



Shed Torque

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

Issue No. 15 — September 2023



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Greetings

Greetings fellow "Shedders". As we say farewell to September 2023, it's time to reflect back on the month and the Shed happenings. Our AGM, committee elections, media events and work around the Shed. Most importantly, I am proud to announce that our long standing, hard-working and dedicated President, Dick, was awarded Life Membership to our Shed.

Dick Puttyfoot – Life Membership

At the recent AGM Dick was presented with a Life Membership for his 10 years of service to the Shed. Refer to the **attached photo** of Henry Z, Vice President, presenting the certificate to Dick.

Dick's Citation

Committee member

- *Shed foundation member* – 14th October 2011.
- *President for 10 years and vice president for one year*

Shed Electrical Coordinator

- Performed this role in the building of the Main Shed and the recent Shed Extension (West Wing). He is the go-to-man for all things electrical in the Shed.
- Dick oversaw all the electrical work at the Shed doing much of the work himself with assistance from others. He liaised with electricians and the Alpine Shire Building Inspectors and provided regular update reports to the committee.

An All Rounder

- Dick is renowned for being able to turn his hand to most tasks and solve problems. He is a willing teacher to members on tasks for which they require instruction. He initiated the Women in the Men's Shed Program with assistance from other members.

Community Project involvement

- Dick has always put his hand up to assist with fundraising and community projects that require manpower.
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- For example — Footy/Netball Gate collection (one of the leaders of this project), Christmas Street Decorations, Garage Sale, Music Festival security, Bike Park car parking, moving furniture and cleaning out home garages/sheds.

Shed representative at VMSA, AMSA & Cluster Meetings

- Dick has been the Shed Representative at many of these meetings bringing back project ideas, governance procedures, useful contacts and other benefits.

Shed Welfare Officer

- As the Shed's Welfare Officer Dick has helped out many members who have needed a hand with personal problems. This has included helping with a job at home, giving a member a lift to Melbourne for medical care, etc. This is done quietly, but has been greatly appreciated by the members involved.

Nominated by: *Paul L'H*

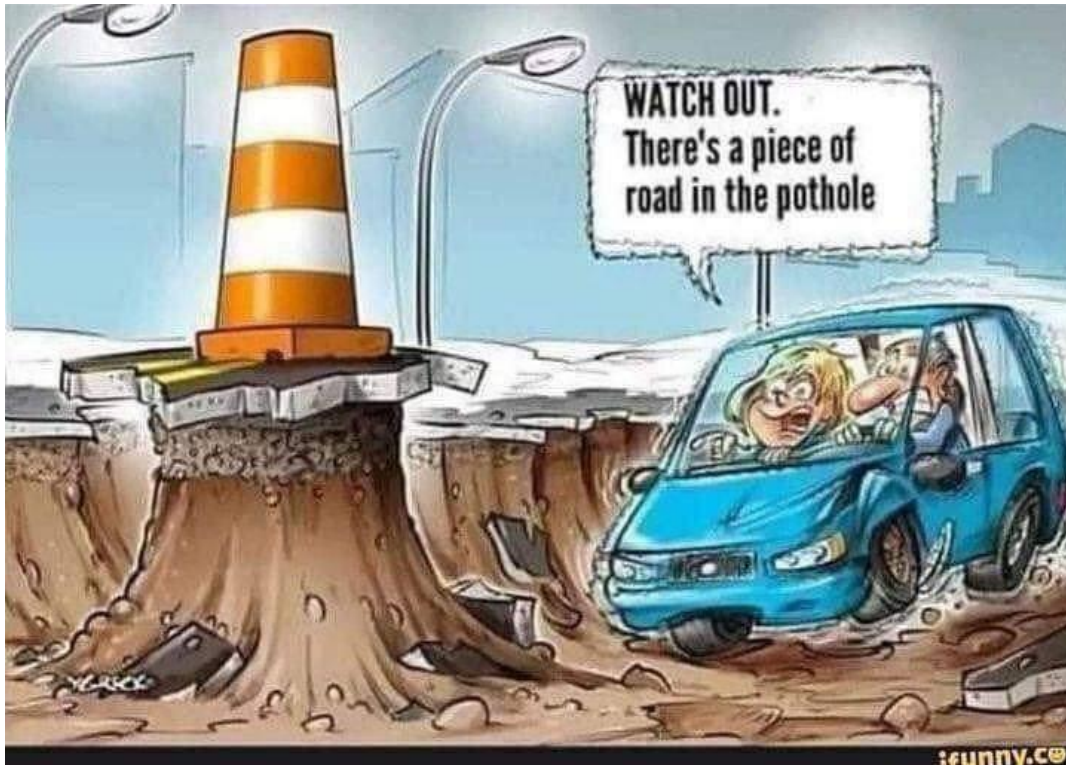
Seconded by: *Ian H*

8th September 2023



Pothole Perusals

It is with no regret that we say farewell to a large number of the potholes infesting the Kiewa Valley Hwy due to the ongoing efforts of the roads crews. Yet we have been able to welcome new, fresh holes that have magically appeared to take their place. Not forgetting some "old friends" that have reappeared as previous repairs deteriorate and fall apart. But, be assured, we are not alone as reports from locals and visitors confirm road damage similar to ours all over the state. Maybe with a change in the top level of state government we will see less focus on urban road issues and a refocus on rural Victoria.



