

NEWSLETTER



The Victorian Men's Shed Association is the Oldest Shed Support Organisation in the World

**The VMSA is proud to have as patron,
the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC**

TOP STORY

HOW TO SAVE WATER?

We had a warmer than average winter, and with a growing demand for water, it's important that we make every drop count. While we plan ahead, upgrade our network, and invent new water-saving technologies, here are some simple tips to save it. (Page 7)

TOP NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health & assisting the PM for Public Service & Cabinet, has congratulated men's sheds on the great community work, highlighting the importance of the sheds in tough times like these. Turn to on page 6.

TOP INITIATIVE

DORIS THE MORRIS 2.0

Akoonah Park Shed has restored "Doris" The Morris close to its original glory and beauty. Congratulations to the for such an exemplary work! But who is Doris? Check it out for yourself. Details on pages 11, 12, 13.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Another successful year comes to a close. Sincere thanks to all sheds & shedders for the great work you all are doing in your communities. You all are making a real difference in your communities, particularly in the lives of men and women.

As we celebrate the festivities, let's remember those who didn't have a good year and won't be able to celebrate. (Pages 4 & 5)

This Newsletter is emailed to a Representative of every Men's Shed in Victoria. Please print out a copy and distribute to members of your Shed.

THE INSIDE PAGES

VMSA EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT	3
CHRISTMAS CAKE	8 & 9
AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS MEDLEY	10
HOW TO BAKE A CHRISTMAS CAKE	14
OTHER WAYS TO SAY IT	15
NEW OUTDOOR AREA AT TRARALGON	16 & 17
SHED IN NEWS	18 & 19
THE FUNDING CENTRE	20
VMSA TRAINING COURSES	21
HARVEY NORMAN OFFER	23



LIST OF VMSA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

OFFICE BEARERS

President	Lindsay Oates	pres@vmsa.org.au	Mirboo North Shed
Vice President	Geoff Witmitz	vice@vmsa.org.au	Horsham Shed
Secretary	Bruce Ward	sec@vmsa.org.au	Ocean Grove Shed

COMMITTEE

Julian Sellers	j.sellers@vmsa.org.au	Inverloch Shed
Lou Sigmund	l.sigmund@vmsa.org.au	Benalla Shed
Gerard Irvin	g.irvin@vmsa.org.au	Grovedale Shed
Peter Johnson	p.johnson@vmsa.org.au	Wimmera
Sam Story	s.story@vmsa.org.au	South Gippsland

PLEASE NOTE

The VMSA has received a number of queries and requests to find an avenue where sheds can easily list and advertise surplus items they have, that they wish to donate to other sheds, or to promote activities that the shed are involved in - such as market days, or fundraisers.

The VMSA has recently created and trialled a Facebook page, "VMSA Public Notices". This is now available for all sheds and shedders to join, and to place your ads and info on. Please note this is not the avenue if you wish to sell your surplus goods, it is only if you want to donate goods.

The VMSA now has a Buy/ Swap and Sell Page on its website for shedders to use.

VMSA EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Hi Folks,

What a great year 2019 has been for Victorian Sheds.

The VMSA is so proud to represent such a hardworking group of men's sheds. Each community that boasts of a shed holds you dear to their hearts. I cannot name you all, but I can tell you that every one of you has been mentioned throughout the year for the amazing work you do. Please be proud of yourselves and keep up the fantastic work.

It was such a privilege to be asked by our patron the Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau AC, if she could host a reception at Government House to recognise the work shedders do for the community. The VMSA was blown away by the reception given to 650 shedders to recognise their community work.

The VMSA has distributed \$80K worth of benefits to sheds in the form of tools, defibrillators, materials and so on. Next year, we have more to come.

We are strongly advocating for sheds for Strengthening Men's Shed Grants, member benefits, resources, training and more. The VMSA has supplied 25% of Victorian sheds with free defibrillators over the last 4 years.

