

# NEWSLETTER



*The Victorian Men's Shed Association is the Oldest Shed Support Organisation in the World*

**The VMSA is proud to have as patron,  
the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC**

## TOP STORY

### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Every Victorian's health and well-being are of utmost importance. So, we all need to stay across the advice of health authorities.

These challenging times, we can't get anxious. Please stay calm and work together, and take care. More on page 7.

## TOP NEWS

### EMERGENCY PACKAGE FOR VICTORIANS

Victorians self-isolating due to coronavirus (COVID-19) with no access to food and essential supplies will receive emergency relief packages under a program introduced by the Victorian Government.

Details on Page 6.

## TOP INITIATIVE

### GATHERING CANCELLED

In response to the Victorian State of Emergency, the VMSA Committee has agreed that the Gathering at Rupanyup is to be postponed due to the Covid-19. (Page 8)



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

All sheds will remain closed from March 24, 2020. At the present time, it is important to continue to look after each other and to check on each other even when our sheds are closed. Especially the elderly, who are the most vulnerable and will need support, so kindly look out for fellow shedders and older people in your community.

This is what sheds are about, looking after each other in our health and well-being and care for each other and others. (Pages 3 & 4)

*This Newsletter is emailed to a Representative of every Men's Shed in Victoria. Please print out a copy and distribute to members of your Shed.*

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## LIST OF VMSA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

### OFFICE BEARERS

President	Lindsay Oates	pres@vmsa.org.au	Mirboo North Shed
Vice President	Geoff Witnitz	vice@vmsa.org.au	Horsham Shed
Secretary	Bruce Ward	sec@vmsa.org.au	Ocean Grove Shed

### COMMITTEE

Julian Sellers	j.sellers@vmsa.org.au	Inverloch Shed
Gerard Irvin	g.irvin@vmsa.org.au	Grovedale Shed
Sam Story	s.story@vmsa.org.au	South Gippsland

## PLEASE NOTE

The VMSA has received a number of queries and requests to find an avenue where sheds can easily list and advertise surplus items they have, that they wish to donate to other sheds, or to promote activities that the shed are involved in - such as market days, or fundraisers.

The VMSA has recently created and trialled a Facebook page, "VMSA Public Notices". This is now available for all sheds and shedders to join, and to place your ads and info on. Please note this is not the avenue if you wish to sell your surplus goods, it is only if you want to donate goods.

The VMSA now has a Buy/ Swap and Sell Page on its website for shedders to use.

**ALL SHEDS WILL REMAIN CLOSED FROM MARCH 24, 2020 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

## VMSA EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Hi Folks,

Many sheds are contacting the VMSA for guidance on managing the Corona Virus.

As you would know by now, **ALL SHEDS WILL REMAIN CLOSED starting March 24, 2020, until further notice.**

However, please keep in touch with members who are dependent on the shed for social contact.

There are many sources of information on the situation.

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>

Please take the following steps to minimise the possibility of contagion:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water and dry with a paper towel.
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Wear a mask, if you wish.
- Do not touch your mouth, eyes or nose with unwashed hands.
- Maintain a 1-meter gap between yourself and another person who is coughing or sneezing.
- If you have flu like symptoms, particularly a cough or sore throat, during the last week, please stay at home.

**These are general guidelines issued by the Dept of Health and WHO**

Great news our great supporter, OZITO Industries has donated a large number of tools and equipment for distribution to Sheds and Fire affected communities.

Please go to our website -

<https://vmsa.org.au/index.php/donated-products> and fill in the expression of interest form

Each shed is entitled to 1 high value item (Eg: MiG Welder) and 2 lower value items (Eg: Batteries and chargers). Note some sheds have already ordered for several other sheds under their name as they will be collecting for the sheds in their region.

We prefer sheds to order in their own name and make pick-up arrangements later.

OZITO is very generous but we cannot take orders for items not on the list. We will allocate some items for Clusters as raffle or door prizes. More tools are expected later in the year.

The VMSA Facebook page VMSA Public Notices is a great place to see what's is happening in sheds around Victoria and the world. Do visit the page and follow it to receive all updates as soon as they're put out.

You can register for our monthly newsletter through the website. Click on the link below for the same.

<https://vmsa.org.au/index.php/component/users/?view=registration&Itemid=101>.

