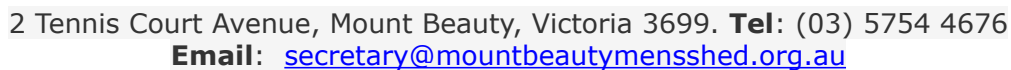




## Issue 2 - February 2024



and expertise. I also liked the **"The last 10 Pound Pom"** article. Sharing such stories is really great for Shedders, and communicating like this also brings out stories from other Shedders, and that contributes to further bonding and enabling Shedders to help and assist each other and the community.

It is rewarding to hear news of your Shed and what has happened with your Shed's activities over the past 12 months. I was pleased to see mention of the Mental Health First Aid attendees and the cluster meeting. The Mount Beauty Shed is a wonderful example of how Sheds function and work to make a real difference in assisting its members and the local community and beyond.

The Mt. Beauty Shed has grown immensely since I was last there helping Shedders understand the use of Mobile Phones and Tablets and that would have been about 10 years ago, through a Telstra grant to the VMSA and Paul L'Huillier had invited the VMSA mobile phone team with their trailer to Mount Beauty.

Taking on such a role as you have is always a big commitment, and learning how to put everything together is a real achievement. It is an excellent production. Thank you for sharing your thoughts, past and ideas. Well done again and please thank and congratulate your members of the Shed. Hearing such news from Sheds is very encouraging to hear of their activities and the benefits they are contributing to in their community.

I have also passed this on to the VMSA, in case they did not receive it as I consider it worthy of mention and of your contribution to this excellent production on the Mount Beauty Shed's activities.

*Regards,  
Lindsay Oates.*

**Irvin wrote a thank-you note to Lindsay,** and below is his reply.

Hi Vinnie,

Thanks for the prompt reply. It is always a real honour and pleasure to communicate and work with Sheds. As Past President of the VMSA, I have visited many Sheds across Victoria and seen the diversity of the great work and programmes in which Sheds are engaged.

When discussing Sheds at such meetings and being asked, "What Sheds can we visit or contact"? I have always advised that the Mount Beauty Shed was an excellent one to visit and talk to even if you cannot visit about programmes, activities, invention, governance and community engagement. The Mount Beauty Shed has always been a leader in this field.

The advice I always give is to start training for future leaders for your Shed as soon as one starts in any role in the Shed so that one does not suffer from "burnout" or, in my terms ", volunteer fatigue" because no else is interested in taking on such a

role. Give them small jobs to help in a very simple way, and gradually, that makes all the difference as these assistants grow in confidence and knowledge of what helps the Shed tick, no matter their age.

Keep up your great work in communicating about the Mount Beauty Shed.

Regards,  
Lindsay Oates.

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## Future shed happenings to mark into your calendar

### Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings to be held at the Shed starting at 9-30 am, on:

January – No meeting unless necessary ..T.B.A  
12<sup>th</sup> February  
04<sup>th</sup> March A week earlier due to Labor Day Holiday  
15<sup>th</sup> April A week later due to Easter Holidays  
13<sup>th</sup> May  
June – No Committee meeting May be scheduled if needed.  
July No Committee meeting  
12<sup>th</sup> August  
September Depends on AGM  
AGM Date TBA.  
14<sup>th</sup> October  
11<sup>th</sup> November  
10<sup>th</sup> December Shed CLOSSES till 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### Monthly BBQ's

The monthly BBQ for all to be held at the Shed starting at 11-30 am, on: ALL BBQ DATES TO BE CONFIRMED closer to event.

January  
16<sup>th</sup> February  
08<sup>th</sup> March  
19<sup>th</sup> April  
17<sup>th</sup> May  
June – no BBQ.  
July  
16<sup>th</sup> August  
September (AGM).. TBA  
18<sup>th</sup> October  
15<sup>th</sup> November  
December (Christmas Dinner) Date TBA.

Shed will be closed from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 until 07<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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**A Reminder - Friday Feb 16th is Raffle night at Mountain Monk Brewers** for our shed. 5;50 pm for a meal and raffle starting at 7:00 pm. BE THERE!! *Those that do not attend risk being sent for the winter season to do the Footy Gate at Dederang.* **Shed BBQ Friday Feb 16th at 12 noon. The usual feast for \$7.00**

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Here we have the **“Construction Detail”** from **“Dad’s Army”**, trying to **complete a patio addition to the shed**



However, it just happened to be ‘prayer time’ and they only had one mat.

