



Shed Torque

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

May 2025



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I would like to pat on the back every member of the Mount Beauty Men's Shed who has made my time at the shed such a memorable time in my life.

Without the friendliness, camaraderie, and interest in me as a member, I would still be a "blow-in" from the big city with a funny accent. But there you are, that's what Men's Sheds are all about.

Thanks, mates - Irvin

Membership Matters

We, like many other Shed's have problems attracting and keeping members, we can't force them in, and we can't stop them dying.

We can only offer a place for them to come to for help, guidance, and companionship in many ways.

We currently have 56 members, with about 15 that are 'active', so what do we need to do to interest the others?

It does not have to be a working environment, even though we have a shed full of equipment, it can be just a place to come to for a coffee and a chat, do nothing but watch everybody else, and exercise your mind.

Our shed needs people, old and new, from every walk of life, from cleaners to chairman, teachers to technicians, turners to talkers. Anyone who enjoys life will be welcome.

You can help. Show anyone our '**Shed Torque**' and invite them to check out our shed. Tell them to look at our website
<www.mountbeautymensshed.org.au>

Discuss our shed at every opportunity and let them know that we are here and ready to meet with them.

Don't let our shed die.

Dick and I did our part for the shed by being interviewed by *Helen McDougal on Alpine FM*, with an emphasis on the benefits of membership and our role in the community.

Welcome to new members:

- Barton, Glenn
- Merritt, Glenn
- Pizzolitto, Paul
- Hansen, Michael
- Bauer, Michael
- Behrendorff, Graham
- Wilson, Ian
- Mills, Peter
- Van der Ploeg, Daniel
- Baird, Lin

Remember, membership fees are half price from 1st April to 30th September i.e. \$22.50 and Shed access is from 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week. Tell your friends...

Birthday Boys – Congratulations to the members who have birthdays in May and June.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| • Gary Hollonds | • Lin Barid |
| • Reg Hollonds | • Graham Caulfield |
| • Rob Van der Linden | • Marcus Sleep |
| • Paul L'Huillier | • Ciro Luchini |
| • Warwick Mitchell | |

Members take advantage of this....

Shed is now Open ALL Hours

The Shed **Opened ALL Hours** from Wednesday, **4th December 2024**.

The committee decided to open the Shed more often to maximise usage of the facility.

We have a great resource—the Shed and recreation room, equipment, machinery, and tools—but it needs to be *used more effectively* so members can access it at other times.

The two regular operating days only suit some members. We will be 'Open ALL Hours' to cater for those who would like to attend at their convenience.

In addition to the current two days per week (Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm), the Shed will be open to members from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, **seven days a week** (including Tuesday and Wednesday).

The **attached [POLICY](#)** has been developed and must be read by all members. Click the link.

In summary

1. Hours are 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, seven days a week.
2. For safety and insurance reasons, two people must be present, one of whom must be a member. The non-member can be a woman.
3. The main door will be locked with a code. *Contact the secretary secretary@mountbeautymensshed.org.au to get the door code.*
4. The door will have a video camera above it, so whoever enters will be recorded. The committee can access the recordings.
5. Members wishing to use specialised tools and equipment must be assessed by one of our Workshop Panel members and checked off in our system. This assessment must be conducted on a Tuesday or Wednesday when Panel members are in the Shed. Protective gear must be used as appropriate.
6. Members (and the second person) using the Shed *outside of regular days and hours* must **sign** the sign-in book and record the project they are working on next to their name.
7. On leaving, ensure the lights, heater, air conditioning, and urn are off, all doors are locked, and you have signed out.

Learn to Drive (L2P)

The TAC L2P Program assists disadvantaged Victorian learner drivers aged 16 to 23 with no access to a supervising driver or vehicle to gain the 120 hours driving experience required to apply for a probationary licence.

