



Shed Torque

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



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From your editor

In this edition, I will try to highlight some of the thoughts, ideas, and initiatives that make up the efforts of many of our members, to not only bring some income to our Shed, but also to provide interest and activity for members, hopefully delaying the onset of premature 'ageing' and uselessness.

Wherever possible, the object is to recycle any materials lying around, and we do a pretty good job at that, but we should also keep trying to increase the number of 'recycled teenagers' we already have.



Projects on the go

The Renovators: *Don Terry, Peter Mills, Larry Gardam, Duncan Robertson and Michael Bauer* show what can be done with time and patience.



Not only did they do the table, but also the six matching dining chairs.

Having accomplished the impossible with the table, they are attempting the same task with a tatty old turntable gramophone (**Boom Box**) it works!

A community project for the historical society.



- Before -



From left: Duncan Robertson, Larry Gardam, Michael Bauer & Don Terry (team leader). Absent from the picture are Phil Armitage and Peter Mills.

Still more projects are in the pipeline, involving more members, too many to name, but with variously needed skills, who can always tell you, "You could have done it this way", after you've just completed it.

However, it always makes you feel good if someone is interested enough in your project to offer their advice, comments, and assistance.

That's what 'Shed Mates' do.

Some other projects in progress



Mal Darwent has nearly completed his flying machine, which only needs two threads attached to the wings and a bar to stop it flying away when he hangs it on his veranda.

I don't know if it lays eggs.

Now *Mal Darwent & Larry Gardam* are into this project, which from this photo looks like the start of 'a Grand Piano', but I'll let you in on a secret.



Each one is a **stick-on quick-release clip** for a tea towel or 'post-it' note for your kitchen or fridge, which is much more useful than a piano if you are tone deaf or hard of hearing.



Spectacle stands - very useful!
A Mal Darwent invention

Not all projects are made of wood; we have a competent group of **metalworkers** who can make and fix anything. Bring in your ideas.



A Les Bevan Fire Poker Set & Peter Munday Fire Pit



Possum Boxes for Falls Creek Resort Management
Warwick Mitchell is leading this project with assistance from Irvin Beeston & painters Paul L'Huillier & Graham Behrendorff.
We are making ten.



Trailer for Sale (6x4) – \$750.00
Larry Gardam has done the renovations (priming, painting, checking the electrics,

Off-Cuts & other 'stuff' (from the sub-editor)

1. Congratulations to *Irvin Beeston* on his 92nd birthday, and he still can produce a newsletter. Well done, Irvin.
 2. *Reg Hollonds* will be 90 years old in May. A great milestone!
 3. **Welcome to new members:** *Phil O'Brien, Jessie McKelvey, Logan Krantz & Lin Baird.*
 4. **April BBQ had 25 members attend.** A good number. The BBQ etc will only be held every second month. The next one will be in June.
 5. **Outdoor School – Bogong.** We will supply them with sawdust for their composting projects at the school.
 6. **On holidays:** *Peter Donnan* (biking in Scandinavia), *Henry Ziemnicki* (swanning around up north) and *Phil Armitage* (touring the Kimberly in May).
 7. **Member Survey** — This has been in circulation for a month and closed on 30th April. Thank you to all those who responded. Results will be published to members.
 8. **Shed expansion options** are being discussed — 1. Build a new Storage Shed and expand it towards the Tennis Club fence, and 2. Expand the Recreational Room towards the Pondage by ~5m.
 9. **Mowing Contractor** — The Shed has contracted a local business *Rakes & Ladders* to cut our grass and the Neighbourhood Centre area. The cost is shared 50/50 between the two organisations.
 10. **Cleaning Contractor** — We have been using a paid cleaner for the Recreational Room and Toilet/Washroom for the last six months. Currently, we are looking at tightening up the contractual arrangement.
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Member Profile – Peter Mills



I was born in Ashfield, NSW, a friendly Sydney suburb, on November 16, 1945.

I grew up happily in Fairfield, a lovely western suburb of Sydney. At 15, I left high school with my Intermediate Certificate and began an Apprenticeship in fitting and machining at CMA Cables in Liverpool, NSW.

