



# Shed Torque

The Official Newsletter of the  
Mount Beauty & District Men's Shed

Issue 3 **March 2024**

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**February BBQ & Feast – If you missed this one, don't miss the April one.**

Welcome to the March issue of Shed Torque, which should cover most of the issues and happenings relating to the shed from the middle of February to the middle of March.

We'll start with our monthly BBQ lunch, which was well attended by members and some of our lady friends and wives who are always welcome to our shed 'do's'. They have a permanent invitation, especially when they bring homemade Quiches and other treats.

Barbara Talbot gave us a talk on all the facilities available in our area, including hospitals, emergency services, etc., and stressed the need to register on the "MY AGED CARE" web site to see what is available to assist you with home help services that might be needed to keep you living at home longer.

**[A list of some Services available in our Town/Valley](#)** (Barb Talbot)

Click this LINK [Services in the Upper Kiewa Valley](#) to view.

Our BBQ lunches feed you both food for nutrition and food for thought, all for \$7.00

**Smoko at the Shed (Tues & Wed 10-30 am)**



This is a 'must do' activity, as not only do you get to meet and talk with some mighty fine blokes, but you can help yourself to coffee and cakes.

Whilst you sit there relaxing, you can't help but get involved with what is happening in and around the shed and Mount Beauty in general, whether you're just observing (like I do), or feel you want to add an opinion.

It is surprising, interesting, and amusing to see which subjects can be discussed in those 30 minutes. From the 'holes in the road' to Warwick's experiences with 'American toilets', not to mention the French or Italian types—and I didn't say a word.

The topics at Smoko can be anything.

But the brains and advice around the smoko session could save the world.

You will learn what is going to happen in town and when it has happened.

You can do what you like, stay as long as you like, and not get pestered by the wife/in-laws/ family etc.

It's nearly the next step to heaven, but you do have to wash your own coffee cup!

See you at 'Smoko', after you've got your milk and bread from the shop.

**The word must have got around.** This is a record: 17 bodies for **smoko** on Tuesday 27 February '24



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**The Black Dog Riders** came to town.

About 50 motorcycles and riders descended into the car park at the front of the shed and proceeded to inspect every corner of our set-up, including the coffee machine.

**Black Dog Ride** is a remarkable initiative that began in **2009** as a motorcycle ride to raise awareness about **depression**. Over the years, it

has evolved into a **national charity** involving thousands of Australians who have collectively raised **millions** for mental health programs and fostered awareness nationwide. The mission of Black Dog Ride is to **combat depression and prevent suicide**.

**Our Shed donated \$200 to their cause.**



Black Dog Ride



Black Dog Ride



All the bikes and trikes were in beautiful condition, and credit goes to their owners, who wore enough black leather to cover a hotel lounge area.

I estimate that the power from the assembled machinery would be the equivalent of at least four Kenworth trucks

A very friendly hour was spent mingling with our guests before they continued on their way to Bright.

*By comparison, this is me, the year 1952, in all my gear, on my 1934 Triumph Terrier 150cc.(one of only four ever built)*



## SOS

An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 30,000 feet when suddenly a Eurofighter with a Tempo Mach 2 appears. The fighter jet's pilot slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "Airbus, boring flight, isn't it? Now, have a look here!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, and then swoops down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive. He loops back next to the Airbus and asks: "Well, how was that?"

The Airbus pilot answers: "Very impressive but watch this!"

The jet pilot watches the Airbus, but nothing happens. It continues to fly straight at the same speed. After 15 minutes, the Airbus pilot radios, "Well, how was that?"

Confused, the jet pilot asks, "What did you do?"

The Airbus pilot laughs: "I got up, stretched my legs, walked to the back of the aircraft to use the washroom, then got a cup of coffee and a chocolate fudge pastry."

The story's moral is that speed and adrenaline seem great when you're young. But as you get older and wiser, you learn that comfort and peace are more important.

