

Welcome to the latest round up of Shed related items from the Executive, and around the country.

From the National Chairman

The start of another year poses challenges as to how MENZSHED NZ can better serve member sheds and new shed initiatives. Your team <http://menzshed.org.nz/about-us/executive-overview/> always welcome your enquiries and suggestions, please help us to better help you.

We are constantly on the lookout for new membership benefits. In 2016, Cabot's made a great offer to member sheds of 10 litres of product. Resene also provided options for sheds to get discounted product for shed projects as well discounts for sheddies home projects. These examples from the benefits page <http://menzshed.org.nz/membership/benefits/> demonstrate the value that can be gained from membership of MENZSHED NZ.

The April 2016 conference is now just a distant memory but does stand out as an example of what can be achieved by a group of sheds working together on a project. The conference project was made easier by the financial support from Fair dinkum Sheds, CarbaTec and others, without whom the cost of the conference would have been considerably more than \$100. There is now the challenge to put on a conference in 2018 in the Auckland area if a suitable venue can be found and I am grateful to a group of sheds that have accepted the challenge.

A major role of MENZSHED NZ is providing assistance to new shed initiatives. Whilst some new sheds get operational with a lot of support from their local community and councils, others struggle to turn their vision onto a reality. MENZSHED NZ can help by providing information from our own experiences, participating in public meetings, raising awareness of men's sheds in government or facilitating the sharing of information from other sheds.

The development of new sheds is an activity that existing sheds should support as it is both rewarding and increases overall awareness of men's sheds in the area. However, it is important to remember that sheds and sheddies cherish their operational independence and that there is no one right way to develop or run a shed. Whilst individual sheds may choose to have men only membership, others may also have women members and sometimes use the term community sheds. Both examples may be members of MENZSHED NZ.

"Membership of MENZSHED NZ is open to any shed that is a legally established organization, either independent or under the umbrella of another legally established organization, whose primary purpose is to provide an environment for men for their personal growth, wellbeing and understanding of their roles in family and community."

In Canterbury, the Men's shed hub meetings operate every 2nd month and are open to all sheds in the region. The meetings provide an opportunity to see what other sheds are doing and to share resources and equipment. At the local level, Aranui in Christchurch may have a shed project starting soon, there is another attempt at establishing the Bloke's Shed in Waimate but Greymouth have still to form a group intent on establishing a shed.

I will be discussing with Christchurch City Councillors, options for establishing sheds in; Waltham, Heathcote, Phillipstown and inner South East Christchurch areas and at a national level, be having a discussion on men's sheds with the Ministry of Social Development, Office for Seniors.

Send us some news for the next newsletter

Shed News Region 2

WHAKATANE Menz shed activities.

We have been busy with three projects as well as other community activities. Late last year we started making coffins... and have had some sales. Hopefully it will take off and prove to be a goer... We have had some support from the local undertaker. A coffin club has been discussed in this area. but has not got off the ground yet.....

We are working with a local Rotary club in building stoat traps... These have been going well. Rotary are supplying the materials. We are providing flat packs as well as some construction of traps. We have had two BBQ's giving us the opportunity to get to know each other... a great community project.

Before Christmas we started working towards the annual Trolley Derby. This was run last year by Blue light, local Rotary club and Menzshed... Last year was the first and proved to be very successful. Our part in this is building some trolleys with the kids... done in our shed, a barbecue and drinks on the day and a raffle... this day is a lot of fun for young and old...

If you are visiting our area don't hesitate to get in touch, we meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays...

John King, President.



Shed News Region 3

MENZSHED FEATHERSTON

The formal opening of the shed took place on 5th November 2016, where the formalities were



performed by deputy Mayor Brian Jephson and former Mayor Adrienne Staples. The ceremony was followed by refreshments and a tour of the shed for the crowd of towns people that turned up for the occasion.

The shed will take part in the town's Christmas Parade again this year, with our 'Mini Shed' float being towed behind Colin's Ferguson tractor. The Christmas Market is on the same day, during which the shed will be open and selling assorted hand made products –bird feeders, book holders and wooden trays –by way of raising funds for the shed.



