

# Port Fairy Men's Shed NEWSLETTER

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Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

## Moyneyana Float

The Port Fairy Men's Shed (PFMS) was successful in the Moyneyana Festival's New Year's Eve Parade when it took out the "Best Community Group" Award for its float.

The concept of a Men's Shed without a Shed" helped highlight our endeavours to get a working shed up and running in 2009. The float seemed to be well received by the watching public and earned us \$150 prize money which more than offset construction costs.



The float was enthusiastically constructed by *Peter Ridout, Jim McIlwain, Don Stephens, Harry Bracegirdle, John Ellard, Keith Bunge and Mick Wentworth*. Valuable assistance was also provided by *Jack Smits* who built the "on-board dunny" for us, *Gary Hommelhoff* who did the sign writing and *John Bock* who loaned his trailer for the parade.

The float was assembled in the SES shed and our thanks go to Neil Hedger and the SES crew for their support on this project.

The challenge is now to come up with a theme for the 2009 parade!

## Update on shed site

The on-going *saga* of securing a site and shed for the PFMS has taken a number of twists and turns since our last communiqué but the Steering Committee is still working hard to bring the matter to some conclusion. Unfortunately we are dependent on a number of external bodies in our attempts to finalise this important issue and these matters simply take time that is, more often than not, out of our control.

As we have not had any communication back from the Scouting Association it appears that the previously

reported option of erecting a shed behind the Sea Scout Hall has lapsed.

The current options being explored are:

1. A proposal to share a large facility between the Folk Festival, Moyneyana Committee, Lions Club and PFMS was discussed at a meeting held in January and is based around the Folk Festival's desire to relocate their current storage facilities. This proposal has merit because it has the potential to avoid duplication of workshop facilities in the community. It is also enhanced by the overlap in personnel between the four entities where many of the men registered with the PFMS are active in a number of the other organisations. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, the Folk Festival Committee has not finalised any commercial agreement on the proposed new site so there is still uncertainty on the format and timing of this proposal.
2. A proposal to build an "add-on" facility abutting a proposed new shed for the Lions Club at the Showgrounds. The Lions Club has to relocate their current storage facility in a shed at GSK who are assisting Lions with the relocation. The option to add onto the proposed Lions Shed would reduce costs for both parties as toilet and kitchen facilities could be shared. The Show Society would naturally want to use the toilets on Show Day and are keen for this option to proceed. The Lions Club will discuss the matter at their next meetings and all three parties - Lions, Show Society and PFMS - will reconvene soon to review progress.

It appears that a likely solution will emerge from one of the above. The good news is that both proposals are attractive and both represent a real answer to our needs. The challenge for the PFMS is to resolve this before we apply for major grant funding from the Victorian Government in April.

## Equipment purchases

The PFMS is gradually building up a cache of equipment in anticipation of establishing our own shed. Recent equipment purchases, to supplement the bench saw, thicknesser and trestles donated by Carter Holt last year, include a *DeWalt Combo kit* (battery operated drill, various power saws, and a torch), a jigsaw, a Wagner airless spray gun, a 68cm TV and an assortment of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items bought at auction including four work benches, steel cabinets and shelving, a whiteboard and a coffee table.



## Grant funding sought

The PFMS recently submitted six grant applications to philanthropic trusts in an effort to secure the funding to erect and fit-out a Men's Shed. Hopefully, we will receive some funding from some of these organisations so that we have the base funding required before applying for a Victorian Government Grant for Men's Shed. The Government grant is due in April and is on a 2:1 basis up to a maximum of \$50,000. Consequently we need a base of \$25,000 to be able to get maximum funding.

The submissions forwarded in February to philanthropic trusts were:

1. **RE Ross Trust** ..... **\$65,173**  
*3 Year program to cover lining & fit out of shed, benches, kitchen equipment, workshop tools and safety equipment plus cost of a shed supervisor.*
2. **AL Lane Foundation** ..... **\$5,000**
3. **Ern Hartley foundation**..... **\$10,000**
4. **Gwen & Edna Jones Foundation** ..... **\$10,000**
5. **Ray & Joyce Uebergang Foundation** ..... **\$5,000**
6. **FRRR Small Rural Grants Scheme**..... **\$5,000**

*NB. Submissions 2 to 6 all cover requests for funding for tools & safety equipment.*

These submissions total just over \$100,000. Hopefully, some of these submissions will come to fruition and we can build our funds base required to establish our own shed.

## Budget

Some members may be unaware of the amount of funding we require to set up a Men's Shed and operate it over a 12-month period. The PFMS budget is a detailed and dynamic document. A summary of our current budget is as follows:

Building & Construction costs.....	\$60,588
Fit out - benches, equipment & tools .....	\$20,045
Shed operating costs (12 months).....	\$3,004
Insurance (12 months).....	\$550
Admin. & operating costs (12 months).....	\$1,455
Supervision (12 months – estimate only) .....	\$10,000
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$95,642</b>

Of course, we may have to trim some costs, hold back on supervision or phase some fit out costs according to available funding but by at least having a budget we are able to supply this to funding organisations and it provides us with a desirable target in dollar terms.

Some costs will be recurring each year but we are sure that once a shed has been established it will pay back the community many times over.

## Jobs undertaken by the PFMS

Following a request from the Port Fairy Show Society, a small team of men's shedders helped construct 20 wooden lathed shower mats for the main shower shed at the Showgrounds. These will replace rubber mats and will be used as part of the bathroom facilities made available at the Showgrounds during the Folk Festival and various bike riding tours.



About 15 members of the PFMS formed part of the team that completed the bench seats for the Folk Festival when the final 130 seats, to add to the original 380, were finished in December.



A team consisting of Keith Bunge, Harry Bracegirdle, Brian Arnold, Geoff Scott, Mick Wentworth and Don Stephens helped on this project undertaken in the Showgrounds shed. The Men's Shed has also

agreed to assist the Show Society to build new "chook cages" for the 2009 P&A Show. We are currently waiting on a final design from the Show Society but we do have until October to complete this job.

**Any member interested in assisting on this project should contact Don Stephens on 5568-2153.**

## Membership summary

Interest in the PFMS is encouraging. Starting from interested persons registered at the public meetings held in 2008 to those that have registered and paid their membership fees when engaged in projects, we now have a formal membership base of 54 persons with 36 having paid their \$5 membership fee.

This level of membership on our books can only help when we apply for grant funding as it demonstrates the level of community interest in the Men's Shed project. A summary of our membership is contained in the following table.

Membership Summary	Registered	Financial
Status	Members	Members
Ordinary	40	25
RSL member or war veteran	14	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>36</b>

The need to separately identify RSL members and war service veterans in our register is required for when we apply for a Department of Veterans Affairs Grants where the percentage of veterans is a factor in the amount of funding that we can receive. At present veterans make up almost 33% of our financial members.

