



Shed Torque

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

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2 Tennis Court Avenue, Mount Beauty, Victoria 3699. **Tel:** (03) 5754 4676

Email: secretary@mountbeautymensshed.org.au

New President's Message

Hi All



This is my first chance to say a few words to all Mount Beauty Shedders following our AGM and my election as President.

I am in unfamiliar territory and am thinking about how I am going to fill the boots that our past President, Dick Puttyfoot, left me to wear.

There were other changes to the guard within the Shed; however, I'll leave their stories to be told by themselves.

My association with the Shed began when I retired from full-time work in late 2019 and was elected Vice President in 2020.

Whilst I don't profess to be a handyman—given that I was employed in the finance industry—I am truly humbled by the fellowship all members of the Shed extend to each other, making coming to the Shed a highlight where we can share both good and not-so-good news. The willingness of the more experienced members to show how projects can be attempted and completed is fantastic for beginners like me.

The Shed is in a good place with strong membership numbers, active participation in both Shed and personal projects, and a very stable financial position.

I look forward to sharing more good years with you all.

Henry Zemnicki

Vinnie's Opening

For my opening comments in this edition of Shed Torque, I want to explain why every bloke NEEDS to be a member of the Men's Shed, any Men's Shed, as I have just witnessed a personal period of upheaval unprecedented in my life before.

I used to believe I was strong enough to handle anything on my own, always able to smile through difficult times. But I've come to realise that it's okay to ask for help and lean on others when needed.

Just as you are thinking right now.

Guess what? It doesn't work that way.

A few weeks ago, I experienced the loss of the love of my life, and I was fortunate to have my family's support as I worked through it. I decided to share my feelings with the guys at 'the shed,' and I was truly touched by the heartfelt condolences and offers of help from each and every one of them. Their kindness gave me a wonderful sense of belonging and togetherness, knowing how much they genuinely cared.

I wrapped up my time in the hospital with RSV, and I appreciate the calls and messages from everyone asking how they can help. It truly means a lot to hear from you all.

I'm resting at home now and feeling better, but I still receive visits from friends asking how they can help. What lovely ways can we come up with to support each other?

I will be forever thankful that I am a member of *Mount Beauty & District Men's Shed*,

I humbly thank You.

At the beginning, I said every bloke NEEDS to be a member.
I hope you now know why.

November BBQ & Bendigo Bank Presentation

- **When:** 14th November 2025
- **Time:** 12 noon for BBQ lunch
- **Presentation:** 12:45 pm
- **Cost:** \$7.00

Pete Murray from Bendigo Bank will be giving a presentation on **scams**: *how to spot, avoid, and protect yourself*.

Don't miss this sound advice if you wish to be diligent when it comes to looking after your money.

The next snippet continues the above theme from [AMSA's 'Rip Woodchip'](#) radio broadcasts and reinforces the need to be a member of a 'Men's Shed'

G'day shedders! *Rip Woodchip* here—retired tool sharpener, full-time chinwag specialist, and unofficial mayor of the biscuit tin. Now I've been thinkin'...

There are two wonderful kinds of building that take place in a Men's Shed.

There's the obvious stuff—birdhouses, benches, ramps, planter boxes... You know, the things we knock together outta pallets and old fence pickets, held together by screws and, let's be honest, a good dash of "she'll be right."
But then there's the other kind of building. The quiet kind. The important kind.... Building community.

And it doesn't need a blueprint. It happens when you pour someone a cuppa before they ask for it. When you notice old Geoff hasn't shown up in a while and you give him a ring. It's when you show a new bloke how to use the lathe without makin' him feel like a dill. And it's definitely when you sit on the back step and solve half the world's problems over a Scotch Finger and a laugh.

See, in the Shed, we come from all different backgrounds. Some blokes were sparkies, others ran farms. Some were on the tools, others behind desks. Doesn't matter. Once you put on the shed shirt and walk through that door, you're part of the tribe.

And don't underestimate it, either. This stuff matters. More than most of us let on.