Also, the “boss” with the drill and screwdriver had a doctor's appointment, so they were left like this till all operations were completed.

as can be seen, it’s a top job even without the help of Allah.



*The finished awning - top job by Mal & Les*

## Other Happenings:

Here, we see *Peter Doonan* back to his old job of making kindling, but, by the look on his face, he is either very happy to be doing it, or else he's got something caught at the back of the machine.

*Les Bevan* looks happier after modifying tables for the Saturday Stitchers.





## CNC Router - Assembly Progress:

The parcel was opened on 29 Jan 2024 after lying in limbo since its delivery in Dec 2023, but some 2 years since a committee first suggested it as a suitable addition to our shed equipment. This proves that things do happen in Mt Beauty, on Mt Beauty time, but they do And will. Happen.

Phil opened the first box; the look on his face was one of complete amazement at the number of small plastic parcels it contained, so he had to get Mal to spread them out



What you see is just the first box

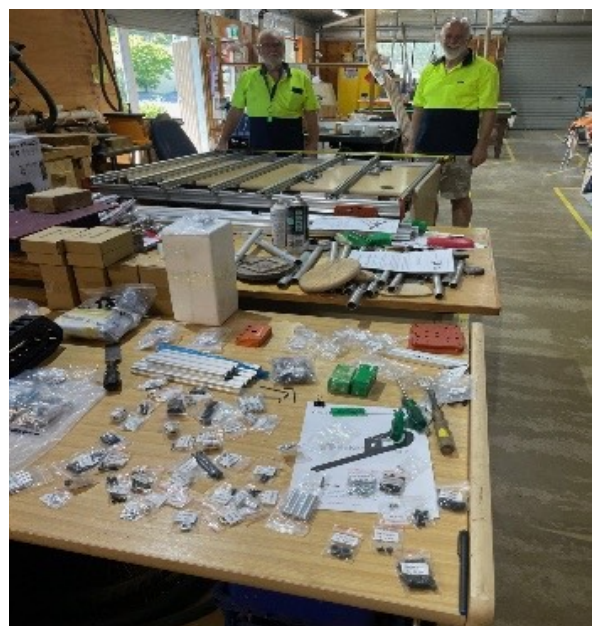
It took a strong cup of coffee and consultation to sort out the instructions for assembly!

It's reckoned "Two heads are better than one, even if they are only sheep's heads."

*Phil opened the first box*



*What does the manual say?*





*Eventually, the first parts all came together, but now they are looking for someone to pick up all the 6mm screws, washers and nuts that nimble 'over 70 fingers' dropped onto the floor.*

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## Profile

Last month I picked on Dick Puttyfoot for profile and updates. This month, it's **Warwick Mitchell** who gets the attention.

*Warwick's profile from 2020 in his own words.*



I started a five-year apprenticeship as an electrical mechanic (electrician) in Melbourne, at age 17 with my mates Father's small contracting company. We did everything that would make us a quid including installation and maintenance in factories, house wiring, hanging curtains, fixing doors, bike shelters etc.

I played competitive baseball until I destroyed my left leg sliding into second base. After that I took up coaching women's softball which continued for 25 years. I took a short break from softball when I shifted to Mt Beauty in 1972.

I got a job at the Mt Beauty Timber Mill stacking timber as it came off the docking saw. My first weeks wage was \$40. I worked there for 10 years, ending up as a



maintenance man/ electrician. During this time I got dragged back in to Softball, as a coach and umpire for Mt Beauty teams – but also as a regional umpire. I also and joined the SEC Army Reserve, which pissed off a lot of people because I was not employed by the SEC at that time (was overqualified). I tried independent electrical contracting after leaving the Timber Mill. But unfortunately while I was a good electrician, I was a bad businessman (I hated charging my customers, particularly those that were elderly or disadvantaged).

I finally got a job with the SEC as a battery attendant, because I didn't require "training". Not long after I moved up to Communications Supervisor – we used one of the last plug and cord board operated systems!

After the SEC became Privatised and was re-branded with new logos every 12 months (or so it felt) I ended up running the Technical spec's and document Archives. This role took me back to school to learn the program Autocad – so I could re-create and retain essential (but old) technical drawings. Finally, AGL took ownership, now that was an Experience. AGL was the second oldest company in Australia. In all I spent 27 years with this mob (albeit under different names), finally retiring in 2011.

