

Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc. NEWSLETTER

Issue 2-2009
May 2009



Secretary: Harry Bracegirdle, 19, Dyson St. Port Fairy 3284 (5568-2601)

Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

At last – some progress!

It is pleasing to bring you this latest Newsletter, the second for 2009, by being able to report on some real progress in the effort to establish a Men's Shed in Port Fairy.

Just over 12 months ago, on 30th April 2008, a meeting was convened in the Reardon Theatre to gauge community interest in setting up a Men's Shed. Since that time, despite the endeavours of the Steering Committee and despite much community support, we have been frustrated in our attempts to secure a suitable venue. In the past 12 months we have explored a number of options / sites for establishing the Shed but none have really come to fruition. We have been further frustrated by a lack of funding. Now, we can "peek over the horizon" to a time in the near future where we may be able to get our much awaited Shed under construction.

The Port Fairy Men's Shed (PFMS) has gone into partnership with the **Lions Club** and the **Port Fairy Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Society** (Show Society) to erect a shed at the local Showgrounds. The proposed shed will provide a work place for the PFMS, storage space for the Lions Club and a shared kitchen and toilet facility which can also be used by the Show Society.

Planning underway.....

A **Shed Construction Project Team**, comprising members of all three parties, has now been formed and planning for the shared facility is well advanced. Although we are still firming up some quotes, the anticipated cost of construction and fit-out of the Shed is approximately \$105,000.



Major support from GSK and PF Folk Festival.....

The planned relocation of the Lions Club store at **Glaxo Smith Kline** (GSK) was the catalyst for the joint venture and provided a timely opportunity to build a shared facility at the Showgrounds. GSK have pledged to compensate the Lions Club for the loss of the Lion's store on their land by providing a grant of \$22,000 - all of which will be directed to cost of the new shed.



Significantly, the **Port Fairy Folk Festival Committee** has also pledged \$25,000 towards the Shed Construction project. This is a much appreciated,



extremely generous and timely gesture because the PFMS is now at a critical stage where it can apply for major funding from the **Victorian**

Government's (Men's Shed) Grants Program. The grant is administered by DPCD (Department of Planning & Community Development) which has set aside \$1M in 2009 for Men's Sheds. Grant applications must be lodged by 22nd May.

\$50,000 grant sought.....

The Men's Shed grants can be to a maximum of \$50,000 and are awarded on a 2:1 contribution basis. This means we have to contribute at least \$25K to have a chance of securing the additional \$50K we require to ensure the project is financially viable.

The \$47K pledged to date means we can easily match the 2:1 funding ratio and also ensures we will have sufficient funds to start Shed construction provided that we secure the Government grant we now eagerly seek.

Importantly, the promised funds demonstrate to the Government the high level of community support for the project - which can only help our application.

Other contributors.....

Apart from the major partners (PFMS, Lions Club and Show Society) and the generous support from GSK and the Folkies, the endeavour to establish a Men's Shed is being actively supported by the **Moyne Shire Council** who supply considerable "in-kind" support by providing meeting rooms, printing, photocopying and other administrative services free of charge.



The Shire also awarded us a Community Assistance Fund Grant of \$5,000 to cover our early establishment costs. Additionally, they are providing direct, in-kind support for the Shed Construction Project by waiving all their usual planning and building permit fees.

Significant, in-kind support is also being provided by the Show Society who are providing the use of their land, rent free and covered by a long term lease. They are also contributing directly to the Shed Construction Project by agreeing to cover the cost of site preparation, connecting power and water to the Shed and installing a septic tank and sullage lines.

"In summary, therefore, the future of the Men's Shed looks much more positive!"



Shed design

The proposed shed at the PF Showgrounds is larger than originally planned as partnering with the Lions Club means that they will take up 30% of the space for storage purposes. In total, we are planning for a 33 x 9 metre shed comprising ten 3.3 metre wide bays. Lions will occupy 3 bays, the PFMS workspace will take up 5 bays and the kitchen and toilet area will be in the central 2 bays.

The shed will have two toilet cubicles as well as a toilet facility for handicapped persons. These facilities will be made available to the Show Society for use by the general public when community activities are taking place at the Showgrounds.

Cost estimates.....

Although we are still finalising quotes the shed construction and fit-out, site preparation, power, lighting & water etc. is anticipated to be in the order of \$105,000 with the cost of the shed and concrete base alone being about \$58,000. The cost of site preparation, connection of power & water and septic tank installation is being met by the Show Society. As previously indicated, Lions are contributing \$22K which more than covers their share of the shed.

Strategic Plan

The PFMS Steering Committee has developed a **Strategic Plan** that covers the objectives and processes required to get a Men's Shed established in Port Fairy. The Plan includes our **Mission** and **Vision** statements and a set of nine, key objectives / strategies for achieving our goal. These major objectives, some of which have already been achieved, are:

1. Gauge community support for establishment of a Men's Shed.
2. Set up a Steering Committee for the establishment of the Port Fairy Men's Shed (PFMS).
3. Setup administrative & legal framework for PFMS.
4. Select suitable site for location of shed.
5. Develop a detailed Project Plan for construction of the shed.
6. Secure funding to cover the cost of erecting a shed and covering operational costs.
7. Membership, Communication & Awareness.
8. Develop operational procedures for day-to-day activities in the PFMS.
9. Develop plan to secure on-going viability and future of the PFMS.

Each objective is supported by a detailed set of tasks and measures for success, including expected timelines and progress to date.

The development of the Strategic Plan is an important blueprint to support, in a structured way, our development and future. The Plan is also a mandatory inclusion in our forthcoming grant application to the Victorian Government who naturally require evidence of good planning and management.

Other grant applications

As reported in the last Newsletter, we have made submissions of over \$100K to a number of philanthropic trusts in order to supplement funding for the shed. Most of these organisations do not fund infrastructure but will cover fit-out and equipment costs.

To date, our applications to the **RE Ross Trust** (3-year program) for \$65,173 and the **Ern Hartley Foundation** for \$10,000 have been unsuccessful.

Applications still pending.....

Our application to the **Ray & Joyce Uebergang Foundation** for \$5,000 was deferred but we are hopeful of some funding from this source now that we have provided them with additional information.

The following applications are still pending and we hope to get feedback by the end of May.

AL Lane Foundation \$5,000
Gwen & Edna Jones Foundation \$10,000
FRRR - Gardiner Foundation \$5,000

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

As an incorporated body, the PFMS has an obligation to hold an AGM and this is planned for about the third week of July once our books for the financial year ending 30th June have been audited. The Steering Committee hopes to have a guest speaker for the AGM and to possibly hold a BBQ. More information – dates, time & venue – will be advised in due course.

Membership summary

At present, we have 39 financial members from the 57 registrants who have shown interest in the Men's Shed. Our membership recently dropped by one with the unfortunate passing of **Tom Crow** following a protracted illness. It is hoped that our membership will grow to 60 once we conduct our AGM.

Kitchen Garden Project



Our Secretary / Treasurer, Harry Bracegirdle, recently attended a briefing session at the Port Fairy Consolidated School about the excellent program they have adopted to form a **"Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden"**.

Well known chef, Stephanie Alexander, provided a modest grant that was used to establish a **school garden** where students can grow their own produce – vegetables, spices, etc. - and to equip a kitchen for them to cook the produce they grow. The children are very enthusiastic about the project and the school is now seeking volunteers to either assist the children during school hours or on *ad hoc* occasions for special projects. Once we get our shed built we hope the PFMS will be able to actively assist with projects for this very worthwhile community program. In the meantime, if you want to help, please contact **Kirsty Marwood**, from the school, on **0438 385 283**.