Loneliness doesn't always wear a sad face. Sometimes it just looks like someone who hasn't had a yarn in a while. That's where the Shed shines. We don't just build stuff—we rebuild blokes.

Now, don't get me wrong—I love a project. But I reckon our best work happens when we stop lookin' at what we can make and start noticing what we can mend. Friendships. Confidence. A sense of purpose.

So if you're listening today, maybe take a moment this week to build a bit of community. Slide up next to someone who looks a bit quiet. Ask 'em what they're working on. Invite 'em for a sausage roll. Offer to lend a hand—not just with a project, but with life. Because at the end of the day, we're all held together by more than glue and screws. We're held together by each other.

Alright, that's enough outta me. I've got three half-finished projects, a cold tea, and someone's nicked my Phillips head. Again.

Catch you next time, legends. Keep buildin'.

Editor — Wise words, hope you have renewed your membership

Projects, Projects & more Projects

A montage of some of the people and projects over the last couple of months.



Doctor Death (alias **Don Terry**), with the help of **Vas** (electrics), **Peter Mills**, and **Kaydan New**, has constructed two of these scary electric chairs for a Halloween celebration at a funeral parlour in Wodonga. The creativity, imagination and craftsmanship are a credit to them all.



The Neighbourhood Centre fence needed a 'new coat'. **Paul L'Huillier** on the job.



This is **Vas's** domain. An incredibly competent electrician (retired from AGL) and now ours!



***Peter Munday** is working on the second-hand very large spot welder donated by AGL*



Staining two garden seats for a client.



*Tennis Club door ramp. From left: **Paul L'Huillier & Larry Gardam***



*Our woodworking 'guru' **Don Terry** with another of his creations. A very talented*



*Time for a break from work on Projects - morning tea is always looked forward to.
We sit, chat and enjoy the comradeship.*

Now back to work on more Projects ...



Barry Hinson – *chainsaw repair*



Larry Gardam – *Pastel Box creation*

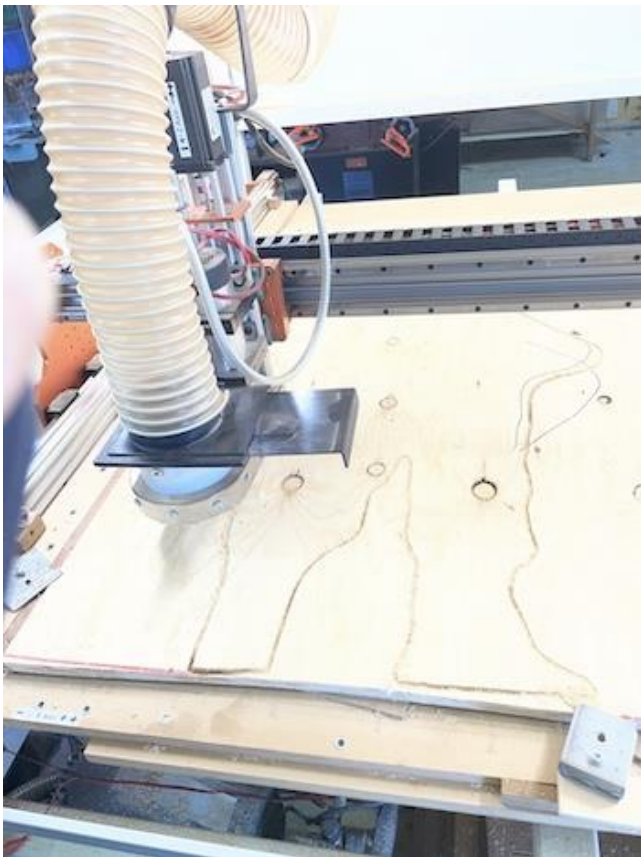
CNC Projects



Cutting out a Reindeer



***Peter Donnan** with his prototype Reindeer. **Peter & Peter Mills** have just completed undercoating six Santas, which will be decorated by the Art Group ready for display at local shops over Christmas. The plan is to produce four Reindeer as well.*



Cutting out a Santa. Previously, to the Shed building their CNC machine, this job was done by hand using a jigsaw.