We have access to tickets at a huge discount for their next Lost Trades Fair on Saturday, 7 March 2020 and Sunday, 8 March 2020, at the Bendigo Racecourse, Bendigo.

On a personal note, I thank each and every one of you for your kindness and patience in dealing with me. I know Phil Keily is also deeply appreciative of the support he received as he went about his work as a Field Officer supporting sheds.

I offer the most heartfelt best wishes to you all for Christmas and hope you are all safe and healthy in 2020.

The VMSA has a number of training and information resources available for sheds. In particular our Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Shed Safety Training is extremely popular as it helps have a safer shed that is more risk management compliant. Feel free to contact the VMSA office to explore your training needs.

The VMSA Facebook page, VMSA Public Notices, is a great place to see what's happening in sheds around Victoria and the world. Do visit the page and follow it to receive all updates as soon as one is put out.

You can register for our monthly newsletter through the website. Click on the link below for the same.

<https://vmsa.org.au/index.php/component/users/?view=registration&Itemid=101>.

The VMSA Radio Show, Hangin' Out in a Men's Shed, is being heard around the world by live streaming the show. You can do the same by clicking on the given link: <http://3wbc.org.au/wp-content/plugins/mp3-jplayer/popout.php>. The show plays out on the first Saturday of every month from 9 am to 10 am on 3WBC 94.1 FM.

Ric Blackburn
VMSA Executive Officer
Email: vmsa@vmsa.org.au



VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The VMSA Committee wishes all the shedders, its stakeholders and those who subscribe to the Newsletter a very happy and enjoyable Christmas and for everyone to have a healthy and successful New Year with their families and friends.

There are many shedders and their families in our communities who will not be enjoying or participating in the Christmas festivities as those of us are fortunately able to do. I hope we can remember those people and also engage them in some of our celebrations and activities.

Sheds are becoming increasingly recognised by many of our rural and suburban communities as being "The Hub" of the community. Many sheds are now being asked to take on work that is also adding to the skills of our shedders as a result of "The Repair Shed", which was screened for a while on ABC TV. Further, sheds due to their involvement in "Health and Well Being" programmes which are reaching many others in the communities are becoming well known for their work in reaching out to men in particular and in engaging with them. Many communities are now identifying with these programmes and also participating in them. Keep it up, shedders!

Congratulations to those sheds who have been successful in the Australian Government National Shed Development Grant Round programme; and to those who were successful in the Victorian State Government refurbishment and new building funding round as well. If your shed is thinking of a project for next year, start preparing now as Round 20 of the Federal Government National Shed Development Programme will open late January or early February, and the Victorian State Government Men's Shed Funding Round 2020 Funding Round programme will also open in late February/early March. To know more, please contact Ric Blackburn, Executive Officer, VMSA.

I attended a recent seminar on suicide and men's health organised by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services for staff and management in community organisations. Sheds were highlighted for their efforts in assisting men in the community and particularly those working in drought areas across the State. Well done, shedders!

Additionally, it was nice to know that many sheds are assisting other sheds across the State, mostly with building and equipment advice and in sharing or in setting up a new shed.

Insurance at this time of the year is always important with holidays around and policy renewals about to arrive. It is paramount for sheds to have OHS information on equipment and the safety in the use of such equipment and in ensuring that all equipment is compliant and those using the equipment have met the sheds requirements. It is also important to have details about the Material Safety Data sheets. Shedders must also know what is required in the storage and use of paints, thinners, liquids and gas bottles and so on. (See VMSA website Complete Binder).



VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Security of sheds and equipment is important and it is recommended that sheds have updated Asset Register Sheets with the value of such equipment, date purchased or donated to the shed and photographs. Shed buildings should be regularly assessed for replacement value, which must be noted together with photographs of the interior and exterior. Such photos will assist in replacement. Secure doors and windows and rollers doors bolted to the floor are also recommended. See if you can have solar power connected to the cameras as well as your computer. If the power is cut off at least recording will still be available.

