



# Yarra Glen & District Men's Shed Inc.

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VMSA No. 024 / 2012

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## Shoulder to Shoulder June 2015 Newsletter

### Stan Hardidge

Stan is the "Jack of all Trades" at our Men's Shed. This especially applies to the various wood working challenges he takes on. He helps put together all kinds of useful structures such as bird boxes, train-like Xmas decorations and billy carts for the kids. He assists other community groups with shelving and minor repairs. He is our chief 'chippy' for good reason. His fame has spread far and wide. He was rostered by our Living and Learning Centre to put on a basic carpentry demo for the ladies. His course was an instant success. He demonstrated how to use a hammer, a saw and how to insert a screw without obliterating the slot. This demo will become a regular feature at the Centre.

Why is Stan so respected as a carpenter in our community? It's well deserved as Stan joined his builder Dad when he was 13 years old. They built many war service homes in Ringwood and his Dad was the builder by recommendation of the State Savings Bank in Ringwood at the time. It was hard work in those days. Stan told me one job he was given was to level off 1350 ft. of paling fence with his hand saw. Dad gave me a new saw and said "I have an opportunity for you to try it out"! Incidentally, Stan showed me how to use a hand saw; let the saw do the work, don't force it, just guide the saw. I think I will go to the next ladies demo!

In Stan's young days all the framing of new houses was cut by hand saw. It was all 'OB' green hardwood. The frame had to be left to dry out for a few months before roofing and cladding. Unfortunately for Stan, much of the cladding was cement sheet impregnated with asbestos. Stan has suffered a lung complaint as a result.

Stan worked with his dad until he was 18 and then became a "Nasho". I was in "Pukka" about the same time as Stan. Maybe the same hut!

Prior to this experience Stan was the top bowler of the Ringwood District Cricket Association. He was also a champion footballer for Ringwood. Stan then worked for himself and specialised in installing and maintaining oil heaters. He also managed Gibbs Hardware and Timber in Bayswater for many years. Stan then specialised in extensions and renovations until a crook back necessitated retirement.

So Stan is very much a local. His granddad settled in Croydon in 1881. His descendants numbered 750 when they had a reunion in 1954 at the local park in Ringwood. This event was a major news story in the 'Argus' the next day. It featured a great photo of the hundreds of relatives. They all looked like Stan! Hard to find him in the throng!

Stan typifies our membership -ordinary blokes with great skills and stories to be shared.

### New President

The biggest item of news is the resignation of our founding president George Miller, effective 22/4/15. George did the hard yards with funding applications and finding a suitable site on which to build our Shed. It's thankless work that. Just a plain hard slog. The "I'll get back to you", the meetings, the promises and then just hope. Well he got through all of that and now we have an excellent facility in a perfect location. We express

our sincere thanks and gratitude to George in particular for the preliminary work – funding, siting, drawings, design, fitout and completion, right through to the official opening on 4 October 2014. We're organizing a great big send off for George sometime in between his caravanning adventures – we'll keep you posted. Well done George.

### **New members**

We have three new members to welcome -Michael Mann, William Cook and Robert Talbot. A warm welcome to each of you and to our general members, please make Mike, Bill and Robert feel as though they've been here for years!

### **Coffee mornings**

Back in March we had a brilliant presentation from our very own Dr Barry Walters with his talk, "Can a Brick Fly?" in which he outlined the principles of flight.

Last month, instead of a guest speaker, we held an open forum, the idea being to capture ideas from our membership which could be put to best use. Some of the ideas included visiting other Sheds (both Men's Sheds and Member's Sheds) and raising money for the benefit of Nepal following their devastating earthquakes. Well, as fortune would have it, we were given an opportunity to run a sausage sizzle and with Bunnings providing all the sausages and bread, we raised \$675 for Nepal. But that's not all. The takings were split 50/50 with the other half going to the benefit of a Bunnings chosen charity. Since it was Mothers' Day, Bunnings elected to donate their share to Ovarian Cancer Australia – an equally worthy cause. So, what happened was, Bunnings provided the supplies, our Shed provided the man power and the total take was donated to two great causes. Well done to all the team who participated on one of the wettest days of the year.

Our next coffee morning is coming up on 27<sup>th</sup> May and we'll have a double feature. Linda Hancock from VicPol will be giving a talk on security (including cyber security) to keep us in touch in what the sinister minds are up to with the aim of keeping us vigilant and aware. We will also welcome a small team of five people from the Caladenia Dementia Care Centre in Mooroolbark. They say they are keen to see our 'wonderful shed'. How about that?

### **Pride Cup Flags**

Robert Lee did a great job cutting out and painting the Pride Cup flags for Yarra Glen Football & Netball Club to help promote the Pride Cup match played yesterday (Sunday 17/5/15). The flags were displayed around the traders in Bell Street in the week leading up to the match. Rob also featured in a great article in the local paper. Well done Robert.

### **Cuddle Cot**

We were also involved in the afternoon tea held at the Steels Creek Centre to raise funds for a Cuddle Cot – a disguised refrigerated cot designed to assist mothers who have suffered the trauma of a still-born delivery. Roger and Kevin helped out with set-up and car parking. Well done to a great cause.

### **Anzac Day**

We were able to assist the Yarra Glen RSL in cooking a snag or 300 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. We had 2 BBQ's – our own and the Masonic Lodge's trailer mounted model – which worked brilliantly. There was huge rush on when the ceremony ended but by being well prepared, we were able to satisfy the most demanding of appetites. Rather than a direct charge, a gold coin donation was requested which resulted in \$500 being raised for the RSL. Well done to Stan, Mike, Ken and Dave for their dedicated efforts. Regarding the trailer BBQ, it has been built by the Yarra Glen Masonic Lodge for the purpose of community use. In addition to the BBQ facility, it also has a sink and stainless steel benchtop!

### **Keeping a record of our projects**

Generally, as we work at projects, complete and deliver them, we see nothing for our efforts. So, quite sensibly, Ross Ward has developed an idea to retain a record of what we've done. The idea is to track things we've done

in three ways –financial (but not necessarily always), a project description and a photographic record. Anyone with expertise in record keeping, or just interested in the very good idea, please contact Ross, roll up your sleeves and see if can get this going.

**Winter operating hours**

Just a reminder as June is fast approaching, our opening times during the winter months will be 10:00AM until 4:00PM.

Regards  
Gavan Oakley