This is called S.O.S.: *Slower, Older and Smarter.*

Dedicated to all my senior friends ~ it's time to slow down and enjoy the rest of the trip. 🎉❤️



**Ian Howley's new garden...**



***CNC Router Table construction. From left: Les Bevan & Mal Darwent***

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## **For your information**

The lawyers from **Hume Riverina Community Legal Service** will be at Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesday 13 and **27 March** for **free and confidential appointments** on various everyday legal problems, including any bushfire/disaster-related issues, insurance, debts, complaints, family violence, and family law.

If you have any issues you wish to discuss with the Legal team, they will visit on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Please call their office directly to make an appointment.

They are also available on all other days, so call them directly at 02 6055 8090 or 1800 918 377 or email them at <cls@umfc.com.au> and mention this referral from the Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre.

The shed is trying to arrange another information session in the shed for anyone interested, probably on a BBQ Friday in May or June.

The following pages give you some idea of the scope of their help.

## Legal Health Check



### INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete the below free legal health check by answering 'yes' or 'no' to the following questions.

If you answer 'yes' to any of the below questions, we strongly recommend that you contact the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service for a free consultation to discuss your circumstances and provide you with free legal support or referrals.

Phone: (02) 6055 8090 or 1800 918 377

### Are you linked with any of our service partners?

UMFC	AWAHS	CAV	NESAY	Gateway Health	Intereach	YES Unlimited

### Money problems

YES NO

Do you have a credit card loan or other debts you can't pay? (including BNPL, payday loans, car loan)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you owe money to anyone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does someone else control your finances?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a consumer lease (e.g. Radio Rentals/Rent4Keeps etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you being chased for money/received any letters of demand?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have unpaid/overdue accounts – phone, gas, electricity, child support, council rates?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have unpaid fines – traffic, parking, court etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you out-of-pocket because of a dodgy product or service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Centrelink

YES NO

Are you having a problem with Centrelink payments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you owe Centrelink money?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Housing problems

YES NO

Are you having trouble paying rent?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you recently been given an eviction notice?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have problems with government or community housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have repairs your landlord is not fixing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you moved out from a place and your name is still on the lease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



# Legal Health Check



## Family or relationship

YES NO

Do you have any issues with a written parenting agreement/Court orders?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you feel scared in your relationship or in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you worry about your children's safety in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any problems with Family Violence Orders?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you need help with a Divorce?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have property or superannuation that needs to be sorted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have questions or concerns about Child Support or your Child Support Assessment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you had trouble registering your child's birth?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Others

YES NO

Do you think you have been treated unfairly by an organisation/government department?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a complaint about your phone/energy company?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you/your children need birth certificates/ID?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you lost your job recently and didn't think it was fair?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you been the victim of a scam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you been a victim of crime?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you been in a car accident recently?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any problems with your insurance (car/house/contents/funeral)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any problems with the NDIS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any problems with a Home Care Package?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you received a traffic fine over the border and don't know how to deal with it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have problems arising out of disaster (bushfire/flood etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:		

As You can see if you read the above statements, they cover a wide range of situations, **and all advice is free.**

## Raffle night — February

It looked like it would be a quiet night, but then a good few members turned up to add to the locals and strangers, with a few members helping to squeeze some dollars out of them by doing the rounds with the tickets.

In fact, although not as good as our record profit, we still managed a respectable \$460 profit for the night, as well as a couple of beers and pleasant company.

Better than watching the ADDS on Tele anyway.



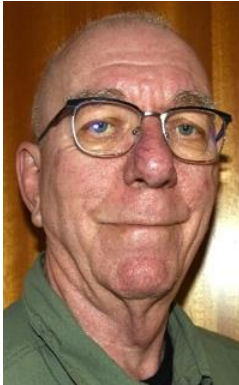
*Some of the prizes*

*Ever stop to think,  
Then, forget to start again.*

*I like long walks,  
Especially when they're taken by people who annoy me.*

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## **Member Profile** — Rob van der Linden



I was born in The Netherlands in a city called Eindhoven and migrated to Australia, arriving in November 1959 at the age of 8.

