

Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc. NEWSLETTER

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

Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association



Following the official opening ceremony held in April, the **Port Fairy Men's Shed** commenced operational activities for members on 17th May 2010.

The Shed has a number of community-based projects on its books (*see report on Projects on next page*) so it was hoped that there would be sufficient interest by members to come along and work on these and help get the spirit of the Shed started and share in the camaraderie. However, in the words of that (now) infamous TV commercial to promote Australia, "**Where the bl**y hell are you?**"

So far, the turn up of Shed members has been minimal and, with over 100 members on our books, this is an early disappointment. However, the Committee accepts that getting the message out to members that we had started regular sessions at the Shed has been slow so hopefully this Newsletter will get the ball rolling and help gather some momentum.

Of course, we couldn't cope with all members turning up at once but we hope that a core group of 15 to 20 members will regularly attend, at least one session per week.

The designated Shed hours each week are as follows:

Monday	9am to 4pm
Tuesday	9am to 12 noon
Wednesday	9am to 12 noon
Thursday.....	1pm to 4pm (Craft Group)

Of course, these hours are indicative only and we will always be flexible to meet the needs of members and the projects on hand.

Even if you do not want to help on some of the projects, then perhaps you can drop in for a "*cuppa*" and a chat at morning or afternoon tea. Remember, a Men's Shed isn't just about projects. Their success throughout Australia is built on just providing a good meeting place.

Computer classes have commenced

As part of the **Broadband for Seniors (BFS)** program, basic computer classes in the use of Internet and email have commenced at the Shed.

Whereas the BFS program is open to the whole community, the location of the Internet Kiosk in the Port Fairy Men's Shed makes it ideal for those Shed members who want to learn basic computer skills.

In the survey of members carried out a few weeks ago we only got about 25 returns. However, a high proportion of these (13 of the 25 members who responded) indicated a desire to learn Internet and email.



The BFS program is being coordinated by **Harry Bracegirdle** who will soon contact those 13 or so members to arrange tuition times but if you want to be in first, or were not one of the original 13 but want to learn Internet and emailing, then just contact Harry on **5568-2601** to arrange times.

The program is based on self-paced learning but typically three x 90 minute sessions is what is normally required to cover the course material. Sessions need not be on a set time / date. After the first session you just arrange with your tutor for the next convenient date and time.

Due to the limited number of computers in the Shed meeting room, the class size for each session is limited to two persons so beginners need not feel over-awed and tuition is basically one-on-one.

If we get enough takers for the BFS course then Harry has plenty of other experienced computer experts on hand to help out. **Murray Hennig** and **Gavin Quinn** have both offered to help with tutoring

Make sure you take advantage of this free service in the near future!



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club

Recent acquisitions

The Shed is steadily being fitted out with equipment thanks to the generosity of the **RE Ross Trust** that provided \$10,000 for equipment and the Australian Government's **Volunteers Grant** that brought in nearly \$5,000 for equipment and services.

Keith Bunge has put the **Ross Trust** funds to good use acquiring some nice pieces of equipment including a slide compound saw, a bench grinder and linisher, a saw bench, a band saw (metal & wood), scroll saw, a pedestal drill, air compressor, MIG & TIG welding equipment and a range of other, smaller tools.

From the **Volunteer's Grant** we recently purchased a **laptop computer** and a Toshiba **photocopier** that doubles as a printer. This is an 18 copies per minute, black & white copier (colour is too expensive to run!) but is equipped with document feeder and a zoom feature allowing copies up to A3 in size.

For safety purposes the Shed has now installed a pre-paid mobile phone for use in emergency situations which can also be used to contact the Shed during normal operating hours.

The phone number is **0458 333 461**

Shed Projects

As previously indicated, we have received requests from a number of sources to carry out community-based and other projects. These projects include:

- **Restoration of the "Fletcher Jones" – a wooden surfboat (for the PF Surf Life Saving Club).**
- Manufacture of wooden model kits for assembly by primary age children (*received from the Hawkesdale & District Development Action C'tee*).
- **Hand carving of motifs into four, wooden, surf board-shaped bollards for East Beach (for the Moyne Shire Youth Councillors).**
- Restoration of a wooden milk float (*from Ray Wilson of Allendale*).
- **Restoration of Wheelbarrow used for flower displays.**
- Construction of tables (*for the Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail*).
- **Construction of wooden stands for displaying crocheted tea pot covers.**
- Modification of portable sinks (*for Port Fairy Folk Festival Committee*).

These are just for starters so we need help to handle these projects as well as a range of skills. If you think you can help, or want to work on a particular project, then please contact **Don Stephens** on **5568-2153** or **Harry Bracegirdle** on **5568-2601**.

Remember also that the Shed is also available for members to work on personal projects provided that the Project Sub-Committee first approves the project.

Restoration of wood lathe complete

Denis Lemke has quietly been working on the restoration of a wood turning lathe that was donated to the PFMS by **Alan Moncrieff** of Illowa in January.

Denis has reconditioned the lathe, removed all of the rust, and replaced some bearings along with a few other critical parts before giving it a new paint job and belt guard. The lathe has a bed of about 1.2 metres so will be able to handle larger jobs. Shed members



interested in learning wood turning should contact Denis. There is also a number of smaller wood turning lathes being set up in the Shed.

Grant applications

Although the Shed is starting to take shape and be reasonably well equipped we are still pursuing funding through various grant applications to secure other needed items. We still await the outcome from the DVA grant application submitted earlier this year which, if successful, will fund a reverse-cycle air conditioner and a TV for the meeting room.

In addition, we have applied to **Pacific Hydro** for a second water tank and a wood heater for the workshop. Our application to the **2010 Federal Government's Volunteer's Grant** application seeks funding for a data projector and screen, first aid kits and support to cover OHS training course.

GST registration

Due to some good work by Shed member, **Ewan Cameron**, and valuable assistance from local accountant, **Geoff Arnold**, we have successfully applied to the ATO for GST-free status meaning that we can recover the cost of GST paid on purchases. Although this is offset by having to collect and pay GST on some of our income, it means we will have an overall financial advantage. The claim for GST-free status was made retrospective back to July 2009 so covers a large amount of expenditure on the Shed construction.

DGR tax status secured

The PFMS has also been successful in securing status as a **Designated Gift Recipient** (DGR) which means funds donated to the Shed by a benefactor is tax deductible and therefore beneficial for the donor. It also opens up a wider range of grants for which we can apply.

STOP PRESS: The PFMS Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held in the 3rd week of July so please keep this in mind. With up to four members of the Committee not seeking re-election there is a need to recruit for new officers.

