NSW legal requirements of Councils and also that Council should be providing services that the community wants and needs, not looking solely to the costs (losses) such services might accrue.

The Committee and members are acutely aware that the Shed has been and is very strongly and positively supported by Council and we are very grateful for that support. We hope this intervention will not adversely affect our ongoing very positive mutual relationship with Council.

The Petition is available on the coffee tables in the *Kay Lemon Room* for signatures. We hope to finalise it and present it to Council in time for Council's 27 November Meeting.

Visit by Hannah Sparks from the Yass Trib

Hannah attended on last Thursday afternoon for a catch up with what we are doing and our plans for the near future.

The main purpose of her visit was for us, and especially Graeme Fountain, to give her a briefing on the Bush Tucker Garden project – which, last week, was supported by the Mayor and the YVC General Manager when they visited the Shed.

Hannah was very receptive and interested and we explained the good things for Yass that we think are likely benefits and spin offs (another visitor attraction, educational possibilities, visual amenity improvement on the entrance to North Yass, measurable improvements in fauna and flora populations at that end of town etc).



Hannah Sparks (Yass Trib) getting the low down from Graeme Fountain and David Campbell on the Bush Tucker Garden

On behalf of all Shed members, many thanks to Hannah for taking the time to visit and engage with us. We look forward to a BIG SPLASH in the Yass Tribune coming your way soon.

YVMS/Landcare Bush Food and Medicinal Garden



A couple of weeks ago, I asked members if anyone could help Graeme Fountain out by making a couple of “kneeling pads” to facilitate the coming planting frenzy in the Bush Tucker Garden.

There were no responses to that call – HOWEVER – ALDI had these items → for sale last Saturday at a price that we could not have made them for – so we now have 3 of them ready for the planting and related activity.



Members we need to celebrate and thank

Two new “signs” have gone up at the Shed in the last week.

The Committee has agreed to us awarding an annual “gong” to that year’s most valuable member for his efforts that have resulted in the Shed being a much better place for all members. The Committee also agreed that we go back and make the award for each year that we have been operating (ie from 2008).

The new YVMS Exemplar Perpetual Trophy → is hanging in the *Kay Lemon Room* next to the Dart Board and beside it is a brief explanation supporting the award for each recipient member so far. Take the time to have a look, you will appreciate these blokes a lot more afterwards, I assure you.

The other sign → appears above the door into the room between the Containers. That room will now be known as “*THE NASH-COX WING*”.

It has been installed to acknowledge the significant effort made by Bob and Trevor to further enhance the place and provide another very useful space.

If you are wondering what is driving this stuff, I think we need to recognise and acknowledge work quietly (well, sometimes!) being done by blokes all over the place while the rest of us are enjoying the fruits of their labours and sitting around eating cake.

25 November 2020

Cancelling of Yass Home Living Support Service from 31/3/2020

Considerable discussion and expressions of strongly held concern and disappointment with the way this decision had been made by Council, especially the lack of consultation with affected groups and volunteers in the Community (and Shed) has continued in the last week. A number of members have family and friends likely to be, in some cases, seriously adversely affected by this decision – I hope you saw last Friday’s article in the Trib in which Len and Pat McGuigan give their side of the story from the point of view of Yass Home Living Support volunteer drivers and also of people hoping the service will be there for them when the time comes.

Allan McGrath and I will be presenting the Men’s Shed Petition on this issue to Council today (Monday). At the time of writing, we have well over 200 hundred signatures of Shed Members, residents and ratepayers. I hope Councillors and Council Administrators will take note that the citizens of Yass want Council to deliver a town which focuses on the wellbeing and comfort of all ratepayers – AND is actively supportive of community activity (eg Classic Yass) that brings business and visitors to the town in large numbers and makes us a much better place!

Here is another exchange with Council which deserves a big pat on the back for Jack Child.