Having gone through virtually all of my schooling in Australia, I started work as a trainee engineer at a building services contracting company in Sydney. After various moves through different companies, I finally moved to the consulting side of the industry, designing and supervising many different types of projects, from setting up the services for the first 747B flight simulator at Qantas Jet Base to the town water supply system in Guyra, to various multi-story buildings.

In the meantime, I married Sue (whom I met at a high school dance) and we have two lovely kids!

In 1989, we moved to Brisbane, where we were struck by “The recession we had to have!” syndrome, and I was out of work for about 4 years. At that time, I spent a couple of years at university, starting a degree in computer science. I did not finish it as we decided to move to The Netherlands to find work – which I eventually did. My first project there was to supervise the mechanical aspects of the master plan for the (then) new airport in Kuala Lumpur – as part of a small specialist team – working closely with the government. From there, I worked in Germany, Bulgaria, The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Thailand, The Philippines, and finally, in the small desert town of Dawadmi, Saudi Arabia.

In 2003, enough was enough, and we returned to Australia – this time to Melbourne – again working for a couple of consulting firms and finally for a small contractor in Bendigo for whom I still do some consulting work.

When we retired, we started scouting for a new place to live... Our two kids live and work in Singapore, so there was nothing to keep us in Melbourne. We had visited Mount Beauty once (in 2010, I think) on our way from Sydney to Melbourne. Once, going through options on the real

estate websites, Sue mentioned, "How about Mount Beau...?" We finally settled in our place in Tawonga South in October 2016.

Now, my main hobbies (and I suppose some expertise...) include computers (PC's!) and woodworking with a bit of bowls thrown in for variety.

As a means to escape out of the house occasionally, the Men's Shed seemed to be an obvious choice and a way to support our (new) community. And although I'm not very active in the shed on a daily basis, I still enjoy helping where I can—given the scourge of growing old and decrepit! (Not to mention senility!)

#### Editor's note:

*Rob is a rather quiet unassuming guy, but has a wealth of experience and a kindly attitude to his shed mates. He is ready to assist the shed in any way he can and was instrumental in designing/constructing our dust extraction system, among other projects.*

*I believe him when he says he's growing old but decrepit and senile, NOT YET!*

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## POETRY CORNER

We have just celebrated 52 years since the Beestons arrived in Australia, so a poem I composed some time ago will help you understand how we feel about our adopted country.

### Am I Aussie

I've seen Ularu at sunrise, and the sunsets purple glow,  
I've stood on Kosiosko and seen the alpine snow,  
I have surfed the waves at Bells Beach and watched crocks in Kakadu,  
But does this make me Aussie? Well, I am asking you.

I've stood on the cliffs at Steep Point; you can't get any further west,  
Then farthest east is Byron Bay, where the Pacific view is best,  
I've stood beneath that little sign at Cape York's furthest tip,  
But does this make me Aussie? Well, maybe just a bit.

I walked the rocks in Sydney town; I watched footy at the 'MCG.'  
Drove across the Nullabor, I even watch the ABC,  
From a cart in Adelaide, I ate pie floaters in the park,  
Does this make me Aussie now have I made my mark

Long way down in southern Tassie, in the hot springs took a dip,

I've tried to be 'fair dinkum', I've taken rubbish to the tip,  
I have covered all the outback; I rode a camel on the beach  
But does it make me Aussie? Well, it seems that's out of reach.

I had a drink with Duncan at the pub that had no beer,  
Saw the tall ships in the harbour in the Bicentennial year,  
I swore allegiance to the flag and grew my little gum tree,  
But does it make me Aussie? Well, we'll have to wait and see.

Followed tracks of great explorers, learned the history of this land,  
Read many dreamtime stories and drew pictures in the sand,  
Saw the stars at night, the Southern Cross, and touched the Milky Way,  
Now, does that make me Aussie? I may well be on the way.

I've tried to learn the lingo, like when I say "G'Day".  
The reply is always, "You are a Pom? Sound like it, anyway?"  
But I shout "Ozzie, Ozzie, Ozzie", when my team is in the lead,  
Now, that should make me Aussie; it could be all I need.

