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# YVMS MATTERS

(aka "The Messenger")

No 2 of 2017

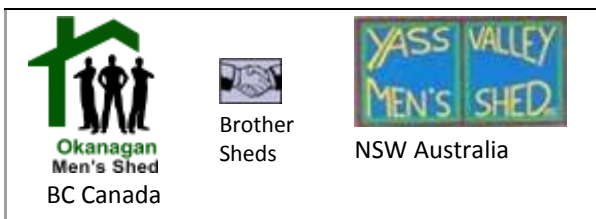
*YVMS acknowledges the Ngunnawal people on whose land we meet and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present*

March 2017  
Date: 1/3/17

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 meditating upon:

**"Fifty Shades of Grape"**

~ Roadside Sign at the Murrumbateman Winery

## Shed Committee

President: Bob Nash 0418 691 423  
 Vice President: Roger Holgate 0428 509 242  
 Secretary: Jack Child 0419 444 535  
 Treasurer: Sam Noor  
 Manager IT: Nicholas Londey  
 Member: Tony Warren  
 Messenger/Membership: Wayne Stuart (0419 292 022)

Public Officer: Brian Millett

## Editorial – from the Cave - Wayne Stuart

Chasps,

I'm a little proud of myself this month. In recent times I have been asked the question "when did Sheds first appear and which was the first?" I might have the answer to that question - have a look at the first entry in the "Scuttlebutt" section. I challenge members to do their own research and throw more light on this question.

I would like to remind members that the AGM is coming up in April. We do need to keep having fresh members, with new ideas and lots of energy, put their hand up for a position on the Committee. There is a special announcement about this later in this Messenger.

You might have noticed that I have this time included an "Acknowledgment of Country" in the Newsletter banner (above). This is common practice in Australia and I think that YVMS, too, should acknowledge our First Australians.

Finally, in line with my usual practice, I recently invited members to provide input for the Messenger - this is meant so you hear voices other than mine in the newsletter. One response took my eye in particular: **"the Shed continues to be a great resource for us non-skilled ones, without even a qualification designation, and it's always a pleasure to visit"** (Brian Millett).



WS Editor

## Message from the President - Bob Nash

Members of the SHED.

The new year is going so fast and almost 12 months since our last Annual General Meeting which will take place in April. The reason I bring this to your attention is to give serious thoughts to the shed's position in the forth coming year, by that I mean ideas for the shed to keep moving forward.

New blood is always welcomed to sit in committee so give thoughts to that position.

Our membership seems to keep growing which is a welcome sign that we must be doing the right things.

I must apologise for not attending the shed as much as I would like but moving house has been a daunting exercise, especially after 44 years in the same house and being a bit of a hoarder. The real test will come after next Wednesday.

I was very happy with the attendance for Katrina's visit to view the metal workshop and garden beds. She certainly feels at home amongst us.

Keep coming to the Shed as it is the place to be, with friends.



Regards.....BOB.

## Message from the Workshop Manager - Roger Holgate

Thanks to those members who took an interest in attending the table saw instruction and safety sessions headed up by Clarrie and Len →. Those of you who did not attend have certainly missed lots of good hints and instructions for safely using the saw and it's attachments including feather boards and sled.



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The new router table is now up and running and I invite any of you who are interested to have a run through on its operation. I propose showing no more

than two members at a time as it is too difficult for all to physically become familiar with the controls etc. when big numbers are present. I have printed up a reminder list to use when showing the features and operation of the router machine and table and will welcome you on a "first in first served" basis.

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"Thumbs up" to those who answered the call and assisted with tidying up for Katrina's recent visit.

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I have recently purchased a ½" drive ratchet and breaker bar for the socket sets along with a few missing metric sockets. This will give us a reasonably set for our type of usage and hopefully answers a recent request.

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The shed has gratefully acquired some non-slip matting for the big centre bench to be used when sanding flat timber, we all know how difficult it can be to stop the timber from sliding all over the place. **Just one word of warning**, there is a bearded gentleman who will be most upset if this matting gets contaminated with glue, paints or oils. In other words please put it away when you have finished sanding



Above is an enlarged photo of a 5/64" drill bit which I went to use recently only to find that someone has overheated it, resulting in straightening the fluting out and breaking the end off. It has then been put back into the drill set. When drilling timber, especially hardwood, work the drill in and out of the timber to remove the shavings and this should not happen. The smaller the drill the more important this seems to be.

