

Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc.

NEWSLETTER

PO Box 34 Port Fairy VIC 3284 President: Ralph Leutton 5568-1747
<http://www.portfairymensshed.org.au/>

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Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

President's Report

Well, the Port Fairy Men's Shed Committee of Management is back in the harness and at its first meeting has begun programming for the year ahead. As Social Director, **Don Stephens** is keen to encourage the return of the BBQ lunch, as well as working with the Moyneyana men and the "Fri-Boys" to see what programs and activities we might organise to encourage their use of the Shed. Don has suggested we hold a BBQ the first Monday of each month starting 4th March, so please put that in your diary!

You may be aware that we received support for developing our program for Disability Access and that is still on our agenda. **Geoff Barker and Keith Bunge**, with a few others, were very innovative in their design of card tables that would be suitable for wheel-chair access as well as a work bench that will allow those in wheel-chairs to "get their hands dirty at the bench".

There are plans afoot to welcome a group of aged care residents from the Penshurst region in early June. This will be an excellent opportunity to test these additional resources. I would also invite you all to come along and meet with the visitors and share a BBQ lunch. The tentative date is 3rd June. Please keep an eye out for more details.

I would also like to acknowledge the profile gained for the Shed through the work of Alan Nightingale and the team who worked on the **Steinweg Grand Piano**. In early January we celebrated the return of this 'grand old lady of music' to the stage when **Brendon Donahoo** and **Gavin Franklin** put her through her paces again. While not necessarily at concert pitch, the Steinweg will be a welcome addition to the Port Fairy music mix. It was good to see the Port Fairy Men's Shed team up on the stage beside the piano in front of an audience of about a hundred supporters.

The Port Fairy Traders Association has been very impressed with the planter boxes we have made for them and there is hope of constructing further boxes for both Sackville and Bank Streets.

Please read through this Newsletter and take note of the dates mentioned. It would be good to get a number to the working bee as there are numbers of jobs to be done around the Shed.

Thanks for your support,

Ralph Leutton

Shedder of the year for 2012

Alan Nightingale was awarded the 2012 "Shedder of the Year" award (President's Award) for his services to the Port Fairy Men's Shed in 2012. The award was made at the Men's Shed Xmas Party on 14th December.

In announcing the award, President, Ralph Leutton, advised that he would like to dedicate the award as the "Don Stephen's Award" in recognition of the Shed's founding President, Don Stephens.

Speaking about the 2012 recipient, Ralph highlighted the good work that Alan had done around the Shed in restoring equipment and particularly his work as part of the team that restored the Steinweg piano for the Reardon Theatre.

Alan has been a regular attendee at the Shed during the year and as always been willing to share his experience and pass on advice to all members on a range of projects.



President, Ralph Leutton (L) with Alan Nightingale

New home for Port Fairy CWA

The Port Fairy **Country Women's Association** (CWA) has opted to use the Port Fairy Men's Shed meeting room for its monthly meetings. Last year, the CWA were looking for an alternative meeting venue and it is pleasing that they will now use the Shed facilities.

The CWA meets in the evening on the second Tuesday of each month.

PFMS Secretary, Harry Bracegirdle, was pleased to negotiate the arrangement with the CWA as it helps promote the Shed as a valuable community facility.



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club



Shed Working Bee – 19th March

The Committee has recognised that there is much “house-keeping” work to be done around the exterior of the Shed in order to reduce weeds, minimise fire risk, lay pavers, protect against rust on the Shed skirt and generally tidy-up the surrounds.

Accordingly, a **Working Bee** has been scheduled for **Tuesday 19th March (9am to 12 noon)** to be followed by a **BBQ lunch**.

All Shed members are asked to contribute - even if you can only spend an hour or so.

The date has been set to avoid work during the Folk Festival construction phase so we are hopeful of a good turn up of members. Please bring along gardening gloves, spades, hoes rakes, wheelbarrow (if you can) - anything to help with general weed control.

Planter Box project

The Port Fairy Men's Shed has recently built three prototype planter boxes in a joint project with the Port Fairy Traders Association and the Port Fairy Streetscape Committee.



The materials for the planter boxes were provided by the PFTA and the Men's Shed did all the assembly and staining. Installation of the proto-type

planter boxes is part of the Port Fairy beautification project and the boxes will be installed during February.

When the final design is settled it is hoped that around 20 boxes will be made by the Men's Shed for installation in Bank and Sackville Streets.

Vale Jack Dyson

The Port Fairy Men's Shed sadly reports the passing of one of our valued members in **Jack Dyson** who passed away in early February. Jack was a real character who loved coming to the Shed and helping out from time-to-time.

Xmas Party 2012

The 2012 Xmas Party was held on 14th December at the Shed. The event, attended by over 50 members and friends, was a good night on which to end the year.

During the evening, President, **Ralph Leutton** and guest, **Bruce Dempsey**, entertained the group

musically after the serving of the main meal of traditional roast meat and vegetables.

The meal in 2012 was again organised by Vice-President, **Jack Smits** with grateful assistance from his son-in-law, Daniel Myers from **Wyton Event Catering** - and what a fabulous meal it was! The evening culminated in the announcement of the "**Shedder of the Year**" award to Alan Nightingale.

View pictures of the 2012 Party on the Shed website at <http://www.portfairymensshed.org.au/xmas-party-2012/>

Orientation Sessions for 2013

The Orientation sessions held in 2012 were popular and invaluable to Shed development. The Committee is therefore pleased to arrange for more sessions in 2013.

A series of sessions will be run on the first Wednesday of the month (10am to 12pm), commencing April.

The tentative schedule (and instructor) is as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Apr | Woodturning lathe | <i>Dennis Lemke</i> |
| May | Routing | <i>Alan Nightingale or Jack Smits</i> |
| Jun | Power saws | <i>Alan Nightingale or Jack Smits</i> |
| Jul | Welding | <i>Joe Harris</i> |
| Aug | no session | |
| Sept | no session | |
| Oct | Mill Drill & Metal lathe | <i>Dennis Lemke</i> |

Grants update

The Men's Shed was again successful in securing a grant from the **FRRR** "Small Grants for Small Rural Communities" program.

The FRRR, in conjunction with the **RE Ross Foundation** provided **\$1,271**, being 50% towards the cost of purchasing gazebos. The Shed will purchase two 3 x 3 metre gazebos, plus ancillary sides, gutters etc. for use at social functions and the activities we run on the Village Green, such as our popular *Kits for Kids* program.

Outstanding membership fees

Treasurer, Peter Down, reported that, as of 31st January, we still had some 43 members who have not paid their membership fees for 2012/13.

The Committee voted to send out reminder letters to unfinancial members but it was decided to first highlight the matter in this Newsletter to prompt members who have not paid the chance to do so before going to the trouble of sending out reminder notices. If you haven't paid for 2012/13 please send your annual membership subscription (\$20) to

Peter Down

Treasurer, Port Fairy Men's Shed

PO Box 34, Port Fairy VIC 3284

Cheques payable to – Port Fairy Men's Shed



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