The NHCentre 'Green Thumbs' group wanted a sign for their Pumpkin Patch...and the CNC delivered.





*Planter boxes & tables
made by one of our
'master woodworkers'
Warwick Mitchell*



*From left: **Peter Mills & Don Terry** (another of our master woodworkers) showing off a bookcase they produced for a client.*

Off-Cuts

1. **Parks Victoria** has just contracted the Shed to produce several wooden signs to be placed in the Alpine National Park. This is worth quite a few dollars for the Shed.
2. **Welcome to new members:** Kayden New, Wayne Lathem, Graham Behrendorff, Rod Harris & Dave Roberts.

3. Birthday Boys

September:

- Dick Puttyfoot (*congratulations on your recent 80th birthday*) – we have your OBE on the Shed Honour Wall now.
- Ken Halse
- Michael Parkinson
- Barry Hinson
- Bryn Allis
- Graham Behrendorff

October:

- Ken Darling
- Campbell Ford
- Henry Ziemnicki

4. **Monthly BBQ & Bendigo Bank Presentation** – Friday 14th November at 12 noon.
 5. **Shed is Open ALL Hours** – members are reminded about this opportunity to use the Shed facilities – 8:00 am to 8:00 pm seven days a week. Two people (one a member) must be in attendance for safety and insurance purposes. Read the [Policy](#).
 6. **Garage Sale** – Overall takings \$873.00 (pre & post the sale). Thanks to our helpers: Ian Howley, Peter Donnan, Graham Behrendorff, Larry Gardam, Peter Mills, Irvin Beeston, Brian Keeble, Phil Armitage, Mal Darwent and Paul L'Huillier.
 7. **Shed holiday hours** – For our normal workdays, the Shed closes on Wednesday, 10th December 2025, and re-opens on Tuesday, 6th January 2026. *Open ALL Hours* will remain operational during this period.
 8. **Mal Darwent** (another of our *master woodworkers*) is currently working on producing more beehives
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Member Profile — **Graham Behrendorff**

Editor: *We thank Graham for offering to take on the role of secretary, a new member with enthusiasm.*



I built a new house and moved to Mt Beauty in July 2025 from West Gippsland in my 85th year to be near my daughter and live a much quieter life.

My background was initially with the SEC, then accounting and finance roles at the Gas and Fuel Corporation, Petersville, J Blackwood and Son Ltd, Pacific Dunlop Ltd, Monash University and then lastly in my own business of Speedy Locksmiths for some 25 years, where I taught myself the trade of locksmithing, eventually finally retiring at 79.

At the SEC, I was awarded a scholarship to complete a Commerce Degree full-time at Melbourne University, where I gained honours in Accounting, Economics and Commercial Law. I also became a CPA and eventually upgraded to a Fellow (FCPA).

At Monash University, almost 30 years ago, I had the exciting opportunity to create a new degree in Business and Electronic Commerce. I also proudly led the way in teaching this course electronically, making it accessible to both students on campus and those overseas.

Over the years, I have served as a Director of the Electronic Data Interchange Council of Australia and the Locksmiths Guild of Australia Incorporated, holding the roles of National Treasurer and National Secretary of the Guild.

My extracurricular activities included being the President of a PC Computer hobbyist group (some 20 years), and being a RAAF Pilot Officer.

In my various roles, I have travelled both personally and on business extensively in Australia and overseas.

For relaxation, I play a piano accordion.

Graham Behrendorff — B.Com (Melb), Retired FCPA, Tax Agent, Company Director, University Lecturer, and finally a Locksmith.

12th September 2025



Dick Puttyfoot our ex-President

We say a fond and friendly farewell to Dick as he steps down from the position he has successfully filled for the past 13 years.