If you do damage something please do not just put it away, write it up on the blackboard on the tool cupboard and tell someone. If you happen to be doing a personal job and this happens how about slipping up to the hardware shop and getting a replacement. Think of the next person who may come to use the tool and think of who does all the running around trying to keep things up to date.



Regards to all,  
**Roger Holgate** (aka R~~X~~1) - Vice President and Workshop Manager

### *YVMS Exercise Group - Len McGuigan*

Numbers dropped off during the hot spell, but since it has cooled down numbers are back up this week - on the 21st it was nearly standing room only.

Everyone is keen plus we have picked up some new members.

The coming year is looking good, a few new men would be good, for the group and for their own health.



Len

PS. The Exercise Group meets in the Community Centre (next to the Men's Shed) from 2 to 3pm on Tuesdays. If you want to know more, call Len on 6226 1549 or just show up on the day.

### *Upcoming AGM and election of a new Committee*

Doesn't time fly? Under our Constitutional obligation, we will hold our next AGM on Saturday 29 April at 2pm.

The AGM is usually a pretty straightforward event with little formal activity other than a couple of reports to accept.

The BIG deal is to elect a new Committee for the next 12 months. All positions are declared vacant and all members are eligible to stand for any position on the Committee. At this point, I am aware of one position (Secretary) that will be not sought again by the existing Secretary (Jack Child). But all positions are vacant on the day and we need to have members commit to help running the place, otherwise it will fail (legally as well as practically).

Some of our current Committee members have been in the management group for all or most of our 9 years of existence. This is not healthy for two reasons:

1. it is a bit of an ask to expect the place to be run by the same team forever - some of whom are now getting on in years. What happens if they move away from town or die? and
2. unless new Committee members take up the challenge, the Shed will most likely drift on into oblivion because new ideas for improving and developing the place will get fewer as the "old" guard achieves its ambitions for the place. Renewal and invigoration is very important in a community organisation like ours.

Here  is a listing of the current Committee structure:

Committee members	Position descriptions	Comments
1. President – currently Bob Nash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairman of all Committee meetings. Prime strategy and planning officer to ensure longevity and viability of the Shed.</li> <li>Main go to person for the Shed (phone contact point, perhaps spokesman on Yass FM and for interviews by the Yass Trib etc.</li> <li>Share organising of “events” with VP (eg Shed visits, garage sales, BBQs)</li> <li>Official contact for the Shed via the <a href="mailto:president@yassmensshed.org.au">president@yassmensshed.org.au</a> email address – any such contacts are usually forwarded to the Committee or a relevant member for action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have a maximum 3 face to face meetings each year.</li> <li>Prime strategy responsibility simply means to be hands-on and finger on the pulse.</li> <li>PR responsibility might mean 2 or 3 times at YassFM in a year and less than that with the Trib.</li> <li>Organising of events (1 Garage sale, 2-3 visits to the Shed – when was the last BBQ?)</li> </ul>
2. Vice President – currently Roger Holgate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist President and sit in the chair when required.</li> <li>If President is not available, sign letters and certificates of appreciation for supporters, donors etc.</li> <li>Share organising of “events” with President (eg Shed visits, garage sales, BBQs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This simply means they should both talk often on Shed things. The VP has rarely chaired a meeting in my time.</li> <li>Letters and Certificates – perhaps 6 to 12 max in a year?</li> <li>Organising of events (1 Garage sale, 2-3 visits to the Shed – when was the last BBQ?)</li> </ul>
3. Treasurer – currently Sam Noor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage Shed Finances including bank accounts.</li> <li>Oversee Grant funds management to ensure all moneys properly and appropriately expended and acquitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change from current duties and obligations.</li> </ul>
4. Secretary - currently Jack Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide secretarial preparation, management and recording/reporting of Committee meetings (both real time and virtual);</li> <li>Initiate and respond to correspondence as required</li> <li>Official contact for the Shed via the <a href="mailto:secretary@yassmensshed.org.au">secretary@yassmensshed.org.au</a> email address – any such contacts are usually forwarded to the Committee or a relevant member for action, although the Secretary should communicate directly with members s much as possible to help spread the communications load.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have a maximum 3 face to face meetings each year. Agendas and reporting are pretty much pro forma – ie not much new thought or effort required (ie just follow the recipe already in place).</li> <li>Virtual committee issues can be initiated by any committee member (the main activity here is to ensure that the issues and their outcomes are recorded and filed in the right place so we know what has happened)</li> <li>Correspondence etc is typically very light – perhaps 6 issues in a full year?</li> </ul>
5. Member – currently Wayne Stuart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership and Communications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New memberships are approved using the virtual committee meeting process (ie via email) – very tight and easy procedure – not a lot of time or effort</li> <li>Also involves keeping the Membership Register current (remove unfinancial members, add new ones)</li> <li>The main period of activity is to manage the renewal of memberships at the end of the financial year (a couple of emails to members reminding them and managing the payments of membership dues).</li> <li>Communications is mostly preparing the monthly Messenger and any announcements to members (although this latter one is strictly the Secretary role).</li> </ul>
6. Member – currently Nicholas Londey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shed IT Manager</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage and keep an eye on the IT activity. Not likely to be too heavy – it hasn’t been up to now.</li> <li>The Shed and Community Computer Program will come under this heading.</li> </ul>
7. Member – currently Tony Warren	No specific allocated duties	Tony wanted to assist in management but "without portfolio"

