

Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3-2010
April 2010



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

There are some critical steps for us to take if we are to operate as a safe & acceptable workplace. To this end we will have our first 'walkthrough' by Margaret Dwyer from OH & S on Wednesday 14th April at 9.30am, to check our compliance. This is a free inspection. A regulation requires that all members receive an induction into working practices in the Shed and familiarisation with the safe-working of all machinery. Non compliance means the possibility of voiding any insurance claim for accident & injury. Some people were concerned by our work practices at our working bee last Thursday. We need to be doubly vigilant at times like this. We need trained personnel so that we have someone alert to potential dangers at all times. We should never work in the shed without signing on and off or alone. A new Sub Committee will have the responsibility for supervision and safety. The Shire of Moyne has yet to inspect & issue a certificate of occupancy, covering safety & hygiene as well as structural integrity.

This all sounds like red tape & being overzealous or paranoid about safety, but we don't want a serious injury to dampen our enthusiasm. A shed I visited had this statement written on the back of their Shed T-shirts 'No job is so urgent that it cannot be done safely'.

Don Stephens

Police Charity Golf Day

Over 100 golfers took part in the **Port Fairy Police's Annual Charity Golf Day** at the Port Fairy Links on 22nd March 2010. This year, the targeted charity was the Port Fairy Men's Shed. Almost all of the proceeds of the day go to the Men's Shed which raised approximately \$8,000 from playing fees, raffles, auctions



and other activities held during the day. The annual event has seen many of the local organisations supported by the local Police Station and we were indeed fortunate to have their support this year.

Sergeant Mick Wolfe presented Men's Shed Secretary, Harry Bracegirdle, with a cheque on the night who then thanked all members of the local police station and the patrons that supported the golf day for their support. The funds raised would be targeted towards buying safety and other equipment for the workshop to ensure all safety requirements in the Shed are met.

Shed Opening Ceremony

This issue of our Newsletter represents a real milestone in the history of the Port Fairy Men's Shed as it is published to coincide with our Opening Ceremony for the Shed. At times, particularly in the early days, the Committee wondered if we would ever reach such a milestone as we struggled to find a venue and raise funds. Since then, like a rolling stone going downhill we have gained such tremendous momentum that the Shed is now a reality and a venue of which we should all be proud.

The Shed Opening will be held Friday 9th April 2010 with the official ceremony and ribbon cutting to commence at 12.30 pm. **Jaala Pulford MP** will represent the Minister for Senior Victorians (Lisa Neville) and officially open the Shed. We are grateful that the **Yambuk Ladies Auxiliary** will assist us by handling catering for the lunch to be served on the day. The following is a timetable for the day's events:

- 12.15 pm - Guests arrive and mingle
- 12.30 pm - Welcome by President Don Stephens
- 12.35 pm - Opening and speech by Jaala Pulford MP
- 12.50 pm - Opening of Broadband for Seniors Kiosk
- 1.00 pm - Light lunch to be served
- 1pm to 2pm - Shed open for general viewing

Craft Group to meet at the Shed

It is pleasing to announce that the **Port Fairy Craft Group** has decided to use the excellent meeting room facilities at the Shed to conduct their regular, Thursday afternoon craft sessions. The Craft Group approached the Committee of Management about the possible use of the facility which will provide them with a much larger and more comfortable space than what they currently use.

The Committee agreed that, as the Shed was set up as a community facility, it was an excellent opportunity to broaden our activities and therefore welcomed the Craft Group into the Shed. In order to be covered by our Volunteer's (Personal Accident) and our Public Liability insurance policies, the Craft Group members have agreed to join up and be members of the Shed.

Personal Accident cover for members

The PFMS has recently taken out cover under a **Local Community Insurance Services** policy that covers volunteer workers for personal accidents at the Shed.

The cover provides for a weekly benefit of \$500 up to 104 weeks for out-of-pocket medical expenses and an accident only death and capital benefit of \$50,000.



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club

Governor's visit

Professor David de Kretser AC, Governor of Victoria, was warmly welcomed to the Port Fairy Men's Shed when he visited Port Fairy on 11th March 2010. The Governor was being hosted in the region by the Moyne Shire as part of his on-going program of visiting all Victorian regional centres.

Accompanied by his wife, **Jan de Kretser**, the Governor met with members of the Port Fairy Men's Shed when they spent an informal half hour at the Shed before moving on to the Port Fairy Community House.

The Governor has a strong academic background in men's health issues and, as the patron of the Victorian Men's Shed Association, he has taken an active interest in supporting Men's Shed throughout the state so we were delighted that he wanted to visit our Shed.

Being a brand new Men's Shed, where the final stages of construction are just being finished, it was an opportune time to show off the town's newest asset. A short video featuring the construction of the Shed was shown to the Governor before he moved into the workshop to meet members. It was a real thrill for the members of the Shed to be able to meet and chat informally with the Governor and Mrs de Kretser as they took a first hand look at the new Shed on the Port Fairy Showgrounds.

Although his visit was brief, in what was a busy time for the Governor, the members of the Port Fairy Men's Shed were honoured that he paid us a visit and this has greatly helped boost morale of the Shed members.



Members of the PFMS Committee and other guests with the Governor and Mrs. de Kretser during the visit to the Shed

Working bee

About 20 Shed members assisted in getting the Shed and surrounds "ship-shape" and ready for the Opening Ceremony at a working bee held 1st April. Many outstanding tasks, both inside and outside the Shed, were completed including the preparation of the car parking area. **Les Christie** brought along his mini front-end loader which helped immensely in moving around and compacting materials for the parking bays.

Thanks to all who assisted on the day. It was warming to see such activity and also to witness such a crowd enjoying themselves in our kitchen / meeting room during "morning tea" where cakes, biscuits and hot cross buns were eagerly devoured.

Operations Committee to be set up

As a follow up to the General Meeting of Shed members on 15th March, the PFMS Committee of Management (COM) recently held a planning workshop, assisted by professional, independent facilitator, Mr. Ralph Leutton. An outcome from the workshop is that we have now drafted guidelines for an ongoing management structure together with operational plans for the Shed.

We identified the need for an Operations Committee and four operational sub-committees.

- i. Social networking
- ii. Supervising safety and administration
- iii. Skill transfer and development
- iv. Project Management

The Committee is aware that from the present membership register we have many members who will have sufficient life skills and workshop skills to fill roles in these sub committees.

We want members to feel that 'the Shed' is the place to be; where they will find respect and a listening ear; to socialise, and support each other in a friendly and fun way.

Arising from the discussions the COM agreed that the following structure would serve the PFMS well in the ensuing months as we strive to set up the operational aspects of the Shed. It was agreed that this model be adopted although it could be modified, if required, after an initial settling in period.



It was recognised that the selection of personnel for the **Operations Committee** was critical to getting the overall activities of the Shed operational. It was therefore agreed that specific people would be targeted by the COM to ensure that the leaders of each sub-group were appropriate for the task and had the necessary attributes.

Any member who is interested in serving on any of the above sub-committees is invited to talk to one of the Committee members about their preference.

