

# Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 6  
July 2010



PO Box 34 Port Fairy VIC 3284 Secretary: Harry Bracegirdle (5568-2601)

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

Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

## President's Report

Hi Fellow Shedders,

Well, winter is with us now and it's cold in the Shed. We are addressing this problem and will install a split system air conditioner in the meeting room and a slow combustion wood heater in the work spaces ASAP.

A few blokes have been braving the cold and working on some small projects; teapot cover stands for Moyneyana and solid low level tables for kids to make up prefabricated wooden kits on, tool boxes and cradles plus other models. We have requests from the Moyneyana Festival Committee and Hawkesdale Community Group to make about 200 of these kits. We have other requests for projects to consider, but have put off decisions on our ability to tackle them until we have a Projects sub-committee to manage them, and for our members who have gone north to seek warmth, to return from their break. Forming this sub-committee is probably the most important thing we need to do, as the Committee of Management (C.O.M) have enough on its plate to keep it busy just now. **Would you like to ring me Ph 5568-2153 if you are interested in helping?** We also need a roster of people willing to be responsible for opening and closing the Shed on activity days, as well as volunteers to go on a weekly cleaning/rubbish tip roster (possibly Thursday mornings).

Dennis Lemke has refurbished the wood turning lathes and put safety covers on them. He has also taken on the role of Training Officer so that we can induct people in the safe use of equipment. Keith Bunge has been in regular attendance at 9.30am to open the Shed, but, often no one has turned up to do work until 10 o'clock or 10.30am. The C.O.M. has decided to use 10 o'clock as start time on Monday and Wednesday during the remainder of winter. An O.H.S. requirement is that no one should operate in the Shed on their own and forbids climbing up a ladder by yourself as it is positively dangerous at our age. We are not monkeys and high work may require the hiring of a Scissor Lift on occasions.

A group of blokes have made six food and soup carriers for the Meals on Wheels volunteers. They had a lot of fun and no doubt got 'the rounds of the kitchen' when they got home with paint all over their good (?) working clothes.

Mick Wentworth is arranging some Social Days with a cup of tea and chat and a monthly BBQ / sausage

sizzle. Contact Mick on Ph 5568-2396 if you need transport on Wednesday mornings. The DVA has given us a grant of \$5,133 to provide a TV, stove and refrigerator so cooking and a DVD movie are distinct possibilities. I believe the Ladies Craft Group has already tested the oven's scone making capabilities.

### A couple of items from the recent COM meeting

1. The Combined Shed Construction Project is virtually completed with some signage, disabled toilet rail and more light and ventilation in the meeting room required to obtain our Certificate of occupancy. These issues will be dealt with promptly. The Joint Project Accounts have been closed with a zero balance. Altogether we expended \$135,982.57 on this joint Men's Shed, Port Fairy Belfast Lions Club and Port Fairy Agricultural Show project. We have a wonderful facility and I congratulate all who have contributed in any way to bring the project to fruition. Audited statements will be available at the Port Fairy Men's Shed AGM on July 26th. We are also in the process of amending the Memorandum of Understanding for the Joint Project to a User Agreement Document for ongoing issues in regard to operating the facility at the Showgrounds.

2. We spent a great deal of time addressing the issue of security at the Shed, along with reasonable access for the members. By sticking to agreed opening times we believe that there should be a limited number of keys available, with registered key holders. Another thought was a security coded key safe. We continue to explore our options for a best result.

3. We are exploring the possibility of having hats and work shirts with our Shed logo and first names printed or embroidered on them. This will be good PR and give us an official identity when dealing with the public.

4. There is some pressure in regard to extra storage space and use of noisy machinery. We may need a small shed externally to house the dust extraction equipment. It was therefore decided that we would not address the issue of additional storage or workspace until we have further experience on operating as a Men's Shed on a daily basis. A grant from the Police Golf Day will help buy equipment, signage, safety goggles and ear muffs etc to address these OHS issues.

