

THE ANT

NEWSLETTER FOR ANGLESEA SHEDDERS

Sec. Simon Clark

Co Ord. Ross Davey

Issue No. 22 December 2016

“Two households, both alike in dignity
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean”

With apologies to William Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet) and the AMSA/VMSA current debate.

Coming Events

Christmas Luncheon – 20th December 2016

Again at the excellent facilities of the Anglesea YMCA Camp. 12 noon for 12.30 start.
BYO drinks - alcohol allowed.

Anglesea Recycle Shed – 31st December 2016

On duty from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Please put your name down if you can help.

Note: Shed activities to recommence 31st January 2017

COORDINATORS REPORT

Who said “life wasn’t meant to be easy”. Since assuming the role of Shed Co-Ordinator in August 2016 it appears that the world is spinning just a bit faster, maybe to do with Climate Change – who knows?

Perhaps the most important issue to grapple with was the debate between A.M.S.A. and the V.M.S.A. Coming in at the tail end of the bun fight, there was about two – three years of argument, discussion to come to grips with.

Simon and I attended the Victorian A.G.M. in Geelong, Friday October 14th, unfortunately not a lot of concrete information came to light. The results of the vote of the Bellarine Cluster were not given out, and Lindsey Oates (Vice President V.M.S.A.) was still perusing the conciliatory route with A.M.S.A. but when questioned on how much longer this was going to continue conceded “Not much longer” maybe waiting for the A.M.S.A., A.G.M. late in October / November.

As of the middle of November letters from Committees and Lawyers are flying thick and fast and it is unfortunately looking a bit like a pub brawl. We will all have to wait until the dust settles and hopefully something positive will emerge.

The latest news from the Bowling Club is however a little more encouraging, The past Shed committee and now the current Shed committee has been in constant written communication with the Bowling Club in relation to our space, electrical, solar, sewerage and water issues.

The last letter from the Bowling Club received on the 13th October has now conceded that our concerns are noted and “will continue to engage our attention, and our proposal or variations of it will be included in any planning considerations and a clearer picture should emerge by early next year”. Possibly a step further.

The Shed was full of stuff that we planned to sell at the Riverbank Market on /Cup Weekend - thanks to Bob and the team for all their efforts in cutting, screwing, gluing, painting, sanding and putting together, it is an amazing array of goodies. The end result was sales of over \$1,000 and all achieved on a horrible day, thanks to all those who helped out.

We continue to enjoy our day out at the movies and lunch at the Moriac Pub. I encourage all members to come along and enjoy the day. It really is a great way to know more about what each of us has to offer. Thanks to David for his organising the choice of movies with Rick.

The Publication of “The Ant”, what a great job Bill Spencer is doing as he has taken to it like a duck to water (Yes – serene on the surface but a lot of frantic paddling below – Ed). There are currently about fifty members in our shed, around 3,500 years of accumulated knowledge and wisdom and it would be great if some of this knowledge could be passed on in a short history. It is not really all that scary and we all do have a story to tell and they are all more interesting than “My Life as a Chartered Accountant”.

The Health Day so capably organised by Simon, attended by over 90, was a resounding success and we may be asked for an encore next year. I would like to thank Simon, Doug, Barry, Laurie, Bill, Jeff, Alastair, Hayden, Steve, Bruce and Bob for the time and support they have given me in the short time I have been Convenor. It really has made my job easier and very enjoyable and I look forward to leading the Club into the New Year. Finally I would be very remiss if I did not thank Trish, Ilma and Margo for the sustenance they provide for the morning tea, and Bruce and David for organizing the kitchen. Morning tea is a very enjoyable time in our shed.

May I wish to everyone in the Club a very Happy, Healthy and Safe Christmas and I am looking forward to another enjoyable year with you all in the Shed.

