

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

A Happy New Year to all

As we move into 2010 the Port Fairy Men's Shed can look back on 2009 as a pivotal year in its development and one when we achieved so much towards getting our Shed constructed.

The Committee extends its best wishes to all members and supporters for the New Year – a year where we will be relying heavily on all our members to get involved in the Shed activities which we should be able to start very soon once the final stages of construction are completed.

Progress report on the Shed

The fit-out of the Shed is nearing completion and the builder has just finished the installation of the skirting boards, architraves and internal doors leaving us the final task of painting the trim. All internal walls and ceilings in the toilet / kitchen area were painted in December thanks to the efforts of Nick Abbott, Peter Roysland and Harry Bracegirdle.

Plumbing work continues and the tasks due for completion in January are to finish installation of toilets, cisterns and connection of the water supply. Much of this work is already done so it will not take too long to complete. The kitchen cupboards, sink etc. is due for delivery in late January which will finish off the internal work.

Other work completed recently includes the fitting of skylights in the kitchen, air ventilators above the workshop and all external spouting and down pipes to aid drainage and water collection. Work on the grounds is also well under way and we recently hired a bob-cat to level the ground in front and at the rear of the Shed. **Peter Down** is installing a fence /retaining wall at the rear of the Shed and **Keith Bunge** is continuing his work to set up the workshop area.

Although there have been a number of people helping with the set-up of the Shed, special thanks must go to Don Stephens, Ken Lemke, Keith Bunge, Nick Abbott, Peter Roysland, Peter Down, Harry Bracegirdle, Brian Arnold, Gerry McCartin, Ted Alsop, Leo Dalton and Tony Goode for putting in the bulk of the hours.

Shed Budget

As work on the Shed nears completion we are working hard to bring the project in on budget. Presently, the total budget is just over \$150,000 not including some of the external ground levelling and landscaping required.

Fundraising Raffle

Our VP-Fundraising, **John Ellard**, is working very hard, and having great success, in organising our fundraising raffle. The 1st prize, a painting by local artist **Wilma Preston**, is proving very popular, especially with many tourists in town over the summer period. Sales of raffle tickets are being conducted on multiple fronts with assistance by the Lions Club in the street as well as at their Moyneyana Art Show. Tickets have also been sold by Shed members at the various markets in December and January and these days are proving to be very effective. New Year's Day was particularly successful, with almost \$600 being sold. To date, we have sold over \$2,100 worth of tickets. With one market day still to go we are hopeful of exceeding the \$2,300 mark when the raffle is drawn on 26th January. This will help boost our coffers and assist us to cover day-to-day Shed expenses.

Lion, **Des Savory**, has been particularly helpful and effective on the market days and hardly a person gets by without buying a ticket from him! We thank Des for his valuable support.



Des Savory sells another ticket at the Market!

WANTED! Activities Coordinator

The Port Fairy Men's Shed requires an enthusiastic person to act as an Activities Coordinator to assist in planning for all Shed activities, arrangement of rosters and on-going liaison with members.

If you are able to help and are interested in assisting the Committee by fulfilling this very important role then you can gain further information by discussing the position with the Secretary, **Harry Bracegirdle** on **5568-2601** or email to:

harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com



President's Report

Welcome to the New Year as we move closer to being a functional Shed. At our next Committee meeting on 29th January we will be starting to plan our Official Grand Opening Ceremony. Hopefully we will be starting to use the skills we have, to tackle personal and community projects by mid February, if the planned infrastructure is in place.

Your current skills and ability to learn new skills, is at the heart of a successfully functioning Men's Shed. This also means that if you have skills and can help another member learn some of those skills it will give everyone a 'buzz'. We can turn out good work for our own projects and community projects as well. Believe me, there are plenty of projects to do, we have already done some and seeing other 'sheds' at work strengthens the belief that 'Men's Sheds' are a great concept. Not only developing skills but also socialising and sharing about life in general.

To plan successfully we need a register of your personal skills and what kind of projects are of particular interest to you, e.g. Metal Work, Wood Work, Craft, General Handyman work and Repairs Projects. (Fill out our pro-forma please at the Shed).

We have already been fortunate to receive some very good equipment and tools, to which we will add purchased items as needed. This will also be supplemented by a **Tool Muster** when we ask the public to donate useful tools and equipment to our Shed via the media and personal contact. Who knows what is hidden in the back shed or workshop or is surplus to our present needs? Our thanks to those who have already generously donated equipment and time to bring 'The Shed' to a functioning entity.

Coordination of the operating shed is critical to its success. To this end we are seeking to appoint an **Activities Coordinator** (see advertisement overleaf). Basic expenses of the position will be met. The position will assist the Shed to operate effectively for the benefit of its members and the community at large.

Lastly, **Mick Wentworth**, who has worked tirelessly as a committee member, is 'under the thumb' recovering from emergency surgery. He is now making good progress and we all wish him well for the year ahead.

Cheers.....President, Don Stephens

Report on meeting held Dec 18th

Approximately 15 members attended the meeting and sausage sizzle held on December 18th where some got their first look at the Shed as it nears completion.

At the meeting, a few members responded to our call for assistance in fitting out the Shed despite the fact that many of our members already had commitments to other community causes for the Lions and Rotary clubs and the Moyneyana Festival over summer.

Additional support

The PFMS had recently applied for \$28,000 of funding from the **RE Ross Trust** to provide an honorarium for a Shed Supervisor (\$6,000 pa over 3 years) as well as \$10,000 for equipment. We were unsuccessful on the honorarium but were nevertheless extremely pleased to receive \$10,000 for equipment which will greatly assist Keith Bunge in getting the workshop set up.

In addition, we also received \$4,939 from the Australian Government as part of their Economic Stimulus package that supported **Volunteer's Grants** to not-for-profit organisations. This will cover special equipment items such as a BBQ, notebook computer, photocopier, fire extinguishers, crockery etc.

An application to the **"Broadband for Seniors"** program also looks like being successful whereby we can get two kiosks set up at the Shed comprising computers, wireless modem, workstations and chairs (as depicted below) – all subsidised by NEC at no cost to the Shed! The kiosks are designed to help seniors in the community learn basic Internet and email skills.



An approach was also made to the **Port Fairy Folk Festival Committee** (PFFF) seeking further support to help complete the Shed construction and to purchase equipment. The PFFF has advised us that they are willing to provide up to \$15,000 of in-kind support in return for assistance on future projects. This will greatly assist us in getting the Shed properly finished off and fitted out with equipment.

In total we have now secured financial support of **\$149,939** from various sources (donation, grants etc.) for the Shed. This is a commendable effort and recognition of how well Men's Shed programs are regarded in the community and by government.

Moyneyana "Kids Activity Day"

The Men's Shed recently assisted the Moyneyana Festival by helping to supervise children at the **Kids Activity Day** with the assembly of wooden kits that were donated by the **Warrnambool Triton Woodworkers** and the **Warrnambool City Council**.

The kit assembled by the children was either a tool carrier or a doll's cradle. Feedback from the day was that the kids really enjoyed this part of the activities despite a few tiring from the effort of hammering nails and nursing the odd bruised thumb!

