

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

President's Report



It is almost June already and half of the year is just about gone. I always felt that as you got a bit older, then things got a bit slower. Well, perhaps not.

The first half of this year has been a time of consolidation for the Port Fairy Men's Shed. We are now getting to a position in which the Shed can be more readily accessed for community projects or smaller private projects. The organisation of the equipment and tools is being more carefully planned so that work can be done in a natural flow. We are not totally there just yet, but getting a lot closer.

Denis Lemke's sessions on inducting members into the use of some of the larger items of equipment has got underway with a good number of members taking part in the first session focusing on the **Mill Drill**. It is our plan to re-arrange the metal working equipment so that it is all close together and so that the work can flow more safely and the tools more accessible.

Looking ahead to June, we are planning to have a **half-yearly members meeting**. This is planned for **Friday 22 June** starting about 5.30pm and finishing about 9.00pm. Please mark that in your diary. The night will consist of a short business meeting to outline a Budget for the 2012-13 year ahead, some announcements on matters to be considered for the Annual General Meeting and then, over a BBQ meal, we will have some musical entertainment feature one of our own and some presentations. A night not to be missed!

You may have noticed the article in the Moyne Gazette of 10th June featuring Denis Lemke demonstrating the operation and use of the Mill Drill. Watch for announcements of more of Denis' sessions by keeping an eye on the Shed's web site – www.portfairymensshed.org.au for more information. Please pass the information on to your friends and neighbours who are not members, but may wish to learn how to use some of the equipment in the Shed. *Ralph Leutton*

Visit of Melton Men's Shed

Members of the Melton Men's Shed will visit the PFMS on Thursday 17th May from mid-morning. PFMS members are encouraged to be on hand to welcome them to our Shed. Please join us for morning tea.

A new printer for the Shed

The ladies of the Shed **Craft Group** have purchased a new printer, including print cartridges, for the meeting room computers.

Secretary, Harry Bracegirdle, has installed the new, Hewlett Packard WiFi printer that will receive prints from both of the meeting room computers or any other wireless device (such as our notebook or a personal iPad) brought into the room. The Committee is very grateful for this generous offer by the Craft Group who will also benefit a good deal from having a more reliable printer in their meeting room.

In addition, the computers have now been upgraded with new software images that give us more control over their content. This has enabled more applications such as *Google Earth*, *Skype* and *Microsoft Office programs* to be installed. Additionally, it has allowed connection of the Toshiba MFD (*photocopier / printer*) that gives us fast, B&W printing to this device.

A cleaner carpet!

The generosity of the **Craft Group** didn't stop at a new printer as they also funded the recent professional cleaning of the meeting room carpet. Over time this had become so grubby that the Committee initially considered replacing it with vinyl. However, a good steam cleaning has brought it back to near new condition which, at \$80, was money well spent compared to the alternative of over \$2,000 to lay new vinyl.

Membership update

The **Port Fairy Men's Shed** currently has 126 registered members of whom 98 are now recorded as being financial. Twenty eight of these members are associated with the Craft Group.

The Committee recently sent out 50 letters to those members who were registered with us but had not yet paid their 2012-13 membership fees. It is pleasing to report that of these, 20 members have responded and have now paid their dues. Understandably, some recipients chose to terminate their membership and this has also helped us keep our records up-to-date.

The Committee's focus is now to promote a more active membership as clearly we do not have 98 members regularly involved in Shed activities.



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club



Update on Steinweg piano restoration

The restoration of the **Steinweg piano** is now complete. As reported in our last Newsletter, the piano was to be relocated to the Reardon Theatre and



tuned by **Albert Fox** with funding provided by the Moyne Shire Council. This work has been completed and it is now planned that a concert should be held to give a wider public prominence to the project and also serve as a fundraising activity for the Shed. For details on the

history of the piano and the restoration project carried out by the PFMS visit the projects page on our website under [Piano Restoration](#).

Projects report

Don Stephens, our VP (Projects), despite being laid up for a while after hip surgery, has continued to promote a range of projects undertaken in the Shed. Don is being ably assisted by **Ross Manniche** who is providing valuable help to Don in what is the most challenging aspect of Shed activities.

Recent projects have been the restoration of a dresser and the construction, by **Keith Bunge** and helpers, of treated pine bench seats for the Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail. We continue to assist Belfast Aquatics with projects and have recently been approached by the newly formed **Port Fairy Streetscape Committee** to build wooden planter boxes for Sackville Street. The planter boxes are part of a plan to beautify the main streets in Port Fairy.



Robbie Blackmore is working tirelessly to build wooden toy kits for assembly by children. Having exhausted over 80 kits during the January Moyneyana Festival we

now have a need to make more kits for the *Kids Activity tent* at the forthcoming **June Winter Weekends Festival**.

Members are always needed to help Robbie on the toy kits project so, if you can spare some time then please turn up at the Shed on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday mornings from 10am. You can also contact Don (5568-2153) or Ross (5568-2028) if you want to get involved in some of our other projects.

Finally, space has been cleared for use by the **Art Group**, led by **Robert Gatt**, ([see report in last Newsletter](#)) who will be working on a "steam-punk" project for display on the Village Green during the July Winter Weekend.

The Craft Group – all for fun!

The ladies of the Thursday afternoon **Craft Group** generally have relatively quiet and industrious few hours in the Shed each week working on a whole range of craft projects and swapping stories. However, every now and then they let their hair down and party - as depicted in the photo below.



More photos of the Craft Group can be viewed at <http://www.portfairymensshed.org.au/craft-group-activities/>

Anyone interested in joining the Craft Group should contact: **Kay Miller** (5568 1937) or **Judy Roberts** (5568 2816).

Visit of Timboon Men's Shed



Eight members of the **Timboon Men's Shed** recently visited our shed seeking ideas on how best to layout the workspace in

their *soon-to-be-constructed* shed. Having recently secured State government funding to put up a new shed (they have been operating out of an old church hall for a few years) they hope to have their new, 16m x 9m shed erected and fitted out by winter.

Harry Bracegirdle and Don Stephens visited Timboon in 2009 to give general advice on setting up a Men's Shed so it is encouraging to see their permanent home is now coming to fruition. The Timboon group operates under the auspice of the local health service and is coordinated by **Sheryl O'Connor** who does a great job of keeping a good deal of Timboon's "old boys" under control!

There is concern for both Sheds though - as the photo above clearly shows - grey seems to be the corporate colour for Sheddors and we could all do with a bit of brightening up!