After finishing my apprenticeship, CMA generously offered me the chance to pursue a trade course in Refrigeration, which I eagerly accepted. They graciously covered my costs to attend Tech College, so I thought, why not? I continued with them for five more years, and when I decided to resign, I was fortunate to be headhunted by Sonnordale, Richardson, David, Brown (SRDB) (I knew their Chief Engineer!). I spent a couple more years there, but started feeling a bit restless, being stuck in a factory. Plus, my friend had moved on to a job in Melbourne, inspiring me to do the same.

I found a role with McNiece Bros as a Refrigeration Service Mechanic – they had recently opened an office in Sydney. They're based in Bendigo and Shepparton. I worked with them for eight wonderful years and eventually became their Chief Commissioning Engineer for NSW, reporting directly to their Bendigo office.

After McNiece Bros stopped operating in NSW around 1995, my younger brother and I decided to start our own service company called P&D Mills P/L.

I also met my future wife through a mutual friend at SRDB. We were both invited to his wedding, and one thing led to another – twelve months later, we happily tied the knot! We have three wonderful children and seven adorable grandchildren.

My hobbies include dirt track motorcycle racing; I ride a specially built 500cc JAP in a Hagon frame. I also enjoy ten-pin bowling, water skiing, snow skiing, and hunting.

Until mid-2024, I was proud to be a member of the Scout Association of NSW. I began as a Group Leader for my son's scout group and later served as Fairfield City District Commissioner in NSW. While still involved with Scouts, I decided to tick off a dream from my Bucket List by earning my Private Pilot Licence. The Scout Association's Air Base at Camden Airport, NSW, with its registered flying school, made this dream come true. I passed my PPL, night rating, and multi-engine endorsement with their wonderful support.

We had a caravan in a park for a few years, then started looking for a holiday home – my wife calls Mount Beauty her 'Happy Place'. Eventually, we found our current home, and when the lot next door came on the market, we bought that too. We decided that when we retire, this would be our perfect new home.

So here we are. In December 2024, we agreed that it would be our last year in the workforce. I would be 79, and David (brother) would be 76. We shared our exciting decision with all our clients, subcontractors, and suppliers, feeling happy and eager to start this new chapter.

I attend the Men's Shed regularly and enjoy the camaraderie, socialising and learning woodwork skills from some of our talented members.

Peter Mills
April 2026

Kindling Production is 'ramping up' again.

The Shed's major fundraiser.



Kindling Production

From left: **Graham Brehrendorff & Henry Ziemnicki.** Others contributing are:
Peter Munday, Larry Gardam, Lin Baird, Derek Hutton & Paul L'Huillier





Don Terry with a set of steps made for a client.
He was assisted by **Peter Mills**



Phil Armitage our CNC guru with
another guitar



From Left: **Les Bevan & Peter Munday**
fixing two walkers for a client.



Bird Boxes
An **Irvin Beeston** creation with assistance from **Mal Darwent** and the **CNC Team**.

Another CNC Project called an Inlay

In the context of CNC routing, an **inlay** is a technique where a piece of material (the **insert**) is fitted precisely into a carved-out pocket or recessed area (the **pocket**) of a different base material.

The goal is to create a flush, seamless surface where the two materials appear integrated, often used for decorative logos, lettering, or intricate patterns.

An inlay produced by one of *Phil Armitage's Protégés*.





Bike Club Sign produced on the CNC machine.

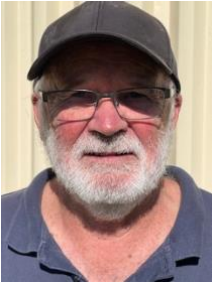


Phil Armitage on the CNC machine designing a **Set of Draws** to be installed inside a RV Van for a member. **On the right** are the Draws installed.,

We have some talented members in the Shed.



