



Who said that Men's Shed wasn't a lot of fun ?
Pic. Andy Berry

Its been a busy year for Torquay Mens Shed

From the old to the new
New shed opening
Incorporation
New Committee formed
Membership Increase
1st Annual Meeting
Organization
Plans for future
New projects

From Grossman's Rd to Price Street. not far but a long journey in time an energy. We were comfortable there and it was sad to leave. The new shed awaited us and once again many put in the effort and we had a brand new shed to enjoy. Then we invited a

few big wheels and we had a grand opening. All great We also became Incorporated, overwhelmingly voted in by the membership. This increased our costs and a membership fee was struck for the first time. We then elected a committee and

formalized our meetings. Our membership has grown about 15% since incorporation. We are better organized and the committee tasks are now shared a bit more equitably. There is still a lot to do. Many hands make light work. Merry Xmas from the Executive.

Right : Some of the boys soak up the sun outside the new shed at Price St. not long after the opening. Solar panels above keep our power costs in check.



The men of Torquay Mens shed enjoy the sunshine as the solar panels soak up the sun's rays and shrink our energy costs at the new shed in Price st.

Andy Berry:

<http://ianinc.redbubble.com/>



A full life in publishing has Andy ready for more work!

Beginnings: Born in Ballarat Base Hospital 21 12 1948... and three days later he was in Torquay with his parents and grandmother, Ruby May Malyon at 34 The Esplanade, Torquay. Ruby and her husband Teddy bought their home in Torquay in the 1920s.

Childhood: was spent toing and froing between Torquay and Ballarat where he went to school... Ballarat College where he matriculated before going to Australian National University to study Arts/Law.

At school, Andy's main sport was rowing and he competed successfully over four years in four oared boats. His love of rowing has transferred in later life to surf boats; not as a rower, but as a chronicler of their activity on the Surfcoast through his photography.

After surviving a head-on accident in Canberra, Andy took a year off university studies and, recovering quickly, he decided to get a job before resuming his studies.

Career: The first job he applied for was as a cadet journalist at the Ballarat Courier. He succeeded in landing this job and thought that learning shorthand would be of great benefit when he went back to uni.

But, much to his amazement, he fell in love with journalism and newspaper publishing. He completed his four-year cadetship in less than a year. He stuck with publishing, much to his father's amazement. His dad, Andrew, ran the successful printing and publishing company, Berry Anderson Pty. Ltd. and was himself a publisher of newspapers, notably the Sporting World.

"But my father was concerned about the future of publishing and really wanted me to do law or medicine," Andy said.

Career Highlights: Andy moved on from The Courier to the Geelong News as a graded journalist; then a short stint in motoring PR with the late Paul Higgins; then two years at David Syme's magazine Division (Newspress). He was then offered the editorship of The Australasian Express, an expatriates' newspaper in London which circulated in mainly in London but had a presence in cities in Europe where Australians worked and holidayed.

One of the highlights in London was being able to have a lot of fun and at the same time help

improve the profitability of The Australasian Express.

After almost two years later, David Syme brought Andy back to Melbourne as production manager of Newspress where much of his time was spent as relieving editor on diverse publications - such as Australian Auto Action, Australian Motorcycle Action, Motor Manual, Juke - and being on the design teams which re-worked magazines like BRW and Qantas magazine, and form guides for horse and trotting racing. He also spent some time in Hong Kong on a special project involving buying specialist newspapers/magazines to join the David Syme publishing stable. Or, to use the then managing director's (Ranald Macdonald) words "Getting David Syme's feet wet in Asia). Ranald also bought a TV station in Hong Kong at the same time. It was a time of expansion for Syme.

Other career highlights include:

Being selected for the inaugural David Syme management program and a stint at the University of Hawaii at Moana (AMP- Advanced Management Program).

President of the Australian Suburban Newspaper Publishing Association.

General manager of Syme Community Newspapers, publishers at that time of more than a dozen community newspapers in Melbourne.

General manager of Publishing & Marketing Australia for Rural Press Limited.

Working with the Australian Industrial Relations Commission as a member of the Journalists Conciliation and Arbitration Board. In this capacity, Andy says, he learned the value of treating employees better than ever and also learned that unions were more of a hotbed of people wanting to usurp the other union person's power. "It is probably why I don't feel surprised at all about the current problems in the Gillard government today..."

General manager of Mackay Printing and Publishing p/l which published a regional daily newspaper The Daily Mercury, two community newspapers and a small stable of tourist and business magazines.

Along the way, he has learned several publishing related computer programs which he still uses in the preparation of his photographs.

A new life:

"But, really, that part of my life is well and truly over!" Andy told me.

Andy effectively got out of the game in 1998, toured Vietnam in 1998-99 and felt that his life was over... a gradual decline in his health and well-being almost led to him giving up the ghost.

A timely call from a cousin to say he should be checked out for haemochromatosis provided an answer. Andy was given a genetic test which showed he had the condition and his iron levels were off the scale.

Haemochromatosis is a genetic condition whereby excess iron is not expelled from the body but retained in major organs.

