

News from Upper Kiewa Valley

WHAT I love about doing this column are the people I meet.

I spoke with two characters this week - father and son Reg and Garry Hollonds - both delightful men with a keen sense of humour.

They are the first father and son pair to be members of 'The Men's Shed' in Mount Beauty.

Reg has been a member since the shed's inception in 2011, and initially joined "after my wife twisted my arm", he said.

Garry joined recently as part of Line Help to ease his way back into the workforce after an accident in the work place up at the Alpine Resort Commission in Falls Creek.

Reg has been in the area all of his life, living with his parents, who operated a guest house in Tawonga, before moving to Tawonga South in 1945.

He attended Tawonga Primary School in its old location, where the Parks Victoria offices are now, and then went to Mount Beauty school.

He was an apprentice for the SEC as a motor mechanic and then worked up at Rocky Valley, where he was a senior leading hand.

He lived in the camp accommodation for six days a week, and only went home on a Sunday.

From 1959 to 1961 he worked on The Snowy Scheme, before coming back to Tawonga South to help out on the family dairy farm, and then working for 20 years as a bus driver for Pyles bus company.

Now retired, Reg and his wife Yvonne go north each year to Yapoon in Queensland.



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MAN CAVE: Father and son Reg and Garry Hollonds at Mount Beauty's Men's Shed. PHOTO: Paul L'Huillier

around Australia in their caravan.

Both Reg and Garry bring their expertise in mechanics and welding to the Mt Beauty Men's Shed.

Reg says it's a wonderful organisation that brings men together for the company and their mental wellbeing.

Garry is only part-time at the shed at present, but said when he retires he will participate full-time.

Thanks to Paul L'Huillier for introducing me to the Hollonds boys.

THE Lions Club of Upper Kiewa Valley have, over many years, organised and staged several events for the Mount Beauty community.

But this year has seen enormous disruption to community activities.

The club was unable to hold its November spelling bee for Kiewa Valley primary schools, and

to come - two interpretive signs, similar to those at Hydro Park and Eddy, funded by an Alpine Shire Community Grant and an artwork at Corner Pool/Pebble Beach funded by an AGL community grant.

Some months ago UKVCA ran a survey with regard to the permanent name of this trail.

Results were submitted to council, which will now hold community engagement to finalise the name.

Watch for this on Facebook and the council website.

The Mount Beauty Rotary Club has indicated it will support this trail with tree/shrub planting in appropriate areas.

With support from Landcare, UKVCA is still working on clearing and beautifying the Open Space, under the main power transmission lines on the Kiewa Valley Highway

been thrown into disarray.

It can't hold Carols by Candlelight - scheduled for December 11 - this year because of uncertainty surrounding the procedures to keep it COVID safe.

The Mount Beauty and District Community Band, which has been playing for the club for several years, is not able to participate, and an alternative would be hard to find at this stage.

The Bogong Conquestathon - normally held on the Labour Day weekend in early March - also won't take place.

Better news though is the club's Australia Day Breakfast will be held as usual.

The Alpine Shire is in full support, and the club anticipates being able to manage any extra requirements made necessary by the pandemic.

Members of the club have found these decisions extremely difficult, and we hope they will be able to be part of community events as conditions move to 'COVID normal' next year.

THE Upper Kiewa Valley Community Association has a number of projects in progress at the moment.

It is now just two years since UKVCA was successful, along with Team Mount Beauty, in gaining State Government 'Pick My Project' funding and finally the community can gain the benefit of this project as the sealing of the trail has now been completed.

The bank of the West Kiewa River has new plantings and invasive species are gradually being cleared.

It is a great spot for exercise - walking, running, cycling, exercising the dog - but please leave it in clean condition, and be sure to take any rubbish away with you.

Hopefully there will be more improvements in the future.

Community members who would like to support UKVCA progress and are not members can become members by simply completing a membership form from the website, www.ukvcommunity.org.au, emailing it back and making payment to the Bendigo Bank, tagging the \$10 membership payment with their name and membership.

THE Mount Beauty swimming pool is open for the season, beautifully prepared for the community to enjoy.

Council operates an outdoor swimming pool and a river pool during the summer season in Mount Beauty.

The outdoor pool in Mount Beauty has three solar heated pools - a toddler, an intermediate and a 33 metre main pool - as well as a toddler-friendly splash play area.

There are shady lawns and a well-stocked kiosk.

On offer are; swimming lessons for all ages, a learn to swim holiday intensive program in January, Aquafit classes twice a week and a regular seniors hour.

Check on the Mount Beauty pool website for opening hours, or call