State Presidents from MSWA, VMSA, TMSA, and Mr Mal Weier, representing the Queensland Regional Men's Network, met with the Federal Minister for Health, the Honourable Mr Greg. Hunt, MP, and his advisor, Mr Richard Temperly, on 4 December, in Canberra. I am happy to report that the Minister understood that the State Associations are recognised as the Peak Bodies and play a major role in supporting sheds in their States.

The Minister believes that all parties need "to work in good faith" to resolve issues. We were informed that the National Body also recognises that changes need to be made. The representatives at this meeting gave an undertaking to continue "to work in good faith" to bring about unity and equity.

Finally, I thank everyone on the VMSA Committee, sub-committees, past Committee members and sheds' volunteers, and also those who assist in in the background, for your work and contributions to the VMSA and Victorian sheds. Men's sheds make a real difference in our communities.

Merry Christmas to all!



Lindsay Oates

VMSA President 2018-19

MESSAGE FOR THE MEN'S SHEDS



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the
Public Service and Cabinet

To men's sheds across Australia

With Christmas and New Year almost upon us, I would like to express my support and thanks to everyone involved in the Men's Sheds movement.

There are now more than 1,000 men's sheds across the nation. The movement keeps growing because it's providing something that, in today's high pressure world, many men cannot find in other parts of their lives.

That is, a supportive community where they are accepted for who they are, whatever their background or current circumstances. Where they can take part in work or play, or just hang out. Where there are no demands and no such thing as failure.

At any time of the year, men's sheds are an antidote to isolation and depression. They support mental health and wellbeing, and spread information and awareness about physical and mental health issues.

This year, with the devastating drought across much of eastern Australia, sheds are even more important to men on the land or in rural communities. And while the festive season can be full of joy, it can also be hard for those who are not in a fortunate position.

The Australian Government fully recognises the positive impact of men's sheds. We continue to provide funding for equipment and improvements through our National Shed Development Programme, which has been increased to \$1 million a year until 30 June 2023.

We are also implementing our \$2 million plan to ensure that defibrillators are available at every men's shed. A survey of sheds to determine their needs has been completed and defibrillators will start to be distributed in the new year, together with training in their use.

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hunt'.

Greg Hunt

HOW TO SAVE A BUCKET OF WATER?

We had a warmer than average winter, and with a growing demand for water, it's important that we make every drop count. So, while we continue to plan ahead, upgrade our network, and invent new technology that makes saving water simple, which tip will be on your bucket list?



IN THE SHOWER	IN THE GARDEN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you know that every minute in the shower uses 1 bucket of water? • 31% of all water in a home is used in shower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the weather warms up, many of us roll up our sleeves and get out in the garden. • 15% of all water in a home is used in the garden.
Here's how to save a bucket load -	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shave your shower time by just 60 secs and save 7 buckets of water a week 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water using a hose with a trigger nozzle. Did you know this is one of Melbourne's Permanent Water Use Rules?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Play your favourite 4-min song, and hop out when it's over 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Hold off watering if it's forecast to rain.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Use a four-minute shower timer 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Water before 10 am in the morning or 6 pm in the evening, to keep the soil moist.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Swap your shower head with a water-efficient one 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Consider watering only every second or third day.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Teach your kids and grandkids to take shorter showers, too. Using water efficiently is the "new normal". 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Mulch your garden to keep moisture in the soil.

Source: Akoonah Park Men's Shed Newsletter (December 2019)

CHRISTMAS CAKE

- Peter Arnell, Midland Men's Shed

Christmas is nearly with us once again, and preparations for the Festive Season are already underway. Pre-ordering the turkey, and/or seafood, buying the ingredients for mince pies, Xmas pudding and cake. Dusting off the Xmas decorations, untangling the tree lights, and so on.

Today: All these things are readily available in supermarkets or speciality stores, but not that was not the case for our parents, who during and after WW2, had to contend with rationing.