At last week's Tuesday morning tea, we had the **Alpine Shires L2P coordinator**, *Elvie Rooney*, as a guest speaker. She was on a recruiting drive to gain more volunteer drivers for this program. The volunteer (mentor) provides assistance to learner drivers to help them obtain their license and become better drivers.

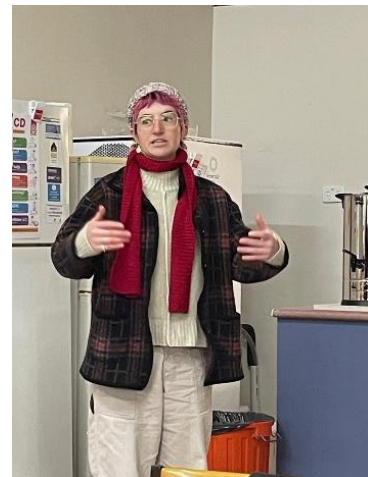
How it works

The TAC L2P Program matches learners from 16 to 23 years old with a fully-licensed volunteer driver and practice vehicle to help them gain driving experience.

Before being matched with a volunteer mentor, learners participating in the program have access to up to seven free driving lessons throughout the program with a professional instructor. This helps learners build their skills before getting on the road with a volunteer mentor and continue progressing through the four stages of the Graduated Licensing System.

The program focuses on helping young people become safe, confident drivers in an effort to reduce Victoria's road toll. It also provides an opportunity for young people to interact with positive adult role models, gain confidence and move towards social independence.

If interested, call the **Alpine Shire L2P Coordinator** on 5755 0555 or email <L2P@alpineshire.vic.gov.au>.



Men's Sheds focus on the health and well-being of their members.

They provide a space that fosters camaraderie, connection, and community. Recently, member Paul L'Huillier was visiting Swan Hill on the Murray River and came across this message in a river park.

We all can learn from the message.



A Typical Day in the Shed - *It is what you make it.*

A few early risers enjoy getting started on their chosen projects before the rest of the crowd arrives, once the streets have been cleared and the sun is above the horizon.

It's then welcoming smiles all around, a quick check on what everyone is up to, and offering any assistance or advice when necessary. (There is *always* someone who knows more than you do).

Before you know it, it's coffee time—a moment to listen to and share any relevant news, then offer your opinion on the many diverse issues that arise, even if you haven't been asked.

Even if you have no project or job to complete for yourself, helping someone else with theirs can be a rewarding experience. You always learn something new and enjoy the company, whether it involves assisting with computers, building bird boxes, cleaning out someone's shed, or just going to the tip.



Michael Bauer is producing Ladder Golf Games for sale. *The editor previously produced many of these over the years.*



Peter Munday demonstrating his wood turning skills.



I Must say, Ted (the dog), looks ecstatic. Don Terry with a **Balcony Bench** that he has restored, including making the brackets.



***I think they're waiting for the bus home.
Just hope the paint & varnish is dry.***
Garden Seats restoration: From Left: Don Terry & Peter Mills



Paul will do anything for a 'Quid'. Restoring a Garden Seat for a client.



Warwick Mitchell is producing two coffee tables for sale.

Member Profile — Don Terry



I started off as a pre-apprentice carpenter, completing my training at Cooma College of TAFE. Then, I worked as a plumber's labourer with my brother until I was offered a carpentry and joinery apprenticeship, which I completed at Cooma College of TAFE during the recession. I moved to Melbourne to work with John Perries Lifts, where I learnt how to manufacture the internals of lifts. After that, I moved to Jones's Stairs and manufactured all types of internal stairs. Subsequently, I worked for Carnegie Joinery and took on various jobs, from cabinet work to round windows and double-glazed doors. I then moved to Balmain, Richmond, and began working at the Bright and May match factory.

