



Newsletter – June 2015

The Shed Ramble and AGM in Masterton in April is now for some a distant memory. A very enjoyable weekend.



Shed news

Carba-tec

As the result of a growing relationship with Carba-tec, men's sheds received an invitation to attend the Robert Sorby demonstrations in July.

<http://www.carbatec.co.nz/news?zenid=m06uiqd73nhaothhgknk9tdjh14>

Men's shed participants should contact the host organisation for the venue to secure a seat.

RSA Field of Remembrance White Crosses project

A number of sheds have participated in the RSA Field of Remembrance White Crosses project. Simon Neale, a photographer based in Otaki documented the Otaki shed project. See this short film. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iedwffXTHuQ&feature=youtu.be>

Rotorua wins the Trustpower Awards under Sports & Leisure section

"We have worked very hard over the past 15 months since we opened our Shed here at 16 Te Ngae Road. Rotorua and seemingly there were many other groups in the running, so it was even better to know we had achieved this award.

The fact that we run our Shed as a "Drop-In " centre as well as the Menz Shed makes us unique. One of our members cannot do very much but enjoys the companionship and his contribution is to water our little bit of garden during the dry periods. This all helps. Our membership is growing and there is a great atmosphere here." - Pat Hawke, Rotorua

Henley Menz Shed is the venue for the launch of Adult Learners' Week / He Tangata Mātauranga (ALW/HTM) September 7-13

ALW/HTM celebrates the participation and achievements of everyone involved in Adult and Community Education (ACE). It is also a chance to promote the benefits of learning and encourage people in the wider community to give learning a go.

Every year thousands of New Zealanders take part in events to celebrate learning during

ALW/HTM.

Men's sheds around the country have run events such as open days, morning teas with local MPs at the shed and displays and expos in town centres. This year the launch of ALW/HTM is being held at the Henley Menz Shed in Masterton.

If you would like to take part in the week there are lots of ideas for events and activities on the ALW/HTM website <http://www.aceaotearoa.org.nz/events/adult-learners-week> Free posters (including a Menz Shed poster) can be ordered by emailing maryg@paradise.net.nz or downloaded from the website from August.

Regional representatives for the top and lower North Island

Disappointingly, at the AGM we did not get any volunteers for the position of regional representatives for the top and lower North Island.

The regional representatives positions facilitate communications with sheds in the area and help new shed projects get started. If you are interested in getting involved with the other sheds in your area, please contact the chairman chairman@menzshed.org.nz.

Techsoup and Google Not For Profits (NFP)

<https://www.techsoup.net.nz/>

TechSoup New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation that works to help New Zealand charitable organisations to understand technology. They work with world leading IT suppliers to provide charitable organisations with donated and discounted computers and software.

MENZSHED NZ is a member of Techsoup and that has provided subsidised access to the GoToMeeting software we currently use for online meetings and the Windows8 operating system upgrades. Some sheds are also members.

Recently Google announced the availability of their Not for Profits programme in New Zealand, access to which is managed through Techsoup. <https://www.techsoup.net.nz/blog/google-nonprofits-programme-launches-new-zealand>

MENZSHED NZ has taken up the Google NFPs offer which provides free access to some Google commercial products including online storage, collaboration tools and emails. As a result we will shortly be changing all email addresses to the format chairman@menzshed.nz. That change will result in a reduction in overheads and implements a suggestion received during the AGM of using free alternatives for email. We will also be looking at replacing GoToMeeting with Google products, again a cost saving as suggested at the AGM.

MENZSHED NZ Blue Skies Conference 15 – 17 April 2016

<http://menzshed.org.nz/conference/>

The 2016 bi-annual conference is being held in the South Island at the [Scouts NZ Blue Skies Conference and Training Centre](#) at Kaiapoi, just north of Christchurch. A number of venues were considered but the opportunity to support Scouts NZ plus the availability of good conference facilities and accommodation simplified the final decision.



All sheds have been sent a [request](#) for an indication of attendance and sheds north and south have already indicated that they will attend. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

New sheds

New sheds or new shed projects continue to pop up around the country. Recent ones include; Upper Hutt, Heathcote, Katikati, Marton, Mount Maunganui, Whakatu, Timaru, Napier, Hei Hei, Riccarton, Kawerau, Kerikeri, Waiuku and check out this one in [Fairlie](#).

