



Newsletter – November 2015

Australian Men's Shed Conference – Newcastle October 2015

Three NZ sheds (Hamilton, Kaiapoi and New Brighton) and MENZSHED NZ were represented at the conference. You can download the report from Ray Hall [here](#).

Regional Representatives Changes

Unfortunately, Peter Lewis has resigned as the representative for region 2 and will concentrate on activities at his Rotorua shed. We thank him for his willingness to take up the role.

Jeff Wakelin of the Feilding Menzshed has been co-opted as the representative for region 3 (lower North Island).

Bunnings Power Pass and community support programs

In Christchurch, the Shirley Bunnings store had a dilemma. Too many community support requests and not enough staff to do them. They approached the local Canterbury men's shed hub and subsequently attended a hub meeting where they outlined a proposal. If Bunnings supplied all of the materials, would sheds be interested in doing the projects? Two sheds are taking part in a trial which when completed will be reviewed and a decision made on future projects.

At the same meeting Bunnings were asked how they in return would support the sheds taking part. Naturally we were looking for product discounts. Bunnings referred us to their Power Pass scheme which provides discounts for commercial customers.

The Bunnings [Power Pass scheme](#) is for commercial customers but sheds can also apply. The scheme is intended for purchases made on behalf of the organisation not individuals and sheds should respect that. When applying, if you are a company, use your IRD number if not registered for GST. If not a company, apply as a sole trader and supply your IRD number. Do not expect massive discounts, it will depend on the products being purchased and if promotional pricing applies.

Bunnings receive lots of requests to support community projects and those are assessed on a case by case basis, if you have a worthy project in mind, put in a request. Shirley Bunnings have stated they will support the coming conference with a product donation.

Blackwoods Protector

Financial members of MENZSHED NZ have access to the same product discounts that are offered to construction business customers. Sheds are enrolled as member subs are received. Your local Blackwoods store or the website <http://www.blackwoodsprotector.co.nz/> has a huge range of protective gear and tools.

Regional representatives and a communicator wanted

Seeking a creative publicity person

MENZSHED is looking for a volunteer, a person with publicity skills to join the executive. At this stage, assistance with preparing a quarterly newsletter to our sheds and members is required and attendance at the monthly executive internet video meetings. Familiarity with desktop publishing tools, image editing and content creation is required.

If you have experience in website maintenance and social media, that will also be helpful.

If you want to know more or are keen to assist, please contact [Roger](#) and [Ray](#).

Regional representatives for the top and middle North Island

We are still looking for a regional representative for the top of North Island (Pukekohe north) and middle of North Island (north of Napier and new Plymouth to south of Pukekohe).

The regional representatives positions facilitate communications with sheds in the area, primarily through email and help new shed projects get started. You will not be expected to be travelling around the area, however if an invitation is received for you to address a public meeting on behalf of MENZSHED NZ, then there is some reimbursement available for travel costs.

If you are interested in getting involved with the other sheds in your area, please contact the chairman chairman@menzshed.nz.

MENZSHED NZ Blue Skies Conference 15 – 17 April 2016

Registrations will commence for the conference on 15 January 2016. Information on registration will be sent out early December. See <http://menzshed.org.nz/conference-2016-2/> for the latest information.



Published articles about men's sheds

On the Super Seniors website of the Ministry of Social Development.

<http://superseniors.msd.govt.nz/age-friendly-communities/positive-ageing/mens-sheds.html>

A new online magazine [Mens Mag NZ](#) featured an article on men's sheds.

<http://www.mensmagnz.co.nz/menzshed-nz/>

See also Whangarei below.

Trademark - *MENZSHED*®

The ® symbol indicates registration of a trademark. MENZSHED New Zealand Inc. is now the registered owner of the word MENZSHED, whether in upper-case, lower-case or as a logo. The purpose behind seeking registration was to secure the “brand” for genuine shed use and avoid commercial exploitation.

We do not intend to use our ownership of the word to force sheds to become members of MENZSHED NZ or prevent use of the word in your shed name. But we would have to look at enforcement of our rights should a shed bring the movement into disrepute.

If you want to modify the logo for your own shed, the files can be found here

<http://menzshed.org.nz/library/foundation-documents/>



Registered charities – Keeping returns and fees up to date

If your shed is an Incorporated Society, a Charitable Trust or registered at Charities Services, there are obligations to advise changes of officers or rules and to file annual returns.

If you are claiming that you are a member of MENZSHED NZ, as part of a funding application, then you need to have paid your annual sub. Why are we raising this? At least one shed has been de-registered at Charities Services through failure to file their annual return. Two sheds, as part of their funding applications, were invited to supply a letter from our Secretary confirming current affiliation. That led to a scramble to cough up the \$25 membership fee ☺.

Storing shed documentation, correspondence and email.

Our shed database has records of 93 sheds or new shed projects but just 28 have a corporate type of email address (e.g. secretary@menzshed.nz; secretary.xyzshed@gmail.com). The remainder are clearly personal or family email accounts. We could infer that other important shed records are stored

on home computers.

How easy will it be to recover your email and records history if a computer dies, is hacked or stolen? If your chairman / treasurer / secretary is not around, how will you access those records? We recommend that sheds consider using a free corporate style email account. A very good option is Google which provides email (Gmail). You could have addresses for each officer like this; chairman.xxxshed@gmail.com , secretary.xxxshed@gmail.com , treasurer.xxxshed@gmail.com, coordinator.xxxshed@gmail.com

Each address can be shared with the others, so if one of the team is out of action, another person can access or reassign the account. Of the 28 sheds with corporate addresses, Google Gmail is by far the most popular.