The VMSA Radio Show, Hangin' Out in a Men's Shed, is being heard around the world by live streaming the show. You can do the same by clicking on the given link: <http://3wbc.org.au/wp-content/plugins/mp3-jplayer/popout.php>. The show plays out on the first Saturday of every month from 9 am to 10 am on 3WBC 94.1 FM.

**Ric Blackburn**  
**VMSA Executive Officer**  
**Email: [vmsa@vmsa.org.au](mailto:vmsa@vmsa.org.au)**



## VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The corona virus, (COVID 19), has changed our way of living quite dramatically of late and for many Shedders these changes have been quite unsettling. Many of our Sheds have sought advice as whether they should remain open. The advice from the VMSA is that sheds should make their own decisions on such matters.

The VMSA encourages all sheds to read the material in this Newsletter and to look at the websites mentioned in the article on the postponement of the Gathering at Rupanyup on the March 27. If sheds have any further queries please contact our Executive Officer, Ric Blackburn.



*File picture*

At the present time, it is important to continue to look after each other and to check on each other even when our sheds are closed.

Just to share with you all, few days back, I had a case where an elderly shedder walked out of the supermarket with hardly anything. Upon reaching home, he rang his daughter quite upset that the supermarket shelves were out of stock of the things he regularly buys. His family lives a long way away from Gippsland. His daughter rang the shed and the shed went and helped him purchase what he needed.

A special thanks to that Shed!

Some of our older members are at present the most vulnerable and will need support, so I encourage everyone to look out for fellow shedders and other older people in your community. This is what we are about, looking after each other in our health and well-being and care for each other and others.

Keep well and follow the guidelines for handwashing, any meetings and keeping a safe distance.

## VMSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

I called in at the Lorne Shed, earlier this month, whilst having a few days break there. I was most impressed with their shed set up and the great kitchen and meeting room, as well as their workshop. The shed has 6 major projects going on at present, each one being led by a different person.

One project that is really interesting is the building of a "coot boat", a small dinghy. It will have lightweight cedar strip planks. This type of dinghy is often used as a tender by yachtsmen to row from the shore to their yacht.

The shed has a great crew of men of many talents and skills. One Shedder, Leo Collins who is 94 years old, is involved in building nesting boxes for the fire ravaged areas of East Gippsland.



*Shedders at Lorne Shed seen preparing cedar strip planking*

Thank you for the hospitality, Lorne Men's Shed!

I am always amazed at the high standards of workmanship and commitment to their tasks that many of our shedders undertake. Keep up the great work, shedders!

Sheds continue to make a real difference to the lives of shedders and in our communities.

Take care and look after each other.



**Lindsay Oates**

**VMSA President**

# Media Release

**The Hon Luke Donnellan MP**  
Minister for Child Protection  
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers



Sunday, 22 March 2020

## EMERGENCY RELIEF PACKAGES FOR VICTORIANS WHO NEED IT MOST

Victorians self-isolating due to coronavirus (COVID-19) with no access to food and essential supplies will receive emergency relief packages under a program introduced by the Victorian Government.

The program will support people in mandatory self-isolation, who have little or no food, and no network of family and friends to support them. Each eligible household will receive a two-week supply of essential goods.

Food packages will include items such as long-life milk, pasta, cereal, canned vegetables and sugar. Personal care packages will also be distributed to eligible households and include soap, toothpaste and deodorant. Additional items may also be provided depending on the needs of the household, such as nappies or baby formula.

The packages will be delivered door-to-door, with other distribution points to be established as required. For people who are not eligible for the emergency relief packages, they are encouraged to be self-reliant and call on the help of family and friends wherever possible during the current pandemic.

The emergency relief program for those in mandatory self-isolation will be coordinated by the Red Cross in partnership with Foodbank Victoria and under the direction of the State Relief Coordinator.

It will start from Monday 23 March and can be accessed by calling Victoria's dedicated coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398. The hotline can also refer people to other support services if needed.

As has made clear by the major supermarkets and the Victorian Farmers Federation, there is plenty of food for all Victorians and there is no need to panic buy.

To assist getting more stock to supermarkets, the Victorian Government has removed curfew restrictions on trucks across Victoria. And time limits on delivery vehicles parked in loading zones will be removed while they are dropping off or picking up goods.

These are simple initiatives, but are so important to ensure supermarkets keep getting the essential goods that they need. They will be in place for the next six months.

