

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 hard to believe that the year is almost half gone already as we move into the colder, winter months. Thank goodness we have the wood heater in the Shed to take the chill off the air!

It was pleasing to be able to host members from the Melton Men's Shed on 17th May. Some 15 or so members from Melton took the long drive to Port Fairy in the bus and seemed to thoroughly enjoy their visit, albeit brief. After a welcome and tour of the Shed we held a joint BBQ before Jack Smits kindly conducted a tour of the Folk Festival Shed and gave a great summary of what the Folk Festival means to the community and the close liaison with the Men's Shed. Although Melton is considered to be one of the best Men's Sheds in Victoria, their members talked enthusiastically about some of the innovations in our Shed and the projects we are undertaking.

As reported in this Newsletter, the Shed has been very active of late and is gearing up for an even busier few months. The "Kits for Kids" project at the June Winter Weekend Festival was a big success and one that all Port Fairy Shedders should be proud of. There is no doubt that such activities are popular in the community and show the value of the Men's Shed program.

A reminder also about the **General Meeting** for all Shed members (*see page 2 for details*), that is to be held on **Friday 22nd June**. I hope to see as many of you at the meeting which will also include a BBQ, some light entertainment and is guaranteed to be all over by 7.30pm so you can watch Friday night footy! Members are also encouraged to get involved in the forthcoming series of **Shed Orientation Days** (*see p2*).

Ralph Leutton

Membership update

Following our recent polling of members it is pleasing to report that we now have 106 financial members out of a total membership base of 120.

The number of registered members was reduced after some former members opted to discontinue their association with the Shed.

Cabot's donate to Men's Sheds

Timber coating specialists, Cabot's, has generously donated \$1M of timber stains to Men's Sheds affiliated with the Australian Men's Sheds Association (AMSA). Every Shed that registers will receive a minimum of 40 litres of stain. The PFMS has registered for this offer.

Hats and shirts for Shed members

The Committee has finalised negotiations and placed an order for hats and "high-vis" poly-cotton shirts for Shed members. The shirts, part funded by the Volunteer's Grant provided by the Federal Government, will have Port Fairy Men's Shed on the front pocket and back as well as sponsorship advertising for **Brookes Timber & Hardware** who have kindly donated sponsorship funds to the PFMS.

The caps have been delivered and were worn by helpers at the recent Kids Activity Day on the Village Green. Caps for other members will be distributed at the June 22nd General meeting.

Kids Activity Tent on Village Green

The PFMS were once again heavily involved in the Kids Activity Tent on the Village Green during the June Winter Weekend Festival. About eight "Shedders", all proudly wearing their new PFMS hats, were overrun from 10am to 1pm by very enthusiastic kids all wanting to build toys under the "Kits for Kids" program. Donations by the Winter Weekends Festival and general donations from an appreciative public helped raise \$360 for the effort. Well done to all involved!



Robbie Blackmore helps a young boy finish his boat



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club

General Meeting 22nd June

A half-yearly, General Meeting will be held at the Shed on **Friday 22nd June** starting at 5.30pm. The schedule for the meeting, which will include a BBQ meal, is as follows:

5.30pm	Arrival
5.40pm	Welcome (<i>President, Ralph Leutton</i>) Safety Induction (<i>Denis Lemke</i>)
5.45pm	General Meeting (See website for Agenda)
6.15pm	BBQ
7.00pm	Entertainment (<i>TBA</i>)
7.30pm	Close

The meeting is an opportunity for the Committee to present a year-to-date finance report and a draft budget for 2012/13. Just as importantly, the Committee seeks member input on any constitutional / rule changes ahead of the AGM in October as well as a general discussion on projects, equipment and Shed operations in general.

All members are encouraged to attend and have their say. If you are intending to come then in order to help with catering costs please RSVP to Secretary, Harry Bracegirdle, by **Thursday 21st June** (5568-2601) or email to harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com

Shed Orientation Days

A series of Orientation Days, to be conducted on the **2nd Wednesday of each month**, starting in June, are scheduled with sessions to be held from 9am to 11am. The proposed schedule is listed below.

Date (2012)	Equipment	Presenter
13 June	Wood lathes	Dennis Lemke
11 July	Welding equipment	Joe Harris (TBC)
8 August	Power saws	Jack Smits
12 September	No session	
10 October	Lathes	Dennis Lemke
14 November	Mill Drill	Dennis Lemke

It is planned that Orientation Days will be used to promote the use of various Shed equipment items and that these be conducted for both members and interested members of the community. The monthly Orientation Days will be information / demonstration sessions only. Members are encouraged to attend.



Shed operating hours

At the last Committee meeting it was decided to slightly revamp the Shed operating hours as follows:

Monday 10am – 4pm (Community projects)
 Tuesday 10am – 4pm (Own projects)
 Wednesday 10am – 4pm (Community projects)
 Thursday 10am – 12pm (Own projects)
 Thursday 1pm – 4pm (Craft Group)
 Friday to Sunday.....Closed

Tagging & testing of electrical gear

A recent exercise to test and tag both hand-held and fixed electrical equipment in the Shed was completed with the help of local electrical contractor, Peter O'Keeffe. This is part of an on-going testing program to ensure that electrical hazards in the Shed are minimised. Hand-held items have to be tested a number of times each year so part of the overall exercise is to cull any unwanted / unused items.

Projects report

Recent projects have been varied with the making of *Kits for Kids* toys, an outdoor setting for GSK and seats for the Port Fairy-Warrnambool Rail Trail.

Ross Manniche is also coordinating a number of other projects for Belfast Aquatics, Blarney Books and the Port Fairy Library.



Members of the PFMS show off their new hats at the recent Kits for Kids sessions on the Village Green

