

Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc.

NEWSLETTER

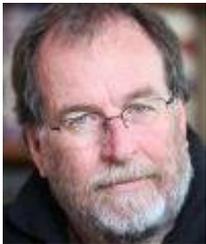
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Affiliated with the Australian Men's Shed Association

Report from the President



Well, what a year! – financial year that is.

The tragic death of **Roger Swift**, our Secretary (*pictured below*) has left quite an impact on the Shed. Roger's presence in the Shed, his friendship and involvement has

meant that he has been missed very much by those who worked side-by-side with him. His role as secretary had only just begun and now we must be very thankful to Harry Bracegirdle for stepping up to the mark so quickly to take on the role of Acting-Secretary.



Harry also carries a number of roles around town and has agreed to act as Secretary in the interim until the Committee can find someone to take Roger's place. This is not easy and so the Committee would welcome any volunteers or suggestions as to who might be called on to take over the role.

It has also been an interesting year financially as the Treasurer reported to our last Committee meeting. The report indicated that the end of year result will be a balanced budget and for that I would personally like to thank the Committee members and Shed participants for all the effort that has gone into the many projects we have accomplished as well as the thrifty manner in which the Shed has been operated and maintained.

I am sure that all involved and who visit the Shed would recognise the benefit that comes from a tidy and safe workplace. While we are not a commercial operation, the Shed is still a place that must be kept tidy and safe. Therefore, please be mindful to replace tools and equipment to their rightful place after you have finished working with them and to also tidy any mess that may be left over after your work is finished.

In keeping with the emphasis on safety, the Committee had a long discussion at its last meeting about the need for attention to safe working practices. In particular the focus will be on eye and ear safety.

From 1 July, all workers in the Shed must wear ear

protection and safety glasses. This will be difficult for some who have been so used to working without this protection, but the behaviour of being safe will have to be enforced for the sake of our insurance cover and as an example to others coming into the Shed.

If, for example, someone was to sustain an eye injury while working in the Shed, and they were not wearing eye protection, then they will not be covered under the Shed's insurance policy. So, if in the next while, you get a tap on the shoulder, it will be for your own welfare and safety.

Monday the 7th of July, from 12 noon, will see the return of the **hearing testing** by **Australian Hearing**, with the service being made free to all who attend the first Monday lunch. Testing takes about 20 minutes per person. Please mark the date in your calendar and come to the Shed for an enjoyable lunch. If you can't make the lunch but still want to be tested then turn up around 1pm to ensure you have your hearing tested.

It was also good to welcome Keith back from his cruise. Keith was pleasantly surprised by the new high standard of our regular first Monday lunch. While he was away, we enjoyed lamb kebabs on rosemary sticks from the BBQ in May while this month **Yuri Peri** treated us to an excellent "Digger's Curry" on rice. It will be hard for Keith to match these heights, but we can but wait and see.

Ralph

Kits for Kids program is flourishing

The on-going success of the *Kits for Kids* program was evident again when the Men's Shed assisted the **Port Fairy Winter Weekends Festival** at their activities day on the Green on 7th June. The work put in by the small group of *Shedders* who construct the kits were rewarded when dozens of enthusiastic kids assembled their kits in the PFMS gazebos on Saturday morning. A small group of volunteers again risked fingers and thumbs helping the children put their kits together.

Our Projects Director, **Geoff Barker**, is to be congratulated for coordinating the *Kits for Kids* program. Our next commitment on this program isn't until November, when we run a session at the Port Fairy Show, so at least we have lots of time to replenish the stocks. This doesn't mean that Geoff couldn't do with more assistance to make kits so if you can spare a few hours then turn up on Mondays or Wednesdays between 10am and 4pm to help out.



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club

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Victoria The Place To Be

Photos from Kits for Kids program



The PFMS Gazebos on the Village Green



Some of our toys for sale at Winter Weekends



Local member and Premier, Denis Napthine, (who is also a member of our Shed) appraises the toys on offer



Watch out for your fingers! Peter Down assists a young enthusiast assemble a racing car.

Monthly lunches in the Shed

Did you know that the Port Fairy Men's Shed holds a special luncheon at the Shed on the **first Monday** of every month? This is part of an initiative by our Social & Welfare Officer, **Keith Bunge**, to get more members to the Shed to share in the camaraderie and to also enjoy a variety of culinary delights! These are usually fun affairs with varying menus on offer each month - from pies and pasties to more exotic fare like that put on by Yuri Peri at our June luncheon, as highlighted in the President's column.

The monthly lunch starts at 12 noon and generally goes for about an hour. So, if you haven't attended so far, it is recommended that you give it a try. Members usually hear a few yarns, tell a few jokes and generally have a good time. The cost each month is \$5.

Project Director's report

Our Project Director, **Geoff Barker**, hasn't only been coordinating our Kits for Kids program but is currently overseeing a number of community projects including:



- Assistance to the Moyne Shire Community Centre kindergarten to construct toy kits in their premises.
- Refurbishing old bench seats - soon to be removed from Sackville Street as part of the Streetscape Committee's enhancement project. The seats will be replaced by new seats and the PFMS will refurbish the original bench seats which will then be relocated around town.
- Making special chair lifters for Moyneyana House to help the elderly residents who lack mobility.
- Manufacturing and installing display boards for the Griffith Island Rotunda. This work was done for the Friends of Griffith Island.
- Building notice boards for the Port Fairy Golf Club.

Geoff is grateful for the small group of regulars that turn up each week and help with these projects.

Project statistics

Garry Finnigan is doing a fantastic job of entering information into a purpose-built database (designed by Harry Bracegirdle) that keeps track of time spent on various projects undertaken in the Shed - and by which member. Garry has entered over 1,200 records (going back to Feb 2012) that is then summarised to show where our time is spent. This data is valuable for future grant applications as it shows where our efforts are going.

In total, the work to date amounts to over **4,100 hours!** To highlight a few, since 2102, we have spent 907 hours on Kits for Kids, 265 hours on Folk Festival projects, 237 hours on Bowling Club shelters, 160 hours on Xmas trees and reindeers and 105 hours on street planter boxes.