For more information about the support services people can call the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 or visit the website: [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan

*"We need to look out for each other over the next few months - but for people who have no one nearby to support them, we'll make sure they get what they need."*

*"There is plenty of food for all Victorians so please don't take more than you need. But if you do find yourself isolated, and can't access the basics, we have emergency relief packages for you."*

### Quote attributable to Foodbank Victoria CEO David McNamara

*"As you saw during the bushfire crisis, Foodbank Victoria is well-placed to assist all vulnerable Victorians. At this time, when everyone's feeling anxious and uncertain our message is – in partnership with the Government – we're here to protect and support you, as we've been doing for the past 90 years."*

**Media contact:** Claire Martin 0448 411 167 | [claire.martin@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:claire.martin@minstaff.vic.gov.au)



**Message from HE the Governor  
of Victoria, the Hon. Linda Dessau AC  
and Mr Anthony Howard AM, QC**

It has certainly been a difficult start to the year, with parts of our State so heavily affected by bushfires and now the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19.

First and foremost, we care about the health and well-being of all Victorians and hope that those associated with our Patronages are safe and well cared for. We all need to stay across the advice of our health authorities, which are constantly updated and can be found at [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au) and [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

We have seen the anxiety in the community caused by COVID-19, and its effects. Of course, anxiety like this is understandable at a time of such uncertainty. But it is important, now more than ever, to remain calm and to work together.

It is a time too for gratitude to all those who are working so hard to look after our medical and emergency needs, to care for the vulnerable, to keep essential services running and to respond to this unfolding situation.

We are conscious that many of our Patronages are amongst those groups. We express to them the gratitude felt by all Victorians. We would be pleased if you would convey that to your members for us.

We are conscious too that a number of our Patronages will be celebrating particular anniversaries or achievements during this period, when large groups of people will be unable to gather together. Others will have members who are likely to feel acutely the cancellation of their normal events and activities. That, and the social distancing practices now in place, will often bring a sense of isolation. Each person, each organisation, will experience these upheavals in different ways. Our thoughts are with them all.

Although for now Government House will not be able to welcome guests in the usual way, we remain as eager as ever to communicate with Victorians across the community. How lucky we are to live in an age when we have technology to assist us.

With that in mind, we encourage you to keep in touch and to write to the office if there is any way we can connect with your organisation, now or in the future, remembering that many engagements can be conducted through online technology. Requests can be made to [requests@govhouse.vic.gov.au](mailto:requests@govhouse.vic.gov.au).

Please take care of each other. This is a time when we all need to check on family, neighbours, the elderly, workmates who are working off-site - anyone who might be alone or doing it tough.

The Hon. Linda Dessau AC

Anthony Howard AM, QC

TELEPHONE: (03) 9655 4211

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MELBOURNE, 3004  
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

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## VMSA - SPECIAL BULLETIN

### Postponement of the Gathering at Rupanyup on March 27, 2020.

-- Lindsay Oates, President, VMSA

In response to the Victorian State of Emergency, the Victorian Men's Shed Association (VMSA) Committee has agreed that the Gathering at Rupanyup is to be postponed due to the Covid-19.

We are sorry that we cannot have the Gathering at this time, but in the interests of everyone's health and our "Duty of Care" to all and our guests, families and our communities, it is important to pay attention to the advice of the Commonwealth Government, the Commonwealth Department of Health, the Victorian State Government and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, as well as from our insurers and the local Council.

Sheds will be advised, once we are out of this challenge, we all face at present, when and where the next Gathering will take place.

Sheds will remain closed from March 24, 2020 until further notice adhering to the directives from the Government. However, the VMSA is well aware that several Councils have asked that sheds to close down that are on Council land or that are auspiced by the Council, or the neighbourhood house. The Committee is also aware that other auspiced sheds by Churches, RSL and other organisations are also being asked to close.

Despite closing, it is most important to keep in touch with each other and to check on your mates in the shed and others in the community.

Either a phone call, an e-mail or a visit at a distance just to ask, "are you okay?" At times like this in our Sheds, we need to be there for each other.

But please heed all of the advice that we are receiving daily via e-mails, on the [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services'](#) website and through our local papers and councils.

As we all know already, it is the older age group that is most vulnerable to this virus. So please again heed the advice being given.

If you need more advice or information please do not hesitate to contact the VMSA. Further advice and information will be circulated in our Newsletter and on our Facebook page Public Notices.