Richard has now completed the bench for Kahutara School and marked the occasion by giving it a test ride. It has been passed as fit for duty and will likely serve for a good number of years.

Web site

<https://www.facebook.com/FeatherstonMenzShedInc>

Email featherstonmenzshed@hotmail.com

Opening times: Tuesday 10am –4pm, Thursday 6:30pm –8:30pm Sunday 1pm –4pm

MENZSHED K • A • P • I • T • I

The latest news flash from our Kaka nests is that as at the end of November 1 nest has had chicks that have already fledged, 1 has a bird in residence and 1 has a very unusual 6 eggs in the nest. Previously we had been informed that 3 eggs was the usual number of eggs and occasionally 4, but this has 6. It will be interesting to see how it works out because there just isn't enough room for 6 chicks as they mature ready to leave the nest.



This photograph was possible because our bayonet insert design allowed the DOC team to drop the nest down for examining the nest, take a photograph and return it back into position simply. Brilliant!

Preparing Santa's Cart – Frank, Ron, Peter D and John P really felt the pressure over the last few weeks as they gave Santa's cart its annual tidy up for the Christmas parades. Their efforts were much appreciated and they presented a colourful cart which met our high standard for projects. And Terry created a superb Snoopy and his Sopwith Camel. It is taking pride of place on the top of Santa's tow-wagon/electric reindeer.



Greytown - Packed to the Rafters

If you were at the National Conference a couple of years ago in Masterton, you'll remember coming to Greytown on the day we opened the shed. We've come a long way, having just issued tenders for the construction of our fourth building to make space for over fifty members and heaps of projects, we've proven that the more you embrace your community and connect with it's culture, the more your shed will thrive. Members range from a 12 to 92 years. Apart from members own projects, 18 or 20 women and men around the smoko table on shed days, three woodturning courses on the go and waiting lists for various activities, we've always got six or seven community projects on the go - here's a couple of current ones that are a bit of fun:

Scouts get an edge: Scout Leader Brendon McMahon had the idea of Scouts making their own knives. So one Saturday morning early 2016 saw him sitting down with the crew of the Greytown MenZ Shed to present the idea and it became a great as an opportunity for Scouts to interact with members of other community organizations. Dennis the blacksmith and Paul who also has extensive metalwork experience volunteered to lead the project and Cobblestones Museum loaned the use of their historic forge.



Paul says: "It was an ambitious and successful project for each scout to make their own knife. The scouts learned how to beat metal blanks at the Cobblestones forge into the shape of a knife and then how to grind them to the final profile and edge. The Scoutmasters provided deer antler for the knife handles. This project which spanned a



number of weeks gave the scouts insight into metal working methods, practical, hands-on skills, and a knife they can depend on."

Brendan says "I must say Dennis and Paul were fantastic making the whole exercise a success. Along the way the Scouts were exposed to new skills and experiences like working the historic working forge at Cobblestones. I'd like to thank Dennis , Paul and the Greytown MenZ Shed for their help , without them it still would be an idea in my head."

On the drawing board: scouts and sheddies making Black powder Cannons.

On the bench: the wifi hot spot at the local library is very popular, scatter cushions make it a cool place for youngsters to hang out but some folks need to sit to cope with the tweets of one or two prominent international



figures! So the shed was asked to come up with some designs for benches and cubes by the local Council. These have just been delivered, Abbey Road Fashion, and once we see how they are used, will know how many of each we need to make.

Helen of SWDC says: "Varnished ply fits with the architecture of the old hall, and people can configure them to suit – to sit on, put two together to make a desk – move them around the hall to make their own spot, and they will be easy enough to remove when the hall is in use at night. "

Because we're at the centre of a tourist town we get lots of folks walking up from all over the country, it's great to be able to tell them about shedding and that there's a shed near them they should get in touch with. Drop by or get in touch with us if we might be able to help you:

johnmboon@gmail.com



National news

A number of Sheds and their members have participated in recent research studies involving Mens Sheds in New Zealand, two of those are available for reading on the National website, what blokes said and the conclusions are interesting and can be of value to others in putting together proposal documents to justify investment in emerging Mens Sheds. See the reports here -

<http://menzshed.org.nz/news/latest-news/>

- Thesis on (Re)constructing selves Emplaced socio-material practice at the Mens Shed North Shore by David Anstiss
- Masters thesis on Men's Sheds and intergenerational mentoring in New Zealand by Jenni Moore.