I've been around seen nearly all, but will continue still to roam,  
Just because I love this land, **I** chose to be my home,  
**Now I know what makes me Aussie**, and I tell you this is true,  
It's to be accepted by wonderful folks like you, just as I am.

Vinnie Beeston 2018

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## Odd bits

The whole shed came to a standstill because Mal could not find the Allan Keys.

Compacters were stripped bare, boxes that had never been opened were torn apart, and the 'loan tools' book was dissected; nowhere was a set of Allan Keys.

Then this picture appeared in my 'inbox' with no explanation, however I do recognize the face and the expression, and there must be questions to be answered.





**Current Treasurer: Peter Donnan presenting past Treasurer Paul L'Huillier with a 'Certificate of Appreciation' for his 12 years of service as Shed Treasurer.**

## The Honour Wall

If you have achieved something exceptional in the shed, you are awarded a plaque or a certificate.

Then you're stuck or hung on the wall forever.



## CNC update

Parts being transported for fitment to our CNC machine which seems to be taking on a life of its own. However, I am assured that the construction is progressing, albeit slowly, and steadily.

Nothing has been said about a further extension to the shed yet.



*Transporting glass windows that will house the CNC Router*

## Quality and craftsmanship are unmatched.

However, it seems we are going to lose the services of this kind and gentle human being next month, as he moves to retirement living near Geelong. We wish him well, and a happy complete retirement near his family.



*Alf Thistlethwaite*



***From left: Ian Howley & Henry Ziemnicki getting down & dirty***

### **Future Guest Speaker for a BBQ**

As well as the 'legal eagles' visiting us. We also hope to have *Emma from Bendigo Bank* here in Mount Beauty giving us computer-illiterate blokes a few tips on how to get our own back on the '**scammers**' in our internet and phone systems.

It should be interesting.

Will let you know as soon as I can.

- 
- I have a few jokes about unemployed people, but none work.
  - I failed maths so many times at school I can't even count.
  - Blunt pencils are really pointless.
  - 6:30 is the best time on a clock, hands down.
  - Two Wi-Fi engineers got married, and the reception was fantastic.
  - The rotation of the Earth really makes my day.



## Time for a Mate Volunteer Drivers

The object of this initiative is to assist members in arranging transport to and from medical appointments etc. in the local big cities.

Where a member can't get help or is too embarrassed to ask for help. Our shed mates' have volunteered to assist, no questions asked.

If you find you have a future appointment and need help to get there, and back, the best methods would be to:

- 1) Attend smoko at the shed and approach anyone on the list.
- 2) Get in touch by phone or email Irvin or anyone listed to get the ball rolling.

Obviously, we will need details of 'pick up and drop off times and places' to get you there, and the same to get you back. Either same day or whenever, so drivers can be arranged.

You can use your own car, or the volunteer's car, by arrangement. 'Time for a Mate Drivers' have volunteered because they want to help, you will not be charged for any time they spend with you, but you will be expected to contribute to your driver if you use his fuel.

**NOTE:** 'Mens' Shed Insurance' operates whilst on Shed Business.

Please add your name & details to the list

Name	Phone	Email
Irvin Beeston	0439 634 664	<a href="mailto:vinniebeeston@gmail.com">vinniebeeston@gmail.com</a>
Paul L'Huillier	0400 056 247	<a href="mailto:pauillhuillier@bigpond.com">pauillhuillier@bigpond.com</a>
Rob van der Linden	0409 375 248	rlinden12@yahoo.com
Peter Donnan	0417 571 115	pdonnan@bigpond.net.au
Dick Puttyfoot	0417 836 841	<a href="mailto:richardputtyfoot@gmail.com">richardputtyfoot@gmail.com</a>
Noel McDougall	0419 479 850	<a href="mailto:HNMCD@bigpond.com">HNMCD@bigpond.com</a>
Mark Hardidge	0407 549 651	<a href="mailto:maurk01@bigpond.com">maurk01@bigpond.com</a>
Barry Hinson	0408 544 117	BLHINSON 3@gmail.com
Pip Armitage	0430 178 812	<a href="mailto:pipandmarg@gmail.com">pipandmarg@gmail.com</a>
Reg Hollands	0429 344 431	ryhollonds@hotmail.com

Following on from the above initiative regarding medical appointments, there is a [Victorian Government web site](#) where it is possible to obtain some recompense of the travel costs involved when the patient lives in a rural area.

