

# Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

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Secretary: Harry Bracegirdle, 19, Dyson St. Port Fairy 3284 (5568-2601)  
<http://members.aussiebroadband.com.au/pfmensshed/>

Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

## President's report

Hi Shedders,

Well we are very close to completing the physical shed to work in. A lot of hard work by many people. Thank you all very much for the effort to drive the project forward.

We are to be visited by the **Governor of Victoria, Professor David De Kretser AC** and his wife Jan on Thursday 11th March at 3.30pm. His Excellency is the Patron of The Victorian Men's Shed Association and keenly interested to visit our Shed during his Port Fairy itinerary. Professor De Kretser will be introduced to the Project Management Team and shown a video clip of the building of 'The Shed'. He will then inspect the Shed and meet informally with shed members 'working in the shed'. We are honoured to have this visit from the Governor of Victoria and encourage members to be at 'the Shed'. If you can come then please wear neat and casual work wear. The visit is scheduled to occur between 3.30pm and 4pm.

We are also calling a **General Meeting** of Shed Members on **Monday 15th March at 7pm** at The Men's Shed at the Showgrounds.

**THIS IS A CRITICAL MEETING ABOUT 'MAKING THE SHED WORK'**. We need people to hold their hands up to take responsibility for the day to day functioning of The Shed. Without Shed management as a working entity our dreams could fall over. Nobody wants that to happen. We need to understand where YOU stand in regard to skills and responsibility to help run the shed successfully. **PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTACHED FORM** and return it to any member of the Committee of Management. (Don, Harry, John, Keith, Mick or Peter) before 15th March if possible.

At the meeting, we hope to have some guidelines from various successfully run men's sheds, and possibly do another bus run/visit, to see some sheds at work – a great way to get a handle on their projects and enthusiasm. We will also show a very interesting video made by the Fremantle Shed.

We are seeking ideas for small and large projects that can be accomplished at the shed and already have some people asking what we can do. You can also do your own projects - e.g. dog kennels, mail boxes, repair your mower, make kids toys, woodturning etc. Hopefully our skilled members will be willing to help us learn to bang a nail in without hitting the nail on our fingers and thumbs!

There are a number of other, important events coming up in our calendar and details of these are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. I hope you can attend these and truly get behind us to develop our Shed.

*Don Stephens*

## Visit of Governor of Victoria

As part of his visit to the Moyne Shire, **the Governor of Victoria, Professor David DeKretser**, will visit the Port Fairy Men's Shed on 11<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm.

All Shed members are invited to be on hand to meet the Governor and talk to him about the development and activities in our Shed. No formal dress required – just neat, casual wear will be appropriate.

## Broadband for Senior's program

The Port Fairy Men's Shed has been approved as the location in our community where two computer kiosks will be installed as part of the "**Broadband for Senior's Program**". The project, being rolled out throughout Australia by the federal government and sponsored by NEC Australia. It is aimed at assisting older members of the community, who have had little or no exposure to using the Internet or email, used to using a computer as a communication tool. They may then well be able to communicate with their grandchildren over the Internet!

NEC will install two computers, two desks and three chairs, together with an Internet service installed in the Shed that can be used by Shed members and other people in the community. Harry Bracegirdle will be one of the designated tutors to conduct the classes and he is currently reviewing the resource material provided by NEC for this purpose. The equipment will be in place by 4<sup>th</sup> March and hopefully, formal lessons will commence at the Shed in mid to late April.

As we could not readily get a dedicated phone line to the Shed, to enable us to use the



NEC Internet service, we have been fortunate that **Aussie Broadband** have stepped in and sponsored the Port Fairy Men's Shed. They have installed a wireless broadband connection to the Shed and will provide us with Internet services, free of charge. **Aussie Broadband** is an Internet Service Provider that specialise in servicing regional areas and if you are considering getting the Internet installed at home they should be considered.



## Report on the Shed Working Bee

The Shed Working Bee, held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, was a very successful day that was attended by 30 members of the Port Fairy Men's Shed and Lions Club in order to finish off some of the outstanding tasks in fitting out the Shed and preparing some of the external surrounds. The place was a veritable hive of activity as we laid pavers, concreted the aprons to the doors, painted the spouting, installed fences and retaining walls and installed some internal fixtures. Most stayed on for our BBQ lunch and a few worked on into the afternoon. Many thanks to all the people who assisted on the day.

Although we achieved a good deal towards fixing up the Shed, the day also demonstrated the fun and camaraderie that just being part of a Men's Shed can engender. Some photos from the day are below.



*Men at Work! –  
Concreting and paving*



*Denis Lemke works on  
restoring a wood turning  
lathe*



*Ian Risby puts the  
finishing touches to the  
concrete aprons*

## PFMS website

Did you know that we now have a website? This has been set up using the Aussie Broadband service and is currently being authored by Secretary / Treasurer, Harry Bracegirdle. This should be a good medium by which we can communicate to members as well as the wider world! Have a look at our site at –

<http://members.aussiebroadband.com.au/pfmensshed/>

The site can be used to download Newsletter, forms, post a calendar of events and other general information on the PFMS.

Members can provide feedback to Harry on the website and how it can be improved.

## General Meeting of Shed Members

When: **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Where: **Port Fairy Men's Shed (Showgrounds)**

**All members are urged to attend**

*See President Don's report for details on the meeting and its importance. .*

## Membership fees

As reported at the AGM last July, the annual membership fee for 2009/10 is \$10 and would be collected once the Shed is built. Accordingly, fees are now due and can be paid to Treasurer, Harry Bracegirdle at the general meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March or posted to his address.

## Opening Ceremony for the Shed

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010** has been selected as the date for our official **Opening Ceremony** and much planning has to take place for this very important event in our activities. The ceremony will be held around noon with a light lunch served. We are still finalising arrangements for who will officially open the Shed and more details will be provided to members once we have all details in place.

**PLEASE TRY TO KEEP THIS DAY FREE AS WE NEED ALL SHED MEMBERS TO ATTEND**

## Police Golf Day

The **Port Fairy Police Annual Charity Golf Day** will be held this year on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the Port Fairy Golf Club. We are thrilled that the Men's Shed has been chosen as the police's targeted organisation for this year's event and proceeds from the day, expected to be around \$5,000, will be directed towards buying safety equipment and other tools for the Shed. We are grateful for the support of the local police who, each year, do so much and generate large amounts of funds for community activities.

## Work space, tools and equipment

Keith Bunge reports that the setting up of the workshop has seen a lot of work by many helpers. Huge savings have been achieved with generous donations of equipment or large discounts. This has resulted in expenditure of approximately \$2,500 for an estimated value of over \$10,000. Ken Lemke has donated an incredible amount of time and effort into the electrical fit out of the Shed.

The Shed has been donated items such as a metal lathe, a wood lathe, a large work bench, a drop slide saw, bench drill and many tools and shelving. We are very grateful for the generosity of so many people. Fitting out of the new drop side saw, erecting shelves, refitting sink, wood storage rack, storage and sorting of hardware. The welding bay is still to be completed.