Au Revoir (Till we meet again)

Ross
Co-Ordinator

Secretary's Report

Another year over (nearly) and I think we can say we are not deeper in debt! A successful year at the Shed with numbers being maintained around the 50 mark with a few leaving and a few newies. Welcome to all those who have joined this year. It is great to see new faces. I hope that you are finding the men's shed a place of support and friendship.

It is with great sadness that I have to report on the death of one of our original members - Ken McCasker. He was a great man, charming, knowledgeable, helpful, involved, welcoming. All at the shed will miss his presence amongst us. We are very much aware of his wife Beryl and their family in this time of great loss. We also are thinking of Geoff Soames with the loss of his wife Mary very recently.

Over the last few weeks a 15kw solar power supply has been installed on the men's shed roof, courtesy of the Federal Government. In addition we have now electronic security installed in the shed, courtesy of the Department of Justice and Policing. This will greatly assist with ensuring our shed and its valuable assets will be secure. You cannot enter the shed now unless you have a security code to use on the key pads at one of the doors. These 2 grants totalled \$22,300.

Our Men's Health Event held at the end of October was very well attended by men from across the Shire and from the Geelong area. The speakers passed on helpful information to us all about the importance of having regular health checks and what to look out for. I believe that there is room for further events such as this in some form or other next year.

Our second woodwork course has been very successful with 5 ladies and 1 man attending, learning new skills and constructing a tray and a folding table over a 3 week period. We have been asked to consider holding some afternoons for younger primary children next year. This will be considered by the committee in the near future. However such projects cannot take place without members help. Please don't leave it to "someone else".

The Men's Shed belongs to all the members and it cannot run without members' involvement. Please think about taking on a role within the shed - outdoor garden coordinator/helper, committee, occasional filling of the role of safety officer, help with social activities, housekeeping, record keeping or even secretary. Let a committee person know of your interest.

Your committee is: Ross Davey, Bill Spencer, Doug Philipson, Alastair Duke, Bob Dwyer, Geoff Giles, Bruce Bodman, Barry Nancarrow, Steve Harris, Hadyn Rickey, Simon Clark.

Our shed Christmas lunch is on December 20th at YMCA camp. It is BYO drinks, alcohol allowed and will cost you \$10 payable to Doug Philipson by the 13th December.

The shed will close on that day and reopen on Tuesday 31st January 2017.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas season with family and friends and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Simon Clark

Secretary

2015- 2016 Risk Management

Our first full scale practice evacuation of the shed and the immediate environs is to take place after we reconvene in January 2017. The purpose of this event is to enable members to be aware of the procedure and to test its effectiveness. More on this essential activity later.

It is good to see members have adopted the sign on/sign off policy in the Attendance Book. It is important to know how many people are on the premises should a crisis arise.

For and on behalf of Laurie Mason OH&S Co-ordinator

Workshop Report

What a busy place our workshop has been over the last quarter. What product have we made more than anything else ? – “sawdust.” Our bag connected to the extraction system often needs to be emptied twice a day due to the amount of recycling by machining timber to the required sizes for the many jobs that we make. Cars, planes, helicopters, trains, oven possums, Cutting boards, Candle holders and coat racks made out of horse shoes are only just a part of our saleable items. We also have been busy helping people in our community who request items that they are in need of such as:

- A lady in Lorne wanted her recliner rocker lifted up 8cm and the rocking to be stopped. She had a hip replacement and was thrilled with the outcome.
- Wally produced a marvellous cross for a lady who had just lost her husband and required the cross to mark his grave site until the soil settled. She loved the final result.
- Some steps were made to enable two little dogs from Aireys to get through the doggie door at the new house.
- Several chairs have been reglued for different people. Two new seats were made for an elderly lady.
- A set of drawers were re glued successfully for another lady.
- The ART house had a new section fitted to enable the artist of the month to be displayed.

We have also held a very successful Woodworking course through the Community House for 5 ladies and 1 man over 3 weeks in November. These enthusiastic participants operated under supervision band saws, jig saws and drop saws and also the router, sander and drill presses. As a result of their fine efforts they each completed a large serving tray and a folding table.

