



# Narooma Men's Shed Newsletter

April 2022 Issue 50



At the Bunnings' Easter market.

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## Event Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Location
Tilba Festival	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	All Day	<b><i>Central Tilba</i></b>

## President's Report



More good news. We have received the bulk of the bushfire recovery scheme funding. The treasury department is very happy about this.

Wayne Dineen is coordinating the building works. we can expect work to commence early this month.

The Uniting Church Drop in Centre once more made a donation of \$1000. They have over the years been very generous to us. So many thanks to them.

We were outnumbered when we met the delegation from St Vinnies, we were expecting four but ten arrived.

They were all suitably impressed for both the set up and the efforts of the shed membership.



Unfortunately, both Jock Monroe and Chris Smith resigned from the committee and shed in March . A pity as they were both well liked. John Voytas has also resigned from the committee but will still be looking after the garden centre.

The pergola is coming along nicely, there is only the roof and the guttering to be fitted.

Excellent work lads.



We have been working on 5 bird boxes for Estia Health which have now been delivered. They are to be assembled by the members there.

The Bunnings Easter market went well. We, and about 25 others setup inside the shop, so out of the weather. All told a pleasant morning.



**Finances** - There is always a need to raise funds to keep the shed going. The annual fees and the weekly donation of \$5 goes some of the way, but our markets and shed repairs income supplements the outgoings. These include the rates, lease payments, insurance and ongoing maintenance of equipment, etc. Also coffee and bioscuits.

We can only get grants for capital expenditure, building, tools etc.

Simply, put we have to sell stuff to survive. To this end it would be great if we could increase the number of members participating in the various market outings.

It is always an enjoyable outing once every couple of months.

Talk to Dave or Dick if you think you could spare some time.

# COVID-19 and Vaccinations

**From Friday 25 February 2022, the following restrictions will be eased**

Face masks will only be required on public transport and public transport waiting areas, planes, and indoors at airports, public hospitals, private health facilities, residential aged care facilities or hostels and indoor music festivals with more than 1000 people.

The 20,000 person cap on music festivals will be removed.

Singing and dancing will be permitted at all venues.

Vaccination requirements will remain for indoor music festivals over 1000 people

## **Weekend walk-in vaccinations**

To help keep the community safe from COVID-19, clinics across NSW are providing walk-in vaccinations every Saturday and Sunday until 6 March.

Whether you're due for your first dose, second dose, or a booster, or you want to get your kids vaccinated, walk-ins allow you to easily access your protection against serious illness from COVID-19.



The vaccines currently available for use in Australia include:

**Pfizer** (Comirnaty) and **Moderna** (Spikevax) are the preferred vaccines for people aged 12 years and older. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has detailed information on the Pfizer vaccinelaunch and the Moderna vaccinelaunch.

**Novavax** (Nuvaxovid) is a protein based vaccine and can be used in adults aged 18 years and older. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has detailed information on the Novavax vaccinelaunch.

**AstraZeneca** (Vaxzevria) can be used in adults aged 60 years and over or for those 18–59 years where the Pfizer vaccine is not available, and the benefits clearly outweigh the risk for that individual. You should speak to your GP (doctor) to understand the risks and benefits. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has issued detailed information on the AstraZeneca vaccinelaunch.

**Pfizer Paediatric** vaccine is the approved vaccine for children aged 5 – 11 years. The dose of this vaccine is around 1/3 of the 12+ dose. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has detailed information on the Pfizer paediatric vaccinelaunch.

You will receive a vaccine that is recommended for your age and other eligibility and clinical criteria.

## Members

### Rob Atkinson – An Impression

He looks directly at you. He pauses. A hand passes over his chin. His eyes sustain their focus but then, ever so slightly, their sharp blue shifts and ushers in the mellifluous chuckle. This is Rob Atkinson. He knows a lot. Not just about things now. Not just about the history of the Narooma Men's Shed. He knows about life things and about people. He maintains a rangy physique which would have graced many a tennis court with his keen eye staying on the ball. And his interests roam broadly across life's spectrum. He has an ear for language and his humour encompasses an appreciation of the absurd. Not reserved or shy, but rather a private man. He fits easily into any company. Independent, self-reliant, engaging and engaged. That'll do for a tag.

October 26<sup>th</sup> 1948. An addition to the Atkinsons arrives at the Calvary Hospital in North Adelaide. By chance, some might say, at the same hospital five years later, a partner for the Rob to be is born. But that is by the bye.