There are a number of duties that need review and management such as keeping an eye on our Policies and Procedures to make sure they keep pace with the Shed's activity and requirements. Also there is a need for someone to manage social things such as Seminars, development and conduct of social events (visits to other Sheds, invitations to people to come to our Shed etc). Perhaps a new Committee member might take up some of these challenges. If you want a good Shed, this stuff just has to be done.

## *What has happened since the last Messenger?*

Things that happened during February:

### Visit to the Shed by The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP



On Tuesday, 7 February, we enjoyed the long anticipated visit of one of our most respected and committed supporters, in the person of the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson, MP.

We have been looking forward to showing Katrina how we have spent the latest of the two \$10,000 NSW Government Grants that she was responsible for championing during her service as Member for Burrinjuck.

On this occasion we were able to show her the significant populating of our Metal Workshop with machines that offer a whole new dimension for members to express their skill and talent as well as offering members the opportunity to learn and develop entirely new skills and enjoyment.

Katrina, again, underscored her great admiration of the Shed movement and, in particular, her affection for Yass and our Shed and emphasised the NSW Government's commitment to Men's Sheds all across NSW.

In the photo ←, you will note that Katrina is the rose between two thorns: Deputy Mayor and Shed member, Kim Turner and President, Bob Nash.

Katrina also confided to me that a significant reason for her keenness to visit YVMS again, was the prospect of enjoying more of our famous 3☆ Chef's work in the kitchen. R2 did not disappoint and with the help of Tony (T3) Warren, Peter Roberts and Mike Poulton, this is what you missed (you can get a hint from the photo →) if you were unable to attend on the day - so don't stay away in future if you can possibly avoid it! This is what a 4 course Morning Tea looks like!

- **Starter:** Plain ham and cheese sandwiches (made by Mike)
- **Entrée:** Avocado and smoked salmon mousse, served on French bread topped with prawns and caviar. (T3 and Peter)
- **Main:** Ham and cheese salad. Rocket and baby spinach leaves tossed in a little olive oil and white wine vinegar, crumbled feta cheese and Parmesan cheese, capsicum and ham pieces with cherry tomatoes, herbs. Tossed and served. (T3 and Peter)
- **Dessert:** Strawberry surprise. Rich strawberry ice cream, marshmallows, marinated strawberries, raspberries and blueberries. Mixed berry yoghurt topped with melted almond and orange chocolate. (T3 and Peter)

Katrina and R2 are wearing our highly prized Okanagan Men's Shed aprons →. Katrina was responsible for writing a letter to her Canadian counterpart(s) some years ago, which we hope might have provided support for our brother Shed and improved political understanding of and commitment to the value of Men's Sheds in British Columbia (Canada).





We also showed Katrina the disabled access gardens the Shed has installed as a community use asset and which utilise the "wicking garden" principle.

These gardens were partly funded with NSW Grant money and also utilising a generous donation of truck mudguards made by the Wagga Wagga Men's Shed.

← You can see Katrina's amazement and single minded focus on Bob Nash as he impresses her with his expert knowledge of brown stuff and green stuff growing in it.