From the feedback this may become an annual event.

Finally thank you to all our members who enjoy the practical side of the shed. You all do a great job.

Bob Dwyer

The Ant Report

A couple of issues came out of the previous Committee Meeting seem to have fallen my way:

Firstly, a cup of tea or coffee can be had for the princely sum of \$1.00 payable in advance. The cash box is always underweight in this regard and this doesn't

mean we want a heap of metal washers in there. Also, where would we be without the culinary contributions to morning tea by the wives of some of the members. Thank you one and all.

Secondly, our expenses are trending upwards. The grants obtained (primarily thanks to Simon) from various sources are wholly responsible for the significant improvements which have occurred around the shed recently and probably the increase in operating expenses are due in part to our solid membership base and our many and varied programs and in part to rising costs generally. No great dramas at this stage but something to be aware of.

Stop Press

The Anglesea Mens Shed are the new "B" grade Champions in the Wednesday Twilight Social League. This event was held over 8 weeks and involved the following "gun" bowlers:-

David Pugh, Barry Nancarrow, Helmut Klein, Ross Davey, Maurie Dean and Bob Dwyer

Over the season they had to forfeit once (Probus trip), had one draw and one loss but won the chocolates no less than 3 times for the best score of the night (that's 12 boxes!).

Congratulations to all.

Just to whet your appetite for **entertainment early 2017** the film on Thursday 23rd February is "Hunt for the Wilder People". This 2016 film is an adventure comedy/drama set in New Zealand starring Sam Neill and has something for everyone. Great selection of films each month to follow.

Bill Spencer

And now the Report you have all been waiting for...the next part of the G Raby saga:

Chapter 2(I think?)...

Graham goes to school 😞💀.

School!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!???...Yes...School!! You start on Monday... So declared Mother Dear (MD), waving the letter she'd received from the 'Authority Responsible For The Suppression Of Child Rights'.

I was to report to the Head Master of the Norlane State School on Monday morning, no later than zero eight hundred hours plus 30 minutes. I would need to bring with me: Blah, blah, blah, blahhhh...

I---hated---school!!

I had always hated school...It was an imposition on my freedom...

What did I need school for, anyway? I already knew everything! And...what about the proud tradition I had to uphold...the one that stretched back in English History for nearly SIX YEARS?

I was the 'Truancy Lord' of my realm, back home (as England was known as for some years).

This was 'Perfidious Albion-ism' being carried to a preposterous extreme!! By my own Mother!!!

Having failed in my appeal to the Privy Council (Father Dear), there was no hope of reprieve and I must prepare myself for my fate...I was going to school.

Frantic interrogation of my mates revealed that school was 'great fun'...but one only had to look at their pale, drawn, vacuous faces, to see they'd all been thoroughly brain-washed...This was not good...

Day one...

I went to bed Friday night, and awoke at 6am Monday (Yes...weekends really do pass that quickly when you're doomed). It was a beautiful, and I mean 'beautiful', Australian morning.

Showered, breakfasted, lunch collected (*The wonderful Australian generosity provided school lunches for we migrant kids which were even envied (and tradable) by the Aussie kids*), I was collected by my gleeful mates...and off we went...

Before we were even half way there, we were greeted by a large group (6 or 7) of Aussie kids. They ranged in size from tiny, to very, very, big...They greeted we Poms with, 'Ah...G'day, English persons!' and then kindly invited us to a friendly all in brawl, after school. We accepted, and we all carried on to our common fate, exchanging pleasantries along the way.

Lunch time...

Lunch devoured, and finding the concreted playground populated by all the girl students plus a few, in our opinions, sissy boys, my mate and I were roaming around the adjacent play area. This was a vast, dry paddock which was sparsely covered with some sort of dry grass...well...it was green-ish stuff. We meandered down the bottom end, and happened upon a game of cricket which was at the stage of being organised into sides (I later found out that this game would be played out over the whole of the school week), and we stopped to watch.