## **Patient Request Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Appointment Details

Date for pick up: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop Off Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop Off Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx waiting time: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Driver: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete then email to:

[<secretary@mountbeautymensshed.org.au>](mailto:secretary@mountbeautymensshed.org.au)

This means you could claim 21 cents per kilometre for car travel, support for taxi fares, public transport, and airfares, and \$45 per night for overnight accommodation, if specified, **for you and your escort.**

**All information and claim forms are given and downloadable on:**

**Click this LINK** [<Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme \(VPTAS\) \(health.vic.gov.au\)>](http://health.vic.gov.au)

It could be worthwhile. Having a read.

I have a copy of the info at the shed if you would rather copy it.

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## Kindling Supplies

The boys have been getting ahead of the game by stocking up on kindling and storing it at the back of the Storage Shed. 160 bags ready to go when the weather deteriorates.



Your shed



## The Annual Blair's Hut Day 4WD Trip is on again.



Blair's Hut is in the West Kiewa Valley and 40 km from Mt Beauty and is accessed via the West Kiewa Logging Track which is a very acceptable 4WD track.

**The proposed date is: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May.**

The plan is to invite members who don't have a 4WD vehicle to be passengers in a suitable vehicle driven by a competent driver.

It's a whole day trip so you will need to bring your own food, snacks, drink, thermos, hat, wet weather gear etc.

The camp/picnic area (Diamantina Stockyards) that we park at is very nice unless we can acquire a Parks Vic key to gate so we can drive right to the Hut. We did that in 2023.

You may need to walk 1.5 km to the hut from there. If you have never had the opportunity to see some of our high country this is it.

**I need to know your interest so please let me know by Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>, mobile: 0400 056 247, email <[paullhuillier@bigpond.com](mailto:paullhuillier@bigpond.com)> or name on the board at the Shed.**

If you have a suitable Four Wheel Drive and would like to offer to include it with a couple of passengers in the convey, please let me know.

*Paul L'Huillier*

# Blair's Hut

*Photograph courtesy of Jim Moon © 2002.*

**Located at** West Kiewa Logging Road, Snake Valley. Shown on the Bogong map GR154138.

## **Brief History**

Thomas Blair (an old miner from Ballarat) married Annie and had four sons, Frank, Jack, Aleck, George and Thomas, and daughters Effie and Isabel. When Thomas died in 1889, the family moved to Tawonga from Melbourne, onto a property purchased in 1913 by Jack and Frank.

Frank leased areas C14 and C18 in 1920-21. Frank re-opened Dungey strack, aided by Tourist money and Frank Blair led the first ski touring party to this location in 1925.

Tom and Frank Blair built the hut in 1923-24, only to have it destroyed by fire in 1931. It was rebuilt soon after by Frank and his son, and completed by Christmas 1932.

Major work was done to replace the lower logs in 1993, although some say that the work was rather more extensive than this.

## **Construction**

The hut is a log cabin measuring 6m by 3.8m with a gable iron roof, replacing an original bark one in 1968. The internal stone lined fireplace is unusual. It is almost identical to Dibbins hut

**Caretakers** - The Alpine School and Blair Family.

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## **The Final Word**

- Remember, you get to know everything at SMOKO
- I have covered just about everything this month.
- I must start amassing next month's Torque before I run out of "puff".
- It's been a busy time, and I'm still learning.
- I am still thankful for the help I get from other shed members in collating all the information that comes to hand.
- Without everyone's help, there would be no Shed Torque.