Home for the newest Atkinson is a small township about the size of Bodalla on the Murray in Mallee Country - "12 inches rainfall annually" (that's about 30 cms in the new measurement). Swan Reach. The property, run by Rob's father and two uncles, is twelve thousand acres with four acres to the sheep – in a good year. Rob's sister, Pauline, twelve years his senior is soon to head for the "big smoke". So, for quite some time Rob is dependent on his own initiative. It will be some time before his second sister, Kay, four years his junior, can be much of a companion.



The local school has barely a hundred students and for study in high school years it means boarding during the week in Adelaide Hills. The high school is just a local high school. Rob has to board with private families and go home to Swan Reach on the week end. It might be unsettling for the twelve year old boy but "as a twelve year old you accept for what it is".

Rob stays with two families. The first, a nice old couple, maybe in their 50's or 60's, have another boarder but he is seven or eight years older and is a "working man". The second family has a couple of school age kids both a little younger than Rob. There is also an older boarder who has just graduated as a teacher. Around this time Rob's sisters are settled in Adelaide. Their parents are "home alone!"

At school Latin is not a favourite subject. English is okay but reading Shakespeare at that age is mind numbing. The good teachers are the woodwork teacher, the ag science teacher, the science teacher. The good teacher, the good subject. Simple. The

ag science teacher's "passion fruit story" is remembered with a wry smile still.

But school is the usual basic stuff. The girls do the commercial stream, typing, domestic economics but for Rob school is "neither fish nor fowl" so it's off to work at seventeen.

Adelaide, the Department of Agriculture. Rob starts at the beginning by opening and sorting mail but soon he is in "dairy herd production testing". He learns a lot about live stock breeding and stays there for about two years. But the time comes for the twenty year old to have a change. Kangaroo Island, of course. Where else?

The new job involves office administration as well as being out in the field supporting the agricultural research teams checking sheep and establishing crop trials.

That's the work side of the job. Ah, the social side ! Arrive on Tuesday night and in the tennis team playing on the Saturday. The managers have an eye for fresh talent!

As a child of the generation that remembers the sixties the standard music is acceptable fare.

What does engage the twenty something is involvement with people - "people power". In with the Jay Cees (Junior Chamber International) Rob is part of an energetic and enthusiastic group that pulls a cart around Kangaroo Island to raise money in support of agriculture in third world countries. There is very serious competition from the Rural Youth Clubs who are sharing the "pulling time" on nights during the week and over two week ends.

The badge for all young men. The first car. Always remembered fondly. A VW "Pastie"

(South Australian dialect for "beetle") and pronounced with the long "a" sound as in "car". But the first always gives way to the second – a new (!) Datsun 1000. At that stage the "big brother" version, the Datsun 1600 is a renowned rally winner. The "blow in blow out" Kangaroo Islander spends a goodly eighteen months, including celebrating his twenty-first, on the island. Then it is time for change.

From the bottom of the continent to the top! Tennant Creek. Give the mining industry a go it seems to be booming. A successful application for a clerical position relocates Rob to a mining site some 45 kms out of town. A smaller scale mining operation but the work is varied ranging from regular paper work to recruitment practices and payment calculations for contractors.

Social life centres on thirty or so other singles on site. Rob finds Tennant Creek is just like a country town full of "blow ins" like himself – teachers, medical staff, bank johnnies . Later, when at a second, larger mine site, married couples add scope for more social activities. Tennis, of course, and Apex ... "You just join ...".

Five years in the mining game and things do change. The first oil shock – the fuel crisis of the 70's. Despite staff cuts Rob is invited to stay but times are tough so it's back to Adelaide.

Back to his grandparents old home where he helps his parents renovating, painting and generally tidying up the place. Through a family contact Rob is able to keep cash flow clearing and landscaping a demolition site. When sister, Pauline and her husband take over a fruit and veg business, Rob lends a hand working the market run.

Maybe there is more to be had for a clever,

Mature age Year 12 with sights set on the University of Adelaide and an economics degree. But somehow it's not quite the "thing". Some subjects – micro accounting and commercial law maybe but no.

Perhaps marriage to Jan halfway through the first year is a more rewarding distraction! Those fellow Mature Age Year 12 colleagues have proven useful in bringing Jan and Rob together. So it's back to full time work now with The Commonwealth Employment Service.