5. At the last meeting we discussed the need to review our COM structure and membership. We agreed to move to a 7 member COM plus use sub-



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committees for the practical running of the Shed. To do this we need to alter our rules – This requires a special motion at the AGM and ratification by the Registrar, Department of Justice (Community Affairs Victoria). As this will take a period of time we agreed to run with our present 6 members COM and adjust the roles slightly. I will leave this to Secretary, Harry Bracegirdle, to address as he prepares the Notice of AGM and the Nomination Forms.

**As we approach our AGM I would ask all of our members to consider nominating for positions on the COM and as sub-committee members, to make the Shed work effectively.**

After 3 years of helping to facilitate the Port Fairy Men's Shed Project I believe it is the time to stand down as President. I do not believe in long term Office Bearing as new blood helps the flow of new ideas and management. The other issue for me is the possible need for a knee replacement in the ongoing months. I have really enjoyed helping to facilitate this wonderful community concept and standing down does not mean that I am unwilling to continue in a sub-committee role.

I trust there is an enthusiastic member waiting in the wings. Give it some positive thought. I will back up the people elected to the COM to the hilt.

*Cheers for now. Don Stephens*

**Editor's Note:** It is timely, given Don's intention to soon step down as President, to acknowledge the tremendous effort he has put into establishing a Men's Shed in Port Fairy. His interest and energy go back to 2007 when the Lions Club was asked to get involved in setting up an Activities Shed at Moyneyana House.

Don had the foresight to realise that there was an opportunity to establish an even better facility in Port Fairy and, with the growing popularity of Men's Sheds in Australia, set out to gauge interest in setting up one in our town. The rest is now history and we now have a wonderful facility at the Showgrounds to show for his efforts.



*President, Don, proudly oversees the cutting of the ribbon by Jaala Pulford MP at our Opening Ceremony for the Shed.*

## Annual General Meeting

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting** of the Port Fairy Men's Shed will be held at the Port Fairy **RSL Hall** starting at **7pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010**. The **Annual Report** will be presented at the AGM along with financial statements for the 2009/10 year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June.

All members will soon be sent a Notice of Meeting, including the Agenda for the meeting, the call for nominations for office bearers and proxy forms.

**A light supper will be provided after the meeting.**

*Please mark this important event in your diary and make every effort to attend. As the Shed moves into an operational phase it is important that we can use the AGM as a means of selecting a new, strong and viable Committee of Management and set in place plans for our future.*

## New Postal Address

We now have a new postal address as follows:

**Port Fairy Men's Shed  
PO Box 34, Port Fairy VIC 3284**

We also have a new, generic email address which is:

**[pfmensshed@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:pfmensshed@aussiebb.com.au)**

## Computer training

Computer training courses are now well underway at the Shed's BFS Kiosk. Members or other interested persons wanting to book in for training should contact the BFS coordinator, Harry Bracegirdle, on 5568-2601.

## A change in Shed hours

At the recent Committee meeting it was decided to change the Shed opening hours from those listed in the previous Newsletter. These new hours will be in place at least over the winter months and are -

Monday..... 10am to 4pm  
Wednesday..... 10am to 4pm  
Thursday ..... 1pm to 4pm (Craft Group)  
Other times ..... by arrangement

*NB. The times listed above do not include the times the meeting room is used for Computer Training classes*

## Craft Group to donate new chairs

The Craft Group has become an integral and welcome part of our weekly activities and, from the proceeds of their fund raising efforts, they have kindly offered to buy 20 fold-up chairs to be used for general meetings at the Shed. The chairs will be very useful for our meetings and general activities.

## Membership report

We now have 108 registered members!

## Newsletter distribution

If you get this Newsletter by post and have an email address then please help us to save money and time by having it emailed to you. Send your email address to **[pfmensshed@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:pfmensshed@aussiebb.com.au)**



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