When the War broke out in 1939, rationing was introduced to ensure a fair distribution of food and commodities. The first thing rationed was fuel, which was closely followed by bacon, butter and sugar. Gradually, most other food items were rationed, and then even clothing. The only exceptions were fruit and vegetables. The theory being that people could grow their own. This was fine in the rural areas, but most of the population lived in large towns and cities, where housing was based on the Victorian Model. This meant terraced houses one stepped from the street into the parlour or the best room, then into the back or living/dining room, which was adjoined to a small kitchen, which led into a small courtyard, where the washhouse used to be, complete with a copper boiler, and hanging on the wall the tin bath, ready for its customary family bath night, and of course the outside toilet. Not a blade of grass in sight let alone room to grow crops.

But rationing was not strictly fair, as people living in rural areas could not only grow crops, but could also obtain milk, eggs, poultry and game, without using their ration books. Which led to people trading coupons from their ration books for other items. So, someone who was lactose intolerant, but had a sweet tooth, would exchange their cheese coupon for a sweet coupon.

This practice was swiftly nipped in the bud by the authorities, who made it mandatory for ration book holders to register with one or two local shops, these shops were then supplied with the necessary goods to service the registered ration book holders. They also colour coded the coupon system. When I was evacuated in 1943 to live in a large country house with a nice lady called Mrs Passmore, I carried with me my gas mask, a label round my neck with my name on it, and my green ration card [issued to children under the age of 5]. This crack down, led to the inevitable creation of the black market, where most things could be obtained for a price, and flourished until the end of rationing in the mid-1950s. But rationing also created many ideas from cookery through to engineering -- meatless sausages.

Rationing continued in Britain even after the War, while the country tried to get back on its feet, as many things were still difficult to get. Food stuffs we take for granted today were very scarce to obtain in the late 40s and early 50s. So, when it was time to celebrate a special occasion -- Wedding or Christmas -- the feast would have to be a simple affair, unless you had saved your coupons for such a time. Even Her Royal Highness, Princess Elizabeth, had to use all her saved clothing coupons for her wedding dress, and rely on donations of food stuffs from the Commonwealth for her wedding cake in 1947.

Therefore, when Xmas time came in the late 1940s and the ingredients for the cake were difficult to come by, a lot of people went without or substituted the traditional cake with a carrot cake.

But quite a number of Britons had friends or relatives living in various Commonwealth countries. In 1947 my parents were given a newly built terraced council house in Coventry, neighbours of ours were Mrs & Mr Shephard and their twin daughters, who had relatives in South Africa who periodically sent food parcels. And just before Xmas they sent one with all the dried fruits, nuts,

CHRISTMAS CAKE



glazed orange peel and cherries, plus various spices, everything needed for an Xmas Cake. The dried fruits were recognised immediately, but the spices, which were in unmarked brown packets, were a mystery, but nevertheless, were mixed into the cake mixture, baked and gleefully eaten over the Xmas period.

A couple of months later another parcel of goodies arrived, this time with a letter enclosed, informing them of a sad news that their uncle Francis had passed away and had been cremated. And that a small portion of his ashes had been included in the previous parcel (they thought that the Shephard's might like to inter him in a small urn) as a memento of their uncle. They apologised that they had neglected to inform them earlier but had simply forgot.

Needless to say, all future parcels received from South Africa, were viewed with scepticism and suspicion as the Shephard's didn't want to be guilty of eating any other members of their family who had recently died. You can see there was a collective sigh of relief, not only by the Shephard family but Britain as a whole when rationing came to an end in 1954. All ingredients needed for a Xmas Cake were readily available. Apparently, the law states that knowingly eating another human being is illegal, but to unknowingly eating is perfectly fine. So, enjoy your Xmas Cake and have a Happy Christmas.

PS: All the facts in the article were told to me by my mother. AND MOTHERS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT.