Family life. Lena, ("A name that is hard to shorten.") blesses the Atkinsons in 1978. Then come Noah and Zac and Peta. And Adelaide gives way to Canberra.

It is 1990 and Rob is able to move through a series of programmes where many of the skills he was developing in Tennant Creek come in handy. Computers and training trainers in the National Occupational Health and Safety Department introduce Rob to an awareness of a certain intolerance of the "Yes, Minister" nature of the public service. But Rob persists and is rewarded.

He designs and engages with programmes involving young people and the discrete challenges they meet. He is working with employers wanting to find training for their employees. This brings Rob into contact with many workers across a wide range of businesses for whom the school system has failed in ensuring basic literacy skills. And these aren't just new Australians.

Rob is quietly but justly proud of this work. One assessment of his programme stands out in his memory. When asked her view of the particular programme a wife says:

"It's the best thing ever. My husband can read road signs and read maps and we can leave town."

Rob is to have his longest stay- five or six years - in the programme - and it is to be his second last job in the Public Service. After thirty years Rob retires in 2008.

Well actually, although Rob retires from the Public Service, it is not his last job. His real last job in Canberra, while waiting to effect their move to Narooma, is to spend eighteen months delivering mail in Parliament House. Green jacket and all. He sits outside the office of the Leader of the Opposition running the mail to opposition ministers and distributing stationery. Perhaps this is where Rob hones his diplomatic skills!

How do Rob and Jan come to end up in Narooma? Initially Bellingen, up north is considered a suitable retirement destination. The family is quite dispersed and this encourages a reset of targets but this is not the only consideration. Having grown up in "12 inch annual rainfall country" and with the lasting memory from a 1973 east coast drive of the image of country filled with spotted gum forests the retirement reset is strengthened.

It is 2000 and the Atkinsons are driving home from Melbourne and the tennis (that theme again!) they find Narooma – a normal, alive country town with all the amenities they might need. Like Goldilock's Teddy Bears they find it better than Canberra ... "Not too hot and not too cool, just right."

They purchase a block of land in the area before they are ready to move. This, nearly a decade later enables the Atkinsons to buy where they want to live, right where they are today, And what views!

That's what gets Jan and Rob to Narooma but where does the Shed come in? Life's experiences have made Rob a joiner'. He



joins Lions. As the in-coming president of Narooma Lions he finds himself with a particular task – to find a site for a new group Lions is supporting, a Narooma Men’s Shed. In partnership with John Glover and June Sheard of Whale Coast Realty and the help of Ben Bate, they graft for eighteen months until, finally, Glass Rocks Road is secured.

The site is there but who’s going to go there. A public meeting attracts some attention and interest. Twenty or so turn up. Brian Craven volunteers to be president and a committee is formed to establish the Shed. No surprises as to who is on the committee. The committee works well – garage sales, fund raisers, public recognition through the local media. The Narooma Men’s Shed is operational.

Rob provides “ute services”, works on grant applications, recruits new members (so that’s where Bernie Perrett comes from!). But there is one area Rob is keen to promote. Fact. Many men do not know how to cook for themselves. Rob’s attention is drawn to this state of affairs when he encounters a “Men’s Shed Cook Book” collated by a Sydney Shed. Drawing on his management skills and experiences working with employers and business owners, Rob encourages the Shed to invite local chefs to give “Meal Lessons” to the members. Very popular. Very practical. As the Mallee boy reflects: “Country kids are taught basic survival skills before leaving home.”

Rob is a practical man. Much of the first two years in Narooma is spent renovating, extending, designing, and working with local tradies, builders and institutions. His contacts are a rich resource for the Shed.

“And what does the Shed mean for you?” Rob pauses. He measures his response as he looks back over his life’s experiences. He

replies:

“The Shed is a community. It is diverse but still a community. It is so important where you come from ... where you live... people you can call on ...people who can call on you. I was brought up to be independent but I know help is there.”

And then he chuckles.

**Tim Horstead  
5/3/22.**

# About the Shed



## The Sizzle

Our intrepid organiser (Curly) did some assessing of how long each of us could last and said that it would be OK if John and I got to Bunnings about 10.00 while he and the rest of the team would get there earlier and get the BBQ going. So John duly picked me up at 09.00 and we headed north at a pace which reminded me of seeing Stirling Moss at Brands Hatch many years ago. We arrived to find things in full swing and we joined a crew which was reminiscent of that television series "one foot in the grave" - one in his 90s, one in his 80s, two fast approaching that age and the two youngsters, Curly and Rick.