Subject: Working Together for our Community

Dear Mr Berry,

"Working Together for our Community"

As our shire motto suggests, I would think it the duty of Yass Valley Council to work towards this. I am, of course, referring to the recent council decision to cease its involvement in community services.

I presume that you are, in part, responsible for this most unfortunate and unkind change in our community.

Not only will there be an adverse affect on those who benefited from community services, there will also be a very negative effect on those volunteers who give of themselves to support our community. Services such as these are a large part of what binds a community together, and the Yass community will be diminished by this decision.

regards, Jack Child

On 22/11/19 9:03 am, Chris Berry wrote:

Jack

Thank you for your email.

Council became involved in providing community services at a time when there were no organisations available to take up the Federal and State funding on offer. In more recent times more operators have emerged to undertake these type of services.

Council continues to support the provision of community services for the Yass Valley community but recognises that it may no longer be best placed for efficient and effective service delivery. Consequently negotiations have commenced with several other existing providers of community services in Yass Valley with a view to transfer the delivery of services so that they continue into the future for the citizens of Yass Valley. Any such transfer will be subject to endorsement of the State and Federal funding bodies.

I trust this clarifies Council's decision. Happy to discuss further if necessary.

Chris Berry | General Manager | **Yass Valley Council**

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E: Chris.Berry@yass.nsw.gov.au | W: www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au

From: Jack Child <jackchild.37@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Working Together for our Community

Dear Mr. Berry and Members of Council, thank you for your prompt response.

Given the appalling record of service delivery by for-profit organisations, particularly aged care, I cannot believe that anyone can see a positive outcome for this mis-adventure.

Furthermore, 'better efficiency' has always been government's rationale for privatisation. The point they neglect to communicate is that the recipients of these efficiencies are rarely the people being served. Rather, the benefits are passed along to shareholders, managers and owners..

I would like to believe that something other than a negative outcome for the Yass community is likely, but I cannot.

With that in mind, please look at the current system instead, and consider how it might be improved.

kind regards, Jack Child



Graeme Fountain, Peter Davidson and yours truly met with Chris Beck in his yard yesterday (Sunday 24/11) to discuss and source a large untrimmed tree and a large log for our Bush Tucker Garden to be used to promote bird and insect establishment in the garden and also to act as a “bush bee hotel”. Chris now knows what we want and will deliver those items to the garden when he finds what we are looking for.

2 December 2019

Cancelling of Yass Home Living Support Service from 31/3/2020

We lodged our Petition with Council on Monday 25 November and have received a request for clarification from the General Manager.

I have sent the following notice to the Yass Trib Addressing the GM’s concerns and it has also appeared on our Shed Facebook page and on the Community Facebook page.

Here is that same note for members of the Shed who signed the Petition:

The Yass Valley Men’s Shed recently coordinated a Petition to the Yass Valley Council seeking to have its recent decision to cease providing Yass Home Living Support Services with effect from the end of March 2019.

That Petition, containing **316** names of Men’s Shed Members and Members of the wider Yass Valley Community, was lodged with Council on Monday 25 November 2019.

Chris Berry, the General Manager of Yass Valley Council has advised that the Petition does not fully comply with Council Petition Policy in that it is not made totally clear to signatories on each signing page what the Petition is about and the actual request being made to Council. He asked us to take steps to ensure that all signatories have been so advised.

This letter is intended to ensure that all signatories of that Petition are aware that:

1. The Petition refers to Council’s decision to cease providing Home Living Support Services from 31 March 2020; and
2. Requests Council to consider rescinding that decision.

Wayne Stuart, Secretary
Yass Valley Men’s Shed
30 November 2019

Brief visit by Wendy Tuckerman MP

Wendy and Alicia called at the Shed on Monday last (25/11), so Wendy could collect her two bowls, made for her by Roger Holgate (knitting bowl) and Tony Warren (Large fruit bowl). She asked if they could be made for her on her last visit.

Wendy very generously made a donation of \$150 for the two bowls, so our funds remain in good order.