Kindling

Somebody dumped a load of weatherboards outside the gate last weekend. These have been cut up plus more timber from our pile under the Gazebo. Still some to be cut up and stored for next winter. Probably about \$650-\$700 worth of kindling sitting there in the four 44 Gallon drums already. Kindling sales have ceased.



Annual General Meeting

The New 2023/24 Committee

Executive: President: *Dick Puttyfoot*, Vice President: *Henry Ziemnicki*, Secretary: *Noel McDougall*, Treasurer: *Peter Donnan*.

Ordinary Members: Ian Howley, Mal Darwent, John Driver, Irvin Beeston, Phil Armitage, Barry Hinson and Paul L'Huillier.

Our meeting was held on the 8th of Sept and saw little change to the structure of our committee with it now having 12 members instead of 13.

From the Co-Editor — A big thank you to Mark Hardidge (Editor of Shed Torque for the last two years) who is stepping down from the committee after many years of service. Mark has been our *Chef de Shed* forever, our guru bike mechanic plus general good guy who is always up for a chat. I believe Mark will be holding the newsletter portfolio until a new Editor emerges and is organising the Hume Cluster Lunch this Thursday.

This was followed by our monthly luncheon and final "winter warmer" for the year which saw a Shed favourite served up.

Corned beef with white cheese sauce. Mashed potato, broccolini, green beans and honeyed carrots.

Mushroom quiche and a green salad were also available. All followed with 2 home made slices with tea and coffee for desert.

Sounds almost as good as Jungaburra Duck a l'orange eh Lee?

2023/24 Men's Shed Membership is now due!

At the AGM held on 8th September the members decided to keep the membership fee the same as last year i.e. **\$45.00 (individual)** and \$50.00 (business/organisation). **This is now due and is payable by 30th September 2023.** Prompt payment is very much appreciated by the committee.

Payment Methods

1. **In person over the counter at the Bendigo Bank** indicating that the payment is from you or

2. **Direct Credit** into the Shed bank account. **Bank details are as follows.** Mount Beauty & District Men's Shed Inc, **BSB:** 633000, **Account #:** 144372661.

Eye Candy.



Humour.



Ride-On-Mower

Finally, we had access to the NH Centre Garden Shed to rescue the Ride-On-Mower. Would you believe that after 10 months Larry G's magic touch got it to start on the first go. It has a little damage on one mud guard and on the cutter shield but it goes OK. Stored in the West Wing at the moment. The boys are "on it".

We don't need two mowers. Thoughts on what to do with one and which one do we keep?



AGL

As part of the R U OK week, our good friends at AGL asked if the Mens Shed would be able to supply some talented cooks to prepare a cooked breakfast for their workers. Unfortunately, all we could provide was **Vinnie B, Ian H, Noel Mc and me.**

We were told that they would supply everything, all we had to do was cook. The boys did a great job and prepared everything including egg, bacon and hash brown sandwiches with tea, coffee and fresh fruit. It was indeed a very pleasant surprise when, on conclusion, our Shed was presented with a cheque for \$500 in appreciation.

After reiterating that he couldn't cook then finding that, indeed, he could, Vinnie will be putting up his hand for the Chef-de-Shed position as part of his portfolio.



Toilet Humour.



Humour

The Prostate Exam

An old Tawonga local goes to his doctor for his physical and gets sent to the Urologist as a precaution.

When he gets there, he discovers the Urologist is a very pretty female doctor.

The female doctor says, "I'm going to check your prostate today, but this new procedure is a little different from what you are probably used to. I want you to lie on your right side, bend your knees, then while I check your prostate, take a deep breath and say, '**99**'."

The old guy obeys and says, "**99**".

The doctor says, "Great". Now turn over on your left side and again, while I repeat the check, take a deep breath and say, '**99**'."

Again, the old guy says, '**99**'."

"Very good." said the doctor. Now then, I want you to lie on your back with your knees raised slightly. I'm going to check your prostate with this hand, and with the other hand I'm going to hold on to your penis to keep it out of the way.