The first thing I noticed was that our welcoming group of that morning were all present amongst this larger group...O-ohh...

The very large kid saw us, and pointed us out to his underlings; as a group, they approached and surrounded us. The scowling VLK looked me up, then he looked my down, then he growled 'Cn ya pay crickut Pom? Yup...Wadda ya do? Bowl, bat...mostly bowl...Roit...yers erron their soid. We wann the toss n we're batt'n. Oim owpnin...

I'm thinking: What language was this?...What did he say? I got the idea though, when he handed me the ball. The ball was what we called a 'Corker'; it was a proper cricket ball minus the leather covering.

Here I need to describe my bowling style...Fast spin...I could bowl medium fast, but preferred fast spin.

My favourite ball was to land the ball just inside the off side of the pitch, on a full-ish length, though the length varied with the pace. The batsman would often decide it was going to be a wide and, sometimes, even shoulder arms. The ball however, would cut sharply back at him causing a miss-hit, and sometime hit the wickets...That...is exactly what the first ball I ever bowled in Australia did...There was a stunned silence...The unthinkable had happened...VLK was not happy...

I'll drop my pathetic attempt at writing the Aussie accent. VLK thundered out 'What the @\$%^ do you call that!!? Then to the Umppy...Was that wide!!? Umppy: Nah...Yer out, Steve...

I got four more wickets before the end of the days play...My side loved me...VLK's side...well...I'd find out after school what they thought of me...

After school...

We were thinking we might have escaped...Elation was setting in...Smiles were appearing...We were sooo wrong...

There were 3 more of them than us, but VLK excused himself on the grounds he wasn't hungry enough to eat Pom, elected himself referee and stood down their smallest and biggest to even the numbers.

Having almost always been the shortest of a group, I knew I'd most likely end up facing the least brave of the opposing group (who was often the biggest of the opposing group), who would pick who he thought would be the easiest opponent. I was happy enough with this.

Well...VLK saw this happening and put a stop to it, pairing me instead with their smallest. I didn't like this arrangement, even though Wayne was not my match, because I really liked Wayne; I'd met

him at the local shops and even been fishing with him a few times...I'd had lunch at Wayne's house! Wayne was one the happiest, most good natured people I've ever met. Battle joined...nearly...nobody was really in the zone for battle...Except for Wayne...My mate Wayne attacked me like a Banshee...blood curdling screams and all...But it was the look on his face that beat me. He was never a 'pretty child', but with his face screwed up in a ferocious snarl; he looked ridiculous...that's what started me laughing...and it was all I could do to deny him the 'Step over toe hold' he told me would have me begging for mercy, but he still ended up sitting astride me with his thumbs stuck under my arm pits, and me, on my back nearly choking from laughter... VLK saved me with 'Right...enough acting the goat, you two: let's play cricket...' VLK wanted revenge of a different sort...I was to open the batting and he'd be bowling. His first ball skidded along the ground then hopped up to waist height and straight towards my stumps/me...very fast, too. Somehow I hit the ball and it broke into 5 or 6 major pieces. I was caught out by three kids, but VLK was a fair person and said not all the ball was caught, so I wasn't out. So...the wicket keeper, Wayne, attacked me from behind and did the thumb thing again...and again every chance he got to launch surprise attacks. VLK finally had to banish him to the outer. Denied of the opportunity of physically attacking me, he settled for pulling that face at me. VLK declared the end of play and told me 'You're on our side next week, Pom', clapped me on the shoulder and sauntered off... Wayne yelled out 'See ya tamorra, Mad Dog!'...first time I'd been called that...

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy and safe New Year.

Graham Raby.



Men's Sheds are community-based, not-for-profit, non-commercial volunteer organizations that have become vital community assets. They play an important role in the overall improvement of men's health and wellbeing whilst positively engaging with their community for the benefit of their community.