Gmail also powers the MENZSHED NZ Executive email with our domain name...@menshed.nz replacing...@gmail.com. Google can also provide a shared drive (cloud storage) and popular applications Sheets and Docs (the equivalent to Excel and Word).

Shed news

Whangarei - is this the longest shed in NZ?

Whangarei Men's shed now has 61 members and gaining a new member every week. We are restoring the old railway station and can see a lot of growth in the coming years. New members come from mainly word of mouth. Some recent media articles:

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/spectrum/audio/201762785/carpentry-and-camaraderie> and <http://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/northland/whangarei-leader/68478961/grossroots-survey-has-sustainable-results>

Men's Shed Waimea

Coordinator Alan Kissell says they now have about 120 financial members. A new engineering shed has just opened on site and there are plans to upgrade the toilets and add a new wheelchair access ramp.

Members and community service workers have been busy making 8,000 predator traps for the Department of Conservation Motueka, Friends of the Cobb Valley and the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. Other community projects have included building shelving for the new IHC shop in Richmond, building wheelchair access ramps for hospice and assisting NMIT carpentry students with building planter boxes for Broadgreen Intermediate School.



Menzshed Whakatu

Chairman Graeme O'Brien advises the group has a shed out the back of Habitat for Humanity in Quarantine Road which the group will be getting it fit for purpose and secure over the next few weeks to have ready in time for next winter. The building has been donated for use for free but Habitat for Humanity only has the lease for the next five years. The shed has 15 signed up members and about 20 people attended their recent AGM. Menzshed Whakatu has plans to operate a "time bank" for members who would prefer to do work in lieu of paying a membership fee.

MENZSHED Tapawera

Our eleven members have diverse business and community roles too. Businesses include bee products, farming, fencing, IT support.

Tapawera Show day 31 Oct saw most of us pitching in there too. Shedders John is show treasurer, Maurice is an antique weapons maestro, Bruce an emergency services volunteer, while Peter, Dave and two Rogers managed the car parking.

Maurice with his antique weapons



Picton Men's Community Shed

As always, there's been lots of activity in the Picton Men's Community Shed. The garden operation continues to be a nice steady revenue earner, with plants, herbs and natives being propagated and grown by the boys in keen demand.

The 27 Montague Whaler, it's restoration a major focus of the Shed for a number of years, is now almost finished. We hope that by early new year, we'll have completed the re-build, when she'll be handed back to her owners, the Picton Seaport Trust.

Our participation in Adult Learners' Week attracted some good publicity during September. It provided a welcome opportunity providing to promote the Mens' Shed movement. This government funded initiative aims to encourage learning for life, and in the Picton area, Adult Learners' Week was co-ordinated by REAP Marlborough. We ran a shop-front display for a week, held an open day at the Shed, secured some pre event advertising, and at the conclusion, some newspaper coverage, all important avenues through which to promote our profile.

The regular monthly visits by a Blenheim rest home continue, where residents spend an afternoon working on a chosen project, then enjoy sharing an afternoon tea.

Sadly, the gloss of the last quarter dimmed a little through the passing away of two of our members. Given our relatively small membership base, such a loss was keenly felt. Unpredicted in the initial stages, this did provide an opportunity for our chaps to expand their skills and to turn their planning to something unforeseen.

One of our two late members, in the latter stages of his ill health, expressed a wish that his Shed mates build him a coffin. What eventuated was somewhat more than that. We built his coffin, we held his funeral service in our Men's Shed, Jim Davis, president of the Blenheim Shed came and officiated, and after the event we made an ashes container. We gifted the coffin, and ashes container, to his widow, and donated the use of our Shed without cost. It was a great way to farewell a respected and very popular member, who, for the last three or four years had gained so much pleasure and benefit from his time with us.

New sheds

New sheds or new shed projects continue to pop up around the country. Recent ones include; Huntly, North Dunedin and Lumsden.

Two existing sheds have been recently added to the website; Westland Industrial Heritage Park and CHB Menzshed Waipukurau.

Discussion continuing about establishing a shed in Phillipstown, Christchurch.

Shed collaboration

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.

Regional shed meetings – Hubs or clusters

MENZSHED NZ would like to encourage more regional shed meetings, as a great way to hear what other sheds are up to, share experiences and resources.

In the top of the North Island, contact Ross McEwan of the North Shore Shed. John Bush of the Henley Shed has got a good group established in the Wairarapa with a common membership and shared access to events. In Canterbury the Hub meetings have been ongoing since 2008 ([Facebook](#)).

So if your shed is in the Waikato, West Coast, Marlborough, Nelson or Wellington area, talk to your local sheds to see if they are interested. Then let MENZSHED NZ know so we can publicise it. In Canterbury, the shed hub meetings are run every 2nd month.

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. See also example docs at <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/example-documents/>

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](#)

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.
Completed with the move to Google not for profits.

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.

Sheds that do not renew their membership will lose access to member only benefits. The shed website page will remain but the membership status will revert to [MENZSHED NZ Status: Complimentary hosting](#).

Communication is a two-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. Most men's shed enquiries go direct to the relevant shed.

The shed pages on the website are for your shed content, please check your page and keep them up to date, especially contact details. You can send content changes to webmaster@menzshed.nz.

The executive would also welcome your feedback or questions. Send them to secretary@menzshed.nz or use the Contact us form on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/contact-us/>

If you have established a local hub or cluster, 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/>