Now take a deep breath and say, '**99**'."

*The old guy begins, "**One ... Two ... Three**" ...*

Media Coverage.

It was good to see our Shed get great coverage by The Alpine Observer back in July. As we can see they selected the "gun workers" from the Shed for photos.



A squatter in the Shed?

A full kitchen, refrigerators, hot & cold running water with toilets and showers and extremely competitive stay rates, who could want for a better caravan park?

With major floor works needed in his 'A' Van, Dick was able to stay for a couple of nights at the Shed whilst these repairs were conducted. A major, temporary, security measure for the Shed.



'Cause I Own One With 8 Cylinders!



Did you know????

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used?

Well, because that's the way they built them in England, and English engineers designed the first US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the wagon tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

So, why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that same wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break more often on some of the old, long distance roads in England . You see, that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.

And what about the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match or run the risk of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome , they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

Bureaucracies live forever!

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder 'What horse's arse came up with this?', you may be exactly right.

Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two horses' arses.)

Now, the twist to the story: When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah . The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site.

The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature, of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system, was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's behind!

Poets Prose - Flies

*God, in the beginning, you created heaven and earth,
I would like to tell you something, for what I think it's worth,
You did most things pretty well, then made one fatal error,
You sent a thing to torment man, pester him with terror.*

*I've thought a lot about it, and I really can't see why,
You worked so hard for 6 days, then came up with "a fly!",
If in Heaven You have flies, that's another error, see,
I've had enough of them down here, you won't be seeing me.*

*They really are a nuisance, they're no use to man nor beast,
And you know you just can't lose them, travelling west or east,
Don't think you'll go another way, 'cos north or south's the same,
By the time you get there, you will know each fly by name.*

*They buzz around your eyeballs, and they crawl into your ears,
They're into **every** orifice, and could stay there for years,
They are immune to everything, doesn't matter what you spray,
They just go and fly around, and bring back more next day.*

*When you're cooking in the kitchen, that's when they get hooked,
They mix in with the scone mix, look like currants when they're cooked
Now don't think that you can lose them , by going way out bush,
Cos if you need to use the loo, you really have to rush,*

*When you dash back in the car, the wife is sat there crying,
Tells you that it's all your fault. "You let a bloody fly in"
You set off down the road again, your marriage try to save,
Try to shoo the flies outside, with a good old Aussie wave.*

*When they fly outside you hope, without being too unkind,
They get splattered on that Kenworth, that's steaming up behind,
When darkness falls you think they've gone, you say "goodnight my dear",
Crawl into bed, and then she says, "There's a bloody fly in here."*

*So now God, you can see, what a mess that you created,
And why this little bloody creature, is so badly hated,
When I die, I want to leave the world, a lasting legacy,
Put all the flies inside my box, burn them with what's left of me.*

Irvin Beeston – 2015 (our own Men's Shed Bush Poet)

Mount Beauty & District Men's Shed

Hume Cluster Meeting

Thursday 5th October at the Shed

Agenda

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|------|---|
| 0830 | Arrive, meet and greet others |
| 0840 | Beverages available serve yourselves |
| 0930 | Acknowledgement of Country and a
Welcome to Mt Beauty and our shed Dick Puttyfoot |
| 0935 | Welcome

To Paul Sladden, president of AMSA and Jim Kane new member of VMSA.

A short word from Paul re AMSA

Jim will give an overall idea of his new role |
| 1000 | The North-East area has been affected by a Road-slip at Bogong Village, on the High-Plains road. We have managed to arrange a briefing about this disaster through some of our members. It was felt that this information related to our October Cluster gathering. We now have confirmation of this topic. |
| 1030 | Morning Tea, Networking, Our shed on display. |
| 1045 | Generalised reports from all sheds. What is outstanding at your shed. |
| 1130 | The finale from Paul Sladden. I will mention the VMSA meeting. |
| 1145 | Next meeting and venue. |
| 1200 | Lunch is served. |

All members are welcomed to attend. Cluster meetings are a good opportunity to connect with other Shedders in our region. Plenty of talk, camaraderie and socialising. There is no cost.

Volunteers needed to help with setup — Wednesday afternoon 2:30 pm and Thursday morning at 8:00 am.

Get Well.

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to **Shane C** who is finally home and recovering (so long as he does as he's told) after his holiday in the wonderful, vibrant city of Melbourne.

Peter M is recovering in hospital after his accident. Further details of his condition will hopefully be forthcoming from **Les B.**

Editor.

Well, that's all for this edition of Shed Torque, hope you enjoyed the read. Don't forget you can always submit articles for publication in our Newsletter as well as any items you may wish to sell.

Cheers, **Mark H**
