

Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc. NEWSLETTER

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

Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

Cause for celebration!

No doubt many of you will be aware that our application for Government funding to help construct a Men's Shed in Port Fairy has been successful. The Minister for Mental Health, Community Services and Senior Victorians, Lisa Neville announced at a meeting of the Victorian Men's Shed Association (VMSA) at Geelong on Friday 19th June, that the Port Fairy Project would be receiving a **\$50,000** grant.

Together with other grants, donations and pledges from:-

- Port Fairy Folk Festival.....\$25,000
- Glaxo Smith Kline.....\$22,000
- Australians Lions Foundation\$15,000
- Gardiner Foundation\$5,000
- The Uebergang Foundation.....\$5,000
- The Rotary Club of Port Fairy.....\$500

plus a further \$10,000 that has been pledged, we have total funding available of \$132,500.

This amount will cover our projected budget for construction of the shed, a meeting room and toilets, wiring and plumbing and some workspace fit out, for approx. \$126,500 (excl GST). It will also help cover the GST amount purchases will attract. As we call in our grants and our funding is secured, we move to the next steps of applying for a planning permit and preparing the site fill and compaction at the Showgrounds.

The engineer's report on the site preparation will complete the planning process and enable a building permit to be issued. The joint project team (Lions, Men's Shed and Show Society) will then call tenders/quotations for the work and hopefully at least have the shed to lock up stage by 1st November (Show Day).

I would particularly like to thank my Committees, both Steering and Joint Shed Construction Project Team, for their enthusiasm and hard work that has brought us to this point in planning a Men's Shed. Our Secretary Harry has done a great job preparing our submissions.

The Community and its Support Groups have been fantastic in their interest and support and confirms the value people have placed on this ongoing community project. We have several requests for project work already lined up so the community is anticipating our usefulness, both as a meeting place for men's activities, their health and well being and as an important community group.

Beside these important planning steps we are about to call our first Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 22nd July at the RSL Hall. The evening will commence with a BBQ at 6.30pm with the meeting commencing at 7.30pm. The Notice of Meeting & Agenda will soon be sent out.

At the AGM, all Committee positions will be declared vacant and nominations called for the 2009/2010 year. The opportunity will be taken to change from a Steering Committee to a Committee of Management now that our project is sure of establishment.

We now enter into the next phase of being a successful Men's Shed. This is about management and day to day activities in the 'workspace'. We have started this discussion and will broaden the process to include planning the ongoing programme and projects, OH & S issues, how we take in and prioritise community projects and the 'sheddies' own projects and general supervision of the area while we are 'at work'.

We acknowledge the support that the Moyne Shire Council has provided, including their \$5,000 Community Assistance Fund grant, during this 'work-up' phase. Suffice to say it has been most affirming and encouraging. The Shire staff has been of tremendous help. Thank you all.

Lastly, that support has been further shown by the offer to fund Harry and Don to attend the Annual Meeting and Conference of the Australian Men's Shed Association in Hobart late in August 2009. There are a number of workshops scheduled that will help us with our ongoing Strategic Planning.

Thank you - Don Stephens (Chairman)



Harry Bracegirdle, Don Stephens and Henry Toller-Bond celebrate with Minister Lisa Neville at the recent meeting of the VMSA held in Corio.



PFMS to host the Barwon-SW Men's Shed Cluster Group Meeting

The Port Fairy Men's Shed is affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA), the VMSA and is actively involved in the local network - the **Barwon South West Men's Sheds Cluster Group**.

We are pleased to advise that the next Cluster Group meeting will be hosted at Port Fairy on **Monday 3rd August** at the **RSL Hall** from **10.30am – 2pm** with a light lunch about 12.30pm. We hope to engage a speaker on 'Safety in the Work Place'.

By holding the meeting in our region, it is hoped that the more westerly location (the last one was held in Colac) will not only attract representatives from the Men's Sheds in the Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula areas but will also accommodate Shed members from Colac, Terang, Hamilton, Coleraine, Portland and other Sheds in the Barwon-South West region. We are also encouraging those representatives from other regions to "come to Port Fairy early" and bring their partners to our town for the Winter Weekend Festival (Food & Wine) that is being held just prior on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August. All Sheds in the region have been sent details of the available accommodation so we hope they take up the invitation!

All Port Fairy Men's Shed members are invited to attend the meeting and mix with *Shedders* from around the region. It will give you an opportunity to see how some of the more established sheds are operating.

If you intend to join us, then please contact **Harry Bracegirdle** at- harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com or phone **5568-2601** so that an estimate of numbers for catering purposes can be established.

Annual General Meeting

As indicated in the Chairman's Report, the 1st AGM of the Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc. will be held on Monday 22nd July 2009 in the RSL Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Shed members will soon be sent a Notice of Meeting, the meeting Agenda and nomination forms for Committee positions.

The AGM will provide the opportunity to deliver the **Annual Report** and **Statement of Accounts**, provide details on the shed construction program and hold a

general discussion to map out proposed activities for the next 12 months. Importantly, we will also elect the Office Bearers and Committee members.

A guest speaker from the **Warrnambool Triton Woodworking Group** will provide a short presentation on the activities of their group.

Please ensure you RSVP for catering purposes as a BBQ will be held before the meeting. The BBQ is scheduled to start at 6.30pm and will give all attendees a chance to catch up and socialise.

Shed Construction Project

Now that we have secured funding to be able to start the Shed construction, the Project Team will soon issue a **Request for Quotation (RFQ)** to select a shed provider/builder. This will cover the supply and erection of the shed, including the slab and footings.

If all goes to plan, we hope to select the preferred supplier by the end of July and have the shed started by mid-August and completed by mid-October and ready for fit-out.

Perhaps timing is too tight to expect the fit-out of kitchen and toilet areas, together with all required electrical and plumbing services, to be completed by early November and ready for the Show but at least we can expect that the shell will be ready in time.

The Shed will consist of three separate areas covering the Lions Club storage space (3 bays), the shared kitchen/toilet area (2 bays) and the Men's Shed workspace (5 bays). The diagram below shows a plan view of the 9 x 33 metre shed. The central kitchen area will double as a meeting room and will have a cathedral ceiling and skylights. Skylights will also form part of the roof on the easterly side.

The Shed will be located in the south-west corner of the Showgrounds just behind the existing Watts Pavilion (shower block).

So, as you will undoubtedly perceive, planning is well advanced. Although the funding gathered to date will enable us to get the shed erected and fitted out, we then have to secure extra funding for equipment and tools but at least we can do this as a team operating from our very own shed!

If all of our 44 registered members remain active then we have exciting times ahead.