Here are the relevant people, smiling for the camera. If you have access to such things, Wendy’s facebook page apparently has a couple of good entries on the visit and reporting her happiness with the two bowls.

Jim's Termite and Pest Control – Yass

Glen Wynn called at the Shed on Thursday afternoon.

I showed him over the place, at the end of which, he gave me some business cards concerning his ability to come to your place and exterminate your pests.

BUT THE BIG BIT OF INFO IS: if you engage him and mention that you heard of his service through the Men's Shed, he will donate \$20 to the Shed for each job he gets that way.



He suggested the average job costs about \$220. If you lose this email, there are some of his cards (with contact details) on the Fridges in the Shed.

Priceless Heirloom Saved

You might have noticed that our original roadside YVMS Shed sign (which was designed, made and painted by our very first President, Paul Haslam) has been brought out again to grace the side of Yass Valley Way and alert passers-by that we are open for business.

It has been lovingly stored in the Shed (under cover and protected from the elements) in recent times in an attempt to preserve one of the iconic and historical items that are important to members.

HOWEVER, it has recently been reported to me that there is a nefarious plan afoot to either dismantle it and use the various components for other purposes, or (shock horror) take it to the Tip because it is taking up room and is not used or appreciated.

NOT ON MY WATCH!

We have enough destruction of good things going on in this town already – this would clearly be a step too far!



Shed Finances not looking too shabby

Allan Carey has been keeping tabs on how sales of items at the various places he, Roger, Clarrie and occasionally, some other members attend to sell our workshop output have been going.

Sales (since the end of 2016 to now) at the Rotary Markets, Classic Yass and the Gunning Craft outlet have grossed \$1,248.50. Of course there are some costs associated with those sales, but a pretty terrific effort, don't you agree?

Well done and many thanks to all the members who produce items for sale and who then help with the selling!

YVMS Christmas Party

The Highly Regarded and Traditionale YVMS Chrissy Bashe – 2019 turned out to be a great and raging success story.



We managed to meet and exceed (??) our planned for 50 attendees on the night. Several members and partners had to bail out late, but others found they were available after all and helped keep the numbers very healthy. My thanks to all of you who made it a very good night.

In particular, special plaudits and thanks to **Grant Johnston** who investigated, negotiated, promulgated (facebook) and facilitated probably the best Chrissy Bashe so far. I have made this judgement on the basis that everyone thought that the food was excellent, the venue, while a bit noisy, was ideally suited to our need (anywhere you pack 50+ people in is going to be noisy – although the decibels diminished significantly when the food arrived!)

I have not had one person mention any negative related to the event at all – it seems everyone had a great time and experience. Let me tell you, that is a FIRST!!

Many of the attendees at the end of the night (and since) have opined that it seems a bit sad that we have to wait 12 months until we have another event of that kind. Stand by while concepts, ideas, plans, suggestions, etc are all received, considered, ruminated upon and then decided – at which point YOU will be the first to know.

We have prepared a formal YVMS Certificate of Appreciation for the owner (Mark) and the Bistro Manager on the night (Carly) and it will probably be presented on Tuesday (tomorrow).

Restoring an important piece of history



Michael Smith from the Wee Jasper Public School recently delivered to the Shed this historic remembrance board of Wee Jasper locals who fought (2 of whom died) in WWI ←. It must be close to 100 years old and needed some repairs and refurbishment. Allan Carey took on this challenge and it now looks fantastic →.

Michael and a great grand-daughter of H J Carey (whose name is on the board) called and collected it last Tuesday and they were both very happy with Allan's restoration job. Michael also left a generous personal (ie not from the School) donation.



Award for Geoff Atkinson

As most of you know, Geoff had a pretty terrible year in 2019 – a series of cancer diagnoses, several trips to hospital, several depression attacks and many falls etc. I think that it is amazing how he keeps bouncing back and comes to the Shed to do kitchen cleaning and providing other assistance etc.