On our arrival Rick announced that he was visiting a young damsel to have his hair cut and off he went and left us to it.

Soon the customers started rolling in and our chef John was hard pressed to keep up the supply of sausages. Reg and Tony made up the natty trays with serviettes and bread, Curly ferried the hot dogs from chef to counter, while I relieved the punters of their money. From time to time we swapped places.

The pace increased as lunch time approached, but we discovered that the venerable age of the crew seemed to make people very tolerant and patient. Sort of the equivalent of the sympathy vote in elections. And then of course Curly was oozing his customary charm. Although he seemed not to hear me when I suggested that there was a certain ambiguity about telling middle aged ladies that they were "good sorts".

Rick returned at lunch time looking about ten years younger and with a smile from ear to ear ( he refused to tell us where the hairdresser hangs out). He was keen to take over the customer liaison and join the front line, but there was no way we were going to let the public see someone that young and handsome. So we gave him a job at the back. We knew how much that sympathy vote was worth. Some people were even giving us more than we wanted to charge them.

At about 2.00 pm the snags ran out and John and I, feeling somewhat worn, generously left Curly in charge of the clean up and headed south again in John's racing car.

A most enjoyable day at the office!

## Peter Hawker

### Bunnings

We had a very steady day, had to buy an extra 100 sausages and extra bread and onions and we still ran out of food before 2pm. Could have sold another 50 sausages but was too late to go buying more.

Had a great team and we all enjoyed the day.

Team was Reg, Tony, Peter Hawker, John Glover and Rick.

Think we made \$600.

## Curly

# Volunteering

\*Camaraderie

\*Community

\*Kindheartedness

If these words mean anything to You,

You will be pleased to know that you are  
ripe for the plucking.

As A Volunteer.

The NMS needs men of Your Calibre.

Men who enjoy getting up at 06.00 Hrs. on  
Sunday...

Driving a hundred miles...

Cooking a thousand greasy snags... and

Your only reward you get to eat a couple of  
the snags you cook....so cook 'em good.

Sure... it sounds like Hell!

The relentless bombardment of dad jokes  
and the insidious biological germ warfare of  
the Bunnings Tool Shop or B.T.S.

Affectionately known as Big Time Spend

No Sir! Volunteering "ain't for the feint." as  
someone once said\*

Narooma Mens Shed offers a full and  
diverse range of Volunteering Opportunities  
including:

\*Dalmeny Markets

\*Narooma Markets

\*Batemans Bay Bunnings BBQs

\*Cleaning Roster

\*Yard Maintenance

\*The Brou Tip Experience

You could say that these are highly secret,  
dangerous missions.....but they're not.

If you think you've got what it takes to  
V.D.E. (Volunteer Despite Everything)

Why not take the plunge today? and  
remember,

A Moments Pleasure can be a Lifetimes Joy.

## Jon Meakin

\*Me, I said it.

## Bush Fire Grant

I am sure we can all remember quite clearly, where you were, and how you and your family survived the bushfires, that came so close to so many of the community!

I can still remember parking the caravan on the oval, attending the fire update briefings and watching how the local clubs and shop keepers generously gave what they could to help everyone that asked.

I still recall the Cobargo as a place to feel safe, secure and avoiding the crush at the other refuges in town.

Well the Men's Shed took the opportunity in the recent round of Bushfire Grants to apply for a grant to use the Men's Shed as another facility to cater for our members and families and the wider community in the event of a future disaster event.

The Men's Shed has over 400 square meters of secure space, a large kitchen and toilets. This grant provides for installing sprinklers on the roof with a capacity to control the sprays from inside, gas generator, solar batteries charging from our PVCs, an internal shower, two fire hoses and bedding to supplement accommodation needs together with space outside for animals.

After some months, we recently received advice that the grant had been approved and the work can now commence. So, using local contractors and suppliers we expect to be up and running by August 2022.

I was asked what was in it for the Men's Shed? In reality, only a shower and solar battery storage. The majority of the project will be spent on making the Men's Shed another safe and comfortable facility to support our local community in the event of a future emergency. This new work just underlines our role as a thoughtful community-oriented group.

Wal Sheehan

## Silo Trail

I recently travelled to north western Victoria on the Silo trail. The trail recognises and celebrates the region's people through a series of large scale murals painted onto grain silos many of which date back to the 1930's.