*Warwick is our woodworking specialist. He can do anything with 'wood'. He is generous with his advice and was instrumental in building all the benches currently in the Shed as well'.*

**Editors update:** *Warwick is our very own "Rough Diamond", and in the song's words "to know him, is to love him".*

*He's been a very active member of the shed forever, with input and ideas that he will inform everyone about in a forceful, colourful way. Once committed to an idea, he will give 110% effort to complete it, like a terrier with a bone, and he will drag you along with it if you can keep up.*

*His help and advice is always welcome, as is his happy, smiling face.*



*Warwick' Wall - a museum of old tools*

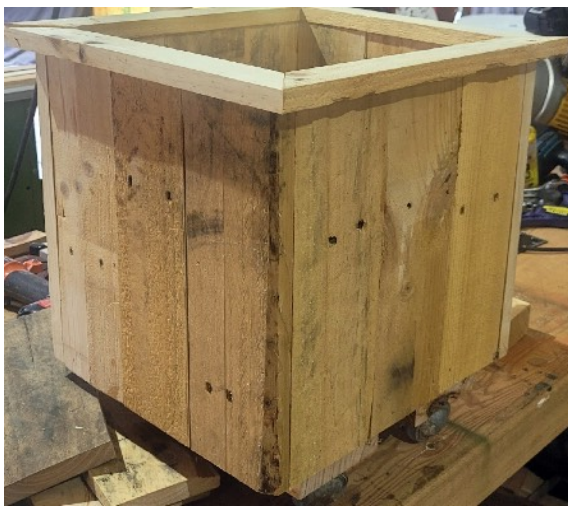
## Planter Box Maker

He has found several planter boxes that don't sell well, so he's disassembling them and making them into pallets.

He then passes them on to *Paul L'Huillier*, who breaks the pallets into smaller pieces so Warwick can make more planter boxes — **Recycling?**

*Warwick* has just added to the coffers by selling **THREE** more planter boxes.

*Good onya mate*



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The **"Ten-pound pom"** got a good reception last month, so I thought another yarn from my memories might amuse you,

## Conscription

Conscription meant that if you were over 18 years old, you had more than one breath in your body, could write your name, and could at least 'stand' on two legs, you were 'eligible', and even 'required' to serve your Queen and Country, for at least the next two years. There were a few exceptions to these rules.

If you were a Miner working underground, you were exempt. But only until you get a promotion to a job above ground. Presumably, if you came 'UP', you would be 'Lynched' and sent to the Army, so you were not expected to try to improve your position in life.



You would also be exempt if you were a Merchant Seaman, but if you came ashore for longer than one month, without a good excuse, you would then be 'hounded' to do your Two years National Service, from that date.

'National Service', we all reluctantly accepted as a way of life. Your choices were to do it, go down the mine, or go to sea, until you were 26 years old.

**Unless of course you could FAIL the medical examination.**

My own Conscription medical, was carried out on a cold November day in the local freezing cold church hall with about a dozen other 'likely lads'.

There were two tables set up in the middle of the hall, two men with a pile of papers each, and with a canvas screen behind them.

We had to complete the forms about our lives and experience, plus a list of all illnesses. I tried listing as many coloured ailments I could think of, like yellow jaundice, scarlet fever, even German Measles, together with Athletes foot and tuberculosis, but he gave my form a tick. And sent me behind the canvas screen to undress to my socks and underpants, and pee in the numbered jar, as I waited for the Doctor. (I got my mate to pee in my jar).

The Doc came in, looked us up and down, quick flick here and there with his stethoscope, and asked us to cough. We were so cold and stiff by now I doubt if he could feel any sort of movement whatever.

The result of my medical, 'a resounding PASS'.

My mate 'failed': he'd put down 'sensitive skin' and couldn't wear army vests. Wish I'd thought of that.

According to the 'Advisory Officer? At the medical, I could sign on for a minimum of 10 years' service to go into the Royal Navy; '**in submarines**'.

**OR**, Sign on for a minimum of 5 years to join the RAF, with no guarantee of even seeing a plane, or an even more remote chance of flying.

**OR**, I could be enlisted **immediately** into the Army, for TWO years and issued with a gun straight away. For this, I would be paid the princely sum of 28/6d per week [or just under A\$3.00 per week], of which at least ½ would be sent directly to my wife so that she could live?

