

Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc. NEWSLETTER

Issue 06 - 2009
December 2009



Secretary: Harry Bracegirdle, 19, Dyson St. Port Fairy 3284

Ph: 5568-2601 Email: harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com

Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

Progress report on Shed construction

Welcome to the final edition of the PFMS Newsletter for 2009. This year has certainly gone fast but perhaps it only seems that way because so much has been happening as the Shed has been erected.

At the time of writing, the internal fit-out of the kitchen / toilet area is about 60% completed and the plasterers are now putting the linings on the internal walls. Once this has been done we will be revisited by the plumbers to install toilets and sinks and connect up all pipes.

The electrical installation is also proceeding and we are grateful for the tremendous work being carried out by "Shedder" – **Ken Lemke** – who is assisting the contracted electrician by installing all wiring, light fittings, switches etc. in readiness for the final installation of the power board and connection to the mains supply. Ken may be a retired electrician but he has certainly been kept busy over the past few weeks working at the Shed. He has put in well over 50 hours of work! Ultimately, Ken's invaluable work will generate savings on the cost of electrical work so we are indebted to Ken for his assistance.



Max Cameron and Keith Bunge assist Ken Lemke with the installation of power points

As highlighted in the last edition, the fit-out of the kitchen / toilet area is being coordinated by **Brian Atkins** of **BA Building Services** who has been most helpful in working with us to minimise our costs.

Keith Bunge, aided by a number of willing Sheddors, has also been beavering away putting up internal walls and shelving in the Men's Shed workspace to accommodate storage areas and delineate the

workspace. The benches we have acquired will soon be in place so that our working area will start to take shape. Of course, budget limitations mean that we do not yet have the funds to put in all of the power equipment we are planning for, but at least it is a start.



"Work in progress" – the Men's Shed workspace takes shape

The Lions Club are also hard at work fitting out their end of the Shed and **Ted Alsop** and his team have already installed storage racks and are now adding internal walls to form other storage areas. Project Manager, **Don Stephens**, is coordinating other aspects of the Shed project such as arranging for installation of down-pipes etc. for collection of water and the preparation of the surrounding land and landscaping. Work on preparing the surrounding ground has already commenced.

So, in summary, it is all "**GO..Go..go**" at the Shed and we can now see our plans come to fruition and we hope to show it off very soon.

Budget report

Excluding any in-kind contributions, such as work being undertaken directly by the Port Fairy Show Society to install septic tanks, site excavation etc., the budget for the Shed, as of December 2009, is of the order of \$143,300 which means we are slightly in deficit. Inevitably, there will be other cost over-runs as well as savings, so we are now monitoring the expenditure and work carefully so that we can bring the project in on budget to match available funds.

We currently have Income to \$131,983 with \$10K still to be received from our Victorian Government grant giving us a total of \$141,983 to spend on the project having just been boosted by a \$10K grant from Pacific Hydro. However, funding will be tight and some work may have to be delayed to ensure we do not break the bank.



PFMS meeting and sausage sizzle

The Committee has scheduled a short meeting of PFMS members to be held at the Shed site at the Showgrounds on **Friday 18th December at 11.15 am.**

This will be an opportunity to formally introduce members to the Shed and to get some feedback on projects we can undertake in the near future. We will then hold a **Sausage Sizzle** after the meeting about noon (**BYO drinks**). So please schedule this in your diaries and try to get along – we need your support!

Moyneyana Festival-Kid's Day project

We have been invited by the **Moyneyana Festival** to assist in their **Kid's Activities Day** on January 7th 2010. We have accepted this and agreed to help the children assemble wooden toy kits. We have been fortunate to have the kits donated by the Warrnambool Triton Woodworking Group with the support of the Warrnambool City Council. We have received over 200 kits - all surplus stock after the *Fun4Kids* Festival. There are two types of kit – a doll's cradle and a tool carrier. Before the actual Activities Day, we need to bag each kit, including all nails etc. required for assembly. We will need volunteers to do this, so the matter can be discussed at the meeting on 18th December (see above). We also seek volunteers to supervise the children on the Activities Day.

If you can't make the meeting but still want to help then please contact **Harry Bracegirdle** on 5568-2601 harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com.

Moyneyana Hostel project

The Moyneyana Aged Care Hostel recently approached us to make a mail box to be used for the collection of out-going mail from the Hostel residents. We took up this challenge and **Denis Lemke** kindly offered to build and paint the mailbox which is now in situ. We thank Denis for taking on this task.

Fundraising Raffle

As part of our fundraising activities we are holding a raffle that will be drawn on Australia Day. Renowned Port Fairy artist, **Wilma Preston**, has donated a landscape painting which will serve as the 1st prize (valued @\$500). 2nd prize is a Cheese board and knife made by the Triton Woodworkers and 3rd prize is a \$50 fuel voucher donated by Matthews Petroleum.

Tickets will be \$2 each and we hope to sell over 500 tickets over the next seven weeks. The raffle is being assisted by the Lions Club who will also sell tickets at the Moyneyana Arts Exhibition in Dec/Jan. We have also secured spots at the Community Market where we can also sell tickets. The market days are 12th December, 1st, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd January with the January dates being at King George Square.

We are looking to compile a roster of ticket sellers for the January market days so if you can assist by selling

tickets for 2 hours on the above dates then please contact our VP-Fundraising, **John Ellard** on 5568 3317 Email: ellardfam@bigpond.com.

Contact details - email addresses

The PFMS Newsletter is distributed in a variety of ways to our members with approx. 30 being hand delivered, 17 sent by post and 19 by email. It is much easier and quicker to send it out by email but we do not have everyone's email address in our Member's Database. If you currently get the Newsletter by hand or post, but have an email address that you are willing to provide, then please let us know about it. To do this, then just email the Secretary, **Harry Bracegirdle** at harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com

Membership report

Our membership continues to grow and we now have 61 financial members. Of course, we do not expect every one of these to be regularly active in the Shed but we hope to have a core group of well over 35 who will regularly attend and assist on community projects and other activities once the Shed is operational. Even if you cannot regularly attend work days, we hope to see all our members from time to time.

Membership fees due

The members who attended the AGM in July will recall that we voted to keep the joining fee at \$5 and the annual subscription to \$10 with the latter not being due until early 2010 once the Shed is operational. As the PFMS operational budget is limited we hope to collect annual fees during January and February in order to boost our coffers.

Other planned Shed events

As we move closer to the time when we can start to use the Shed, the Committee is planning a number of events in addition to the Member's Meeting highlighted earlier in this Newsletter.

We aim to hold a special, early morning breakfast to which we plan to invite the proprietors of the local business, tradespersons and community groups to be able to show off the Shed. We are hopeful of emulating a similar function held by the Hamilton Men's Shed at which the community provided tremendous support to their shed by sponsoring the purchase of tools and equipment.

We expect that the "official" opening ceremony for the Shed will be held around February 2010 once all the internal fit-out is completed and the Shed is fully operational. More details will be provided in the next Newsletter.

Merry Christmas

Finally, the PFMS Committee thanks all members for their support in 2009 and wishes you all a safe and happy Christmas.