The city had taken its toll on me, and we had to move, so I went back home to Merimbula and worked for Pointon's. Then I moved up to Batemans Bay and worked for ALVANEX. After that, I needed a change of pace, so I did some picture framing for Xanadu Framing and other artists for several years. I then worked on a construction site for Cris Lowe Construction for some time before leaving to head out to the Indigenous community of Lajamanu. There, I worked on refurbishing six houses and teaching a group of Indigenous students, while also doing maintenance on many other houses over two years. I also took on the role of essential services officer and did some plumbing to ensure things kept running for the community. After that, I moved to Broome TAFE for three years, teaching trainees how to use the tools and equipment and maintain their housing in their communities.

We moved to the Gold Coast to be closer to my wife Sharon's family since I had a job with the Antarctic Division, where I worked as the head carpenter for the Macquarie Island base, as an expeditioner, boat operator, search and rescue, and firefighter for the base alongside the rest of the crew for a year.

After that, I worked for the Yeronga TAFE as a workplace assessor for apprentices in Brisbane, then transferred to the Apprentice Board on the Gold Coast.

We decided to leave the Gold Coast city in Queensland for the country after travelling around Australia.

We arrived here on 10 January 2012 to work for the Wodonga TAFE before my car accident in 2023. My hobbies include fishing, hunting, fossicking, and working on puzzles. I can turn my hand to a variety of tasks: I can do picture framing, plastering, painting, and tiling. I have even completely disassembled and rebuilt a motor; yes, it ran.

For me, the Shed means camaraderie, mateship, and someone to talk to when needed.

Editor's note — *Don has been a valuable addition to the Shed. He is now part of our committee, and members highly value his skills and advice. Thanks, Don, for all your efforts at the Shed.*

Did you know?

International Nurses Day is celebrated each year on May 12

International Nurses Day 2025: Nurses worldwide play a vital role in ensuring the well-being of individuals. Their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in caring for the sick and those in need of medical attention make a profound impact every day.

I want to honour their invaluable contributions to healthcare and society.

You know it isn't until you start to get old and decrepit that you realise you need help, especially health-wise. It's not just the doctor who prescribes the pills and treatment; it's also the various nurses who take care of you and implement that treatment.

Over the past few years, my wife and I have appreciated the care and attention we've received from our local clinic, hospital, and wonderful district nurses.

We want to give a great big shout to all of them, and for them to know that they are well and truly appreciated. Not just on this day, but EVERY DAY.

Thank you.

Off-Cuts (Shed Happenings)

- **Test & tagging** all electrical machinery and tools — *Phil Armitage and Vas Marcak* have been working on this huge task and it's almost finished!
- **Diesel Heater for the West Wing** — *Mal, Barry, Les and Peter* have been assembling the parts to build the heater.
- **Shed Cleaning** — the committee has employed a lady to clean the recreation room and toilet/washroom once per week. **Note:** not the workshops.
- **Kindling sales** — these have ramped up over the last couple of weeks.

Let's laugh while we still have the energy

Doctors:

The Doc said, "The best time to get a bath, is just before retiring."
So do you have to wait till you're 65.

My doctor said, "Do you know your sperm count"?
I said, "I didn't know they were that clever."

Patient: "Well doctor, how do I stand?"
Doctor: "I don't know. It's a Miracle"

Facts:

- Whatever hits the fan will not be distributed evenly.
- The easiest way to find something is to buy a replacement.
- Paper is always stronger at the perforation.
- Any item you put in a safe place will never be found again.
- Getting old, everything takes longer than it should (except sex).
- Remember no one is listening, till you fart.

Dogs:

- Trained my dog to bring me a glass of red wine.
He's a Bordeaux Collie.
- What's the difference between a barrow-boy and a dachshund?
One bawls out his wares on the pavement.
- Where do you find a dog with no legs?
Same place you left him.
- What do you call a dog with no legs
It doesn't matter; he won't come anyway.

Exercise:

- I jogged backwards last week. Put on 2 Kilograms.
- I roll my own cigarettes. The doctor says I need to exercise.
- I get enough exercise, just pushing my luck.
- I exercise early in the morning, before my brain has a chance to figure out what I'm doing.