However, my A.O. did point out that at least the Army would feed *me*.

**I joined the Merchant Navy**

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Santa and his elves have all returned from their temporary employment outside the businesses in town.

We do thank those businesses for their support, it confirms their own, and our commitment to making our town the best place to live or visit, not just at Christmas, but at any time.

Another worthwhile contribution to the shed coffers, and the art group, who did the painting.

## Poetry Corner

All Mens Sheds have a few caravan and camping types that traverse this great land of ours, so I dedicate this poem to those who can guess where I was when I composed it.

### **A SHOWER from HELL**

Have you ever wondered if park owners check their showers?  
Because I have spent some time in them, it could add up to many hours.  
There is one shower I remember in a 4-star park or more  
Things happened in that shower that I'd never had before.

Now, before you really start to laugh, it is hard when you grow old,  
And things don't always go quite right, or so I am often told,

So when I got to the shower block, there wasn't even a queue,  
I then found out the doors didn't shut, so I was all in view,

I got undressed and turned the taps, hoping the water was nice and hot,  
Nothing happened; then I found out; it needed a Dollar in the slot,  
I dress again, and then I wander back with money to start the shower,  
**Undressed again**, times getting short, now it's taken half an hour.

So, I put my Dollar in the slot, the water starts to dribble,  
I turn the taps, and one handle comes off, and now I need a tiddle,  
Well, I hold me breath and fix the tap, and I hope that it will hold,  
**Then** I find that washing machines make the water go hot, then cold

I scream and shout, it does no good; I drop my soap down on the floor,  
When I try to pick it up, it slides into the shower next door,  
Now I'm down there on me hands and knees, with my bum up in the air,  
I search around with arms outstretched; a voice says, "What you do down there?"

I thought it was time to think again, I knew what I had to do.  
If I couldn't reach my soap, I would shower with my hair shampoo,  
So, I got myself all soaped up, then I let out a scream and shout,  
Just when I was all covered in suds, me only Dollar ran out.

I didn't have more money, then, I suddenly gave a great howl,  
In all my great confusion, I'd forgotten me bloody towel,  
So, I used my shirt, and then me jocks, wondered what else I could do,  
Then had a flash of inspiration, use some paper from the loo.

Well, I dibbed and dabbed squares on my skin, and places I won't mention,  
In the end they all stuck to me, till I looked like Norman Gunstan,  
Now I couldn't wear me shirt or jocks, and I gave one long last shout,  
Cos when I pulled me little shorts on, well all me 'tackle' hung out.

So van park showers are not for me, after my shower from hell  
I will never have a shower again, so just get used to the smell.

*Irvin Beeston*© 2013-- **Coober Pedy**

*Whilst on the subject of showers, as all members of the shed know, if you didn't know, it's because you weren't there, and missed the fun. But I renovated my bathroom, including a 'new u beaut' shower.*

*Everything turned out good except for one thing.*

*When I drop the soap.*

*It still doesn't bounce back up!*



## Committee Matters

On the 12 Feb 2024 your committee met and discussed many things relevant to the operation of your shed.

I do not intend to print the meeting minutes, but only advise you of any interesting (juicy or otherwise) bits that came up at this meeting.

- 1) **Membership** — We have 45 paid-up ordinary shed members and 3 business members.  
This leaves me wondering, where are you all on 'shed days'?
- 2) Be aware that another **Resilient Community Picnic & Free BBQ** will be near the Fire Station on Saturday 4th, May.
- 3) **Offer your time for a mate** — We had a discussion regarding transport problems that some shed members may encounter attending medical/hospital appointments in places other than Mount Beauty when family or friends are unable to help.

It was suggested that a list of volunteer drivers and/or cars could be made available of any shed members willing to offer their services as and when suitable arrangements could be mutually arranged.

For example, Day surgery drop off and pick up on the same day or whenever. **Or** test procedures when you are not allowed to drive yourself. Obviously, the patient would cover fuel costs but would not be charged for time.

If you think this is a workable idea (it's only in its infancy), please email your details to me at [vinniebeeston@gmail.com](mailto:vinniebeeston@gmail.com). Mobile: 0439 634 664 or stop me on the street.

And offer your time for a mate.

## Last words

Well I think I have no more to say in this Shed Torque, I hope that you have found something of interest or amusing.

Again I remind you that it is **your Shed Torque**, so if you have anything to say, email me.

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