The Committee has voted (unanimously) to give a “Most popular Shed member, 2019” award to Geoff last Thursday. Several members, Allan McGrath, Grant Johnston, Chris Smith and Peter Davidson (+ me) took Geoff to lunch at the Clubhouse Hotel and Allan made the presentation.



Geoff was very pleased with the recognition – in my view this is all about what Men's Sheds do!

YVMS Bushfire Appeal – 2020

Following on from our Drought Appeal in 2018, we have another disaster on our hands with these terrible bushfires.

The Lions Clubs of Australia has a project as follows:

LIONS CLUBS REPLACING WATER TANKS DESTROYED IN NSW BUSHFIRES TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY

How can you help?

Your Lions Club and Lions Family can help by donating \$3,000 to LCIF for 1 Water Tank and pump delivered and installed to these families.

A Lions logo and the name of the donating Club will be stencilled onto the tank.



We have been in contact with Ray Hill the President of the Yass Lions Club and he has advised that if we wish to purchase a tank to be gifted to a needy person or family, then all we have to do is raise \$3,000. Piece of cake – we have done it before! He also tells me that the tank we provide will be inscribed with the name of the donor, ie **Yass Valley Men's Shed**.

We hope to raise the \$3,000 in 3 ways:

1. A significant donation of more than \$1,600 from the YVMS Exercise Group who actually kicked this idea off by asking us how they might get money to the Bushfire victims effectively;
2. Donations from members - \$10 each from 100 members will raise \$1,000;
3. The Shed will make up the shortfall from our Projects Account – can you think of a better project to help people coming into 2020 with nothing – not even water?

Should we raise more than the \$3,000 target amount, we will then decide how to apply those extra donations to bushfire victims.

If you wish to donate there are two ways:

1. There will be a donations box, clearly marked, on the coffee table in the *Kay Lemon Room* next time you call into which you can place your donation (\$10 or more will be terrific, but any amount will be most welcome); or
2. You can donate on line by electronic funds transfer (EFT):
 - BSB: 032-771
 - Account No: 213983
 - Account Name: Yass Valley Men's Shed
 - Feel free to enter your name if you wish – we will not be issuing receipts unless specifically requested – your Bank Account will do that for you.

Please note that **this is a special account we are using for this Appeal** – please do not pay your donation into another YVMS Account Number that you might have for the Shed (eg, the Membership Account). We might miss your donation if that happens.

Since announcing this project on Saturday morning, we already have donations received into our Bank Account totalling \$350. Fanbloodytastic!! Keep up the good work, chaps!

13 January 2020

YVMS Bushfire Appeal – 2020 - Update

Last Saturday week (4 January) we kicked off an appeal to try to raise \$3,000 to purchase a 5,000 gallon tank for installation (including pump, plumbing etc) for a family who have lost their water supply somewhere in the firegrounds. This is an initiative of the Lions Clubs of Australia and we have been permitted to make this donation and have a tank installed somewhere with our good wishes AND with our name on it.

Amazingly, we received just over \$3,000 in the first 5 days! Our very sincere thanks to all our very generous donors. We had multiple donors giving \$100 each and even more offering \$50 each – this is how we got there so fast. A couple of even BIGGER reasons that we got there quickly is the donation of \$1,650 received from the **YVMS Exercise Group** and also that one of our more talented members, **Keith Chappell**, has been Busking for Bushfire Relief in Dickson and Yass and he has managed single-handedly, to raise \$521.85.

Total YVMS Bushfire Appeal collection so far is: **\$3,267.25**

Not bad in only 1 week!!

We have met the \$3,000 Tank Challenge “in a canter” to quote someone whose name I forget.

So, now we move to phase 2. After the 2013 Cobblers Road/Childowla fires south of Yass, The Men's Shed donated, cooked and served a number of meals on site for all the BlazeAid Volunteers who were camped at Bookham and who spent long days cleaning up and rebuilding fences. We also built 5 tool boxes to help BlazeAid secure and more easily manage star picket driver machines and spares etc.

