

# Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

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

Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

## President's Report



Already a year has almost past and we need to begin our planning for the **Annual General Meeting**. I would encourage all Members to take an active interest in the AGM and the purpose of an AGM. This is a time when your Committee of Management will report on the activities for the year; the financial soundness of the organisation and most importantly, give you an opportunity to influence the future development of the Port Fairy Men's Shed.

You can influence the future by giving careful consideration to those people who you believe should be nominated to hold positions on the Committee of Management. I would urge you to discuss your thoughts with the current members of the Committee – test them to see if they wish to continue on and if not consider who you might nominate.

The Secretary will very shortly be circulating a Notice of Meeting for the AGM which will have attached a Nomination Form for Committee positions. I would encourage you to consider this seriously and put the date in your diary so that you might take part.

**The date for the Port Fairy Men's Shed Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October starting at 6.00pm in the PFMS Meeting Room.**

This year's AGM will again be in the Shed meeting Room with a light BBQ to follow.

### Anyone for scones?

One thought that came to me while having "smoko" in the Shed the other day was a possible challenge to Don Stephens in his assumed title as the "**best male scone maker**" in Port Fairy! Sitting at "smoko", Don announced that he thought the Port Fairy Annual Show might be considering a special section dealing with *Scones Made by Men*.

### A Challenge has been made!

I am not sure, but I felt I detected a challenge in Don's voice as he handed around scones from his latest batch. How about we have a "**Scone Challenge**" at this year's AGM? If you are interested in taking up this challenge, please let me know. I am searching for my grandmother's favourite scone recipe and I am sure I might give Don a run for his money.

## Shed Orientation Days

The scheduled **Orientation Days** in the Shed have continued and this month we have had **Joe Harris** run two sessions on **welding**. A good number got involved and touched on a number of methods of welding. These sessions have also proved to be of interest to non-members who have come along to watch and learn a bit and as a consequence have joined the Shed. I would like to thank Joe for his support and input to the Shed. **Power Saws** will be the focus of the next session with **Jack Smits** running through the use and safety of the saws we have in the Shed.

## Disability Access

The Port Fairy Men's Shed has been successful in gaining some funding for the development of **Policies and Programs** in the area of **Disability Access**.

Currently designs are being developed for card tables and work benches that will be "wheel-chair" friendly. Also planned is a workshop with the Moyneyana and *Fri-Boys* and their coordinators to discuss what types of activities would interest these men. Keep a watch for the workshops and their outcomes. Also, if you wish to be involved in a team building the tables and benches, please get in touch with either Don or Keith.

Ralph Leutton

## Membership fees

Membership fees are technically payable at the start of the new financial year which, according to our Rules of Incorporation, is 1<sup>st</sup> July. However, the proposal on what fee to charge has to be ratified at the AGM in October when the budget for 2012/13 is presented.

The budget that has been prepared by the Committee of Management has a recommendation that fees remain the same at \$20 per annum. So, if you are attending the AGM then please bring along a few dollars to pay your fees on the night. I am sure this will help our current Treasurer Peter Down.

You are reminded that only financial members are eligible to vote at the AGM and this means members who have paid their 2011/12 dues.

## PFMS website

<http://www.portfairymensshed.org.au> is the URL for our website so if you don't regularly visit the site then it is worth checking once per week to catch up with the latest News.



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club



## New members

2012 has been a good year for recruiting members and we now have 128 active members.

New members that have joined this year, including those from the Art Group, are

*Robert Johnson, Robert Gatt, Norma Hamilton,*

*Matt Hayes, Dean Canham, Darryl Edwards,*

*Jill Edwards, Meg Finnegan, Barry Kaine, Andrew Pink*

*Des Bunyon, Helen Bunyon, Ben Fennessy,*

*Ian Tebbutt, Geoffrey Barker and Ern Bishop*

**A warm welcome to our newest members!**

## Recent projects

Our project work is expanding and we have no shortage of work.

We have recently received a request from the **Port Fairy Traders Association** who is working with the **Moyné Shire Council** on the beautification of the Port Fairy streetscape. They have commissioned the construction of up to 20 planter boxes for location in Sackville and Bank Streets. A prototype is already sitting outside of the Port Fairy Newsagents.

Here is a montage of some of the recent projects undertaken in the Shed which includes some new designs for the *Kits for Kids program* as well as some projects for Moynéyana Hostel (not the bassinett!)



## Visit by Australian Hearing

Anna Fitzgerald from **Australian Hearing** visited the Shed on 14<sup>th</sup> August and gave a very interesting presentation to about 12 Shed members and guests.

Apart from the good advice she gave, and a demonstration of a number of aids to assist hearing (*not just in the ear type hearing aids*), Anna conducted hearing screening tests on about 10 members.

Prior to the presentation, Anna also did a quick check of the noise level of some of our power machinery. Not surprisingly, most were over the limit of 85dB where ear protection should be always worn. The potential damage to hearing, resulting in hearing loss in later years, is dependent on both the level of noise and the time of exposure to the noise.

For instance, at one extreme, for exposure to a pneumatic hammer, at 110dB, the time is limited to 1 minute before damage can occur. For a chain saw at 100dB the time limit is 15 minutes and an angle grinder at 97 dB the time is 30 minutes.

**The solution of course is to wear hearing protection!** Consequently, the Committee is working to ensure signage and ear muffs are mounted next to all of our noisy machines.

The machines tested and their readings were:

GMC Saw .....	92 dB
Makita band saw .....	91 dB
Large bench saw .....	89 dB
Vertical drilling machine.....	71 dB
Thicknesser.....	93 dB
Large band saw.....	90 dB
Dust extractor.....	74 dB
Hafco bench saw .....	84 dB
Hitachi cross-cut saw.....	92 dB
Portable, circular hand saw.....	87 dB

These readings were taken with just the machine running and not doing any work like cutting which would only increase the sound level.

## Shirts & Caps



President, Ralph Leutton, recently took delivery of polo shirts and caps that were branded as **Port Fairy Men's Shed**. The shirts also carry recognition of our sponsor, **Brookes Timber & Hardware**, on the back.

If you haven't yet caught up with Ralph for a cap or want to order a shirt then please see Ralph or phone him on 5568 1747.

The caps are free but the shirts are \$20 which also covers the cost of embroidering your name onto the shirt front.

