Shoulder to Shoulder

May 2015  Newsletter

Just think about this. There’s a 2000 ton wheat train snaking down from Dimboola heading south. This train is waved down by a distressed mum whose little boy has ventured into a muddy dam and can’t get out. He is getting sucked down fast until the train crew link hands and, covered in mud, haul him out. Which of course delays the train by 45 minutes. Meanwhile there is a ballast train at a siding at Avoca station-engine and 3 bogies filled with ballast. The points are changed so this train can leave the siding and do it’s spreading. Those on the ground think the wheat train has already roared past Ararat. But it’s just late and round it comes flat out and into the siding (as the points have been changed). A prang is imminent with the 20 bogey wheat train and the ballast train. Each is hauled by diesel locos from which the crews are bailing out fast! CRUMP The heavy engine goes over the top of the smaller one- like prehistoric monsters coupling .Both kaput. Bogies of wheat and ballast going all over the shop -rails ripped up- absolute chaos

Meanwhile Wayne has just sat down to the traditional roast with all the family - it’s weekly ritual including a glass or two of Claret .There’s a phone call and Wayne’s son takes it – comes back to Dad to say the guy on the phone said there’s been a prang. Wayne tells his son to inform the caller that Daddy will ring back as the roast has just been carved. His little boy come back to say the caller was shouting and used a rude word - yelled he was Daddy’s boss. An hour or so later, in record time, Wayne has arrived in Ararat, and is surveying a chaotic scene - CFA crews from all over, police wagons, lots of blue tape, rails sticking up bogies scattered, and upturned, plus two mangled locos. The locals are there as this is the biggest event in the history of the town. They all have buckets and barrows collecting wheat for their chooks. Crows are there as well, laughing at everyone running around and having a good feed in the mess.
So our mate Wayne was trained to fix this bomb site up. Briefly this is how he got there. Started education at Blackburn South primary and then Burwood Tech. ( When a Tech was a Tech and open to all). His grounding there as a fitter and turner enabled him to secure an apprenticeship with Victorian Railways. In that capacity he was involved in servicing the massive steam engines and the new diesels. Wayne loved his work and was motivated to achieving remarkable number of other qualifications connected to his career in the railways
He obtained qualifications at Swinburne TAFE and RMIT. He was foreman of maintenance at Mildura for several years. One expertise of interest was his role as field maintenance officer involving recovery work as outlined above. How this clean-up was achieved is the subject of another yarn
I don’t have the space to list Wayne’s achievements in his career but they are impressive!
Anzac Day
Our treasurer, Kevin Bush, will be laying the wreath for the Men’s Shed at the Yarra Glen RSL ceremony on Saturday. We’re also supporting the RSL by manning their sausage sizzle. Our barbecue will join the Freemasons trailer barbecue which should give us the capacity to get 500 sausages together at once!

Gay Pride Cup
Yarra Glen Football Club will host this event on 23rd May vs Warburton Millgrove Football Club. We’re working with the footy club to make duck boards and flags for promotional display with the Bell Street traders.

Cuddle Cot Fundraiser
An afternoon tea will be held at Steels Creek to raise money for a cuddle cot which is a refrigerated crib to assist with the grief of still-born babies. Kevin and Roger have volunteered to set up tables and chairs and other assistance with the event.

Open forum at our next coffee morning
Next Wednesday 29th April, instead of hosting a guest speaker, we’ll be holding an open forum to give our members the opportunity to bring forward suggestions an ideas to advance the shed moving forward.

Sand paper? You’ve never seen sand paper.
Stamford Men’s Shed received a bulk delivery of sand paper and offered it up to the Men’s Shed network. Ross and Roger volunteered to go and get a load and got more than they bargained for. They were served a sumptuous lunch, wash down with some home-made vitamin beer. There was a sad ending to the story however, as there was an incident on Stud Rd, delaying their trip home by an hour and a half.

Yarra Glen resident Kelly Crowley and her son Ethan were tragically killed on Labour Day in a motor vehicle crash at Molesworth. A major fund raiser will be held at McKenzie Reserve on 16th May to assist Kelly’s daughters aged 6 and 2. The event will be called Kelly’s Kids Day. Come along and support it if you can.

New Chairs
We have been able to upgrade our everyday chairs courtesy of the Calledinia Centre at Mooroolbark. Acquiring these chairs was a real team effort. Alan Davis referred the Centre to us. Terry took the pictures around the committee. A decision was made to buy them. Michael and Terry picked them up and when the arm rests wouldn’t fit under our table, Mike put short blocks under the legs, raising the height of the table so that the arm rests tucked under just perfectly.

Bird nesting boxes
Stan the man has built and supplied 6 bird nesting boxes to Dixons Creek Landcare. Well done Stan! They looked great.

Easter Bunny
The Chamber of Commerce needed an Easter Bunny for promotional purposes. A basic design was all Terry needed to cut it out. Chamber artist Liz added the details and the Bunny stood pride of place over the Easter trading period.
**Pony Club Seat**
Arranged through George, the Pony Club arranged for the Men’s Shed to fix the timber slats to the steel frame which formed the basis of the seat. George and Robert did the carpentry and I’m sure the Pony Club will enjoy the seat for many years to come.

**Yarra Glen Station Open Day**
Well done to our volunteers who helped out with the Open Day. Stan, Mike, Bronwyn, Ken, Len and Emrys helped out with signage, setting up and the sausage sizzle (with Living and Learning Centre). Well done team.

**Metal Shop**
John Morren has been appointed as supervisor of the Metal Shop and is doing great work in getting things organized. We are looking to increase participation in this area. If anyone can offer skills or would like to learn about metal work, talk to John next time you can.

Gavan Oakley