We know that BlazeAid has already started similar bushfire recovery work in northern NSW and Queensland and will be setting up in areas where fires are still burning as soon as it is safe to do so. A camp at Braidwood has already been established ready to start work. Rebuilding fences is an essential first step to help landowners start to rebuild their businesses and to secure their surviving stock.

Accordingly, **we are now calling for donations so we can make a contribution to BlazeAid** to help them with the many calls on their resources. If you can help, there are two ways to do so:

1. Drop off your donation at the Men's Shed in the donation box on the coffee table, or, if it's a cheque, you can leave it in the letterbox; or
2. **You can donate on line by electronic funds transfer (EFT):**
 - BSB: 032-771
 - Account No: 213983
 - Account Name: Yass Valley Men's Shed

What goes around, comes around and we have a long way to go before this fire season is over. Let's see if we can double the donations!

Update from Mayor Rowena Abbey on the Yass Home Living Support Service Issue

"Update on the transfer of Community Services 20 December 2019

Three specialist service providers, all with an established local presence, will be referred by Council to the State and Federal Governments as suitable organisations to undertake the transfer of community services in the Yass Valley.

In October, Council determined to commence negotiations with alternate accredited service providers to take over the operation of its community services functions.

Expressions of Interest were received from three organisations that currently operate within the Yass Valley – Valmar, Goodwin Aged Care Services and Community Services #1. All three were able to demonstrate they had the experience and capacity to undertake the services. The organisations also indicated, in their submissions, that all staff, volunteers and programs could be accommodated within their framework with a willingness to continue the Council services as they are currently operating while also working with clients on any potential improvements.

The expressions of interest have been forwarded to the Transport for NSW, Department of Social Services Australia and Southern NSW Local Health District as being suitable organisations to continue the provision of community services in the Yass Valley.

"After thorough interviews and discussions with the three organisations, Council agreed that all were capable and experienced in running programs funded by the State and Federal Government agencies and we have referred them to the funding bodies to do their own diligence work in determining the best option," Yass Valley Mayor, Rowena Abbey said.

"These services will not be stopped nor will they be lost to the community. All of these organisations indicated they would carry on, expand upon and be able to deliver a wider range of services to the community, including the continuation of the Friday Club and transport assistance."

Mayor Abbey thanked the community for its advocacy in regards to this important matter, including a petition lodged by the Yass Valley Mens Shed, which was received at the December 18 meeting of Council.

Council hopes the relevant funding bodies will make a decision in early 2020. The Yass Valley community will be kept up-to-date on the process every step of the way."

20 January 2020

First Wednesday Morning Tea in February (5/2/2020)

To kick off our year of morning teas - there will be a presentation by Al Phemister who wants to start a conversation and explore what we can do as individuals, households, community groups, Schools and businesses to improve our impact on our local environment. He will also talk about what our council can do, and how we can encourage them to do more. There is opportunity to do something, or to do more. Al will concentrate on what we can do here in Yass.

In case there are some of you a little unclear about this presentation, allow me to provide further clarification:

It will NOT be:

- a rant about climate change in a political sense. We are experiencing extraordinary times and if there are some things we can do to improve OUR OWN lives and help improve local management and our LOCAL environment, then this presentation will seek to answer those questions – AI is not looking to change the world;
- A presentation on the science of climate change, coal, CO2, Adani etc etc. If you want that info all you have to do is Google it!
- a soap box opportunity for anyone (AI or anyone else) to espouse political views or to discuss any contested issues that we see debated in the media and politics more broadly. If anyone tries to “blow up” this presentation by making it political they will be firmly asked to stop or leave. We DO NOT DO POLITICS in our Shed!