Source: Midland Men's Shed Newsletter (Dec 2019)

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS MEDLEY



Dashing through the bush
 In a rusty holden ute
 Kicking up the dust
 Eski in the boot
 Kelpie by my side
 Singing Christmas songs
 It's Christmas time and I am in
 My singlet, shorts and thongs...
 Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way
 Christmas in Australia on a scorching summer day, hey!
 Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Christmas time is beaut oh what fun it is to ride in a rusty holden ute
 Deck the shed with bits of wattle
 fa la la la la la la la la
 Wax and gum leaves in a bottle
 fa la la (etc.)
 All the shops are open Sundays
 fa la la (etc.)
 Buy your dad some socks and undies.

Source: Acoonah Park Men's Shed Newsletter (December 2019)

AKOONAH PARK'S RESTORATION PROJECT

"Doris" the Morris - 1959 4-door Morris Minor 1000 sedan restored close to original condition

The car was originally purchased in March 2017 in a partially stripped state from a person who had intended restoring the vehicle, but had a change of priorities. He had the car for 3 years sitting in a shed. Given the condition of the cylinder bores and crankshaft journals, it's possible that the 39,064 miles showing on the odometer are accurate. Or perhaps it is 139,064 miles?

Work Carried Out: A full strip and rebuild of the body, brakes, steering, suspension, electrical system, engine and gearbox.

Parts: Parts were sourced locally from other Morris Minor enthusiasts and parts suppliers and from the UK suppliers when necessary. Two donor cars were given to the shed and a few parts were also used from those cars. Door and boot handles were re-chromed.



Body: The complete body was stripped to a bare shell and put on a rotisserie to be degreased, pressure washed and allow easy access to the underbody for all rust removal and repair. Very little rust was found in the body, with just a few small areas in one A pillar and the door sills. All panels were stripped and previous filler repairs were removed. All body repair work was then carried out meticulously by a shed member panel-beater, before priming and repainting the entire car in the

PROJECT VEHICLE RESTORATION PROJECT

original colour. All new window, door and boot rubbers were fitted and a new laminated windscreen was also fitted. Numerous new, chrome body trims -- grille surrounds, bumper over-riders, door handle escutcheons, boot and bonnet hinges and badges were fitted.

The interior, with the exception of the hood lining, which was in good condition, was stripped, cleaned and where necessary repaired to original colour and style by an auto upholsterer. New carpets were fitted. New seatbelts were fitted to the front seats.



Engine: The engine was started before the restoration began. The engine is the original as the numbers on the block match those on the compliance plate. The engine was completely stripped and all critical measurements were checked. The bore was found to be the original standard size, so was only honed before new rings were fitted to the pistons. The crankshaft was found to also be the original standard size, however some journals showed some minor taper wear and as a result the crankshaft was ground to take 10 thou oversize bearings. The timing chain, water-pump, oil pump, welsh plugs and all gaskets and seals were replaced. The original head was not warped or cracked, so valves and valve seats were cleaned and re-lapped. New cam followers were fitted. New engine and gearbox mounts were also fitted and the SU fuel pump was overhauled and the pump points were replaced with electronics. The original SU carburettor was stripped, rebuilt and refitted.

'DORIS' THE MORIS 2.0

Brakes: New master cylinder and 4 new wheel cylinders and brake hoses were fitted. The original drums were machined within specification and new brake shoes were fitted.

Steering: After the rack and pinion were checked for wear, new tie rod ends were fitted along with new steering rack boots.

Suspension: The wheel bearings were all cleaned and checked and found to be in good condition so were repacked and refitted along with new seals. New suspension bushes were fitted throughout. Dampers were all checked for proper operation. The rims were stripped, inspected, repainted including original pinstripes, before five new radial tyres were fitted.

Electrics: The wiring was converted to negative earth and a new battery was fitted. The original trafficators are still fitted to the car and operate when the indicators are used. The flashing indicators are integral to the original parker lights on the front and the taillights on the rear. As previously mentioned, the SU electric fuel pump was overhauled and the pump points were replaced with electronic circuitry, so externally the pump still looks original, but is now more reliable. In keeping with the original vehicle specifications, Doris is still running a generator.

