

# Blue Skies Conference

## Kaiapoi 15 – 17 April 2016

### Diversity, Collaboration and Health



Less than 2 weeks to go to the conference and registration is now closed. There are 65 sheddies registered, 10 partners, 31 sheds and 19 sponsors/exhibitors/demonstrators/volunteers. A great effort by everyone to get to the conference.

#### Vehicle access to the Conference at Blue Skies, Kaiapoi is through Stone Street only

Vehicle access to the Youth Lodge (conference venue) is through the **Stone Street entrance**, not the main entrance on Williams Street.

Williams Street is the main road through Kaiapoi.

Turn off Williams Street into Courtenay Drive, then right into Stone Street, through the gate and sharp left into the grassed area.

Parking will be on the grassed area alongside the Youth Lodge.

Do not for any reason drive into the centre grassed area of the Youth Lodge, there are irrigation sprinklers there which you may damage.



#### Pedestrian access

The closest entrance to Blue Skies for pedestrians is Stone Street but pedestrians can also use the Williams Street entrance opposite the main building.

#### Conference registration

Check-in will be in the Scout Lodge, next to the Youth Lodge and car parking area from 11am to 1230pm Friday. Outside of that time, please contact one of the committee or volunteer helpers.

You will be given a name badge, meal tickets, some product give-aways, and a bag to carry them in. Please wear your name badge at all times during the conference activities and keep those meal tickets in a safe place.

There will be organisers on site from 9am should you arrive early.

**If you have any queries, please contact the conference organiser;**

**Ray Hall, ph. 03 3887 277, mob. 027 895 2488, email. [conference@menzshed.nz](mailto:conference@menzshed.nz)**

#### Blue Skies health and safety briefing

Please read before the conference the [Fire Evacuation Procedures](#) and [Natural Disaster Emergency Procedures](#) (Earthquake, Flood, Tsunami) on the Blue Skies website <http://www.blueskies.org.nz/business/health-a-safety.html>. There will be a safety briefing at the start of the conference.

## “Our shed in a shoebox” exhibition

The social get together on Friday will include the opening of the “Our shed in a shoebox” exhibition. This is not a competition but a way of sharing ideas and demonstrating what your shed can produce or the activities that your shed participates in.

The only criteria is that the exhibit or exhibits must fit into a shoebox for transportation to the event, a level playing field for all. At the event, it can be assembled if needed and opened up for display. Do not bank on having wall space for your exhibit, if it needs a stand, the box or contents thereof may be your best option.

Multiple shoeboxes from sheds are permitted.

There is no other criteria; gadgets, toys, tools, musical instruments, posters, models, games, art, wood, metal, stone, electronic etc.. are just some of the options.

We are not intending to award prizes as we anticipate a wide variety of exhibits but there will be some donated product to be drawn in a free raffle for each shed that participates.

## The theme for the conference is “Diversity, Collaboration and Health”.

- Diversity – recognising the variety of sheds, solutions employed and issues affecting operations
- Collaboration – working with the community, other charities and sheds
- Health – achieving improvements in men's health

## Timetable overview (see [Conference schedule](#) for more detail)

Friday 15 April	11am – 12:30pm	Registration and lunch
	12:30 pm - 5pm	Welcome followed by internal and external sessions
	5pm until late	Social get together, “Our shed in a shoebox” exhibition and Carbatec BBQ dinner
Saturday 16 April	9am – 5:30pm	Official opening and conference sessions
	6pm until late	Fair Dinkum Sheds Conference dinner at the Kaiapoi Golf Club
Sunday 17 April	9am – 12pm	Q&A session, AGM and conference conclusion.

## Accommodation and meals

The accommodation available onsite at Blue Skies is in the Youth Lodge and the Conference Centre (see maps <http://www.blueskies.org.nz/>). This has been booked as requested on your registration form.

There is still some space available if you haven't booked somewhere already but **NOTE** all bookings for accommodation, caravan or tent sites at Blue Skies must be done through the conference organiser. Blue Skies will not be accepting any bookings made direct for the conference weekend.

Tickets for meals and name badges will be issued at check-in. Wifi is available onsite.

## Partner programme

The partner programme will include a trip to the private Northbrook Colonial Museum, Rangiora <http://rossburnreceptions.co.nz/4Museum.html> on Friday afternoon and on Saturday a tour of Christchurch. The tour will include plenty of time to look around the CBD attractions as well as a tour of the suburbs. There will be no partner programme on the Sunday.

## Venue

MENZSHED NZ is supporting Scouts NZ through the use of the Youth Lodge at the Blue Skies Conference and Training Centre <http://www.blueskies.org.nz/>. Blue Skies is 17km from Christchurch International Airport and the heart of Christchurch, Cathedral Square.

Blue Line buses service Christchurch Central, Northlands Shopping Centre, Kaiapoi and Rangiora. The buses stop outside Blue Skies and run approximately every 30 minutes Friday and Saturday, hourly on Sunday. See timetable

<http://www.metroinfo.co.nz/timetables/Pages/Timetable.aspx?routeid=B>

## Supporters of the conference

[Fair Dinkum Sheds](#), [Carbatec](#), [Patience & Nicholson](#), [Rothbury](#), [Ryman Healthcare](#) and the [Cancer Society](#) are supporting the conference.

Donations or offers of support have also been received from; [Progressive Financial Planning](#), [New World Kaiapoi Supermarket](#), [3M](#), [Blackwoods Protector](#), [Mitre10](#), [Bunnings](#), [Christchurch City Council](#), [Placemakers Kaiapoi](#) and [GoBus](#).



The planning committee has worked hard to provide an informative and enjoyable weekend. We look forward to seeing you there and renewing friendships.

Ray Hall

Chairman, MENZSHED New Zealand

1 April 2016