It WILL Be:

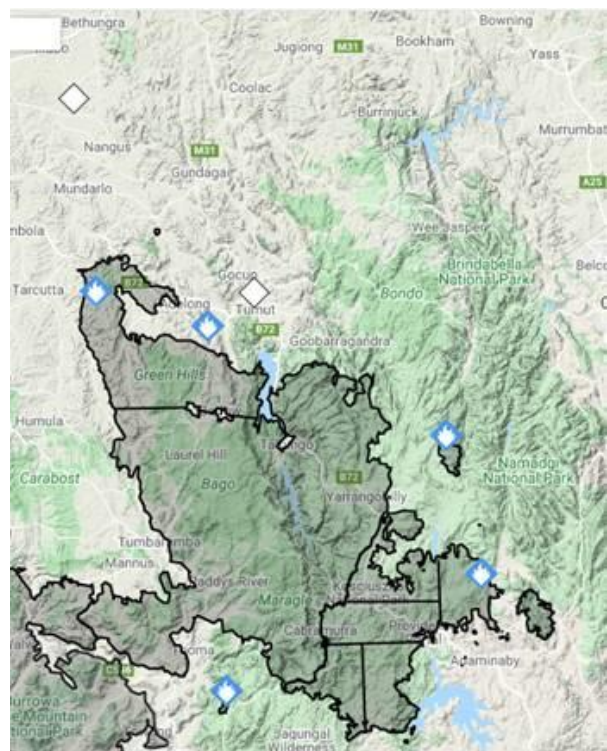
- Concentrating closely on how individuals in Yass can make modest changes to our lives to help improve our situation, improve recycling, perhaps reduce your costs and ultimately improve the way WE treat our environment and planet – it is all about how can I help - what can I do?!
- Open to all members, wives/partners etc (I think we already have 2 confirmed women wanting to come – and very welcome to do so);

This will be our first interesting, informative and dare I say IMPORTANT presentation of 2020. If the “summer” so far is any indication, I suggest absolutely EVERYONE in this nation needs to know how every one of us can help improve things and combat our slippery slope to climate disaster (personal view). I struggle to think of a more appropriate way to start Shed conversations in 2020.

Wednesday 4 March: Great ideas of 2020 #1 – proposed Bus trip to help bushfire affected businesses (Grant Johnston)

Grant has proposed (and made initial inquiries and arrangements) that we go on a YVMS bus tour to the fire affected areas in southern NSW to provide a bit of support to those communities. The suggestion and potential arrangements currently look like this:

- When: Wednesday 11 March 2020
- Timing: Leave from the Yass Clubhouse Hotel carpark between 8 and 8.30am and arriving back into town around dinner time that night (about 6pm or 6.30 (ish).
- The Plan: drive to a number of towns which are suffering from the impacts of fires and spend some time AND SOME MONEY in them to show support. The idea is to visit places in this map→ – if you have good ideas about destinations, please let us know. At this point we are thinking of stopping for morning tea in Tumut and lunch in Batlow or Tumbarumba or Adaminaby or similar. If you know the area and have better ideas, help us out with some suggestions.
- The Bus: Mark (the Clubhouse proprietor – who put on such a fantastic night for us for our Christmas Party) will lend us the hotel’s bus for the day – all we have to do is look after it, return it clean and fuelled up (there will be a \$10 donation by each passenger to cover fuel costs). The bus seats 16. Grant holds a rigid vehicle licence and is more than competent and capable to drive us.



- The Rules: it would be churlish to take a bus trip to another pub – so pubs are OUT for lunch etc on the day. However, you will get your chance for a beer and a good pub meal – we will have a non-obligatory dinner in the Clubhouse Hotel when we return.
- Eligible passengers: this is a YVMS outing. Apologies, but only signed up and financial members will be able to enjoy the outing. Our Shed Insurance covers members on events such as these. Given the limited seats, bookings will be accepted on a first in basis. We will have a list of reserves in case a booked member has to pull out for some reason closer to the day. Send me your booking NOW by return email! If we don't get good bookings, we will try to think of something else – there will be a break-even point for the trip.

Money will come later, AND, speaking of money, be sure to take cash money in case TELSTRA and/or the NBN haven't got around to reconnecting EFT arrangements in businesses in some of these destinations.