### New Accreditation System for Shed machines and equipment is now operating

Under new safety and accreditation rules, if you wish to operate any of the following categories of equipment at the Shed, you will need to have one or more of the following Accreditation categories printed on your name tag - after having been accredited by Roger Holgate, Len McGuigan or Clarrie Schlunke, all of whom have been approved by the Committee. Talk to Roger, Len or Clarrie about accreditation if you wish to operate machines (in any of the categories listed below at the Shed). Len has asked me to let you know that he will do accreditations at any time (including out of normal Shed hours) - just contact him as follows: Ph No: 6226 1549. email: [lpa2582@bigpond.com](mailto:lpa2582@bigpond.com)

The process is not onerous and there are no exams. All you need to do is attend for a run through on our particular machines, their idiosyncracies and quirks and also how to treat them right to keep them (and you!) operating safely and indefinitely. Once this process is complete, you will be authorised to use those machines and your name tag will ber one or more of the following accreditation codes:

**W** = Wood Working Machines; and **M** = Metal Shop Machines

- **W1 and M1** = full access to all machines and equipment
- **W2 and M2** = all battery operated or electric hand held tools (saws, sanders, grinders, drills etc)
- **W3 and M3** = fixed wood and metal cutting machines, pedestal drills, drop saws, table saws, fixed sanders etc
- **W4 and M4** = lathes and milling machines
- **W5** = other major equipment (thicknesser, table router etc)
- **M5** = welders and future other acquisitions (plasma cutters etc etc)

### Roof over Containers Project

We have good progress happening on this YVMS life-changing project.

Rob Barker's engineering business, 5QS Barker Harle, has prepared drawings → showing the proposed installation of a roof over the two containers and covering all of the space between the containers and from the containers back to the west wall of the existing Shed Workshop.

This roof will significantly expand the comfort and versatility of our Shed. We will see benefits in the temperatures in the containers being better controlled. Also, the roof over the open areas will allow us to establish under cover social areas outside as well and expanding and facilitating Workshop and project activity under cover and out of the sun/rain.



Members are invited to examine the drawings and make any comments or suggestions you feel might be helpful. the drawings are on a board which is temporarily placed on the card table in the corner of the Common room.

The next steps will be to lodge a DA with Council and then obtain quotes for the work.

We have been saving funds for this project, but until we get quotes we will not know if we have sufficient funds or if we will need to seek a grant. Stand by for news as the project progresses.

## Plan to open an additional Bank sub-account

The Treasurer (Sam Noor) is organising to open a new sub account known as "Projects" in which any funds in excess of \$2,500 currently in our General Account will be held. Donations that are given to the Shed for specific purposes such as the recent IGA (\$2,270.63) and the YVMS Exercise Group (\$400) donations will be automatically paid into the new Projects Account. The Shed regularly has projects on the drawing board and this will allow more accurate and transparent planning, management and monitoring of the capacity to fund projects and to deliver them.

This new account, when finalised, will have some \$6,800 in it and current projects on our planning board include the installation of a patio door behind the roller door to improve amenity, improve comfort on hot or cold days and reduce wind and rubbish blowing into the Shed; building of a small shed on the back wall of the wood workshop to house the suction air cleaner machine and our paint supplies; and the BIG project, to install a roof over the two containers and reaching back to the west wall of the Shed. One of our members has privately and anonymously donated \$2,000 towards this roofing project.

## *Calendar of upcoming events at the Shed (or elsewhere)*

### Thursday 2 March (ie tomorrow) 12.30pm - Planning for a wine bottling event

Some members may have noticed the appearance of a large blue plastic drum in the foyer area of the Shed late last year. For those who are not aware of the contents it contains red wine, not quite to commercial standard, donated by Dog Trap Winery. The original offer was actually up to 600 litres but as much as I love the odd glass of red that was a bit much to handle. Instead I accepted about 200 litres.

My original idea was to have a fun day for all members along with friends and family to promote fun, fellowship, to enable friends and family to see what the Shed is all about and perhaps even make a dollar for the Shed at the same time. A couple of weeks back some of us had a little taste with a mixed result. So today Wednesday, we are asking Dog Trap Winery to make a recommendation on whether to go ahead and bottle or (sob) empty it down the drain.

If we decide to proceed with the bottling we have a few logistics issues to overcome. Hence the request that any members who are interested in cheap wine and a fun day to muster at the Shed tomorrow, Thursday, at 1230 before regular Shed opening to determine the way ahead.



