

The Men's Shed Story

Men's sheds originated in Australia following a men's health conference in 1995. Since then over 950 sheds have sprung up across rural and urban Australia. Sheds are represented at both national and state levels to promote the shed movement and are well funded by the government - between 2010-2014, sheds received \$A3.3m through the Department of Health and Ageing.

Internationally, men's sheds are well established in Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland and gaining momentum in Canada, Denmark and Sweden.

The New Zealand movement started in 2007 with sheds established in Dunedin, Hamilton and Thames within a year. In 2013 MENZSHED New Zealand Inc. was formed to promote the movement, share information and seek benefits for sheds and their members. There are 96 sheds, a mix of established sheds and start-ups. The movement is not funded by Government agencies but relationships are happening, e.g. Office for Senior Citizens.

NZ sheds typically have core equipment comprising woodworking tools and machinery; several sheds have metal working equipment too. An area for tea, coffee and conversation with chairs and magazines is a must-have. Members may be working on their own personal projects or involved in community activities ranging from bench seats and planter boxes to pest traps for the Department of Conservation. Each shed has its own pursuits, driven by the members.

It is considered that sheds contribute to men's health by providing a relaxed and participative atmosphere, thereby removing feelings of isolation. Men's sheds are an opportunity for (usually) older men to socialise, pass on or learn skills, and contribute to their communities. Although primarily about men, some sheds have women members or provide classes for women. Women are also valued supporters of the movement.

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MENZSHED TAPAWERA

Tapawera Men's Shed was initiated by Graham Sturgess during 2012. In that first year, an incorporated society was formed and several premises considered. By a stroke of good fortune and generosity of Scouting NZ, we were able to purchase the scout den for modest value. Tasman District Council were supportive of our bid to retain the site at the Tapawera Domain Reserve.



We meet each Saturday at 10am and during the past year, work has been centred around building workbenches, acquiring equipment and shed maintenance.

Community service has included car parking management at the Tapawera Show and Tapawera Christmas Fair, maintenance at the Toy Library, erecting posts at the Kahurangi Gateway, memorials for unmarked graves at St George's and a friendship seat at Tapawera Area School.



CONTACTS

Chairman John Wilmshurst 522 4616
Secretary Roger Bowman 522 4560
menzshedtapawera@gmail.com

SUPPORTERS



Rātā
Foundation

Community Grants Scheme
Nelson Honey
Bint Contracting
Tapawera BGAC Show
Tapawera Christmas Fair
Tapawera Council
Tapawera Area School



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