Gearbox: The gearbox was completely disassembled and checked over and worn synchromesh parts were replaced before it was rebuilt. A new clutch and thrust bearing were fitted.

The result: Doris has been carefully restored to near original condition and will soon be available with a Roadworthy Certificate, so that the new owner can decide whether to have full registration or club permit registration.

Outcomes: The restoration project, while taking longer than anticipated, has provided many hours of fulfilling work for the small but dedicated team that have worked on the car. Every team member is proud of the work carried out and the end result.

Doris is in the very last stages of the restoration with some electrical work still being carried out, prior to a cut and polish, original body pinstriping, refitting of badges and a wheel alignment followed by a roadworthy check. All work should be completed in the next few weeks.

Finally, Doris is being raffled, with only 100 tickets to be sold. Tickets are now available at \$100 each, so here is a perfect opportunity to potentially pick up a carefully restored Morris Minor 1000 sedan for a hundred bucks.

For tickets and information please contact Greg Dowd on 0417 898 760.

HOW TO BAKE A CHRISTMAS CAKE?



INGREDIENTS

2 cups flour	1 cup of brown sugar
1 stick butter	Lemon juice
1 cup of water	4 large eggs
1 tspn baking soda	Nuts
1 cup of sugar	2 bottles wine
1 tspn salt	2 cups dried fruit

METHOD

1. Sample the wine to check quality.
2. Take a large bowl, check the wine again.
3. To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink.
4. Repeat.
5. Turn on the electric mixer.
6. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.
7. Add one teaspoon of sugar
8. Beat again.
9. At this point it's best to make sure the wine is still OK. Try another cup.-.Just in case
10. Turn off the mixerer thingy.
11. Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.
12. Pick the frigging fruit up off floor.
13. Mix on the turner.
14. If the fried druit gets stuck in the beaterers just pry it loose with a drewsdriver.
15. Sample the wine to check for tonsisticity.
16. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something.
17. Check the wine.
18. Now shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.
19. Add one table.
20. Add a spoon of sugar, or some fink. Whatever you can find.
21. Greash the oven.
22. Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over.
23. Don't forget to beat off the turner.
24. Finally, throw the bowl through the window
25. Finish the wine and wipe counter with the cat.
26. Go to Coles and buy a cake.

Cherry Mistmas!

Source: Midland Men's Shed Newsletter (Dec 2019)

OTHER WAYS TO SAY IT

SAY “**MERRY CHRISTMAS**” IN 10 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

- **French:** Joyeux Noël
- **German:** Frohe Weihnachten
- **Spanish:** Feliz Navidad
- **Italian:** Buon Natale
- **Portuguese:** Feliz Natal
- **Dutch:** Vrolijk kerstfeest
- **Romanian:** Crăciun fericit
- **Polish:** Wesółych świąt Bożego Narodzenia
- **Swedish:** God Jul
- **Czech:** Veselé Vánoce

SAY “**HAPPY NEW YEAR**” IN 10 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

- **French:** Bonne Année
- **German:** Gutes Neues Jahr
- **Spanish:** Feliz Año Nuevo
- **Italian:** Felice Anno Nuovo
- **Portuguese:** Feliz Ano Novo
- **Dutch:** Gelukkig nieuwjaar
- **Romanian:** Un an nou fericit
- **Polish:** Szczęśliwego nowego roku
- **Swedish:** Gott nytt år
- **Czech:** Šťastný Nový rok

Source: Acoonah Park Men's Shed Newsletter (December 2019)

OUTDOOR MEETING AREA AT TRARALGON

Traralgon Men's Shed have an undercover outdoor meeting area.

Thanks to Latrobe City Council's Minor Capital Works Grant, and donations from Dahlsens, Loy Yang A and Ink & Iron Gippsland, the men's shed finally have an area for BBQs and for the members to sit in the shade or out in the open.

Secretary/Treasurer Lyn Matthews, said the area is a great resource for members and guests to utilize, enjoying BBQs, meetings and congregating outside. The previous outdoor seating was dismantled due to poor condition and being located in the carparking area. The new area is located between the shed's Woodworking Workshop and Model Making building having protection from three sides. The area was previously unused and full of weeds.