The ancient art of "blood letting" (or donating blood to the Red Cross as it is known today) is the "cure". Every time Andy gives blood (perfectly usable O Negative), his body draws on the iron in his organs to make a fresh batch.

The result... "amazingly increased energy levels. I have to go to the gym three times a week to use some of it up," Andy laughs.

As part of his "re-entry into normal life", Andy knew he had to have a hobby... And photography it was. He has since owned a variety of Pentax cameras and lenses and now uses a Pentax K10D and a Nikon D7000 with a variety of lenses.

His love of photography is not so much what he produces but the joy that it brings to his subjects as is reflected in the pictures that materialize from his camera at surf boat regattas, which he covers on a purely voluntary basis. The Victorian surfcoast is his photographic playground. We are fortunate to have such a talent in our midst.

Hobbies: Photography... and while activities on the water and Surfcoast scenery are his favourites, Andy will occasionally do other "shoots" of orchids, alpacas, sheep dog trials and even goose racing.

Sport: gym work three times a week... not very keen on walking for the sake of walking... An Essendon follower from childhood.

Cultural: Good reading, current affairs junkie.

Mens Shed: He sees the men's shed as an incredibly important part of the fabric of Torquay.

"As well as providing a welcoming area to people who can use the equipment, it is a place to just have a "chinwag" if that's all you want," Andy told me.

"The critical point is that it gives me an opportunity to stay engaged with the rest of the community. Without these things we can just wither and die like badly kept plants," he added

Andy feels that we (or the local council) need to advertise the men's shed better so that other guys can get the benefit from such a welcoming organisation.

Relaxation: "I can't relax.... simple as that!" he said.

As we can see Andy's life has been one that has us gasping at the things he has achieved, the places he has been and the things he has done but he is a down to earth person who enjoys the company of people, enjoys life and is a great asset to any organisation. We are fortunate to have him in our midst.

Thanks Andy for spending the time to do this story and on behalf of the committee for freely giving of your time and energy in making the Torquay mens shed a great place to meet.

Pictures below: some pics of Andy at different stages of his life.



Around the traps

Ray Busby calls it a day .

Ray Busby the backbone of Torquay mens shed since inception has resigned as Shed Manager but retains a spot on the General Committee. Although as the saying goes “ no one is irreplaceable Ray goes very close. The general Committee will share his old duties and we will try to cope as best we can. How we fare will be tested over the coming months. It is not only the committee that need to be involved and if anyone feels that they can take over any of the duties that Ray performed over the years come and see us. I am sure with your help we will get through this. It has been obvious to me that Ray has been the true lifeblood of our shed for a long period of time.



Ray Busby at the opening of the new shed.
Photography Andy Berry

Bill Sherring has a Birthday

Recently we celebrated the birthday of our most mature member, the one who has had more of them than any of us. I spoke to him on the day over a delicious fruit cake slice and he assured me that No. 100 was well within his sights. his only worry is that he may not get a letter from the queen. He fears that she may not last the distance. Good luck Bill. If we are traveling as well as you are at 91 we will be doing OK.



Above Bill Sherring and his good mate Max Wellins are often seen working on a project together at the shed.

Photography Andy Berry

New Shirts have arrived .

All should have their new shirts on or before break up day. We hope you enjoy them. The committee has decided that any full paying member up until 30th of June '13 is entitled to a free shirt. Caps may be next. At the moment we have 50 paid up members.

ANNUAL MEETING 2012

Pics from annual meeting 2012. On the left Treasurer Tim Robinson, President Vern Stott and Secretary Lidio Ricci. Below Members who attended our first annual meeting.



Dan was a single guy living at home with his father, and working in the family business.

When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, He decided he needed to find a wife with whom to share his fortune.

One evening, at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen.

Her natural beauty took his breath away.

"I may look like an ordinary guy," he said to her, "but in just a few years, My father will die and I will inherit \$200 million."

Impressed, the woman asked for his business card.

Three days later, she became his stepmother.

Women are so much better at financial planning than men.

*Last week God appeared to Noel.
I want you to build me an Ark said God.*

*What ? Something like the one that Noah built?
Yes said God but a little different. I want it to be 4 storys high.*

How many types of animals can we get into this Ark? Said Noel.

*I only want fish in this Ark said God,
You mean whales, sharks and tuna and others?*

*No said God I only want Carp.
Why only Carp? said Noel.*

I always wanted to build a multi-story Carp Ark. Said God



This is a picture of the tallest man who ever lived. He was 3 feet taller



than a Collingwood six footer. He lived to the age of 32 and due to his condition was still growing at the time of his death

An Englishman wanted to become an Irishman, so he visited a doctor to find out how to go about this. "Well" said the doctor, "this is a very delicate operation and there is a lot that can go wrong. I will have to remove half your brain". "That's OK" said the Englishman. "I've always wanted to be Irish and I'm prepared to take the risk".

The operation went ahead but the Englishman woke to find a look of horror on the face of the doctor. "I'm so terribly sorry!!" the doctor said. "Instead of removing half the brain, I've taken the whole brain out". The patient replied, "No worries, mate!!"



From the Committee of Torquay Community Mens Shed all the best for Xmas and hope the new year brings good health,tranquility and happiness to all at the mens shed and their loved ones.