



TORQUAY MENS Community SHED

Remember High Tide Festival Dec. 3rd & 4th

Merry Xmas to all.

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No 4

Summer 2011

Xmas break up at Ricci's
Wednesday 14th
December 2011
7 Sheoak Court
Torquay from
about 11am
Directions Page 2

We find out a little about Vern Stott (pictured).

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Around the shed with Ray Busby. Page 1

Shed Manager has his say.

New shed front entrance



We visit Yarrowonga-Mulwala Mens Shed

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Jokes for blokes

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!.
Did you know?

A very young and impoverished, Pablo Picasso kept warm by burning his own paintings.

Around the Shed with Ray Busby.

Hi to all of our Shedders.

Can you believe that another year has almost gone! This will be my last newsletter update for 2011 and at the outset I want to say a very big THANK YOU to Lidio for organizing and putting our newsletter together. Not an easy task let me assure you, as I have been down that path in time gone by and I do know how much time it takes.

Don't forget too, that Lidio and Annette have very generously offered to open their doors to us all to celebrate Christmas at their place. That also includes partners of course and as usual, we will leave the decision to individuals on that score. The date is December 14, 2011. Venue and directions will be published elsewhere in this issue.

I am hoping that, as you are reading this, we will have loaded all the metal from Grossman's Road and sent it off to salvage and that we will have received some very welcome money for it.

The solar panels were installed on the roof at Price Street, on Thursday November 24, 2011 and, despite having to get the smart meter modified out front to allow us to pump current back into the grid, I believe the exercise will save us a considerable amount of money in the short to long term.

The High Tide Festival is coming up on December 3 and 4, 2011. We now have three 'tubular bell' setups organized and we have allocated space in the Community Expo Tent down on Elephant Walk. Preceding this will be the 'stroll' down the winding path through the Cowrie Market, starting opposite Anderson Street at 10:00 am. We will be there with our banner and as many of you as possible, to both carry the flag and act as support for the Shed.

Please don't forget to come to the Shed on December 21, 2011, when you will be voting on whether we proceed with incorporation or not. I am really hoping that it will be a unanimous decision, which will allow us to proceed to the next step in the process. We will also be applying for "DGR" status with the ATO, which will give us some valuable ammunition to go out and really develop our "Friends of the Men's Shed" drive to get sponsors on board to help us in the financial battles that lay ahead.

Resulting from our incorporation, will be the necessity of forming a management committee, which we are hoping will be formed from within the Shed membership. Not particularly onerous tasks but vital ones nonetheless. As far as membership fees are concerned, we have to establish all the insurances we will need and divide that cost among the membership – more on this when we get further down the path.

We will have lots of things happening early in 2012. As well as consolidating and organizing the 'stuff' in our new location, I am hoping that sufficient funds will be available to include a verandah on the Eastern wall of the Shed. This will be an invaluable addition to protect our lovely carpet from muddy footprints when we get lousy weather.

Grossman's Road also must be cleaned up, both inside and out. I have a really nostalgic feeling every time I go to our old shed now. It just feels like Wearing an old T shirt, is the best way I can describe it. We had some good times in that space and I am grateful to Dean Webster for locating it for us back in 2008.

We will also be planning and executing our grand opening with all the Hoo Har that that will entail. For that, we will be setting up a small committee of members to organize that. This is a requirement of the funding we received, to acknowledge the State Government's assistance in the building and fitting out of our new premises. Not a bad price to pay for, what I believe to be, one of the best sheds in the district, if not the State – small that's true but jam packed with value added features!

Well enough from me for now, hoping you all have a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Cheers Ray Busby

Picture to the right was taken just prior to sunrise from the west bank of Lake Mulwala. The mens Shed at Yarrowonga is on the opposite bank of the lake.

In 1939 Lake Mulwala was created by building a dam across the Murray between Yarrowonga and Mulwala. This was done to provide irrigation water for the district. A bridge was built between the towns. Both states Victoria and NSW decided that they would each start the bridge from their respective sides of the river and meet in the middle. Due to the absence of any consultation and poor eyesight both sides did not meet. One being higher than the other. Hence the noticeable dip in the middle.



Yarrowonga -Mulwala Mens Shed

In late October when with the Torquay Life Activities group on our Caravan trip I came across the Yarrowonga Mens Shed and together with my wife Annette decided to poke our noses in.

Well I am so glad we did, We were made most welcome and Vice President, John Shorten was happy to show us around and introduce us around to the men there, busy with their projects but ever willing to share their experiences.



A very impressive project undertaken at Yarrowonga - Mulwala Mens shed was this model aeroplane with it's remote controlled engine that would soon be gracing the skies above the beautiful Mulwala Lake on whose shores the Mens Shed currently stands.