The members built and stained the 6-inch picnic table from locally sourced materials.

The men's shed is may have a garden at one end of the outdoor meeting area in the future.

Traralgon Men's Shed is located 5 Howitt Street, Traralgon (back of Showgrounds). It is open from 7:30 am to 3 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



NEW OUTDOOR MEETING AREA AT TRARALGON



SHED IN NEWS

Mount Gambier Men's Shed was covered in news

News Media: The Border Watch, Mount Gambier

Date: 19 November, 2019



The 3 photos above are the toys we made for NF McDonnell with the story from the Border Watch paper on Tuesday 19th November 2019.

SHED IN NEWS CONTINUED

Mount Gambier Men's Shed was covered in news

News Media: The Border Watch, Mount Gambier

Date: 19 November, 2019

THE NAMING sponsor of the Mount Gambier Christmas Parade has commended the hard-working efforts of schools, community groups and sporting clubs at this year's event.

Thousands of people lined Commercial Street on Saturday for the iconic event's 60th anniversary, with a bumper number of entries which included 17 local schools.

This year's NF McDonnell & Sons' Toy Timber Town float sparked a new element of festivity, with handmade wooden toys crafted by the Mount Gambier Men's Shed adorning the moving display.

NF McDonnell business manager Ken Sanders said the float paid homage to the strong ties the business had with the forestry industry.

Mr Sanders said the toys would be donated to a local charity or shelter in need.

"I went to the Men's Shed and ran a few ideas past them and then they came back with ideas as well," he said.

"I think it gave them something positive to focus on while also creating interaction through us and the members.

Men's Shed toys manager Ian Bond said members constructed a dollhouse, a seat rocker, a yellow tipper truck and an orange and green chair for the float.

"They took over three months, part-time when we had time to do it," Mr Bond said.

"Hopefully next year we will be able to do it again as it was well worth the effort."

Mr Sanders said a highlight was seeing the original Christmas parade queen from 1965 on a float.

He said it was amazing to see the community's support behind the parade.

"I would be confident in saying it was the largest crowd I have seen yet," he said.

"When driving past the spectators, there were no gaps in the crowd.

"It is a real tradition for people and I know people were there getting chairs ready at 8am in the morning to secure their spot."

City of Mount Gambier community events team leader Denise Richardson said the crowd was bigger than ever and the smiling faces and enthusiasm of the children was a delight for her to see.

Compton's Christmas Message by Compton Primary School was named most outstanding entry, claiming the top prize of \$750.

The entry focused on the importance of spending time with family and friends and spreading Christmas cheer.

THE FUNDING CENTRE

The Funding Centre is Australia's best grants and fundraising hub.

To know more about the Centre, check out its comprehensive newsletter, [EasyGrants](#).

Information in EasyGrants is based on the most comprehensive and current database of grants available in Australia. EasyGrants is unique in the Australian fundraising and grants landscape and provides:

- Monthly email PDF newsletters (excluding January when the Australian grants landscape largely goes into hibernation)
- A customised grant listing, including all new and recurring federal, state and local government, philanthropic and corporate grants
- The latest grants and fundraising news from around Australia and the world
- Ideas, tools and intelligence from the experts



NEW ONLINE COURSE!

Win More Grants

Find out how to get your share of the \$80 billion given out in grants across Australia each year

GET THIS COURSE ONLY \$55

 **Funding Centre**
Where not-for-profits go for money

 An enterprise of:
ourcommunity.com.au
Where not-for-profits go for help

 Certified
B
Corporation

VMSA TRAINING COURSES

Over the next couple of months, the VMSA will be holding several training courses for shed members, these will include:

OH&S WORKSHOP SAFETY



GOVERNANCE

At this point no dates have been set for the OH&S Workshop Safety and the Governance Training, but we are seeking Expressions of Interest from those sheds that are interested in these courses.