Other developing new shed initiatives include; Reefton, Greymouth, Westport, and in Christchurch; Dallington, Phillipstown, Addington and Waltham.

Members of the executive have been involved with visits to support the new initiatives in Upper Hutt, West Coast and Timaru.

Sheds continue to help each other and also provide assistance to new shed projects. This willingness to share experiences is a real help at the start of a new shed project. If you are in the area or belong to a shed nearby, why not contact them.



Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA)

<http://www.mensshed.org/home/.aspx>

The web site has a lot of useful information relating to sheds and they also run a bi-annual conference, the next is in Newcastle in October <http://www.dccconferences.com.au/mensshed2015/>. Still time to register if you are interested.

MENZSHED NZ received funding from the Lottery Ministers Discretionary Fund to attend and is also along with Kaiapoi going to use part of the Kaiapoi Jetstar grant for the airfares.

Membership benefits

The executive has endeavoured to achieve benefits for member sheds nationally and has been successful with the companies shown on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/membership/benefits/>. We have not been successful with the major DIY companies as most prefer to provide community support at the local level.

Rothbury's and FairDinkum have donated directly to MENZSHED NZ and that assists in keeping membership fees to a low level. FairDinkum and Carba-Tec have also indicated that they will support the 2016 conference. If you are looking for insurance, tools or new sheds it is worth checking with them.

An agreement with NZ Safety that will provide member shed discounts across all products is still being finalised.

The website is also a significant benefit to sheds in providing a unified point where the public can find out about men's sheds and the location of sheds in their area. Shed pages can however vary in content from the barest of details to interesting content. Check out the pig on <http://menzshed.org.nz/south-island/canterbury-a-to-m/halswell-mens-shed/>

If you haven't updated your shed page recently and would like to add content (overview of activities, pictures, website or Facebook link etc.), send the required content to webmaster@menzshed.org.nz.

MENZSHED NZ Executive priorities

Priorities in no particular order and progress to date are:

1. Template guide for sheds on how to approach local authorities.
Regional reps should be your first contact. Peter Blackler (Treasurer) is also available as a contact.
2. Guidelines for setting up a shed.
A start has been made on this with a website page and links to information from Community Law. <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/setting-up-shed/>

There is also available the Australian Men's Shed Association manual that contains a lot of relevant information on setting up a shed and also Safety. You can download a copy at [AMSA](http://www.amsa.org.au)

A good start in where to obtain funding in NZ can be found at [Fundview](#) . You can also access Fundview through some online library facilities.

3. Health and Safety

See the new documents on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/safety/>

4. Access to research, health and other benefits

There is some existing research on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/research/>

The executive supported Jenny Moore in her research initiative and selected sheds will have received shed and personal questionnaires. A report on this is due later this year.

The AMSA conference is also expected to contribute in this area.

5. Reduce overheads as a way of keeping membership costs down

As mentioned elsewhere, the move to Google Apps for free mail and replacement of the GoToMeeting product will reduce overheads.

6. Updating our database of sheds and contact information and enabling shared access amongst the MENZSHED NZ Executive. Our secretary will soon contact each shed separately for more information.

Member sheds vs non members

Member sheds are identified on the website as [MENZSHED NZ Status: Member](#) and non member sheds are shown as [MENZSHED NZ Status: Complimentary hosting](#).

To keep membership up to date, or to join, please ensure your shed's annual subscription of just \$25 has been forwarded to our Treasurer or banked to our account.

Accounts were sent to sheds during June, if you need a replacement account form, please contact treasurer@menzshed.org.nz

Communication is a 2 way process

MENZSHED NZ exists to promote the spread of men's sheds in NZ. The website provides a searchable facility where the public can look for sheds in their locality.

The shed pages on the website are for your shed content, please keep them up to date. You can send content changes to webmaster@menzshed.org.nz .

The executive would also welcome your feedback or questions.

Send them to secretary@menzshed.org.nz or use the Contact us form on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/contact-us/>

If you have some news or projects to share with other sheds, success stories or even failures that other sheds can learn from, let your regional representative, secretary or webmaster know. Text and pictures are always welcome.

Website statistics

The latest website statistics for page visits and location of visitor can be seen on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/website/>