

Port Fairy Men's Shed Inc.

NEWSLETTER

December 2014



PO Box 34 Port Fairy VIC 3284

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Affiliated with the Australian

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

Men's Shed Association

President's Report



Christmas 2014

Well already it is Christmas. May I, on behalf of the Committee of Management, wish you all Seasons Greetings and all the best for the New Year. The year has had, as with all years, its ups and downs, but I believe that our Shed has come through this year

more improved and much stronger than before.

At the AGM, the Treasurer was able to report that we were in the black, not by very much mind you, but we were still in the black. At our most recent CoM Meeting the reports indicated that the Shed was in a much stronger position due to a couple of successful grant applications and the income from the Moyne Shire park bench restoration project. This project, so capably handled by Geoff Barker, has been a boon to the financial strength the Shed is experiencing.

The Port Fairy Men's Shed Christmas Dinner is to be held this Friday, the 19th of December. We will also be having the dinner in a different venue this year due to the ever decreasing area available in the Shed itself.

The 2014 Christmas Dinner is to be held in the Lodge at Southcombe Park.

A feature again of the Christmas Dinner will be the awarding of the **2014 Don Stephens "Shedder of the Year" President's Award** as well as a few "other" awards to notable or notorious persons!

Shed safety was a point of discussion at the recent CoM Meeting and the Committee is keen to stress that any member using the larger tools in the Shed must be accompanied by another person. The policy is that at all occasions while working in the Shed there must be a minimum of two people present.

Also discussed was the security of the Shed and consideration is being given to changing the locks on the doors and issuing a new PIN to members. This is because the current Security Code is most likely known by more than just Shed members and therefore there can be no good control on who has access to the Shed. This will also work in a way to minimise any theft from the Shed. While this is a sensitive issue there have been cases recently where materials and some smaller pieces of equipment have gone missing. These even included components of a

project that a member was working on. This is not the ethic that we need to have in the Shed, but we would rather foster a level of trust so that all can enjoy the asset that we call the Port Fairy Men's Shed.

While on sensitive issues, one other item to note is that if members are using equipment and that equipment is damaged due to some negligent act – like hitting a nail with a router bit – then the member will need to replace the damaged item. If the breakage is from normal wear-n-tear then that is for the consideration of the Repair and Maintenance budget for the Shed.



So with a few sobering comments, but really a positive greeting to wish you well for the Festive Season and, if you are not able to be at the Xmas Dinner, then please support the Float that the Shed is entering in the New Year's Eve Parade. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ralph Leutton

Veteran's Affairs grant

The Port Fairy Men's Shed was successful in its grant application to the Department of Veteran's Affairs who generously provided \$6,649 towards the purchase of a **MetalCraft system** that will allow members to work on metal fabrication projects without the need for welding. The funds also covered the purchase of a new BBQ. The MetalCraft system has been ordered and will arrive soon. It covers installation and training so watch out for announcements when the training session will be held.

Folk Festival grant

The Shed was also successful in its grant application to the Port Fairy Folk Festival Committee securing funds to purchase a **defibrillator** for the Shed. Hopefully, this will be one piece of equipment that we may never have to use but is nevertheless great insurance against any possible heart incidents in the future. The Folk Festival also provided the Rotary Club with funding support for two more defibrillators to be placed at central locations around town so we thank the Folk Festival Committee for their on-going funding of Port Fairy and its community groups. The fantastic support that they provide for Port Fairy and surrounds is always appreciated and we acknowledge this support.



We Serve

Auspiced by the Port Fairy-Belfast Lions Club



Safety in the Shed

As alluded to in President Ralph's report, the Committee is ever conscious of safety in the Shed and has endeavoured to promote eye and ear protection for the benefit of members.

When working on machinery all members must wear eye and/or ear protection as appropriate. It is good to see that Shed regular, Alan Nightingale is setting a good example in this photo.



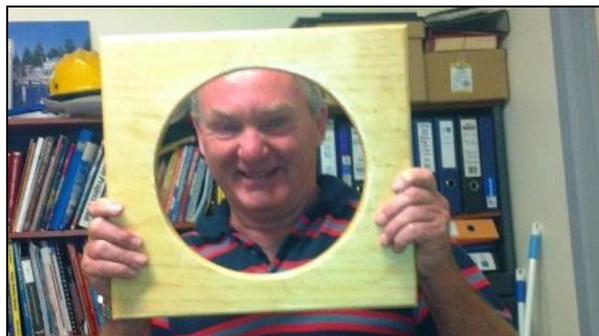
Recent projects

Much of the emphasis in the Shed of late has been on the seat refurbishment project whereby the Moyne Shire Council has engaged the Men's Shed to refurbish seats taken from Sackville Street as part of the Streetscape project. The refurbished seats, to be relocated at various points around town, have been a great money earner for the Shed. We have also carried out work on refurbishing bench seats in Russell Clarke Reserve as an extension of the project. This work has been led by Geoff Barker ably assisted by a few of the Shed regulars – so a great thank-you to all those involved.



The Shed receives a variety of requests for community-based projects and recently replaced the carrying trays for the Meals on Wheels program for Moyne Health. We have also built access ramps for a number of clients and perhaps one of the more unusual projects – a commode seat for Moyne Health.

Geoff Barker, pictured below, also thought the commode seat would make a good photo frame!



Craft Group

The **Craft Group** continue to be an integral part of the Port Fairy Men's Shed and the ladies involved in this group, who use the meeting room for their weekly session each Thursday afternoon, have remained active throughout the year.

It is encouraging that they have been the driving force behind the Men's Shed entering a float in this year's Moyneyana Festival Parade on New Year's Eve. The theme, called *Santa's Workshop*, was suggested by **Thelma Swifte**, so look out for the float in the parade and give Santa and his toy-making helpers a big cheer!

Membership

The membership numbers for the Shed remains at a healthy level despite the Committee's decision to purge all non-financial members at the end of the 2013/14 financial year. Our membership so far for 2014/15 is 94 of which 62 have paid their \$25 membership dues for the year. The \$25 just covers our insurance levy of ~\$24 per member that we pay to the Australian Men's Shed Association to cover public liability, buildings & contents and personal accident insurance premiums. If you are unsure as to whether you have paid for 2014/15 then contact Treasurer, Harry Bracegirdle, on 5568-2601 or harry.bracegirdle@bigpond.com

Secretary for 2014/15

At the AGM held 9th October there was few changes to the Committee, however, we did lose the services of **Jack Smits** who wants to work on other priorities over the next 12 months but we hope to soon have Jack back on board! [Download Annual Report.](#)

In the absence of any nomination for the role of Secretary, the Treasurer, Harry Bracegirdle, also continued in the role of Acting Secretary – a role he assumed following the unfortunate passing of Roger Swifte in April 2014.

Anyone who feels they can help out the Men's Shed by taking on the role of Secretary should contact Ralph Leutton on 0418 731 129. Every assistance and training will be provided to a willing person!