# VMSA'S DIGITAL MENTORING PROGRAM



**Be Connected**  
Every Australian online.



The Victorian Men's Shed Association (VMSA) is rolling out a Digital Mentoring Program in partnership with the organisation, [Be Connected](#).

We are looking for shedders who are interested in mentoring others in being confident in using digital tools such as mobile phones, iPad or tablets and desktop computers to access the internet and connect with the world.

For more information please send your Expressions of Interest to [vmsa@vmsa.org.au](mailto:vmsa@vmsa.org.au) or call on 0408 465 228.



*Picture: [Be Connected](#)*

The VMSA Training programs are also available for sheds and shedders in Shed Safety, Governance, Fundraising and Health Facilitation. (More details on Page 24)

Please send your expressions of interest to [vmsa@vmsa.org.au](mailto:vmsa@vmsa.org.au) or call on 0408 465 228.

## TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR SHEDS

The Victorian Men's Shed Association (VMSA) has secured hundreds of brand-new tools for distribution to our members.

Each shed is eligible for -

- ❖ 1 high value item
- ❖ 2 lower value items



*File picture*

### How To Get The Tools?

- Go to the VMSA website <https://vmsa.org.au/index.php/donated-products>
- Click on the item you want and fill in the claiming details
- Pick-up the tools from our office at 173-175 Ordish road, Dandenong South

We recommend sheds pool their pick-up and collect the tools for other sheds in their area.

There is loads of sandpaper available free for sheds, just grab some when you are picking up the tools.

# AT THE LOST TRADES FAIR...



# CAPTURED AT THE LOST TRADES FAIR



## HYUNDAI'S OFFER FOR VMSA MEMBERS



**Cant wait? Don't wait!**

Hyundai's national offer for Victorian Men's Shed Association members is available all year round.



**Ready to update or upgrade?**

**Just a few steps to access your benefits**

- obtain your VMSA membership letter
- call in to your local Hyundai Dealership
- quote code 27761/01 to access the offer

**NOW YOU ARE READY TO DRIVE AWAY, IN YOUR NEW  HYUNDAI**

## DORIS HITS THE ROAD!

The Akoonah Park Men's Shed members have been busy restoring a 1959 four-door Morris Minor 1000 sedan, nicknamed Doris.

It took 3 years to restore the car from a dusty, damaged old car to close to her original.

The body, brakes, steering, suspension, electrical system, engine and gearbox were fully stripped and rebuilt by members of the shed, with parts sourced locally from other Morris Minor enthusiasts and parts suppliers and also from the UK suppliers where necessary.

While the project took a lot longer than originally anticipated, members of the shed felt it was worth it in the end.



Doris was raffled off in early February, with only 100 tickets available for purchase.

Funds raised have been directed to the Prostate Cancer Foundation, with some reserved for a future restoration project at the Men's Shed.

## DORIS THE MORRIS, GETS A NEW LIFE

Doris was won by Peter Murace, from Sydney after he saw an article on Doris on the All British Car Club website and bought a ticket. Peter is a fan of Morris cars, having owned a 1936 Morris 8/40 and a Morris Major Elite.

He has registered Doris on historic registration so he can drive it with the car club he belongs to, after she was transported to Sydney on a car carrier.

“It’s exactly how I expected it from the photos and description,” he said. Peter thanked the Akoonah Park Men’s Shed members for the work they put into restoring the car.



# HAPPY 10, STRATFORD SHED!

As appeared in March edition of the local newspaper, The Stratford Town Crier.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Inspired by well-known local identity Peter Vranek forty plus residents attended a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 to investigate the establishment of a men's shed for Stratford. The response was overwhelmingly positive as attendees spoke of the many benefits on offer.

Local electrical contractor, Stephen Nichols (now dearly departed), was among the first to offer assistance in the form of accommodation at the rear of his large shed in McFarlane Street. The newly formed club had attracted members with true aussie spirit which became obvious as they attended regular twice weekly meetings throughout the cold, wet winter months.

Come October, the group had succeeded in obtaining a Government Grant and, with the blessing of the Senior Citizens, were able to commence construction of a new shed at the rear of their site in Dixon Street. By this stage it was clear that the members were here for the long haul as they approached the task with enthusiasm and energy thereby enabling the shed to be constructed and fitted out to an acceptable standard.