He has been instrumental in transforming our Shed into something tangible, where every man is welcomed into an atmosphere of camaraderie, regardless of colour, religion, or creed.

We wish him well in his future endeavours, and I am happy that I have walked alongside him and can call him 'a mate'.

President's Report for 2025



Hello everyone,

It's been quite a year, with my part-time attendance due to long travels and some health issues. At times, I realised I wasn't able to fully contribute to the Shed and support its members as I would have liked.

I reminded myself to let go of those worries when I thought about the wonderful crew at the Shed. Over this year, I've come to really appreciate all the Shed blokes and the fantastic camaraderie we share - it's exactly how a Shed should feel. Treating each other with respect and genuine concern for well-being has been so meaningful. We've been checking in on members when health concerns came up and visiting or supporting each other during travels, which has really strengthened our bonds.

Our Shed stands firm on the core principles of the Shed protocol. I am in a position of transience concerning living arrangements for the future and must thank all those who helped me stay in accommodation whilst in Mount Beauty.

I'm really sad to step down as president for 2026, but I truly enjoyed being part of our Shed's development and all the wonderful moments we've shared.

I'm unable to attend the September AGM since it coincides with my birthday, which is always a special time for me. This year, the family is gathering at Preston RSL, where around 200 friends and relatives from Australia and abroad will be joining us for a joyful get-together.

I'll always be there in spirit, even if I'm not in the Shed in person.

Thank you to you all.

Regards
Dick Puttyfoot.



*The Admiral – Marg Armitage
Wife of Phil, at the helm*

They are/were on their way on their yacht from Queensland to Geelong in a number of stages.

Phil, as the very descriptive storyteller he is, sent me a lovely email sharing all about their trip. It was so detailed and thorough that I used up all my ink and started to feel a bit seasick just reading it!

They are still on their way and seem to sail only in calm waters. I'll happily wait for their report when they regain their 'sea legs' and can stand tall once more. In the meantime, it's worth checking out Phil's account of their voyage—just visit his website to read it.

They own a yacht much like Kay Cottee's, who famously sailed around the world alone. I believe theirs is just as seaworthy and ready for adventure.

By the end of October, they docked in Shoalhaven, south of Wollongong, and are now happily back home in Mount Beauty, waiting for the weather to settle in Bass Strait. Such sensible folks!

I spent six years at sea, and I experienced seasickness twice a year while crossing The Bay of Biscay. The smallest vessel I ever sailed on was a 10,000-tonne ship, powered by an engine larger than a house.

I've heard I was seasick in 'dry dock,' so I think I'll kindly pass on volunteering as a deckhand for Phil and Marge, no matter who's doing the driving.

I believe there's only one person who could walk on water, and unfortunately, he's no longer with us!

Melbourne Cup Garage Sale



*Our garage sale, held on Saturday, November 1, 2025, netted a profit of **\$686.00** on the day, with some extra items sold prior to and after the sale, totalling **\$873.00**. A good crowd was in attendance to help keep our presence alive in the community.*

Community Resilience Picnic – Sat 11th Oct '25



The BBQ Kings in attendance again

From The Neighbourhood Centre — a thank you.

Good Morning to the Mount Beauty & District Men's.

We would like to thank you and your team for being part of our Resilient Community Picnic on Saturday! Your presence helped create a warm, welcoming atmosphere filled with connection, laughter, and shared purpose. We're grateful for your support and the spirit you brought to the day. Events like these remind us of the strength and unity within our community. We hope you enjoyed the activities, conversations, and delicious food as much as we did.

Looking forward to seeing you at future gatherings!

Final Words:

I hope you all found something of interest in this edition, and if you can submit something that might be of interest for future editions, please pass it on to me.

Even I can get short of things to say, sometimes.

I will take this opportunity to wish all of you, and especially those members who are under the weather, the best and kindest wishes for the Festive Season and the future.

Your Editor – *Irvin Beeston*



Wall space is at a premium...we need another wall!
Dick Puttyfoot is the latest addition.

We thank all our sponsors