Picked up a hitch-hiker. Seemed like a nice guy.

After a few miles, he asked me if I wasn't afraid that he might be a serial killer?

I told him that the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely

So our dog just brought the sprinkler in through his doggy-door. How's your day going?



I GET MOST OF MY EXERCISE THESE DAYS FROM SHAKING MY HEAD IN DISBELIEF

WHY DO EGGS COME IN FLIMSY STYROFOAM CARTONS AND BATTERIES COME IN A PACKAGE ONLY A CHAINSAW CAN OPEN?

A man is recovering from surgery when the Surgical Nurse appears and asks him how he is feeling.

"I'm OK, but I didn't like the four letter-words the doctor used in surgery," he answered.

"What did he say," asked the nurse.

"Oops!"

WIFE: "There is a problem with the tractor. It has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous"

WIFE: "I'm telling you the tractor has water in the carburetor"

HUSBAND: "You don't even know where the carburetor is. Where's the tractor?"

WIFE: "In the pool"

Poetry corner

For the *poetry corner*, this issue, I chose a poem that I didn't write, but one I wish I had. I think it's worth a read.

It's something in my genes

I was down in Brissy Friday week, and went to see the quack,
I reckoned it was time to take it easy:
I don't want you people thinking, I'm a hy-pro-chon-driac,
But just lately I been feeling kinda queasy.

Me head aches something awful, and me lips are dry and blue,
I get giddy sometimes riding round the fences.
And I reckon he could fix me up, [I'm only twenty-two],
With a bottle of the dope that he dispenses.

Well, he fiddles in me singlet, I refused to take it off,
With a stealthy scope and similar machines,
And then he puts his finger—Well- I turn me head to cough,
An he up's and says "it's something in your genes.

What the 'ecks' he think I am, some kind of blooming flower,
I may be slow and sorta stumble-witted,
But ever since me Mother smacked me fingers in the shower,
I've known that I was properly outfitted.

"There's something in your genes" he says, "Its caused your glands to
swell;
Just sit there while I go and fetch the nurse".
Then she comes in, Blonde and beautiful, and straight off I could tell.
Cos' the swelling had quite suddenly, got worse.

So they held me jaws wide open, and they leaned across the chair,
They used me tongue for playing trampolines,
And how the hell they saw the thing by looking down from there,
But they both agreed "There's something in your Genes.

"The only cure" the Doctor said, is Ton-sil-ect-om-y,
The nurse just nods her head, "There's little doubt",
"They'll be no use at all to him, like that, don't you agree?"
And he peeks again, an says, "They must come out!"

"COME OUT?"... my God, two little words; they hit me like a rock,
At twenty-two, I'd hardly started living,
But I'd done me share of marking cows, and couldn't stand the shock,
If they tried to take away what **I** was given.

I'd seen them use an iron on colts, that burned the hand that held it,

We'd cleaned up lots of tom-cats in our teens,
But I'm dammed if I'll crawl in a sack, and wait there to be 'gelded',
Just because I'm blessed with something in me jeans.

So I told the Doc politely that I'd think about it later;
I grabbed me hat, and shot right through the door,
I threw the scrip he gave me, in the first incinerater,
'Cos I won't be needing Doctors anymore.

There's a pub at Auguthella, where they keep the barmaid busy,
Serving medicine to cure a husky throat,
And a double scotch will fix yer, anytime you're feeling dizzy,
Every illness has it's simple antidote.

To them fancy Brisbane Doctors, I've said me last goodbye,
They can sit and read their glossy magazines,
Cos' I'll keep this solemn promise, till the very day I die,
I am gonna die with SOMETHING in me jeans.

Composed by Charlee Marshall

Final Word

Considering it's been a slow month on the news front, we hope that we've still entertained you and that our hard work has been worthwhile.

We appreciate any comments, whether positive or negative, and thank all **our sponsors.**