Please be there to have an input.

Dave Staines

Wednesday 8 March - **First (well, Second, actually) Wednesday Morning Tea 10 to 11.30am** – Dave Staines is the host and will be organising more Tasty Treats from Tanks Bakery. Don't miss it! The reason for moving the date this month is that Tank has been away and will only open his business that week - it might be a bit rude to show up expecting lots of cakes when he is just getting back into it! Dave Staines has asked me to announce the deferral by one week - good idea! I will communicate reminders to help you manage your busy diaries.

### Saturday 25 March, 2pm - **Shed Info Exchange**

This is YOUR chance to tell us what you would like to see us doing in 2017. It is also an opportunity for Shed management to let you know what we have been doing and what comes next. Be there - it could be very interesting.

### Saturday 29 April, 2pm - **YVMS Annual General Meeting**

The AGM is a meeting entirely for the purposes of meeting our legal obligations under NSW Incorporation Law. Its main purpose is to take annual reports from the Committee and elect a new Committee for the next year. Usually there is no "General Business" discussed. Should any Member want an issue discussed or decided, you need to

submit that proposal in writing to the Secretary 14 days before the meeting - ie by 15 April 2017. All organising and communications concerning the AGM are the responsibility of the Secretary (Jack Child - contact details on page 1)

**Tuesday 23 May - NSW Trustee and Guardian visiting Yass.**

If you or anyone you know wants to know more about making, updating a will or power of attorney, the NSW Trustee and Guardian will be in Yass on Tuesday 23 May for precisely this purpose. There is a large poster → on display on the inside of the door into the Common Room.

There are fees involved if you want to have a will or power of attorney prepared.

Bookings are essential if you want to attend. Phone 1300 721 601.



**R☆☆☆2's Ravishing Recipe of the Month**

Now that we've been hit with some hot weather, (well, it was hot when I submitted this recipe!), I think it's a good time to try something a little different. This recipe is quite versatile it can be served hot or cold. It can also be optioned up according to taste and availability of herbs and spices. It is great cold as a soup or alternatively served with lamb as a side or as a sauce with some garlic butter.

A good recipe website is attached at the end.

**Chilled pea, mint and lemon soup** - (serves 6)

**INGREDIENTS**

- 2 tbsp olive oil, plus extra to serve
- 3 golden shallots, finely chopped
- 600 ml chicken or vegetable stock
- 600 gm frozen peas
- ½ cup (loosely packed) mint leaves, plus extra to serve
- 2 lemons, juice only
- To serve: crème fraîche

**METHOD**

Heat oil in a saucepan over medium-high heat, add shallot and cook for 5 minutes or until soft. Add stock, bring just to the boil, remove from heat, add peas and stand for 5 minutes.

Process pea mixture in a food processor with mint until smooth, add lemon juice, season to taste with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper and refrigerate for 3 hours or until chilled. To serve, ladle soup into bowls, top with a dollop of crème fraîche, drizzle with olive oil and scatter with mint.

**Options**

- Some bacon or ham pieces for a little crunch.
- Some red capsicum, for colour
- Some chilli for spice
- Read more at <http://kitchen.nine.com.au>

Serve..... Enjoy.....



R☆☆☆2



**Membership News**

During February, Geoff Cubit and David West joined us as new members. On behalf of all members, I welcome Geoff and David to the best Men's Shed in the land! Our membership now stands at a very healthy 106.

Please go out of your way to make them welcome and help them out as necessary until they learn the ropes.

There have been some sad events for a number of our members this month as well:

- Ruben Larzabal's daughter has died after a long battle with Cancer. Our very best wishes to Ruben and Mirta at this very sad time for them;
- Brian Millett's wife, Penny, is still in hospital in Goulburn following her very bad fall back before Christmas. Prospects for her return home are still unclear and her recovery seems to be extremely slow. I am sure Brian and Penny would appreciate the support of members;
- Bruce Skillin suffered a theft of his expensive gardening machinery from the back of his (locked) ute while he was attending the funeral of his 103 year old Aunt, Agnes Skillin. If anyone has any ideas or hints about where that machinery might have gone, I am sure Bruce would like to hear from you.



