

# 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 with sadness that I write this column for our Newsletter, as we still are feeling the passing of **Don Stephens**. Don was the driving force behind the establishment of the Port Fairy Men's Shed and served as the inaugural President. He was a constant visitor to the Shed and would be always concerned that not enough of our members were using the facility.



Don Stephens 8/8/1933 to 11/7/2013

Don passed away while still an officer bearer – holding the Social and Welfare Portfolio – and was active in ensuring that activities were being held that would allow men to come to the Shed, relax, enjoy themselves and just be “mates”. Don was continually looking to improve the capacity of our Shed and after stepping down from the role of President, he held the role of Secretary and then Vice-President (Projects) - an area close to his heart – before finally taking on the position of Social & Welfare Officer.

Don Stephens will not be forgotten as we have in place the annual **President's Don Stephens Memorial Shedder of the Year Award**. This is now a perpetual shield with a personal certificate that is presented to the President's selection of Shedder of the Year. Already Robbie Blackmore (2011) and Alan Nightingale (2012) have been recipients of the Award.

However, even though we mourn Don's passing, he would be first to remind us to get on with the business of the Shed and that is what we are doing as we plan for the up-coming **Annual General Meeting**. This is a time for all financial members to have their say on matters dealing with the Shed and to vote on the make-up of the Committee of Management.

All positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and if you feel inclined to put your hand up or you know someone who might want to serve on the Committee, then look for the appropriate Nomination Form and get the nomination to the Secretary.

I am aware that a number of the current Committee will be seeking re-nomination, but also that there are a couple of vacancies that will also need to be filled, so please do not be shy.

I would also warn that the Secretary and Treasurer have been working hard on the Membership List and if you have not responded to the recent letters sent to nonfinancial members then there is every chance your name will be removed from the list. I believe that the number is approaching twenty. That is those people who have not responded and are not financial.

If you feel that you are in that group and wish to maintain your membership then I would urge you to contact the Secretary as quickly as possible.

In reviewing the past year, the Financial Report that will be presented to the AGM will show that we have finished in the black despite not attracting some anticipated funding. This is a great outcome for a Shed that stands alone when it comes to supporting itself. Many of our colleagues in other sheds work under agreements with agencies that supply their shed, or materials, or cover costs, or even provide dedicated organisers. Port Fairy Men's Shed has set its own path and as such is in control of its own destiny.

I would like to congratulate the members of the Committee of Management for such a successful year and to those who have been strong supporters of the Shed, I look forward to your support in the future.



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club

## Recent Shed Projects

As it has unfortunately been some time since the last newsletter (*due to tardiness totally attributable to the Secretary / Editor!!*) it is timely to bring members up-to-date with some of the projects that have been taking place in the Shed.

Under the diligent guidance of current VP (Projects), **Geoff Barker**, the Shed has taken on quite a few challenging assignments over the past six months.



The on-going commitment that the PFMS has to the **Kits for Kids** program is one that is very popular in the community and the Shedders that volunteered their services during the Port Fairy Winter Weekends Festival in June were kept very busy from around 10am to 1pm in the activities tent on the Village Green on the Saturday. The kids really love these sessions and it is a credit to the PFMS that we continue this program during the major festivals. All up the Winter Weekends event raised over \$300 for the Shed.



Our major project works are very much centered on community support programs and the PFMS is proud to be involved in many of these worthwhile causes which have included, but not limited to:

- The construction of a timber template for the Friends of Griffith Island. The template enabled mosaic tiles to be laid to form a large compass star on the floor of the Griffith Island Rotunda.

- The construction and installation of a very large storage cupboard for the Anglican Church.
- The building of library stands for the Port Fairy Library.
- The manufacture of 8 planter boxes for the Port Fairy Traders Association now located in Sackville Street.
- Repair of 40 tables for the Folk Festival Committee.
- Construction of four notice boards for the Rotunda on Griffith Island.
- Welding of end frames for 10 new shelters at the Bowls Club.
- Restoration of the old Surf Club lifeboat (a heritage project that is yet to be started).

In regard to the last project, Geoff is looking for helpers to provide assistance in stripping down the outer hull and to re-varnish the hull. Members of the Surf Lifesaving Club will be assisting on the project.

## Bus trip to Woodworking Exhibition

Alan Nightingale is organising a day trip to a **woodworking exhibition** to be held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. We have booked the Moyne Health Community bus for this trip. However, as the bus only holds 8 persons plus a driver then places will be in demand, somewhat limited and organised on a first-in, first served basis. If you have an interest, then please call in at the Shed and put your name on the list.

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at the Shed starting at 6pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August. Following the meeting, a BBQ will be served. By now, all members should have received in the mail the notice of the AGM including an Agenda, Nomination form for Committee positions and a proxy form, if required. If you didn't get your notice then please contact the Secretary, Harry Bracegirdle, on 5568-2601 or email to [harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com](mailto:harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com)

All members are urged to attend the meeting to receive the annual report and help elect new office bearers for 2013/14.

## Membership fee for 2013/14

The Committee recently voted to keep our annual membership fees for 2013/14 the same as for this year at \$20. Fees are now due and a payment form was sent out with the AGM notice which covers the three methods of payment – EFT, cheque or cash.

## Food for thought?

- *What was the best thing before sliced bread?*
- *Is atheism a non-prophet organization?*
- *Why do they lock petrol station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will break in and clean them?*
- *Why is abbreviation such a long word?*

