

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

Ralph Leutton elected as President



At the Annual General meeting held 7th October 2011, **Ralph Leutton** was elected as the new President for the Port Fairy Men's Shed for 2011-12.

Ralph background as a trainer, consultant and facilitator brings a wealth of experience and skills to the running of the PFMS.

He succeeds outgoing President, **Ewen Cameron**, who led the Shed during the 2010-11 year.

Some 50 or so members attended the AGM at the Shed which was preceded by a BBQ dinner.

Other committee members elected at the AGM were –

Vice-President 1: Jack Smits
Vice-President 2: Don Stephens
Treasurer: Peter Down
Social & Welfare Office: Mick Wentworth
Operations Manager: Denis Lemke
Ordinary Member: Keith Bunge
Ordinary Member: Leo Dalton

The position of Secretary was not filled at the AGM.

Copies of the Annual Report for year 2010-11 can be downloaded from the PFMS website at –
<http://members.aussiebroadband.com.au/pfmensshed/>.

Report from the President

I would like to thank the members and friends of the Port Fairy Men's Shed for their support at the recent Annual General Meeting. The meeting itself was an outstanding success in numbers and the elections were positive in the numbers involved. The number taking part was improved because of the option to use postal votes which were well utilised.

The 2010-2011 Committee of Management under the Chairmanship of **Ewen Cameron** needs to be applauded for the development that has occurred at the Shed and the role the Port Fairy Men's Shed has adopted in the community. It will be my intention to continue to develop this role and to position the Shed as a major asset in our community. The Shed is also a critical component in the promotion of Men's Health

within our community and all efforts will be made to ensure this continues.

It would be remiss to not mention the **Ladies Craft Group** that is an integral part of the Shed. The role they play in the life of the Shed is very important although all too often understated.

The elections at the AGM returned a full complement of members to the Committee of Management, except for the role of Secretary. However, I am pleased to say that at the first meeting of the Committee, Harry Bracegirdle accepted a nomination to the role of Secretary and the Committee voted to accept his nomination. This means that we now have a full Committee of Management and the future can now be focused on the functions of the Shed rather than seeking people to be involved in the Committee.

In the past year the Shed has taken on a number of projects, both large and small. Notable among them has been the reconditioning of the baby grand Steinweg piano. The team working with **Alan Nightingale** on that project need to be congratulated for a great job so far. Other projects like the Kid's Kits have been a great success at a number of venues and the involvement of the Shed in both community events and projects is great to see.

Already I have been approached by different individuals and groups about possible projects that could be considered by the Shed and these will be presented to the Committee and decisions taken as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support *Ralph Leutton*

Forthcoming activities

As summer approaches the PFMS is gearing up for a busier time – not that we have been in hibernation over winter, especially now that we have the wood heater installed in the Shed!

Plans are in progress to hold a **Cup Day BBQ lunch** on 1st November in the Shed (BYO drinks). A Cup Day sweep will also be held. All members and friends are welcome to attend.

The Committee has started planning for the **Christmas Party** and members are asked to tentatively diarise the 16th December as the possible date for the party (*date subject to confirmation*).

November 5th is **Port Fairy Show Day** and the Shed is planning on having an open day whereby the front of



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club



the Shed can be opened to interested public. Subject to approval by the Show Society, we plan to run a raffle, conduct the ever popular kid's activities (toy kit making) plus a sale of surplus tools and manufactured wood products. Anyone who can help on the day should contact Don Stephens on 5568-2153.

The next meeting of the **Committee of Management** will be held on 4th November 2011 starting at 10am in the Shed.

The Shed will be putting on an information session / display at the **Anglican Church Community Day** on 22nd October at the St. John's Anglican Church in Regent Street.. This activity will include posters, photos, distribution of membership forms and examples of PFMS work.

The PFMS will run a **Health & Wellbeing Stall** at the Moyne Shire Community Centre (Corner of Atkinson and Campbell Streets in Port Fairy) from 6.30pm on 26th October.

What else is in the pipeline for 2011-12?

- Ted Alsop is heading up a team to build shelving for the Aquatic Centre.
- Keith Bunge and Don Stephens are heading a project for The Shed to erect raised garden beds at the Community House.
- The Winter Weekends Committee is again planning to have a Kid's Activity Tent on the Green during the June Queen's Birthday weekend in 2012. It is planned that the PFMS will again conduct its popular kid's toy kit building activity session that proved so popular in 2011.

Grants success

Although the Shed was unsuccessful in its grant application to the Helen McPherson Trust it is pleasing to report a positive outcome for its application to the Moyne Shire Council's **Community Assistance Fund**. The Moyne Shire has awarded us **\$2,780** towards the purchase of a belt drive mill drill, a 2-way cross slide vice plus new barbequing and catering equipment. The total from the grant has to be matched 50:50 with Shed funds.

The PFMS was also successful in its grant application to the Commonwealth Government's **Volunteers Grant** where we were awarded **\$2,840** to cover the cost of OHS Training courses, OHS consultancy, protective clothing / equipment (eye, ear, and headwear) and fuel vouchers. It is pleasing to again get support from this grant that previously enabled us to purchase kitchen equipment, photocopier and the TV.

The Committee of Management is now focusing its attention on securing major funding under the Australian Men's Shed grant scheme.

Although it is difficult to budget on income from grants it is nevertheless a requisite to secure funding from such sources because the day-to-day operational and equipment costs for the Shed is inexorably reliant on support from granting bodies. Membership fees and remuneration from projects alone will not cover the annual operational costs for the Shed.

If members are aware of any potential donors or funding sources then please bring this to the attention of the Committee. As the Shed is now registered as DGR (Designated Gift Recipient) all donations then all donations are tax deductible.

Fees for 2011-12

At the AGM the membership voted for a change in annual membership fees. The new fee for 2011-12 is **\$20 pa**. The one-off joining fee (previously \$5) has been dropped. Membership fees are now due and can be paid to Treasurer, **Peter Down**.

Computers in the Shed

The Federal Government has recently extended its **Broadband for Seniors** (BFS) Program, which is coordinated by NEC Australia and provided the computer in the Shed, until 30th June 2013. Although the changes will be somewhat transparent to many PFMS members the following enhancement / changes have been flagged –

- Release of the NEC Administrator password to Kiosk Hosts to provide "open access" to the computers so that you can load software applications and install printers for the benefit of your seniors
- New image disks with additional software applications including real time Avast Virus Protection, Skype, Google Earth, Google Chrome, Picasa, CDBurner XP, Logitech Vid HD, FastSton Capture, AbiWord, and Roxio
- Online training sessions and increased sharing of knowledge.

Of particular significance is the release of the Administrator password so that we can have more access and control over the programs loaded onto the two PCs in the Shed.

Murray Hennig has agreed to assist Harry Bracegirdle with the coordination of the BFS program as well as developing other instructional sessions for members on basic computing packages.

Harry Bracegirdle indicated that most of the people instructed so far in the BFS Kiosk have been non-members which is a reasonable outcome as the kiosk was funded to serve the whole community. However, he firmly believes that there is scope to get more of the Shed members trained on the use of Internet and email which is the main objective of the BFS Program.

Anyone wanting to undertake training under the BFS program can contact Murray Hennig on 5568-2641.