

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

New Committee elected

At the Annual General Meeting of the Port Fairy Men's Shed held on 24th October, most of the current committee members were re-elected with some minor reshuffles.

President, **Ralph Leutton**, was elected unopposed to serve a second term. **Don Stephens**, the former Vice-President (Projects) stood down from this role to take on the position of Social & Welfare Officer.



Geoff Barker (pictured) stepped up to take on the all-important job of **VP (Projects)**. Geoff is a relatively new member but has already proven to be an enthusiastic and capable addition to the Shed so we owe it to Geoff to give him every support in this role.

After serving four years on the original Steering Committee and then the Committee of Management, **Mick Wentworth**, (right) did not seek re-election. Mick's contribution through the formative years of the Shed has been commendable. So, many thanks Mick for all your great work!



We still look forward to seeing Mick around the Shed from time-to-time.

The committee members elected were:

President **Ralph Leutton**
Vice-President (Projects)..... **Geoff Barker**
Vice-President (Property)..... **Jack Smits**
Secretary **Harry Bracegirdle**
Treasurer **Peter Down**
Social & Welfare Officer **Don Stephens**
Operations Officer..... **Dennis Lemke**
Committee members **Leo Dalton,**
Keith Bunge

Membership fees due

If you are yet to pay your 2012/13 dues (\$20) please forward your cheque or money to Treasurer, **Peter Down**.

2012 Christmas Party

The annual Xmas Party will be held at the Shed on **Friday 14th December starting at 6.30pm**. Sherries and nibbles will be served prior from 6pm.

All Shed members, including our affiliated Craft and Art groups, are encouraged to attend as well as partners and friends.

The menu will include a three-meat roast with traditional vegetables followed by plum pudding with custard and cream or fruit salad as dessert.

Cost will be \$15 per person (BYO drinks).

To assist with catering, members are urged to **RSVP** by 10th December to Harry Bracegirdle on 5568-2601 or email to harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com.

A registration list will also be posted in the Shed where you can record your intention to attend.

The evening will include raffles and the awarding of the "**Shedder of the Year**" award by the President.

Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for our President, **Ralph Leutton**, who was recently elected to the Moyne Shire Council.

Ralph (pictured below) is an extremely active member of the Port Fairy community. Apart from his presidency of the Men's Shed he also serves, among



other commitments, on the Moyne Health Services Board and the Port Fairy & District Community Bank Board. He still works as a business facilitator and political lobbyist – activities requiring a good deal of travel so his time has to be well managed.

Undoubtedly, his election as a councillor will add to his busy workload so it is pleasing that he still commits his time to the Men's Shed.

Those that have worked with Ralph in the Shed for the past three years know that he is always fair-minded, objective and supportive - all qualities that should help him serve the Moyne Shire community well for the next 4 years.



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club

Fire awareness training session

A "Fire Awareness" session in the Shed was organised on 20th November with the assistance of the CFA and the Port Fairy Rural Fire Brigade. The training session, attended by 12 Shed members, was followed by a sausage sizzle.

Local Fire Captain, **Garth Palmer**, a long-standing member of the Port Fairy Men's Shed, helped organise the session with the assistance of the **CFA Training Officer** from Warrnambool, **Julie Owens**. Julie was assisted by bushfire expert **Phil O'Keefe** who provided valuable hints about minimisation of risk to property during bush and grass fires. Julie provided hands-on practice using a "simulated" fire extinguisher. The extinguisher points a laser beam at a pretend fire displayed on a display panel and the operator has to direct the extinguisher to the base of the fire to mimic putting out the flames. This system is an effective training tool and obviously much cheaper than discharging real extinguishers in training sessions.

Phil O'Keefe also carried out a fire assessment of the Shed interior and surrounds and will send us his report later this month. Obviously, house-keeping improvements are required, particularly in the areas surrounding the Shed if we are to minimise the risk of ember attacks in the event of a grass fire in the region.

The Men's Shed is grateful for the free service provided by Garth and his team as well as the CFA.



Geoff Barker uses the simulated extinguisher on the "fire"

Kits for Kids

The **Kits for Kids** sessions are proving to be as popular as ever. On Port Fairy Show Day a dedicated group of Shedders kept the kids at the Show busy helping them to construct toy kits. The activity also helped the Shed's finances as we took over \$300 in donations.

Another **Kits for Kids** session is planned to be hosted in the Shed on **Wednesday 28th November** (10am to 12 noon) as part of a project to entertain visiting special-needs children from Portland. The visit is being organised by Garth Palmer who will also introduce the children to fishing under the guidance of the Angling Club as well as hosting a visit to the Fire Station. We will need around 5 helpers so, if you can help on the day, please contact **Geoff Barker** on 0438 225 338.



PFMS members pictured in front of a Port Fairy Fire truck.

Moyneyana Festival Float

A working bee is planned for **Monday 10th December** to help construct a float for entry into the New Year's Eve Moyneyana Festival Parade.

The float theme is yet to be finalised but we will require your help to get it ready on time. Please come along to the Shed from 10am to 2pm to lend assistance to the project.

Also, we will undoubtedly be looking for assistance on New Year's Eve to man (even woman) the float!

Planter boxes for Sackville Street

The Men's Shed is building two prototype planter boxes as part of the beautification project undertaken by the Port Fairy Traders Association in conjunction with the Streetscape Committee.

It is expected that around 30 planter boxes will eventually be commissioned to house plants and flowers. Material for the heavy-duty boxes is being provided by Brookes Timber & Hardware and the Men's Shed will be paid to construct the boxes.

When we get the order to build the rest of the boxes a working bee will be arranged. This will not only guarantee prompt delivery but, importantly, will ensure that the large boxes (approx. 1.5m long) don't take up valuable space in the Shed for too long.

