

# Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

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<http://www.portfairymensshed.org.au>

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Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

## Report from the President

On behalf of the Committee of Management of the Port Fairy Men's Shed, may I wish you and your family a happy and a prosperous 2012? For those who have had a time away over the festive season, I trust that you had a great break and that you are now back and refreshed for the new year ahead. For those who stayed at home, I would like to think that you are also in readiness for the year ahead.



This year we are planning on a number of activities and events that will see the men's Shed strengthen its position in the community as a place for men to come and relax and just be themselves.

The "Shedder of the Year" Award last year has set a strong precedent and throughout this year, a keen eye will be kept to find the 2012 recipient. As well, there is a plan to hold a Members' Meeting in June to give an up-date on the activities of the Shed and to discuss some ideas that the Committee has been considering. We hope that you will all be able to take part in the meeting and the BBQ and entertainment that will follow.

One thing that we need to consider carefully is our membership of the Shed. Going through the list, there are a number of people who are now no longer financial and we would like to see those people re-new their membership and also take part in the Port Fairy Men's Shed. Also, if you know of someone who is no longer financial, you might encourage them to re-new their membership as soon as they are able.

I look forward to your involvement throughout 2012 and to seeing you around the Shed.

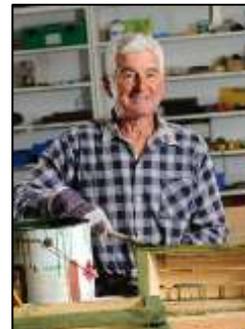
Ralph Leutton

## Don tackles a new project!

Former President and now VP in charge of Shed Projects, **Don Stephens**, is soon to take on a new "construction" project of his own - to replace a dodgy hip. Fortunately, the project to replace the hip will be supervised by an experienced surgeon rather than fellow Shed members!

We wish Don a speedy recovery and better mobility after his operation. In Don's absence, **Ross Manniche** will help coordinate Shed projects.

## Shedder of the Year awarded to Robbie Blackmore



Robbie Blackmore won the inaugural **Shedder of the Year Award** for 2011.

The award, named the **President's Award**, was made for the first time in 2011 and presented at the Shed Xmas Party on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The award, was presented by current President, **Ralph**

Leutton.

The award to Robert was in recognition of the huge contribution he has made to Shed life over the past 12 months and in particular the vast amount of work he has done in constructing kits for our toy assembly sessions.

Robbie personifies a good shedder in that he turns up regularly, gets down to work, is easy going and works hard for other causes. **Congratulations Robbie!**



Ralph Leutton presents the award to Robert Blackmore

## Membership report

As noted by Ralph in his column above, there is a need to pursue membership renewals because as of 3<sup>rd</sup> February we only have 13 financial members!

Secretary, **Harry Bracegirdle** and Treasurer, **Peter Down**, will be sending out reminders soon but if you want to renew your membership then please pass your payment to Peter Down or send it to him at

[Port Fairy Men's Shed, PO Box 34, Port Fairy 3284](mailto:Port Fairy Men's Shed, PO Box 34, Port Fairy 3284)

The fee for 2011/12 has been set at \$20.



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club

## Art group to join the Shed

A group of local artists in Port Fairy have arranged to construct a special art project in the Port Fairy Men's Shed. The project is to build a large, animated model teapot with lots of moving parts that tilts and progressively fills a series of tea cups as they pass the spout. Water distributed to the cups is returned to the teapot. *Fascinating or a crazy idea - you might ask?* Well, to put it into context it is all part of a display for the July Winter Weekend Festival in Port Fairy - all themed around a *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* to be staged on the Village Green.

Construction of the actual teapot (hopefully out of copper or brass), the revolving cup platform, all of the moving parts and the computer-controlled animations, is the brainchild of Port Fairy artist, **Robert Gatt**. Robert is very keen to get involved in a collaborative project with the Shed members as well as finding a suitable space to facilitate the construction project. In all, ten local artists will work on the project during May and June. All of the participating artists will join the Shed which can only help boost our membership!

Any Shed member who might like to assist with the project should contact Harry Bracegirdle (5568-2601) or Ralph Leutton (5568-1747).



*Robert Gatt working in the Winter Weekends Kid's activity tent in 2011*



## Testing & tagging of equipment

The Committee recently conducted a "walk-through" inspection of the Shed workspace in order to identify items that will be subject to an electrical tagging & testing program. This is a necessary OHS requirement that ensures all equipment that can be connected to mains power passes an electrical safety check so as to minimise the risk to users. As a consequence of the inspection we have earmarked dozens of items for testing. We also identified a number of items for immediate disposal as they were considered unsafe. Some equipment items were deemed to be surplus to needs and will be offered for sale at the Lions Club Car Boot Sale at Easter.

## Shed Working Bee

A working bee, in conjunction with co-tenants, the Lions Club, is soon to be held soon. Notifications will be sent out by email and letter. We hope you can spare some time to help with housekeeping, fence and Shed maintenance and general gardening.

## Steinweg piano restoration

The final phase of the Reardon Theatre *Steinweg* piano restoration was scheduled to be finished on 6<sup>th</sup> February when **Albert Fox** completed to the tuning of the piano and the replacement of keyboard felts.

The engagement of Albert is supported by \$2,500 of additional funding received from the **Moyne Shire Council** for which the PFMS is most grateful as it brings the whole restoration process to a final and fulfilling end - and one that we are proud to be associated with. The piano has been relocated back to the Reardon Theatre and sits proudly in the foyer.



For full details on the history of the piano and the restoration project carried out by the PFMS visit the projects page on our website at <http://www.portfairymensshed.org.au/restoration-of-a-steinweg-piano/>

## Members' own projects

The Committee is concerned that most of the current jobs undertaken in the Shed are community-based projects. Whereas this is all for a good cause they are keen to remind members that the Shed facilities can be also used for personal projects. They want to encourage greater participation in the Shed and therefore build up good bonhomie in the overall members' activities.

## Xmas Party

The Xmas party held on 16<sup>th</sup> December turned out to be a great night attended by around 60 members and guests. Congratulations to **Jack Smits** and his helpers for putting on a fine spread.

## New website for the PFMS

Members are encouraged to visit our **new website** and use this as source for all Shed information, including news items, stories, details and pictures on our many projects, past Newsletters, a photo gallery, all contact details and forms. Make sure you visit <http://www.portfairymensshed.org.au>