- Peter Roberts recently used his Vespa Motor Scooter to assassinate a kangaroo as he returned home from work at 2am last week (yes, he has really weird work hours)! Peter initially spent time in Yass Hospital, but apart from grazing, cuts and bruising and feeling pretty sore, he otherwise was, essentially, OK. Unfortunately, he was re-admitted to hospital on Monday of last week with an infected foot wound resulting from the accident. He was subsequently released on Wednesday and is now recovering well.

He tells me he is thinking that he is probably now a former Vespa owner.

The upside to all of this (according to Peter) is that he felt pretty proud to be admitted to hospital as a result of a "young bloke's accident and injuries. There's no way I fell off a Zimmer frame!"



**Workshop Manager's Expert Advice to Shed users** (with thanks to Alf Atkin)

Tools & their uses

**HAMMER:** Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate expensive parts not far from the object we are trying to hit.

**MECHANICS KNIFE:** Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on boxes containing seats and motorcycle jackets.

**ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:** Normally used for spinning steel pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age, but it also works great for drilling mounting holes in fenders just above the brake line that goes to the rear wheel.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle; It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**WISE-GRIPS:** Used to round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your garage on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside a brake drum you're trying to get the bearing race out of.

**WHITWORTH SOCKETS:** Once used for working on older British cars and motorcycles, they are now used mainly for impersonating that 9/16" or 1/2" socket you've been searching for the last 15 minutes.

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall, upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted part you were drying.

**WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans rust off old bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench at the speed of light. Also removes fingerprint whorls and hard-earned guitar calluses in about the time it takes you to say, "Ouc ...".

**HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering a motorcycle to the ground after you have installed your new front disk brake setup, trapping the jack handle firmly under the front fender.

**EIGHT-FOOT LONG DOUGLAS FIR 2X4:** Used for levering a motorcycle upward off a hydraulic jack.

**PHONE:** Tool for calling your neighbour to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack.

**TWEEZERS:** A tool for removing wood splinters.

**SNAP-ON GASKET SCRAPER:** Theoretically useful as a sandwich tool for spreading mayonnaise; used mainly for getting dog-doo off your boot.

**E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR:** A tool that snaps off in bolt holes and is ten times harder than any known drill bit.

**TIMING LIGHT:** A Stroboscopic instrument for illuminating grease buildup.

**TWO-TON HYDRAULIC ENGINE HOIST:** A handy tool for testing the tensile strength of ground straps and brake lines you may have forgotten to disconnect.

**CRAFTSMAN 1/2 X 16-INCH SCREWDRIVER:** A large motor mount prying tool that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end without the handle.

**BATTERY ELECTROLYTE TESTER:** A handy tool for transferring sulphuric acid from a car battery to the inside of your toolbox after determining that your battery is dead as a doornail, just as you thought.

**AVIATION METAL SNIPS:** See hacksaw.

**TROUBLE LIGHT:** The mechanic's own tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop light, it is a good source of vitamin D, "the sunshine vitamin", which is not otherwise found under motorcycles at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105-mm howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.

**PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:** Normally used to stab the lids of old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splash oil on your shirt; can also be used, as the name implies, to round off Phillips screw heads.

**AIR COMPRESSOR:** A machine that takes energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 200 miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to a Chicago Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty bolts last tightened 40 years ago by someone in Blackburn, and rounds them off.

**PRY BAR:** A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

**HOSE CUTTER:** A tool used to cut hoses 1/2 inch too short...

**Very Serious and most important Scuttlebut item for March** - the emergence of Men's Sheds in Australia

On several occasions in recent times, notably on Mark "BOZ" Bosma's famous and viral YassFM Radio Show and more recently at the morning tea with the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP early in February, I have been asked to answer the question: "Where and when did the first Men's Shed in Australia appear?"

My usual response (being an intrinsically lazy type) to this question is "Who knows?" There seem to be conflicting views about the first Shed being established in South Australia, New South Wales or Victoria. However, there is little doubt that the Men's Shed idea and phenomenon is an entirely Australian one.

It has become increasingly clear to me that the question "who was first" is one that interests people and perhaps a little research and sleuthing might be worth the effort. Accordingly, I have done that research and have come up with some indications that might take this story a little further.