Unfortunately the powers that be up there have deemed that a Mens Shed which is not water related, unlike the Rowing Club which takes

up half the total area of the shed with boat storage of about 20 boats has no right to a shed on the edge of the lake.



What a lot of garbage. but get this the Rowing club has a total number of 3 members THREE. The Mens shed with 58 members has been told they must find a new shed by June next year. Lets hope the people running things up there come to their senses and realize a shed full of blokes working on community projects and supporting each other deserve better than a shed full of boats. We hope all works well for them.



The Shed here is open 3 days a week and each Friday members of the Woods Point Aged care together with their carer visit the shed and are made most welcome. Some of them like to fish, others enjoy the company, they all benefit from the camaraderie. The blokes we met up there were typical of men we have met at other sheds, friendly and very welcoming, and very community minded.

We are sending a copy of this newsletter to John Shorten and his mates up there at Yarrowonga and hope that he enjoys this page and I personally would like to thank him for his hospitality and good will towards us. He and his friends up at the shed on the shores of Lake Mulwala are most welcome at our shed if they find themselves around the Surf Coast any time in the future.

How to hold on when traveling by train.



No, No, the guy by the door!!!!

Directions to the Ricci place for Xmas break up on 14th December.

From the old mens shed on Grossmans Rd.

Head west past the stock feed place. Turn right at Ocean Acres Drive. At the T intersection turn left and keep left. Turn left at Sheoak court and No 7 is directly at the top of the hill. Please park in the street.

Vern helps Ray with a problem



Steiglitz : Between Ballarat and Geelong was a booming gold mining town around the mid 19th century. It once boasted a population of almost 7000. The Stott family's story begins here.



Vern Stott one of our well respected, knowledgeable leaders has agreed to talk to us mostly about times gone by. This is his story.

Vern's family goes back a long long way. It begins in a little town North West of Geelong called Steiglitz.

Great grandpa James Stott bought shares in the gold mine at Steiglitz and a dynasty was born. In the early 1880s two of James sons namely William and Edward opened their doors in Moorabool St. and merely 4 doors apart, Geelong had two jewelers by the same name. William was Vern's Grandpa whose wife bore him a son by the name of Albert Vernon Aubrey Stott, and when he took over the business it became known as A.V.A. Stott. Albert who was Vernon's dad died when Vern was just 21 years. Vern who was already "doing his apprenticeship in the business found the responsibility suddenly thrust his way. As the meaning of Stott ("Little Bull" suggests), he had what it takes and he was to stay in business almost 50 years in Geelong living mainly in Eastern Geelong.

In the early 1940s Vern's father bought some land with a small shack on it in Torquay on the outskirts of town and the family utilized this as a holiday house, spending school vacations and weekends there whenever they could. Torquay was an idyllic place to be then and young Vern enjoyed riding his bike around Jan Juc and Breamlea and exploring deserted beaches and pristine bushland. In

1953 the house where Vern and his wife Joan now live was built, but they continued to use it as a holiday house for themselves and their family of three boys and a girl. They have seen Torquay grow around them and their once idyllic little hamlet became a busy mecca for surfies and holiday makers. You can't stop progress. It wasn't until almost the turn of the century that the Stotts moved permanently to the house they now occupy and the little holiday house which was on the outskirts of town almost 40 years ago was almost in the middle of town at this time.

There are now 7 generations of Stotts in the Geelong area and no doubt Vern is the patriarch of the family and looking back over his life one could imagine he can look back over the years and can feel very satisfied with what he and his family have accomplished.

Asked on how he sees Torquay over the next decade or so he believes if there are no limits to the town's spread they will stuff it up. No normal sized blocks west of Duffields Road he says. Deserted beaches are a thing of the past and get used to the xmas avalanche and schoolies. Parking meters in the main street ? lets hope not.

Vern has a keen interest in old cars owning several including a 1926 Dodge and a few 1960s relics. His other main interest is Astronomy being a member of the Geelong Astronomical Society.

Of course Vern is a very valued member of Torquay Mens Shed and little is done without his approval and advice. He would like to see more interaction between the men at the shed and would like our activities expanded to include metal art and vehicle maintenance which I am sure would interest many of us old timers.

Vern enjoys the Mens Shed and his advice and direction is invaluable and keenly sought. He involves himself in many projects and his value to the community is immeasurable. He together with Ray Busby and Tim Robinson form the backbone of our shed.

I would like to say that Vern has been a delight to interview and I would like to thank him for his time and effort in helping me write this story.