External support was also readily forthcoming from the community at large with materials and donations arriving from companies and organizations in Stratford, Sale and Maffra. In a matter of months the shed was completed and operational and boasted a comfortable meeting room and a good range machinery to service most needs.

## THE MOVEMENT

Stratford Men's Shed is one of almost 1000 similar groups scattered across Australia. With the first shed opening in 2007 the movement has grown dramatically with international outlets in New Zealand, Great Britain, Ireland and Canada.

The sheds are non-profit self-governing enterprises that service their local communities in all sorts of ways. Each shed has its own identity and pursues different interests ranging from woodwork, metalcraft and leatherwork to electronics, painting and music.

The sheds have the opportunity to become members of the Australian Men's shed association and/or the Victorian Men's Shed Association both of whom provide different services, resources and an avenue to share information and ideas.

Guest speakers and outings are organized from time to time to address topics of interest ranging from health to technology and the environment. Community involvement is encouraged and, in Stratford's case community activities are to be organized in the coming months.

## STRATFORD MEN'S SHED CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

## ACTIVITIES

Whilst the main focus of the shed has been in the area of woodwork, the type of work being pursued is governed by the membership. To that end the members are currently, with the assistance of a government grant, constructing an extension which will be devoted to metalcrafts. This is not to say that other pursuits such as leathercraft or even painting may be pursued in the future. Members lead, the shed follows.

At present a commitment has been made to support activities associated with bushfire relief activities. We have provided significant support to a flying fox refuge in Sale with labour in the form of a working bee to create structures to assist with an expected increase in the number on animals being housed. In addition a baby flying fox 'nursery' has been built. Once again generous assistance has been sought and willingly provided from the community, this time by Design Cabinetry in Maffra.

The shed has also managed to cobble together enough funds to provide some 75 posts that have been delivered to Blaze Aid in Buchan for farm fence replacement.

Apart from producing decorations for the main street each year the shed constructs wooden toys for the Baptist and Anglican churches to be distributed to children at Christmas.

Fundraising is a necessary part of the operation and is achieved by means of an annual Easter Raffle, regular 'pub' raffles and performing small tasks for locals such as furniture restoration, repairs and the production of small items for sale. It should be noted that the shed is very careful not to carry out any work that might be otherwise done by local tradesmen.



## THE FUTURE

The immediate future holds some exciting new challenges for the Men's Shed. Having embarked on a journey of support for bush wildlife post bushfires, members have committed to a program involving the production of possum and micro-bat boxes to be installed in the bush to help replace the many hollow trees that have been destroyed. In addition production of 'water fountains' for wildlife is being researched. Toy production is expected to continue this year and an old dining suite is currently on the agenda for restoration.

As for the future? What we can say is that the current membership of 18 is very solid in its support and this seems pretty certain to continue but, we are all getting older and so, for the shed to thrive and continue its outstanding community work it will need an ongoing injection of new ideas and energy. Potential members are welcomed into the group and have the opportunity to not only be involved and make new friends, but actively influence the future direction of the club.

Operational Hours: 9.00am to Noon Monday and Friday  
Interested men can contact President Peter Vranek mob 0401151187  
Secretary Col Counsell mob 0409552378



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO STRATFORD SHED!



## BENTMOOR MEN'S SHED IS CLOSED

# Bentmoor Bulletin 23/03/20

### The weekly newsletter of the Bentmoor Community Men's Shed

Yes, our Shed has closed due to Covid-19 but we will still be sending out a weekly Bulletin. Just one page, but stuff is still happening and we want to keep members up to date.

#### Why We Closed

The decision to close the Shed was not an easy one, and was not taken lightly.

On the one hand we have a Mission to bring men together for mutual support and encouragement, with a special focus on men's health, and therefore we had a strong reason to stay open as normal; on the other hand we had to look at what the risks were in continuing to remain open.

In the end it came down to what was going to be best for our members. Most of our members are in one or more of the most vulnerable categories for whom catching the virus would be very serious; these include: aged 60-plus, respiratory problems, heart conditions, cancer, diabetes, immune-compromised, and others. Or, in many cases members have someone at home in this vulnerable situation.

We could not risk exposing members to the risk of catching this potentially very serious disease.