Great ideas of 2020 #2 – Polo Shirts with YVMS Logo (Grant Johnston)

Grant has suggested that we could really make a splash (and might be remembered fondly) in some of the fire affected towns that we are trying to support if we were to have YVMS polo shirts to wear on the day.

This example → is only to help you imagine what they might look like.

Grant is looking online for good deals and prices and I will ask the lady at the business in Comur Street who supplied and did the logos on our caps, what sort of a deal she might be able to do for us.

We have been asked to think about some other YVMS clothing options on various occasions, so this might be a time to actually do something about it?

There will be NO OBLIGATION on anyone to acquire or wear such a polo shirt.

The other (big bonus) thing to think about is you won't have to go through your wardrobe every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday wondering what to wear to the Shed!!



Grant and I will let you know when we have more news about our investigations. In the meantime, let me know if you think this is a good idea? Would you buy one if they were available? What "Shed" colour would you prefer (dusky blue, dusky green etc?). I expect there will be some "wrinkles" in purchasing these things – we will need to estimate numbers and a variety of sizes and we will need to order reasonable numbers to get the cost per unit down. Send me your responses, comments, views, orders etc.

27 January 2020

YVMS Bushfire Appeal – 2020 - Update

The Yass Valley Men's Shed has been collecting donations so that at least one family will be helped significantly in the recovery from the recent and continuing devastating bushfires in New South Wales.

In the first 5 days of collecting, more than \$3,000 has been collected, and on Tuesday 21 January, the President (Allan McGrath) and Vice President (Roger Holgate) of the Yass Valley Men's Shed handed over \$3,000 to the President (Ray Hill) and Secretary (Lyn Rudd) of the Lions Club of Yass.



In making the handover, Allan McGrath recalled that the Lions Club of Yass had been a critical part of the successful establishment of the Men's Shed and a strong and continuing bond of mutual support had been a feature of our two organisations since 2008.

The donation will be applied to purchasing, delivery to site and installing a 25,000 litre water tank (complete with all plumbing, a concrete pad, a pump and the tank will be filled with water). The Lions Club International Foundation has a broad based program in which "Lions Clubs will be replacing water tanks destroyed in NSW bushfires to families with children and the elderly".

The Yass Valley Men's Shed sincerely thanks all donors to this project and the Lions Club of Yass in helping us deliver the assistance. Any additional donations received by the Shed will be forwarded to BlazeAid to help with replacement of destroyed fencing following the very extensive fires.

We are now calling for donations so we can make a contribution to BlazeAid to help them with the many calls on their resources. If you can help, there are two ways to do so:

3. Drop off your donation at the Men's Shed **in the donation box on the coffee table**, or, **if it's a cheque, you can leave it in the letterbox**; or

4. **You can donate on line by electronic funds transfer (EFT):**

- BSB: 032-771
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What goes around, comes around and we have a long way to go before this fire season is over. Let's see if we can double the donations!

The current status of this BlazeAid collection is: \$3,313.45 which includes approx \$850 passed on by Keith Chappell our resident busker in donations from a very generous public, \$95 from the YVMS Exercise Group (in addition to their earlier donation of \$1,650). We have also received a single donation of \$2,000 and nother of \$200 from private individuals (ie not Shed members). We will continue to monitor activity and close off the project when we consider it is starting to give you all donation fatigue. In the meantime, it is a continuing fantastic effort and many thanks to each one of you! Taking into account the \$3,000 we have already forwarded to the Lion Club – we have raised **\$6,313.45!**

Change of First Wednesday Morning Tea Provider. Yass Valley Bakery has advised they won't be providing morning tea in 2020. **Our new provider each month will be Woolworths** who have promised to give us what we need each month. A new sign will appear on the Thank You Board at the front of the Shed shortly. Come along on Wednesday 5 Feb to see what Woolies supplies, hear Al Phemister and enjoy some good times with mates.