Does your shed need Industrial Gas for cutting and welding, see your nearest BOC rep or agent, Under the D plan 1 and dependant on the rate of consumption of say Oxygen and Acetylene, you may find this option over a 12 year period is comparable to other suppliers. You do the sums and see how it works out for your Shed.



D Plan 1

- 12 mth agreement via iPad, smart phone or webform
- Cylinders supplied from G&G and Distributors
- Suit customers with consistent holdings
- 1 x complementary fill per cylinder signed (Free of Charge Cylinder upon signing up to D Plan)
- 1 x free full cylinder for each cylinder signed (purchased within the 12 months of the agreement)
- D Plan is Invoiced as annual service charge
- Additional Cylinders (once free fill has been used, at discounted price)

	D Plan (12 Months)	Additional Refill
D Oxygen	\$127	\$ 79
D Acetylene	\$187	\$137
D Argoshield universal	\$203	\$149
D Argon	\$219	\$149
D Nitrogen	\$127	\$ 79

Prices Include GST

**COMPLIMENTARY FIRST FILL
1 x INCLUDED FILL PER YEAR**

Shed News Region 4

Send us some news for the next newsletter

Shed News Region 5

Alexandra. We have started for the year and we have quite a bit of work on to go on with. Tender documents went out to builders this week for prices to build us a new shed so we will wait and see how we get on

Invercargill. The local Rotary Club that are interested in sponsoring a new shed in Invercargill have found a fairly large building in a central location for sale at a reasonable price. They are going to inquire from the Wood Turners Guild whether they may be interested in going in with them to share the premises. After nothing has been happening for quiet a while down there is now quite a bit of hope

South Dunedin The Kings Shed is going along very well and for such a small shed with a limited membership it is a real credit to the men that they always seem to be busy.

Taieri Blokes Shed. At the present time the Taieri shed have closed membership as they work out how they deal with space constraints in their shed. They have 50 regular members at the present time and in the last couple of weeks have about 6 on a waiting list

Oamaru, Things are going along quietly in Oamaru. They have 5 members at this stage and operate out of the local Resource Centre which is not really suitable but they have been talking to the local Council about another site. If this is successful they will then advertise for new members

North East Valley The members of this shed deserve a medal for the work they have done in getting their building to the state that it is now. At the present time all they have to do to get it closed in is put a roller door in the back wall and it will be totally enclosed and they can start on the interior. Next month they are going to hold a recruitment drive to try and get new recruits.

Shed News Region 6

Chris Davies managed to look into the Renwick National Scout Jamboree, it was spectacular to say the least. Renwick Mens shed was in the thick of it, thanks to their preparation of 500 plus predator boxes that the scouts put together in a small marquee on their site.

The 6 catapults that Picton Mens Shed supplied were being used to great delight as were the climbing wall steps we made. Overall the Marlborough region did very well out of this event thanks to it being spread around various Sheds.

Discussions are underway with FIREWATCH in response to your feedback in the Benefits and Services survey from 2016. We are hopeful of receiving support for Member Sheds when purchasing fire fighting equipment and for those Sheds required to have annual Certificates of Code Compliance for their building.

Keep a watch for further updates on this item.

Charities Services

Sheds that have charitable registration will be working with the new Performance Report requirements.

A few tips:

- Use the template developed by the External Reporting Board (XRB). If you file your accounts in an alternative format, you will be asked to resubmit.
- If you do not have Excel, try Google Sheets. Use the Import function to open the template.
- The template has many Income and Expense categories. You can delete any that are not applicable.
- Outcomes are optional for Tier 4. If you decide to include them, they are the things you are trying to achieve, rather than the activities that you have done. So they would be more akin to your overall objectives and answer the question “why did you do what you did during the year”. An example might be “To provide a place where our members can meet and connect” and the related output to that would be that the shed was open for 50 days during the year.

