

MENZSHED NZ Blue Skies Conference 15 – 17 April 2016

Registrations commenced for the conference on 15 January 2016 and registrations have been trickling in since then.

The planning committee is made up of shed members from Kaiapoi, Oxford, Bishopdale, Amberley and New Brighton and is confident that you will enjoy a great weekend.

See <http://menzshed.org.nz/conference-2016-2/> for the latest information.



Regional Representatives Changes

Rob Hall of the Whakatane Menz Shed has been co-opted as the representative for region 2 (Mid North Island). He joins Jeff Wakelin as a recent appointment. Both positions are however subject to the 2016 elections.

MENZSHED NZ 2016 elections

Do you want to contribute to the running of MENZSHED NZ but are not sure what is involved? Contact one of the executive to get your questions answered. Shed members are encouraged to stand for any of the positions on the executive committee.

The closing date for nominations for regional representatives is **17 February** and for Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and the Support Services position **19 March**.

Annual General Meeting 17 April 2016

Part of the Blue Skies conference in April, the AGM is the opportunity for member sheds to finalise the elections for officers of MENZSHED NZ. It is expected that the formalities will have been completed by then since the nomination process has prior closing dates but in the absence of nominations, nominations may be taken at the meeting.

The AGM will also consider any Remits that have been raised – suggestions for changes to how MENZSHED NZ operates or constitutional changes.

Information about the AGM has been emailed to sheds. The information includes the election procedures and dates, the nomination form and the remit form. If you believe these advices have not been received by your shed, please contact Secretary Roger Bowman (secretary@menzshed.nz or telephone 03 5224560).

Although the Conference is open to all sheds, voting at the AGM is for financial members only. Unsure if your shed is a member? Check your webpage at www.menzshed.org.nz. If your shed page says "Complimentary Hosting", then you are **not** a financial member. The annual shed membership fee is \$25, which is likely to be more than covered by the great savings from member benefits.

The AGM starts at 10:45am on Sunday 17 April.

Website changes

The website menu was corrupted recently when a new server hosting setting implemented by our provider to minimise security breaches had the unfortunate side effect of affecting our website. The setting change is outside of our control and as a consequential workaround, the links to shed pages are now grouped under each region instead of being accessed through the menu.

Otago Region

[Alexandra Men's Shed](#)

[North Dunedin Shed](#)

[Oamaru Menz Shed](#)

[South Dunedin Bloke's Shed](#)

[Taieri Bloke's Shed](#)

[Tapanui](#)

Resene supports sheds

A recent addition to the member benefits is an offer from Resene for discounts on product ordered for community projects and also for personal projects. This offer requires proof of membership of your shed and documentation of the community project.

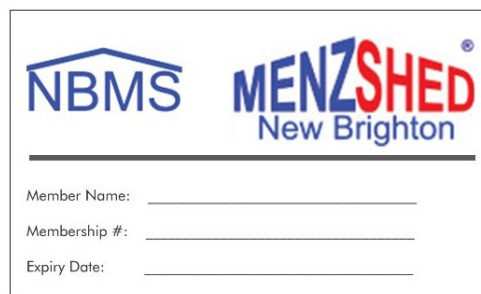
Resene continue to offer a range of free paint for community projects.

Note that the Resene and other membership benefits do not replace any arrangements your shed may have made locally.

Proof of membership

The Resene and Blackwoods Protector benefits that are available members of sheds prompted a number of sheds to consider issuing membership cards.

The New Brighton Menz Shed had used Vistaprint for business cards but Vistaprint did not have a membership card template. On the right is the template Vistaprint provided on request with space for your own logos.



Shed news

New sheds

New sheds or new shed projects continue to pop up around the country. Recent ones include; Otorohanga Menzshed, Hastings, Cambridge Community Menzshed, Pareora and Auckland East Men's Shed.

Discussion continuing about establishing a shed in Phillipstown, Christchurch.

Henley Mens Shed

Henley Mens Shed blokes have been busy over the Xmas/New Year period in their metal working department moving walls, relocating equipment, sorting tools and the collection of nuts and bolts, adding more electrical outlets, and now just await the arrival of their new metal turning lathe from Australia, a bit late for a Xmas present.

MenzShed Carterton

The MenzShed in Carterton has opened at the Clareville Showground. Thanks to support from the Eastbourne MenzShed and relocation of equipment from the Carter Court Rest Homes former Mens Shed, Carterton is wasting no time in getting set up with tools and machinery to commence their first year of operation with an impressive offering of open hours:



- Monday – 9am till 1pm
- Tuesday – 1pm till 5pm
- Wednesday – 6pm till 8pm
- Friday – 9am till 1pm
- Saturday – 9am till 1pm

Martinborough Mens Shed

Martinborough Mens Shed had a great BBQ to start off the New Year, which included a walk through the historic Courthouse which will become the Sheds new clubrooms for meetings, tutorials and spontaneous baking.

Photo is taken in the back yard of the courthouse section, plenty of room for expansion here.



Menz Shed Featherston

Menz Shed Featherston had a very busy 2015 fitting out their relocated building and putting on a show with their float in the Xmas Parade.

Now (2016) they can get on with making things for themselves and the local community.

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 shortly.

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/>