Brian Keeble – Member Profile



I was born in Mildura in 1946 and attended Mildura Primary School and then Mildura Tech School, where I initially planned to pursue a plumbing apprenticeship. However, my teachers at the Tech encouraged me to stay in school and choose a more academic path. I completed Year 12 at the Tech and then attended the Ballarat School of Mines and Industries on an Education Department Studentship, earning a Diploma of Applied Chemistry. After gaining two years of industrial experience with the Australian Road Research Board, I decided to enrol at the Technical Teachers College, where I graduated with a Trained Technical Teachers Certificate, qualifying me to teach maths and science at any Tech School in Victoria.

My teaching journey began at Preston Girls Tech for two years, followed by two years at Irymple Tech, and then a rewarding four years back at my old school, Mildura Tech. During my time there, I developed a keen interest in the emerging subject of “Outdoor Education” and felt inspired to apply for a position at the newly established Rubicon School Camp. After spending three wonderful years at Rubicon, I was promoted in 1981 to Assistant Principal at Bogong School Camp (now Outdoor School, Bogong). I retired from Bogong in 2001 and happily purchased a house in Mt Beauty, where I still enjoy living today.

Playing sports has always been a big part of my life—football, cricket, hockey, basketball, and more. For 18 years, I was a registered athlete with the Victorian Professional Athletic League and took part in numerous “Gift” meetings, including an exciting 15 years competing at the Stawell Gift.

My love for winter sports took me to Lake Mountain, where I learned to cross-country ski, and Falls Creek, where I enjoyed downhill skiing during my time at Bogong. I became actively involved in cross-country skiing administration, helping to organise, run, and officiate at races at club, state, national, and international levels. I also proudly managed Australian National Cross Country Ski Teams, both senior and junior, for 15 years during overseas tours.

Today, I still enjoy cross-country skiing, taking long walks most mornings, watching plenty of sport on TV, being a proud Collingwood FC member, collecting coins, reading books, and relaxing with a nice glass of red wine.

I've been a member of the Shed for many years. While I no longer participate in workshop activities, I always enjoy coming down for morning tea, sharing a cuppa, and having a friendly chat.

Brian Keeble
April 2026

Poetry corner - Yours truly had a birthday this month, so I composed a poem.

Another Birthday

Today it is my birthday, so I 'll try and write a verse,
Instead of saying I'm 92, I'll write that in reverse,
I'll imagine I am 29, now one can always dream,
But my body isn't helping, it used to be quite lean.

At 29, I showed a six-pack, great set of ABS at that,
When I try to find them now, I see only layers of fat.
I lifted weights to firm my chest, ate all the proper foods,
Now my chest has disappeared, with just a pair of '**man-boobs**'

My 'manhood' served me well back then, with energy I'd abound,
But now it's gone like all the rest and never can be found.
This body then was full of vigor, ready for the day,
Now it says, 'Tomorrow will do, I'm resting, come what may'.

My body's just not like it was when I was young and free,
What only took a minute then, now takes another three,
When I'm working in the kitchen, a spoon might make a fall,
I wait till I drop the knives and forks and then **pick up them all.**

Every day I wake up, and put my feet down on the ground,
Stand up, take a few deep breaths, and be glad I am still around
I guess I'll have to be content, with what I've got, make do,
Must stop living in this dream world **and admit I'm 92.**

Irvin Beeston 2026

ANZAC Day

A huge turnout for Anzac Day, with quite a few Shed members there, and **Warwick Mitchell** and '**yours truly**' laying a reef on behalf of the Shed. The Shed's BBQ was used for the after event gathering.



*Two of our Shed members in attendance
from left: **Peter Munday** & **Warwick Mitchell**.*

Final Words

I hope this edition has kept your interest alive in reading about the happenings at our Men's Shed. This publication would not be possible without the input and help of our members, and I would like to sincerely thank all those who have made my job easier.

I arrived in Mount Beauty as a "blow-in" in 2003, after searching Australia and finding nowhere better. Soon I might finally be accepted as a "local," but until then, I am quite happy just to be "accepted." This was proven on Anzac Day, when it took me four and a half hours to navigate the crowd because so many people stopped to ask how I was and wish me a happy birthday.

We live in a fantastic, caring community. Thank you all.

Irvin Beeston – Editor