MENZSHED NZ website

Information about the status of your shed, and contact information relies on sheds notifying us of changes. Please check your shed listing now at menzshed.org.nz Find your shed under **North Island** or **South Island** along the top of the homepage.

Please send changes to our [Secretary](#)

Annual General Meeting

Monday 15 May at 7:30pm using an internet based service GoToWebinar.

More information [here](#).

Seeking a Regional Representative

Sheds in Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Gisborne and Bay of Plenty have not had a representative on the MENZSHED NZ executive committee since September.

The role of an RR can be an interesting one; building and maintaining contacts with existing sheds and identifying and helping new shed projects get started. This is mostly achieved through email, phone and video conferencing. Should however a request be received for a MENZSHED NZ presentation at say an initial public meeting for a new shed, some funding is available to cover expenses to attend. As one builds knowledge of sheds in the region, the RR can facilitate co-operation and communication between sheds in the region and represent regional shed needs to MENZSHED NZ.

We are very keen to fill the role, even though the AGM is just a few months away. If any shedder is interested in learning more about the role, please contact our [Secretary](#) for more information.

Outwork

Periodically sheds will be asked to undertake work for a home-owner or business which can offer sheddies a team project and generate funds for the shed.

MENZSHED NZ also receives requests from our website contact form and these are always passed on to the nearest shed or a regional representative to allocate. This is merely a referral, it is entirely up to the

shed to decide whether to support the request. Before committing to such work, sheds might consider....

- is the work subject to any form of building code (especially for access ramps etc)
- who will manage the project and do you have the resources to complete the work in a timely manner
- what health and safety [requirements](#) for sheddies might need to be considered.
- perhaps a home-owner qualifies for [funding](#)
- does the shed have liability insurance to cover something that goes wrong.

International News



Too good to be true, Sheds heading to the Great Rift Valley.

Men's Sheds in Kenya - George Kuria

When John Evoy made his journey 7 years ago to Australia to find out more about the relatively little known movement of shedders, little did he know that in years to come the ripple effect will spread across the continents.

A small town in the heart of the Great Rift Valley in Kenya has not been left out; it's the first place where the planting of seeds by the International Men's Sheds Organisation have firmly taken root.

Kenya is famous for its great world class runners and the famous wild beast migration at the Maasai Mara. The Shed is based in Naivasha in a community of farmers and small traders at Ihindu centre.

Naivaisha has been known for the great fresh water lake which is a great tourist attraction with places

like hells gate, Mt Longonot, Ol karia and top class tourist hotels among other places of interest. The weather is great all year around making it a top spot destination.

This 1st shed in Africa has been the initiative of George Kuria a Kenyan residing in Drogheda, Ireland who saw the success of the Sheds in Ireland and thought of introducing the concept in his country. George is currently pursuing MA International Development, Environment & Conflict at Dublin City University Ireland and has several years of running community development projects in his native country. He was able to bring together several men's groups in Kenya and hold workshops creating awareness about the sheds movement and its benefits to individuals and the community while relating to their situations. The men were very excited for this was very new to them and seemed to answer lots of questions that are relevant to their situations. The men have been feeling neglected and isolated for a long time and this has led to increase in substance abuse and high suicide levels. The Men's shed has landed in Kenya at a perfect time when local communities and the government have been trying to look for a solution to the national outcry of men wasting away with alcohol addiction and helplessness.

With the support of IMSO, George and Julian Carr have been able to set up a small committee to oversee the pilot sheds take off from which others can follow suit and learn from in terms of management and organisation. There has been great successes and testimonials from the 1st informal shed that has been in operation for since August 2016. The men testify to have finally gotten a safe and secure space of their own free of alcohol and other distractions where they can meet and network with each other freely. The community has felt the impact of the shed with the local chief being a shedder the men have been actively involved in a few community related activities like supporting families during bereavement, visiting and fundraising for a fellow shedder in hospital.

For more news of an International flavour visit - <http://menzshed.org.nz/news/newsletters/>