The main silos are from Horsham up to the Murray, and can be seen in a day if you mind driving and kile the straight roads, and the lack of trees to the horizon.

Definitely worth a visit.



## Colin Berry



## New Members

If you wish to become a member or you know someone who would like to be a member, please get an application form filled in and return to a committee member of the Narooma Men's Shed.

The membership form can be downloaded from our website from the About Us menu, or collected at the shed.

## Procedures

1. All members are to complete a application for membership form.

**WHY:** It is a legislative requirement of bodies that individuals apply for and are accepted as members.

Once you become a member you are covered by the incorporated body's insurance.

2. All members are to complete the Member Record Card.

**WHY:** In case of an emergency such as an accident while at the Men's Shed, it is important that we have the name and contact of a person you nominate to be contacted in such events. Naturally, the ambulance would be called if necessary.

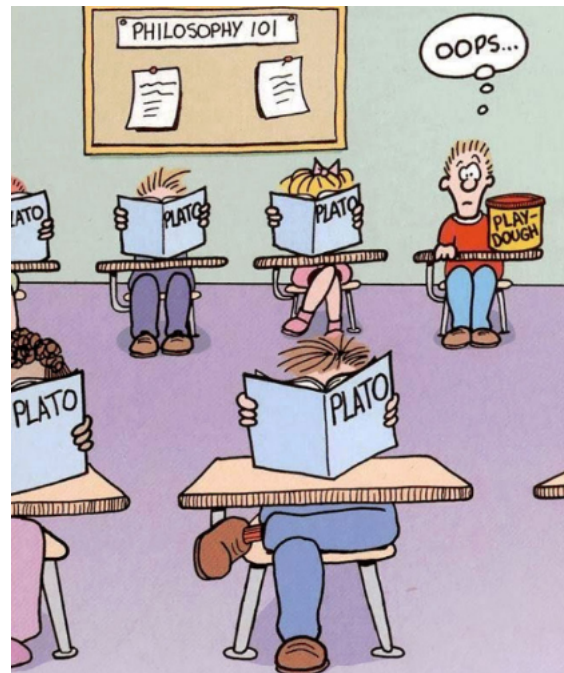
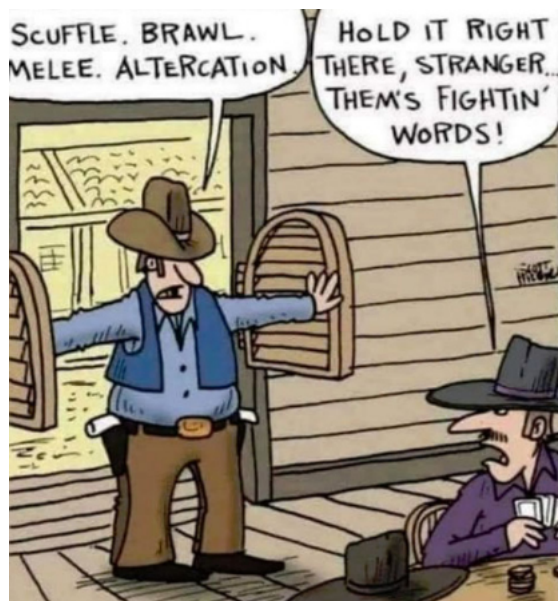
3. All members are to sign the attendance sheet each and every time they are present at the Men's Shed.

**WHY:** In case of an accident and any subsequent insurance claims, it is vital that the organisation and you can prove you were at the Men's Shed at the time of the accident.

4. The weekly fee of \$5 is to cover refreshments (tea/coffee etc.) as well as workshop consumables (e.g. sandpaper, drill bits etc.). annual fee is \$60



# Humour



## 10 REASONS WHY ENGLISH IS WEIRD

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.

A man walks into a bar and it's empty - it's just him and the bartender. He sits down and orders a drink.

He hears someone whisper, "Pssst...I like your tie." The man looks around but doesn't see anyone.

"Pssst...that color looks nice on you."

He asks the bartender, "Excuse me, but...are you speaking to me?"

The bartender rolls his eyes and says, "No, sorry about that. It's the peanuts... they're complimentary."



Two Kiwis, Trevor and Jeanette, are walking down a street in Bondi in Sydney.