#### Staying Safe

To protect yourself from catching the virus:

- ✓ Stay at least 1m away from anyone else – and ideally 2m.
- ✓ Completely avoid anyone who has: returned from overseas in the last 14 day; or is exhibiting signs of cold or flu.
- ✓ Wash hands, often. Soap and water or hand sanitizer are equally effective.
- X Experts say wearing a mask is unlikely to protect you – but if you have the virus will help protect others.

#### Unanswered Questions:

Naturally members have a lot of questions, but at the moment there aren't a lot of answers. The most common ones so far are:

*Q: How long will the Shed be closed?*

*A: No idea. Could be a few weeks, a few months, or .... After Easter the Executive will review the situation weekly and once it is safe to open again we will.*

*Q: Are other Sheds closing?*

*A: Yes. We were one of the first, but in the days since then many others have made the same choice.*

*Q: What about the fees we've paid?*

*A: The Executive is aware this may be an issue for some and will make that decision once we know how long the Shed closure will need to be. Again, any guesses now will be wrong.*

#### Need Help?

The Shed will continue to try to support members as much as possible.

If you do find that you really need help, for any reason, please call, text or email our Shed Manager John Dixon. We will do our best to work something out to support you, but with things changing by the hour we can't make promises – and we are all just fellow members as well.

## GLIMPSES OF ACTIVITIES AT CARDINIA SHED

### *Cardinia Relay for Life*

From 21 to 22 February Cardinia held the Annual Relay for Life that raises funds for the Cancer Council's research, prevention, information and support services.

The Relay, that ran from 5.45pm on the Friday to 11.00am on the Saturday, gave the Pakenham community the chance to recognise and celebrate local cancer survivors, patients and carers, to remember loved ones lost to cancer and to raise money to help save more lives.

The relay was held on the Toomuc Recreation Reserve and the Cardinia Mens Shed, under cover of the Shed Awning, helped raise funds from both the public and from participants in the relay.

The Relay for Life was started in the USA in May 1985 by a Colorectal Surgeon who spent a gruelling 24 hours circulating around a track in Tacoma raising over \$US27,000.

Since this event the Relay for Life has become the largest fundraising event for Cancer, in the world.

We were present at this year's Cardinia event with our Shed Awning manned by Geoff & Roger.



Our objective was to raise funds by selling flowers to write messages on stones painted by the children at The John Henry Primary School for silver or gold coins. (Notes were also accepted if and when given).

We managed to collect \$180 which was just a small part of the total of \$113,000. The Ford Fairlane and Classic Cruisers Motor Mouths were the highest fund-raising team collecting more than \$25,000.



There were around 300 participants in the relay from 27 teams and they included Cancer Patients, Cancer Survivors, Cancer Carers, and specific public groups. Participants walked and ran around the oval some for just a few laps and others for the complete 18-hour function.



## ACTIVITY BY CARDINIA MEN'S SHED

### *Wildlife Shelters*

Our second construction activity that took place outside the Shed was to construct Wildlife Boxes to help the wildlife affected by the East Gippsland Fires.

After raising more than \$1,700 from the generous public at our sausage sizzles for the bush fire affected areas a group from our shed decided that we should build some specialist wildlife habitat boxes.

John Buckley had heard from Penny Reeves, at the *The Wild Ones Shelter* in Koo Wee Rup, that there was an urgent need for animal and bird habitats following the bush fires.

We approached Bunnings asking them to supply the timber needed. Not only did Bunnings agree to supply the timber they also agreed to cut it to the required sizes if the Cardinia Mens Shed agreed to construct the boxes in the Bunnings Lakeside store.



Needless to say, we had full agreement to this proposal and soon we had 7 Shed members at Lakeside all set up for a full day's work.

On Monday 11 February we constructed some 30 Wildlife Boxes of various designs including bird and possum boxes with coffee breaks gratefully donated by the Bunnings Lakeside Café.



*Penny Reeves from the Wild Ones Shelter with:*

*Theo Reinhardt, Ken Hordern, Robert Taylor, John Buckley, John Dobson, Roger Barnett & Geoff Fluck*



## THE STORY OF OUR “RAILWAY BOOKS”

### - Drouin Men’s Shed Newsletter March 2020

In June 2016, we were approached by the widow of one of our previous members who told us that she had seen some used books at a railway station and thought that this might be a worthwhile project for our shed.

After 10 months of planning and negotiations, we were given a site at Drouin Railway Station. The shelving was designed and constructed by Keith Walker, Jim Surace and Bill Hall.