Please call Ric Blackburn on 0408 465 228 or email him at vmsa@vmsa.org.au to register for the Fundraising Training, or to place your Expression of Interest for the OH&S Workshop Safety or Governance Training.

SINGERS NEEDED!



Do you like to sing?

We're looking for new members.

Come and join us on a
Wednesday night for rehearsals with the
Australian Welsh Male Choir - City Chapter.

Welsh Church - 320 La Trobe St, Melbourne.

Wednesday evenings

7:00pm – 9:00pm

(except for the last Wednesday of each month due to
our singing in the pub committment)

For more information please call
Tim Gibson on 0412 191 971

or visit us at

awmc.org.au



HARVEY NORMAN OFFER FOR SHEDDERS

ENJOY VIP PRICING EVERY DAY!!!

****Present your VMSA Shed Membership Number****

Harvey Norman®

On which products?

On a range of home appliances, computers, bedding, furniture & flooring

How to access this benefit?

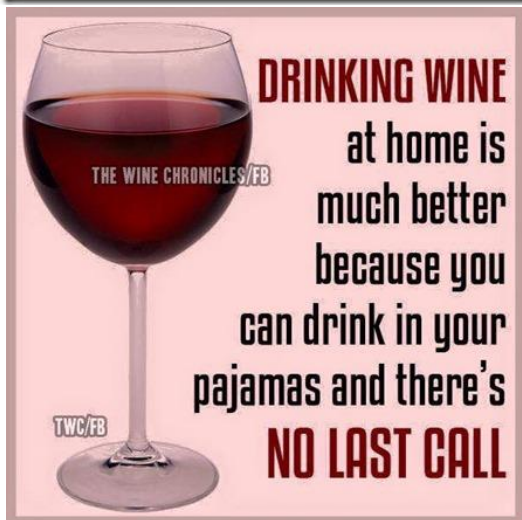
- View products in store
- Present your VMSA membership at time of store purchase
- For any assistance with your shopping feel free to visit, call your local store

Terms & Conditions

Available only to VMSA members and their immediate family



ON A LIGHTER NOTE SINCE IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON...



JUST LIKE THAT...

Q: What happens to a refrigerator when you pull its plug?

A: It loses its cool.

Q: What did King Tut say when he was scared?

A: I want my mummy!

Q: What washes up on small beaches?

A: Microwaves.

Q: Why does a tiger have stripes?

A: So he won't be spotted.

Q: Why did the farmer call his pig "Ink"?

A: Because it was always running out of the pen.

Q: What do you call cattle with a sense of humour?

A: Laughing stock.

A cop pulls over a carload of nuns.

Cop: Sister, this is a 65 MPH highway. why are you going so slow?

Sister: Sir, I saw a lot of signs that said 22, not 65.

Cop: Sister, that's not the speed limit, that's the name of the highway you're on!

Sister: Oh! Silly me! Thanks for letting me know. I'll be more careful.

At this point the cop looks in the backseat where the other nuns are shaking and trembling.

Cop: Excuse me, Sister, what's wrong with your friends back there?

Sister: Oh, we just got off of highway 119.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas

Day & Date: Wednesday, 25
December, 2019

Boxing Day

Day & Date: Thursday, 26
December, 2019

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

This Newsletter is being emailed to the Contact Person at each of the sheds on the VMSA database. We have a large list of many subscribers who also receive the Newsletter and consequently we are limited in our ability to send the Newsletter to every shedder and so we ask that as the CONTACT PERSON your shed please print and display the Newsletter in your shed.

If you have something to share with other sheds, write a short article (photos are handy) and send to the Executive Officer vmsa@vmsa.org.au

Victorian Men's Shed Association acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



Disclaimer

This newsletter is for general information only. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of VMSA Committee. Reasonable measures have been taken to ensure that the material contained in this Newsletter is correct. However, there is no responsibility for the accuracy or the completeness of the material.

**VMSA WISHES YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