A man and his wife were celebrating 50 years together. Their three kids, all very successful, agreed to a Sunday dinner in their honour. "Happy Anniversary Mom & Dad," gushed son number one. "Sorry I'm running late. I had an emergency at the hospital with a patient, you know how it is, and didn't have time to get you a gift."

"Not to worry," said the father. "The important thing is that we're all together today."

Son number two arrived and announced, "You and Mom look great Dad. I just flew in from Los Angeles between depositions and didn't have time to shop for you."

"It's nothing," said the father. "We're glad you were able to come."

Just then the daughter arrived, "Hello and Happy Anniversary! I'm sorry but my boss is sending me out of town and I was really busy packing so I didn't have time to get you anything."

After they finished dessert, the father said, "There's something your mother and I have wanted to tell you for a long time. You see, though we were very poor, we were able to send each of you to college. Throughout the years your mother and I knew we loved each other very much, but we just never found the time to get married."

The three children gasped and all said, "You mean we're bastards?"

"Yep", said the father, "and cheap ones too".

A magician worked on a cruise ship. The audience was different each week so the magician did the same tricks over and over again. There was only one problem: the captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick.

Once he understood, he started shouting in the middle of the show. "Look, it's not the same hat!" or "Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table!" or "Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?"

The magician was furious but couldn't do anything. It was, after all, the captain's parrot.

Then one stormy night on the Pacific, the ship unfortunately sank, drowning almost all who were onboard.

The magician luckily found himself on a piece of wood floating in the middle of the sea with, as fate would have it, the parrot.

They stared at each other with hatred but did not utter a word. This went on for a day... and then two days...and then three days.

Finally on the fourth day, the parrot could hold back no longer and said.....

"OK, I give up. Where's the ship?"

Went to my first Muslim birthday party last week. The musical chairs was a bit slow, but bugger me, pass the parcel was quick!!



A HUSBAND IS AT HOME WATCHING A FOOTBALL GAME WHEN HIS WIFE INTERRUPTS, HONEY, COULD YOU FIX THE LIGHT IN THE HALLWAY? IT'S BEEN FLICKERING FOR WEEKS NOW. HE LOOKS AT HER AND SAYS ANGRILY, FIX THE LIGHTS NOW? DOES IT LOOK LIKE I HAVE ENERGEX WRITTEN ON MY FOREHEAD? I DON'T THINK SO. FINE THEN THE WIFE ASKS, WELL THEN, COULD YOU FIX THE FRIDGE DOOR? IT WON'T CLOSE RIGHT TO WHICH HE REPLIED, FIX THE FRIDGE DOOR? DOES IT LOOK LIKE I HAVE WESTINGHOUSE WRITTEN ON MY FOREHEAD? I DON'T THINK SO FINE, SHE SAYS.

THEN YOU COULD AT LEAST FIX THE STEPS TO THE FRONT DOOR? THEY ARE ABOUT TO BREAK I'M NOT A CARPENTER AND I DON'T WANT TO FIX STEPS HE SAYS, DOES IT LOOK LIKE I HAVE BUNNINGS WRITTEN ON MY FOREHEAD? I DON'T THINK SO I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU. I'M GOING TO THE PUB!!!!

SO HE GOES TO THE PUB AND DRINKS FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS.....

HE STARTS TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT HOW HE TREATED HIS WIFE, AND DECIDES TO GO HOME AS HE WALKS INTO THE HOUSE HE NOTICES THAT THE STEPS ARE ALREADY FIXED. AS HE ENTERS THE HOUSE, HE SEES THE HALL LIGHT IS WORKING. AS HE GOES TO GET A BEER, HE NOTICES THE FRIDGE DOOR IS FIXED..

HONEY, HE ASKS, HOW'D ALL THIS GET FIXED? SHE SAID, WELL, WHEN YOU LEFT I SAT OUTSIDE AND CRIED

JUST THEN A NICE YOUNG MAN ASKED ME WHAT WAS WRONG, AND I TOLD HIM. HE OFFERED TO DO ALL THE REPAIRS, AND ALL I HAD TO DO WAS EITHER GO TO BED WITH HIM OR BAKE A CAKE. HE SAID, SO WHAT KIND OF CAKE DID YOU BAKE? SHE REPLIED, HELLOOOOO... DO YOU SEE SARA LEE WRITTEN ON MY FOREHEAD? I DON'T THINK SO!

Guy out in the sticks comes across a girl swinging on the farm gate.

"Do ya root?" He asks.

"No" says the shelia, "but you're such a silver tongued bastard, you've talked me into it."

"Passionate kiss like spider's web . . . soon lead to undoing of fly."