Trevor happens to look in one of the shop windows and sees a sign that catches his eye. The sign said "Suits \$10.00 each, Shirts \$4.00 each, Trousers \$5.00 per pair"

Trevor says to his pal, "Jeanette, look! We could buy a whole lot of those, and when we get back to InZid, we could make a fortune".

"Now when we go into the shop, you be quiet, okay? Just let me do all the talking because if they hear our accent, they might not be nice to us. I'll speak in my best Aussie accent."

'No worries', smiled Jeanette, 'I'll keep my mouth shut.'

They go in and Trevor says, 'I'll take fifty suits at \$10.00 each, 100 shirts at \$4.00 each, and fifty pairs of trousers at \$5.00 each. I'll be up my truck and...'

The owner of the shop interrupts, 'You're from New Zealand, aren't you?'

'Well.. Yis,' says a surprised Trevor. 'How the hell did you know that?'

The owner says, 'This is a dry cleaners!'

### CHECK FOR ALZHEIMER'S - PRETTY AMAZING

The following was developed as a mental age assessment by the School of Psychiatry at Harvard University. Take your time and see if you can read each line aloud without a mistake.

The average person over 60 years of age cannot do it!

1. This is this cat.
2. This is is cat.
3. This is how cat.
4. This is to cat.
5. This is keep cat.
6. This is an cat.
7. This is old cat.
8. This is fart cat.
9. This is busy cat.
10. This is for cat.
11. This is forty cat.
12. This is seconds cat.

Now go back and read the third word in each line from the top down and I betcha you cannot resist passing it on.....

A man goes into a pet shop to buy a parrot. The shop owner points to three identical-looking parrots on a perch and says, "The parrot on the left costs \$500 dollars."

"Why does the parrot cost so much?" asks the man. The owner says "Well the parrot knows how to use a computer."

The man then asks about the next parrot and learns that it costs \$1,000 dollars because it can do everything the first parrot can do plus it knows how to use the UNIX operating system.

Naturally, the increasingly startled man asks about the third parrot, only to be told that it costs \$2,000 dollars.

Needless to say this begs the question, "What can it do?"

To which the owner replies

"To be honest I have never seen it do anything but the other two call him boss!"

My wife and I laugh about how competitive we are. But I laugh more.

With a view to the upcoming election - What do nappies and politicians have in common? They both stink and need to be changed often.

An Italian businessman goes to Indonesia for a business trip. He hates Indonesian food, so he asked the concierge in his hotel, "Is there any restaurant where I can find Italian food here?" The concierge says, "You're lucky sir, a new pizza restaurant just opened and they deliver." The businessman asks for the restaurant's number, goes back to his room, and orders the pizza.

30 minutes later, the delivery person shows up with the pizza. He takes the pizza and eats it. Suddenly he's sneezing uncontrollably and shouting to the delivery person, "What did you put on this pizza?!"

The delivery man bows deeply and says, "We put exactly what you ordered on the phone, sir. It's pepper only"

Two friends are walking down the street thinking of something to do. One friend turns to the other and says, "Let's go get a drink, there's this new place that does THE best punch you'll ever drink."

So they make their way to the bar and walk straight up to the bartender "Bartender, two glasses of your best punch please."

The bartender replies in a stern voice, "If you want some punch you're gonna have to get in line like everybody else."

The friends turn and look around but there's no punch line...

# Communication

## NMS Web Site

Remember we have a website

[www.naroomamensshed.com.au](http://www.naroomamensshed.com.au)

Also find us on Facebook Search “Facebook Narooma Mens Shed” in your browser.

If you have any news articles and photos that you would like published on the web site, or know of links to other interesting web site e.g. other Mens Sheds, please email details to the web master at [colin381@gmail.com](mailto:colin381@gmail.com)

## AMSA Online

The goal of The AMSA Shed Online is help people connect in the same way they do at the shed – over a cuppa and a laugh. We hope you’re here to share information, ideas and make connections with your fellow shedders around the world.

Anyone can contribute comments to the blog posts and participate in conversations on the discussion forums. But, you will need to join the site first.

<http://mensshed.org/theshedonline/>

## Committee Members

Executive Committee Members	
David Trickett	President
Jonathon Meakin	Vice-President
Colin Berry	Treasurer and Communications
Tim Horstead	Secretary
Ordinary Committee Members	
Rody Byrne	Public Officer
Peter (Curly) Carles	
Dick Nagle	Wood Shed Manager
Peter Lonergan	Metal Shed Manager
Geoff Broadfoot	Meeting Room Manager