More happy customers

Just before Christmas, a bloke called Peter Middleton dropped into the Shed with a challenge and a tall tale of postal disaster.

It seems his wife had ordered some expensive things from Perth and when they were delivered, the Postie found they would not fit in the letterbox (small one in the photo), so being an inventive and problem solving type, the Postie dropped them safely inside the gate.

Unfortunately, their dog found the parcel and when Peter and his wife returned there was not much of the expensive contents of the parcel to be found.

They decided that they needed a more capable letterbox and challenged us to see if we could do it. Mac McLean took on the challenge and here it is →



Not too bad for a Treasurer!! Apologies for the picture quality – I had to take a photo of this photo on Peter's phone.

They were so happy with Mac's efforts that Peter and his wife have made a donation to the Shed of \$200!

By the way, the small sand coloured letterbox you see to the right of the new sparkly white one is now "free to a good home". Let me know if you are interested and I will put you in touch with Peter.

A thought to ponder, perhaps?

A bird sitting on a tree branch is never afraid of the branch breaking, because his trust is not on the branch but on his own wings. Always believe in yourself.

Another thought to ponder?

Who among us who is folically challenged, is known to have rubbed in some Yates Garden Hormone Growth factor #10 recently, and then raced out into what passes for rain in recent times to see if it was actually rain? →

First prize for identifying this paragon of style and beauty wins an all expenses paid trip to the next First Wednesday Morning Tea with this vision of loveliness. He might even pass on his secrets to looking like Louis XIV if you are nice to him!



YVMS Projects

Yass Bush Food Garden. This is a long held ambition by the Shed and now is tarting to be delivered. There are a number of reports in the Monday Missive Section above. At the time of writing, we have lodged a Grant Application with the NSW Community Development Program and are awaiting news. Yass Valley Council has provided formal approval for us to relay to NSW that they, as the land owner, supports the project.

Creative Gunning is an outlet for interesting items for sale in Yass Street Gunning (in the foyer of the old picture theatre a couple of doors back from Baileys Garage). This is proving to be a very good money spinner for the Shed and some members as well. If you would like some of your wares to be included (either ones you have made for the Shed at the Shed using Shed resources) to sell, or things you have made at home for private sale, talk to Roger Holgate or Allen Carey.

Bottles and cans recycling at Woolies

This is also proving a good little earner for us. So far by my estimation, we have managed to earn well around \$750 thanks to Allan Carey who has decided to do the depositing for us. In recent times he has been joined by Peter Davidson who seems to have "caught the bug" If anyone else would like to lighten Allan's load, please let me know. Keep bringing those cans and bottles chaps!

Membership News

Membership At the end of the 2018/19 Financial Year, our membership which had reached 114 fell back to 93 with some members not renewing. However, since then our numbers have come back quite strongly and we are back up to 102 financial members.

We have signed up one new member since the last Messenger, Col Tonkin who is proving to be an active and engaged member with lots of good ideas, especially on safety and good management practices in our Shed. We are ALWAYS open to all suggestions for improvements and better ways to do things.

The Yass Valley Men's Shed is very grateful for the generous support of the following entities (in alphabetical order):

BarkerHarle (Consulting Engineers); Chris Beck Tree Removal; Bunnings (Belconnen); Dreamtime Connections; Goodradigbee Bookkeeping; KidsBlitz (aka Allan McGrath); the Lansdowne Foundation; Millers Pharmacy, Yass; Minister Katrina Hodgkinson, (former State Member for Burrinjuck); Pollack Concreting Services; Priceline Pharmacy Yass; Scorgie Earthmoving; Southern Cable Services; Steve Bugden Plumbing; Supa IGA (Yass); Touie Smith Jnr; Yass Concrete; Yass & District Printing; Yass Fire Brigade; YassFM; Yass Freemasons; Yass Lions Club; Yass Outdoor Power Centre; 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://www.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 up some YVMS archaeology.

Wayne Stuart 0419 292 022