The challenge for you is to test my findings, do some research yourselves and give me info to update this story for the next Messenger. Here are the stories from each of those States to the best of my ability to find the history:

**Grenfell Men's Shed and Lane Cove** are regarded as the ones fighting for national honours in NSW. Here are some bits of publicly available materials on these:

Look at this link on the **Grenfell Men's Shed** website ( <http://go.grenfell.org.au/mensshed/links.html> ) if you want to read the rest of the article "How it all started" from which the following couple of opening sentences are taken:

"The **Grenfell Men's Shed: it all started in 2003** with an idea that Len Wallace had. He summoned the troops at the Exchange Hotel for a public meeting, (The pub where all the best meetings happen)". ....

Both **Lane Cove and Tongala in Victoria** get a mention in this Wikipedi entry :

" The first men's shed (by that name) was opened in Tongala, Victoria, Australia on July 26, 1998.<sup>[4]</sup> Named after its founder, Dick McGowan, the shed predates the Lane Cove Community Shed in New South Wales by just a few months, though both likely originated from ideas discussed at the National Rural Health Conference in 1995. Lane Cove Community Shed was opened in December 1998, and was founded for 'shedless' men, encouraging social activities [friendships](#), while providing vital health information to its members."

You can find this↑ item on this website: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men's\\_shed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men's_shed)

**Goolwa Men's Shed, South Australia:** This is an entry on the City of Playford, South Australia, website.



Latest News

# The newest and oldest Men's Sheds in Australia

Delegates from across Australia, New Zealand and Ireland, headed to Newcastle on 17–20 October for the National Men's Shed Conference. Mike Evans, City of Playford's Men's Wellbeing Worker attended as the City of Playford representative.

Attendees had the opportunity to visit some of the local men's sheds and their communities. Michael visited Raymond Terrace Men's Shed, Salamander Bay Men's Shed and the Fighter World Museum.

England now has 117 sheds, Scotland 38, Wales 7, New Zealand 54 and Europe, Canada and the USA 10.

In Australia, the oldest and youngest Men's Sheds are both in South Australia. Playford Men's Shed is the youngest and the Goolwa Men's Shed, the oldest, which was opened by Honourable Dean Brown on 24 February 1993.

\*As you can see from the growth of Men's Sheds

part time Aboriginal Community Development Worker, who will encourage Aboriginal men to access the Shed," Mike said.

"The Australian Men's Shed Association members are excited to hear about the new appointment and have asked to be kept updated about how the position works.

"We are also looking to create connections with the Burundian Association to engage new arrivals

You can find the full article here↓ to read more (click on the link to download a PDF document to your computer): <https://www.google.com.au/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKewjCt5y5goTSAhXGJJQKHTIUBVsQFggbMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.playford.sa.gov.au%2Fwebdata%2Fresources%2Ffiles%2F05%2520November%25202015%2520-%2520Playford%2520News.pdf&usg=AFQjCNEz2e-RHAzBpFyT44NM5LfLpiEuOA>

There you have it. According to the sources I have found, **Goolwa SA is the first** (although it may not have used the name "Men's Shed" but seems to have been influential in the idea catching on across Australia), followed by Tongala (Vic), Lane Cove and Grenfell (NSW) in that order.

If you are not totally exhausted by now and would like a little bit of extra info, YVMS opened its doors in April 2008 and had its Official Opening Ceremony on Saturday 6 September in 2008 which was conducted by the then Mayor of Yass, and YVMS Patron, Nic Carmody and attended by the then Federal and State MPs (Alby Schultz MHR - Federal) and Katrina Hodgkinson (MLA - NSW). A formal Ngunnawal smoking ceremony was conducted at the opening.

**Scuttlebut 2** - a story to make you groan out loud....

A mechanic once owned a dog named Mace. Mace had a bad habit of eating all the grass in the mechanic's lawn, so the mechanic had to keep Mace inside. The grass eventually became overgrown. One day the mechanic was working on a car in his backyard and dropped his wrench losing it in the tall grass. He couldn't find it for the life of him so he decided to call it a day. That night, Mace escaped from the house and ate all the grass in the backyard. The next morning, the mechanic went outside and saw his wrench glinting in the sunlight. Realizing what had happened, he looked up to the heavens and proclaimed...

"A grazing Mace, how sweet the hound that saved a wrench for me!"

**Scuttlebut 3** - Very useful and informative 2017 Diary

John Backhouse has secured a supply of 2017 diaries from the office of our Local Member, Pru Goward.



## 2017 Legal Topics for Older People Diary

The Legal Topics for Older People diary provides information about seniors rights, consumer law, aged care, community phone numbers and a list of agencies and services for older people.

