

# Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

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

Issue 04-2011  
Month Year



Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

## President's report

At its last meeting, the Committee of Management considered the response we received from the half-yearly members' meeting about the role of Past-Presidents. Work is being done on preparing a Resolution for consideration at the Annual General Meeting.

As reported later in this Newsletter, we acknowledge the generosity from Cabot's for the donation of stains and I agree that the donation will be a boon to the operations of the Shed as well as a money saver. We are also on the look-out for any of the tradies around town or any other place that might have timber off-cuts that we could utilize in the Shed. Remember that the successful 'Kits for Kids' program, that Robbie Blackmore is the main worker for, is all done with off-cuts and what others would term waste. So, if you have any 'left overs' or off-cuts or you see any, please bring them to the Shed because they will always come in handy.

Those taking part in the Shed activities will notice that things are becoming more organized with areas for special projects, wood turning, metal working, welding and general bench work now catered for. If you haven't been up to the Shed lately, please come up and have a coffee and see what is happening.

The Port Fairy Men's Shed has also received a grant of \$850 to develop a **Disability Access Policy and Program**. We have been fortunate in receiving this money through the Moyne Shire Council and we are now planning a workshop to develop this further and hope to see some more programs being based in the Shed.

I would also like to recognise the work of Ross Manniche and Don Stephens as they coordinate the many Projects that the Shed is now handling. If you know of any needy areas where involvement of the Port Fairy Men's Shed might be of an assistance please contact Don or Ross.

In closing, I would acknowledge the work of the Committee of Management in the running of the Shed. With each member of the Committee now having a specific area of focus it means that the Committee has a close oversight of what is happening. However, we have had some bouts of illness – Mick and Jack more recently and a few of those sun seekers who have gone to sunnier climates – Dennis and Keith.

Lastly, we would be derelict in not recognising the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of the rogue of the Committee of Management – **Leo Dalton**. Now he has his OBE!

## Cabot's donate 40L of stains to Shed

As part of a promotion arranged through the Australian Men's Shed Association, **Cabot's Timber Products** donated \$1M of stains to Men's Sheds throughout Australia. The Port Fairy Men's Shed was fortunate to take advantage of this very generous offer and we got 40 litres of stains of varying colours in 250ml, 500ml and 1L tins.

President, Ralph Leutton, and Nick Abbott, kindly picked the good up from the Dulux Trade Centre in Ballarat. The donated stains will be invaluable in our project work and should save the PFMS a good deal of funds over the next 12 months or so. We are most grateful for this very generous offer by Cabot's.

## Presentation by Australian Hearing



The Port Fairy Men's Shed will be hosting a free presentation by **Australian Hearing** that will include hearing screening tests for all who attend. The session, starting at **11.30am on August 14<sup>th</sup> 2012**, will be followed by a Sausage Sizzle.

All members of the PFMS and any member of the Port Fairy community – both male and female – are invited to attend. The presentation will be held at the Shed on the Port Fairy Showgrounds. For more information please contact **Harry Bracegirdle** on **5568-2601**. If you are planning to attend, please let Harry know so that an estimate for catering purposes can be established.

Given the penchant for most Shed members to ignore the advice to wear hearing protection around the Shed, where the noise of some machines is well over 80 dB, the advice from Australian Hearing on ways to mitigate noise and minimise hearing loss will be both informative and timely!

## Update on member uniforms



Some Shed members have already been given a PFMS cap and will soon be able to get a polo shirt for the modest price of \$10.

The shirts will be screen



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club

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Victoria The Place To Be

printed to identify the Port Fairy Men's Shed and will also acknowledge our main sponsor, **Brookes Timber & Hardware**. **Tess Abbott** has kindly agreed to embroider our names onto the shirt and this will be included in the price.

President, Ralph Leutton, has organised the shirts through *Hip Pocket* in Warrnambool and should enhance the visual presence of Shed members when undertaking community work around town. If you want to order a shirt, please contact **Ralph Leutton 5568-1747**.

## Shed Orientation Days

As part of the Committee's plan to promote more activity in the Shed, a series of Orientation Days were planned on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from June to November.

A successful session was run in June but unfortunately, due to a variety of reasons, the July and August sessions have had to be rescheduled.

The Orientation Day each month will focus on the proper use of a particular equipment item and presented by our most expert users. Each session will commence with a 10-minute OHS induction session to ensure general safety in and around the Shed.

As of August the revised schedule is as follows:

Date (2012)	Equipment
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wood lathes
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	<del>Power Saws</del> <b>Cancelled due to illness to be rescheduled</b>
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Welding equipment
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Metal lathes
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mill Drill

## 2012/13 Budget

The Committee has been concentrating on the budget for 2012/13 and as part of its strategy to generate sufficient income to match our expenditure, was hoping to get some base funding out of the Moyne Shire Council and the Port Fairy Folk Festival over the next three years.

We are grateful for the support of the Folk Festival Committee who has pledged \$3,000 per annum for the next 3 years but unfortunately our other request was not supported by the Moyne Shire councillors. However, we have been advised to apply for funding under the Shire's **Community Assistance Fund** grant scheme and, although this is expected to be a year to year proposition, we remain positive that we may still be able to secure funding to alleviate the 2012/13 budget.

Notwithstanding the outcome of these funding requests, the budget presented to the general

meeting of members held in June has been revised to reduce spending. The most significant cut was on the equipment budget and it was recognised that any major equipment purchases will now have to be subject to special funding under grants. The good news for members is that the Committee is keen to keep member fees to \$20 next year.

## Toys, toys and more toys!

The success of the Shed's *'Kits for Kids'* program is certainly infectious and a small band of dedicated Shedders are busy making a new batch of kits in anticipation of the St. Pat's Fete and the Port Fairy Show later this year.

Don Stephens, Nick Abbott, Robbie Blackmore, Roger Swifte and a few other members have been busy designing new toys and working to get a good batch of kits ready for these events.



## Call for volunteers

It is great to see the Shed being actively used throughout the winter months and a regular group of Shedders turn up on Mondays through to Wednesdays each week.

However, the regular activity means that the Shed and meeting room is usually in need of a weekly housekeeping. The Committee recently supported a proposal to schedule a regular clean-up of the meeting room / toilet area each Thursday prior to the area being used by the Craft Group later that afternoon. The Committee felt this is the least we could do to ensure that the room is presentable for use by the Craft Group.

It is therefore hoped that a roster can be established such that a minimum of six to eight regulars can be rostered on to do the cleaning each Thursday morning. If two people are rostered on each week then the chore should not be more than a 30 minute commitment once per month.

If you are willing to go onto the cleaning roster then please contact Harry Bracegirdle on 5568-2601 or email to [harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com](mailto:harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com)