The opening day was on the 15 June 2017, and we were given great publicity from the Warragul Gazette, ABC Radio and Channel 9 Traralgon.

One black spot was the donation box being broken into a few months after the opening, with \$65 being taken. The two miscreants involved did this in full view of the waiting room full of people. They then jumped onto the next train and started arguing as to who was going to keep the money. They were arrested at Dandenong Station - not the most successful criminals in history! We eventually got the money back.



*File Picture*

There have been lighter moments.

One morning, John Crosby got a phone call at the shed from someone wishing to make a substantial donation but was concerned about the security of the money, because he was getting on the next train. John told him to put it in the box and someone would be straight there.

## THE STORY OF OUR “RAILWAY BOOKS” (CONT.)

### - Drouin Men’s Shed Newsletter March 2020

Keith Walker got there within a few minutes, but alas the largest donation was a \$2 coin, so we were obviously duped.

In March 2018, Mick Nicholls came up with a suggestion that we put a similar setup into the “Travellers’ Aid” rooms at Flinders Street and Southern Cross stations. After some lengthy negotiations we were given the go-ahead.

Twelve members caught an early train from Drouin, bringing with them, shelving, books and tools. After everything was set up, the shed members were well looked after with a morning tea and lunch. They had a great day. It has been suggested that another day out might be in order to ensure things are still ticking over.

Since then, we have kept the 3 sites fully stocked by shed members donating used books - so please keep them coming.



*File Picture*

A big thank you must also go out to the Yarragon Fire Brigade and Ian Gaffney from the Anglican Church who have also helped out. Tony Lord and Keith Walker have been delivering books to the station as a certain person now finds it difficult with the sloping walkways.

This project has been very useful. Not only has it kept books out of landfill, it has kept travellers entertained and raised \$550 in donations by the end of 2019.

Books can be dropped off to John Crosby: 2, Ritchie Court, Drouin (Tel 0409 457 096) or pick up arranged if needed.

## CHANNEL MEN'S SHED, MARGATE IN PICS

**Rebuilding a 1936 Pontiac pic of motor car donated to the shed by Bob Clifford, owner of Incat, to be sold on completion with profit split between the shed and Bob Clifford's choice of charity.**



# NEW SHEDS ARE HERE!!

## AT ELTHAM -



*Member for Eltham, Vicki Ward MP, & Mayor of Nillumbik Shire, Karen Egan, unveiled the plaque*



*Jim Gundrum & Harry Morris presented with Life Memberships of Eltham Shed for their services towards the shed & the community*



# AT KILMORE



## ON A LIGHTER NOTE

### ROAD SIGNS TO WATCH!



### DID YOU KNOW?

**Q:** What do you call a man with a seagull on his head?

**A:** Cliff

**Q:** What do you call an Irish woman leaning against a wall?

**A:** Eileen

**Q:** What do you call an Irish woman not leaning against a wall?

**A:** Noeleen

**Q:** What do you call an Irishman with a gun?

**A:** Éamon

**Q:** What do you call a man with a shovel?

**A:** Doug

**Q:** What do you call a man with no shovel?

**A:** Douglas

**Q:** Why was the blonde staring so hard at the orange juice carton?

**A:** Because it said "concentrate"!

**Q:** What does a houseboat become when it grows up?

**A:** A township

**Q:** What do you call a cow spying on another cow?

**A:** A steak out

**Q:** What's black and white and makes a lot of noise?

**A:** A zebra with a drumkit

**Q:** What did the dryer say to the washer?

**A:** Let's go for a spin

**Q:** What happens to a refrigerator when you pull its plug?

**A:** It loses its cool

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**POSTPONED**

### **Statewide Gathering**

**Venue:** 93 Wimmera Highway,  
Rupanyup, Victoria 3388

**Day & Date:** Friday, 27 March  
2020

**Time:** 10 am for a 10:30 am start

## FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

This Newsletter is being emailed to the Contact Person at each of the sheds on the VMSA database. We have a large list of many subscribers who also receive the Newsletter and consequently we are limited in our ability to send the Newsletter to every shedder and so we ask that as the CONTACT PERSON your shed please print and display the Newsletter in your shed.

If you have something to share with other sheds, write a short article (photos are handy) and send to the Executive Officer [vmsa@vmsa.org.au](mailto:vmsa@vmsa.org.au)

Victorian Men's Shed Association acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



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