



15 October 2013

To: Registrar of Charities

Re: MENZSHED New Zealand – Application for Registration as a Charitable Entity

MENZSHED New Zealand was formally established at a meeting, held in Nelson on 17 February 2013, of persons representing the various Men's Sheds from around New Zealand.

The intention was to form a National Representative Organisation for the growing number of Men's Sheds. MENZSHED New Zealand was registered as an Incorporated Society on 3 September 2013 – Registration Number 2587223.

The establishment of a Men's Shed is being recognised as fulfilling a much need gap in promoting the health and well being of men in the community.

A Men's Shed brings men together in one community space to enable them to share their skills, have a laugh and some companionship of other like minded men, work on some practical tasks individually or work together on a project that will benefit the community.

The sort of projects that a Shed tackles is entirely up to members in the Shed, but most Sheds around New Zealand take on numerous community projects, such as building playgrounds and equipment for kindergartens and pre-school centres, repairing toy library stock, repairing old bicycles for the poorer communities, building planter boxes and gardens for the community and the disabled houses, and many other items for the benefit of the greater community.

A Men's Shed is a great place for men to learn new skills or pass on their skills to others, and this can also include mentoring of our younger population in obtaining some practical skills and self worth. Some Sheds also include special "ladies" sessions for women to learn or practise their workshop skills, or provide special sessions for disabled persons.

Retirement can be a significant stress factor for some couples and so the Men's Shed can be a great place to escape the stresses of "underfoot syndrome", and the result is that many women are ardent supporters of a Men's Shed.

A Men's Shed is also an ideal place where health professionals can gain access to men who would otherwise disregard men's health matters. Health professionals are invited into the Shed to provide informational talks and basic health checks to men in their own environment.

There are currently 50 or more Men's Sheds in New Zealand and the number is continuing to grow.

MENZSHED New Zealand is the National Organisation which represents and supports Sheds nationwide.

The principle objectives for MENZSHED New Zealand are:

1. To provide support and resources for member sheds and for emerging groups aiming to establish a Shed;
2. To provide a central contact point for all member sheds;
3. To maintain a national register of Men's Sheds in New Zealand;
4. To provide benefits to member sheds such as discounted insurance schemes;
5. To assist member sheds to keep their members safe through quality health and safety information;
6. To develop strategic alliances with key organisations;
7. To support and encourage member sheds to be available to all men, regardless of ability, background, or culture;
8. To organise national conferences and to facilitate regional and local networking opportunities;
9. To provide guidance regarding shed responsibilities, structure and operations;
10. To provide information and guidance to enable member sheds to establish opportunities for effective and continuous learning where appropriate for skill transference and tangible outcomes.

In carrying out its activities, MENZSHED New Zealand is particularly beneficial to the community by providing support, resources and information to member sheds to enable them to develop their particular shed facilities to meet the particular needs of the men and others in their community.

The support, information and resources are also particularly beneficial to a community where a new group is interested in establishing a Shed to meet the needs of their menfolk who can then give back to their community by way of the projects and things that an established shed can undertake for their community.

The maintaining of a national register of Men's Sheds in New Zealand is also a particular benefit that MENZSHED New Zealand provides to the community.

MENZSHED New Zealand maintains a Web-site; menzshed.org.nz that contains the register for Men's Sheds. There are currently 50 Sheds listed on the Web-site – they are not all members of MENZSHED New Zealand but the National Executive Committee have decided that it provides a better service to the community if all known Sheds are listed. The availability of this Shed information on the MENZSHED New Zealand Web-site provides valuable networking opportunity for shed members to visit other Sheds whenever they may be travelling to other places.

However more importantly this information on the Web-site about the establishment and location of the various Men's Sheds around New Zealand enables the general public to find out where their closest Shed may be so that the men can join up, or another community group may be able to get some project assistance from a Shed in their area.

Over the past 4 months there have been more than 2000 visits to the MENZSHED New Zealand Web-site – 77% of those being new visits and there have been over 9000 page views. The Web-site also provides very useful background information on what a Men's Shed is all about. Members of the public can then be informed and determine whether a Men's Shed may be the thing (activity) to meet a need in their lives or the need of a family member.

The support that MENZSHED New Zealand can give to member sheds is also beneficial to the community by encouraging those Sheds to make their facilities available to all men regardless of their ability, background, or culture. This type of support will be reflected through the 2014 National Conference, to be held in Waikanae March 2014, for which the theme is “MenzSheds in the Community”. At this conference there will be presentations and sessions on how a Men’s Shed can work with and be beneficial to the community with particular emphasis on working with the likes of Colleges to provide young persons with some mentoring and practical workshop skills.

MENZSHED New Zealand was established for the mutual benefit, success and support of its member sheds. To recognise the unique individual nature and autonomy of each member shed whilst providing leadership based on collaboration and cooperation for member sheds.

The ultimate aim of MENZSHED New Zealand is to promote the development of Men’s Sheds through New Zealand. As has already been demonstrated in many local communities, the establishment of a Men’s Shed not only enhances the lives of many individual men, and their families, but it also provides an overall benefit to the community as a whole.

Peter Blackler
Treasurer
MENZSHED New Zealand