Available in: > [English \(pdf\)](#)

Unfortunately the first supply of 20 diaries have already been snapped up by members. The good news is that John Backhouse is back on the job and is seeking a further supply. If and when they arrive, they will be in a box on or near the coffee table in the common room. I can strongly recommend them to members - they are full of interesting and valuable information of use to retired folk.

Many thanks to John for exercising his initiative.

**Scuttlebut 4** - Trouble with the NBN? Here is some advice from Len McGuigan

Lots of people are having all kinds of trouble after going on to NBN.

Home phones not working, answering machines not working, home phone not working when computer is turned off. We have had all of the above, plus lots of friends are having similar problems.

Our answering machine did not work because they switched it off and put us on to message bank which we don't have, forgot to tell us. The other problems were the same, I think they are still learning.

Phone NBN on 1800 834 273, they will fix it immediately, don't call your provider.



Len

**Scuttlebut 5** - Hero of the Month is **Peter Roberts** who, out of the goodness of his heart, offered a lost and disoriented kangaroo a lift home as a pillion passenger at 2am one morning recently.



Most of us would not do such a thing, but Peter is one of those big hearted people always thinking of others and helping out. Well done Peter!

**Scuttlebut 6** - Quote of the Month

"It's freezing and snowing in New York – we need global warming!" - Donald Trump

### *Birthdays around this time*

#### **FEBRUARY**

2/2: Anthony Lowe  
9/2: Stephe Jitts, Tony Johnstone  
10/2: Warwick Sainsbery  
18/2: Rob Simms  
19/2: Ron McGrath, Ron Barton  
21/2: Lachlan Brodrick  
22/2: Jim Wickham, Des Hore  
28/2: Geoff Atkinson, Dave Lynne

#### **MARCH**

7/3: John d'Arx, Bill Findley, Tony Warren  
9/3: Ray Armour  
10/3: Tony Lowe (snr)  
12/3: Peter Hurley  
13/3: William Grace  
15/3: James De Mestre, Chris Smith  
17/3: Ron Doyle  
25/3: Graeme Fountain  
26/3: Rick Williams  
27/3: Allan McGrath  
30/3: David Campbell

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).

### **Shed Opening Times - Please note changed opening and closing times on Thursdays and Saturdays!**

- **Tuesdays: 9am to noon.** On Tuesdays we have the VALMAR contingent attend and they enjoy the mentoring that Shed members are able to give – especially help with their projects. There is always something warm to eat on Tuesday mornings, too.
- **Thursdays: 1.30pm to 4.30pm** – normal activity (ie anything anyone wants to do – workshop, coffee and chat, garden, joke telling, etc etc)
- **Saturdays: 1.30pm to 4.30pm.** – activity same as Thursdays
- **First Wednesday of each month:** 10am to 11.30am, we have "First Wednesday Morning Tea" which is a time at the Shed for simply social-only time. No workshop activity or noise to interrupt the chat. This is a very good time to meet like minded members and to find those with whom you might have a lot in common. Tank of Tank's Bakery fame (also a member) provides cakes and pastries, gratis, for this event.
- **Last Saturday of the Month (generally around 2pm)** – an informal Info Exchange that allows members to interact with the Committee and vice versa – discussing issues and keeping everyone up to date.

### **Reward Points at Home Hardware**

You can help us a lot by giving the Shed your points when you make a purchase at Home Hardware. Just ask the cashier to "allocate the loyalty points to the Yass Valley Men's Shed". A number of members have made this a regular practice and we have benefited to the extent that we can use the funds to replenish consumables (glues, screws, sand papers etc etc from time to time). Think about it and help us out – please. **It IS worth it.**

## Tuesday Exercise Classes



### 2-3pm on Tuesdays

The classes are not onerous or difficult. They are designed to improve core strength and balance and the cost is \$5 per session.

**These classes are not just for Shed members or just for men.**



Tell and invite your friends – they will all be made welcome!

See you in *The David Hale Room* in the Yass Valley Community Centre (next door to the Men's Shed).

**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.**

**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), Goodradigbee Bookkeeping, Home Hardware (Yass), IGA (Yass), KidsBlitz, the Lansdowne Foundation, NSW Coalition Government, NSW Local Member Minister Katrina Hodgkinson, Southern Cable Services, Steve Bugden Plumbing, Touie Smith Jnr, 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